



## NEW USES BECKON FOR ICONIC CHURCH



**A**fter much uncertainty about the future of St Gerard's Church and Monastery, new owners are now embarking on earthquake strengthening of the church – and are open to ideas about what the iconic buildings could be used for.

When the church was closed in 2021 and sold in 2023, Wellingtonians worried what might happen

to the city's iconic and much-photographed buildings. There were rumours for a while that the buildings might be converted to a hotel.

But the owners say they want to ensure the buildings are preserved, and that whatever the future use may be for them, it's likely the community of Mt Victoria and the wider city will be able to enjoy them. More details on page 2 [➤](#)

### In this issue:

**03** Impacts from new development threaten neighbours

**06** New artwork brightens up Elizabeth Street school wall

**07** Clyde Quay School the winner from Taylor Swift raffle

**09** Student start up aims to clean up student image

# New uses beckon for iconic church

Work is to start soon on earthquake strengthening of St Gerard's Church, on the corner of Hawker and Moeller Streets in Mt Victoria.

**T**he church and monastery are listed in category 1 of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's Historic Places, and are well-known Wellington landmarks.

A trust called St Gerard's Limited bought the buildings in March last year. Sean Kelly is named as the Director.

A spokesperson for the owner, Jason Foote, said he was one of a small group of trustees.

"We are very excited to be taking on the challenge of caring for St Gerard's Church and Monastery.

"Quickly our group has developed a very strong affinity for this amazing building and its storied history.

"The motivation for buying St Gerard's came from the desire to begin a project within New Zealand related to conservation. A suitable project had been discussed and sought for a number of years before St Gerard's came to market and the pivot from conservation of natural history to architectural and cultural heritage occurred."

The group had ideas of how the community could use the space, but they believed it was too early to commit to any particular idea while the major task of seismic works remained.

"While there are endless possibilities and ideas for the building, we first must complete the major seismic improvements before any of these can be realised.

"We have a strong desire to utilise the church in such a way that it is open to the local Mt Victoria residents as well as the wider Wellington community."

Scaffolding would go up on the city-side of the church in coming months, and the initial focus would be restoration of the damaged slate roof.

The seismic work was a 'significant undertaking' and would take 'a number of years' once underway, he said.



The eventual use for the church and monastery was not yet settled, although developing the monastery as a hotel had been ruled out.

The group said that while commercial return was of 'some importance' the real motivation was the 'unique opportunity to care for and restore an iconic Wellington landmark for future generations of Wellington.'

The owners had engaged with both Heritage NZ and Heritage Wellington, who they said would be vital partners in the future works at St Gerard's. **TL**

**"We have a strong desire to utilise the church in such a way that it is open to the local Mt Victoria residents as well as the wider Wellington community."**





# Westbourne proposal impacts on Rixon Grove liveability

**Residents of Rixon Grove, whose properties border the proposed new Westbourne Grove apartment block, say they are very worried about the impact the multi-unit development will have on the liveability of their homes.**

**R**ixon Grove is a small cul de sac off Austin Street, that sits below the elevated Westbourne site. Three Rixon Grove properties are immediately adjacent the Westbourne property, where the large old house is proposed to be knocked down and turned into 30 'high end' apartments.

One neighbour, Denise Keay, said the proposed development did not take account of the land contours of the area.

"As anyone who has walked up Elizabeth Street, along Austin Street or up Rixon Grove or Pirie Street would know, the heights of the sections vary considerably.

"The upper end of Rixon Grove sits considerably below 43 Austin Street and, because the houses are close to each other, for many the main source of sun and outlook is to the north.

"Accordingly, a number of Rixon Grove residents are seriously concerned about the impact a high rise to the north would have on our small street and the liveability of our houses."

Keay said she was not opposed to the Westbourne itself being demolished, and replaced with some form of multi-unit development.

"I'm not averse to the place being developed but I would have thought maybe four townhouses that were carefully constructed to allow for spaces of light. And they would fit in much better with the environment up there."

Her concerns were shared by another property owner in the street, who didn't want his name published.

He said he had spent three years and a lot of money and effort bringing a character house up to building code so it could be tenanted – only to find the sun and privacy of his flats threatened by the new development.

"I've done 3 years of hard slog to reburish [the house] back up to code, with insulation, double glazing."

