



THROWING SHADE

Win a family pass to see *Bluey's Big Play - The Stage Show* this April!

Find out more inside

Residents in Rixon Grove and the top of Pirie Street will lose most of their precious winter sun if a proposed apartment block goes ahead in Austin Street, according to shade modelling made available by the Wellington City Council.

The six-storey apartment block being designed by Forma Group will tower over Rixon Grove, which is well below the site, but the impact will also be felt

by houses across the gully on Pirie Street.

However, concerns may fall on deaf ears, as the new District Plan allows for six-storey buildings in the area, giving residents few grounds for objection.

Despite the adverse property market, the developer says the construction of the luxury apartments is expected to start by the middle of the year.

Read more on [page 3](#). ➤

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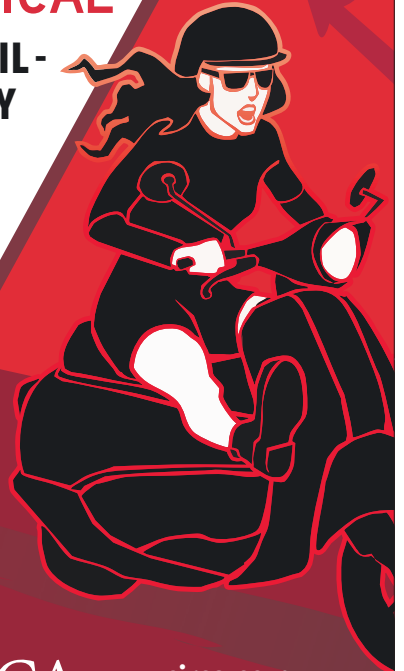
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WRITTEN BY
Steven Page

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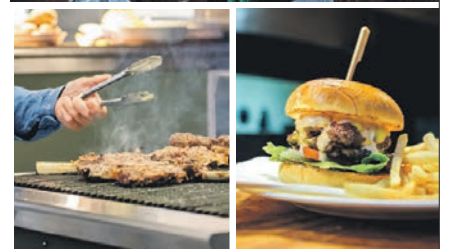
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Throwing shade

Houses in Rixon Grove and at the top of Pirie Street will lose their winter sun when the new Mayfair apartments go ahead on Austin Street. **Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

Shading assessments provided to the Wellington City Council as part of the resource consent application for the new building show that the town belt end of Rixon Grove, plus one or two of the houses at the top of Pirie Street will be affected.

The proposed six-storey block will block sun for those areas to varying degrees from autumn through to spring.

The Local is aware of residents in the affected area who are concerned about their loss of sun. Most of them would support a new development if it was not as high.

The sun modelling also shows that the apartment block will cast some shadow onto the grounds of Victoria Bowling Club, however club president Gary Ruane isn't worried.

Victoria Bowling Club did register their interest in the development and sought advice about the impact of shading on the bowling green.

"Even though there will be some impact on green one, really it's in winter so there's not going to be a lot of overall impact."

Ruane said the club would not be objecting to the apartment block as a result, and in fact thought the addition of more neighbours might result in the club attracting some new players.

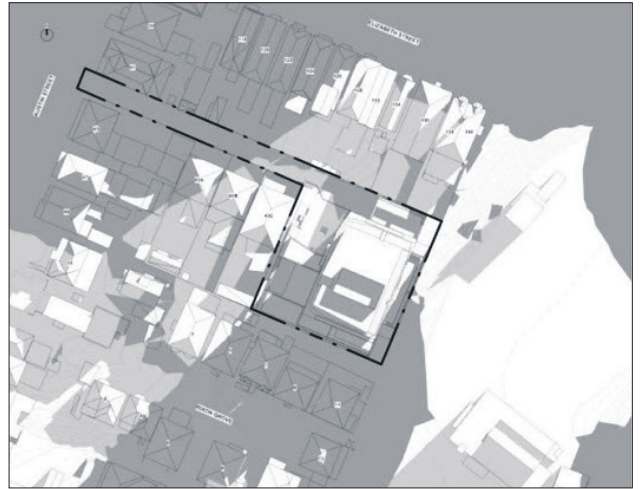
Meanwhile the Wellington City Council was expected to release its notification decision on the development at the end of March.

