



## A NEW TUNNEL FOR MOUNT VIC. BUT WHERE SHOULD IT GO?

**A** new tunnel through Mount Victoria will have a big impact on our suburb. As well as the construction, which will take years, its design could mean the loss of quite a few houses.

The Government is keen to fast-track the tunnel, to deliver on election promises. How much say will local residents get? Find out more about the history of the tunnel and its potential impacts on page 2. ➔

### What's this?

Welcome to your new community newspaper – delivered free to Mount Victoria each month. Find out more inside!



### In this issue:

**06** Food and fun coming up at the Greek fair

**11** Clyde Quay School gets a makeover

**08** Council by-election – who's running and what do they know about Mount Victoria?

**12** Backyard pests – get trapping!

# Parallel or diagonal: Where should the new Mt Vic tunnel go?

Paterson Street in Mount Victoria has long been earmarked for tunnel development. This has left it in limbo, with most houses in the lower area owned by NZTA, and lined up for potential demolition. But could the area be retained – and possibly rejuvenated – if the tunnel went diagonally west under Mount Victoria instead?

**T**he new National Government has announced that work will start on a second Mt Victoria tunnel within three years. National Party election documents stated the new two-lane tunnel will be ‘in parallel to the existing one’.

But when Let’s Get Wellington Moving previously consulted on various options for improvements around the Basin, these included both a parallel and a diagonal tunnel.

The parallel option to the north would presumably replace most of Paterson Street, and require the removal of around 14 houses along there, mostly already owned by NZTA/Waka Kotahi.

On the Hataitai side, it would likely mean the widening of Ruahine Street into the Town Belt.

National says the parallel tunnel will be cheaper than building a diagonal tunnel, though at an estimated \$2.2 billion the pricetag is still eye-watering.

It may also have the advantage of existing geotechnical understanding, as a pilot tunnel to test ground conditions was dug several decades ago (see Historic Pilot Tunnel under Mt Victoria, page 5).

But a diagonal tunnel may have other things to recommend it.

The option for a diagonal tunnel would see it heading off towards the west from the existing tunnel entrance, and ending up at Wellington Road (avoiding the need to shave land off the town belt along Ruahine Street). It was expected to be around 1.2 km long, 500 metres longer than the existing Mt Victoria tunnel.

Wellington Regional Councillor Thomas Nash (a former Mount Victoria resident) said he didn’t think a firm decision had been made yet on the tunnel alignment, and he said it was hard to know how much housing would be lost until plans were done.

“A diagonal tunnel could be less disruptive and less negative in terms of housing than a parallel tunnel requiring existing housing and prime residential land owned by NZTA on Ellice, Brougham, Paterson to be replaced by roading infrastructure.

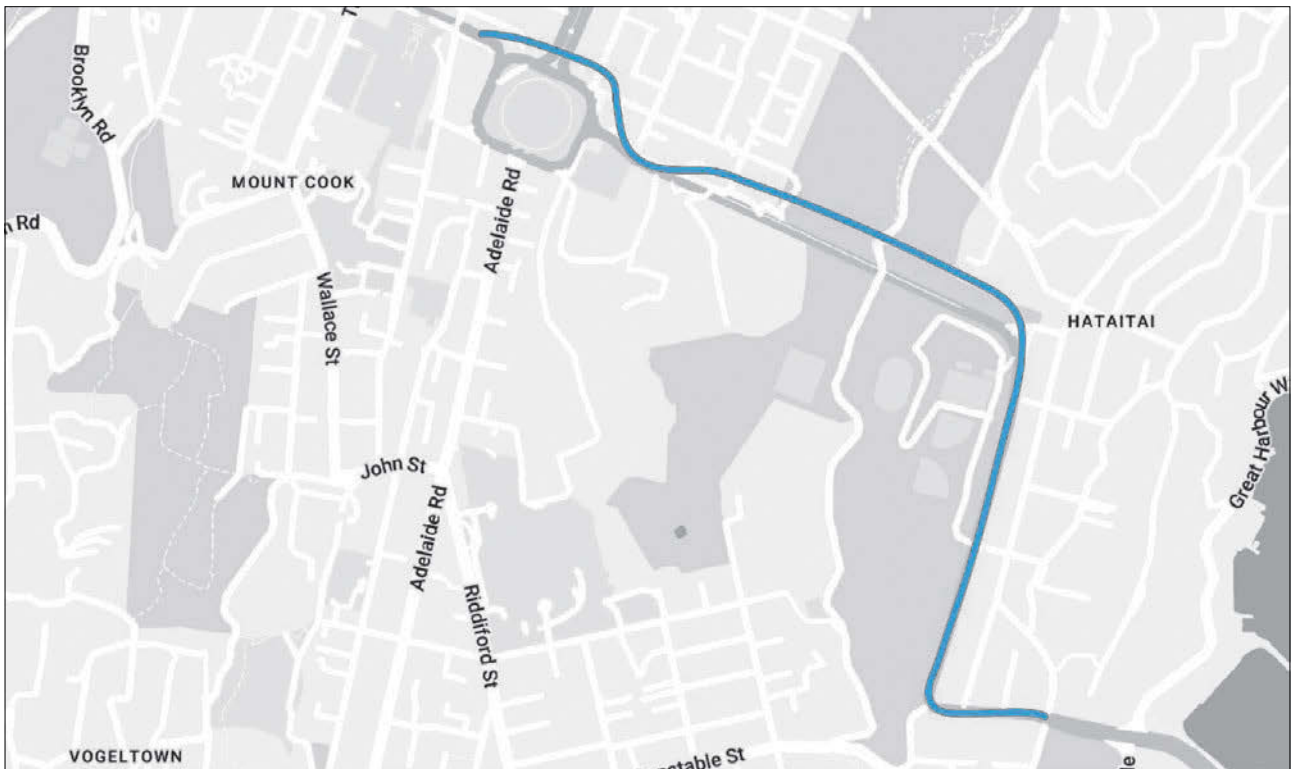
“Without seeing more detailed plans, I don’t have a strong view on whether a tunnel should be diagonal or parallel. The bigger question to me is how much every dollar spent on a new \$2 billion plus road tunnel dedicated to road traffic will help the city in terms of facilitating more housing and facilitating better transport outcomes for the greatest number of people.”