His objection was to the size of the development.

"I don't care if something goes in there but not that monstrosity."

He objected to the fact the new development appeared to be aimed at wealthy clientele.

"The [zoning] rules were supposed to be reviewed for more affordable housing to go in, but these [apartments] are one to two million dollars each. I don't see the point.

"Four townhouses would be nice. But not a six-storey tower."

The residents of Rixon Grove said they had not been consulted on the development. **TL**

## **Not all local residents are opposed to the new apartment block**

David Paterno, from nearby Austin Street, said he supported the new development, as "not everyone can afford to own single-family homes in Mount Victoria." It would be better to replace the Westbourne with "modern, well-insulated, affordable housing," he said. And he was concerned that opposition was based on keeping certain demographics out of the area. "Why do residents of our neighbourhood continue to fight to keep Mount Victoria the centre of single-family, overclass housing?"

# That 80s vibe

Did you know 80s fashion is pretty hot right now? The other day I saw a hip young thing wearing an over-sized old school Steinlager t-shirt, straight from the days of KZ7 competing in the America's Cup.

Also in vogue is reminiscing – if that's the right term – about Rogernomics and the Lange government of 1984, 40 years ago.

It's a good time to consider whether we've learned anything from history, because deregulation is back in style.

But instead of deregulating financial markets and removing subsidies as the fourth Labour Government did in the mid 80s, we're seeing the removal of environmental constraints and anything that slows infrastructure development down.

And in the housing sphere, both the previous Labour government and the current National-led government have been keen to remove anything that might get in the way of developers doing their thing – in the hope that their thing will somehow lead to affordable housing.


The implications of this are now becoming felt, where new high density rules in inner city suburbs such as Mt Victoria mean residents no longer have much – or any – ability to influence the outcome of new buildings in their neighborhood.

I heard someone say once that town planning rules are like electricity – you don't take much notice of them until they touch you.

Some people who are now being zapped are those living near the planned new Westbourne Grove development. A six-storey development is proposed on an elevated site, surrounded by one or two storey houses. The bulk of the building will block their light and introduce windows and balconies where numerous new neighbours can peer down into the previously private backyards.

Here we see the challenge of changing a neighborhood from one use to another. If everyone has built and laid out their homes and gardens in the assumption that their neighbours will not build higher than two storeys, then it's an abrupt and rude awakening to find that that's all changed and you're going to have a six-storey apartment block metres from your backyard.

The irony is, as the annoyed neighbours are pointing out, that the new million-dollar-plus apartments will be purchased by the well-to-do rather than those seeking 'affordable' homes.

Like the 80s, will the winners from deregulation be the wealthy, while everyone else waits in vain for the 'trickle down' effects? As the saying goes, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. 



**Jane O'Loughlin**  
Editor

## THE LOCAL Mt Victoria

The Local is published monthly by The Local News Limited. Find out more at [the-local.co.nz](https://the-local.co.nz)

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

### Advertising

The Local welcomes advertising.  
Check out rates at [the-local.co.nz/advertise](https://the-local.co.nz/advertise)  
Email us at [editor@the-local.co.nz](mailto:editor@the-local.co.nz)

### Get in touch

Got a news tip? Want to write for us, or help deliver?

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

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

### Deliveries and Distribution

The Local is distributed to Mt Victoria letterboxes and local cafes on 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)

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

## Kent Terrace gap

There's a new view through to Mt Victoria from Kent Terrace now.

The facade of the old Wellington Motorcycles site at 12 Kent Terrace has been knocked down after being boarded up for years. Although the site is now cleared it's not known what if anything except carparking will take its place.

The Wellington City Council said no resource consent application for the site had been received since one in 2017 for a proposed 'pop up' hospitality and retail precinct.

The site is believed to be owned by Lynda Park, who is listed as a director of various companies including Lipman Holdings. **TL**



## Crime stats down

Latest Police crime statistics show 20 victimisations recorded in Mt Victoria for the month of May 2024, down from the 26 recorded in April.

Of the 10 incidents categorised by police in May, three were common assault, three were illegal use of a motor vehicle, three were theft (with two of those from shops), and one was breaking and entering. **TL**

## Waiting for a tunnel update

Wellingtonians are still waiting to hear whether the long-promised second Mount Victoria tunnel will go ahead, or be supplanted by a new 'long tunnel'.

