

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

mtcookmobilised@gmail.com

http://mtcookmobilised.pbworks.com

MCM • PO Box 9724 • Wellington 6141



SOUTHERNCROSS
PROUD SPONSOR GARDEN:BAR:RESTAURANT



No 14 - November 2013

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*



**SPRING
FLING**



The weather was perfect, the setting immaculate, the food plentiful and delicious! This and the variety of activities attracted around 200 Mt Cook residents to celebrate spring at Papawai Reserve on Sunday 20 October.

Solar cooking, composting toilets, face painting and kids' races were the major attractions. Neighbours gathered to share stories, ideas and gossip (the friendly kind) over tea and coffee, or more elaborate picnics. These made the fourth Spring Fling a great success for Mt Cook Mobilised and our community.

Kids had heaps of fun with trolleys, blocks, climbing frame, swings, drawing, weaving and just mucking around together. People of all ages and wages joined in a happy, relaxed, sociable Sunday.

Huge thanks to the many people who made it happen and to Susan and the Papawai Reserve Group who have turned Papawai from an ugly wasteland to the pride of our suburb (see it at the end of Salisbury Tce or Papawai Tce).

Strengthening neighbourhood alliances and enhancing inner-city living was well achieved by this event. If you missed it... be ready for 2014... it's a must for your Mt Cook calendar.

HIDE DA BLING!

Recently the NZ Police mounted a special operation in Mt Cook and Newtown to reduce the number of burglaries. They say that unsecured doors and windows, or valuables on display, are magnets for thieves. This applies both to your house and car. So lock things up and hide away your bling.

There are a couple of things you can do to make your suburb safer. Form a **Neighbourhood Support Group**. Meet up with neighbours in your immediate area (such as within sight of each other) and swap names and numbers. Watch out for each other and call police if you see any suspicious activity.

Another thing is to join your local community patrol. This is the **Wellington South Community Patrol**, which has been operating for nearly three years. Volunteers receive police training to mount patrols in pairs. The patrol owns a dedicated RAV4 patrol vehicle, painted with hi-viz stripes and sponsors' logos, *below*. Equipped with phone and radio, patrols go around the suburb of Mt Cook (as well as Brooklyn, Newtown, Island Bay and Owiro Bay), making sure everyone is safe. Patrols watch out for pre-loaded students stumbling into town, or coming home late at night putting

themselves at-risk. Motorists who behave anti-socially are reported, as are any strange goings-on, property issues (insecure or out-of-place things) or people in distress. The patrol works closely with our **Community Constable Sam McKenzie**, *below*, who is happy to hear from anyone contemplating any of these solutions, or concerned about their safety.

Contact Const Sam McKenzie
sam.mckenzie@police.govt.nz
(04) 212 4453



BASIN BRIDGE HEARINGS

Hearings on the proposed Basin Bridge will be heard in late January and February 2014.

NZTA lodged the resource consent application in June 2013. The Minister for the Environment directed that the application be heard by a Board of Inquiry as it was designated a proposal of national significance.

Submissions closed on 6 September and a summary of submissions is available on the EPA website. There were 215 submissions, 82% from individuals. The bridge was opposed in whole or part by 82% of the submissions, with 15% in support.

Over a quarter of the submissions came from Mt Victoria, with 95% of these being opposed to the flyover. Mt Cook submissions were the next most numerous, with more mixed views – 69% opposed. Interestingly, the smaller number of submissions from the eastern suburbs had a higher proportion in opposition (78%) than Mt Cook submissions.

The timetable at present is for hearings to start on 27 January, with a draft decision from the Board on 17 April. Comments on that draft decision are due by 19 May, with a final decision scheduled for 31 May 2014.

MCM did not submit because some support the proposed project.

OLD CRÈCHE MOVES

Next year the Home of Compassion Crèche in Memorial Park will be moved back and uphill short distances, to make way for SH1. It will be strengthened first and restored afterwards. Planned for May 2014, we hope to be able to watch the move.

NZTA has offered it to the Council which will determine future use. The site in a premier park alongside Buckle St and its heritage status will influence future use. It is hoped WCC will call for expressions of interest from the public.

TASMAN ST WORKS GALL

The vast amount of road works being done in Tasman Street is causing much disruption to local residents and businesses – with access issues, noise, vibration and dust. This is despite 'The John St Protocols' being drafted by our friends at the Newtown Residents Association last year, which suggested 17 ways to improve the management of road and drain works. Those protocols came after months of disruption for local people and businesses from building the Countdown supermarket and the consequent widening of Adelaide Rd, difficulties which led to the closure of the Ballroom Café and much stress for other businesses.

Lessons have clearly not been learned in relation to Tasman St. For the National War Memorial Park work, the north end of Tasman Street was closed for two years. In June 2013 WCC also consented to close the southern end for drainage works (scheduled for six months).

Also on Tasman St, outside Massey University, pipe work is underway partly in preparation for an emergency water reservoir planned for the top of Prince of Wales Park (though the reservoir project itself is currently on hold).

