



COLLEGE STREET CLOSURES

Chic College Street has taken a hit with the closure of two key boutique stores.

In recent weeks, both Goodness and Citta Essentials have closed their doors in the high end Te Aro shopping street.

Goodness, a well-loved womenswear boutique had been in business for 20 years before closing in July.

Other retailers in the street said business was tough currently, with Moore Wilson owner Julie Moore saying “the last couple of years have been the toughest it’s ever been in retail and hospitality.”

Nevertheless, retailers say the location remains a desirable spot for interesting, independent shops.

Read more inside. ➔

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Nicola Young

Wellington City Councillor for Lambton Ward
(and Mount Victoria resident)

I'm often out-and-about walking in Mount Victoria. Please feel free to stop and chat with me about local issues – I'm always happy to help if I can.

My priorities

- Fighting unaffordable rate increases
- Prioritising our water infrastructure
- A safer CBD
- Listening to our community

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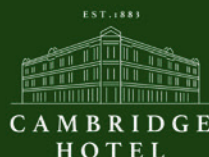
Authorised by N. Young, 77 Elizabeth St, Mt Victoria, Wgtn

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College street closures

College Street retailers remain positive despite two high profile retail closures, as **Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

Two stores are seeking tenants on College Street, after Goodness and Citta Essentials, both closed in the last month.

The owners of Goodness thanked their clientele on social media:

"It's a sad decision, and one we've thought long and hard about. Fashion retailing has changed. The world has changed. Wellington has changed. And with our College Street lease coming to an end, we feel it's time to close this chapter and open the door to something new."

The departure of two high-end stores is a dent in College St's reputation as a destination for well-heeled shoppers.

Retailers *The Local* spoke to said College Street had become very quiet during weekdays.

Moore Wilson owner Julie Moore, in the grocery business for 35 years, said the city was quieter due to people working from home, and the perceived accessibility of the inner city keeping those from the suburbs out.

Moore remained positive that Wellington would recover: "We have some good people and good

businesses, and we have a pretty stunning, small, creative, interesting dynamic city."

Wallace Cotton store manager Olivia Heatherington said the bed ware store benefited from its location and loyal customer base. She was hopeful that the departing store sites would be quickly filled. "As upsetting as it is to see the shops go, it is more space for new local businesses. I see it as an opportunity to bring another vibe to the street."

Fashion brand Kowtow is still thriving in its flagship Wellington store, according to Head of Sales Renee Louie.

"Having been in the area for seven years now, we have seen various reasons why businesses move on, and we find the College Street area continues to be a vibrant community that supports local, quality independent stores."

Dojo Finest recently opened on College Street, selling imported confectionary and bulk toiletries. Owner Sophia Stokes said that while weekends were busy, she was surprised that the footfall along College Street during weekdays was noticeably less than the chain's other Wellington stores, but she remained positive. "We're super excited to open that store and we hope people will realise we are here." **TL**



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Voters assemble

Welcome to *The Local's* election special. This month features a round up of the candidates standing in the Lambton/Pukehinau ward, which we hope you will find helpful when your voting papers arrive around the middle of the month.

The central Wellington ward of Lambton/Pukehinau is always well contested and this election is no different. Although many wannabe councillors have been drawn to stand in the Motukairangi / Eastern ward where all incumbent councillors are departing, the numbers standing in our ward are the same – an indication of how popular our ward is.


On that note, hopeful Lambton candidates only discovered that there was a seat 'free' after nominations closed and councillor Iona Pannett revealed she was not standing again. Although she had served for 18 years, many expected her to put her hand up once again. It's possible even more people may have considered standing had they known there was a vacant seat.

Only two women are standing for Lambton/Pukehinau and it appears that men dominate the field across all wards this year; an interesting development considering our current council is evenly split along gender lines.

While the candidate's policies and promises are useful, nothing beats seeing people in the flesh, so I encourage voters to head along to one of the many 'meet the candidate' meetings, for example the one hosted by the Mt Victoria Residents' Association, on 4 September 2025 at St Joseph's Church.