The second Mt Victoria Tunnel and Basin Reserve upgrade is currently on the list of the Government's 'Roads of National Significance', which means it would be prioritised for funding, and likely 'fast tracked' through the consenting process.

But Transport Minister Simeon Brown said he first wanted to get advice from NZTA/Waka Kotahi on a possible Long Tunnel option, which would run 4 kilometres from north of the Terrace to Wellington Road near Kilbirnie.

Brown said it had the potential to deliver up to 15-minute travel time savings for motorists travelling to Wellington airport, compared to around 2-3 minutes for the Mt Victoria tunnel.

The Minister previously indicated he would announce his preference around 'the middle of the year.' **TL**

## Mt Victoria rates up around 21%

Mt Victoria homeowners will pay around 21% more in rates in the coming year, as a result of increased spending by both the Wellington City Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Wellington City Council settled on an average rate increased of 16.9%, plus an additional 1.6% on average for a sludge levy. But the council also collects rates for the regional council, which increased its rates by 24.5% on average.

A random sample of Mt Victoria properties indicates most see a final increase of around 21% - translating into an annual increase of between a thousand and two thousand dollars for most properties, depending on the value.

Households can check their new rate costs at [services.wellington.govt.nz/property-search](https://services.wellington.govt.nz/property-search) **TL**



Artist Ben Buchanan (Te Atiawa, third from left) at the unveiling, flanked by siblings Hana and Matt Buchanan (Te Atiawa), and Nate Rowe (Taranaki Whānui, Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Maniapoto) representing mana whenua.

# New look for Clyde Quay School frontage

Clyde Quay School has unveiled its new mural for the wall at the front of the school on Elizabeth Street, giving passers-by and bus passengers something new to look at.

**T**he eight-panel mural by artist Ben Buchanan (Te Atiawa), is entitled 'The Forest, Us, Ancestors, Tomorrow'.

It draws on the history and whakapapa of the area and its diverse school community.

"The 218 ākonga put their stamp on the mural representing their language, culture, identity, along with their hopes and dreams for the future," says Principal Liz Patara.

"It's a testament to the creativity and wairua of our students and of the wider community."

The mural, funded by Creative NZ, was formally unveiled to the community on 26 July with an event including waiata by the school students.

*The Local* spoke to Buchanan earlier in the year, as students took turns to join him painting the panels. He said it was a balance to produce the art work he was commissioned to do, but also to collaborate with the students.

"As an artist, I want it to look like one of my works.

"So, what is the best way of getting the children involved. We're getting them involved in as much painting as possible - the undercoat, the colour blocking, things like that.

And there's bits in the detailing as well, where they can say, I painted that star or I painted that eye on that bird."

He also talked to the students about his work as an artist, and the process and the thinking involved.

"[We talk about] how it's put together, what I'm thinking when I'm make it. And the idea, very importantly for me, that conversation - or korero - is collaboration.

"If I've given any of children some kind of insight into my practice that's a really positive thing. And that talking about ideas and how we make artwork is just as important as the making of it."


As Te Atiawa, Buchanan has a connection to Clyde Quay School, which used to be located nearer the waterfront.

"I whakapapa to Te Aro pa, so right where the school was when it was quite a different place, pre-colonisation, so we've been talking about those ideas.

"The children have bene studying a lot about their whakapapa. Obviously everyone has a whakapapa, whether Māori or European... we all have ancestors.

"So there's been those ideas coming through and how to represent them."

That thinking resulted in each school year represented by their favourite native 'spirit' animal such as the ruru, pepeketua, and karure. Identities of every student and staff member are woven into the artwork by way of personalised taonga.

It was the first time Buchanan had worked with children, and he said enjoyed the feedback and ideas he received. 

# The school is the winner

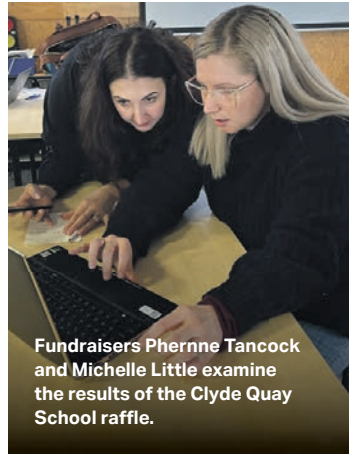
Clyde Quay School is \$70,000 better off, as the result of an ambitious Taylor Swift concert raffle that grabbed the attention of 'Swifties' nationwide – but it may not be the last time the school uses the lure of concert tickets to raise money.

