

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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<http://mtcookmobilised.pbworks.com>

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Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised, your resident community group. Thank you to Inhabit of Adelaide Road for their sponsorship of this newsletter. We invite your input (via the email above) on any Mt Cook issue, and urge all owners to remove or paint over any graffiti immediately and for everyone to look out for their neighbours. **Peter Cooke**

ARLINGTON RENEWAL

Demolition has begun at Arlington Site-2 between Taranaki and Hopper Streets in readiness for 105 new Council apartments with a central green courtyard, expected to be completed by 2018.

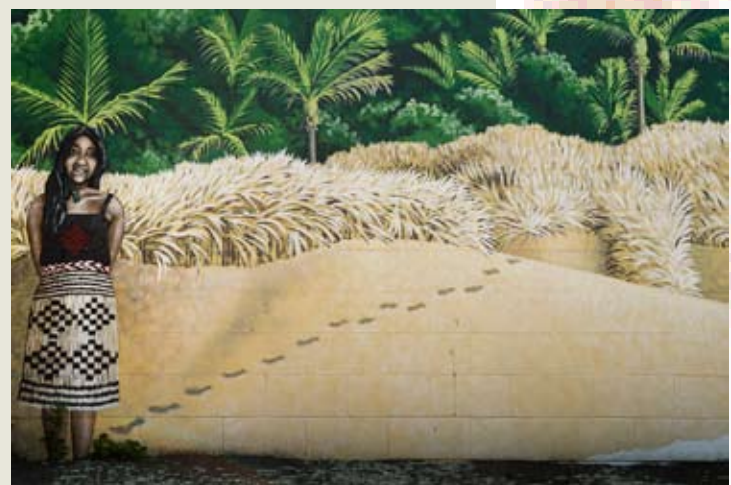
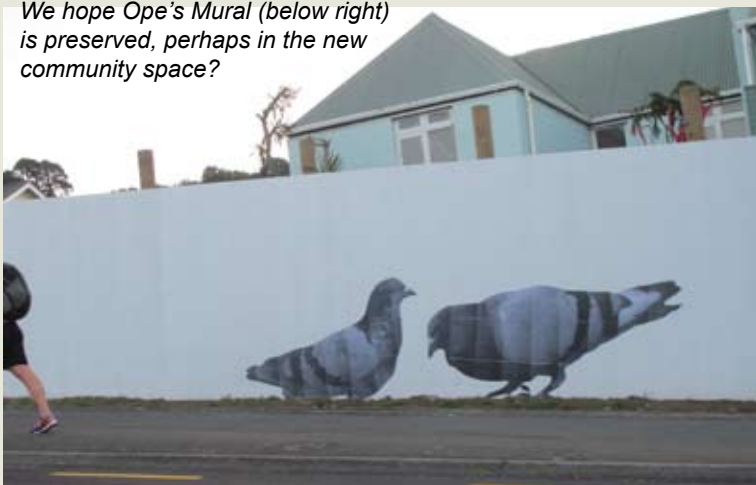
Some noise and truck movements throughout the project are expected. Hours of demolition and construction will be from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Some site setting up may start at 6.30am - but we are assured no plant or machinery will run until 7.30am.

If you have any questions regarding the project phone Becky Barwood, the Council Project Manager, on (04) 499 4444. If you need to contact the Hawkins Construction Project Manager, David Morris, phone him on 022 010 2056.



MARY HUTCHINSON

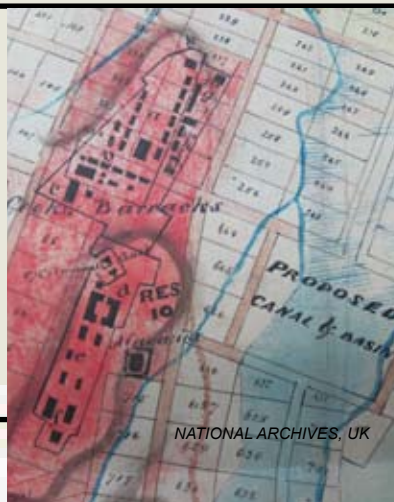
We hope Ope's Mural (below right) is preserved, perhaps in the new community space?



MT COOK 'HISTORY WALK'

Mark the date – Sunday 19 June (near significant anniversaries of local import). Meet at 12.30pm at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior for this ever-excellent once-in-a-while event. Historians will take you through the area's rich history.

Mount Cook is rich with pre- and post-colonial history. We are fortunate to have professionals who enjoy sharing stories of settlement, through penal and defence use, brickwork industries and suburban development.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES, UK

Join the walk to learn about our suburb. Enjoy afternoon tea at Miss Emeny's famous 1 Ranfurly St, beautifully renovated by Debra DeLorenzo Design. A gold coin donation is welcome to cover costs of afternoon tea. For more information or queries email us on mtcookmobilised@gmail.com

BASIN PLAN

The 2015 Basin Reserve Master Plan allocates WCC funding for deferred maintenance and upgrades, and looks forward to the Basin Reserve's role as a 'Village Green' as well as Wellington's historic cricket ground.

