

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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Inhabit
designstore

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Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised, your resident community group. Thank you to Inhabit of Adelaide Road for their ongoing sponsorship. The lock-down has made us realise how much we rely on the community around us. It has been a struggle and we urge everyone to support your local businesses and neighbours. As we come out of lock-down the Wallace Street works will wrap up but then the really big projects will start - the Mt Cook reservoir and Arlington housing rebuild. 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 care for your plot on the planet as if it were your own.

Peter Cooke

NEARLY FINISHED



After much disruption, the Wallace Street road works are finishing. They were ahead of schedule when the lock-down started, so are now working to their original finish time. The work is due to finish at the end of June with gradual reopening of Wallace Street, one lane at a time. The community thanks itself for being so patient.

UNDER WAY



Demolition of the last Arlington apartments including the Athfield-designed George Porter Tower (above) has started. The rebuild will create 300 new apartments with 135 car parks. Some homes will be sold as KiwiBuild, the rest social housing, including 40 staffed supported-living units for the 'streeties'.

SOON TO START



Kāinga Ora has demolished the 1950s Rolleston Street apartments and is soon to start building 80 new units (including 20 staff-supervised supported-living bedsits). Some of the buildings will be five storeys high, and only 19 car parks provided. A Downer-owned company, Hawkins, is doing the build, from August.

SOON TO START



The City Council has approved the Mt Cook reservoir and HEB Construction contracted to the work. Heavy truck movements start up Rolleston St around September, when both Prince of Wales Park fields will be closed. MCM is on the Community Reference Group to help minimise the three years of upheaval.

KEEP OUR PLACE CLEAN

Covid-19 lockdown suggested that a calmer world was possible - with less traffic, pollution, noise and waste. Mt Cook residents noticed a lot less litter around our streets during the lockdown. No takeaway wrappings, plastics, bottles or cans from random street users or blown in by Wellington's zephyrs. But sadly that scourge returns as normal living resumes.

Mt Cook Mobilised has long run weekend litter pick-ups - once every eight weeks in conjunction with the Wellington City Council. We ask only one hour's effort from residents, even just doing your own street. The Council gives us bags and gloves and picks up the filled bags from four pre-arranged convenient locations. Each pick-up regularly clears away up to 20-30 bags of street rubbish. Peter Hill has capably coordinated our regular litter pick-ups, for which we thank him. He is taking a break from this important role which will now be filled by Peter Cooke.

MT COOK! MOBILISED * community

It is always a joy to walk through Mt Cook once we've been out to get rid of the trash left behind by thoughtless litter bugs. People walking by often commend us for keeping our place clean.

The next attack on litter is on Saturday 4 July and anyone is welcome, even urged, to join. Meet outside Mt Cook Kitchen (the takeaways) at 10.30am.

Just an hour of your time on a weekend morning makes a huge difference. And it's actually fun. True! A sociable activity building community spirit. Think about it as a way to learn more about your neighbourhood and build pride in our suburb. Let Peter know if you're willing to be on the next team.

keepmountcookclean@gmail.com

SWEEP OF THE STREET MONSTER

Like it or not, our city is growing and needs to untangle its transport woes. As part of this, the City Council is revising its parking policy. It hopes to sweep parked cars from the main routes that the city needs for mass transit. For Mt Cook, it raises the spectre of a giant sci-fi monster clearing the streets.

This change to the way we use Wellington's narrow roads was signalled at a Mt Cook Mobilised meeting years ago by then councillor Andy Foster, who reminded us that householders do not own the roadway outside their property nor the right to park there. That seemed a radical thought, back then. Having kept this thought uppermost, the new parking policy seems less of an affront, rather the inevitable sweep of the street monster, making way to move its people cheaply and cleanly about the city by efficient mass public transit.

The use of personal cars is Wellington's main foible that needs to be addressed for climate change, and indeed for a while now the City Council has been trying to dissuade people in the central city from owning cars, approving apartment buildings and social housing with very limited on-site parking.

An upside to the new policy is that it will be more difficult for

people to drive to the city-fringe suburbs and park on a coupon all day. Where there is an area with parking contention, WCC will work with residents and businesses. The old coupon and resident parking zones will be disestablished. 85% of the available parking spaces in the area will fall under a new permit system. Each household will qualify for only one permit, unless there are excess parks available.