Now that LGWM has been disbanded, the agency formerly known as Waka Kotahi is leading the project.

“It’s now a 100% NZTA project but hopefully the decision making will include consultation with local people.”

Current ward councillors Iona Pannett and Nicola Young, who both live in Mount Victoria, have diametrically opposing views on the tunnel: Iona Pannett strongly opposes it, while Nicola Young says it’s well overdue.

**“A diagonal tunnel could be less disruptive and less negative in terms of housing than a parallel tunnel requiring existing housing and prime residential land owned by NZTA on Ellice, Brougham, Paterson to be replaced by roading infrastructure.”**



As part of its election promises, the National Party pledged to build a second, wider tunnel in parallel to the existing Mount Victoria tunnel. The second tunnel will provide two lanes for traffic travelling towards the airport, while the original tunnel will have two lanes for traffic travelling into the city. The project will also see upgrades around the Basin Reserve

to remove north-south State Highway traffic from the roundabout, and the widening and upgrading of Ruahine St (and surrounds) to provide for “Four Lanes to the Planes”. A new walking and cycling connection will be constructed to provide for active transport in the new tunnel, located above the road and separated from traffic.

A second Mt Victoria vehicle tunnel is a vital but missing piece of regional infrastructure for all the eastern suburbs, the airport and all the industries that depend on air freight, according to Nicola Young.

However she said she would prefer to see a ‘long’ tunnel constructed connecting Kilbirnie to State Highway 1 on the other side of the CBD, with off-ramp access at the hospital in Newtown – an alternative wild card option put forward by transport expert Greg Pollock.

“It would be incredibly expensive but it would mean Te Aro would no longer be sliced in two by State Highway One and that would open up great housing opportunities in the central city – away from the reclaimed land.

“It’s ambitious but would solve so many issues.”

Fellow city councillor Iona Pannett was a leader in the campaign to stop the Inner City Bypass and a co-founder of Save the Basin that stopped the construction of a flyover at the Basin Reserve.

“Proposals for new inner-city roads are a 1960s

**“In a time of climate change, building new roads to make way for cars fuelled by fossil fuels is one of the last things we should be doing.”**

concept that are still being promoted in the interests of supposed economic benefits from very small time savings for individual motorists and commercial drivers.

“In a time of climate change, building new roads to make way for cars fuelled by fossil fuels is one of the last things we should be doing.

A new Mt Victoria tunnel would create more local pollution, increase greenhouse gas emissions, make the community less safe for vulnerable road users, destroy heritage and undermine the sense of community built over generations, Iona Pannett says.

**What’s your view? Write us a letter! TL**

# A new publication for Mount Victoria

Welcome to the first edition of *The Local – Mt Victoria!*

**M**atairangi-Mount Victoria is chock full of great people and stories – and that’s my motivation for starting a truly local newspaper.

In this day and age, we can get news and information from around the globe, but somehow what’s happening down the road can still be a mystery.

Living in the capital city of Aotearoa, we tend to hear a lot about national politics.

But there’s plenty going on in our neighbourhood, and that’s worth talking about too.

A good local paper helps bring people together and creates a sense of community. It tells us stories about ourselves, our history, gives us a place to debate issues and form a vision of where we want to head in the future.

Hence, *The Local – Mt Victoria*.


*The Local* aims to be the newspaper equivalent of heading to your neighbourhood bar (‘the local’) to catch up on the latest happenings.

*The Local* will provide a range of stories – serious, important, funny, quirky and everything in between. The kahukura (Red Admiral butterfly) is on our mast-head. This beautiful endemic butterfly sometimes flies high to take a lofty view, other times flits low, looking for tasty morsels. That’s a bit like reporting news!

