



PARTY ON

The first ever New Year's Eve party centred on Courtenay Place went off, and organisers are hoping it will not be the last.

Courtenay Precinct says the inaugural Courtenay Carnival attracted between 5,000 and 8,000 people, and the family-friendly event is just the kind of thing the struggling Courtenay Place area needs.

Event manager Brett McCall says it was a 'proof of concept' for an event that could become a 'fixture of the Wellington calendar.'

A report is going to council in the hope there will be a commitment to support it again in the future.

More photos on [page 9](#). ➔

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Westbourne proposal prompts sour memories

A Mt Cook couple who have had previous dealings with the developer of the new Mayfair apartment block in Mt Victoria's Westbourne Grove say neighbours should be 'worried' if their experience is anything to go by. However the developer says lessons have been learned. **Jane O'Loughlin** investigates.

Campbell MacLean and Fiona Pearson live next to a townhouse development built by Mark Quinn in 2010.

The couple ended up in a long running dispute with the developer over unkept promises, breaches of resource consents, unintended impacts on their property, and parking problems.

"Everything that could have gone wrong with the development, actually did," says MacLean.

Quinn's Pencarrow Construction applied for resource consent for three townhouses at 1 Anderson Terrace in Mt Cook, starting in 2010.

MacLean and Pearson contacted the council with concerns over shading, parking and other matters.

At a council-facilitated meeting they say that Quinn and his architect provided assurances about the magnitude and impact of the build.

However when construction started in 2012, they found that four units instead of three were being built. The council subsequently apologised for not letting them know.

When construction started, earthworks were carried out contrary to the resource consent. This undermined the edge of the neighbouring property, leading to their boundary "falling into the jaws of the digger" during an excavation of the site. The council had to step in and issue an abatement notice, and require that professional supervision was in place for future work. According to the couple, extensive remedial work was required to stop the bank slipping

and further undermining their property. They along with other neighbours were also affected by the years of construction and parking pressures.

Developer Mark Quinn, now of Forma Group, admits contractors made a mistake but says it was quickly rectified, and lessons were learned from the project that took place 12 years ago. The proposed six story apartment block to be built on Westbourne Grove would be different, he said.

"The construction of Mayfair will be undertaken by contractors who have significant experience in projects of a similar scale and type."

And he provided reassurances that he was not seeking to increase the number of dwellings proposed on Westbourne Grove.

"For Mayfair, a resource consent application has been lodged with the final confirmed design featuring 32 units. This will not change unless the consenting authority deems it necessary."

Meanwhile, neighbours are waiting for the Council to release its decision on the notification status of the Mayfair resource consent.

Quinn said he had 'voluntarily' included neighbouring properties on Austin Street as notified parties to this resource consent application.

"This provides them with full visibility of the consent process and a platform to be heard in respect of the application on all matters." **TL**

"The construction of Mayfair will be undertaken by contractors who have significant experience in projects of a similar scale and type."



Townhouse excavation caused boundary problems in Mt Cook.

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So long, long tunnel

Jane O'Loughlin investigates why the long tunnel idea got scrapped.

When the National Government took office and started looking at the long-awaited project of a Mt Victoria second tunnel, they quickly got distracted by a much more ambitious alternative.

A long tunnel going all the way from the Terrace, under Te Aro and Matairangi/Mt Victoria and through to Hataitai would reduce travel times to the airport by a whopping 19 minutes in peak hour, and remove the state highway from the centre of the city.

Ministers spoke about the benefits of it in glowing terms, but when Transport Minister Simeon Brown finally announced the outcome in November after months of delay, it was the simple parallel Mt Victoria tunnel option that would go ahead, combined with a duplicate Terrace Tunnel.

Some of the questions around why this occurred are answered in papers subsequently released by


NZTA, or obtained by *The Local* under the Official Information Act.

Once the feasibility study was completed at a cost of around \$1.75 million, OIA papers reveal the Transport Minister Simeon Brown met with colleagues Chris Bishop (Infrastructure) and Nicola Willis (Finance) before the Board made its final decision to reject the long tunnel option.

