



## TUNNEL VISION

**W**ill a new Mt Victoria tunnel really get under-way within three years? The Government is determined to fix traffic bottlenecks in Wellington. But some Mt Victoria residents believe that a proposed new tunnel can be stopped or delayed – and they are gearing up for a fight. Mt Victoria has form in this regard, having defeated

plans for a Basin Reserve flyover after a concerted legal battle nine years ago. But this time, they will be up against new, permissive ‘fast-track’ legislation.

Meanwhile a ‘mega tunnel’ is now being seriously considered by the Government, that would remove the need for a Mt Victoria tunnel altogether.

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# Mt Vic gears up for a tunnel battle

**Mt Victoria residents aired their concerns about a potential new tunnel at a public meeting hosted by the Residents' Association in April, attended by around 20 people, including local councillors Iona Pannett and Geordie Rogers.**

**T**he Association subsequently made a submission to the select committee examining the new Fast Track bill asking to remove the proposed Mt Victoria tunnel from the list of projects to be referred for fast tracking.

If fast tracked, the project would bypass usual resource management processes, and there would be no requirement for public consultation.

RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop has indicated that the Mt Victoria tunnel will be on the list of projects to be referred.

Association president Ellen Blake said the lack of detail in the public arena was concerning. Residents could only comment on the bill before the select committee, not the project itself.

“Where is the road going to go, because there’s not an actual design.”

Demetri Christoforou of Trams Action said a better option for the city would be a rail system that extended the existing track from Johnsonville, through the golden mile, taking in all main points, like hospital and zoo, then under Mt Albert to the airport runway – then see if more capacity needed.

“We have to admit there is congestion. But the thing is, we should be moving people not cars.”

Another local resident said he wasn’t necessarily opposed to the tunnel but was worried it would be for cars only.

“The worst situation would be not to allow cycleways and walking.”

Alan Olliver from the Mt Victoria Historical Society said it was significant that the Basin Reserve Board of Inquiry and the High Court had both agreed that the southern end of Mt Victoria was an important part of the Basin Reserve’s heritage.

“As a historic society we want to see this end of Mt Victoria saved. Houses could be protected, they could be moved back or moved, as they were with Karo Drive.”

Tim Jones from Save the Basin said that the group had previously managed to stop the flyover despite the odds being stacked against them.

“As a group, we said this flyover is so bad, we are going to attempt to defeat it.

“Was that easy? No. But we did it.

“The Government has generated the sense that it’s inevitable. But that’s what they thought ten years ago. They didn’t manage to do it then, and I think we shouldn’t work on the assumption that they will manage to do it now.”

Councillor Pannett said the cost of the project would inevitably blow out and that would cause government to think again.

“Really, it’s going to be the money that stops it. **TL**

**“The Government has generated the sense that it’s inevitable. But that’s what they thought ten years ago. They didn’t manage to do it then, and we shouldn’t work on the assumption that they will manage to do it now.”**



# Upsize my tunnel

The Government's transport agency Waka Kotahi/NZTA has managed to get a mega-tunnel proposal back on the table, after it was shelved by the previous Government.

**T**he proposed long tunnel would start at the Terrace, bypass the inner city and stretch about 4 kilometres under Mount Victoria, emerging at Wellington Road. If built, it would be the country's longest tunnel.

Transport Minister Simeon Brown said in an interview with Radio New Zealand that NZTA encouraged Ministers to re-examine the idea.

"When we came into government NZTA said to us, 'look, we're doing this work on the Mount Victoria tunnel. We were doing work about four or five years ago on a potential long tunnel option but that was discontinued by the previous Government as their preference was light rail.'

"[NZTA] said we should put this option back on the table and we agreed."

Brown said the proposal potentially provided much greater benefits than the Mount Victoria tunnel option.

"It has significant additional travel time benefits: instead of a 3 minute travel time benefit from Wellington through to the airport it has up to 15 minutes.

Although ambitious, Brown said the proposal was the solution to a number of Wellington's congestion issues, and NZTA had presented a 'compelling case' as to why the project needed to be re-considered.

"It solves the Terrace Tunnel, it solves Aro Valley, it solves the Basin and it solves the Mt Vic tunnel, which are four major areas that need work done into the future, and it does it with one major project."

Removing traffic through the city centre would enable better public transport options, walking and cycling, and urban intensification through the CBD, Brown said.

