



## EXPRESS BUS BID

**W**ellington's Airport Express bus sails through the streets of Mt Victoria dozens of times each day but doesn't stop – leaving locals heading to the airport frustrated.

The alternative for residents is to take the slower number 2 bus, requiring a 7-minute walk from Miramar, or to make the trek down to Courtenay Place with luggage in tow to get the airport express.

The Mt Victoria Residents' Association is making a plea to the regional council to change the schedule, as part of a submission to the Wellington Regional Transport Plan.

Supporters of the change say one more on-demand stop would not make much difference to the bus's timetable.

Read more on [page 3](#). ➔

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# Express bus bid

**Mt Victoria residents would love to have the airport bus make a stop in the suburb, as *Jane O'Loughlin* reports.**

**G**etting the airport bus to stop in Mt Victoria is one of the submissions being made by the Mt Victoria Residents' Association on the Wellington Regional Transport Plan.

The Airport Express service travels between the Wellington Airport and Wellington Railway Station seven days a week, passing through Mt Victoria on the way to the bus tunnel, but does not stop.

The closest bus stops are on Courtenay Place or in Hataitai on the other side of the bus tunnel. This leaves Mt Victoria residents having to walk to Courtenay Place, or take the number 2 bus through the tunnel in order to transfer to the airport bus in Hataitai.

It is also possible to continue on the number 2 bus, get off in Miramar, and walk about 7-10 minutes to the airport.

In a Facebook discussion, many residents were enthusiastic about the idea of the bus stopping to pick them up or drop them off in Mt Victoria, and said they would use the service if it did.

Andrew Pickering said he would support a change 100%. "I work at the airport and have to walk down to Courtenay place with my bags or wait for bus 2 and walk from Hobart St in Miramar."

Pauline Van Veen commented: "I get Airport bus from Hataitai but have to get Number 2 from Pirie Street first and again on return. A Mt Victoria stop would be really appreciated."

Some commentators were more sceptical, saying that the point of an express bus was not to make too many stops.

Several people said they had been able to persuade the express bus drivers to drop them off in Mt Victoria in the past but these days drivers were monitored and not allowed to make unscheduled stops.

The Residents' Association is asking the regional council to have the bus make one stop in Mt Victoria, when it presents on this and other transport issues at a hearing on 6 May.

In a submission, the Association said: "This would considerably facilitate travel to and from the airport which is often accompanied by luggage and when we lug it we want the shortest route. The airport bus stops in every other suburb it passes through and would not be overly delayed by one stop in Mt Victoria."

Asked for comment, Metlink responded that it was not currently planning to add a Mount Victoria stop to the Airport Express bus route. The schedule was designed to balance the express status of the service with having stops at key locations to maximise patronage.

"It is currently Metlink's position that adding a Mount Victoria stop to the route would reduce service frequency and misalign timetables, to the detriment of passengers travelling to and from the airport," said Metlink Group Manager Samantha Gain.

However she said that Metlink reviewed its services periodically and welcomed feedback on its position through the planning rounds. **TL**

**"The Residents' Association is asking the regional council to have the bus make one stop in Mt Victoria, when it presents on this and other transport issues at a hearing on 6 May."**

# Getting around

Whenever I fly back to Wellington airport, I consider my options for getting to Mt Victoria. When you're tired and just want to get home, you definitely want something quick and reliable.

As a result, I often resort to jumping in a taxi and then (ironically) end up snarled in traffic heading to the tunnel, along with a whole lot of other individuals sitting in taxis and Ubers.

I know that if the Airport bus stopped in Mt Vic, I would probably take it. One of its advantages is that it can go through the bus tunnel, avoiding the traffic jams that usually affect the Mt Vic tunnel. It's also a lot cheaper than a taxi or Uber.

It feels like a no brainer that the bus should stop somewhere in Mt Vic. There's a large catchment of people here that would take it, and it only has to stop if there are people waiting, or people wanting to get off. I get that it's an 'express' bus, but it still has to be useful for the people that want to use it, and it seems a massive missed opportunity that it goes all the way through Mt Victoria without stopping.