NZTA reluctantly acknowledged the long tunnel was 'unaffordable': "The financial burden associated with the Long Tunnel, which is projected to cost \$5.2bn - \$7.5bn, could divert resources away from other critical infrastructure projects."

The option of a diagonal Mt Victoria tunnel was also considered but eventually discounted due "severe short-term and long-term impacts on local schools," presumably Wellington East Girls and Wellington College.

Cost estimates for the approved project were redacted from papers provided but officials said the parallel Mt Victoria Tunnel option provided a better benefit cost ratio.

Now an investment case will be completed and brought back to the NZTA Board in mid 2025. 

What's up in 2025?

Welcome back to another year of *The Local*.

2024 ended on a sad note with the closure of our popular bakery and cafe, Myrtle. I will not be the only one who hopes they are able to re-open somewhere else in Mt Victoria.

Cafes are such an important part of our daily routine, and also a great place to catch up with friends and neighbours. We miss you Myrtle!

The year also ended with a party thanks to the efforts of Courtenay Place businesses who took the initiative to put on a New Year's event. Although the weather put a dampener on it, it nevertheless showed that a family-friendly event was possible in the area. It would be great to see more of this kind of thing – Courtenay Place certainly needs it.

Infrastructure will surely be a theme of 2025, with changes to the Kent and Cambridge intersection coming up, followed by the much talked about Golden Mile spruce up. And we can't forget the second Mt Vic tunnel which is inching closer to being a reality. On a smaller scale, Clyde Quay School has its renovations underway. You can read about all of these issues in this edition.

The aim of *The Local* is to keep you across issues that affect our community.


On that note, I am grateful to those who took the time to fill out a survey at the end of last year to get reader feedback.

It's fantastic to hear that this community newspaper is doing what I hoped: help inform residents about local issues, and create a stronger sense of community. Many people said they looked forward to it turning up each month.

Of those who responded, the vast majority are very happy about the content of *The Local* and pleased to have a regular source of community news. People also rated the format, design, and the chance to get news in an easy-to-read print format.

Readers provided some useful suggestions for improvement or variety, such as more voices and demographics that reflect our diverse community.

Stay tuned for changes in the coming months.

If you would like to contribute to the newspaper in any way, please do get in touch. I'm always interested to hear ideas from readers and residents. 



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor



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School changes

Clyde Quay School students are returning to find their hall moved to a new place. Work began over the summer break to deliver a new school-ground layout with improved facilities and play areas.

In terms 1-2 this will mean a reduced lower play-ground area as the construction site will be boarded off to meet site health and safety requirements.

Cameron Ross, new principal of Clyde Quay School, says: "I'm really excited about these changes and the progress on site over the holidays. It does will mean some compromise on playground space for students in the first half of the year, but the rewards for their patience will be huge." **TL**

Mourning Myrtle

Beloved cafe Myrtle closed in December, sending fans of their coffee, scones, cakes and bread into mourning.

In an online post the owners paid tribute to the Mt Victoria location and community: "The character of the building, its unique position, and the warmth and support of the people who visit us, are not just part of our story – they are our story."

The closure was forced due to the sale of the Kent Terrace building and adjacent car park.

Rental estate agent Sam McIlroy from MC Property said the new owner was a church organisation that planned to demolish the cafe to make way for a residential property. **TL**

Golden Mile changes delayed

Construction on the Golden Mile changes will happen this year, but a start date is not available. In November city councillors voted to retain the Golden Mile project with full funding in the Long Term Plan 2024-34, but this needs to be now be consulted on (again) with the public. The first project is changes to the alignment of the Cambridge and Kent Terrace Intersection by the Embassy, which will start 'once contracts are confirmed'. **TL**

Kent Terrace flowers come and go

The vacant space beside the Embassy Theatre was briefly brightened up with a flower installation, which lasted only a few days.

