



APARTMENT BLOCK FOR AUSTIN STREET



Win tickets and flights to the Taylor Swift Eras tour in London!
Find out more inside.

Developers are now determined to go ahead with a 30-unit apartment block at the end of Westbourne Grove, after a last minute attempt to sell the site was unsuccessful.

The prominent site off Austin Street and backing onto the town belt will see a six-storey complex constructed, aimed at the luxury end of the market, complete with heated swimming pool and underground garage.

The 140-year-old 'Westbourne' will be demolished with no resource consent required, as a result of changes to the District Plan that have removed protection for the majority of character houses in Mt Victoria.

Locals opposed to the large development say they are frustrated by the lack of engagement by the developer but have few options to stop the project.

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Apartment block for Austin Street

A controversial six-storey apartment block is now likely to go ahead on Austin Street, after a punt at selling the site found no suitable buyers.

Despite being acquired by developers Forma Group, the large 'Westbourne' property at 43 Austin Street next to the town belt was put up for sale through a commercial real estate agent.

However when tenders closed in June, Mark Quinn from Forma Group said there were no 'suitable offers' to purchase the property, and that the group now intended to carry on with its development.

The Local is aware that at least one offer to buy the property was made by people in the community.

Neighbours are upset by the proposed size of the development and the impact on the narrow private road, known as Westbourne Grove, that leads to the site. The road is jointly owned by the property owners that use it.

The developers said the changes made in the District Plan had a bearing on the decision of the developers to go ahead with their plans.

In a letter to Wellington City Councillors, the Forma Group managing director Wilson Quinn said the group was 'unsure' about building on the site but 'revisited it' after the area was rezoned for high density residential in the new District Plan.

"The Plan has allowed us to work on a new design with larger living spaces and better use of green areas.

"At the same time, we're conscious of the appeal of the surrounding area. We pride ourselves on the ability of our buildings to compliment [sic] the suburbs they are set in.

"When building in residential areas, we also take care to talk with nearby residents throughout the process, to find way we can minimise disruption for them during construction."

Although the existing house is hard to see from Austin St through the large trees that surround it, its elevated position makes it visible from other parts of Mount Victoria.

The company's website shows a modern multi-level development with large windows and balconies.

Mark Quinn from Forma Group says the images are based on another work in progress that is similar.

The new development will be six storeys high, with around 30 units. Although much higher than the houses around it, it will blend in, according to Quinn.

"Stepped back against the Mt Vic hillside, green-walls and climbing plants will cover the exterior, blending with the bush behind."

The development will be aimed at the high end of the market, with three large three bedroom pent-houses available in the mix of two and three bedroom units. An underground garage will provide concealed car and bicycle parking for residents.

The building will feature an outdoor heated pool, a wellness area with a sauna and gym, and a summer house with a BBQ and dining table.

"Architects are designing a sustainable development of high-end luxurious and sophisticated apartments, with many of the units featuring sea views," Quinn said.

"We see potential buyers as being particularly attracted to the relaxed lifestyle and community in Mount Victoria. This executive development offers owners a well-deserved reward in the form of luxurious living and exceptional amenities." **TL**



"Stepped back against the Mt Vic hillside, green-walls and climbing plants will cover the exterior, blending with the bush behind."

Win the trip of an ERA

Is this the greatest school fundraiser ever? Clyde Quay School is raffling off the trip of a lifetime – VIP tickets to Taylor Swift’s global phenomenon Eras tour in London, including flights, accommodation and spending money.

One lucky winner (and their friend) will fly to London, spend a week in a hotel and attend the incredibly popular Eras concert at Wembley Stadium, enjoying the amazing sold-out concert from the comfort of a corporate box.

Given tickets to the Eras tour are the modern-day equivalent of the fictional golden tickets to Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory, how did the school come by them?

The answer is good old kiwi networks – a friend of one of the school’s parents, who happens to be on the fundraising committee, knows a concierge in London who is used to sorting out hard-to-come-by tickets for the rich and famous.