Permits will be issued based on a list of seven priority factors, beginning with high-mobility needs. The second priority is those who own an electric car. This factor is meant to be a climate change incentive but, with electric vehicles still so expensive, will only benefit the wealthy. Or will more people borrow to buy an electric car if it guarantees a parking permit? The other factors in the list relate to a hierarchy of heritage values, business needs, current parking - with new dwellings prioritised last.

As it stands, the new policy looks to be administratively heavy. In Mt Cook 80% of residents are renting, so people are always shifting - students decamp at the end of the year. Will people be required to notify WCC when they shift, so that the register of available permits is updated? Upon moving in, will there be a long wait until the permit renewal cycle comes round to issue a new permit?

PRUDENCE

Wellington has some huge challenges: the future of the Central Library and Civic Square, water and transport infrastructure - and now, the economic and social effects of the Covid-19 Lockdown.

Councils across New Zealand are facing large drops in income, so most are trimming their costs dramatically to avoid big rates increases. Wellington faces a potential \$70 million loss, yet the majority of councillors want spending levels maintained by funding through borrowing, without even looking at cutting costs - as many of you will now be doing. Put it this way, it is like borrowing from the bank to go on holiday; something no prudent household would do without first looking to see where costs could be reduced.

I reckon most people understand the need for council to be responsible and make some cuts, especially when people are losing their jobs or taking significant pay cuts, and many of our local businesses are struggling - and the worst is yet to come.

Council officers will look for savings but that won't be enough to prevent the proposed rates increases. We have to make hard

choices now, not push it out a year and leave it for someone else to deal with.

Wellington must be affordable for everyone.

Cr Nicola Young

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NEW MURAL FOR MT COOK

Mt Cook-based artist Sheyne Tuffery (right) has designed a mural to fit the unusually-shaped Wallace St retaining wall (he calls it "an Aztec pyramid"). The mural depicts simplified images of a pre-colonial Pukeahu, later Mt Cook, as a surreal garden. It has fern trees (the roots were an early food crop), kūmara, the kākā (a bird coming back to the area), and the giant totara; all leading down into waterways, through the crustaceans, the kaimoana tuna (eels), and so down to the swampy basin. The mural is not intended to be an historical record but an adaptation of what we can know or imagine, depicting what once was, before the settlers got here. During the design period local residents were interested and involved, and commented on the designs at street meetings.

The height of the wall has influenced the partially fragmented design of the mural: Sheyne describes it as a "drive-by composition". When the pipework is completed, residents' cars parked alongside the wall will block some images.

Thank you to WCC for funding and support for this project, and to Wellington Water and contractors Brian Perry Civil for adapting to several artists working alongside. Undercoat paint was donated locally, and council contractors prepared, painted and sealed the wall. They will also add a final anti-graffiti seal. Thank you also to local residents who moved their cars so the work could proceed. Wallace St has been closed to through traffic since early January, while new water pipes are being installed.



The existing Pohutukawa flower artwork has been covered by the new work; sadly in some minds. This was a design by Liana Leiataua, painted in 2000 with help from Andrew Finau, Mafutaga Laufiso, Leva Finau and WCC. Liana has approved her design being immortalised as a t-shirt design.

The road closure meant that work on the mural could proceed without expensive traffic control. Mural painting was able to begin under the Covid-19 lockdown rules.

For further information:

mch.govt.nz/pukeahu/park/pukeahu-history-4
<https://www.sheynetuffery.com/murals/-/public-artwork.html>





MARY HUTCHINSON

Left The current incarnation.

Below. The first version at the current site.

IAN CURTIS MURAL

The Ian Curtis mural in Wallace Street has been an intriguing feature of Mt Cook's street art for over 30 years. It started as a simple eulogy in words, on the retaining wall by 34 Wallace St. It migrated to the current site in the early 2000s and was repainted by Andrew Tamati-Wright (Kerb1) in 2013. Council recognises it as culture, not graffiti. The legendary lead singer of post-punk band Joy Division died 40 years ago last month (18 May), by his own hand. RIP Ian Kevin Curtis – well remembered in Mt Cook.