This followed a number of requests for information from the developer, regarding traffic safety, geotechnical issues, wind tunnel effects and shading.

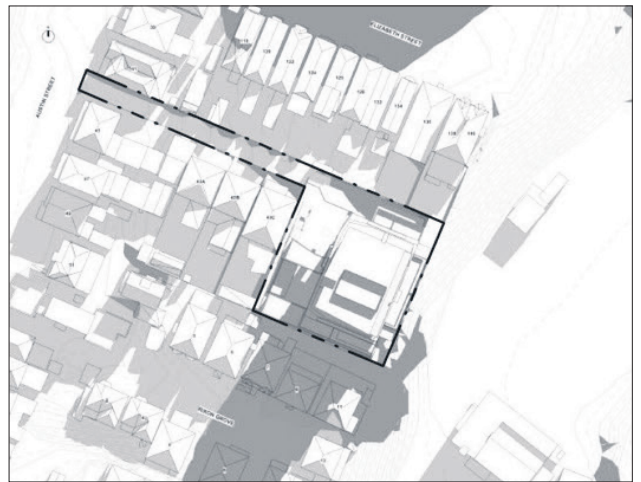
A new website advertising the development has launched, which says the apartments are scheduled for completion in early 2027.

Developer Mark Quinn told Nick Mills on *Newstalk* in early March that he expected "spades in the ground" in around the middle of this year. **TL**

Shade modelling provided to the WCC by architects for Forma Group



June 22, 10am



June 22, 11am

SHADING LEGEND

- Shading caused by existing topography. Takes visual precedence over other shading colours
- Shading caused by neighbouring houses/buildings
- Shading caused by proposed building within the permitted maximum height and boundary recession planes
- Shading caused by the infringements of boundary recession planes and maximum depth of the proposed building

Public meeting

Neighbours of the proposed Mayfair development are calling a public meeting in late April to discuss the implications for the community. Check out the-local.co.nz for dates and times once confirmed.

Who gives a fig?

Turns out quite a few people give a fig, particularly when a beloved fig tree gets hacked into by the Wellington City Council.

The devastation of the tree outside Clyde Quay School on Elizabeth Street has been the talk of the nearby community.

The large tree is well known for its fruit, and it's a common site in autumn to see locals balancing ladders against the tree, to get hold of the figs from the upper branches.



But just as fig season was approaching, contractors turned up and removed most of the branches.

Outraged locals questioned the timing of the hatchet job. Comments on social media called it 'savage', 'vandalism' and 'bloody terrible', although others pointed out it was obstructing the path and overdue for a cut back.

The council told *The Local* the pruning was carried out to ensure the tree met the required clearances for public safety and infrastructure.


"We appreciate that this tree was valued by the community, especially as it was fruiting. However, as it is located within legal road reserve rather than a park or garden, we are required to carry out clearance work as scheduled, regardless of the season. In this case, the tree had begun obstructing the footpath, creating a safety issue for pedestrians.

"This species will tolerate this type of pruning, and late summer is a good time for it."

Although the tree was certainly in need of a trim, the timing is callous.

It reinforces the notion that the council is completely out of touch with the local community, particularly after the debacle over replacing trees further up Elizabeth Street.

Given the choice, I'm sure most people would prefer to endure the slight obstruction to the footpath for the trade off of letting the fig season run its course.

Let's hope the tree recovers, given most gardening advice is to wait until winter to do such extreme trimming. 



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor

THE LOCAL Mt Victoria



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Pikelet day

In what is becoming a Mt Vic tradition, International Pikelet Day will be once again celebrated by the Mt Vic Hub.

Farewell summer with free pikelets April 11, Mt Vic Hub, from 8am onwards, until they run out. **TL**



See Bluey and her family live on stage!

Be in to win a family pass (two adults and two children) to see *Bluey's Big Play – The Stage Show* this April at Wellington's TSB Arena!

Readers of *The Local* have a chance to win four tickets to the 4pm show on Sunday 20 April.

Just email us at editor@the-local.co.nz before 13 April and you'll go in the draw to win.