NZTA had now been asked to provide enough detail by the middle of the year for the Government to make a call on which proposal should be pursued further. That included whether the long tunnel proposal would need an exit at the Basin Reserve. **TL**

# GET LOST

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# Beware the Vogons

**Submissions on the Wellington City Council's Long Term Plan close this month, and although that sounds about as dull as ditch water, you should probably take an interest.**

When it comes to council consultation I am often reminded of that great opening section in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy where Arthur Dent is incensed by the fact that his house is about to be destroyed to make way for a new freeway. How was he supposed to know this was going to happen?

Well, it turns out he had been consulted – or rather the plans were on display for months at the council ... in the bottom of a locked filing cabinet stuck in a disused lavatory with a sign on the door saying 'Beware of the Leopard'.

As it happens, that's the least of Arthur Dent's issues given the planet Earth is about to be destroyed by Vogons to make way for the hyperspatial express route – the plans for which were available for anyone to see at the local planning office on Alpha Centauri, a mere four light years away.

To be fair to the Wellington City Council, they have made a better job of consulting than the Vogons. The website for the Long Term Plan has an excellent array of fact sheets clearly setting out the various options the council wants to hear your views on.

So get amongst it – otherwise as the Vogons told the people of planet Earth shortly before they destroyed it, if you can't be bothered to take an interest in local affairs that's your own lookout.

Speaking of local affairs, Mt Victoria residents are starting to get their heads around what a new tunnel might mean for them.

Although Vogons are scary, what can be scarier for authorities are energised local residents. The Government hasn't said so, but another benefit of going for a 'long tunnel' option instead of the duplicate Mount Victoria tunnel would be to avoid a fight with Mt Victoria residents who have a track record of winning legal battles against transport solutions they don't like.

Meanwhile, if you want to distract yourself from the politics of today, how about a play that re-lives the politics of a couple of years ago?

*The Local* has teamed up with Circa to get readers a special offer on tickets to *Transmission: Beta*, the play about the Covid fallout.

If you'd like to go to the theatre but you don't have someone to go along with, or you keep forgetting to get around

to it – now is your chance to join us for a fun and thought-provoking evening out. See more details on page 6. TL



**Jane O'Loughlin**  
Editor

## THE LOCAL Mt Victoria

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Subscribe to the electronic edition via our website [the-local.co.nz](http://the-local.co.nz)

## Earls Terrace seat

The Mt Victoria Residents' Association has celebrated a small but significant victory with the arrival of a public seat on Earls Terrace.

The Association held a 'seat warming' to officially open the seat.

Association president Ellen Blake said the prompt for the new seat came from a local resident who said she would love to be able to take a break when walking home up Majoribanks Street.

MVRA launched a petition for the seat and worked with Wellington City Council contractors on location and design.

"As a Residents' Association we really want to see more seating that supports particularly older people but all sorts of people who like to have a sit. Especially in such a nice spot as this one which is a sunny, cosy and interesting place to sit." **TL**



Angela Rothwell and Ellen Blake from the Mt Victoria Residents' Association try out the new seat at Earls Terrace.

## Crime stays steady

Latest Police crime statistics show 20 victimisations recorded in Mt Victoria for the month of February 2024.

This is the same as the previous month, but more than February of the previous year, when 14 victimisations were recorded.

Of the five incidents categorised by police in February, four were theft and one was sexual assault. **TL**

## School wall spruce up

The wall in front of Clyde Quay School has been given a new paint job, ahead of a new artwork being installed on it.

A working bees of school volunteers got the paint brushes out one weekend in April to paint the wall, which will serve as a canvas for the artwork that has been commissioned.

Artist Ben Buchanan (Te Atiawa) is working with the school to develop new panels for the front of the wall, in conjunction with students.

This is expected to be finished at the end of term two. **TL**



Clyde Quay School volunteers helping paint the school wall.

## Defibrillator

Do you know where the nearest defibrillator is, in case of an emergency?

