



CHARACTER ACTORS



Candidates for the Lambton/Pukehinau ward were asked if they would remove more of Wellington's character housing protection.

Wellington's character areas could be reduced further, if front-running council candidates are successful in the upcoming local body elections.

Polls conducted in 'meet the candidate' meetings reveal that the Labour and Green candidates for Mayor

and Pukehinau ward would be prepared to reduce character areas further, if the opportunity arose.

Wellington has already lost 72% of its character protection as a result of the District Plan changes agreed last year.

Read more inside. ➔

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Character actors

Council election candidates were forced to take positions on some curly issues, as part of a public meeting held in Mt Victoria.

Jane O'Loughlin was there.

The question 'Would you vote to remove more character or heritage protections?' was posed at the Mt Victoria Meet the Candidates event, hosted by the Mt Victoria Residents' Association, and candidates were asked to hold up either a YES or NO sign.

Mayoral front runner Andrew Little said he would support the removal of more character protection from Wellington's inner city suburbs. He was one of only two mayoral candidates at the event to support that idea, along with Pennywise the Rewilding Clown.

72% of Wellington's character protection has already been removed as part of the District Plan process, including 63% in Mt Victoria.

Ray Chung, Diane Calvert, Karl Tiefenbacher, Kelvin Hastie, Joan Shi, Donald McDonald and Rob Goulden held up NO signs, indicating they would not vote to further reduce their size.

Mayoral hopefuls Alex Baker, Josh Harford, and Scott Caldwell were not present at the meeting.

Of the candidates running for the three positions of councillor representing the Lambton/Pukehinau ward, Geordie Rogers and Tony De Lorenzo said they would support more character protection removal. Afnan Al-Rubayee later said she had misunderstood the question and should have said yes.

Another question that had the audience straining to see the answers was around support for a proposed new Mt Victoria tunnel. All of the front runner mayoral candidates present at the meeting (Little, Calvert, Tiefenbacher and Chung) said they did.

Of the candidates for Lambton/Pukehinau, Al-Rubayee, Rodney Barber, Tony De Lorenzo, David Lee, Teal Mau, Dan Milward, Nicola Young, and Stuart Wong were supportive of the new tunnel, whereas Rogers, Zan Rai Gyaw and Tim Ward were opposed.

Mayfair unfavoured

While the subject of the controversial Mayfair apartment block was not raised at the meeting, the neighbourhood group opposed to the development canvassed the views of the candidates standing for Lambton/Pukehinau and supplied these to *The Local*.

Of the eleven candidates standing, seven expressed their opposition to it in its current form (David Lee, Dan Milward, Nicola Young, Rodney Barber, Zan Rai Gyaw, Tim Ward and Teal Mau).

Incumbent councillor Nicola Young said it was "the first sign of how ill-conceived the new District Plan is – allowing a scattergun approach to large residential developments, rather than focusing on Kent and Cambridge Terraces which still have car yards dotted along them."

Afnan Al-Rubayee, Tony De Lorenzo offered qualified support, with Al-Rubayee saying there were "understandable concerns about this particular project". De Lorenzo said his support was "contingent on a commitment to due process and community engagement."

Geordie Rogers said he remained supportive of changes made to enable higher density living across the central city and the inner-city suburbs and noted councillors had no power on individual resource consents. Stuart Wong did not take part.

Read the answers of the candidates in full on our election page: the-local.co.nz/vote2025. **TL**

Toeing the party line

Kudos to Ellen Blake from the Mt Victoria Residents' Association for getting council candidates to give Yes/No answers to some hot questions, at last month's meeting for Wellington City Council hopefuls for the mayor and Lambton/Pukehinau ward.

Having been to a few of these things, it's very easy for candidates to give bland 'motherhood and apple pie' answers that obscure their stance on controversial issues.

(You can read my satirical take on this in the Musings article later in this newspaper.)

On that matter, how do you feel about candidates with a political party backing? It's something of a double-edged sword. On the one hand the party vets them and provides them with a set of known policies that have been road tested. Like a McDonalds hamburger in a foreign city, you know what you are getting.

But this requirement to toe the party line also means they have less room to exercise their own judgement.