*The Local* will be delivered every month to your letterboxes. It will include community information like events and notices as well as advertising from local businesses and organisations.

I’ve lived in Mt Victoria for ten years and I’m involved in various community groups. I started my professional working life as a journalist, working at the Nelson Mail, followed by Radio New Zealand. I’ve also got a small band of advisors, designers and volunteers to help me.

We think we’ve got the skills to give this a good crack but we’d love your help. If you’ve got a story idea, if you want to advertise with us, help deliver the newspaper each month or if you have a burning issue you want to write about, get in touch. We’d

love to hear from you, so we can make *The Local* a real part of the community. 



**Jane O’Loughlin**  
Editor

**THE LOCAL**  
*Mt Victoria*

*The Local – Mt Victoria* is published monthly by The Local News Limited. You can find out more at [the-local.co.nz](http://the-local.co.nz)

Design: [homestudio.nz](http://homestudio.nz)

## Get in touch

*The Local* welcomes advertising inquiries, news tips and letters to the editor.

Email us: [editor@the-local.co.nz](mailto:editor@the-local.co.nz)

Follow us: [facebook.com/thelocal.mtvic](https://facebook.com/thelocal.mtvic)

## Deliveries and Distribution

*The Local* is distributed the first weekend of every month (except January). If you missed out on your copy, want extras or would prefer not to have a paper copy delivered, contact us at [editor@the-local.co.nz](mailto:editor@the-local.co.nz)

# Historic pilot tunnel under Mt Victoria

Did you know that plans for a second Mt Victoria tunnel date back decades, and there is already a 'pilot tunnel' under the mountain? Local resident and Mt Victoria Historical Society member **Alan Olliver** has researched the tunnel, and provided this update.

In 1972 tunnellers began blasting what would be a 701 metre long pilot tunnel from Paterson Street to Taurima Street, Hataitai. The aim was to investigate the technical feasibility of building a second Mt Victoria Tunnel.

The Wellington City Council funded the pilot tunnel costing \$250,000.

The 2.4 metre high tunnel took a year of drilling and blasting to complete, with break through occurring on 7 February 1974. It was assumed by many that the much larger road tunnel (9.8m wide by 6.4m high) costing \$6 million, would soon follow. However no planned start date ever eventuated. In 1981 faced with budget cuts, Sir Robert Muldoon shelved the project indefinitely. The tunnel entrance was blocked with concrete and in 2016 a control room was built on top of the pilot tunnel's



Local resident Alan Olliver by the location of the pilot tunnel under Mount Victoria – now covered over by a control room for the existing tunnel.

entrance, to monitor the new lighting, ventilation and fire alarm/sprinkler systems.

By the time that the second tunnel was shelved, the National Roads Board, equivalent to today's Transport Authority, had bought up most of the houses in Paterson Street leading to the proposed tunnel entrance. **TL**

## Heritage at risk from tunnel project

The Mount Victoria Historical Society says some of the earliest remaining houses built in Mt Victoria are at risk from the project to add a second tunnel through the maunga.

Two notable homes are at 7 and 19 Paterson Street. Both houses are amongst the earliest houses built in Mount Victoria that still remain today.

Number 7 Paterson Street was built for William Waring Taylor, a prominent businessman and MP for Wellington City in 1869. Subsequently it was owned

by builder Harry Crump, who built several houses in Paterson and Brougham Streets. In 1909 the Catholic Church bought the house and it was occupied by Archbishops Redwood and O'Shea.

Ettrick Cottage at 19 Paterson was originally built at 7 Austin Street between 1871-74. It was owned for 81 years by the Atkins family.

When 7 Austin Street was redeveloped into apartments, Ettrick Cottage was relocated in 1993. It is possible that these houses will be demolished if the proposed second tunnel is built. **TL**



President of the Greek Orthodox Community, Demetri Christoforou.

# Greek fair back in February

Greek and Cypriot organisations from around Wellington will be coming together once again this February for the annual Paniyiri, or Greek Food Festival, taking place on Hania Street in Mount Victoria, on 24 February.

**T**he event is a proud celebration of Greek culture, where everyone can enjoy delicious Greek treats such as souvlaki, baklava, and loukoumades, plus live Greek music and dancing.

While the event acts as a fundraiser, the main purpose is to promote Greek culture, according to President of the Greek Orthodox Community, Demetri Christoforou:

“The food, the dancing, the music.”

The Greek church, properly known as the Cathedral of the Annunciation, is a well-known landmark

**Mount Victoria became such a well-known hub for the Greek community, it was known as ‘Mount Olympus’ for a time.**

in Mount Victoria. It has served as the centre of the local Greek community for many decades, since Greek families first started arriving en masse to New Zealand.

Demetri’s family history is one such story of how this occurred.

His parents, then single young people, were enticed to New Zealand with the offer of free passage and jobs.