It's great that the Mt Victoria Residents' Association

is pushing for the Greater Wellington Regional Council to think about this.

Speaking of roads, it will be interesting to see how the road works at the Kent Terrace and Courtenay Place intersection affect traffic.

I don't use my car much, but it took me a whopping 20 minutes to drive to the supermarket on a recent weekend, a drive that usually takes 7 minutes, due to the work happening on Wakefield Street. Silly me for going mid afternoon on a Saturday, but it certainly made me thankful I don't usually rely on a car to get around.

Let's hope the Wellington City Council and Wellington Water are able to coordinate these two projects to minimise the inconvenience to motorists.

Transport is certainly an issue that can inspire or rile people, whether it's cycleways, parking or roadworks. No doubt it will feature heavily in the upcoming local body elections.

If you feel like you could make a contribution to our city, consider standing for election! You'll need to get your nomination in by the end of July. **TL**



**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](http://the-local.co.nz)

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## Street leaks continue

**W**ater leaks have continued to plague Elizabeth Street, even after a comprehensive upgrade of pipes occurred last year.

A slimy, slippery leak on the middle section of Elizabeth Street has been a hazard for walkers for months.

However Wellington Water says the ball is in the city council's court, as investigations show the issue is with seepage (groundwater) rather than the three waters network.

"As the water seepage appeared after road and footpath reconstruction work was completed by Wellington City Council's roading team, they're leading management of this hazard until the issue is resolved," a spokesperson for Wellington Water said.

"We have raised a service request to get the footpath cleaned to ensure the safety of pedestrians." **TL**



## Character areas to stay small

**M**t Victoria's diminished character areas will stay as is, after a challenge to the District Plan decision-making failed in the High Court.

LIVE WELLington took a judicial review to challenge the way the Wellington City Council and Minister Chris Bishop rejected the recommendations of independent commissioners regarding the extent of character areas across inner city Wellington.

However the challenge was dismissed by the judge and LIVE WELLington says no further legal action will occur.

Only a third of Mt Victoria's streets are now character areas. Areas outside character and heritage zones are by default zoned for six-storey development. **TL**

## Kent Terrace works

**W**ork to upgrade Wellington's Golden Mile has now officially started, following a formal blessing and sod-turning ceremony on Courtenay Place.

The first step is a project to move the Kent Terrace intersection so Courtenay Place lines up with the Embassy. During May, workers will realign the current cycleway to temporarily divert cyclists onto the footpath around upcoming construction.

Asphalt ramps and signs will be installed near the statue of Queen Victoria to allow switching from Cambridge Terrace to Kent Terrace and vice versa.

The council says that Kent Terrace will remain open. The existing pedestrian crossing will usually remain open, however council workers may need to direct people to the nearest alternative crossing at certain times during these works. **TL**

## Seismic strengthening complete at the Victoria Bowling club

**S**eismic strengthening work has been completed at the Victoria Bowling clubrooms, meaning it's on track to meet conditions of its new 10-year lease with the Wellington City Council.

Club president Gary Ruane says the work included steel bracing of the exterior brick veneer of the club.

The new lease was agreed with the council in December 2022, however the new lease will not be confirmed until all conditions are met. As well as ensuring the main building meets seismic standards, the club needs to terminate the residential tenancy in the cottage on the grounds.

The club will pay just over \$3,000 a year to the council as part of the new lease, as well as rates. **TL**





# Experienced line up for Lambton ward

At least two existing councillors and one code-switching regional councillor will stand for election in the Pukehinau/Lambton city council ward later this year.

**Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

**C**urrent Greater Wellington Regional councillor David Lee has confirmed he is standing for the central city ward of Pukehinau/Lambton, hoping to return once again to the city council.

Lee has been on the regional council since 2019 as an independent. Prior to that he represented the Green Party in the city council's Paekawakawa/Southern ward for two terms.

He says his self-imposed two-term limit is in order to ensure fresh leadership.

Lee says his background in urban planning and governance means he knows 'how to shape policy that works — and how to deliver it.'

Incumbent city councillor Nicola Young has

confirmed she will stand again. Young has been on council since 2013.