Mt Cook Mobilised met with Cricket Wellington, who manage the Basin Reserve for WCC. The uncertain roading situation vis-à-vis the Basin roundabout has slowed detailed planning, which will be the focus for the next several months. Maintenance on the RA Vance Stand is getting underway, and the renovated Groundsman's Cottage has been set atop a substantial garage.

The heritage sticking point is the fate of the 1925 Museum Stand (below right). Once the Basin Reserve Pavilion, it has a Heritage NZ Category-2 listing (meaning it is regionally significant). Its interior has strong heritage values, a restorer's dream. On the flip side, the Museum Stand is closed due to earthquake risk, and spectators found it cold. Experts will assess the merits of keeping or demolishing the Museum Stand, keeping it carries the additional cost of strengthening.

THE TOWN BELT

Wellington's Town Belt now has the highest level of legal protection through Parliamentary legislation passed last month (May). The Wellington Town Belt Bill means that Town Belt land can never be sold and the Council has power to acquire more land to add to the belt. Sterling work by local MP Grant Roberston saw this Bill through the process.

THE BRITISH MEMORIAL

The British Memorial will join the Aussie and New Zealand symbols on Pukeahu National War Memorial Park before too long. It is under construction now at Weta Workshops. Constructed from steel and glass the design shows Pohutukawa and Oak trees entwining and morphing into the image of a soldier.

It is funded by various UK trusts including one using proceeds from the Libor scandal (look it up)!

THE BELLS

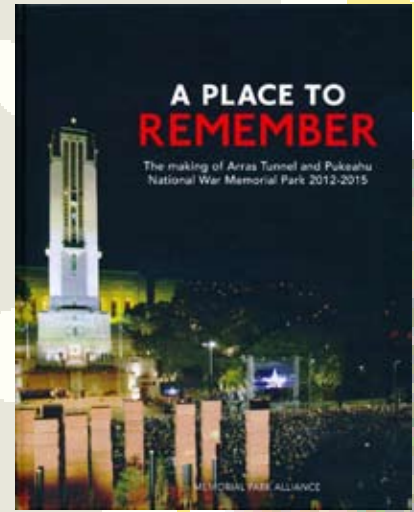
We hope the musical war memorial will chime again soon in Mt Cook. Mt Cook Mobilised recently checked with the Ministry for Culture & Heritage about restoring the carillon bells. We are advised that work is currently underway to repair the severely corroded bell frames and the carillon mechanism. It will take time.

ST MOTHER AUBERT?

Mother Aubert is inexorably moving down the road towards sainthood. Her birthday is on 19 June.

This would make her Aotearoa's first saint (despite being French). She had a strong connection with Mt Cook, where the crèche she founded on the eastern side of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park has been restored.

The fitting-out work as the park's Education Centre is underway and due to finish in two months. The Ministry for Culture & Heritage (MCH) is open to the idea of the space being available to community groups, such as Mt Cook Mobilised, outside of the times it will be used by MCH. There's some way to go before details can be finalised but it's good news again for Mt Cook and our ever-developing community life.



A PLACE WELL DONE

The Memorial Park Alliance wraps up its activities with the launch of the book above. With incredible deadlines (just 33 months), the work sinking Buckle Street underground and building the park overhead, with the Australian memorial, went better than expected. Consultation by MCH and the Alliance was very good, and Mt Cook Mobilised congratulates both for a job well done.



Left *The Museum Stand at the Basin - Love or lose it?*

Below *Young Otto points out the information on the Basin Reserve's new interpretation signs.*



It's funny that building the Pacifico earthquake practical area for the 1905 Victoria earthquake.

@BasinReserve / @NZCric

ORIGINS OF OUR STREETS

As with other areas of Wellington, many of the streets that make up Mt Cook are named after individuals who were involved in the development of the European settlement of Wellington.

The NZ Company was set up in England specifically to colonise New Zealand in a number of different locations. Directors of the company were English MPs, wealthy landowners and aristocrats. In the Mt Cook suburb, directors of the Company were recognised by the naming of a number of streets. Nairn Street is an old Company street dating from 1840 and is named after Sir Alexander Nairne, one the Company's earliest directors. Buckle Street, after John Buckle one of the directors in 1840, and also Thompson Street after another director.

Some early settlers of Wellington have been recognised with streets named after them. John Howard Wallace must have been a notable Mt Cook icon, given that he has three streets named after him. Records show that he was a local storeman and later a councillor.

1840 and 1841 maps show Bidwell Street (wrongly spelt for Bidwill), most likely named after the merchant and botanist John Carne Bidwill. His younger brother, Charles Robert Bidwill, arrived from Australia in 1843 bringing with him some 1,600 sheep, as well as cattle and brood mares. Charles Bidwill was the first to take sheep into the Wairarapa, and later became one of the leading runholders in NZ.