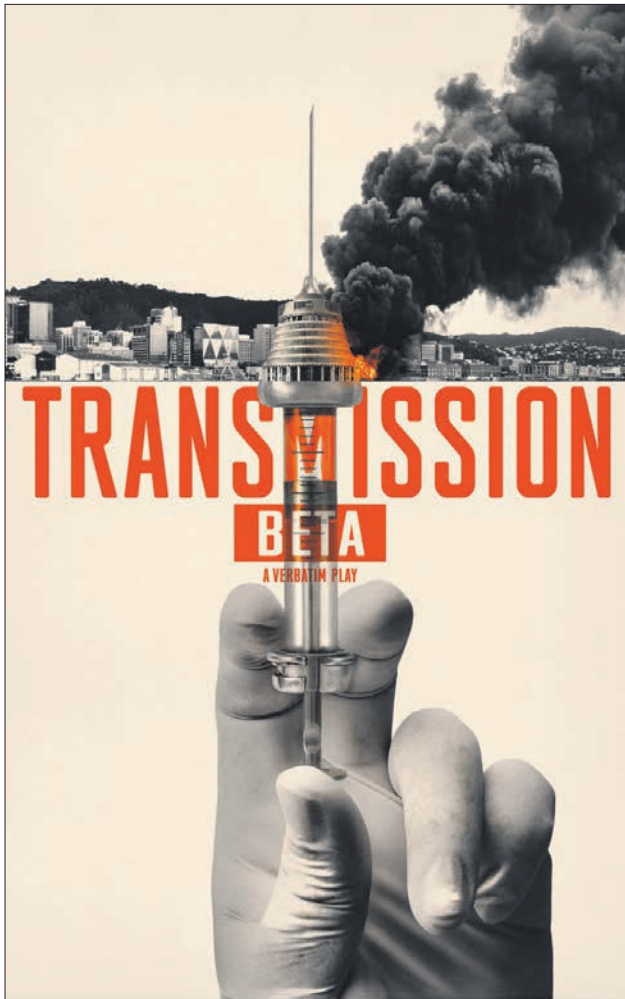
Mt Victoria has 5 defibrillators: at the Victoria Bowling Club, Tararua Tramping Club Hall on Moncrieff St, The Street Church on Hania Street, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons on Kent Tce, and The Wellington Fire Station on Oriental Parade.

If someone is having a cardiac arrest, an Automated External Defibrillator can assist by applying an electric charge or current to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat.

An AED can increase someone's chance of survival by up to 80% if applied immediately.

To find a nearby defibrillator, or to add one that you know about, go to the website [aedlocations.co.nz](http://aedlocations.co.nz) **TL**





**The fight against  
Covid became a war  
with each other**

**18 MAY - 15 JUNE 2024**

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THEATRE**

## **Come to the theatre - with *The Local***

**TRANSMISSION: BETA** is the sequel to Stuart McKenzie and Miranda Harcourt's acclaimed 2021 play **TRANSMISSION**.

**T**RANSMISSION recorded the white-knuckle battle to eliminate Covid-19 in Aotearoa. Now, drawn from interviews with iconic players such as Jacinda Ardern, Grant Robertson, John Tamihere, epidemiologist Michael Baker, economist Bernard Hickey, and philanthropist Sam Morgan, **TRANSMISSION: BETA** traces the fallout from the virus.

You're invited to join *The Local* for a night out at Circa to attend **TRANSMISSION: BETA** on **21 May at 6.30pm**. With a special price for Local readers of \$45 per ticket, this is a chance to not only enjoy some excellent theatre but also get together with your Mt Victoria neighbours. To take part, simply email [editor@the-local.co.nz](mailto:editor@the-local.co.nz) by **13 May** to let us know how many tickets you want. Numbers are limited! 



**GIVE IT 7 DAYS**

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

 KENT TERRACE

**AF™**

# Trash talking

You might think that council planning is a load of rubbish and a waste of time, but if you care about the frequency of recycling and rubbish pick ups, you might want to take an interest in consultation on the Long Term Plan.

**F**ormal consultation on Wellington's 10-year plan and budget closes on 12 May.

Key proposals the council wants feedback on are how much should be spent on water infrastructure, whether airport shares should be sold, and changes to how the council collects waste and recycling and how we are charged for it.

To reduce waste going to landfill, the council is considering a long menu of options.



A larger 120L rubbish bin, collected fortnightly, could replace the current 50L rubbish bag, paid for by a mandatory targeted rate. Organic waste would be collected weekly.



A larger 240L recycling bin could be introduced, to stop people squashing their recycling items.

This is because kitchen scraps and garden waste make up 58% of our usual rubbish bag, so removing them makes it possible to move to a fortnightly rubbish pick up, which is cheaper.

The way we would pay for this would also change, with the introduction of a targeted rate instead of paying for it through the cost of buying the yellow bags.

This would affect the 60% of people who currently use a private rubbish collection service.

On the recycling front, the council wants to introduce a bigger recycling bin, so that people are less likely to crush their items, which makes them harder to sort and process.

Where streets are too steep or houses not able to use a wheelie bin, the council has said it will provide recycling and rubbish bags.