Young says she will continue her emphasis on keeping rates low, focusing on core council responsibilities, and 'making Wellington both liveable and affordable'.

She is also a strong advocate for the arts.

Fellow incumbent Geordie Rogers will also stand, representing the Green Party.

Rogers secured the role in a by-election last year, triggered by the resignation of Tamatha Paul, after she took the role of MP for Wellington Central.

Rogers says he is committed to promoting green space within the inner-city, delivering 'transformational' transport projects, increasing the vibrancy of city streets, and 'expanding our affordable housing programme'.

In last year's by-election, Rogers squeaked through just 45 votes ahead of Karl Tiefenbacher, in a race contested by seven candidates.

This time, Tiefenbacher is standing for election as Mayor and also in the Motukairangi/Eastern ward.

The remaining incumbent in Pukehinau/Lambton ward is Iona Pannett, who hasn't announced her intentions yet. Pannett has been on council since 2007, representing the Green Party until 2022 when the Wellington Greens refused to endorse her due to her support for heritage issues, and she stood as an independent.

Nominations for candidates open on 4 July, and close 1 August 2025. **TL**



# Dame to lead Westbourne Grove discussion

A public meeting is to be held in May to discuss the impacts of buildings like the proposed six-storey Westbourne Grove apartments. **Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

**A** distinguished New Zealander is calling for more information to be disclosed to the Mt Victoria community regarding the development of large apartment blocks such as the Mayfair on Westbourne Grove.

Well-known film-maker Dame Gaylene Preston, who lives on nearby Austin Street, is helping to organise a public meeting to discuss the proposed development, as she says the community needs more information on the new District Plan.

"It's a very unusual proposal for a two-year build, seeking consent to use a narrow private road for 650 ten-tonne trucks to cart Mt Victoria away to make building foundations, a swimming pool and an underground internal car park housing 32 private vehicles.

"I understand the consent request intends pulling up the footpath currently used by 17 householders and their visitors. If granted, they will permanently lose footpath access to their homes.

"Is this appropriate practice?"

Preston was appointed a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to film in 2019.

She hopes that a public meeting will allow those involved to discuss the long and short term implications of the Mayfair development, and any future similar developments.

The meeting will also feature a video showing aerial shots of the site, and the visual impact of the apartments.

The controversial apartment block is proposed to replace the stately but run-down 'Westbourne' house located at the end of Westbourne Grove.

According to advertising by developers Forma Group the 'high end' apartments will comprise 32 residences, including five 'sub-penthouses' and three penthouses.

The apartment block will also feature a heated outdoor pool, gymnasium and sauna.

However neighbours are concerned about losing sun, and those on Westbourne Grove are worried about the impacts on their narrow privately-owned accessway of an increased number of people and cars.

Forma Group has lodged a consent for the new development, and many in the local community have asked to be consulted on it. At time of writing, the council's decision on notification had not yet been released, but was due at the end of April, after many delays. **TL**

## Public meeting to discuss Mayfair development

Come to a public meeting to find out more about the Mayfair apartment block being built on Westbourne Grove.

**Monday 12 May 2025, 7.30pm**

Tararua Tramping Club, 4 Moncrieff Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington.

# Housing trends of 2025

As we move into the second quarter of 2025 **Anji Foster** looks at three key trends she has observed in the property market.

## Flight to Quality

With the cost of building and renovation work still eye watering high, buyers are attracted in their numbers to properties with little, and ideally nothing, to do. “Just bring the bubbles” properties have buyers showing up in their droves, whereas “doer uppers” are often left languishing on the market for weeks if not months on end.

I recently discussed first homes with another Gen Xer. I remember my group of friends at the time were all buying very basic and often worse for wear properties so that we could add value. These homes required sweat equity where possible and also required living with the less optimal aspects of the property (our kitchen was more like a closet).

The fact we had bought a property was the key goal, and the expectation was that it would need work and that after the work was done you would have added value.

In 2025, with a combination of insanely busy work lives and the significant expense of doing any DIY projects, plus a very flat property market, first home buyers, (along with every other buyer group) are looking for properties that are largely done up. If a property requires expensive improvements such as piles or roofing, expect buyers to be punishing on price, if they are there at all.