**T**he online raffle garnered media attention from around the country, leading to the 4500 tickets selling out in 6 days, to the joy and astonishment of the school fundraisers.

Sarah Mcilroy from Auckland was the lucky recipient of the sought-after main prize, which included premium tickets to Taylor Swift Eras tour at Wembley Stadium in London, as well as flights, accommodation and spending money.

The winner said she was 'insanely happy' to hear the news, when she was rung by the fundraisers.

She told Whanau and Friends chair Phernne Tancock she entered after hearing about the prize on National radio. She thought it was a great idea for a fundraiser, and encouraged several friends to also enter.



Fundraisers Phernne Tancock and Michelle Little examine the results of the Clyde Quay School raffle.


The 'viral' coverage the raffle gained was key to its success, said Tancock.

"Radio stations and newspapers were keen to hear about a little school in Wellington offering this awesome prize that everyone wanted – it really captured people's imaginations."

The school was thrilled with the fundraising efforts, said Clyde Quay School Board of Trustees chair Michelle Little.

"We've got a lot of much-needed work going on at the school, to upgrade our school hall so while we still have a lot to raise this fundraising will make a real difference."

The school now hopes it can secure a ticket to another Taylor Swift concert in Canada.

"This was so successful; we'd love to do it again! We know people are keen for another chance to win tickets to a Taylor Swift concert." 

The Bridge at the Cambridge Hotel

 The Bridge  TheBridgeBarWellington

cambridgehotel.co.nz | 04 801 1950  
28 Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro Wellington 6011

# 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





# Green shoots in Mt Vic's property market

Wellington's property market is in the doldrums but Mt Victoria is doing better than most of the city, reports **Anji Foster from Lowe&Co.**

**F**or those looking to sell a house at the moment, it can be hard to find the glass half full story. It has been a difficult few years since the acknowledged peak of the market late 2021, and the challenges are continuing for many areas in 2024.

When looking specifically at Mount Victoria however, there are a few green shoots. The first is that whilst the Wellington City real estate market is down 14.1% compared to 3 years ago, the figure for Mt Victoria over the same period is -9.8%. This is reflective of the continued premium that property in our area achieves, supported by a high percentage of buyers specifying Mount Victoria as one of their preferred search areas.

Looking at prices over the past year, Wellington City is down 1.6% with a median price of \$880,000. But in Mount Victoria, we are 1.3% down on last year with a median price of \$1,116,000. This median is higher than neighbouring Hataitai (\$970,000), Mt Cook (\$695,000) and Roseneath (\$1,100,000), and slightly lower than Oriental Bay (\$1,200,000).

Also supporting the glass half full sentiment is that the average numbers of days to sell in our neighbourhood is currently 32 days, compared to one year ago when it was 54. Much of this will be due to the shortage of new Mt Vic listings in the area coming to the market, and therefore less choice for genuine buyers.

In terms of the rental market, there is currently an abundance of available rental properties in Wellington, causing an imbalance in the supply and demand equation. Many homes that have not sold are now on the rental market as plan B for the owners. Reduced student numbers in the capital, and tertiary institutions offering halls of residence to

second year students have reduced student accommodation demand, and many tenants are choosing to stay put while they work through potential uncertainty around job security.

Any property provider who has been trying to lease a property in this market will tell you it's tough finding a tenants and even tougher getting the rent that the property might have received during the last tenancy.

In Mount Victoria the median weekly rent is \$580, which represents a 2.7% rental yield when looking at the current median sale price. Not a great return in anyone's books. There are currently 57 rental properties in Mt Vic on Trade Me, with the oldest of these dating back to earlier this year, and the majority having been listed for at least two months.

This winter is unlike any I have worked in, with the number of listings on the market significantly higher than what we would historically expect. Lowe&Co had one of our largest listing months in May, which is unheard of, and the listings have continued to come on in their numbers over June. July is the first sign of a slight slow down, and already the difference in buyer activity is evident.

