

MT COOK! MOBILISED

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No 9 - August 2011

Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised. This newsletter keeps you informed of events in your suburb and the activities of Mt Cook Mobilised, your residents' and community group. We welcome your input on any issue concerning Mt Cook. Many thanks again to the Southern Cross, 39 Abel Smith St, for sponsoring the printing.

Peter Cooke

MEMORIAL PARK - A COVERED TRENCH NOT A ROAD SANDWICH!

Two years ago at the Civic Trust's symposium on outcomes for the Basin Reserve, Mt Cook Mobilised suggested that work on Memorial Park should be deferred until it could be done properly, including trenching Buckle Street. Agreement was signaled in the room by spontaneous applause. Since then the devastating Christchurch Earthquake and the rising cost of repairing leaky homes have taken a toll on Central and Local Government coffers, and the roading people have regained control of the land to the north of Buckle Street (from MCH).

The current suggestion in the Basin roading proposals is two slices of park sandwiched around three lanes of traffic along Buckle Street. This is not acceptable. Trenching Buckle Street is the only solution that will give New Zealand a Memorial Park worthy of the Fallen, and worthy of the international memorials that citizens from other countries will wish to visit to pay homage in silent contemplation, at any time of the year. The centenary of Gallipoli is

fast approaching in 2015, when there will be many visitors to our shores. Rather than a park that is only fit for purpose when Buckle Street is closed, we must spend the money to trench Buckle Street for a perfect Memorial Park.

Tell NZ Transport Agency before 26 August that you want Buckle St to go under the park (just the 250 metres from Sussex St to near Taranaki St) and that we want the creche building as our community centre. Make your comments on the submission form under 'other comments' at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/wellington-inner-city/index.html

HIDDEN SHOPPING TREASURES

Mt Cook is not known for its retail sector, aside from a handful of shops on Adelaide Road. But there are hidden gems on the Massey Campus and a stone's throw from John Street at the entrance to Newtown.

great place to top-up a Snapper, buy stamps, greeting cards, stationery and Trade-Aid chocolate. From the 'pyramid' take the northern door, past the library to the lifts behind Tussock Café. Bennetts is on Level 2 - and

don't forget about Tussock Café if the caffeine urge should strike!

Wellington Hospital is next on the hidden retail trail. The Gift Shop is easy to find from the main entrance and sells all manner of items from magazines to baby clothes. Staffed by volunteers, all proceeds from the Gift Shop go back to the hospital for extra items not funded

by the District Health Board.

Across the road from the hospital is Four Seasons Florist, a small shop crammed full of flowers, lovingly put together with a creative flair that can be tailored to any budget or occasion.



Clockwise from top left: • Sam and Hospi, the hospital soft toy mascot. Pipi the cat sleeps outside the Massey Copy Centre. • Laura at Four Seasons Florist. • Su Ming from Bennetts.

Massey has a Copy Centre, complete with resident neighbourhood cat. The Copy Centre is off the 'pyramid' courtyard, on the Tasman Street side.

Bennetts Bookshop at Massey is both extremely well-hidden and poorly advertised, and is a

OPENING HOURS

Massey Copy Centre	Mon – Fri	8:30 - 4:15	Last USB printing orders at 3:45	
Massey Bennetts Bookshop	Mon – Thu	8:30 - 5:00	Friday	8:30 – 3:30
Hospital Gift Shop	Mon – Fri	7:30 – 5:30	Sat - Sun	9:00 – 3:00
Four Seasons Florist	Mon – Fri	9:00 - 5:00	Saturday	9:00 – 12:00

Mt Cook SUPERMARKET

Foodstuffs have submitted to WCC a revised resource consent application for their Mt Cook New World supermarket on the Tasman/Rugby Street site. Despite offering to consult us beforehand, Foodstuffs informed us only on the day their application went to Council. The new plan has three major changes: the 22 apartments and their 22 carparks have been dropped, the active edges are also gone (with no shops planned for the Tasman Street frontage), and Foodstuffs have purchased the Lithoprint site which will now become the loading dock (with the trucks entering opposite Ranfurly Terrace and exiting on upper Douglas Street). Cars still have two entrances on Rugby and Tasman Streets, to fill the 147 public carparks. The supermarket is slightly smaller but will still employ 240 staff, with approximately half on site at any one time.