Greece had just been through a Civil War and going through difficult times, and emigration was attractive.

Meanwhile New Zealand was desperate for workers in the 1950s. The New Zealand government sponsored a ship, the SS GOYA, to sail back and forth several times from Europe to collect war refugees.

Demetri’s parents met on the first sailing of the GOYA, and although his mother first settled in Canterbury and his father in Wellington, they eventually married and lived in Wellington.

Demetri grew up in and around the church, attending the Greek language school and community events.

As immigration continued through the 50s and 60s, newly arriving Greek families sought out the familiar culture of their homeland, and joined other established families in the suburb. Mount Victoria became such a well-known hub for the Greek community, it was known as ‘Mount Olympus’ for a time, Demetri says.

Land for the church was donated by a wealthy Greek couple, Mr and Mrs Kathistidis, in 1940.

Originally an army barracks was used for the church, before the present church with its impressive stained glass windows, cupola and icons was built in 1971. As well as the church, the site has an expansive and newly refurbished community and events centre, a Greek language school, administration rooms and a library.

Today, several Greek societies and organisations exist across wider Wellington, however the Hania Street base remains the most important.

The festival has been running for decades, originally timed to coincide with Greek National Day (25 March), but moved forward over the years to ensure better weather.

At least a thousand people from across Wellington are expected to descend on the church grounds for Paniyiri – the Greek name for festival – on 24 February.

Mount Victorians are fortunate to have this popular festival on their doorstep. **TL**



# PANIYIRI

## GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

MOUTH-WATERING SOUVLAKI • FRESH CALAMARI  
DELICIOUS BAKLAVA • LOUKOUMADES • GREEK FRAPPÉ  
ALL YOUR FAVOURITE TASTES OF GREECE AND...  
LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**HANIA STREET ~ 10AM TILL 3PM**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE CONTAINERS & BAGS

vote

# Karl Tiefenbacher

committed to a city we can afford to live in



INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

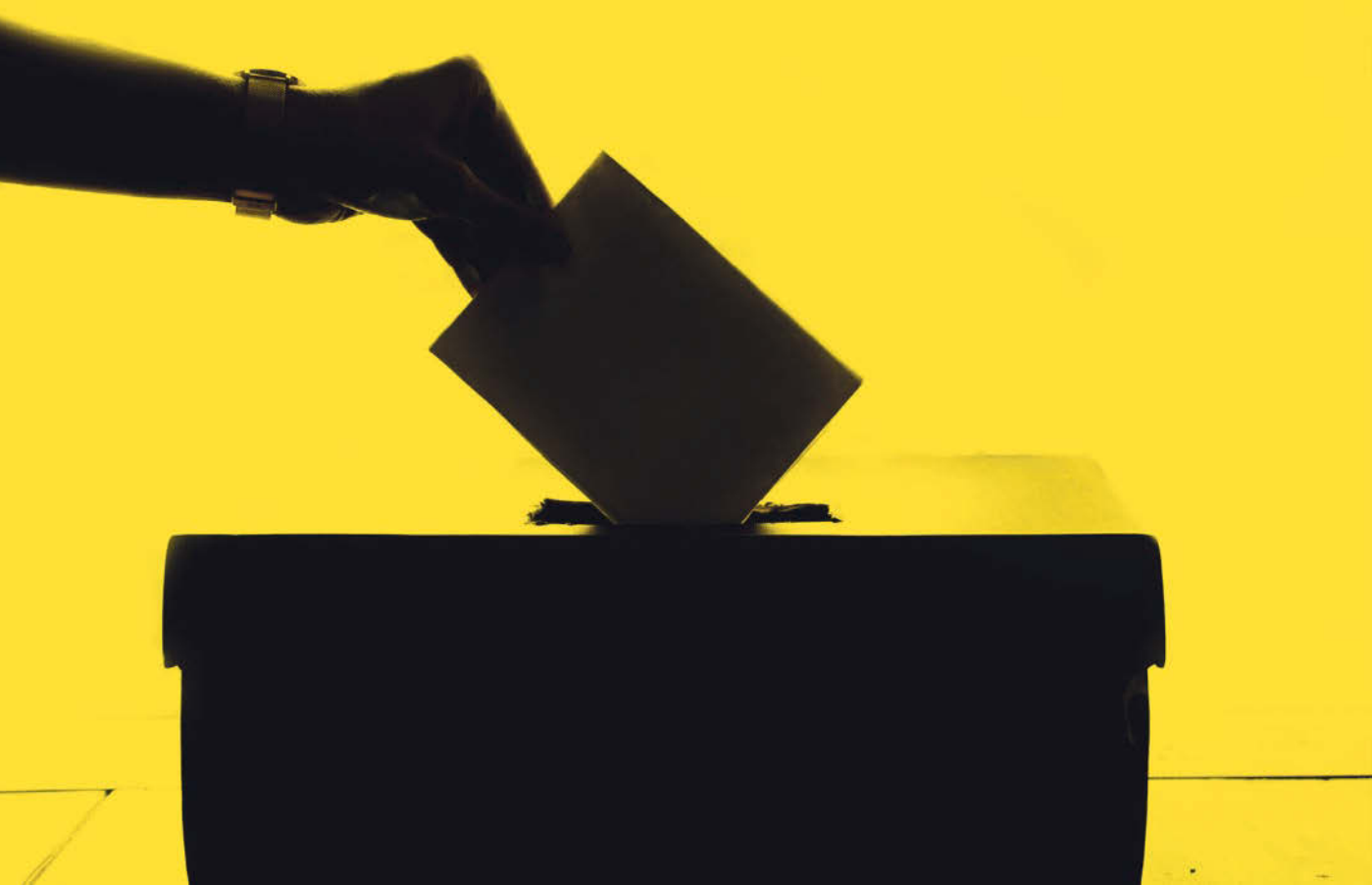
By-election 26 January - closing 17 February  
Post your vote by 13 February