As the number of listings on the market drops slightly, open home attendee numbers are increasing, with slightly less choice for buyers. We have also seen a small improvement in the number of properties receiving offers, and some prices coming through that are above what we were expecting. So whilst our glass isn't overflowing, there is some reason to feel optimistic.

For any data specific to your own property do not hesitate to reach out. 

**SOURCE:** Suburb Report June 2024 REINZ.  
Anji Foster is Licensed under REA 2008.



**Lowe & Co**  
REALTY

Andco Realty Limited - licensed under REAA 2008





# Cleaning up the student image

**A Mount Victoria-based student start up is determined to prove that students are capable of more than low paid hospitality jobs.**

**T**ana Hakaraia started the water blasting and house washing business Students Against Grime to help university students earn some decent money but he hopes it can achieve more than that – helping change perceptions about the standard of student work, and getting the university itself on board as an employer.

The idea started while Hakaraia (shown above, second from left) was washing a driveway over summer, and thinking about how students needed higher paid jobs to get by.

“I want it to be a high quality service and with that, change the narrative around student work and the value student work can bring. I think I can speak for a lot of students when I say we don’t want to be paid a bare minimum to do an average job – why not come in and do an awesome job?”

A major driver is the cost of living in Wellington.

“Wellington has become too expensive. It’s not sustainable to be a student when you have to pay close to \$300 a week in rent.”

He put his idea into action and employed some of his friends. Now they are set up with the professional washing gear they need, and although resident in Mount Victoria, they are doing jobs all over Wellington.

But it’s the university where Hakaraia hopes Students Against Grime will find a home.

“There is an opportunity for the uni to show they’re in touch with the issues in the city, to think: how can we do more than just educate our

students? How can we give them a livelihood while they study? And it’s on campus – it’s really accessible work.”

Hakaraia also believes that showing students – including prospective students – that there is work available on campus would give them hope that they can fit a job alongside studies, and make them more inclined to stay in Wellington.

“And it’s good for the students to manaaki – take care of – the campus.”

Hakaraia points out the university has many properties that need cleaning, with three large campus areas and over one hundred other buildings in its portfolio. But the dream of a symbiotic relationship has come up against the university’s existing procurement arrangements.

Approached for comment, a spokesperson for Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, said its contractors had to meet a range of criteria to be considered as a supplier, ‘including having the relevant insurance in place and being appropriately accredited’.

“Our current cleaning service agreements were awarded to suppliers after a competitive tender process.

“Although we celebrate the initiative of students who are creating jobs for themselves and others, unfortunately, we do not currently require any further services in this area.”

Nevertheless, Hakaraia is still hopeful, and believes Students Against Grime can meet the university’s contracting requirements.

“We’re still talking.”

Meanwhile, if you have a house or driveway that needs a clean – you know who to call. **TL**



# Theatre history supporters wanted

Mount Victoria Historical Society is seeking supporters of local history and cinema, to help share the story of the Embassy Theatre in its centenary year.

**T**he Embassy Theatre reaches its 100-year milestone this year and the Society is leading a project to create an explanatory panel ready in time for the celebrations later this year.

The panel, highlighting key moments from the history of the iconic theatre, will fill one of the original glass display cases on the side of the Embassy on Marjoribanks Street near another on the history of Mount Victoria.

Fundraising is underway to help pay for the design and production of the panel. Individuals or

businesses donating more than \$200 to the cause will get their name recorded on the panel, with larger donations getting more prominence, and free membership of Mount Victoria Historical Society for a year.

“When it opened in 1924, the Embassy Theatre – known as the De Luxe – was New Zealand’s biggest movie theatre, and is still hugely important to the city,” says Society convenor Joanna Newman.

“It has a grand history of entertaining and surviving, and we want to make this easily accessible to visitors and locals.” **TL**

For more information see the Mount Victoria Historical Society’s website [mtvictoria.history.org.nz](http://mtvictoria.history.org.nz) and get in touch via the contact form.



City  
Gallery  
Wellington  
Te Whare Toi



# Art Inspires.



Donate today.

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.

Help us continue to bring the joy of art into the heart of Pōneke.

Part of Wheako Pōneke Experience Wellington. Principal Funder Wellington City Council. Strategic Partner C Foundation.