The architect of the guerilla artwork is a mystery, with the council denying involvement and unable to find out who was behind the 'blooming' display. **TL**



Hania Street closed for Greek Festival

This year's Paniyiri (Greek Food Festival) will see the Pirie Street end of Hania Street closed, to make it safer for the crowds expected. There will also be more tables and seating available.

The festival, taking place this year on Saturday 22 February, attracts hundreds of Wellingtonians looking to partake of delicious Greek food and enjoy live Greek music and dancing.

A spokesperson for the event, Demetri Christoforou, said the event continues to attract large numbers of people and organisers were looking forward to a fun cultural event for all the family.

The event starts at 10am and finishes at 3pm. Entry is free and people are welcome to bring their own reusable food containers and bags if they can. **TL**



Artistic flowering in Mt Victoria

Artist Karl Maughan is best known for his rich and vibrant 'garden scapes', which grace the walls of collectors both here in NZ and overseas. **Sharon Greally** tracked him down.

Karl Maughan talks to me from his Mt Victoria based atelier – which is, according to him, a building which once housed an old printing press, and was the secret HQ of the SIS. The building also houses other artists, film people, and film props – including the 80's petrol bowser used in the 2018 New Zealand docudrama 'Mistress Mercy' about the death of cricket umpire Peter Plumley-Walker after an unfortunate misadventure with a young dominatrix in 1989.

And I thought I was a hoarder! The things people keep lying around!

Maughan was born in Wellington. His first home was in Majoribanks Street for 7 years, before the family moved to a small farm in Manawatū.

It was at the end of secondary school that Karl discovered a love of gardens, and started painting them. After completing his Master of Fine arts at Elam in 1987, he was invited to have his first solo exhibition at Brooker Galleries in Wellington. Then it was time for the ubiquitous OE, and in 1994 Karl headed for London, where he shared studios with other artists mainly around the East End. Some of them went on to become big names in the Young British Artists movement.

He returned to Auckland in 2005, but in 2013 his wife, notable writer Emily Perkins, was appointed to a prestigious job at Victoria University at the International Institute of Modern Letters, and so they made the move with their three children, and now

live in Kelburn. He says they love living in Wellington, and would never move back up. "We would miss our friends too much."

He commutes daily, either walking, cycling or scootering, making a pit stop at Prefab or L'affare en route for breakfast, and meeting up with other early birders.

Maughan's works are truly striking. I was lucky enough to spend a good amount of time just watching him paint, and the colours are so vibrant they sing. He uses a specific oil paint from the UK, which has a very high pigment percentage.

One thing not a lot of people know about Maughan is his and his fathers' 50 year collection of Edwardian books which is housed in a secret room of his studio. I had to close my eyes so as not to see how he opened it. A secret SIS interrogation room perhaps? They started collecting these young adult fiction hard cover books, mainly for their lush picture plates and gold lettering, the 'pizzazz of colours' as Karl puts it. Almost an exhibition in themselves, he's now wondering what to do with his enormous collection amassed over the years.

But my time is up, and it's time for Maughan to get back to his botanical beauties where, (as he himself says), humans undergo "a conquest over nature and protection from the forest and the wild." **TL**

"It was at the end of secondary school that Karl discovered a love of gardens, and started painting them."

Bridgerton-inspired improv

Improv theatre meets Regency drama in a production that's part of the Bats Fringe Festival starting in February.

Mount Victoria resident Megan Ritchie is one of four women behind the show entitled *Abridged-erton* – a long-form improvisation comedy taking inspiration from the Netflix bodice-ripper hit series *Bridgerton*.

Fellow performer Lucie Richardson, say it's 'truly special' to be creating the show with an all-female cast. "I think women feel like they need more permission to try comedy than men. We're so proud to have made a show where we can take up space and showcase our skills."

The pair are longtime improv practitioners who met in Wellington and became friends through improv circles, and because they were both 'nerdy' about period drama.

Viewers can expect scandal, secrets and drama, along with 'blatant period inaccuracies' (like the sudden appearance of modern pop music in a ballroom scene) in this 'loving tribute' to *Bridgerton*.