I know of one recent example where a candidate was asked if they supported a particular issue and agreed enthusiastically but after a talk with a more

senior member of their party they had to quickly 'clarify' their position. Whether you think this is ok or not, the most important thing is that you get out and vote.

We have a new addition this month: a crossword. Don't be fooled by the fact that the creator, Beau Lucas, is in the last year of primary school; this is not an easy crossword and the solution words are testament to Beau's fantastic vocabulary. If you get stuck (like me) you can look up the answers on our website.

It's great to continue to get lots of entries to the ULO. I also enjoy the stories people tell me that may be related to whatever the object is. Last month the ULO was the weather vane on top of 42 Queen Street apartments. Several people wrote in to say it was a familiar sight for them. Sarah wrote in to say her cousin lived in the house that was there before the flats, and her Oma Irene lived opposite. Sally remembers it from when she lived over the road in the mid-90s. Alex told me he had a direct view of the weather vane and passed the interest-

ing reasons that roosters are often on church steeples. It's lovely to make these connections. **TL**



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor

THE LOCAL Mt Victoria

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Capitol accolade

Capitol Restaurant co-owner and manager Kate Hutchison has been awarded Restaurant Personality of the Year by Cuisine magazine.

Cuisine called Hutchison a prominent figure in Wellington's culinary scene.

"Known for her passion for food and hospitality, Kate has played a significant role in establishing Capitol as one of Wellington's most-beloved dining destinations, cultivating a welcoming environment that emphasises attentive service and a relaxed dining experience that is second to none."

According to Cuisine, the Kent Terrace restaurant is "an essential stop for anyone looking to experience the best of Wellington's dining culture." **TL**



Carillon Bells at risk

Mt Victoria residents may seldom hear the Carillon bells in future, amid reports that the only person employed to play the bells is set to lose their job in a restructure now underway.

The 74 bells of the Carillon Tower in Pukeahu National War Memorial park are silent now as seismic strengthening is carried out on the tower.

But Radio New Zealand reported that the role of the country's sole carillonist, Timothy Hurd, would be disestablished just as the tower is reopened for Anzac Day 2026, throwing into question just who would play them.

According to RNZ, Hurd has been playing the bells for about 40 years and used to play them three times a week.

MCH would not comment on individual roles affected by the restructure at the agency but a spokesperson stated their intention to have the Carillon played "at least every Anzac Day".

"We are still working through the details of how that will happen and will let the community know once a plan is in place." **TL**

President re-elected

President Ellen Blake was re-elected to lead the Mt Victoria Residents' Association for another year, at the AGM held in September.

Other committee members were also re-elected: Angela Rothwell, Geoff Palmer, Avryl Bramley, Jim Seymour and Jane O'Loughlin. **TL**

Tunnel costs

Nearly \$8 million has been spent to date by the New Zealand Transport Agency on the second Mt Victoria tunnel project, but the community is still waiting to hear basic details.

In response to written Parliamentary questions from Labour transport spokesperson Tangi Utikere, Transport Minister Chris Bishop said that since NZTA had taken over the SH1 Wellington Improvements project on 1 April 2024, \$7,900,148 had been spent, including \$7,162,253 on consultants and contractors.

The NZTA Board met in August to agree the investment case, and the Minister said at the time decisions would be announced "in due course". **TL**

Childhood burns research

A researcher is asking for input to help improve knowledge about first aid for childhood burn injuries. As part of a Masters research project via the University of Otago, Paediatrician Dr Tish Patel is investigating the experiences and actions of people who have witnessed an accidental childhood burn injury.

Adults who have witnessed a burn injury in a child aged 0-4 years are invited to discuss their experience.

"We hope that the information collected on the actions caregivers take at the time of a burn injury will help to improve messaging and available resources regarding first aid in burn injuries."

If you would like to take part in the study, or would like to know more, please contact Dr Tish Patel: kenla373@student.otago.ac.nz. **TL**

Bus stop consultation coming



Consultation on bus stops in Mt Victoria will take place in coming months, as Jane O'Loughlin reports.