On a completely different note, Clyde Quay School is back with another amazing fundraising raffle – this time the prize is a chance to hang out at the stunning Four Seasons resort in Koh Samui, Thailand, one of the locations for the popular series *White Lotus*.

The prize includes flights, six nights at the resort, and spending money.

Proceeds go to the school's playground upgrade, so it's an awesome cause. See the ad on page 2 for details. 



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor

THE LOCAL
Mt Victoria

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Local artist success

Mt Victoria artist Amy Lewis has come second in the IHC Art Awards 2025, a nationwide competition that attracted more than 500 entries.

Amy won \$3000 for her artwork, a felted wool angel in a frame, entitled Angel for the People.



Her mother Judy Alexander said Amy was very happy with the award. She enjoys the medium as it's tactile: "felting is fun".

Amy makes her artwork into greeting cards and often has a stall at the local Artisan Craft Markets. She also sells her cards at Coolsville cafe in Hataitai and Alexander Pharmacy on Willis Street. **TL**

Hub coordinator stands in Eastern ward

Former Mt Victoria Hub community coordinator Trish Given is standing for Wellington City Council as an independent candidate in the Motukairangi / Eastern Ward.

Despite living in the Eastern Suburbs, Given has been involved in several Mt Victoria community organisations, including working for five years as the Hub coordinator. **TL**



New uniform choice

Wellington East Girls College has added a I'e Lavalava to its uniform options, a capsule selection that students can choose from. The addition was announced on social media:

"This has been designed by our students, staff and Pasifika Parents Group."

"The I'e lavalava can be worn as an everyday part of our school uniform." **TL**



Wellington East Girls' College Centenary

Wellington East Girls College is celebrating its centenary in September.

The event taking place 12-14 September includes a community concert, school tours, a cocktail event, and staff catch up – past and present. More info wegc.school.nz. **TL**

Council candidate profiles

With eleven candidates standing for office in the Lambton/Pukehinau ward, there's plenty of choice for voters this election.

If you're enrolled, check your mailbox for your voting papers between 9 – 22 September 2025. Post your voting forms or drop them off at an orange voting bin or voting hub across the city. You'll find bins at Wellington supermarkets, Council libraries, and other locations. Votes can be dropped off in the orange voting bins up to 12 noon on Saturday 11 October.

Voting for the Wellington City Council elections is done via the single transferable vote (STV) method, where voters rank candidates in order of preference.

You can rank as many or as few candidates as you wish. Check out the-local.co.nz for more election coverage. **TL**

More information at wellington.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2025-elections.

Tony De Lorenzo Independent



I love Wellington but think we can do better. I want to move away from ideology, to focussing on needs of residents today.

I live and work from home in Mt Cook for Debra, my wife, in our interior design business. Our social life revolves around theatre's restaurants and bars of the inner city. In my neighbourhood I've organised several graffiti removal working bees and attended community litter pickups.

I want to get better control of spending to reduce rates. Then support community initiatives that improve Wellington. All Wellingtonians want to see our city do better and I see the role of the council to support and help these groups rather than find reasons to say no.

I want a council that says "Yes" and helps residents and businesses navigate red tape. Wellington is a great city with so much talent. It is all here. Let's do things better.

Afnan Al-Rubayee Labour



We need a city built for people, with communities shaping decisions, not just responding to them. I'm committed to creating a city where people can build a future – with good jobs, decent housing, and opportunities to thrive.

Wellington needs to make serious progress on housing, transport, climate, infrastructure and fixing the pipes. We need to keep community facilities open. We need a city we can afford. These are my priorities.

But to achieve all those things we need a refreshed and constructive Council that really listens.

I'm a public servant with a background in NGO governance and grassroots community organising. I came to Wellington as a refugee, grew up in public housing, and now rent in the heart of the city. Because of these experiences I stand for inclusive, community-led change.

Please consider voting Afnan Al-Rubayee #1 for a Council that listens and for a bold, fair future – built together.

