

# MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised, your resident community group. Thank you to Inhabit of Adelaide Road for their ongoing sponsorship. We invite your input (via the email above) on any Mt Cook issue - and to let us know of new ones.

We urge all occupants to look out for your neighbours and care for your plot on the planet as if it were your own.

And please be especially patient with the traffic diversion through Wright Street over the next few months. *Peter Cooke*



## CR TAMATHA PAUL

Our new Councillor Tamatha Paul says "Kia ora Pukeahu Mount Cook and thank you so much for allowing me to represent you as a Wellington City Councillor!"

She currently holds the full-time position of President of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association but will wrap this up in the next few months to undertake the full-on job of representing Wellingtonians, serving the people of Pukehīnau Lambton Ward and getting stuck in to help solve our city's biggest issues.

At the Spring Fling she enjoyed being on face-painting duties. She describes the event as heaps of fun and Mt Cook School as a real tāonga for the community. She's looking forward to getting into the community, and wants to commend the fantastic work being done at Te Māra by Carol and the team she has assembled.

Tamatha is aware of the many challenges ahead with the upcoming closure of Wallace Street but is confident that "with such an upstanding Residents' Association like MCM, we can do this together. He waka eke noa."

Ngā manaakitanga, Cr Tamatha Paul

Let's talk: [tamatha.paul@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:tamatha.paul@wcc.govt.nz)  
021 961 270

## TE MĀRA COMMUNITY ROOM

Te Māra is the rebuilt Arlington apartments in the block between Hopper, Hankey and Taranaki Streets, beside the Night Shelter and opposite Wellington High School. In November last year washing on the balconies signalled that people were moving in. There are 104 apartments in 10 blocks, and a small community space.

In October Mt Cook Mobilised started a pilot programme at the community room which aims to run activities that will be of interest to the whole of Mt Cook. Over the next 5 years Mt Cook will go from community-room famine to feast when the larger complexes at Arlington and Rolleston Street are completed, heralding larger populations and new community centres within the developments.

You are welcome to call in and chew the fat at Te Māra's Community Room, mornings Monday–Thursday. Organising community room signage from Te Māra's Hopper Street car park entrance is just one of the baby steps being taken.

We acknowledge and thank former councillor Brian Dawson for his vision for housing Wellingtonians and for setting up the engagement pathways that have kept Mt Cook in the loop. Thanks also to Wellington City Council for a grant to run the pilot and to Kāinga Ora (formerly Housing NZ) for their support.



## A CO-HOUSING PROJECT

A new collective housing project is planned for 136 Adelaide Road (currently Kia Ora Sheetmetal). The Urban Habitat Collective will build a medium density apartment complex with homes for 22 households. The aim is to create a neighbourhood where, in addition to each household's own dwelling, emphasis is put on maximising shared facilities, such as a large garden, community room, guest bedroom and workshop. Planning, design and consent processes are expected to take until mid-2020, with construction during the subsequent 12 months.

The future residents, a diverse range of ages and family types, are driving the planning and design, cutting out the need for a developer. Residents will purchase their own units and contribute to the shared facilities. The collective is looking for families with children to fill the last few homes.

For further information see the website [www.urbanhabitatcollective.nz](http://www.urbanhabitatcollective.nz)



## WORST-CASE

In an emergency, the local authority Wellington City Council has a responsibility to continue operating critical services. However, opportunities to train in such an environment are rare.

That's why the Council team redeveloping the Nairn Street townhouses, Build Wellington, were more than happy to provide the Wellington Emergency Response Team (WERT) with the chance to practise a rescue exercise at City Housing's Nairn Street flats. These flats are earthquake prone and are currently being demolished.

"The flats have been vacant since 2017 when they were found to be earthquake-prone," says John McDonald, Housing Development Manager at Build Wellington.

"In their current state they presented a great training opportunity for emergency response volunteers to practise and build real-life rescue skills in a post-earthquake collapsed building. An opportunity both we and WERT were keen to make the most of."

The training session lasted 2.5 hours and involved a number of volunteers. They completed various well-coordinated practice exercises including casualty extraction over rubble, extraction from heights, and site searches.

"This is the type of environment that we would be faced with after a significant earthquake, so we are better off for having well-trained volunteers," says Council's Emergency Management and Business Continuity



*Seismic strengthening and refurbishment of the Old Museum Stand is progressing well. The target date for re-opening the stand is 21 February 2020, for the start of the International Test Match between the NZ Blackcaps and India. Work on replacing the roof is underway, with the new light-emitting soffit seen here above the seating area.*

Advisor Jamie Martin who is assisting in planning this training.

John McDonald says, "We are working with City Housing on redevelopment options for the [Nairn St] site which would see new, more modern social housing built there. The team and I are excited about coming back to you in the New Year on these options and look forward to engaging the community on them"

This development contributes to the Council's 10-Year Housing Strategy, to achieve the vision of 'all Wellingtonians well housed'.

## ROLLESTON ST REDEVELOPMENT

Resource consent for the rebuild of Housing New Zealand's Rolleston Street flats was approved by an Independent Commissioner on 23 October. There will be 51 one-bedroom units and 29 two-bedroom units. Twenty of the units will be reserved for tenants needing extra support under the Housing First programme. At least one support staff will be on-site 24/7 and two during the day.

At the hearings in September, neighbours who had been formally notified were able to present submissions. Concerns included the density of occupation on the site, the lack of open space and on-site parking, and the proposal to have one building going up to five stories. During the hearings process, the position of the fifth level was moved and its height reduced, so it was less visible from surrounding streets and properties. But the fifth level remains, and while

there will be reviews of any on-street parking pressures arising from the redevelopment, other concerns were not accepted.