Residents who might have expected timely notification of these major projects did not receive it.

David Lloyd, owner of the Tasman St Vet Centre, was shocked to arrive at work one morning to find, without any forewarning, diggers and trucks blocking access to his business. "I'd already spoken to councillors and road foremen about the lack of notification about works in our area, and then there's more unannounced disruption."

Though some of this work may finish sooner than expected, the Council's flow of information to affected locals has been woeful.

EMERGENCY COMPOST TOILET

Meet Matt King, armed with a simple idea to avoid a stinky situation in an emergency. Matt has designed and manufactures Emergency Compost Toilets. The design is simply a double-seat toilet with buckets to collect the contents. One seat is used for diluted 'people' worm juice, which can be recycled onto the garden. The other seat is used for 'solids'. A layer of carbon-rich material (such as untreated wood shavings or forest litter) is added to the solids to absorb moisture, which helps to reduce the odour. The 'solids' contents are transferred to a wheelie bin for composting outside.

Matt says that after the Christchurch earthquake, the major problem with Portaloos was that people had to go down the street to use them, which was not very practical in the middle of the night, or for children. Matt's design is simple, and provides the kind of insurance that we could all do with if the big one hits. Matt has been travelling to community events to spread the word, and is happy to give away instructions on how to build the Emergency Compost Toilet to anyone who wants to build their own. The ECT is also for sale as a flat-pack kitset.

Mt Cook Mobilised is talking to Matt King about holding a 'Make Your Own Emergency Compost Toilet Workshop' in 2014, if there is sufficient interest. Interested? Drop us a line at mtcookmobilised@gmail.com and we'll contact you next year about the workshop.

For more information go to www.composttoilets.co.nz

Matt King, left, and Clyde Lambourn at the MCM Spring Fling.
ANNA HARDING

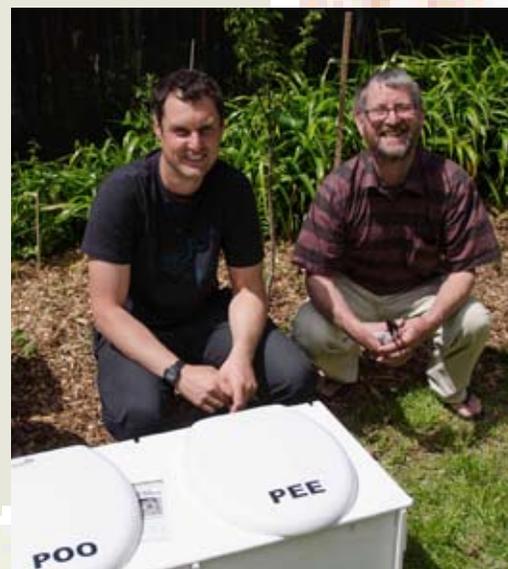
PLUNKET

The local Newtown/Mt Cook Plunket is a very busy active organisation in your community. Our enthusiastic nurse Katrina does a lot of home visits around the area, including to the numerous council housing units, as well as office appointments. Newtown/Mt Cook is an extremely diverse community, and Plunket really makes a difference to numerous families.

Katrina is supported in her work by an equally enthusiastic volunteer committee. One of the main jobs of the committee is to fundraise to support Katrina's work. But we also organise winter parcels for some of the area's needier families, and bring together new local parents in PIN (Parents In the Neighbourhood) groups for friendship and support. A regular newsletter also keeps local parents up to date on Plunket happenings and courses, and other events relevant to parents of young children.

The committee is one person short at the moment, so if you have a bit of spare time, email us at newtownplunketcommittee@gmail.com. We meet once a month over a hot chocolate to work out the details of how best to give back to this wonderful community of ours. Having preschoolers is most certainly not a prerequisite, just friendly enthusiasm.

newtownplunketcommittee@gmail.com



FROM OUR LOCAL WARD COUNCILLORS

elected after Mt Cook's first candidates' meeting held on 15 Sept 2013.



IONA PANNETT

The only re-elected councillor, Iona is Chair of the Environment Committee, and Portfolio Leader for Buildings. "I am honoured to have been re-elected to represent Mt Cook over the next three years. I have loved working with your community since I got involved in 2007. I take this opportunity to say thank you to all those I have worked with over that time and say farewell to my former councillor colleagues, Ian McKinnon and Stephanie Cook, who have moved on to pursue other interests and who did a lot for this community. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to new councillors Mark Peck and Nicola Young."

(04) 384 3382/ 021 227 8509
iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz



MARK PECK

A new City Councillor, Mark has been given the Chair of the Audit & Risk Subcommittee. As MP for Invercargill (1993–2005) before moving to Wellington in late 2005, Mark stood for council because he "was frustrated that Council could not understand the effects that poor communication and lack of progress during the 'Golden Mile' upgrade was having on small business in the vicinity. While eventually we got

an apology for this, the same disaster was visited on Newtown and Kilbirnie. I am determined to see this culture change."

