

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised, your residents' and community group. We invite your input (via the email above) on any Mt Cook issue. We urge all owners to paint out graffiti immediately and look out for neighbours. Many thanks again to the Southern Cross, 39 Abel Smith St, for generously sponsoring us.

Peter Cooke

WARM WELCOME

Mt Cook is a suburb that values its diverse communities. For many years it has hosted a population of students who make the very sensible choice to move here to study at one of Wellington's excellent tertiary institutions.

A warm welcome if you are a student new to Mt Cook. We hope you enjoy living in one of the best, most vibrant and lively suburbs in the city. We are pleased that you have come to live among us and add to the richness and colour we all enjoy as part of inner-city living.

Mt Cook is also home to many long term and permanent residents, some of them quite elderly and some of them young families. Our goal is for us to live harmoniously and respectfully, appreciating the needs of our fellow citizens, looking out for each other and being mindful of how we can build helpful and concerned neighbourhoods.

Students will have parties – and

of course they should, it's part of the lifestyle. However, it's courteous and sensible to make sure that our neighbourhoods are safe from aggressive or violent behaviour and ear splitting noise, broken glass, trash and other hazards. We are concerned for the young children who need their sleep and use the footpaths for scooting, triking and skating, the mums with prams and toddlers and the older people going about their business.

Get to know your neighbours. Become involved with the activities around Mt Cook. Join in the events that are held to celebrate and keep our suburb attractive and safe. Use the local businesses and facilities. Find out about the recycling system and civil defence arrangements for emergency. Be part of our proud community and help us to continue making it better and better for everyone and generations of families and students to come.

ALCOHOL STRATEGY

MCM is on WCC's Reference Group to help shape a strategy on alcohol, from which Council has, under a new act, to develop a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP).

Away from the excesses of late-night Courtenay Place, Mt Cook experiences alcohol issues through liquor-driven partying, driving and 'pre-loading'. This is where people drink cheap booze at home before heading

into town. It results in more anti-social behaviour and people putting themselves at risk.

Questions we need to ask ourselves: are the number of licences in Mt Cook appropriate? Are their practices up to scratch? Is all the broken glass necessary? Can we change young people's drinking patterns? Do you have any thoughts?

MT COOK – FIRST IMPRESSIONS

To move from a large old villa in suburbia to a smaller newish apartment in Mt Cook, has been what could be called a 'sea change'. While we are not right in the city, the overwhelming impression is one of a close urban environment. It is cosmopolitan, busy and, thanks to the proximity of Massey University and the nearby Dance and Drama schools, youthful. The high proportion of rental accommodation means moving trucks are a common sight at the beginning and end of the academic year.

There isn't a real business centre to Mt Cook but residents have good access to shops, banks, libraries and the hospital and other facilities in the central city on the one hand and Newtown on the other. This has been the case for many decades now - this is not a new suburb and it is the mix of old and new that gives Mt Cook its charm. It

has a city fringe atmosphere, with many century-old houses, with small attractive gardens, and views that cover the Town Belt and Government House and its grounds.

But maybe best of all is the handy access to the city, and all the southern and eastern suburbs. The easy pleasant walking and the great bus service have meant that I have scarcely used the car in the six months I have been here. That suits me because there are 21,000 vehicles a day on Wallace Street, and the roadworks at John St/Adelaide Rd have seemed endless. Why drive?

BUS REVIEW

The good news is that GWRC dropped any idea of routing the Taranaki St services along the Terrace, and dieselising it. Good on ya GWRC!



A Papawai Reserve working bee moving Mt Mulch.

RAIN CHAOS

by Gabriella D (aged 12) and Sascha H (aged 10).

Mouths dangling open, hearts beating strong, the sight of our street filled with dirty, muddy water. Completely predictable. This was not the first time that our street has been flooded. If you think that it was completely nature's fault for flooding our neighbourhood yet again, then you are wrong.