The general impression from locals who went to the hearing is that while their points were listened to carefully, the views of the 'experts' supporting the application and Council staff were favoured, rather than those of the surrounding neighbourhood. The application asked for substantial exemptions from current District Plan requirements and these exemptions were granted readily.

In a broader context, this tendency to override local views (seen also in the recent Shelly Bay decision) seems likely to strengthen, as local Councils review district plans in the light of new national urban development strategies, and grapple with whether and how to get more housing intensification.

## LOBBYING FOR YOU

MCM has worked hard over recent months to represent Mt Cook residents and needs in relation to massive water works. The road works on Wallace St and detour via Wright St will test us over the next few months as Wellington Water upgrades

water, storm and sewage pipes. This work is needed ahead of the huge reservoir project scheduled to start mid-2020 in the town belt above the Prince of Wales Park top field. Direct urgent issues to the contractors Brian Perry Civil on 027 607 2498.



A brick sump was found beneath Hargreaves Street. It is a stand-alone stepped structure, and is well-preserved after being underground for around 100 years. In its day, Mt Cook was Wellington's brick-production area, with one of its brick factories (Hill's, later Hutson's) having formerly been just across the road on the Housing NZ apartment site between Hargreaves and Rolleston Streets.

## NEXT FOR HARGREAVES ST

Near the top of Hargreaves Street is an informal angle parking area which will be formalised. Surveyors will designate the boundary between the Town Belt and the road reserve. A paved parking area will be created with marked angle parks for up to 12 vehicles, depending on the surveyor's findings. The existing footpath will be extended up to this parking area. But, hey WCC, please keep the wild plum tree that bears lots of summer fruit here!

The sections above the Wright Street intersection will be maintained first, but the lower sections will have to wait until after the Wright Street traffic detour is over. The trenches need to settle for about 6 months before the top resurfacing layer can be applied. This will ensure that compaction is optimal and any defects in the trenches repaired. This is especially important now that the large reservoir pipes have been laid under Hargreaves Street. The final layer of the road needs to be applied during summer.

Soon the unfriendly camber of Hargreaves St, which has long been a neighbourhood talking point, will be forgotten.

## FUN FITNESS – FREE TRIAL

Massey University Gym now provides a range of group fitness classes at different intensity levels. The recently renovated room at the front of the building has brand new equipment and classes are adjusted to meet almost everybody's ability and fitness level. Manager David Driscoll says, "the team have spent the last two months trialling a variety of workouts, and I think we've arrived at something pretty special: 30min classes with an emphasis on helping people move better while having fun." With students finishing their studies and leaving campus for the summer, it's the perfect time for residents of Mt Cook to come through and try it out for themselves.

If you're interested, grab a free week trial at the gym. If you've had a trial before, talk to the gym team about getting another week to experience the new group training class. For more information visit [www.masseygym.co.nz](http://www.masseygym.co.nz), call 04 801 2545, or head on down to the gym at 1 Wallace Street, Mt Cook.



## GET WELLY WALKY

Mt Cookies are prominent public transport and wheel/foot commuters and so have an interest in GetWellyMoving's proposals. 15 December 2019 is the deadline at <https://lgwm.nz/> for comments on reducing car use of the Golden Mile and the speed limit on all minor roads in the central business district to 30kph.

## COUNCILLORS

### NICOLA YOUNG

### IONA PANNETT

Nicola, an independent first elected to council in 2013, sees her top priority as serving Wellington (and Wellingtonians). She describes herself as liberal and economically dry. "I like to get things done."

Her family has lived in central Wellington since 1847, and she was born and raised here. She lives in Mt Victoria and is particularly interested in the city's history - telling its stories. This term - her third - she will lead the Arts, Culture & Events portfolio; Central City Projects (part of Urban Development) which includes the much-lauded laneways upgrades, the heritage plaques that she instigated last term, and the new Civic & Global Partnerships portfolio. She's keen to make more of Wellington's status as Capital city and work with the diplomatic community to further the city's interests.

"Our arts community is critical to our city's identity, so I'll be focusing on their needs and how council can help. Underpinning all of this is my personal philosophy: Wellington needs to remain affordable for all, so your rates must be spent with great caution."

Iona considers herself honoured to be back on council and thanks those who have continued to support her over the past decade working with our community. It is her fifth term on council.

She has a strong commitment to protecting Wellington's environment, will continue to work to improve water security and safety, reduce waste, protect our precious heritage, stop climate change and promote sustainable transport options. Serving the residents of Pukehinau Lambton Ward is also a priority.

Her portfolio for the next three years is the Urban Development Portfolio. As part of this work, her specific priorities in this area are to work with the city to re-open the city library, to decide the future of Civic Square, and get more buildings off the Earthquake Prone building list. She will consult about our new District Plan (which controls the quantity of housing and how and where we build, the amount of open space, what heritage is protected and so on) and create some more green spaces in the city.

## OUR LOCAL WARD COUNCILLORS



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ALINA HUFF



# MT COOK! MOBILISED

# community

The 2019 Spring Fling went off last month despite being forced indoors. Many thanks to everyone who helped; Dianne, Susan, Carol, Margaret, Joss, Karen, Robyn & Peter, Vasilisa, Peter & Sarah, all the bakers, Mt Cook School for the hall, and Gary & Kirsty for the kids games - sack, 3-legged, wheelbarrow races, and tug'o'war!



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