**Stop spending money on things we don't need.**  
**Fix the pipes.**  
**Wellington deserves better.**

**Please Vote!**

Get in touch  
karl4wellington@gmail.com

Authorised by Karl Tiefenbacher,  
PO Box 6443, Marion Square, Wgtn 6141



# Have you voted yet?

If you're a Mount Victoria resident you can vote in the Wellington City Council by-election for Pukehīnau/Lambton ward.

**T**he by-election is being held to replace Tamatha Paul who vacated the seat following her successful campaign in the General Election to become the MP for Wellington Central.

There is strong interest in the race, as it has the potential to shift the balance of power on council. Voting on the current council is often sharply divided between the Labour and Green councillors along with Mayor Tory Whanau on one side, and the 'independents' on the other.

Pundits are picking the main battle to be between Green Party candidate Geordie Rogers and independent candidate Karl Tiefenbacher.

However there are five other candidates for voters to consider, including Mt Victoria Residents' Association committee member Ellen Blake – if she were successful it would mean all three Pukehīnau / Lambton councillors would be resident in Mt Victoria (as incumbents Nicola Young and Iona Pannett are both locals).

Three of the seven candidates stood for the position in the last election: Karl Tiefenbacher, Ellen Blake, and Zan Rai Gyaw. They are all running on an independent ticket.

Newcomers are Geordie Rogers for the Green Party, and independents Joan Shi, Ed Griffiths, and Peter Wakeman.

*The Local* asked candidates to let us know a bit about them personally, where they live, and any connections they have to Mt Victoria. **TL**

To vote in the by-election, you must be enrolled by 5pm on Friday 16 February 2024. Voting closes noon, 17 February 2024. More information is available on the Wellington City Council website: **[wellington.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2024-lambton-ward-by-election](https://www.wellington.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2024-lambton-ward-by-election)**



Seven candidates are running in the race for Lambton/Pukehinau ward. *The Local* asked them to share a bit about themselves and let us know any linkages they have to Mount Victoria. Peter Wakeman did not respond by deadline.



**Karl Tiefenbacher**  
*Independent*

**About me:** I am a born and bred Wellingtonian and was educated at Te Aro school, St. Marks and Wellington College. Having had a successful career in foreign exchange in Wellington for 18 years, I started and expanded Kaffee Eis into the well-known business it is today.

**Residence:** I live in an apartment in Tennyson Street (Te Aro).

**Mount Victoria connection:** Living at the base of Mt. Vic is great! My wife and I often walk over the hill to the Bay in the evenings....fresh air and great views is fantastic for the soul!

**Find out more:**

[facebook.com/karl4wgtm](https://facebook.com/karl4wgtm)



**Joan Shi**  
*Independent*

**About me:** I am an immigrant and my two children are first generation New Zealanders. Former roles include international businesswoman, banker, NGOer, full-time mum, IT developer. Current role: Student in Data Science at Victoria University. I enjoy tennis or a quick hike up to Mt Kaukau.

**Residence:** Khandallah

**Mount Victoria connection:** I love walking up to Mt Victoria and enjoy the great view on top.

**Find out more:**

[youtube.com/k2PzaB95g60](https://youtube.com/k2PzaB95g60)

[linkedin.com/in/joan-shi-87a152179](https://linkedin.com/in/joan-shi-87a152179)

[facebook.com/joanshiwellington](https://facebook.com/joanshiwellington)

[sites.google.com/view/joanshiwellington](https://sites.google.com/view/joanshiwellington)



**Zan Rai Gyaw**  
*Independent*

**About me:** I'm originally from Myanmar and came to New Zealand in 2001 to study a 2-year Mechanical Diploma in Auckland. I spent close to 4 years in Auckland and 3 years in Hawkes Bay, working in air conditioning and home ventilation services. I finally moved to Wellington in 2008 and have been here ever since. I currently work for a wool yarn factory in Lower Hutt.

**Residence:** For the most of my time in Wellington, I had always lived in and around Lambton Ward. I have lived in Kelburn, Highbury and currently in Thorndon.