After many complaints from the citizens of Mt Cook, the Wellington City Council came and 'did up' the area around Prince of Wales Park, to improve the unlikelihood of flooding again. Did it work? You know the answer.

They repaired the gravel, made a new gutter pathway and a new drain. I suppose they were waiting for an appreciation letter, or something along the lines of that. But did they get one? No. Why not? Firstly, the rain water pushed the gravel off the path, so there was just one huge gap; secondly, the gutter wasn't functioning properly and not taking

in enough water. And lastly, the new drain that they put in took absolutely no water from the flood. It only caught the water falling directly into it, as opposed to the majority of the rainwater. It was not in the right place, about a metre away, it was off by a long shot. So that was basically useless.

So, there we were, staring at this huge pool of water in our front garden. So deep, we couldn't even see the ground. Calling it a 'flood' is an understatement. Our eyes absorbed the sight of all of the chaos. We treaded through the street; getting our clothes wet. So high up, above our ankles. All of the water was dashing down the street and the path leading up to the park. The water from the road and the path were colliding together, creating a massive explosion of water; which lasted for over an hour...

READ THE FULL STORY AT mtcookmobilised.pbworks.com and search for 'downpour'.

Thanks to Jon, Alwyn, Amanda, and everyone else who contributed to the clearing up the floodwaters.

REGULAR MT COOK ACTIVITIES

Petanque on the top lawn alongside the Carillon – last Sunday of the month; **gardening** at Papawai Reserve – second Sunday of the month; **rubbish pick-up** in selected streets once every two months for an hour; **MCM meetings** - Sundays, every six weeks; **delivering newsletters** – twice a year. These events are social and fun and a great way to be involved in your community. **Mini Cookies**, a group for pre-schoolers and parents is currently in recess, as that original cohort of children is now in school.

If you are new to Mt Cook, then we suggest you ask to be put on the emailing list for e-bulletins, or come to a meeting. Other ways to be involved include writing articles for the newsletter, and helping with our website.

For further details email: mtcookmobilised@gmail.com

MEMORIAL PARK

MCM is represented on the park's Community Forum and the Review Panel, which have met several times. We speak up when the trenching work might affect the suburb (such as temporary road closures, dust and noise). It is going well.

BASIN TRAFFIC

MCM has consistently supported the concept of solving traffic congestion at the Basin Reserve. We also believe the issue is bigger than one affecting Mt Cook and Mt Vic which border it - the efficiency of the rest of the city hangs on a sound long-term solution. We are unqualified on traffic engineering and divided in opinion. As a suburb geographically defined by streets and transiting traffic, Mt Cook will benefit from less congestion. As well as pedestrian safety, our focus has been on Memorial Park. In order to make that a success, we have entrusted WCC and NZTA to collegially solve the traffic congestion at the Basin.



KAKA CHICK

This little fellow caused a stir over the summer. His parents were raised at Zealandia. Local resident and avian conservationist, Matu Booth, discovered their nest high in a dead poplar at the southern end of lower Prince of Wales Park. Matu kept a watchful eye on the kaka family throughout the days when the chick had left the nest and was building-up its strength to fly. When he learnt that the dead poplars were to be cut-down, Matu contacted the City Council who agreed to delay the felling. Sadly, the mother kaka was found dead in a Mt Cook garden. The father kaka, son and new girlfriend are still living in that part of the Town Belt near where the poplars were felled.

AEROSHOP TAKE-OFF

A brand new business has opened in Mt Cook, and the co-directors, David Peters and Sod Oscarfono, welcome visitors to come in and chat. You can also order a 'Flight' coffee - have in or takeaway, while doing a reconnaissance, and admiring the ceiling covered with a 1940's parachute.