## GIVE IT 7 DAYS


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

KENT TERRACE

AF™

# 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](mailto:editor@the-local.co.nz). If there's more than one correct answer the winner will be selected at random. Congratulations to Kitty Young, who correctly identified July's ULO as the painting above the Ortega Fish Shack on Marjoribanks St. 





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



**Feet with Heat**



Ready to try something fun and new? Join our 5-week Taster dance Classes, exploring 15 dance styles for just \$125 per person. \$75 for students. Thursdays 6pm. 110 Hutt Rd, Kaiwharawhara. Next to Spotlight. FREE PARKING.

See the website for details [feetwithheat.com](http://feetwithheat.com). Register now at [info@feetwithheat.co.nz](mailto:info@feetwithheat.co.nz).

**Peculiar Letters**



National Poetry Day presents "Peculiar Letters", an in-depth poetry reading and panel discussion with four emerging Wellington queer writers: Alex Cherian (She/They), Chris Girven (They/Them), Jason Lingard (He/Him) and Larry McMyler (He/Him). Expect an evening of challenging poetry and lively discussion. Sat 24 August 2024, 6.30pm, Te Auaha Cinema, Upstairs, 65 Dixon Street, Wellington No door sales - tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz/2024/peculiar-letters/wellington](http://eventfinda.co.nz/2024/peculiar-letters/wellington). National Poetry Day: [poetryday.co.nz](http://poetryday.co.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](http://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](http://u3awellingtoncity.org.nz/membership).



Waterproof  
18k gold plated  
jewellery

Shop 40% off with code  
**LOCALGOLD**

LANA LEIGH

[www.lana-leigh.com](http://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*.

## 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](http://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](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)



## 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)

## 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.

## 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**.



## PIKOPIKO CLYDE QUAY KINDERGARTEN SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten is a Whānau Manaaki kindergarten - working for whānau, not for profit.

We work closely alongside families, local primary schools and local communities. Our kindergarten offers:

- 20 HOURS FREE for ALL tamariki aged 2-5 years old
- 100% QUALIFIED ECE teachers
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi-led bicultural practices
- Celebration of all cultures at kindergarten
- A welcoming, caring and fun environment for tamariki and whānau

Our curriculum empowers, inspires and provokes children to lead their own learning individually with support from the teaching team whānau and peers.

Pop in for a visit to find out more about our kindergarten community!

# WHĀNAU MANAAKI

[pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz](mailto:pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz) 04 385 0441  
[wmkindergartens.org.nz](http://wmkindergartens.org.nz) CNR ELIZABETH & BROUGHAM ST  
MOUNT VICTORIA



# Having a ball

Recently I found myself at the Pirie St playground with time on my hands, as my daughter was off doing important things like playing the ground is lava.

**A** basketball was available, so I decided to have a go at potting a backwards goal. Standing at the three-point line, facing away from the hoop, I chucked the ball backwards to see if I could get it in.

Of course I failed, but undaunted, I tried again. And again. And again.

My partner regarded me with derision. “Is that a good use of your time?” he asked. “Your chances of success are low. And even if you get it in – have you acquired an important life skill?”

David is person of a technical bent which means he believes in things like ‘mathematics’, hence his ridiculous questions.

What would I get out of this exercise? As it turned out, heaving a ball backwards uses stomach muscles you may not be generally aware of, but I certainly would be aware of them in the week to come.

“I just want to see if it’s possible,” I said.

Like many humans unburdened by knowledge of statistics and science, I am ridiculously optimistic of success.



And I’m not alone, going by several conversations I overheard in the past month, related to Clyde Quay School’s incredible Taylor Swift competition. Many people started sentences with ‘When I win the Taylor Swift tickets....’ Not if, but ‘when’. They knew the odds, but in their minds they were already there, at Wembley Stadium, staring out at a sea of friendship bracelets.

I often wonder about the right balance of reality and delusion that a human should have. There’s no point living in a fantasy land, and yet if we had no time-wasting dreamers where would we be? All the world’s great art and inventions are pretty much the result of someone persistently pursuing their folly – until it turned into something we all accept has made the world a better place: Hamlet, the Mona Lisa, powered flight, the Roomba.

If he had been a sensible young man, Peter Jackson might have become a public servant instead of making splatter horror movies and eventually going on to make Lord of the Rings. What would we do in Mt Vic without all those tourists wandering around trying to find Hobbit’s Hideaway?