As a result, Clyde Quay School has been able to get its hands on two premium corporate box tickets at Wembley Stadium, for the concert on 19 August.

The school’s Whanau and Friends fundraising group says it’s going to be massive.

“As soon as we mention the prize to people, they get so excited,” says WAF chair Phernne Tancock.

“Taylor Swift is such a global superstar and this is a legendary concert that is selling out around the world. Tickets to the concert are so hard to come by, we are confident this prize will be super popular, and will enable us to raise a lot of money for the school as well as sending two locals on a fantastic trip to London.”

WAF says proceeds from the raffle will go to refurbishment of the school hall, a project which will start later this year.

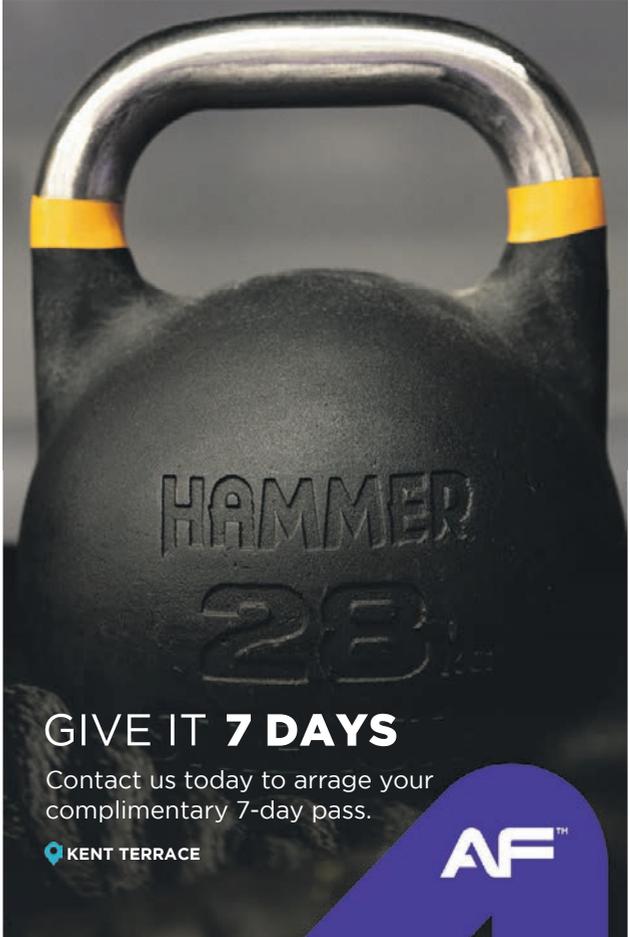
Overall the prizes on offer are worth \$22,000, but the rarity of the concert tickets makes the actual value

of the main prize arguably much higher.

Taylor Swift’s Eras concert has been breaking records for attendance and ticket sales around the world. She is known for hits such as ‘Shake It Off’, and ‘Blank Space’, and recently released her eleventh album, Tortured Poets Department.

To go in the draw, buy your ticket online at galabid.com/clydequay. Hurry – they are going like hotcakes!

Those hoping to attend the concert must be ready and able to fly in mid August and have a valid passport. 



GIVE IT 7 DAYS

Contact us today to arrange your complimentary 7-day pass.

 KENT TERRACE



Reasons to be cheerful

With Matariki (Pleiades) now visible in the night skies the new year begins for the southern hemisphere. We have plumbed the depths of winter darkness, and we look forward to the days getting longer.

The mood in Wellington is such that it feels like we need a fresh start.

Public sector job cuts, infrastructure issues and a fractured council come together to give the impression that we can't catch a break.

Wellington's population is stagnating with people opting to move overseas due to the lack of opportunity here.

Everything seems to be broken, and eye-wateringly expensive to fix. The leaking water pipes are a metaphorical sign of a city that at times appears to be coming apart at the seams.