**Mount Victoria connection:** Mt. Victoria and the suburb with its character homes together are one thread that makes Wellington unique. On one hand there is the CBD with its high-rise offices and apartments building. On the other is Mt. Vic with its contrasting charm. I can see that the current and future challenge of Mt. Vic is how it can be quietly vibrant and colourful.

**Find out more:**

[facebook.com/100093151363890](https://facebook.com/100093151363890)



**Edward Griffiths**  
*Independent*

**About me:** I have lived and worked in Wellington for most of my life. Growing up in York Bay and going to school in Eastbourne, I returned after university to work, finding my passion in adult education. This has been my passion for the past 20 years in many different fields, from supporting the rehabilitation of prisoners to the development of government agencies.

**Residence:** My two beautiful children have been raised in the centre of the city in an apartment on Cuba street.

**Connection with Mt Victoria:** I have a great personal connection with Mt Vic. My kids and I love to climb and explore the beautiful tracks. I have frequented the Mt Vic Bowls club and (still!) play rugby for Old Boys University whose clubrooms are in the Cambridge Hotel. The Embassy Theatre is my go to place for watching movies and I've eaten at most of the cool establishments the Mt Vic rightfully prides itself on.

**Find out more:**

[edwardgriffiths.com](https://edwardgriffiths.com)

[facebook.com/61555287568061](https://facebook.com/61555287568061)



**Geordie Rogers**  
*Green Party*

**About me:** I've spent the last few years advocating for and supporting the rights of renters in our beautiful city. When I'm not helping others, or at my day job as a software engineer, you can find me running or cycling around the hills of Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

**Residence:** I've recently been in Island Bay, but my landlord is looking to sell, so I might just be back in the city soon.

**Mount Victoria connection:** When I got my first job in Pōneke my colleagues took me running through the trails of Mt Victoria and I used to take dance classes at EnPoint on Hania St. In my eyes Mt Victoria is the perfect place to get amongst nature without having to leave the city!

**Find out more:**  
[geordierogers.com](http://geordierogers.com)



**Ellen Blake**  
*Independent*

**About me:** I've worked a variety of jobs, both self-employed and for large and small organisations including government policy, and continue working with and leading community groups.

**Residence and Mount Victoria connection:** I'm a long term resident of Mt Victoria, in fact I was born here and have lived here off and on since then! I've been involved in creche, primary and secondary school in our neighborhood. I am active on the Mt Victoria Residents Association (even better when everyone gets involved) and have run one of the Matairangi bush restoration groups for more than 20 years. This place is home to me with all that means.

**Find out more:**  
[ellen4council@gmail.com](mailto:ellen4council@gmail.com)  
[instagram.com/ellen4council](https://www.instagram.com/ellen4council)  
[x.com/windynell](https://www.x.com/windynell)  
[facebook.com/ellen4council](https://www.facebook.com/ellen4council)

## VOTE ZAN RAI GYAW for Wellington City Council

Authorised by Zan Rai Gyaw  
422/20 Glenmore Street, Wellington



I want a **Wellington Special Voting Region** for ratepayers and long-term residents only.

**3 Reasons:**

1. Due to the concentration of political population from Wellington being the Capital.
2. A sizable semi-permanent population. Approximately 30,000 university students and 27,000 public sector staff.
3. Residents are NOT in the business of organising social/political movements. We want to raise issues, explore solutions and vote.

The City Council or more precisely, a Residents' Council, is the platform.

## Vote Joan Shi #1 Independent

### For Lambton Ward, WCC

- Stop vanity projects
- Sensible spending
- Pipes before bikes.



Authorised by Joan Shi 15 Clutha Avenue, Khandallah

# School renovation and mural

Clyde Quay School is in line for a spruce up in 2024, with a new street-facing mural planned, as well as a major playground and hall renovation.

The front of the school on Elizabeth Street has seen better days, with only two panels of its wall mural now left.

Principal Liz Patara says the great thing about the mural by Michael Mulheron, completed in 2004, was that ‘every child could see themselves’.

“It’s amazing it lasted so long,” she comments.

It’s now time for a new one, which is now possible thanks to a successful creative grant funding application.

Te Atiawa artist Ben Buchanan will start work early in the New Year, and like the last mural, it will be a collaborative exercise with input sought from students, staff and further afield.

Liz Patara (Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Uenukukōpako) says the theme is ‘dreamscape’.

“We will want to garner the community’s vision for Mount Victoria.”

Meanwhile, plans for a major reconfiguration of the school playground are also afoot, driven by the need to improve the watertightness of the pre-fab classroom block and the school hall, as well as make the most of available space.

Architects from Studio Pacific have worked with the children and the staff to understand what kind of spaces the students want, and although the ambitious aspirations of the children for a massive slide from the pre-school to the playground may not be realised, Liz Patara is excited about what the change will bring.

“I think you’ll agree our playground is pretty old and tired.”