## Paralysis by Analysis

Purchasing a home is a significant event and is likely to be the biggest financial decision that a person or couple will make, so it makes sense to do every bit of due diligence possible to ensure you are making the right move. But when all the due diligence is done, making any move at all just seems a step too far for many.

We have seen numerous buyers deep dive on a property, engaging their lawyer, their lender,

re-visiting the property multiple times and studying every available report, just to sit back and wait to see if anyone else is interested.


Even though another offer means competition for them, and therefore potentially a higher purchase price, the social proof of knowing that they are not the only interested party is sometimes what is needed to move this group to taking action.

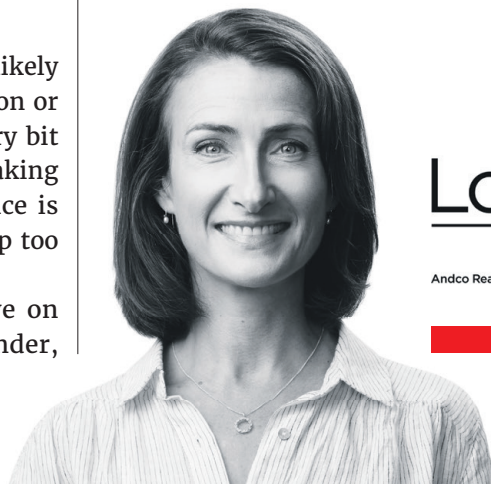
Economist Tony Alexander’s acronym FOOP (fear of overpaying), seems to have become FOPP (fear of purchasing a property), with news stories filled with tales of people losing money on their home from when they purchased, and without any strong capital growth trends emerging, paralysis by analysis is a noticeable feature of the current market.

## Back to the Future

I have sold several properties recently that were purchased by my clients 5 and 6 years ago. You would generally think a home that was purchased in 2019 would be worth more now, but we are increasingly finding that the values of six years ago are largely the values today.

If you remove the giddy capital growth peak of 2021, and the spectacular re correction from 2022 onwards, values now are pretty much a flat line from 2019. The question remaining is how long they will stay flat.

At a recent presentation by economist Gareth Kiernan from Infometrics, he shared their expectations for the Wellington House Price Index, and most depressingly their prediction is largely flat between now and 2029, with a little positive blip in 2026. If this is the case (and of course no one has a crystal ball in these crazy times), then that will make for essentially a decade of flat/no growth. Here’s hoping they got that one wrong. 



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# Un-fig-givable!

Locals were right to be cross about the bad fig tree pruning, as **Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

**U**proar about a decimated fig tree has led to a Wellington City Council backtrack, and acknowledgment that the work by contractors did not meet expected standards.

Last month *The Local* reported on community concerns following the severe pruning of a popular Elizabeth Street fig tree, outside Clyde Quay School.

Many residents were particularly aggrieved that the tree had been pruned just before the figs were ready, which both deprived the community of its produce and because trees are usually pruned when dormant in winter.

The council initially defended the work carried out by contractors, saying it was needed for safety as the tree was obstructing the pavement.

A spokesperson also said the species would tolerate the pruning and 'summer was a good time for it'.

However, a Mt Victoria resident, Judi McCallum, reported to *The Local* that she'd had a conversation with a tree inspector from the council on site who admitted the work had been carried out 'badly' and was unhappy with it.

The council subsequently issued an updated comment on the subject:

"Following a number of complaints, Council's Arboriculture Team have investigated the incident, and is following up with the crew regarding both

their decision-making and quality of the work that was done as this is not common practice or representative of the high standards that the team deliver elsewhere in the city, and to prevent a similar situation happening again.

"To help the fig tree recover, the team will visit the site regularly to carry out minor pruning and work to promote growth." **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](mailto:wellington.central@parliament.govt.nz)  
(04) 3891290

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



# Powering up the senior voice

As local body elections loom, Grey Power seeks to power up the senior voice in Wellington, says **Colleen Singleton**, the President of the Wellington Central branch.