It's easy to see how one thing leads to another. Fewer jobs means people have less money. They spend less, and then retail and hospitality struggle. The town seems dull so people are less attracted to stay. With fewer people our city has less ratepayer income, and it becomes even more difficult to afford the services we need. We go into a downward spiral.

But most economic downturns are cyclical. When interest rates start coming down (forecast for next year) the heat will start to come off mortgages and businesses with loans.

The new government will start to want to achieve things, and that will likely require more jobs.

Local body elections will take place next year, bringing the opportunity for new faces to take the stage.

New Zealand is still a great place to live, particularly with some of the global ructions going on, so we are still likely to see immigrants heading our way.

So while there are valid reasons to be gloomy, there is hope on the horizon. Of all the places to live in the world, our little corner of Mt Victoria is not too bad.

I hope you are remaining positive, and looking after those around you.

This edition of The Local has a nice story about past Mt Vic newsletters and the people behind them. We are lucky to have a rich history of local people giving up their spare time to ensure the community is made aware of issues affecting them.

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue, and those who send me ideas for stories. Please feel free to drop me a line if you have an idea for a story to go into The Local. 



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor

THE LOCAL Mt Victoria

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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

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Legal challenge to District Plan character decision

LIVE WELLington is challenging the Wellington City Council's decision on character areas in court. The advocacy group for density done well has lodged judicial review proceedings in the High Court, asking the court to review the District Plan decision on character areas made by the Wellington City Council and the Minister for RMA Reform Chris Bishop.

LIVE WELLington said it is "taking this action to ensure decisions reflect the evidence. This shows that iconic character areas can be retained at the same time as new, denser housing is introduced to the inner city and central city areas."

If the group was successful in its challenge, the decision would be returned to the Minister and Council to make again. **TL**



Crime stats up

Latest Police crime statistics show 26 victimisations recorded in Mt Victoria for the month of April 2024.

This is the highest monthly total recorded for the year so far.

Of the eight incidents categorised by police in April, one was assault, one was illegal use of a motor vehicle, two were theft from a retail premises, two were theft of motor vehicle parts or contents, and two were breaking and entering. **TL**



Clyde Quay principal to retire

Clyde Quay School principal Liz Patara will retire at the end of this year, after 25 years at the school.

In announcing the decision, the Board of Trustees thanked Liz Patara for her 'tireless efforts and dedication to our school'.

"Her care for our whānau and tamariki is palpable through the community and is demonstrated in how our kura lives our values every day."

The board has started the process of hiring a new principal, and expects to make an announcement at the start of Term 4. **TL**

Crossing and bus stop changes delayed

Plans for raised crossings and bus stop removals in Mt Victoria will not go ahead for at least three years now.

Wellington City Council has confirmed that its plans to install raised crossings Pirie St, remove bus stops on Elizabeth St and Brougham St, extend bus stop boxes and remove traffic Islands on the corner of Pirie and Brougham Streets has been deprioritised.

A spokesperson said the prioritisation process "has moved these projects beyond the first three years of the LTP. So work may start on these in 27/28 at this stage." **TL**

New heritage listings in Mt Vic

The new Wellington District Plan has resulted in twelve new heritage listings in Mt Victoria, according to Mt Victoria Historical Society convener Joanna Newman.

Heritage changes in the revised District Plan are now in force.

While the plan has resulted in a major loss of Character protection area in the suburb and the introduction of zoning for at least six-storey developments across a large area, there were some positive outcomes for heritage.

The suburb does now have designated Heritage Areas with reasonably strong protection, in Hawker Street, Elizabeth Street, Porritt Avenue, Armour Avenue, and Moir Street (although in places these areas could be overshadowed by multi-storey buildings).

Twelve houses have also been added to the Council's list of heritage buildings.

Selection of these appears somewhat random, and the list does not include all the houses originally proposed by WCC in the Draft District Plan.

You might be interested to learn about them so you can look out for them as you walk round the suburb. All but a couple are highly visible.

