

# MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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**No 21 - June 2017**

Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised, your resident community group, as we celebrate our first 10 years! Thank you to Inhabit of Adelaide Road for their ongoing sponsorship. We invite your input (via the email above) on any Mt Cook issue — including the reservoir — and urge all owners to remove or paint over any graffiti immediately and for everyone to look out for their neighbours. *Peter Cooke*

## WATER FOR ALL?



Mt Cook residents have expressed concerns in meetings held recently with Wellington Water officials and regional and city councillors. While supporting the need for a resilient water supply, some residents think the chosen site is unsuitable, or fear the reservoir rupturing. Others are concerned at options for disposing of soil by raising the level of one or both of the playing fields (the lower heritage field - nearly 100 years - is off Salisbury Tce). Mt Cook Mobilised has therefore asked for the following:

- 1) a peer review of the site selection;
- 2) that if the Prince of Wales Park site proceeds, the best expertise ensures the seismic safety of the reservoir, associated piping and the playing fields;
- 3) that the surrounding bush ecosystems and native fish in Papawai Stream are protected;
- 4) that machinery and truck movements on Rolleston St and pipe-work on Hargreaves St cause the least possible disturbance;

*The proposed site as seen from above - between the posts - for Mt Cook's big resilient water tank, and below, left. We insist this picturesque setting - and beagle Dudley's Seat - is restored afterwards.*

5) that all formal plans are independently reviewed before work starts;

6) that Wellington Water continues to make all planning aspects publicly accessible, consult the community throughout construction, and provide documented monitoring of impacts;

7) that educational opportunities for schools are built in to the project.

Further Open days for the exchange of information and concerns about the reservoir project are planned over coming months. There will be opportunity to make submissions on the project as it proceeds through the Town Belt Act and Resource Management Act consents procedures.

Over many years Mt Cook has known of the need for a new water reservoir in our patch. It is intended as an emergency supply for all low-lying CBD, Mt Cook and Newtown users – including the hospital - remembering that a major earthquake could leave everybody's taps dry for months. Mt Cook Mobilised has supported this project in principle and is now engaging over the details as Wellington Water applies for the first of two consents.

Wellington Water proposes a huge reservoir (35 million litres) above the upper Prince of Wales Park field at the top of Rolleston and Hargreaves Streets. Nestled in the Town Belt, it would be almost invisible after landscaping the site. Construction would take two years, but would seriously inconvenience some residents.

Wellington Water open day on 17 June, 11-3pm at Gate A, Massey. For more see <https://wellingtonwater.co.nz/work-in-your-area/pow-reservoir/>

## OUR OLD LADY AWAITS HER FATE

The Grande Dame of Adelaide Road (*right*) started life in 1877 as the Tramway Hotel, named for the nearby tramway sheds. The tramway sheds in Adelaide Road were the operational hub for Wellington's early trams, which ran from Newtown to Wadestown. The first trams were steam-driven, which proved to be noisy and dirty, and drew many complaints. By 1882 the trams were literally run on horse power, with up to 140 horses used. In 1898, the wooden Tramway Hotel succumbed to fire. She was rebuilt in brick and tile in the late Victorian style, opening once again as the Tramway Hotel in 1899. Horses and trams continued to ply the Adelaide Road until 1904 when the last horse-drawn trams were replaced by electric trams.

These days the Tramway Hotel is known as the Adelaide Hotel. Structurally, she has largely been unchanged for over a hundred years, apart from the removal of her parapet and chimneys after the 1942 earthquake. The Adelaide remained a watering-hole, with accommodation upstairs. From the 1970s, she became a gang hangout and the scene of brawls between rival sports teams. Adult entertainment maestro Brian le Gros bought her in the 1990s, stripping away the plaster surface to reveal the brickwork we see today. At that time her handle was the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

In 2011 The Adelaide became one of the red-stickered buildings of Wellington, earthquake-prone and not fit for occupation. Under a new owner, she was beset by squatters and damage, further reducing her dignity. The Council is working with the owner to determine the next chapter for this old bird, who, incidentally, ▲



has a Heritage Listing on Wellington's District Plan. ▲

## CATS - DO THE RIGHT THING!

We all love our cats (or most of us do) and Mt Cook has a population of many well fed, deeply adored and fussed over moggies.

But there's a sad side to cat life too - and that's the unloved one, left to fend for themselves when owners move on or fall out of love with their pet. Sometimes they fall prey to traffic, attackers, hunger or disease, and become a risk to native bird life, which we want to enhance through our predator-free programme and other bird encouragers.

If you can no longer care for your cat, the Cats Protection League in Wellington can help rehome unwanted cats. It keeps cats healthy, warm and fed until they can be adopted. Check their website [www.cpl-wellington.org.nz](http://www.cpl-wellington.org.nz) or Facebook. [com/wgtnncpl](https://www.facebook.com/wgtnncpl) on how to go about it. This provides profiles of current residents, and ways to help.

Every cat in Mt Cook deserves a place to call home, a nourishing cat diet and some people to spoil it. Encourage your cat to remain inside at nights, to protect the bird life of the early morning and allow birds to flourish and expand their mellifluous population. There's no doubt that birdsong makes us all feel happier - maybe even the cats! ▲

## NEWTOWN SCHOOL ZONING

Newtown School has proposed a zoning policy which is concerning many families in the Mt Cook School area. It impacts large parts of Mt Cook and if agreed by the Ministry of Education could have a major affect on how Mt Cook School is funded and its community-building role within our suburb. MCM lobbied against the Newtown 'raid' on our children. Our local MP is mediating and the decision on the zoning boundaries is now with the Ministry of Education, and we expect there will be further consultation. If you want to be kept informed email your details to Mt Cook Mobilised and we'll keep you in the loop.