**N**ext year will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of one of this country's most effective community organisations. Not nearly as old as Plunket and born at a time when New Zealand's economy was undergoing profound change with the dismantling of much of the post war structures that had long supported the welfare state.

Grey Power was a response to the proposed surcharge on NZ Superannuation and today, with more than 70 regional associations, can claim to be a truly national voice. Locally, the Wellington Central Association, one of five in the greater Wellington region, continues the drive to give voice to the concerns of and share the experience lived by seniors in the city.

Diversity of membership is one of the strengths of our local association.

Our committee draws from individuals from very different economic and political backgrounds, meaning that when we speak, we are able to do so with a

broad view of what's important to seniors in the city.

By 'seniors' I mean members of any age, though typically members are in the 50-plus age bracket.

With a regular monthly meeting in the Hub on Elizabeth Street, Wellington Central Grey Power is keen to have a Mt Victoria voice on the board.

We recently submitted on the WCC Long Term Plan. While there has been much talk about the Golden Mile and cycle lanes there are other important issues to address.

We felt it important to reinforce the role and responsibility of the Council as a supporter and provider of quality accommodation for seniors in the city. Not everyone has the freedom to shop and enjoy the cafe culture so ensuring a place for seniors is critical.

As a practical example of this we can consider the housing pressure in the city. It would be great if council regulations encouraged more apartments on one level so those struggling with stairs are not shut out.

As well as submissions to Council, the Association has reached out to local elected and list MPs and is hoping to host candidates' meetings in the forthcoming local body elections.

We welcome any interested seniors in Mt Victoria to get involved in Grey Power. 

**“Diversity of membership is one of the strengths of our local association.”**

## Got something to say?

### Add your voice to Grey Power Wellington Central

Grey Power Wellington Central offers inner city seniors a provide voice advocating for a community where older adults can live in dignity enjoying a rewarding, fair and safe quality life. New members are welcome.

Go to our website [greypowerwellington.org.nz/membership](https://greypowerwellington.org.nz/membership) and complete the form or call **04 595 6255** (leave a message) or email us on [membership@greypowerwellington.org.nz](mailto:membership@greypowerwellington.org.nz)



*"We're part of your future"*



# 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 Kathryn Fitzpatrick, who identified the April photo as one of the activities on the Mt Victoria town belt (on the nature trail). TL

## Wordsearch: Streets of Mt Victoria

How many street names from Mt Victoria can you find?

LEVY                      EARLS  
ALBANY                  CLAREMONT  
BROUGHAM            STAFFORD  
MCFARLANE            AUSTIN  
ELIZABETH            MOIR  
HAWKER                PIRIE

If you're stuck, check out the answers online at [the-local.co.nz](http://the-local.co.nz)

E	C	I	L	A	S	P	I	K	R	U	X
W	Q	C	N	E	U	S	L	R	A	E	F
Z	S	E	M	O	U	S	A	S	Y	N	H
O	H	K	A	L	E	Z	T	N	V	A	T
T	L	A	H	E	L	A	A	I	W	L	E
W	S	R	G	U	F	B	Q	K	N	R	B
P	I	A	U	F	L	I	E	L	I	A	A
B	G	Z	O	A	F	R	E	O	R	F	Z
U	D	R	R	Z	O	V	G	I	D	C	I
M	D	U	B	O	Y	S	O	A	R	M	L
F	C	L	A	R	E	M	O	N	T	I	E
X	V	U	L	Z	E	R	G	F	A	J	P

# Our injurious past

**Jane O'Loughlin** is intrigued to discover the minor mishaps of Mt Victoria residents used to be reported in the daily papers.

**W**e often assume that our lives are under more scrutiny these days. With social media all around us, not to mention the easy ability to take photos and videos and share them, it feels like intimate details of our lives and those of others are on display.

But humans have always had an appetite for gossip and news, and I have discovered in the newspapers of the past that a hungry nosiness for the goings on of others in the community – plus a strange willingness to share – is actually not unique to our time.

I recently went down a rabbit hole of checking out Papers Past, the fantastic resource of digitised New Zealand newspapers, and stumbled upon the daily account of accidents tended to by Wellington Free Ambulance.