At least one Mt Victoria bus stop could disappear as Metlink and the Wellington City Council review the busy number 2 bus route. A detailed review of the bus stops, bus shelters and road layout along the bus route from Courtenay Place through to Miramar is being undertaken in coming months, in order to increase capacity and introduce long articulated (or 'bendy') buses.

Initial thinking by Metlink staff is that one of the bus stops at the top of Pirie Street, opposite Pirie Street park, will be removed.

This is because of the limited accessibility, and its awkward location next to the tunnel, according to Metlink's Manager of Infrastructure Raymond Malcolm-Swindells, speaking at an initial 'pre-consultation' session held in Mt Victoria last month.

"When a bus comes into that particular stop there, any bus that's in the tunnel [behind] is stuck in the tunnel because you can't go past, the road's not wide enough and there's a big retaining wall on the left, which we can't alter at all. And there's a bit of a curve on that road when you come out of that tunnel, so that's a bit of an issue."

Although removing this bus stop will no doubt inconvenience some residents, it appears that more disruptive changes are off the cards. Earlier proposals to remove two stops on Brougham Street near Elizabeth Street have been abandoned at this stage.

Likewise, ideas to move the stops outside and opposite the dairy on Pirie Street up past Austin Street also been shelved.

Another issue that Metlink and the council will look at is the traffic island in the middle of the busy Brougham Street and Pirie Street intersection, with the possibility of it being removed to make bus manoeuvring easier.

Jaime Hayden, Metlink's Manager of Community Engagement says there is the opportunity to make safety improvements to a spot that is well used.

"Obviously we need the buses to be able to navigate that corner. And we're really aware that that will be quite a big point of interest for the residents around here, so we're keen to hear how people use that and what they think."

Phase one of the overall project looked at bus route number 2 from Karori into Courtenay Place. Those agreed changes are now being implemented. Once the phase one plans are complete, trials of articulated buses will begin.

Meanwhile staff say that phase two is a much bigger job. Formal consultation of the public affected by changes on the remainder of the route will begin in coming months by the two agencies involved. Wellington City Council staff will start consultation on bus stops and shelters design in November, ahead of the council making decisions in February 2026. Metlink is yet to announce the timing of its consultation. **TL**

Initial thinking by Metlink staff is that one of the bus stops at the top of Pirie Street, opposite Pirie Street park, will be removed.

Fig indignation

A popular tree once again got clipped.
Jane O'Loughlin reports.

A mistreated fig tree outside Clyde Quay School was trimmed once again last month, leading to further questions being asked of the Wellington City Council.

Councillor Nicola Young demanded answers from the council's arboriculture team on behalf of the community, saying the tree had been pollarded 'just as it was beginning to show signs of renewed vitality'.

The council upset residents earlier this year by pruning the fig tree just as its figgy bounty was almost ready to be picked.

Young was assured that this time the work had been carried out correctly, although Arboriculture Manager Oliver Pearse indicated that it was delayed as he wished to oversee it himself.

"The original work involved poor pollarding techniques, and the team made an error in judgement on the day. To address this, a proper pollard was required, and