The existing hall will be re-located parallel to northern retainer wall, which will create more usable play space in the constrained school area.



Clyde Quay School principal Liz Patara.


The hall will be renovated to make it ‘fit for purpose’. A new entrance (similar to the front of a wharenuī) with new pou and interior panels will reflect not only the Te Atiawa whakapapa of the school but also the very diverse community at the school.

Mana Whenua artist Pokau Te Ahuru (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Ātiawa, Ngāruahinerangi) has been commissioned to undertake the artwork around the entrance and some of the interior. He was responsible for the stunning designs and panels on the refurbished Strathmore Community Centre, completed in 2023.

Liz Patara said the overall project has been supported by a ‘huge’ fundraising effort.

This was also acknowledged in a school newsletter by Board of Trustees member Michelle Little who thanked the school’s fundraising group Whanau and Friends for its work raising money to support the renovation, particularly parent Phernne Tancock, who made 20 funding applications, and was successful with at least six.

The upgrade will start around July. Once the hall is complete, students from the pre-fab classrooms will move into the hall temporarily so weathertightness improvements on their classroom block can take place.

The upgrade will cause some disruption but the principal believes the disruption will be worth it in the end to get a fresh new playground, hall, and weather-tight classrooms: ‘no pain without gain.’ 

**A new entrance (similar to the front of a wharenuī) with new pou and interior panels will reflect not only the Te Atiawa whakapapa of the school but also the very diverse community at the school.**

# Trappers wanted!

Mount Victoria's backyard trapping group is continuing to grow, with another 73 households joining Predator Free Mount Victoria in 2023, taking the total to 679 households.

**B**ut only around 50 members logged catches in 2023, prompting coordinator Paul Toohey to call for members to 'get those traps up and running again'.

"There must be a lot of traps either unused or with records not being captured," Paul relayed to the group via Facebook.

"From those 50 we had 1,186 catches recorded. Of those, around 50% came from our top 2 trappers who are dedicated individuals that look after many traps each."

A heat map of the recorded catches shows the numbers are heavily weighted towards the Hataitai side of the maunga.

Mice were reported in the highest numbers (390), closely followed by rats (351), then hedgehogs (10), however 433 catches were not specified.

Removing predators was helping native birds and lizards recover their numbers, Paul Touhey said.

"The now frequent sound and sight of the Kaka and friends in the town belt and our gardens is our reward." **TL**



Heatmap – most of the trapping in 2023 was reported from the Hataitai side of Mount Victoria.

## ULO ? Unidentified Local Object

Can you identify the mystery object? It's something in the Mount Victoria area.

If you think you know, email us by 18 February at [editor@the-local.co.nz](mailto:editor@the-local.co.nz). If there's more than one correct answer the will be selected at random. The winner gets a \$20 voucher for Good Books. **TL**



**Listings are free for local groups and not-for-profits. Get in touch if you would like to include your listing in *The Local*.**

---

### **The Quakers**

Each Sunday at 10:30am Wellington Quakers gather for Worship as part of unprogrammed Friends Meetings. Our address is 7 Moncrieff St. We welcome all. For more information email [wgtnquakers@gmail.com](mailto:wgtnquakers@gmail.com)

---

### **Quaker meeting rooms**

7 Moncrieff Street has meeting rooms for regular or one-off meetings for non-profit and government agencies. Wifi and projector available. Call: 04-385-4897 or email [wgtnquakers@gmail.com](mailto:wgtnquakers@gmail.com)



---

### **One Mindful Breath**

A meditation group based on secular Buddhist principles. Beginners and experienced are welcome. We come together on a Wednesday evening to meditate, following by thoughtful discussion and a cup of tea. We meet at the Friends Centre, 7 Moncrieff St, Mt Victoria. Doors open at 7.15pm, the meditation starts around 7.30pm. you can just turn up! For more info [onemindfulbreath.org.nz](http://onemindfulbreath.org.nz)

---

### **Innermost Gardens**

Gardening Sundays: 10am-12pm on the first and third Sunday of the month. Also Tuesday morning gardening every week during school term 10am – 12 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact [innermostgardens@gmail.com](mailto:innermostgardens@gmail.com) or check out our website [innermostgardens.org.nz](http://innermostgardens.org.nz) to find out more about how the gardens are run and allotment and composting opportunities.

---

### **Hall for hire: Tararua Tramping Club**

The Tararua Tramping Club offers a hall and a room for hire for meeting, theatre productions and more. Located at 4 Moncrieff Street, Mt Victoria. For details please contact: [ttc.clubrooms@ttc.org.nz](mailto:ttc.clubrooms@ttc.org.nz)

---

### **Crossways Community Creche**

61 Majoribanks Street, is a parent-run early learning centre for children aged 1 to 5. It is open Monday to Friday and offers 20 hours of state-funded ECE for over 3s. Contact us at 04 3848201 or email [info@crosswayscreche.org.nz](mailto:info@crosswayscreche.org.nz)

---

### **Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten.**

Pikopiko sessions are open for 2-5 year olds, Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm during school terms. Phone 04 385 0441 or email: [pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz](mailto:pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz) for more information.