David Lee Let's Get Wellington Working



I'm standing because Wellington needs disciplined, practical leadership to get our finances under control and restore affordability for residents and businesses. In just six years, council debt has quadrupled to \$2.1 billion, while rates keep rising and basic services come under pressure. As an experienced governor, entrepreneur, and urban planner, I bring over 20 years of governance and commercial expertise, with a proven record of delivering results and making tough financial decisions.

I have a strong connection to the Pukehinau/Lambton Ward — having lived, worked, and invested here through my own business interests. Lambton Ward is the heart of our city; home to our CBD, universities, and key institutions. I'm committed to protecting its vitality and future.

Let's Get Wellington Working: jobs, infrastructure, leadership — by prioritising essential stuff over costly vanity projects, revitalising the CBD economy, and delivering value for every rates dollar.

Rodney Barber

Independent for Public Value



I'm standing because Wellington needs stronger communities and smarter decisions, especially in the city's political, economic and cultural heart. I've worked in the Lambton Ward for 33 years.

As a Chartered Accountant, a former Treasury official, and an IMF expert, I've spent decades helping governments invest wisely. But what matters most is every decision delivers real value to the communities it affects. But I'm not just about systems, I'm about people.

As Chair of the Aotearoa Community Resilience Network and the Newlands Resilience Group, I'm helping to build connected, prepared communities from the ground up.

Here's what I stand for: 1. Stronger communities where people look out for each other 2. Safer, better-prepared neighbourhoods 3. Smarter decisions that reflect your voice 4. Rates that reflect real value to you.

If elected, I'll focus on listening, connecting communities, and making sure big projects reflect local voices, not just top-down plans.

Teal Mau



I'm standing for Pukehinau-Lambton Ward because Wellington needs common-sense leadership, fiscal responsibility, and a council that truly listens. I want to help get our city back on track — making it safer, more vibrant, and financially sustainable.

I have lived and worked in the ward with my small business for nearly 30 years, building strong ties to our communities, local businesses, and residents. I've seen both the potential and the challenges here — from neglected infrastructure to concerns about safety, spending, and transparency.

If elected, I will prioritise disaster readiness so Wellington is prepared and resilient in the face of earthquakes or severe weather. I will push for rates accountability to ensure every dollar is spent wisely, focusing on essentials before extras. And I will hold regular community meetings so residents and businesses can engage directly with their councillor, share concerns, and help shape solutions. "The first step in solving any problem is recognising there is one."

Nicola Young

Independent For An Affordable City



I love our city, but it's increasingly unaffordable, and Council is partly to blame. Residential rates have increased 47% since 2022 and will go up 25% by 2028 – hardly surprising given every \$5m spent is 1% on the rates – but there's not much to show for it. Council should start living within its means by axing projects such as the Golden Mile (\$50m), extension of the cycleway network (\$70m), the recently approved organic waste collection (\$35m), and also review staffing requirements.

I grew up in Mount Victoria on Brougham Drive (now Batham Drive), went to primary school at St Mary's, Thorndon, and have lived on Elizabeth Street since 2018. My family arrived in Wellington in 1847, and we've lived in Lambton ever since.

As an independent my focus is our city (not party politics), fighting the punishing rates increases, fixing the water infrastructure, focusing on core services, and listening to Wellingtonians.

Tim Ward



I have spent 30+ years building iconic venues like Matterhorn and San Fran, navigating regulation, tight budgets, and high pressure. I love this city and the people that live here. It faces a serious infrastructure deficit, rising rates, and a pattern of thinking that wastes money. I'm standing because I believe I can help to fix our foundations while keeping the creative, vibrant heart of our city alive.

I grew up in Lambton, schooled here, built many successful businesses, employed hundreds of people, and helped grow the city's cultural scene. I know its streets, its people, and its potential.

Open my door and respond to the needs of the community. Focus on core infrastructure and lobby for greater central government funding. Work for safer streets, smarter cycleways and public transport corridors. Work with local businesses. Champion and protect and grow small performance venues and creative organisations. Invest city assets with purpose for long-term resilience.