The new collection plans will not come into effect until July 2026, when the council's new waste collection contract starts.

The council is also consulting on ideas to save money and balance the books.

These include:

- Introducing fees for motorcycle parking in the central city.
- Stopping the annual mid-year fireworks display.
- Closing the Arapaki Service Centre and temporary library on Manners Street.
- Not upgrading the Ian Galloway Park and Waitangi Park skate facilities.
- Reduce spending on the bike network and sustainable street changes. **TL**

**The new collection plans will not come into effect until July 2026, when the council's new waste collection contract starts.**

Find out more and have your say on the Long Term Plan at [wellington.govt.nz](http://wellington.govt.nz)



# A review of Mount Victoria's water leaks

*The Local* reporter Anne Molineux takes to the streets to review our suburb's water leaks.

Up there with the weather and public sector job cuts, Wellington's water woes feature highly in small talk chat around town. But not all leaks are equal. With the interests of the public at heart, I set out to figure out once and for all what separates the good leaks from the average – and what better way to do that than by tracking down and rating all the leaks in Mount Victoria. This scientific assessment was conducted in mid-April 2024.



## Ellice Street

An entry level leak to get us started. It might not be as flashy as some of the others on this list, but the fact it doesn't have an obvious source gives it an air of mystery. It's a stubborn one too – having been around long enough for a mossy garden to grow during one of Wellington's driest summers. 4/10.



## Pat Lawlor Close

Pat Lawlor Close is that little paved lane just up Brougham Street from the school that could be mistaken for a driveway. The pavers give the leak a sense of distinction, but overall it's a fairly average leak. No bubbling, rippling or flow sounds. While definitely a Wellington Water leak, it loses points for being on a private road. 5/10.



## Kent Terrace by Deluxe

This leak gets maximum points for being outside a Mount Victoria institution, and right smack bang in the middle of one of Mount Victoria's most used footpaths. Good bubbling, excellent ripples, but sadly too close to the stormwater drain to allow for a good flow to build up. The patchwork footpath also detracts from its magnificence. 7/10.





### Shannon Street

Tucked away on the edge of Mount Victoria is this stunner of a leak. What it lacks by being in an obscure location, it makes up for in its leaky gloriousness. The only leak on our list to include a waterfall effect. Good bubbling, and a solid flow and stream sounds. 8/10.



### Home Street

Better known as “that street around the back of KFC”, this leak is perfectly positioned at the highest point on the street, meaning its flow splits and goes two ways. This leak has the added intrigue of not having a clear outlet, which leaves us wondering what’s going on below the ground. Is it a cracked pipe? Or a massive sinkhole waiting to swallow up some unsuspecting car and its occupants on their way home from KFC? 8/10.



### Corner Queen and Brougham Streets

Queen Street is a common cut through for a lot of people heading up toward the Town Belt. It gets a lot of foot traffic – so a leak here is going to be annoying. This one on the corner of Brougham Street has good bubbling and ripples, and a solid flow that runs half-way down the street before disappearing into a drain with a satisfying stream sound. A solid leak. 7/10.



### Honourable mention: the Majoribanks Street geyser

It might have been a couple of years ago now, but no review of Mount Victoria’s water leaks would be complete without including the two-storey high geyser that burst forth onto Majoribanks Street. Dramatic spray, high flow, and on one of our busiest streets – it is still One News’ go-to footage whenever it covers Wellington’s water woes. 10/10. **TL**



# Westbourne to be demolished

**Resource consent has been granted to demolish 'Westbourne', the large house at the end of Westbourne Grove, off Austin Street, on the condition that the development that replaces it must fit with the character of the surrounding area.**

**T**he Westbourne estate was sold in August last year for a reported \$2.6 million, despite having an RV of \$4.35 million.

Its real estate agent highlighted the large 1472 square metre elevated site, surrounded by well-established trees, planted more than 50 years ago.

According to the council, the property was identified in the Thomas Ward survey of 1881, making it one of Mt Victoria's oldest houses. However, it is believed to have been in a poor state of repair.

As part of the resource consent to demolish the house, the owners must register a covenant that requires the replacement building or buildings to include at least four dwellings, be less than 11 metres high, and fit with the character of the surrounding streetscape.

The covenant is designed to mitigate the fact that the owner did not provide plans for the replacement dwelling to the council for consideration when applying to demolish the house, which is subject to the pre-1930s demolition rule.