027 446 1650
mark.peck@wcc.govt.nz



NICOLA YOUNG

A new City Councillor, Nicola is Portfolio Leader for Central City Projects. She lives in Te Aro and says "inner city living is becoming increasingly popular (the recent Census showed a 62% population increase between the waterfront and the Basin Reserve) but this places extra strain on the area's quality of life and resources. Improving the quality of inner-city life was one of my campaign platforms, and I am already familiar with some of the issues in Mt Cook, including the on-going issue of through traffic around Wallace and Bidwill Streets, and the effectiveness of street art in curbing the curse of graffiti."

(04) 801 5100/ 021 654 844
nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

THE GOOD OIL...

A HISTORY LANDMARK ON ADELAIDE ROAD

"Greetings Mr C.....Salutations Mr O..." Some older Mt Cook residents may well remember that popular radio jingle of the 1950s and 60s. The product being promoted was a widely-used furniture polish, made and marketed across New Zealand by one of Mt Cook's oldest businesses. CO Products still operates out of the same premises, owned and managed by the fourth generation of the same family, at 163 Adelaide Road.



OPE PUKETAPU (1941–2013)

On 25 May this year Te Opetuarua Puketapu passed away. Ope was the Coordinator at Arlington Apartments. She was a special person, a kuia who was a wonderful community-builder.

Rest in peace, Ope.

Your life has enriched our lives.

A young Ope was the inspiration for this mural in the grounds of Arlington Apartments.

THANKS, CITY

MCM acknowledges with thanks a grant from the (recently re-named) Social & Recreation Fund for 12 months' operational assistance. The Fund "aims to foster strong, sustainable communities and support building capacity in the community", and MCM is delighted to be part of this network. The new WCC online grant application is now in its second year, and the processing of applications has generally speeded up, with less paperwork required.

WCC FIXIT APP

This year Wellington City Council launched their FIXIT smartphone app, which allows smartphone users to take a photo of a problem, tag it on Google Maps and notify the council. This is a useful app for community-minded people to report missing signs, potholes or anything else needing WCC attention. Of course, WCC can still be contacted 24 hours a day on (04) 499 4444, info@wcc.govt.nz, or by texting 3400 (free).

Founded in 1920 by Minnie Bardsley, CO Products is currently run by her great grandchildren, brother and sister Penny and Vaughan Cox, **below**.

The building has just had a facelift but inside it's much the same as it was in its early days... and likely smells the same, something like your great granny's well-kept polished furniture!





WELLINGTONS BEST GARDEN BAR

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Monday	Stitch & Bitch Knitting Circle
Tuesday	Electric Quiz
Wednesday	Kroon for your Kai Giant Jenga Competition
Thursday	Slow Boat Records Music Quiz
Friday	Free Live Music
Saturday	The Arvo Show Free Live Music
Sunday	Recovery Sessions Bingo with Mrs Mabel Smith

MT COOK! MOBILISED **community**

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email sues@actrix.co.nz

member
NZ piano tuner
and technicians guild

Mt Cook Minis

Got pre-schoolers? Meet other local parents at our Hutchison Road Play Area.



Thursday **19 December** 10am-12
BYO morning tea/coffee
contact Kate - mtcookminis@gmail.com

MINI CITIZENS

Mt Cook has an increasing number of little citizens, further evidence of what an amazing place Mt Cook is to live in. **Mt Cook Minis** is a group of parents with toddlers, giving you a chance to meet other locals and build friendships that could last a lifetime. Many Minis graduate to Mt Cook School with their former Mt Cook Minis' mates, making the transition easier.

"I'm Kate, mother of Luke, 3, and we live with Grant, Luke's Dad, and Tom the cat, in Wright St. We are relatively new community members; we moved here in 2012. We have been

made very welcome and intend to make Mt Cook our forever home. I feel very strongly about building community and would love to encourage other small residents and their parents to join us for play and a chat. Long or short-term Mt Cookies!"

Everybody is welcome to join us on Thursday 19 December 10am to 12 noon at the Mt Cook Play Area, Hutchison Rd (opposite Te Whaea/ School of Dance & Drama).

Bring morning tea and, this being Wellington, warm clothes!

If you can't make it this time please email us and I'll contact you next time. Kate.

mtcookminis@gmail.com

We're now hosting a **community notice board** here in our coffee shop at 80 Wallace St. (next to the Supreme Dairy). Please feel free to come and use it.

AEROSHOP CREATIVE ALLIES
FACEBOOK.COM/AEROSHOPNZ

MT COOK! MOBILISED
Mt Cook residents association

Mt Cook Mobilised, it's...

Fun!

Food!

Spring Fling...

Street Litter Pickup...

Street Art Group...

Mt Cook Minis...

Papawai Reserve Working Bees...

Petanque by the Carillon...

Mt Cook History Walk...

E: mtcookmobilised@gmail.com mtcookmobilised.pbworks.com