No two shows will be the same, with cues taken from the audience to shape the drama. The actors are supported by a cellist and tech operator who are also improvising.

The women credit the supportive improv community and the wider Wellington acting community for helping them towards their first Fringe Festival performance.

Abridged-erton is on 7.30pm, 18-22 February at BATS Theatre. Tickets to all the Fringe Festival shows are available at fringe.co.nz 



Lucie Richardson (second from left) and Megan Ritchie (third from left) perform in *Abridged-erton* as part of the Fringe



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MORTGAGES

Renting vs buying in Mt Vic

More than half of the Mt Victoria community are renting their home. **Anji Foster** from **Lowe & Co** looks at the recent rental prices and renting compares to buying.

With 1,245 rentals in Mount Victoria, there's a good chance that if you are reading *The Local* you are currently a tenant. It almost seems like a rite of passage to have rented in Mt Vic.

Many of the people who look to buy in the area after living in the 'burbs while kids are at school talk about their experience of renting in the area in their younger, child free days. Returning to Mt Vic is like returning to an era of thinking about oneself a little more, and enjoying all of the restaurants, bars, shops and waterfront on offer in our wider neighbourhood.

The median asking rent in Mount Victoria is \$590. So, if you are currently paying rent but have plans to purchase in 2025, what are the options? At current interest rates, \$590 pw is the equivalent of paying for approximately \$450,000 mortgage. If you have a 20% deposit, that means you are looking at a property around \$560,000. On the face of it, that would mean purchasing in Mt Vic might look challenging.

After working with countless first home buyers over the past 16+ years, I am often surprised at the lack of interest in looking at home and income options. In an area like ours, there are many properties that over the years have been converted to two flat or home and income properties. The additional income from rent can make a tremendous difference to how much you might be able to borrow.

So, whether Mt Vic is your ideal suburb to buy in or not, I would recommend speaking to a mortgage broker about what your budget might be if looking at a property that includes a separate income. It might be a pleasant surprise and may also open the door to opportunities closer to home than you imagined.

In terms of house prices, the local market remained fairly flat in the past twelve months with just a 1.5% increase in median sale price which currently sits at

\$1,116,000. As a comparison, the median sale price in 2021 was \$1,300,000.

New rateable values are due out this month and might even be in hand at time of reading this. It is likely that the average RV has decreased by 20-25%. Some home owners welcome this, thinking it will also reduce their rates. However your percentage of the overall Wellington pie remains the same, and therefore so will your rates.

How sale prices compare to the new RVs could take a few months for the market to work out. The past two years has clearly shown the market value is considerably below rateable value. In Mt Vic in the past year, the median sale price has been approximately 26% below median RV. This would indicate the market value and new RVs could be fairly closely aligned.

The market will no doubt take a few months to recalibrate, as buyers and sellers get comfortable with the new RV environment. Buyers have been accustomed to the RV being significantly below market value and will need to get comfortable with offering closer to RV, and after we experience some capital growth over the next few years then we are likely to return to a climate of surpassing RV for many sales.

Whatever your property plans are over the coming year there will be plenty to keep you updated on, but if you have any specific property questions that you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to reach out. **TL**

Source: REINZ Suburb Report

At current interest rates, \$590 pw is the equivalent of paying for approximately \$450,000 mortgage



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New Year on Courtenay Place

For the first time Courtenay Place was transformed into a lively New Year's festival hub, drawing hundreds of residents and visitors to the heart of the city for a night of music, celebration and community. Report and photos by **Harrison Schwertfeger**.

The street, famously known as Wellington's nightlife epicentre, was blocked off and adorned with festival decor. The stage for live performances by musicians and dancers served

as the focal point of the festival's energy. Members of 2024 danced and cheered their way into 2025.

The event was planned to ensure the safety and enjoyment of attendees. Medics and security were dotted around the festival; their presence provided reassurance for all ages and demographics.

