

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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SOUTHERNCROSS
PROUD SPONSOR GARDEN:BAR:RESTAURANT



No 16 - November 2014

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**



IF WE THINK of the 1913 Great Strike as our French Revolution or our Russian Revolution, then this unassuming defence building on the corner of Taranaki and Buckle St **above** is our Bastille or Odessa Steps.

It almost witnessed the dawn of class war.

Whatever your views on the tempestuous events of 1913, everyone will agree that the stand-off in front of this building was a pivotal moment. For that reason alone, it should be safeguarded from the demolition which it currently faces. Tell your MP.

The emboldened agitation by organised labour, sternly resisted by the establishment, brought NZ to the brink. Striking workers clashed in our streets with forces preserving the status quo. The divide quickly spread nationwide. Both sides were fighting for ideals: on the left a respect for the downtrodden classes through equitable redistribution of wealth, and on the right the freedom for entrepreneurial capital to do its thing.

Under the growing strength of trade unionism, industrial relations' disputes had escalated, reflecting a global trend. West Coast and Waihi mining strikes were mere curtain-raisers for the events of 1913. At first Wellington shipwrights clashed with the Union Steamship Company over a travel allowance. Wharfies, seamen and miners went out in sympathy, then the employers dug their heels in. The Government and

farmers backed the employers and raised forces of foot and mounted Special Constables to keep order.

Clashes between these forces pushed the Specials from the waterfront. On 3 November 1913 strikers and working-class residents confronted the Specials in their camp at Mt Cook Barracks, Buckle St. Clashes occurred around Webb, Taranaki and Cuba Streets; heads were batoned, shots fired. Regular soldiers fixed bayonets and mounted Maxim guns in front of this 1911 Defence Store (in what will become Pukeahu National War Memorial Park).

At a crucial moment in the tense stand-off here, the depot commander Major John Hume strode out unarmed between the lines

and implored everyone to calm down, thus defusing a potential time-bomb.

This brick building saw it all. It had many other roles outfitting our later expeditionary forces, as well as housing museum and health department functions. With the drill halls over the road, it made 'Buckle Street' synonymous with duty and service. Anti-Vietnam protesters fire-bombed it. 103 years after it was built, it now speaks for a fundamentally reasonable New Zealand that faces its future as a wiser and more caring society. It should be preserved (finding the political will and money) to serve the park's role of commemorating our turbulent past.

Fate could have given no other building a more apt role and location.

BASIN SOLUTION

A possible solution to the Basin Reserve congestion is to combine it with a second Mt Vic tunnel - but one that goes directly from Vivian St/Pirie St straight through to Hataitai. It would halve SH1 traffic around the Basin.

**Mt Cook Mobe
non-engineer**





PAPAWAI 6 YEARS ON

Another good year of restoration work at Papawai Reserve has seen the planting of over 420 trees and plants. Since we began gardening in September 2008 our records show 1726 plants have gone in. This does not include other donated material from individuals who have added to the planting.

Earlier this year Susan the Papawai convenor and Dianne met with Anita Benbrook, WCC Restoration Technical Advisor, to discuss further planting. Anita encouraged MCM to extend our area to include the stream edges along the bund beside the southern-most playing field (lower Prince of Wales Park) and up to the little 'troll bridge' where the stream comes down from Brooklyn. This was agreed and, with the help of Geoff and friends, we spent a couple of work sessions clearing and planting. Geoff is working with WCC to set up a neighbouring group in the adjacent area.

Susan and Dianne later met with two visitors, Elizabeth Kolbert a visiting American journalist and author of books on the environment and climate change, and Prof Charles Daugherty from Victoria University. Although on a tight schedule they were able to look around, asking questions and taking notes. They came with Amber Bill, WCC Open Space & Parks Manager.

Papawai Reserve has become a lush and beautiful community space. On average, 14 people come to working bees each month (putting in at least 246 volunteer hours). With such active help and support from the community and WCC, the area has been transformed from a muddy, weed-infested and rubbish-filled space to an asset we can all enjoy. The tasks are ongoing, but even the weeding is fun and sociable. Come and check us out on the second Sunday of each month.

VILLAGE FAIR

Despite a forecast of gale force winds and morning drizzle, resilient and cheerful residents turned up for the recent annual Mt Cook Mobilised Spring Fling by Papawai stream.

Between 11am and 2pm on 2 November, some 66 adults and 45 (as best we could estimate!) active children enjoyed the relative calm in Papawai Reserve, sheltered by native bush. And the rain held off.

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown opened the Fling, and four players from the Wellington Pipe Band outdid the elements. Councillors Iona Pannett and Nicola Young came by to support the event. Hay bales added a rustic touch and provided seating, a maze, a cave and an adventure playground. Races included sack, egg & spoon, and a cheerful three-legged shambles.