Mt Cook Mobilised met with Council planners on 25 July (thanks to Iona Pannett). The consent will be non-notified, meaning that we have only a very limited influence on this application. We raised issues in relation to the loss of an active edge on Tasman Street, which we felt went against the Council's aims for suburban centre developments. The Council felt the lack of shops along Tasman Street was regrettable but it was



CAROL COMBER

not a requirement, only something that could be encouraged. We raised our fears about pedestrian safety with the vehicle up-ramp on Tasman Street and the truck exit on Douglas Street. The Council believed that the development met safety requirements; we continued to reiterate our concerns. We raised issues about the cumulative effect of increased traffic on the Basin Reserve and the unsuitability of Tasman Street for large trucks. Finally, we raised concerns about the impact of the development on upper Douglas Street, including the size, appearance and noise of the loading area and 30 trucks (including six semi-trailers) exiting seven days a week (7am to 8pm). Foodstuffs now have to prepare a building consent application and after that we will learn the start date for the project. <

STOP PRESS - the Resource Consent was issued on Friday 5 August.

Mt Cook Heritage RED-STICKERED!

The 112-year-old hotel on the corner of Adelaide Road and Drummond Street has been red-stickered by Wellington City Council (strengthen against earthquakes or demolish). We ask whether it has a future?

The building has been known for most of its life as the Tramway Hotel. The original hotel was built in the late 1870s. It acquired its name and interior display themes from the tramway stables and workshop which were 150 metres to the north. The hotel burned down in 1899 after which the current building was erected for Charles Plimmer (son of early settler John Plimmer). Keen on the image of the city, Charles generously bequeathed funds for the beautification of Wellington.

The new Tramway Hotel was designed by architect James O'Dea, built by J Hunter and opened on 10 August 1899. The first proprietors were

John Beauchamp and his wife Kate (relations of Katherine Mansfield). Kate became sole licensee in 1908 after her husband's death and she lived nearby - in 128A Tasman Street. She sold the hotel to Irish Catholic identity Frank McParland. He was well known for his St Patrick's Day festivities and a display of Irish walking sticks in the pub. His son Charles, a well-known figure in Wellington racing circles, took over the lease from his father and held it until the early 1940s.

Licensee F Armstrong ran the hotel until the 1970s, when it was taken over by New Zealand Breweries (which was buying hotels throughout the country). The Tramway acquired a dubious reputation as a trouble spot during this time, being dubbed our local 'Flying Jug'. Members of a rugby league club, who drank in the hotel, were involved in a killing of a gang member in 1981. The hotel was later purchased by Brian le Gros, a major figure in Wellington's adult entertainment industry, who refurbished it in the early 1990s as the Adelaide Hotel (also removing the plaster from the front of the building). The hotel has had two more owners and numerous tenants since then. As The Adelaide, the bar has struggled to be viable, but the building has accommodation.

The red-stickering now begs the question - what does the future hold for this old Adelaide Road heritage icon?

Mt Cook Spring Fling

Sunday
30 October
2011



11 - 2

novelty races, face painting & crafts for kids
bring a picnic, BYO
L'Affare coffee & homemade lemonade

WHERE: Papawai Reserve (off Salisbury Tce)

CAFFE L'AFFARE
THE COFFEE BUSINESS EST. 1990

**Absolutely
POSITIVELY**
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

"Mini Cookies" - Playdates For August thru November

Meet other preschooler parents & kids in your neighbourhood

All welcome! Just turn up at 10am

We meet at *Mt Cook Playground, or over the road at Junglerama if it's wet!