The mood, palpable, was a sense of unity which proved yet again that Wellington has the ability to host events that bring the community together; leaving Wellingtonians optimistic about what 2025 holds for them and the city. **TL**

Out on a limb

Elizabeth Street resident **David J Lee** describes his frustration over the bad planting choices made for the area as part of the Wellington City Council's recent renewal project.

The *Local* recently covered some of the problems our street experienced as a result of the council's project to replace the trees.

Unfortunately there were more egregious issues with this drawn-out project. In 2023 I emailed the Project Manager, suggesting some suitable species and to point out the wet ground conditions (which was why the Council replaced camellias with alders years ago). Fulton Hogan obviously weren't informed because its Update to Residents in April 2024 referred to 'unforeseen ground conditions and ground water...'

This ended up adding more than \$20k to the cost and extending the disruption to residents.

The project manager promised me, in emails and at a public meeting, that the sole kōwhai in the street would be left there.

Despite this it was dug-up and disposed of with the excuse that it was 'under a wire'. Later, right next to where the kōwhai had been, an ash (a much taller tree) was planted under several wires.

Leaving the kōwhai in situ would have saved rate-payers thousands.

We were told olives were the 'consensus' choice of the community. But there was no consensus at the public meeting. It was another official who wanted them to preserve what he called 'the Mediterranean heritage of Mt Victoria'.

To cope with having dry-land species in such wet ground, a deep trench was excavated one length of the street and filled with gravel. Because of Christmas holidays, the trench was sealed with asphalt. It was then dug up in the New Year to lay drainage pipes. The digging out of tree pits was delayed because the sides were collapsing, requiring backfilling and the constant operation of 'hydro excavation' trucks to remove silt. Its maddening, surging, sucking noise could heard inside residences most days for weeks. After all this, what ended up being planted in this trench? Not olives, but titoki, the natural habitat of which is river flats!

Meanwhile some other official had given permission for two properties to have drive-on access, so the newly laid channel and kerbing were removed to allow this. No sooner had this happened, there was a change of mind: the brand new drive-on kerb was removed and the previous channel and curbing re-laid.

This was supposed to be the Council's 'model' for street planting. I hope for the sake of long-suffering Wellington ratepayers, that such an exorbitant, disruptive project, so lacking in co-ordination, will not be inflicted on other hapless residents. **TL**



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

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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 Geoff Watchman, who identified the December photo as one of the windows in the Crossways Community Creche Early Learning Centre. 



LISTINGS

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Feldenkrais classes

Awareness through Movement classes are held Tuesdays 6-7pm, from 11 February, at the Quaker room in Moncrieff St. Relieve pain and stress, improve posture, balance and breathing, in a friendly, relaxing environment. Sue 027 466 7123, massagewellington.nz

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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

Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten

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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.

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 - February meeting

Our next residents association meeting is on 13 February at 5.30pm at the Mt Vic Hub. All members and residents of Mt Victoria are welcome to attend.

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



Cleaning sucks

Modern conveniences aren't all they are cracked up to be, as **Jane O'Loughlin** discovered when she bought herself a 'smart' device.

In the run up to Christmas I got myself a robot vacuum cleaner. A sad story in itself but to me I was gifting myself with time and relaxation. No more having to haul out the stinky vacuum cleaner from the laundry and drag it around the house. A nifty little robot was going to do all the hard work for me. This might even happen while I was at work and I would come home to a clean house.

As we have a single story house with no stairs, it would be perfect for a robot vacuum cleaner, I thought. What could possibly go wrong?

The other members of the household viewed the new device with trepidation. For one thing, it needed wall space, a rare commodity in our small house.

I cleared a spot, installed it, and set it going. Instantly it tried to devour its own power cord. Whoops, I needed to keep cords out of the way! Off it went eventually in another direction.

These smart little devices go backwards and forwards mapping your house, with a little brush that flicks dust and debris underneath it, and into its sucker. When it's full of dust it heads back to home base and blasts the rubbish into a rubbish bag – so clever!

However, smart as it is, it can't pick things up, open doors, lift rugs or move chairs. So I ran about in front of it, moving things and stacking them on top of other things.