And we wouldn’t have Taylor Swift, an incredible talent who also had such self-belief that she persuaded her family to move to Nashville so she could become a singing star.

I pondered all this as I meaninglessly chucked a basketball backwards for the umpteenth time... and turned around to see it go into the basket.

“Yeeee-ussss!!” I hollered, with the joy of someone who has won an Oscar or Grammy, rather than fluked a lucky shot at a suburban basketball hoop.

David grimaced, probably calculating some kind of cost benefit analysis of how much time I had wasted and how it could have been put to better use.

My daughter hid in shame, as I ran around the park making embarrassing victory gestures.

Back in the office on Monday, I lost no time in relating my story to my semi-interested workmates, and anyone else who would listen. For a feat so slight, it buoyed my spirits in a surprising way. Perhaps it was not so much the thing itself, but the fact that my determination had overcome chance, and that gave me a warm glow.

It was Oscar Wilde that said second marriages are a triumph of hope over experience, but in many ways life itself is – we are disappointed so often, and yet we dream – and take a chance. Who would have it any other way? **TL**





Additions being made to the School in 1935. [Alexander Turnbull Library PAColl-7796-86]

# Clyde Quay School over time

As Clyde Quay School embarks on renovations to its school buildings, it's timely to reflect on the long history of the school itself. *By Joanna Newman, convenor of the Mt Victoria Historical Society.*

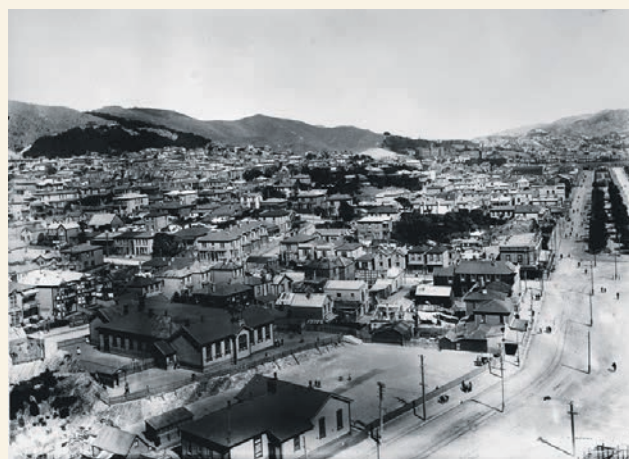
Its name is carried over from the days when it opened on Clyde Quay in 1889. One of the first entrants was James Elliott (whose elegant brick house stands beside KFC on Kent Terrace). He remembered that there was a:

*“clear space across the road from the school beside a great and unsavoury open wood-lined sewer which emptied itself near by into the sea. . . . It was a disgusting practice of some of the bolder boys to fall deliberately into the evil-smelling and turgid drain, and return to the class-room as popular as a polecat in a drawing-room. The unsavoury boy would be promptly sent home to be dried and cleaned, happy . . .”*

In 1889, there was still a lot of empty land south of where the current school is. Originally, it was a gully with a small stream running off Mount Victoria then, later, the site of a large market garden. Just after the turn of the 20th century, the Council bought slices of land off a big three-acre property (attached to the house across the road, now 46 Brougham Street) to create lower Elizabeth Street.

The school outgrew its Clyde Quay location, and in 1921 an Infant School for Clyde Quay opened on Elizabeth Street. When construction started on a new building in 1923, there were initially challenges building firm foundations, but it opened for the 1924 school year.

In 1935, Clyde Quay School closed on its site opposite the Quay, and fully moved to Elizabeth Street. The new Centre Fire Station was built on the land it vacated. A beautiful example of Art Deco design, its architect was Cyril Mitchell, who had attended Clyde Quay School as a child. TL



Mount Victoria c.1908/10, Clyde Quay School on the left. [Alexander Turnbull Library C-16544]

# Supporting Local with The Local

Want to **win a \$200 voucher** for a local restaurant of your choice?  
Text The Local to 027 274 5047 by Friday 30th August to go in the draw.  
Limited one entry per person.



**Anji Foster**  
027 274 5047

**James Lowe**  
027 345 0600

**Lowe & Co**  
Andco Realty Limited - licensed under REAA 2008 REALTY