# What you bin doing?

They say small things amuse small minds and so it is that my brain is happily engaged when it comes to glass recycling day in Mount Victoria.

**B**ecause this is a chance to review evidence of the neighbours' activity for the past fortnight, set out for all to see on the street front.

I saunter past, ready to judge.

Three bottles of real champagne? Well well well – someone's got some money!

Several dozen Speights bottles? Student party. (Oh yes, the one that keep us awake.)

Three of the Selaks chardonnay? Like me, your choices as a wine connoisseur are strongly correlated to what New World has on special.

Sometimes I try to use my detective skills to ascertain what the remnants in the bin mean. Tequila bottles stuffed with lemon and a taco sauce jar? Probably Mexican night at the flat.

Champagne PLUS expensive wine and some fancy bottled sauce from Moore Wilson? Clearly a date night.

Recycling day is also entertaining for the group – think that it brings about.

Come Thursday morning, many of us are not sure if it's a day for plastics or glass. Sure we could check on the council website but why bother with authoritative

**Three of the Selaks chardonnay? Like me, your choices as a wine connoisseur are strongly correlated to what New World has on special.**



**A lonely bottle of bubbles – what does it say about this household? Jane O'Loughlin wonders as she walks.**

sources of information when you could peer out of your house and see what the neighbours have done?

Whoever is first out with their bin or bag sets the expectation, but we've got no-one to blame but ourselves when their guess turns out to be wrong and we all have to sheepishly retrieve our uncollected glass bin for next week.

Then there are the hopeful waste placers. Those who got up late or forgot, but nevertheless put their rubbish bag out despite the fact that everyone else's bags have disappeared already. They'd be better off racing around the corner in the hope of finding a street the truck has not serviced yet, and placing it there, but who's got the energy for that?

Eventually they have to admit defeat and retrieve their bag though some just decide they got in early for next week.

Like ancient Roman middens, there's plenty to learn from society from what it throws away – and even what it recycles. And enough to keep nosy neighbours like myself amused. **TL**



23 Stafford Street was the residence of Wellington Harbour Pilot, Captain Lancelot Holmes, during the late 1800s.



Notable Mount Victoria yachtsman Arthur Dixon renovated 4 Hawker Street during his time living there.

# Wellington Anniversary Day

In the early days of Wellington, Anniversary Day was celebrated with a yachting regatta – which involved some notable sailors of Mount Victoria, as Joanna Newman of the Mount Victoria Historical Society explains.

**W**ith another Wellington Anniversary Day holiday just passed, it's now 183 years since the first one in 1841. Celebrations in the early years of the settler town included a fete, a private ball, and the Wellington Anniversary Day Regatta. The annual sailing regatta was taken over by the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club after its formation in 1883.

Mount Victoria has particularly strong connections with the harbour, and two of its early residents were keen sailors.

The first was Wellington Harbour Pilot, Captain Lancelot Holmes, who lived at what is now 23 Stafford Street for most of his working life, when he wasn't based at the Worser Bay pilot station. From the age of 20 until he retired in 1888, Holmes worked for the pilot service and was considered something of a hero for his efforts in bringing ships through our dangerous harbour entrance. In 1883, for instance, he rowed 20 kilometres out to a steamer that had lost power

and finally brought the ship safely into the harbour after dark.

Holmes was also an early yachting champion. In 1874 he sailed the 'Xarifa' – the first true yacht built in Wellington (that is, one designed only for racing and cruising) – to victory in the Wellington Anniversary Day Regatta.

The other notable Mount Victoria yachtsman was Arthur Dixon. He bought the 'Pet' in 1883 and sailed it in the 1884 Regatta. Then, in 1889, he bought the "crack" Auckland yacht, 'Jessie Logan'. (Still sailing, the 'Jessie Logan' is considered one of the oldest racing yachts in the world.)

Arthur Dixon worked for Sargood, Son and Ewen's, a major clothing manufacturer and retailer. After 20 years with Sargood's, in 1907 he left to set up his own wholesale woollens and clothing business with a fellow Sargood's employee. Dixon was responsible for 1898 alterations to his 4 Hawker Street home designed by well-known architect, William Crichton, which resulted in it looking largely as it does today.

The homes of both these men are still standing, so we can walk past any day and imagine something of their lives.

For more on the history of Wellington Anniversary Day see Newsletter 52 on the Mount Victoria Historical Society's website [mtvictoria.history.org.nz](http://mtvictoria.history.org.nz). 



Living and selling in  
Mount Victoria for over 30  
years.



Just Paterson. Just feels like home.

Charles Morley-Hall  
Principal  
021 666 600  
charles@justpaterson.co.nz

Caroline Collison  
Property Specialist  
027 566 1666  
caroline@justpaterson.co.nz