Benefactor provides barrel of fun

An anonymous benefactor is responsible for a barrel of sports gear now available at the Pirie Street playground for people to use.

A graphic designer, Hayley Kirkman, posted on Vic Deals that she had helped with the illustration. She passed on that the organiser wanted to provide Wellington with a 'pick-me-up' by providing sports gear that the community could use and ideally return:

"Our aim is to encourage play – getting the most out of the hoop and grassy patch."

The benefactor invited people contribute spare sports gear to the 'shed' to make it an ongoing success. **TL**



Anzac Day events

The Dawn Service for Anzac Day at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park takes place on 25 April between 6am and 7am, and the National Commemoration at 11am.

Between 10am and 2pm there will be an Anzac Day Whānau Day at Pukeahu Education Centre. This will include a variety of Anzac Day themed story times, poppy crafts and Anzac kits to get tamariki thinking about why Anzac Day is important. Or take a tour of Pukeahu with Educator Historians. More information at mch.govt.nz/events **TL**



Predator Free Wellington celebrates success in Mount Victoria

Mt Vic can celebrate a win for its feathered residents, as **Kasey McDonnell** explains.

Predator Free Wellington has successfully eliminated introduced predators from much of Matairangi Mount Victoria.

Part of the Predator Free 2050 initiative, Predator Free Wellington wants to make Wellington the world's first predator free capital city.

The organisation expanded the predator free zone to areas like Mount Victoria following a successful elimination of predators on the Miramar Peninsula.

Rats, stoats, and other introduced predators are a threat to native birdlife like tūi, pīwakawaka, and kererū.

Predator Free Wellington is eliminating introduced predators through a mix of monitoring cameras, chew cards, poison devices, and community monitoring.

The intense effort to remove predators has helped birdlife return. Miramar's birdlife has shot up after their elimination of predators. Tūi are up 200%. Pīwakawaka are up 150%. Similar improvements can be expected for Mount Victoria in the future, according to monitoring carried out by the organisation.

Keaton Stevens, a field operator for Predator Free Wellington, explained how the programme is being rolled out while he was checking poison devices in the Town Belt.

First, the team plans where to install poison devices in a suburb. With support from residents, field teams go in and install devices on properties. After a month, the team takes a "close eye" on an area to understand the frequency of predators.

A lot of work is done by volunteers. "Our volunteers work so hard...volunteering is a huge part" of the project's success, Keaton explained.

After a month of close monitoring and no predators, "we go into a biosecurity phase."

Predator Free installs trail cameras with mayonnaise as a lure. It records predators re-entering the area so the team can eliminate them.

After nearly a year of effort, a lot of the Town Belt has moved to the biosecurity phase, Keaton said.

Predator Free Wellington uses its complex network of monitors and traps to create a detailed picture of the predators in areas like Mount Victoria.

Keaton estimated that "our project alone probably has over 200 [traps]." Their data collection base stations number in the thousands.

The data they collect helps them plan and predict the elimination of predators in areas like Newtown.


Keaton explained that their team members Sally and two kuri (dogs) Kimi and Rapu are vital for finding spots frequented by rats, stoats, and weasels.

"We've honed the edge of the sword in the approach we take. We can quite confidently predict how long a certain area is going to take."

The community is noticing the effect of Predator Free Wellington's hard work. "Members of the public [tell me] 'I've been living on this premises for 20 years: the bird life is far better.'"

Predator Free Wellington's efforts to support neighbourhood birdlife depend on Mount Victoria residents.

Getting involved in conservation with friends, sharing updates from Predator Free, or letting neighbours know about the project are helpful to their mahi, Keaton explained.

Through community collaboration, "the birdlife is only going to get better and better." 

To learn more or get involved, visit pfw.org.nz. Kasey McDonnell writes a Wellington-based climate change newsletter. Read it and subscribe for free at threesixtysix.news.

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Busy house market not reflected in numbers

The statistics in REINZ's most recent suburb profile for Mount Victoria don't make for good reading for homeowners.

The last twelve months have seen the median price fall by 15.5% with a median sale price now of \$985,000. This is below both Hataitai (\$1,011,000) and Roseneath (\$1,295,000).