The thing has some kind of logic to it, but it was hard to discern what it was. It seemed to go over the same spot endless times, before suddenly heading off in another direction and taking me off guard.

I was busy stacking furniture in one corner of the room when I realised I'd left the sliding door open, and robovac was about to head off into the garden, to reinvent itself as a robo lawn mower.

Other similar things happened with Lego, with my daughter shrieking when the machine started heading under her bed to take on the latest Lego creation that had been carefully hidden away. Or I'd forget about a rug and find the machine determinedly chewing on tassles and getting tangled.

After several of these stressful moments, I ended up following it around the house, clearing things in front of it, and making sure it wasn't consuming things that were bad for it.

Robovac also seemed to have an uncanny ability to Hoover in the most annoying places. It went around and around my partner's feet as he stood at his desk, and annoyed my daughter.

"It's exactly where I want to be!" she wailed, as she waited to play a game while the machine went backwards and forwards endlessly over her bedroom carpet.

The idea of setting it to vacuum while I was out was clearly out of the question. It would without a doubt get stuck on something, and the robo app would send me a notification at work telling me that it was overheating and about to burst into flames.

As Christmas approached, we put up our small Christmas tree. Due to the lack of wall space, apparently the easiest spot to put it was right where the robovac was. I came home to discover the robovac festooned with ribbons and Christmas tinsel. I never quite worked out whether this was convenience or a passive aggressive way of making sure it couldn't be used.

It may have been at this point I got out the broom and wondered if the whole thing had been worth it after all. **TL**



"Greeksville"

The suburb of Matairangi/Mt Victoria has a strong Greek connection, as **Joanna Newman of the Mt Victoria Historical Society** explains.

There are strong Greek and Cretan communities in Wellington, one of which is centred on Mount Victoria. Hania Street is named after the old capital of Crete and many people of Greek heritage still live or own property in our suburb.

There were two main waves of Greek immigrants. The first came in the early 1900s, fleeing poverty and persecution. They laid the foundation stones for the second wave who arrived in 1950. Most came to Wellington – in 1966, 76% of all Greeks in New Zealand lived in Wellington.

The first to arrive found it hard to get work because of language difficulties so a number set up their own businesses, particularly in food. Many of these eating places were established around Courtenay Place and became institutions in their day. The famous Green Parrot has been owned by Greeks since 1946 and is still going strong. (Mojo's founders are second-generation Greek.)

Greece immediately after World War II was in the grip of a bitter civil war and this prompted the second wave of migrants to leave for New Zealand. The earlier trail-blazers realised they could never go back to Greece, as some had hoped, and many brought their relations out.



Mr Mastrogeorgiou and friends in Edge Hill, Mt Victoria, 1928. [ATL PAColl-4924-057]




Good Friday service at the first Greek Orthodox Church, 1959. [ATL EP/1959/1671-F]

“The famous Green Parrot has been owned by Greeks since 1946 and is still going strong.”

Mount Victoria appealed as a place to live because it was close to their businesses. Naturally, they rented in Mount Victoria. When they could afford to buy their own homes, they bought here. “Why? Because it was handy to work”, one descendent, Stathy Boolieris, told Mount Victoria Historical Society. And they loved it because of the sun: “That reminded them of the Mediterranean – they liked plenty of sun.” As a youngster, Stathy used to call Mount Victoria ‘Greeksville’.

Part of building a community here was establishing a church. The distinctive Greek Orthodox Church in Hania Street, correctly called the Cathedral of the Annunciation, was built in 1970. It was not the first church on the site, however. A Greek Orthodox Church was first erected in that location in 1947, on land donated by John Kathisteles, a Greek Cypriot. It was housed in a prefabricated U.S. Army medical barracks transported from Trentham to Hania St (then called Lloyd Street).

You can read more about the Greek experience on the MVHS website: mtvictoria.history.org.nz – the church (Newsletter 72) and the experiences of a Greek immigrant (Sophia Anthopoulos under ‘Mt Victoria Stories’). 



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