89 Austin Street – built in 1900 and designed by well-known Wellington architect, James O'Dea.

140 Austin Street – built in 1932, from 1960 to 2007 it was home to the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

23 Brougham Street (at the end of Pat Lawlor Close) – built in 1898 and designed by Guido Schwartz, a very well-known architect of the time

64 Brougham Street – built in 1877 for Samuel Carroll who was, amongst other things, Secretary of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce for many years

70 Brougham Street – built in 1901 for a civil servant who worked for the Lands and Survey Department

71 Brougham Street – built in 1910 for Eliza Redward who lived there for 38 years. It is another designed by Guido Schwartz.

87 Brougham Street – built in 1892 by Jessie Tutchén as an investment property. The land was part of the early Tutchén dairy farm which covered several acres in this area.



91 Brougham Street – built in 1896/97 and designed by famous Wellington architect Thomas Turnbull.

111 Brougham Street – built in 1906 and notable for being by two important figures in the Arts & Crafts movement in NZ, architect Samuel Hurst Seager and builder James Chapman Taylor (who later also became an architect).

64 Majoribanks Street – built in 1928, and unusual for being brick, its first owner lived there for 44 years.

56 Pirie Street – originally a single storey house built in 1874, the second storey was added in 1887. For a time, it was the Russian Orthodox Church.

1 Queen Street – parts of this building date back to 1878. It was originally a shop and bakehouse. 

You can find more information about these houses by searching online for the Wellington City Council's Mount Victoria Heritage Study, or through Mount Victoria Historical Society at mtvictoria.history.org.nz

Carillon upgrade

Work to strengthen the Carillon tower at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park is now underway.

The \$9.5 million project to strengthen one of New Zealand's most significant heritage buildings is described by Manatū Taonga (the Ministry of Culture and Heritage) as 'complex'.

The Carillon Tower is the third heaviest carillon in the world, with 70 tonnes spread across 74 bells.

While scaffolding is in place, the work is mainly internal, the Ministry said in a newsletter update.

"Almost all the strengthening work is happening inside the Tower and will not be visible when complete. The work involves steel reinforcing and installing Fluid Viscous Dampers (FVD) at the top of the Tower with steel columns that run down the tower's four corners. The FVDs are like a car's shock absorbers and reduce the shaking of the building during an earthquake.

"In addition to strengthening the Tower, the construction phase allows for important maintenance to happen in the Tower. The maintenance includes stonework, corrosion protection of the steel in the bell frames, new downpipes and patching roof leaks."

Construction is projected to take 18 months from late April 2024, and the project is due to be finished towards the end of 2025. 

"Almost all the strengthening work is happening inside the Tower and will not be visible when complete. The work involves steel reinforcing and installing Fluid Viscous Dampers (FVD) at the top of the Tower with steel columns that run down the tower's four corners."



© Holmes

Diagram of the Carillon Tower with earthquake strengthening components - Fluid Viscous Dampers and steel reinforcing. Image courtesy of Manatū Taonga.

50 years of local publishing

Did you know that Mt Victoria has had a newsletter for the last fifty years?

Researched and written by Julie Middleton & Alan Olliver.

The first one began as an initiative of Trish Hall, the first Inner City Ministry community worker for Mount Victoria. The original newsletter was called 'Mount Victoria Action'. Its purpose was to galvanise community opinions and communicate these to the Wellington City Council. The issue at that time was the redevelopment of inner-city housing.

Trish worked with Clyde Quay School, which at that time was viewed as the community hub. Both Trish and the School wanted the students to become 'active citizens' in the community. The articles were researched and written by senior students with the help of school staff and some parents. It was predominately written in English but there were also some headings in Greek, Samoan and Vietnamese.

The newsletter was produced on a Gestetner printer with the help of the office machinery firm Armstrong



and Springhall, who created the stencils. The format was generally three double sided pages stapled in the corner. Senior students delivered the newspaper, getting out of school early to do this. The first issue was produced in July 1974 and it was produced bimonthly after that.