When I read this I was surprised, as the activity and demand in Mt Vic has felt strong. The most attended open home with Lowe&Co last week, out of 145 open homes, was once again Mt Vic, with a whopping 40 groups through a local listing. The phone is ringing more with people searching for property in the area, and plenty of sold signs are going up on signboards around our streets.

This made me think about how a median price is calculated, and question what might be another factor outside of current market conditions that could have our neighbourhood performing so poorly in these median statistics.

My conclusion is that it might not be that overall value has dropped to that degree, it's that the properties that have been coming to market are largely in the sub \$1.5M category. This means that the median is pulled lower.

In 2023 Mt Vic had 22 sales over \$1,500,000. In 2024 this dropped to 11 sales. And so far in 2025, none. Was there a significant drop in value in Mt Victoria between those two years? Not when the median sale price in December 2024 was \$251,400 higher than December 2023.

A similar ratio is seen when further narrowing down to sales over \$2M, see table opposite.

From my conversations with homeowners of \$1.5m+ plus homes in the area, many of them are waiting for signs that things are improving rather than sell at what they feel is below where value should be.


Some homeowners are still anchored to the giddy heights of 2021 and their RV of 2021 and feel that

	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	Feb 2025
Median Price end of December	\$903,600	\$1,155,000	\$985,000
Total Sales rolling YTD	51	71	63
Median dales to sell	54	32	37
Number of rentals	1320	1257	1269
Median asking weekly rent	\$570	\$590	\$580
Residential Sales \$1.5m+	22	11	0
Residential Sales \$2m+	10	6	0

their property has "lost value" over the past three to four years. In reality, that value was only there if it was realised, and the property was sold at the time. Nevertheless, many owners of premium homes in the area seem to be sitting back for now.

So, with 50% fewer premium properties selling in 2024, this has likely helped to drag the median price down to look like we are all 15.5% worse off than this time last year. But that big number is counter to what I'm feeling and seeing right now.

One fact I was reminded of recently was a conversation that I had with a registered valuer about 15 years ago. He said that you can tell when the Wellington market is going to move forward when Mt Vic moves forward. It was his belief from his experience, that good results in Mt Victoria were the precursor to good results rippling out to other areas.

A positive shift in the median value and a few more premium dwellings in the area coming to the market might be the first signs that things are looking brighter for homeowners in Mt Vic. 

Source: REINZ Suburb Report February 2025



Lowe & Co
REALTY

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"A very weird design"

The Mt Victoria Residents' Association is worried the new design for the intersection of Courtenay Place with Kent and Cambridge Terraces will leave pedestrians worse off.

Jane O'Loughlin reports.

Construction is due to start at the end of April on the first stage of the Golden Mile upgrades, which will see the intersection moved so that Courtenay Place is aligned with the Embassy instead of Majoribanks Street.

But MVRA President Ellen Blake says the new design is 'dangerous' as it puts the cycleway in the middle of the crossing and is likely to result in collisions and conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

"It doesn't promote walking; it promotes conflict with cyclists."

Blake says half of Mt Victoria residents walk to work, so it was important for the Association to promote a safe and enjoyable experience.

She is also critical of the design that will see pedestrians who could previously wait under the Embassy awning left with no shelter as they wait to cross, due to shifting the crossing further south.

It would have made sense to design a crossing to cope with the large crowds that often emerge from the Embassy following film festival events or U3A talks.

Instead they will need to funnel through a narrow crossing and will likely get stranded in the middle of the crossing which is bisected by a cycleway, she said.

"There's a lot of old people who cross through here. They're slower. They might not get all the way across."

She calls it 'a very weird design' and 'a significant safety issue.'

Blake is also saddened by the prospect of losing the current shelter between the Embassy and Courtenay Place, which the Residents' Association helped design some years ago.

The current design allows pedestrians to choose a side to stay dry and sheltered depending on the direction of the wind and rain.

Originally, the design also allowed users to reach the 'beg' button without venturing out of the shelter, although this has changed in recent times.