Meanwhile one of the major north-south routes of Tasman Street is named in recognition of Abel Tasman, first European discoverer of NZ, and the major arterial of Adelaide Road is named after the largest settler ship to arrive in 1840.

It is hoped that some of the history of these streets will be recognised in the future through additional information on street signs or plaques around Mt Cook.

GRAFFITI SCOURGE

It is worldwide, ugly and a crime. It's happening right here right now in our backyard.

Wellington City Council is on to it with a comprehensive programme of working with communities and authorities (police) to discourage and get rid of graffiti.

This website gives the full picture (<http://wellington.govt.nz/services/rates-and-property/property/graffiti/graffiti-vandalism>).

From time to time Keep Mount Cook Clean organises graffiti clean up events. We'll broadcast the date of the next one and welcome any extra bodies along to assist.

As WCC tells us "We can all work together to stop graffiti on public and private property. A strong community response sends a clear message that we don't want or allow graffiti vandalism. Graffiti can attract other types of crime to the community and make an area feel less safe. Neighbourhoods with a lot of graffiti may also see a decrease in property values, less business growth, and fewer people using public transport." This is incentive enough to help make Mt Cook graffiti free.

If you witness graffiti 'artists' in the act, vandalising our place, report to the police at once. Get a photo if you can.

WCC GRANT

Mt Cook Mobilised gratefully acknowledges a recent Wellington City Council grant to support our ongoing activities. It helps to make this newsletter free to all households, businesses and institutions, along with support from our sponsor Inhabit and advertisers.



CLEANING SUMPS

The gutter drains around the city, more properly known as sumps, were specially designed for Wellington. There are around 15,000 sumps in Wellington City. Some have a round lid (front left in the pic **above**) - the 'cleaning eye' through which Council sucks out accumulated debris.

WCC contracts purpose-built trucks ('sump eductors') to clean out sumps. This happens annually, although some sumps are serviced more frequently. Notice the large gap by the kerb (where plastic bottles can enter the sump), and also the orientation of the grate, parallel to the kerb. These features optimise water flow into the sump (but can be tricky for cyclists.) Below ground is a chamber which is designed to collect the silt, debris and rubbish, and stop it entering the storm-water system.

With winter approaching, bringing with it the almost certain promise of some flooding, look out for blocked grates. Dry cabbage-tree leaves can block the grates, preventing the sump from draining. With one chance in 365 of the Council truck calling to clear the sump, it makes practical sense to scoop up those leaves when the black clouds start to show.

GRATE DAY?

Mt Cook people take pride in

our clean streets. Every second month, Keep Mount Cook Clean meets for 1 hour on the first weekend. Coming dates are: Saturday 4 June, Sunday 7 August. Meet at the Mt Cook Cafe in Wallace Street at 11am where gloves and bags are given out and your patch is allocated.

Should we plan a Mt Cook 'Grate Day'? Let us know if you would adopt a grate. Contact keepmountcookclean@gmail.com

PETANQUE

Mt Cook Mobilised brings a touch of France once a month through Petanque. Turn up to play at 4pm on the last Friday of the month - next one 24 June. We play beside the former crèche building (the Cambridge Terrace end of the memorial park).

Contact if you would like to be put on an email list for a monthly reminder:

mtcookmobilised@gmail.com

OUR LOCAL WARD COUNCILLORS



IONA PANNETT

(04) 384 3382/ 021 227 8509
iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz

LIVING IT UP

If you needed someone to water your plants, would you ask a neighbour in your apartment block? Representatives from Mt Cook apartment blocks QM and Tasman Gardens met with Wellington Host Lions Club members to share ideas on developing a more friendly neighbourhood vibe in our 'vertical communities'. This is not an easy task.

Apartments are often used for short-stay accommodation,

or a place to squat during the week. Student life may revolve around the university, residents could have little English, or be uninterested in meeting neighbours. The Lions project has identified a new trend - an increasing number of people preferring to live permanently in an apartment, who want to build community spirit.

Noticeboards are essential, Facebook works well, and

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Nicola Young
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a quarterly newsletter is appreciated. Providing a local information sheet for new tenants is welcoming. Some complexes have a communal space, a real bonus. A regular meal out is easy – you could negotiate a discount at a local eatery. BBQs and drinks are popular, although not always well attended.

The sticking point is the time and energy it takes to organise. The people who are motivated to organise social events are often the same people who run the body corporate, get things fixed, organise the insurance, get rid of rubbish left behind by ex-tenants, and much more!

Mt Cook has plenty of new apartment blocks springing up, as city planners encourage densification around the 'transport spine'. If you are considering apartment-life, ask about social activities and how information is shared between residents. Don't be afraid to take the plunge and suggest to the body corporate committee that you could organise something.

Please contact Mt Cook Mobilised if you can deliver newsletters to your apartment complex. Our email is mtcookmobilised@gmail.com.