Early editions included articles on the Council's Comprehensive Urban Renewal Areas (CURA), and a housing survey. Other topics included the WCC election, the development of the school playground, encouraging new younger members at the Victoria Bowling Club and the lack of a well maintained sports ground at Charles Plimmer Park. Rubbish and the lack of bins, especially at the shops in lower Majoribanks Street, was mentioned. The publication also had an article celebrating the Greek community at the School.

There were Letters to the Editor supporting the new community newsletter and raising local issues of concern. Community notices included promoting the Under 5's Creche in the Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church hall and Plunket services in Moncrieff Street.

In November 1975, Trish left to go overseas and Mount Victoria Action ceased publication.

A long running newspaper called 'Downtown', also sponsored by the ICM, provided an alternative avenue for issues that were concerning Mount Victorians. Local resident Richard Norman was editor of this newspaper for 1975 and 1976. The newspaper folded in late 1976 as its funding ran out and advertising revenue was hard to find.

The Mount Victoria Newsletter as we know it today started in early 1977, initiated by the new ICM worker Margy-Jean Malcom.

The format was generally a double sided A4 page, still printed on Gestetner machine. The main contentious issue at the time, was the impacts of the proposed Admiral Motel Development in Ellice and Moir Streets.

This publication has now been going for 47 years.

Thanks to Trish Hall, Margy Jean Malcolm and Richard Norman for contributing information for this article.

Its purpose was to galvanise community opinions and communicate these to the Wellington City Council.

New Green digs

Green MPs Julie Ann Genter and Tamatha Paul with electorate office staff.

Kia ora Mātairangi Mount Vic! Ko Tamatha Paul toku ingoa, he uri ahau nō Ngāti Awa, Waikato Tainui hoki. He mema pāremata ahau mō tēnei takiwā kei Te Whanganui a Tara. Tēnā koutou.

It has been a massive first eight months of being your local MP here in Wellington Central. It has been a big learning experience making the steep jump from serving you as a city councillor over the last four years, to representing you in Parliament.

The most important piece of mahi I've done in my first year is setting up our electorate community office here at 72 Adelaide Road, Mount Cook. We officially opened and blessed our office alongside mana whenua Te Āti Awa/Taranaki Whānui on 3 April 2024. We've got an amazing team who are keen to serve our community, led by the amazing Steven Petris. We see our role as advocating for people who need someone to walk alongside them while they navigate the different systems and face challenges head on; organising towards the city and world that we want to live in by mobilising our communities to be activated despite a Government that would prefer us to become apathetic and resigned to our fate; and finally being in complete service to our communities and their needs. Every person who walks through our community office doors is welcomed and treated with dignity, respect and without judgment. We exercise these values in the way that we collect and protect people's personal information that they disclose to

us and the way that we listen to each person, sitting with them through the darkness they're experiencing in order for us to find a solution together. We are looking forward to popping up at local markets and holding events to give our communities opportunities to get active and involved on the issues that they care about the most.

It has been a hectic start to the term, including the tragic loss of my dear colleague Fa'anānā Efeso Collins. Despite the curveballs that have been thrown our way, the Greens continue to go hard for people and planet. Holding the Greens portfolios for Housing, Justice, Police, Courts, Corrections, Youth and Wellington Issues keeps me very busy but I am well supported to ensure I can do my job as MP for Wellington Central to the best of my abilities. I miss being your city councillor in terms of the real life, tangible work that we can do to fundamentally transform the city that we live in. However, I am extremely thankful to be in Parliament to put up staunch opposition to the reckless and cruel decisions made by this government to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few, completely disregard the environment and our climate change obligations, trample on the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to enter into an era of mass incarceration. **TL**

If there is anything that I can support you with or you'd like to share your thoughts, don't hesitate to get in touch: Wellington.Central@parliament.govt.nz or 04 389 1290

The Bridge
Your inner city local

Introducing The Bridge – your inner city local

Have you noticed?... change has been brewing at The Cambridge Hotel.