Dan Milward

Independent – Go Forward with Milward



Wellington has always been my coolest little capital. I grew up here, and now I'm raising my own family here. I'm standing because Wellington has become unaffordable for my family, and for future generations. I want to fix that.

Lambton / Pukehinau Ward is the heart of the city. It's where I grew up, met my wife, and spent countless hours doing business and inventing products.

Wellington is the only major city in New Zealand with a declining population. We must stop the exodus of people leaving, and give them reasons to stay. The city should be more affordable, people need to feel safe, we need to improve access for everyone and empower businesses to thrive. I want to partner with my peers in the creative sector to help revitalise the city with low-cost, innovative solutions, and vote against non-essential projects that put ratepayers further into debt.

Geordie Rogers

Green Party



I'm proud to have been your Councillor for the past year making real progress. But we have more to do to build the affordable, liveable, and climate resilient city we deserve.

With Matairangi on our doorsteps Mt Victoria has a special place in everyone's hearts. When I first moved to Wellington my colleagues and I would often run together on Matairangi before a quick swim in the harbour. Our town belt is world class.

We need to continue to invest in fantastic places like Matairangi, enable more affordable housing nearby and improve our public transport to unlock Wellington's full potential.

This term I secured 183 affordable apartments, decarbonised our pools saving the environment and ratepayers \$10m and tripled our investment in water.

We can have more affordable housing, fast and frequent public transport, resilient public infrastructure, stronger climate action and an inner city everyone can enjoy.

Zan Rai Gyaw

Residents-Only Voting



2022 was the first time I stood for Council, trying to introduce my Taxi-Pooling idea. I attended 6 candidate meetings. (Please believe me,) I got to see activists and instances where issues were raised that had no relevance to the city or to the city council.

While constantly critical of myself, I got audacious for 2024 By-Election and called for residents-only voting in Wellington. So, here I am, here we are in 2025, without MOB, CAB and the Civic Square, for example.

My top two equal priorities are to bring about my advocacy as soon as possible and to trim the council back to its expressed purposes of core services and planning.

I'm originally from Myanmar and I came to NZ in 2001 to study a 2-year mechanical diploma.

Wellington resident since 2008; apart from Kaiwharawhara (5yrs.), I have always lived in

Lambton Ward. Guitar enthusiast in my spare time.

Authorised by Zan Rai Gyaw, zanrg7@gmail.com.

Stuart Wong

INDEPENDENT TOGETHER – Vote For IT



I am standing because I have seen our beautiful city go backwards with our past and current councils. I want to bring back Wellington as the best city in the country to live, work, and play in.

My connection in this ward is that I live in the beautiful hills of Mt Victoria and enjoy the closeness with our business centre. For all of my working life I have been involved in the hospitality sector and continue to be. I have raised my family in this lovely city, and I want others to do the same.

My priorities will be working towards zero rates increases, sensible spending, protecting community assets, bringing access to business, restoring the city as a social hub and no party politics. I will make sure essential services like water and major infrastructure projects come first. Don't go wrong, Vote Stuart Wong #1 Independent Together.

Will spring lift the property market's spirits?

The property market may be dismal but well-presented homes are still selling well, says **Anji Foster** of Lowe & Co

Spring has sprung, but will that mean any kind of lift in property prices this year? Probably not seems to be the most common answer. Wellington has been the worst performing property market in the country, with our prices having declined by the greatest percentage since the peak of the market. Not surprising when you consider that when the country was having sharp price increases throughout 2021, Wellington had enjoyed some of the biggest gains. What goes up often must come down.


The reasons for the current slump have been well canvassed, but what factors will shake off this currently negative climate? New Mayor? New jobs? New Government? New Peter Jackson movie trilogy? Of course, it is never one thing that shifts the needle, but often many things in unison that can turn things around. As hard as it is to know what will turn the market around, the next question is when?

In my recent calls to homeowners in Mt Victoria, most of the people I spoke with mentioned that they would not be selling until prices lifted again. If those same homeowners had sold one year ago, they would have been 14.9% better off than today according to REINZ's July Suburb report for our neighbourhood. So, what will another year bring? A step forward, or a further step backwards?