- Friday 26th August
- Monday 28th September
- Friday 29th October
- Friday 25th November



For more info phone Kirsty 384 8369, or Julia 385 1782

*Mt Cook Playground at the Newtown end of Wright/Hutchison/Wallace Sts

GARDENING BY NUMBERS

In the last 12 months volunteers have spent around 330 hours gardening at Papawai Reserve (clearing, planting, maintenance, planning and WCC liaison). Overall, some 700 plants have gone in (trees, grasses, flaxes, etc). These have come mainly from WCC, some have also been donated. At one session last year, 150 wheelbarrows of mulch were moved. On average, 11 volunteers turn up on the second Sunday of each month. In the stream, there are countless juvenile fish (banded kokopu) and freshwater crayfish (koura). Papawai is in the Town Belt area between Papawai and Salisbury Terraces.



MULTI-MODAL ROAD

Many residents are interested in the upgrade of the Ngauranga-to-Airport (N2A) transport corridor. While there are points on all sides, I support the proposal (as I said during the campaign). But residents must be able to comment on its specifics and be properly heard – this can give a better final outcome.

I don't accept the argument of 'yet more roads' for the road is already there (other than proposed grade separation at the Basin Reserve). The project aims at making it more efficient and effective - with Buckle Street hopefully trenched!

Benefit-to-cost ratios are raised but the emphasis surely is strategic, contributing to ensure Wellington is well positioned for the challenges ahead – social, economical and environmental:

- The eastern suburbs populations continue to grow, plus it has the airport, extensive film industry and, soon, the aquatic and indoor sports centres.
- The airport and the port are two key foundations to the economic wellbeing of the city and avoiding congestion is important for their operations.
- Avoiding 'stop-start idling' is another way of avoiding unnecessary emissions (remember Ghuznee and Vivian Streets).

An argument given against says that people should get out of cars. There is a strong move for increased walking and cycling but safety must be a consideration, hence a major aspect of the proposal is meeting multi-modal needs. Also, I don't think we can ignore the need for improved access ways if there is a major disaster.

Of course, we do know what we are discussing a state highway, thus it is under NZTA's decision-making authority.

Cr Ian McKINNON
Deputy Mayor
ian.mckinnon@wcc.govt.nz

BE PREPARED

We have all been shocked by the events of the past few months in Christchurch, and many people have spoken to me about their concerns for Wellington. In some ways Wellington is better prepared than Christchurch as we have known for many years about our risks. So our pipes and water reservoirs are being upgraded, but we are still many years off them being fully done. Some buildings have been strengthened, but still many more need to be done. But we are at far greater risk than Christchurch because of our topography. While Christchurch has wide flat roads which enabled services to get through, we have goat tracks! While Christchurch residents were able to drive or fly out of the city immediately, we may not be able to. Christchurch does not have reticulated gas and most parts of the city do not have the old wooden houses built close together like we do, so the risk of fire in Wellington is far greater.

It all looks pretty bleak and in the face of mother nature we can often feel helpless. There are, however, two things that we can do. The first is to be prepared. Taking that first step towards having emergency supplies is often a step we put off to another day, but make a decision to do it and you will find that it becomes something you continue to do. The second is to get involved in your local community. We learnt from Christchurch that your neighbours will be the people most important to you immediately after a crisis.

Cr Stephanie COOK
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The Civil Defence Centre for Mt Cook is now located in the new hall at Mt Cook School at 160 Tory St.
Contact Civil Defence on 499-4444 or www.wcc.govt.nz/services/emergencymgmt/index.html

SOLVING CONGESTION

Contentious NZ Transport Agency roading proposals are now out for consultation that will have a significant impact on Mt Cook, Mt Victoria and Hataitai. The Agency proposes to make some minor amendments to Buckle Street, build a flyover at the Basin Reserve and a second Mt Victoria tunnel, and increase the size of Wellington Road and Ruahine Street to become six-to-seven-lane roads.

I find it difficult to see how these proposals have come to the public for consultation. Growing awareness around climate change, rising petrol costs and difficult economic times mean that the projects are neither economically feasible nor strategically necessary. The collective benefit/cost ratio of these projects is 0.5 which means that for every precious taxpayer dollar spent, we will only get 50c in benefits back. The local impacts are likely to be significant with increased traffic through Mt Cook and the issue of Memorial Park unresolved.