We have been a staple spot for hospitality in the city for 140 years, we're super proud of our iconic building, our heritage and our reputation amongst the local community.

However, we have decided to make a small but significant change by creating a little separation between us and the hotel, because whilst we do love being a home away from home for our locals, we wanted to eliminate any confusion between us and the hotel.

Introducing The Bridge. While our name may be different, our commitment to serving up great food, good drinks and excellent times remains the same.

We are your inner city local. The place you come for a cheeky pint or three and a yarn with your neighbours, your Saturday sports spot, your dinner winner and your community hub. We still pride ourselves on offering good old fashioned Wellington hospitality and we'll always be ready to greet you with a smile.

There is always something going on at The Bridge, whether it's fundraiser events for local charities, our ever-popular Wednesday pub quiz, or our free

BBQ on Fridays. Pop down and chat to our staff about the rest of our -jam packed weekly specials. We're big sports fans too, we have all the big matches on live and loud across our many screens and we're always up for supporting our local clubs; give us a call and see how we could help yours.

Got something to celebrate? Come in and take a look at our newly revamped atrium space, it's perfect for big birthday bashes and family get-togethers. Free function hire, along with our extensive catering options and fully equipped audio and visual tech makes for a cracking night out.

We love our locals: serving friendly faces and catching up on your week is the best bit about our job, which is why we offer our local loyalty cards that give you 5% off every purchase, plus 5% back in points to spend whenever you like.

So, if you want to call in for a quick coffee, an afternoon feed or a few pints after work, you'll always be welcome at The Bridge.

Follow us on socials, **Facebook: The Bridge** and **Instagram: TheBridgeBar** to catch up on our events and offers. See you soon!

HEY THERE NEIGHBOUR!

FREE \$15 VOUCHER FOR ALL LOCALS

Call in to your inner city local for a feed, a drink and a yarn with the neighbours.

Why not check out our **FREE BBQ*** every Friday from 7pm.

Sign up to our Loyalty scheme and receive a \$15 food & beverage voucher* to spend whenever you like.



*Terms & conditions



ULO ? Unidentified Local Object

Identify the mystery object – something in the Mount Victoria area – to win a \$20 voucher for your favourite local cafe.

Email your answers to editor@the-local.co.nz. If there's more than one correct answer the winner will be selected at random. Congratulations to David Wu, who correctly identified June's ULO as some of the letters at the top of the bus tunnel on Pirie Street. 



Do you offer guitar lessons? Are you a dog-walker looking for customers? The Listings section is an affordable way to let people know about your service. Advertise in *The Local* for as little as \$40.

Exciting Gymnastics Opportunities at Capital Gymnastics Club!

Capital Gymnastics Club offers diverse opportunities for children in gymnastics! Programmes range from beginners to elite athletes, including gymnastics, trampolining, and tumbling. Led by experienced coaches, safety is paramount. Our structured approach fosters skill development and confidence in a fun environment. Book online for classes, parties, or school groups at capitalgymnsport.org.nz or contact us at 027 239 9139 or office@capitalgymnastics.nz.



U3A activities

The U3A lecture programme takes a break in July, before Term 3 starts in August. Go to the website u3awellingtoncity.org.nz to look back at past presentations in the lecture archive, including Richard Norman's pictorial review of Wellington's roaring twenties. See what events and activities have been arranged, including the Sunday Roast on 28 July, and what special interest groups are meeting. All activities are for those who have paid the \$40 annual membership, due now and easily paid at u3awellingtoncity.org.nz/membership.