The craft table and face painting were popular, as were the coffee and refreshment tables. The Spring Fling (our fifth) works so well due to community support, a hard-working organising group, a beautiful location, and friendly and fun traditions. Well done everyone.

STREAM CARE

In Mt Cook we are fortunate to still have open sections of a stream running through our midst. The stream rises in Brooklyn, has its most visible section around the edge of the lower Prince of Wales Park, goes round the back of the changing sheds, through the newly restored Papawai Reserve and then disappears into a culvert under Papawai Terrace, from where it makes its way unseen to the harbour.

What is particularly great about this stream is that it is still home to native fish and koura and, even more remarkably, that the young fish apparently make their way from the sea where they are born, up through the storm-water network, up the fish ladder, before finally reaching the open stream. Well, some of them do at any rate and we want to make sure that this keeps on happening.

To that end we can all do our bit. We need to be particularly careful about what ends up in the storm-water system. Storm water is not only excess water from rain and roof runoff but water captured from other outdoor activities such as washing the car or cleaning paint brushes. And generally in the urban setting such water is unable to penetrate the soil to be filtered of contaminants. The same goes for pesticides

and other toxic substances. The situation was compounded last year by the Council allowing storm-water discharge directly into an area where the young fish congregate before their journey up the fish ladder. In drier spells the water that enters there will likely have a higher concentration of toxins.

The planting of the open edges of the stream is progressing well and will provide cover for the fish and help keep stream temperatures low during summer months.

We can all minimise our use of toxins and household chemicals or ensure residues do not enter the storm-water system. Please report any toxic or unnatural discharges to the Regional Council's environmental hotline, 0800 496 734.

Here is advice from our Papawai Reserve sign:

"It is important to keep stream banks clear of litter and other discarded rubbish.

"wash your car on a lawn or... use eco-friendly washing liquid, or preferably take your car to the car wash....

"Avoid pouring the paint wash water down your storm-water drain.

"If you observe suspected pollution in the stream, please ring the Regional Council and report it."

Mt Cook Weather Station



Massey's College of Creative Arts building, Te Ara Hihiko, is well known for its LVL timbers (laminated veneer lumber) which are designed to absorb some of the shock in an earthquake. This 2012 building has a raft of other smart, purpose-built, design features that contribute to its energy efficiency and success.

Te Ara Hihiko has its own weather station **above right** that monitors the direction of the prevailing wind and rain and automatically adjusts the angle of the tilt windows to match con-

ditions. The outdoor lux levels are sampled and this data is used to automatically adjust the brightness of the lights. Motion sensors allow lights to be turned off automatically when sections of the building are empty. Te Ara Hihiko has a sophisticated mix of lighting types. Alongside



more conventional lights are some energy-efficient LEDs and specialised high-intensity metal-halide lights which provide excellent colour rendition for studio work.

There is a natural light vent running along the top of the building. In the event of fire, smoke would rise up into the air vent and also be vented through the windows, and by extractor fans in the stairway.

Several levels have under-floor heating that is powered by a series of interconnected gas boilers. The boilers are demand-driven, and only the required number of boilers fire up. Motion sensors are also used to turn off the overhead heating units in offices and meeting rooms when not in use.

The roof garden **above left** provides a green outlook with its low-maintenance shallow-rooted plantings, and it contributes to the plantings-to-buildings ratio on campus.

Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels are still too expensive to be considered for a building of the scale of Te Ara Hihiko (though they are being seen on Mt Cook residential roofs, *left*). However, it is impressive to see the number of 'energy smarts' that have been incorporated into this truly 21st-century building.

For information on PVs, google the Sustainability Trust.

THIS WAY UP GOES

Rolleston St residents are very sorry to some lose long-term tenants. Brothers Cam and Matt operated their billboard business This Way Up from the old brick sack merchants, and have been a friendly and welcome presence on the street for many years. Neighbours held a small party to say goodbye to the boys, who now have premises at 175 Rongotai Rd.

THANKS WCC

MCM acknowledges with thanks a WCC grant for Community Venue Assistance for the use of a meeting room. Meetings are currently held upstairs in the Heritage Café, on 40 Wallace St.

OUR LOCAL WARD COUNCILLORS



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**Mt
Cook
Minis**



If you live in Mt Cook with pre-schoolers and would like to meet other families, perhaps you could help us revive Mt Cook Minis. Minis have been part of the Mt Cook scene for six years - enjoyed by parents, grandparents and other caregivers, as well as the pre-schoolers. Now the original children are mostly at school and a new coordinator is needed. Minis met once a month (often at the playground) and coordinating the group wouldn't take long (by e-mail). If you can give a little time to this, please contact us for help and support getting started.

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MCM
congratulates the
Memorial Park Alliance
on its spectacular
Buckle St tunnel
work, opened on 28
September after
red-carpet and
public viewings.