In granting the consent, the planning officer stated: "This covenant will ensure that any future development on the site is designed in a manner that they make an as good, or better, contribution to townscape character as the subject dwelling that is demolished."


At least four units are specified in the covenant to prevent the owner avoiding the need to obtain a resource consent by building three or less.

Developer Mark Quinn from Quinn Urban, who now owns the section, said his company had no plans for the site yet.

Asked about height limits, Quinn said the company would abide by the covenant, but he was also aware that "the rules may be changing" in terms of the District Plan and what it allowed.

He said his company had a record of building top quality, high end housing complexes, pointing to the Huia Estate development in Hataitai as an example of this.

This development comprises 13 townhouses in a traditional design. Quin it was regarded in the industry as a benchmark for medium density development.

"We don't do rubbish, we only do quality." 



## Kia ora Mt. Vic!

### Let's talk about our community.

Get in touch about any local issues or if you need support. I'm here to help and would love to hear from you!

**Tamatha Paul** MP for Wellington Central

[wellington.central@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:wellington.central@parliament.govt.nz)

(04) 3891290

Auth Tamatha Paul, MP for Wlg Cntrl. 72 Adelaide Road, Wellington. Funded by Parliamentary Services.







## Seismic upgrade for Victoria Bowling

Earthquake strengthening will begin soon for the Victoria Bowling Club, to bring it up to seismic standards.

The work will be paid for by the club and is part of conditions it must meet as part of its new 10-year lease with the Wellington City Council, to occupy its space on the Town Belt, at the top of Pirie Street and at the base of Mount Victoria.

Club president Gary Ruane says the work includes steel bracing of the exterior brick veneer of the club,

but is relatively minor compared to what some other buildings have to go through. “The building has got good bones, as the engineer said.”

Once engineering design is complete, tenders will be called to carry out the work.

“Our plan is to have all that complete by the end of winter, ready for the new season, and tick that box.”

The new lease was agreed with the council in December 2022. The council asked for feedback from community, including Friends of the Town Belt, and the Mt Victoria Residents’ Association, but received none.

The new lease will not be confirmed until the club carries out the set of specified actions. These include engineering work on the main building to meet seismic standards, and terminating the residential tenancy in the club-built cottage.

The historic club has leased the land at 125 Pirie Street Mt Victoria since 1955, although the club itself dates from 1896.

The club’s leased area measures approximately 6130 square metres and includes clubrooms, a cottage, and two bowling greens. The club will pay just over \$3000 a year to the council as part of the new lease, as well as rates.

The club has the right to renew for a further 10 years. Victoria Bowling has 85 fulltime members and 120 social members. **TL**

## ULO ? Unidentified Local Object

Identify the mystery object – something in the Mount Victoria area – to win a \$20 voucher to the local café of your choice.

Email your answers to us 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. Congratulations to Oliver Carpenter, who correctly identified April’s ULO as the metal curb on Home Street. **TL**



## LISTINGS

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.

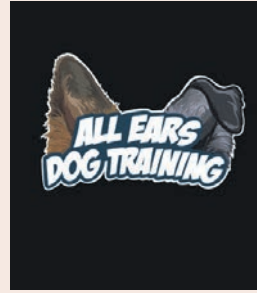
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Capital Gymnastics Club offers diverse opportunities for children in gymnastics! Programmes range from

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 [www.capitalgymnsport.org.nz](http://www.capitalgymnsport.org.nz) or contact us at 027 239 9139 or [office@capitalgymnastics.nz](mailto:office@capitalgymnastics.nz).

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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*.

### Olive harvest coming up

The olive harvest is upon us. Mt Vic Community Hub are organising the collection of them at a date in mid-May (which will be determined closer to the olives being ripe enough to pick). If you would like to volunteer apply through this link [shorturl.at/fHL59](http://shorturl.at/fHL59). If you have an olive tree on your property you would be happy for us to harvest, email us at this address: [hello@mtvichub.org.nz](mailto:hello@mtvichub.org.nz)

### 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](mailto:winnich@xtra.co.nz) or phone 04 801 9556.

### 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.

### 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 04 384 8201 or email [info@crosswayscreche.org.nz](mailto: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](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)



### 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](mailto:pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz) Please see [wmkindergartens.org.nz](http://wmkindergartens.org.nz) for more information.

### 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.

### U3A: Ideas and interest groups



Our lectures are Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.30 am at the Embassy Theatre. \$5 for visitors. May topics include the Sanctuary to Sea Project, Bridget Williams Books, Eating for gut health, and repatriating Toi Moko (mummified Maori tattooed heads). Visit [u3awellingtoncity.org.nz](http://u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) to find out more, including about our 24 interest groups and special events programme.