Blake has been trying for months to talk to the Wellington City Council to no avail; a recent meeting was cancelled at the last moment. **TL**



MVRA President Ellen Blake



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

(04) 3891290





Jorna's creative chaos

A new artwork at Circa Theatre is the work of Mt Victoria artist Glen Jorna. **Sharon Greally** caught up with him.

Glen Jorna reckons Mt Victoria has been the making of him.

“Moving to New Zealand was the best decision I’ve ever made in my life, and Mt Vic in particular. Growing up in Brisbane as a kid with a strict Catholic upbringing wasn’t a great experience for me – I couldn’t be myself. It was only moving here with my ex 25 years ago that my life changed. I was teaching high school art over in Australia but not really enjoying it. So when I moved here, I did some courses at City Gallery and The Learning Connection.”

He loves the multi culturalism of Mt Vic and its closeness to the city, as well as being a great neighbourhood to live in.

Jorna started teaching at Wellesley College in Eastbourne 15 years ago, and loves his job. He even gets to have his own studio there, which is great he says, as he can just enjoy being with his husband at home in Mt Vic. If he had his studio at home, he said he would never see him.

Glen is a very vibrant character, just like his art. He is also a DJ, which he learned online over Covid. He bought the gear, and now plays gigs regularly as his alter ego ‘Jimmy Fade’. He has just played in Auckland and Wellington at the Rainbow and Pride parades respectively, and is off to play at the prestigious Beresford bar in Sydney for Mardi Gras. Not bad considering it has only been a few years!

But back to his art. Jorna says “It’s art that tries to capture urban decay and beauty’. He collects ripped, torn posters from the streets and using collage and paint, he tries to “replicate what’s on the streets”. His works have a powerful energy about them. He is a regular exhibitor at the New Zealand and other regional art shows, and is also the organiser for Artbourne at Wellesley College.


It was at a group exhibition that his work was spotted by arts doyenne Dame Carolyn Henwood, and she approached Jorna about commissioning a piece for the new renovation of Circa Theatre. She liked the energy of Jorna’s work, and wanted him to create a work using old theatre posters. The only stipulation was that he use red, Circa’s signature colour.

The resulting work, ‘The Creative Chaos of Circa’, hangs proudly on the new theatre walls and is full of drama and excitement. Of the work Jorna says: “This title celebrates the vibrant, messy, and beautiful energy of both the artwork and the performances at Circa. It suggests that creativity flourishes in chaos, and Circa thrives on the unexpected – where ideas and emotions collide to create something extraordinary. It is a bold and unapologetic celebration of the unpredictable.” And it’s all right on our doorstep! Go check it out. **TL**

“He collects ripped, torn posters from the streets and using collage and paint, he tries to replicate what’s on the streets.”

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 Alice and Daniel, who identified the March photo as a detail on the statue of Queen Victoria, in the middle of Kent and Cambridge Terrace. 



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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.

Guitar, violin and singing lessons in Mt Vic

Have you always wanted to sing but never had the confidence? Does your child want to learn the guitar or violin but doesn't like the traditional structure? Shane Dunleavy, an accomplished musician himself, is a music teacher based in Mount Victoria with many years of experience teaching singing, guitar and violin to children and adults. Get in touch to organise the lessons that are right for you and your family. Call Shane on **022 567 7843**.

U3A in April

Coming up for U3A Wellington City: Craig Renney attacks economic myths in the last lecture of Term 1 on April 11 and Matthijs Siljee starts Term 2 on 29 April with a talk about the need for commemoration. Lectures are Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.30 am at the Embassy Theatre. \$5 for visitors; \$40 membership. Details at u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

Good Vibrations sound therapy

Feel like you're out of tune, mind, body or spirit? Sounds like you need some Good Vibes to bring you back into harmony. Sound healing is an ancient practice that harnesses the power of sound vibrations that affect us on a neurological, physiological, and biochemical level to promote healing and relaxation. Harness the healing power of sound to benefit your life. Contact Sharon Greally at Good Vibrations Sound Therapy, The Paddington, 140b 11 Jessie Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, phone **0212 648 544** or email info@goodvibrationsoundtherapy.co.nz

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

HELP SAVE WELLINGTONS CITY TO SEA BRIDGE



The Bridge is not earthquake prone and WCC has no public mandate to demolish it. Tell Councillors you care and want the nonsense stopped. Email "councillors@wcc.govt.nz"

When Wellington Civic Trust supported by the Architectural Centre started court action, demolition paused but your donation is needed to cover legal costs to win the actual court case in late April 2025.