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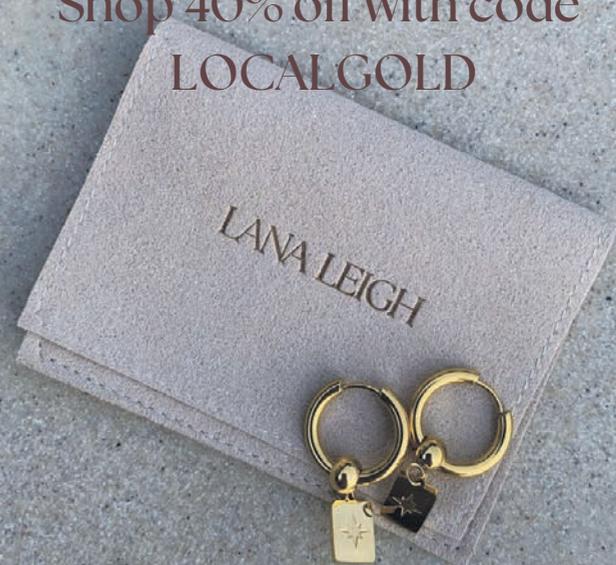
We may be away from home, but City Gallery Wellington is committed to continue delivering thought-provoking, inspiring art to you and the city you love.

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LANA LEIGH

www.lana-leigh.com

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

School mural unveiling

Join us for the unveiling and blessing of the new mural by Ben Buchanan in collaboration with Clyde Quay School, titled 'The Forest, Us, Ancestors, Tomorrow'. Friday, 26th July 2024, 9am. **Clyde Quay School**, 27 Elizabeth Street. *This event is generously supported by City Gallery Wellington, Gordon Harris, Lowe & Co., McCleavey Gallery, Mitre 10, PlanIt Construction, Resene and Whanau and Friends (WAF).*



Join the Mt Victoria Historical Society

Ever wondered who lived in that little cottage or grand villa you walk past, or famous people who have lived in Mt Victoria? If you're curious about why our suburb looks and feels the way it does, or want to learn more about its heritage, join Mt Victoria Historical Society. We've been researching its stories since 1996 and offer a range of events, guided walks and a newsletter packed full of interest. See our website for details. mtvictoria.history.org.nz

Mt Victoria Residents' Association

MVRA holds regular monthly meetings at the Mt Vic Hub on the first Thursday of the month at 5.30pm. All members welcome.

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 **04 384 8201** or email info@crosswayscreche.org.nz

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

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

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 or check out our website innermostgardens.org.nz to find out more about how the gardens are run and allotment and composting opportunities.

Table tennis for over 60s

Table tennis is a fantastic sport for older people as it helps with movement, brain stimulation, and muscle/bone strength. We have 8 tables and play 3 times a week at the stadium on Alexandra Road. We want to encourage new people to join our fun social event. Only \$4 each time - no subscription. For more information contact Diana Winn, email winnich@xtra.co.nz or phone **04 801 9556**.

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: tcc.clubrooms@tcc.org.nz

Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten

Spaces available: Pikopiko sessions are open for 2-5 year olds, Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm during school terms. 20 Hours Free. Phone **04 385 0441** or email: pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz Please see wmkindergartens.org.nz for more information.

Being dumped

Audrey has been sending me rubbish photos. By that, I don't mean photos that are out of focus or poorly framed. (Actually they are quite well composed and the subject is in focus.) No, the rubbish photos are of actual rubbish.

These are bags of rubbish being left in the street near her house. Not so unusual on rubbish day, as long as they are council rubbish bags.

But unfortunately not. These are random bags being left at random times on the footpath, most likely in the hope that a kindly person like Audrey will come along and remove them. Which she does. But with increasing unhappiness, because this has been happening for some time.

Her photos are usually sent to me accompanied with a short caption: 'More dumping!' or 'This is the last time I'm cleaning it up!'

(Some of them are sent to me via WhatsApp and as a result of my phone settings, end up in my photo collection. Thus I find myself flicking through holiday snaps and in the middle will be a picture of a pile of rubbish on Porritt St. I too am an innocent victim of this crime.)

Is there a pattern to this? The bags are random – different coloured plastic bags, sometimes a supermarket bag. The one thing they do have in common however, is that they all end up dumped at the same power pole.