Mt Vic's median sale price has now dropped below Oriental Bay, Roseneath and Hataitai, with average days to sell increasing from 32 days a year ago to 41 days in July 2025. None of this makes for particularly pleasant ready when you own property in the area and is no doubt contributing to a shortage of good quality property for sale. In my mind, that's where the real opportunity lies. Location, location, location has been replaced with presentation, presentation, presentation.

Well renovated, beautifully presented homes in central Wellington suburbs are in demand and are selling well. A recent sale of ours in Hataitai had 84 inspections and multiple unconditional, competitive offers, resulting in a sale price above the 2025 RV. Another recent sale we had was a character apartment in Te Aro, also beautifully updated and presented, with 42 inspections, multiple offers and a sale price above RV.

So, while all the factors that will determine what and when the market finally turns a corner are largely unknown, there are some things within your control if you are looking to sell in the short-medium term. Post GFC it was all about the presentation of homes for sale that made the difference between selling or not, and selling for a reasonable price or not, and we are in a similar environment now. There are so many things that can be done to improve your home's value and maximise your chance of getting a great result, regardless of the general lackluster performance of other homes in the neighbourhood.

If you would like to receive my very simple, but thorough checklist of small but important improvements you can make around your own property, whether you are considering selling or just wanting to enjoy, please email me at anji@loweandco.nz and I would be happy to provide. 

The reasons for the current slump have been well canvassed, but what factors will shake off this currently negative climate? New Mayor? New jobs? New Government? New Peter Jackson movie trilogy?



Lowe & Co
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VOTE ZAN RAI GYAW

For Wellington City Council

Wellington Electoral Area; For Ratepayers and Long-Term Residents Only

By next year, Council will have collected twice the rates it did in 2020 (\$316 v \$626 million). It will also have paid \$68 million in interest payment on the ongoing \$2 billion dollar debt. We will need prudent Wellingtonians on the council to make it right, this time and the next. With the presence of 40,000 plus short-term residents/ voting public, the task of electing those prudent residents has been trying. A law change for residents-only voting is the only way forward. It is a city council and not the Ministry of Health or Police. Eliminating irrelevant spending can be done with not many consequences.

Authorised by Zan Rai Gyaw, zanrg7@gmail.com



**Back to an
affordable
future**



VOTE 1

Dan Milward

LAMBTON WARD

PUKEHĪNAU

www.danmilward.com

Authorised by Dan Milward, dan@gamefroot.com

Vote¹

David Lee

For Pukehīnau/Lambton Ward - Wellington

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- **Leadership** – Get the council working



website: davidlee4lambton.com




Let's GET Wellington WORKING

Jobs — Infrastructure — Leadership

Authorised by David Lee, 24 Washington Ave, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021

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 Simon Chung, who identified the August ULO as the sign on the Mt Vic Chippery on Majoribanks Street. 



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Community notices are free for local groups and not-for-profits.
Get in touch if you would like to include your listing in *The Local*.

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**.

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.

MVRA 'Meet the Candidates' events

Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Whanganui a Tara Māori ward candidates.

Wednesday 3 September 6 - 8pm, St Peter's Church on Willis St. This is a joint meeting with Inner City Wellington.

Mayor and Pukehinau/Lambton Ward candidates. Thursday 4 September 7pm to 9pm. Arrive at 6.30pm for the Mt Victoria Residents' Association AGM. St Joseph's Church on Ellice St.

Wellington Community Choir 20th Anniversary Concert

Wellington Community Choir is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special concert. It celebrates our friendship and shared love of singing *He waiata tahi, he ngākau tahi, Singing as one, and of one heart*. Saturday 20 September, 5.00 - 6.30pm. Wesley Methodist Church, 75 Taranaki St. Tickets from **events.humanitix.com/20th-birthday-concert** plus limited door sales.

Mt Victoria Historical Society AGM

Sunday September 21 at 2.00 pm Friends (Quaker's) Hall, Moncrieff Street. The AGM will be followed by a talk by John Martin, author of the magnificent 2022 book *Empire City* about the story of early Wellington, from the early 1800s until it became the capital. Non-members welcome.