# Skip it

**The humble skip. To you, the person who has hired the skip, it's an expensive but necessary investment to take away the detritus of your renovation or other home improvement work.**

**B**ut to your neighbours, it is a wonderful opportunity to get rid of all that junk they've been hoarding, for free!

How many times have you hired a skip, only to find that persons unknown come along in the middle of the night and dump into it some battered shelving, a strange piece of broken machinery and several bags of rubbish? I wager 100%.

Because the arrival of a skip is hard to hide. We all see it, sitting there with all that space in it, and think to ourselves: finally, a chance to get rid that old monitor, the push mower, and the foot spa I never used.

Now, to be clear – I would never do that. Mainly for fear of being caught.

But others are less burdened by fear, or morals.

I can just imagine the conversations.

'Guys -did you see that skip? Ok this is our chance. I want you to go through all the cupboards, under the house and the shed, and grab everything we need to get rid of – at 4am, we're going out!'

The people that do this are not always that bright. Once I discovered in a bag of rubbish deposited in our skip a whole lot of documents with names and addresses on them. If I'd had the inclination, I might have been able to track them down and return their rubbish along with a stern talking-to, but who has the energy?

Those who take advantage of skips are sometimes misunderstood. A friend of mine recounted a story of how she picked up an abandoned bag of dog poo, and being a public-spirited person, looked for a place to deposit it. She came across a skip, and biffed it in. Unfortunately for her, a local person, possibly the skip owner, snapped a picture of her doing so and posted it to the neighborhood Facebook page, along with some mean comments about her free-loading ways.

Luckily, fairer minded people weighed in, pointing out that my friend was doing a good thing and that a bag of dog poo doesn't take up too much space in a skip, but apparently debate raged back and forth on the matter.

The point I'm making is that the hijacking other people's skips may be tempting but you will invite a backlash if discovered.

Now with the advent of cheap surveillance equipment, the temptation must be to keep a constant eye on one's skip, in the hope of catching and shaming any space stealers.

And thus the waste war will continue to escalate because if there's one thing we humans hate more than having to pay to get rid of rubbish, it's people taking advantage of us. **TL**





# First female university graduate



The first woman to graduate university in New Zealand lived in Mt Victoria.

*Joanna Newman tells her story.*

**M**any famous New Zealanders have called Mt Victoria home over the years, and you can still see the houses they lived in.

One was Kate Evans. As Kate Edger, she was the first woman in New Zealand to gain a university degree and the first in the British Empire to earn a Bachelor of Arts. In 1877, she graduated with a B.A. in Latin and Mathematics. When she applied for permission to sit for a mathematical scholarship for the University of New Zealand, she was only accepted because she mentioned her age and qualifications but not her gender. She received her M.A. in 1882.

Then, at the age of 26, she was appointed founding principal of Nelson College for Girls.

Kate and her husband, the Rev. Evans, lived at 49 Porritt Avenue (then Ellice Avenue) and she ran a school from there. Here's how Kate advertised her school in the Evening Post in January 1895.

**M**RS. EVANS, M.A., will be prepared after 17th February to resume work with her pupils. Candidates prepared for the New Zealand University, Civil Service, and Teachers' Certificates Examinations. Terms on application. Present address, Upper Taranaki-street; after beginning of March, Ellice-avenue, two minutes from Basin Reserve.

As well as teaching, Kate helped her husband in his work for the Forward Movement, including giving public addresses. The regular lectures and talks by the Movement included topics such as "The Growth of Socialism" and "The Christian as Citizen". Rev Evans also taught adult evening classes and worked with the New Zealand Workers' Union to improve conditions for the unemployed in the late 1890s.

In 1904, Evans was also taking students at their home. The advertisement at the start of that year read:

**D**EHRA DHOON, ELlice-AVENUE.

Classes will be hold next year by the Rev. W. A. Evans in Mental Science, to prepare Students for the University Examinations.

Mrs. Evans's Morning Class for Girls will re-open on THURSDAY, 11th Feb.

Evening Classes as usual for Civil Service and University Examinations.

In 1904 Kate's husband was appointed in charge of the Newtown Congregational Church.

They sold the house and moved to Hiropi Street in 1906. **TL**

If you'd like to read more about Kate Edger, there's a very readable recent biography by Diana Morrow – *Kate Edger: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist*.



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