An interesting alternative has been designed by the Architecture Centre. This includes trenching under Memorial Park (an option I know that has some strong local support). This can be found at <http://architecture.org.nz/2011/07/17/the-public-needs-a-real-choice-option-x-2/>.

Cr Iona PANNETT
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Residents of Mt Cook colonising Memorial Park.



Daytime burglaries occur in Mt Cook, so we urge residents to keep all doors and windows locked. Don't put valuables on display and make sure your place looks and sounds occupied: an internal light and radio does the trick. Also get to know your neighbours. If you see any suspicious activity, ring the Wellington Police on 0800 780102. If you see any tagging in progress, ring 111.

BABY AND PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUPS

Below are some options for parents looking for local activities, including MCM's own Mini Cookies. Please contact us re any corrections, additions or other comments. mtcookmobilised@gmail.co.nz

Mini Cookies: Mt Cook playground, cnr Wallace & John Sts (or Junglerama if wet). Monthly: for 3rd term: Mondays or Fridays: Fri 26 Aug, Mon 28 Sept, Fri 29 Oct. From 4th term, meet 4th Friday: Fri 25 Nov, (Dec, no Minis), Fri 27 Jan. Contact Kirsty, kirsty.gary@paradise.net.nz

Arlington Playgroup: Arlington Community Centre, 312 Taranaki St. Wednesdays 9.30am-12.00 noon. Contact Bridget 8017060.

Baby Steps: Thistle Hall (upstairs), cnr Cuba and Arthur Sts. Thursdays 10am-12 noon, \$2 per family.

Brooklyn Community Playgroup: Korean Church, 184 Ohiro Rd. Tuesdays & Thursdays (term-time only), 9.30-11.30am.



Artwork by Freya

Early Years Newtown Playgroup: Salvation Army Hall, 16-22 Constable St. Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (term-time only) 9.30-11.30am. Contact Leanne Griffiths on leanne.wellingtonsouth@xtra.co.nz

Early Years Te Aro Playgroup: Salvation Army, 92 Vivian Street. Thursdays (term-time only) 9.30-11.30am. leanne.wellingtonsouth@xtra.co.nz

Lifepoint Community Playgroup: Lifepoint Church, 61 Hopper St. Tuesdays 9.15-11.45am (10.30am music session). Contact Karen 3819313 or 0297772073

Mini Minstrels: St Paul's Lutheran Church Hall, 12 King St. Wednesdays (term-time only) 10.30-11.30am. Contact mini.minstrels@gmail.com

Parents in the Neighbourhood (PIN): A Plunket PIN group starts every second month; a

volunteer supports first two PIN meetings at Newtown Playcentre, 3 Harper St. The group then takes over organising when and where to meet. Next new PIN groups: August, 3rd & 10th; October 5th & 12th; December 7th and 14th. Contact newtownplunketcommittee@gmail.com

Southern Cross programmes: 35 Abel Smith St. Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am-1pm. Massages available Tues & Thurs. Weekends (on the dance floor): craft and painting activities 10am-2pm. Details on www.thecross.co.nz/kids.



Residents of Tainui Tce enjoyed Neighbours Day on 27 March.

It's your party

bring a clown if you want to!



...oh

and don't let ya olds forget the mates and cake...

Parents - no fake I.D's!

SOUTHERNCROSS
GARDEN:BAR:RESTAURANT

Check out thecross.co.nz or give us a bell to discuss venue party-hire options
WWW.THECROSS.CO.NZ

p.s free face painting

MT COOK!
MOBILISED

community

Plunket
whānau āwhina
caring for young families

Newtown/Mount Cook

PIN Groups

Coffee groups for local Mums and bubs

3 & 10 August, 5 & 12 October, 7 & 14 December
1.00pm @ Newtown Playcentre, 3 Harper Street
Email newtownplunketcommittee@gmail.com for more info

Choose your neighbourhood

GYM

Free 7 day trial

Everybody's gym

BPM FITNESS

1 Wallace St, Mt Cook
www.bpmfitness.co.nz