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.

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Join the Mt Victoria Rotary Club



The Mt Victoria Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.2 million volunteers committed to "Service Above Self." We meet for dinner on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month (5:30pm for 6pm) at The Oaks, 89 Courtenay Place, Te Aro. Each gathering features engaging speakers and lively conversation. Rotary offers a chance to give back, connect, and make a real difference—locally and globally. Whether you're curious or ready to jump in, we'd love to hear from you, send us an email: mtvictoriarotaryclub@gmail.com.

Host Your Next Event at the Tararua Tramping Club Hall!

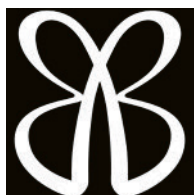


Looking for a unique, affordable venue with charm and space? The hall – a beautifully restored former church – is perfect for workshops, classes, and community events. Seats up to 145, two smaller breakout rooms available. Weekday and weekend slots open now! Book today and bring your event to life in a space with soul. Look for hall hire on our website ttc.org.nz and make a booking via the [clubrooms booking inquiry form](#).

Good Vibrations sound therapy

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 Grealley at Good Vibrations Sound Therapy, The Paddington, 140b 11 Jessie Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, phone 021 264 8544 or email info@goodvibrationsoundtherapy.co.nz.

Booklovers B&B



Send friends and family to stay at Booklovers B&B in Pirie Street. Phone Jane for mates' rates for Mt Vic associates on 027 257 7835, or email info@booklovers.co.nz. Booklovers can accommodate up to 10 people in three rooms with ensuite bathrooms and one with a private bathroom. Built in 1895, the house is right next to the town belt and park. The No 2 bus across the road can take you to the airport, to Courtenay Place or downtown, and past Zealandia to Karori. Let Jane know if you would like to visit with a booking in mind.

Probus Wellington Central – September



The speaker at the September meeting will be Gregor Coster, discussing the current state of the health service in New Zealand. Emeritus Professor Gregor Coster NZOM, was a GP for 15 years and then Professor and founding Dean of the Faculty of Health at Victoria University of Wellington. Probus meets on the third Friday of the month (Feb to Nov) at Prefab Hall, Jessie St, 10.00 am to noon. Membership \$50 per annum. Stay for buffet lunch at Prefab \$25. More information: probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wellingtoncentral.

U3A in August



Come to the Embassy Theatre at 10 am on Tuesday 9 September, to attend the 32nd AGM of U3A Wellington City. Business should be concluded by 10.30, when Rebecca McFie will speak on Hardship and Hope. Other September topics include the Capital Kiwi Project and Swapping knowledge for political intuition. Regular talks are Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.30am at the Embassy Theatre. \$5 for visitors; \$50 membership. Full programme: u3awellingtoncity.org.nz.

Let me eat cake

Sugar-addict **Jane O'Loughlin** bemoans the difficulty of finding cakes when she needs them.

Sludge levies, broken water pipes, closing shops, homelessness, the Golden Mile... there's some big issues worrying the people and hopeful council candidates in Wellington right now, but one issue that often gets overlooked is the availability of cakes.

Perhaps you are not a person who likes to eat cakes, but I am, particularly in the afternoon.

If you offer me a cake in the morning I am not really interested.

However between the hours of 2pm and 4pm I am a person who requires cakes.

When I say cakes, I mean any sweet treat, but mainly of the baked variety, Slices are good, biscuits too, perhaps a muffin, but ideally a cake, with icing on.

In other words, I am the victim of sugar cravings that hit mid afternoon. If I don't have a cake, then I will become very grumpy indeed and basically will stop functioning due to a kind of sugar hangriness. If you get between me and a sweet treat at that time, woe betide you.

I have been known to walk out of meetings or fake emergencies just so I can make time for an afternoon carbohydrate+sugar combo.

My doctor suggested the other day that reducing sugar intake would be a good idea. I agree with him, as long as there is a small window in the afternoon where I will eat a large slice of cake.

Why is this problem you ask? Have your cake and eat it, you may say.