AeroShop is at 80b Wallace St, next door to the Supreme Store dairy, and residents will have seen on the wall opposite an extended aeronautical mural – designed by David and painted by Sean Duffell. The planes are WWII spitfires – a metaphor for AeroShop's core business of helping small businesses take flight. With extensive experience in graphic design and web engineering the two directors work with small businesses, from "plumbers to theatre groups". Services include poster campaigns, advertising, websites, ►



On 13 February a group of Mt Cook residents met with Wellington City Council Parks, Capacity (who do the drainage and water engineering work) and Cr Iona Pannett. This was a chance for residents to point out what happens when Papawai Stream floods in heavy rain. A bund (mounded bank beside the stream) had been planned but Council got onto it quick (pictured). Plantings on the bund will provide shade for the native fish during the day and slow down the growth of water celery which can choke the stream. We wish to acknowledge the work that Council and Capacity do for Prince of Wales lower park, and the nearby residents for looking out for the park, fish and birdlife.

▷ logos, album covers and more. They can also screenprint t-shirts, bags, etc.

The tagging and graffiti which formerly spawned on the spitfire wall has ceased - adding substance to the development of an AeroShop concept for an online community web-portal to support street art, involving artists, residents and business owners. Both directors see new art and retaining the Mt Cook heritage as equally important, including 'Herstory' (with Pippy and Frida), and 'Ian Curtis' (by Curb). Both directors are keen to see the promotion of local artwork and talent and are aware that the civic costs of dealing with tagging are considerable - the Council spends an estimated \$600,000 each year on graffiti removal. Better, the AeroShop directors say, to channel those funds into nurturing talent. With their enthusiasm and skills to utilise such ideas, we might look forward to more art and less ugly tagging around our streets.

Mt Cook would be the perfect test bed for their portal concept, with its high number of tenanted properties. MCM currently has a group investigating good sites and how to involve the community, with a plan to sell bacon sandwiches one day a week as a street art fundraiser outside AeroShop.

THANKS CITY COUNCIL

MCM acknowledges with thanks a grant from the General Grants (Social) pool for 12 months' operational assistance. In 2012, WCC moved to an online grant application process and we appreciated good access to the helpdesk and the commit-

MANY FAREWELLS

There comes a point in life when it is time to take a new direction. Such a time has come upon me and so I will not be standing for re-election come October. These sorts of times are both exciting and terrifying, but life would be deadly dull without them. And so I am off to be a farmer (of sorts, of goats, chooks and vegetables) and to run a B&B on the lovely piece of land I have bought in the foothills of the Tararuas.

It has been such an honour and a privilege to serve as a Wellington City Councillor for the last 18 years and I have many wonderful memories of my time representing the Lambton Ward. I have really enjoyed getting to know the people working hard for Mt Cook and in particular spending time helping clean up Papawai. It looks wonderful now and is a really good example of a community working together.

I have also met so many fantastic people during my time and have seen Wellington blossom and flourish. But now it's time for me to be off and for some new blood to have a role in shaping this great little city village. And if you want a break away in the peace and tranquillity of the countryside, give me a call - next year!

Kind regards, and many thanks for your support.

Cr Stephanie Cook

MCM wishes Cr Cook well and thanks her for her support.

ment and patience of staff to help community groups. The processing of applications has speeded up and the amount of paperwork reduced.

WILL IT FLY?

I am writing this column on the day that Wellington City Councillors debated the issue of whether we should support or oppose the proposed Basin Reserve flyover. It was a day that the city deserved a clear answer to this question from councillors. Instead, by the narrowest of majorities, councillors decided to not give an answer at all, deciding the question was too difficult. Instead, the council will comment only on mitigation measures in the eventuality that the flyover is built.

I remain strongly opposed to this proposal seeing that it will be a scar on the historic Basin Reserve itself with negative downstream implications for Mt Victoria and surrounding suburbs including Mt Cook. Are there alternatives? Yes there are. This is an exciting part of the city with a rich history and many opportunities for re-development. The Architecture Centre's Option X was one example of how we could rethink the area around the Basin.