OUR VERY OWN ROMAN RUINS

As part of its responsibility under the Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Act, Kāinga Ora was required to investigate archaeological remains at 21 Rolleston St, **left**. Archaeologist Patrick Harsveldt of WSP Opus found a few brick remains. He says they relate to the brickmaking industry that dominated this area from the 1870s to 1910s. They will be partially preserved - sealed under the car park planned for this site.

No trace was found of Māori occupation or land use.



Hon Grant Robertson

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SCHOOL AND THE PANDEMIC

The last two weeks have seen Mt Cook School return to as close to normal as Covid-19 will allow. Classes are full of energy and the playground has returned to being a happy, enthusiastic and loud place again. It has been so lovely to have our tamariki back.

Leading up to the lockdown, school was a whirlwind of activity. It seemed to be only a matter of when, rather than if, we would be working from home. Our teachers began designing plans for distance-learning. This included our online newsletter (examples **right**) that went out every weekday from Levels 4 to 2 and our physical learning packs that went to students who did not have access to the internet. The idea behind our learning plan was that it should be enriching, playful and manageable.

Level 4 saw us all at home and the school eerily quiet.

We enjoyed receiving masses of photos of all the interesting things going on at home.

During Level 2, for two weeks we had 13 students and six staff members at school. The students were divided into two bubbles that never crossed paths, kept their distance from one another and washed their hands – a lot! Children worked on their online learning with the support of the teachers.

The beginning of Level 2 saw the return of 85% of our children with the rest returning since then. We currently have no inter-class activity during class time; assemblies are on Zoom, contact tracing is in place for parents, the library is mobile, and hand washing and sanitising continues as we enter a new space. All of that aside, we are certainly feeling like a real school again.

Our tamariki returned to school remarkably well. It is a testament to the resilience of our children and how well whānau prepared them for their return.

Our whānau gave our tamariki a great experience at home. Children played, created,



enjoyed their families and walked (some of us walked a lot). Some children, particularly older ones, had moments of missing friends and their independence but they came through it all.

We are looking forward to Level 1 and coming together again.

The Inhabit Team offer their heartfelt thanks to Mt Cook residents and Wellingtonians who supported Inhabit by buying NZ-made. "Our very best wishes to all of our Mt Cook community, businesses, schools, community groups and residents as we negotiate these challenging times together."

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MT COOK CONNECT-ED

Mt Cook is a great place to live, with lots of development around us that we can all be curious about. Mt Cook has a fascinating history, and nestles alongside an awesome pocket of the Town Belt. With Massey University, Wellington High School, a bunch of pre-schools and Mt Cook School just down the road, Mt Cook is truly an education precinct. Aside from our school allegiances, do we Mt Cookies



really have a sense of community, a sense of place?

Mt Cook Connect is on a mission to nurture neighbourliness and a sense of place in Mt Cook. Look out for our

notices over the coming months, and check out what's up on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MtCookConnect/>

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

When Darwin coined the phrase 'survival of the fittest', he wasn't thinking about Covid-19 - nor was he referring to absolute fitness levels. Instead the term relates to the ability of a species to adapt, evolve and survive (even thrive) when the environment around it changes.

Massey University Gym has been evolving at a very quick pace:

- Group Training classes weekly (with modified structure and participant limits).
 - 10 Online training sessions weekly (free to everyone on our Facebook Group page).
 - A modified strength and cardio room layout to support physical distancing.
 - Yoga has been introduced into the gym (Tuesdays and Thursday at 11am).
 - All of the above is FREE with any membership or gym trial!
- If you've found yourself working from home or spending more



time baking and watching Netflix, come and try out your neighbourhood gym facility. Now is a great time to gently steer yourself into a fitness routine before long term habits become ingrained.

The campus is quiet during the day as Massey University is encouraging its students and staff to learn and teach from home. That means there is plenty of space in the gym for the 'working from homers' in Mt Cook to come through for a morning or lunchtime workout.

Try Massey University Gym free for 14 days (just show this advert to the staff at reception). This offer expires on 5 July 2020.

Members of the gym are relieved to be able to get back into their fitness routines and the staff are happy to be providing support to people coming through the door. We hope we can help you stay strong and healthy too.

<https://www.masseygym.co.nz>

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