Of course poor Audrey is in a dilemma. Does she remove the rubbish, and keep the street clean, or does that just encourage the dumpers to continue?

Is she enabling poor behaviour, like a parent continuing to clean up after their kids?

What would happen if she just left it there – would it attract rats? Would neighborhood cats and dogs tear it to bits? Would the Wellington wind scatter it across the street?

Such situations encourage us to get cross – 'More dumping!!' Audrey fumes, adding more and more exclamation marks each time.

Audrey has faith in the fourth estate, hoping that publication will bring about justice. If a brave local newspaper will feature this story, the miscreants will be shamed into abiding by the rules.



Is there a pattern to this? The bags are random – different coloured plastic bags, sometimes a supermarket bag. The one thing they do have in common however, is that they all end up dumped at the same power pole.

We cannot know the mindset of the offenders. Perhaps they are reluctant criminals who simply lack the funds for council rubbish bags. Perhaps they are careless young people who mock the rules and have no concern for the neighborhood. Who can know? And does it matter?

The facts remain that a power pole in Porritt Avenue is the scene of a pre-meditated and ongoing crime.

'Time for a CCTV camera to be installed?' I messaged back.

I'm not sure if I'm serious about this. Do we really want to be monitoring our neighbours' actions? What other horrors might we record in the process – people denting other peoples' cars, flicking cigarettes into storm water drains, stealing lemons from trees. We might uncover a hidden world of crime, happening under our noses and previously undetected.

Perhaps it is best that we never know. Meanwhile, the prolific and pernicious Porritt St perpetrator remains at large. If it's you, cut it out. **TL**

Rescue homes in Mt Victoria

Next time you are walking up Ellice or Marjoribanks Streets, spare a thought for the many unmarried women who gave birth at the various 'rescue' homes which existed in the area over 100 years ago.

Researched and written by Helen Wilson.

Times were at tough at the turn of last century for unmarried women who found themselves pregnant. Until the introduction of the Domestic Purposes Benefit in 1973 there was no financial support as of right for single mothers, and the stigma of illegitimacy meant women often left their homes to give birth in other parts of the country.

In Wellington the first such home was opened in April 1886 by the Salvation Army at 25 Marjoribanks Street (now the site of a restaurant), accommodating fifteen 'wayward' women and girls. Its main purpose was to provide a place of 'moral convalescence' for prostitutes or women coming from the courts or gaols; it also provided a home for unmarried mothers. The home aimed to be self-supporting and the women provided a laundry service for local hotels, as well as doing knitting, sewing and housework.

In 1889 a number of advertisements were placed in the Evening Post by the Rescue Home seeking adoptive parents for babies and toddlers born to unmarried mothers. However the women were generally expected to keep their babies - and most of them did so. As the matron of one Wellington home said, "... the women and girls who passed through the Home had great affection for their babes. It was only under the extreme stress of circumstance that any of them parted with their little one; but the great majority kept their babes, placing them under someone's care whilst they went to service."

The limited number of beds in the Marjoribanks Street Home meant it was not long before something larger was needed and on 22 October 1894, the Paulina Rescue House at 106 Cuba Street was opened to replace it. It was named after Miss Paul, Secretary

of the Rescue Branch of the Salvation Army, who donated the land. However this home was considered unsuitable for pregnant women and on 7 July 1900 Lady Stout opened a maternity home at 16 Ellice Street in Mount Victoria.

According to the Bethany register of 1899-1905, most women passing through the Ellice Street Maternity Home were between the ages of 19-25, although there were a small number of 15- to 18-year-olds. The women's occupations were noted as mainly domestic or general servants, with a few factory workers, waitresses and dressmakers. This house is still standing and, after operating for a number of years as a backpackers' hostel, it has been converted into three flats. A re-numbering of Ellice Street means it is now number 52. In 1905, the maternity home was moved to "Uplands", at 14 Thompson Street, with accommodation for 25 women. It appears that the Ellice Street house may have continued for some time as an orphanage for young girls. **TL**

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