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If you donate you agree to the Wellington Civic Trust will direct the use of the funds as they see fit. This will be primarily to fund legal and other advocacy and challenges to Council intentions for the City to Sea Bridge, including ancillary activities. Any funding left over from this action may be used for other Trust purposes. Donations are not tax deductible.

Keep up to date
through Facebook

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*.

Mount Victoria Historical Society – Art Deco Mount Victoria Guided Walk Sunday April 13 at 2.30pm

Mt Vic has some superb examples of Art Deco architecture. Join Joanna Newman for a tour of the sights and stories of this unique stylistic era. Numbers will be limited for safety reasons, so to reserve places please phone 027 757 7984

One Mindful Breath

One Mindful Breath explores the role of meditation and mindfulness in embracing the wonders and difficulties of our modern lives. Our practice is secular, framed by Buddhist values. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm at the Friends' Centre, Moncrieff St, Mount Victoria. Each session has a meditation, discussion, and a cup of tea. The first Wednesday of the month is "Beginners' Mind", great if you're new to meditation. Find out more at onemindfulbreath.org.nz

Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten

Spaces Available! Pikopiko is open for 2-5 year olds, Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm during school terms. 20 hours free from 2 years old. Phone 04 385 0441 or email pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz. Please see wmkindergartens.org.nz for more information.

Crossways Community Creche

61 Majoribanks Street, is a parent-run early learning centre for children aged 1-5. 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

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 eight tables and play three times a week at the stadium on Alexandra Road. We want to encourage new people to join our fun social event. Only \$4 each time - no subscription. For more information contact Diana Winn, email winnich@xtra.co.nz or phone 04 801 9556

The Quakers

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

Quaker meeting rooms

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



Innermost Gardens

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

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

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.

Getting cross

Crossing the road is an art and a science, according to **Jane O'Loughlin**.

Our roads and footpaths are a disputed territory, with motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and scooter riders all trying to claim their slice of the action.

But the needs of one sub-group is constantly overlooked, and that is a group which I proudly represent: that of the jaywalker.

The jaywalker pays no heed to paternalistic devices such as traffic lights and zebra crossings but rather strides forth confidently and randomly across roads, through and in front of traffic, finding their way to the other side efficiently and conveniently.

The jaywalker is a skilled individual, making judgement calls based on having carefully observed the traffic patterns, the timing of the lights, the speed of vehicles.

The jaywalker doesn't like to waste time, and indeed you could lose years off your life waiting for a flash of green light at the Kent and Cambridge intersection with Courtenay place.

Perhaps for that reason, jaywalking is popular in Mt Victoria. It is just a few timid compliant souls or parents trying to set a good example to children who willingly use the green light at the pedestrian crossings.

This is because most of them are quite inconvenient – for example, at the bottom of Elizabeth Street there is only a crossing on one side – and for most of us heading into town, it's on the wrong side of the street.

At the bottom of Marjoribanks Street you need the patience of an angel and the reactions of a hawk to use the official crossings – where you wait for eons for the green light to appear for a millisecond.

New challenges have arisen to test the jaywalker. Most notably in our area the cycleway along Cambridge Terrace. Now instead of just checking for cars coming in one direction, one must additionally check for cyclists coming at you in both directions.

For myself the adrenaline rush of this complicated task helps to wake me up of a morning but not all enjoy it.



In the early days of the cycleway I observed one older woman get so bamboozled by looking in all directions she forgot to look down. She tripped on the cycleway barriers and had a nasty fall.

There is no sympathy for the jaywalker though – complain about your challenges and you can expect to be told that there is a crossing nearby and you should use it.

Indeed, jaywalking is illegal. Land transport regulations set down a fine of \$35 for failing to use a pedestrian crossing that is within 20 metres, and a fine of \$35 for pedestrians who do not cross the road at a right angle.