The issue is timing. The main purveyors of cakes and slices and other delicious things are cafes. Cafes open early to serve coffee to people seeking caffeine. By early afternoon they've done their trade and they want to close. Result: No afternoon cakes.

Other cake retailers are restaurants, however restaurants will typically not open until about 5 o'clock. Result: No afternoon cakes. There is a dead zone of no cakes in the mid afternoon precisely when I most need them.

The other day I was walking back through town mid afternoon and realised I needed a cake. I made



a mental cake map of the city, and walked home via a range of cafes. They were either closed or closing. I arrived at one café as the wait staff popped out to ask their friends if they wanted some free cakes that had just expired.

I practically leapt on her – 'I'll buy them!' I said. But no, she could not sell expired goods. I watched precious cakes given to strangers.

Am I alone? Surely mid afternoon is not a strange time to eat a cake, and indeed is probably the recommended time. Wikipedia and various dictionaries specifically mention cake as a key part of afternoon tea. Why then does no one take afternoon tea seriously in this city? Where are the cakes?

Some of you may be thinking that I should be making my own cakes but that would take a degree of forward thinking that is pretty much beyond me. Besides, I like to support local businesses by buying things off them, even if they won't do me the courtesy of providing them.

Clearly we have a market failure if, for all the cafes in Wellington, there is not sufficient supply of cake at critical times. Therefore we must regulate. I shall be writing to council candidates with a proposal for a cake bylaw, that requires cafes to ensure there are a basic range of cakes available until at least 4pm each day. I suggest a minimum of carrot cake and chocolate cake.

I believe this will contribute meaningfully to living standards in Wellington. We will all be happier with more sugar in the afternoon, and maybe then all those other worries will seem like trifles.

Vote cake this election. **TL**

Queen Victoria statue

Postcard, Queen Victoria statue, c.1911. [Wellington City Libraries 50001-1-70]



Mt Victoria Historical Society's Joanna Newman investigates another colonial and controversial monument.

The Queen Vic statue looms large on the western boundary of our suburb.

The fact that this monument commemorates the monarch who reigned over the British Empire which colonised New Zealand, but also with whom The Treaty of Waitangi was signed, will be well-known to readers.

In some ways, it has been controversial since Day One. Commissioned in December 1902 to commemorate Queen Victoria's death in January 1901, it was paid for by public donations and gifted to the city of Wellington. The Council's first two site options were both voted down in 1904. Eventually, on 29 April 1905, the statue was unveiled in Post Office Square. The Mayor considered it to be the first monument which belonged to the city, all others to that point belonging to the Government. Bronze relief panels, depicting the development of industry and arts during Queen Victoria's reign and the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, were installed around the pedestal in February 1906.

Just five years later, the Council decided to shift the statue, because of traffic and roadworks. But, again, controversy surrounded its new site. Amongst all the suggestions, the Kent/Cambridge Terrace spot was chosen and, in fact, was probably the most ap-

propriate. Kent and Cambridge Terraces are named after Queen Victoria's father and uncle respectively.

Walter Tonks, a well-known contractor, got the job of moving the statue in one piece from Queens Wharf in 1911.

As his grandson, Liam, tells it, the statue sat on the island between Kent and Cambridge Terraces while Tonks and his workmen prepared the base and plinth. Manoeuvring the statue up and over the final resting place couldn't be finished in one day so it was decided to leave it in place overnight and complete the job in the morning. During the night, a prisoner escaped from nearby Mount Cook Prison. Next day, the police were scouring the city for the escapee.

As the lowering process began the following morning, Tonks scrambled underneath to check that no tools had been left behind and, there, cowering in a corner, was the escapee. Tonks climbed out and called to a passing Bobby to come and fetch "his fellow" from under the statue.

From that day on, Tonks apparently delighted in telling the 'refined ladies' who visited their home that he'd had his hand up Queen Victoria's dress.

So, there are many different ways of looking at a monument!

Postscript: The Council tried again, 85 years later in 1996, to move the statue but the application was turned down by Hearing Commissioners. **TL**



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