## WHY BUILD NEIGHBOURHOODS?

A wealth of world wide research validates community building as a vital factor in resilience - the ability to adapt and get through tough times. And we never know what will happen, as a community, a family or an individual.

Knowing what goes on and something about the people who live and work around you, where facilities are located, and generally just being in tune with the daily life and changes in your suburb make for safer, more resilient and mostly happier communities.

Mt Cook is fortunate that there are many public spaces where ▲

we can meet and share news (it's not gossip) - while out walking the dog, walking to work or school, or taking little Mt Cookies to childcare. Several of us host street parties or barbeques, share the rewards of their fruit trees or gardens. Neighbours keep an eye on children or elderly people, feed each others pets, watch each other's houses, borrow things... and return them, of course. That good old tried-and-trusted kiwi tradition of welcoming new neighbours with a little gift of food or a few friendly words works as well today as ever. We support and maintain relationships with lo- ▶

*A third memorial has appeared in our Pukeahu National War Memorial Park, from the Turks. Love the Hobbit hats!*



cal businesses and education institutions.

If there are strange goings on that could be an alert to dangerous or criminal activity, it make sense to check out what others have noticed, and call the Police.

Even saying 'Hi' to the person you might see most days at the bus stop makes a difference. They might look very different, or speak a different language, but they might just be the person who helps you out when things get hard.

Mt Cook is small enough and smart enough to avoid the distressing impact of social isolation, a growing issue in urban environments and alarmingly described in Robert Putnam's book *Bowling Alone* published in 2000.

Your support for our vision of a suburb that cares for all its people, its past and its future, is a key ingredient to keep us connected, community-minded and resilient. Mt Cook Mobilised meetings and events are open to all residents and we welcome your participation.

*Tangata ako ana i te kainga, te turanga ki te marae, tau ana.*

A person nurtured in the community contributes strongly to society.

## CARILLON MUTE FOR FIVE YEARS

Living in the shadow of the war memorial, we miss the carillon concerts that used to be a regular part of our lives. In 2012 they ceased, for the refurbishment of the campanile (the war memorial tower housing the carillon instrument). Many new residents are not even aware we have such a treasure as part of the park – as they have never heard the bells.

They were damaged in the renovations, and since then only the major bells (Peace and Remembrance) have been played at the opening the

Pukeahu Park and at Anzac Day services.

The Ministry for Culture & Heritage tells us "the Carillon bells are undergoing an extensive renovation as well as the frames that support the bells. Many of the bells are severely corroded and weather conditions have also impeded progress on the bells' restoration.

"The Carillon will be playable again at the conclusion of the current re-building project, which we hope will be by the end of June 2017."

We look forward to enjoying them again as part of our very successful local Pukeahu park, and will listen for them later this year.

## ONE THOUSAND ROPES - A FILM SET IN OUR 'BURB

Arlington flats play a major role in this movie directed by Wellingtonian Tusi Tamsese, and it was really enjoyable viewing such a familiar landscape (now demolished in the renewal of the flats).

It is a haunting story of a Samoan healer, and his relationships with a very scary demon, his daughter and their community. I found it unsettling, raising questions of cultural and gender identity, and making me feel rather disjointed at times.

The story builds on relationships and connections, and is finally a story of redemption and power, held together by a superb performance by Uelese Petaia in the main role at Maea.

It is worth seeing, at the very least to enjoy the depiction of a unique and culturally different environment shared openly and generously for general audiences.



## WALLACE ST PED-X UPGRADE

Following a safety review by WCC, traffic lights will be installed to help pedestrians cross Wallace Street near the Wright Street Walkway (above). Pedestrians will activate the lights, and the longest average waiting time to cross will be 30 seconds (as recommended by the Land Transport NZ Pedestrian Planning and Design guide). The work is expected to start by the end of June.

## PREDATOR FREE!

A group of local backyard trappers have a mission to reduce introduced predators, with the purpose of giving our native wildlife a helping hand.

They are looking for as many Mt Cook and Newtown residents as possible to get behind this initiative by hosting and monitoring rat and mouse traps. So far 75 households in Mt Cook and New-



town are involved – and they are looking to increase this to over 550!

Can you Help? Traps (in tunnels) will be provided, you need to keep them baited, and record your catches. Easy peasy! With over 200 catches so far, it's already making a huge difference. In conjunction with the Council, it's hoped to extend into the town belt around Mt Cook and Newtown soon. An increasing number of suburbs are getting behind the predator-free initiative in Wellington.

Local businesses willing to get behind this initiative and show support for the neighbourhood are welcome to make contact with any ideas about how you can assist us in other ways (coordination, publicity, helping make the tunnels, etc.)

Contact Gary Scott or Andrew Roxburgh at predatorfreemcn@gmail.com or via facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pestfreemtcooknewtown/>

## OUR LOCAL WARD COUNCILLORS



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# MT COOK! MOBILISED **community**

## MCM MEETING SPACE

We are very fortunate to have an agreement with the Ministry for Culture & Heritage that enables us to use the education centre at Pukeahu Park for our MCM meetings. It's a beautiful heritage space on the edge of our suburb and we are particularly pleased that we can meet to discuss matters affecting Mt Cook in a building that originates from a noble purpose. Mother Suzanne Aubert was the founder of the country's first crèche for the children of working women over 100 years ago. The building has been lovingly restored and most of its original features retained. There are whispers (from the Vatican no less), that she will be Aotearoa/NZ's first saint! We await the news with interest! It will bring a lot of attention to this place!



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