Despite this, I am happy to identify with the jaywalker. It has a worthy tradition. Around the time that automobiles were replacing the horse and cart, the term 'jay' driver was used in the United States to describe newbies who did not adhere to the road rules about driving on the right hand side of the street.

It was later applied to pedestrians, and used pejoratively by the motorist lobby, no doubt looking to discredit any nuisances that might slow them down.

Certainly when I am in a car, I take a dim view of any idiots wandering out on the road in front of me but when I am one of them – ah, the freedom! **TL**

“The jaywalker is a skilled individual, making judgement calls based on having carefully observed the traffic patterns, the timing of the lights, the speed of vehicles.”

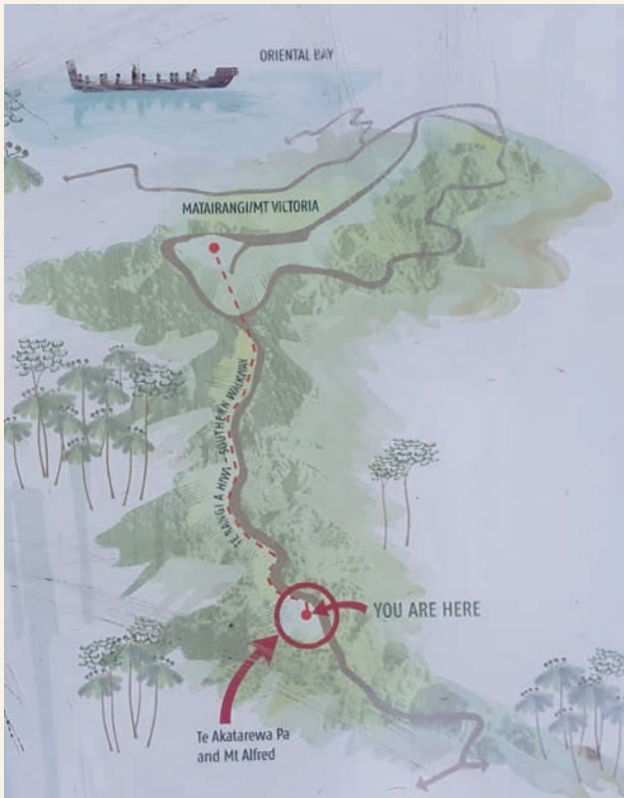
Te Akatarewa Pā

Talk a walk up the hill to visit a local heritage site. **Joanna Newman** from the Mt Victoria Historical Society explains.

Coming up this month, 18 April is World Heritage Day, formally known as International Day for Monuments and Sites.

In Mt Victoria, we have a registered heritage site. It's Te Akatarewa Pā, on the top of Matairangi/Mount Victoria – or, technically, Mt Alfred. (It's registered under the WCC District Plan, Ngā Wāhi Tapu o te Māori or Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori).

There's no evidence of it today but a Council plaque reminds us that the site was part of, or close to, Te Akatarewa Pā, a stockaded village inhabited by Ngāi Tara. The pā was built here because it is one of the higher points of this ridgeline, known in pre-European times as Te Ranga a Hiwi – the hill ridge of Hiwi. Hiwi, who lived in the Akatarewa Pā, was the son of Hine Kiri, a famous chieftainess of Ngāti Hinewai, hapu of Ngāi Tara.



“The pā was built here because it is one of the higher points of this ridgeline, known in pre-European times as Te Ranga a Hiwi – the hill ridge of Hiwi.”

The ridgeline, Te Ranga a Hiwi, comprised a series of significant sites and was seen as a defensive line through the area, particularly to Ngāi Tara. A series of pā or forts extended from Point Jerningham near the site of Waihirere Pā through Te Akatarewa Pā and out to Uruhau Pā (Island Bay) and Haewai (Houghton Bay).

Ngāi Tara were the first recorded iwi in Te Whanganui a Tara but a number of tribal groups were living here at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was still sparsely populated, but with complex relationships between groups as a result of tribal wars, conquest and migration.

If you haven't found it yet, Mt Alfred is the small peak to the right of the saddle, if you're taking the main track from Mt Vic to Hataitai. Head up the steps, then left at the top out towards one of the best views in town, and you'll find the plaque. 



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