Here was a treasure trove of the most mundane but strangely fascinating injuries endured by people of the past, including those living in Mt Victoria.

For instance, the *Dominion* reported on 18 June 1937 that Mr Baldwin, a carpenter of 106 Austin Street, suffered a foot wound when struck by a piece of timber in a shop in Dixon Street. On the same day, Mrs Bould of Home Street was knocked down by a motor van in Kent Terrace, receiving “slight shock, head injuries and bruises.”

Such accounts would contravene several privacy laws and expectations today, but in the 1930s, it seems people fully expected to have their name, occupation, address and injuries set out in the daily newspaper.

For example, it was reported on 20 June 1938 that Mr T Morgan, labourer, of 126 Brougham Street, received concussion and a shock after falling from his bike at the corner of Brougham and Moir Streets.

Another feature of these accounts is the level of detail – careful description is provided of injuries, from bruises to breaks, and their location on the body.

In September 1944 “the first and second fingers of his left hand were severed” when Mr J Kielland used a circular saw at his home in 65 Ellice Street.

Then there is Miss G Tasker, a typist: “When she slipped and fell on the footpath in Manners Street...

(she) received an injury to the right thigh.”

One can imagine how this would provide material for nosy workmates. “Miss Tasker – I heard your right thigh was injured! How dreadful! I do hope you have recovered.”

The injuries did not have to be severe to make the papers.

On 6 April 1936 the *Evening Post* reported: “when the chain of his bicycle broke and jammed the wheel in Ellice Street” F Chambers was thrown to the ground, receiving a cut over his left eye and concussion.

On a day in November 1935, Wellington Free Ambulance took a Brougham Street man to hospital after being struck with a bottle. On the same day, a man playing tennis at the Victoria Tennis Club, Clyde Quay School, injured his ankle and “was removed to hospital”.

Trams seem to have been the sources of many injuries, some serious.

On 30 July 1936, it was reported that Mrs Landall and her child Betty were injured when their motor car collided with a tram at the corner of Kent Terrace and Elizabeth Street.

On 9 March 1936 the *Evening Post* reported that Mrs Adams of 134 Elizabeth Street suffered abrasions to her face when she fell off a moving tramcar in Kent Terrace.

These days we have much to complain about but at least we have a level of choice when it comes to our privacy – unlike our predecessors whose misdemeanours were shared far and wide. **TL**

## YESTERDAY'S ACCIDENTS

Three accident cases were dealt with by the Wellington Free Ambulance yesterday, the patients being taken to hospital. The first was at 9.35 a.m., when Mr. R. F. Baldwin, 106 Austin Street, carpenter, received a lacerated wound to the right foot, which was struck by a piece of timber in a shop in Dixon Street.

Mrs. E. Bould, 39 Home Street, was knocked down by a motor-van in Kent Terrace at 11.20 a.m., receiving slight shock, head injuries and bruises.

Catching his left foot in a lift at 45 Cuba Street, about 3 p.m., Mr. F. Ross, plumber, 14 Mulgrave Street, received a lacerated wound to the foot and shock.



**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*.**

### 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](http://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](mailto:pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz). Please see [wmkindergartens.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:winnich@xtra.co.nz) or phone 04 801 9556

### 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.

### 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)



### 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)

### 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)

### 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.

# Art Deco in Mt Victoria

Although many people associate Mt Victoria with Victorian and Edwardian architecture, our suburb has a surprising number of Art Deco buildings, as **Joanna Newman** of the Mt Victoria Historical Society explains.

**T**his year, it's 100 years since the event which is generally considered to have given birth to the Art Deco movement – the Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes in Paris in 1925.

Mount Victoria has a number of modest but very fine examples of Art Deco buildings, so it's a good time to celebrate those. Here are four favourites.