The City will also soon start work on a new transport strategy which will enable us to set out how a 21st-century transport system will work rather than relying on 1960s solutions like the flyover. The New Zealand Transport Agency will now soon lodge an application with the Environmental Protection Authority. There is likely to be a hearing this year. I would hope that Mt Cookites will take the opportunity to have your say when submissions are called for.

lona 384-3382/021-227-8509 or
lona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz

Cr Iona Pannett, 21 March

MANY POSITIVES

Wellington: what a great city we live in - not perfect (name one that is!) but with many positives. On a recent Sunday Jenny and I were on the Waterfront: Dragon Boat racing with its colourful excitement and the ASEAN Nightmarket with its tempting aromas, and hundreds simply enjoying themselves.

This isn't always so in Committee Room One! In March we debated the Council's budgets for 2013-14. The aim was 2.5% rates rise (definitely under 3%) - settled on 2.8%. There is a four-week consultation so please do respond. The Council did accept my request of an Intern programme whereby young people from refugee, recent migrant and disability communities can gain work experience at WCC.

Also debated at length, the issue of amalgamation. While we would all like Wellington City to continue as it is, I don't believe that's possible if it is to maintain its social and economic vibrancy. There must be coordination across the region to avoid unnecessary duplication, while the Wellington CBD must remain the crucial 'driver' of the region. There will be consultation on this very important strategic issue of this triennium.

The roading proposals for the Basin Reserve continue to be debated. As you know, further to studies done previously the Council decided on another review of options by its chosen professionals. The alternatives to NZTA's proposal were seen as not giving sufficient solution to the urgent need for more effective traffic flows, including for public transport, with cycling and walking improvements.

You are always welcome to contact me at
<ian.mckinnon@wcc.govt.nz>

Cr Ian McKinnon, 18 March

Deputy Mayor



TIMEBANKING - EASY AND FUN

Timebanking is an easy way to get things for next to nothing and share your skills. Say, you have a car and give someone a lift to the supermarket, then that person might wash someone else's car. The Timebank keeps a record of who is swapping what and debits or credits time points. One hour of time equals one Timebank point. At first it might seem a little weird, but really timebanking is fun and a great way to meet new people and you can trade all manner of skills and expertise.

The Wellington Timebank has over 200 members and now needs to devolve to a less centralised operational model – the new way of operating involves Neighbourhood Hubs. There are almost a dozen Timebank members in Mt Cook already, and Hannah is looking for a Hub Coordinator for Mt Cook, and

yes, you can timebank the time you spend on neighbourhood hub Timebank activity!

To find out more, google "wellington timebank", or contact Hannah at the Wellington Timebank on 920 6708 or email <wgtn.timebank@gmail.com>

Mt Cook Minis

All the original Mt Cook Minis from 2008 are big school kids now. There are lots of pre-schoolers and toddlers around Mt Cook who need someone to coordinate their Mums for a monthly get-together at the park or Junglerama. Would you have 2 hours a month to coordinate a new group of Mt Cook Minis? Mt Cook Mobilised will help the new coordinator get in touch with Minis. Email mtcookmobilised@gmail.com if you would like to give it a go!



MT COOK! MOBILISED community



GETTING RID

The Sustainability Trust has moved to 2 Forresters Lane, opposite Bunnings on Tory Street. Electronic items contain toxic nasties that cannot be dumped in the landfill. For a small fee the Sustainability Trust will take old electronic goods for dismantling and recycling - or 'e-cycling'. Cell phones are free.

PCs \$5; monitors \$15; TVs \$25; washing machines \$30 (they also take printers, scanners, old cables, microwaves, small household electrical goods, but NOT fridges, husbands or dehumidifiers). Their website < <http://sustaintrust.org.nz> > has the full list of what they can e-cycle, the price per item, and their opening hours.



WEEKEND BRUNCH AVAILABLE FROM 9AM - 2.30PM — COME CHILL IN WELLY'S — BEST GARDEN BAR

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