'Ionian Flats' at 123 Brougham Street is a beautiful example of streamlined Art Deco, with rounded corners and lines reflecting the fascination for machines and speed. It steps up the hill, like the decks on a cruise liner. The flats were designed by BF Kelly for Arthur Gianoutsos around 1937/38. Arthur Gianoutsos was part of the first wave of Greeks to migrate and settle in Mt Victoria, and established the famous Rose Milk Bar in Lambton Quay. His architect, Bertie Kelly, went out on his own after he lost his job in cut-backs at the Public Works Department in 1931. After his wife died, he joined the Marist Brothers and became Brother Albert.



'Ionian Flats' at 123 Brougham Street



'Owd Trafford' at 17 Brougham Street

At the other end of Brougham Street, we have 'Owd Trafford' at number 17. These flats were designed by Mitchell & Mitchell in 1940. Allan and Cyril Mitchell both went to Clyde Quay School and on to Wellington College. In addition to elements of streamlined Art Deco, 'Owd Trafford' displays other key characteristics of the style – the bold colours of the plaster, the decorative mouldings on the façade, and metal windows. Other buildings in Wellington by Cyril Mitchell are the Waterloo Hotel and the MLC building.

**"In addition to elements of streamlined Art Deco, 'Owd Trafford' displays other key characteristics of the style – the bold colours of the plaster, the decorative mouldings on the façade, and metal windows."**





New City Hotel at the corner of Majoribanks and Kent Terrace, as it looked in 2003

At the lower end of Hawker Street, numbers 2, 9 and 11 are all Art Deco. Number 9 was designed by Edmund Anscombe in 1937. He was also a very well-known architect in Wellington, designing the Centennial Exhibition of 1940 and buildings such as the Herd Street Post Office (now Chaffers Dock apartments). This building displays typical Art Deco decorative details such as geometric bas relief and, another invention of the style, a new graphic typeface, used here in the name 'Hamilton Court'.



'Hamilton Court' at 9 Hawker Street

## **“The ‘New City Hotel’ on the corner of Majoribanks St and Kent Terrace was designed in 1939 by Francis Swan”**

On the corner of Majoribanks St and Kent Terrace is another beautiful example of streamlined Art Deco. This was built as the New City Hotel and designed in 1939 by Francis Swan. The horizontal fire escapes have been incorporated into the streamlined facade. It's had an extra storey added in recent years – which is unfortunate, because another of the characteristics of the short-lived but distinctive Art Deco style was proportion and symmetry.

Let's continue to celebrate our Art Deco treasures, and honour our local architects of this innovative style, by helping to preserve their design integrity in future. 



# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW MT VIC?



## Across

- 2 Name of Mt Vic's community gardens?
- 5 Many visitors visit here to see the incredible view.  
The Mt Vic...
- 6 Whose hairy feet would walk the hideaway trail on Mt Vic?
- 11 What is everyone doing in the Mt Vic tunnel?
- 12 On what Mt Vic street will you find 10 cafes, bars & restaurants?
- 14 What fruit grows on the tree outside Clyde Quay School?
- 15 A Mt Vic motel that shares its name with a Greek god?
- 18 Which street had almost all of its all olive trees removed recently?
- 19 At what time is Mt Vic's local Kent Tce gym open?
- 21 What street name is also a city in Texas?
- 22 How many schools are located in Mt Vic?
- 23 What Mt Vic Street is almost entirely owned by  
His Majesty the King (NZTA)?

## Down

- 1 What was the original name of the Embassy Theatre?
- 3 What local restaurant opened in 1983? (7, 4)
- 4 At what cafe in Mt Vic could you eat a "Pillow"
- 5 Name the world's best real estate company (4, 3, 2)
- 7 What local restaurant is known for its fish specialties?
- 8 What native bird found in Mt Vic is a relative of the kea?
- 9 What activity is pursued at the sports club at the top of Pirie St?
- 10 What iconic Wellington lounge bar & club once operated  
from the current Lowe&Co building?
- 13 Which queen's statue can be found between Kent  
and Cambridge Tce?
- 16 What bird nominates itself as resident alarm clock in spring?
- 17 What is Mt Vic's best-known church and monastery? (2, 7)
- 20 What is Mt Vic's most iconic architectural style?

To find the answers, visit our website - [anjifosterproperty.com/crossword](http://anjifosterproperty.com/crossword)