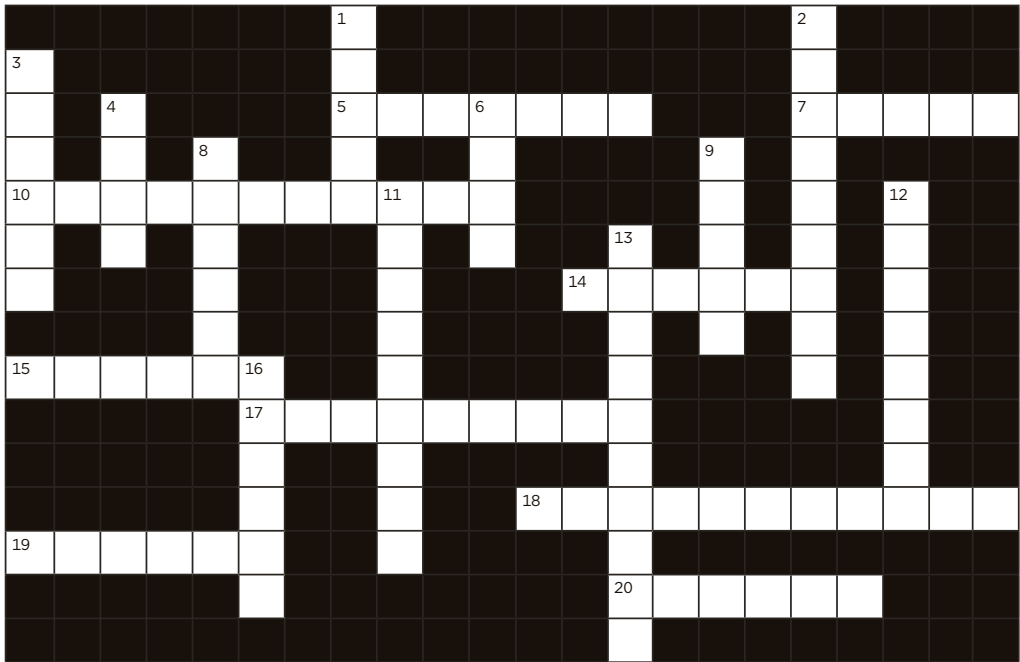


I wanted to be present to oversee the work personally.

"It is worth noting that pollarding is not a standard practice in Wellington, as it creates ongoing management requirements. Pollarded trees produce numerous epicormic shoots and need more frequent pruning. However, the *Ficus* species is particularly resilient and can tolerate this intensive pruning. While the current appearance may seem severe, the work has now been completed correctly.

"Going forward, we will monitor this tree closely and prune as needed. I am confident that, with proper care, it will recover and thrive." **TL**

Beau's Crossword #1



Across

- 5. Energetic, a _____ duo. (7)
- 7. Shade of purple/type of flower. (5)

- 10. One with a specialist opinion. (11)
- 14. The Philippines capital city. (6)
- 15. The Greek god of sleep. (6)
- 17. Private conversation. (4,1,4)

- 18. A weak and scared person. (11)
- 19. A ball made of wool. (6)
- 20. A quick look, an inspection. (6)

Down

- 1. Credit given, _____ to you. (5)
- 2. Criminal headwear of choice. (9)
- 3. Maniacal behaviour. (6)
- 4. Said it at the same time! (4)
- 6. The atmosphere around something. (4)
- 8. Type of doll you stick pins in. (6)
- 9. Plural of radius. (5)
- 11. Code of mannered behaviour. (9)
- 12. Mini pizza (8)
- 13. The yearning for travel. (10)
- 16. Negative attitude or belief. (6)

For the solution, see **the-local.co.nz/crosswords**

Welcome to Wales

The iconic Welsh Dragon turns 21.
Kaya Selby stepped inside.

For Andrew Jones, it was a slice of home. It was 2006, he had been backpacking all over the world, and on nearly the polar opposite side of the planet from his homeland, Wales, he found Wellington. “I was about six months into it when I got to New Zealand, arrived in Wellington, seen this place, it had been open about two years at that point.

“And I was halfway through my year away, feeling a bit homesick... I fell in love with the place straight away.”

Twelve years later, after a few years managing the famed Welsh Dragon at the tail end of Courtenay Place, Jones had taken over.

This self-proclaimed “only Welsh pub in the Southern Hemisphere” rests on an island in the middle of Kent and Cambridge Terraces, in a former restroom. And it just had its 21st birthday. So naturally a party was thrown.

Jones must have wondered how he would fit all of them in.

“Our capacity inside is probably around 120, and we fit another 40-50 outside.... we’re expecting that to be a bit of a slow burner...”

While most Antipodeans are familiar with the look and feel of a British or Irish bar, what makes this place distinctively a “Welsh pub?”

“I think that along with all of the Welsh memorabilia... Rugby shirts, sporting programmes, pictures of Wales, most of which have been donated, it’s people leaving their mark on the bar.”

It’s also the activities: “We have a big party on the first of March every year, where we celebrate all things Welsh, we’ve got a leek-eating competition, eight or nine volunteers eat a raw leek and drink a pint of beer... it’s always good fun.”

On any night, when Courtenay is loud and alive, the Welsh Dragon provides a more low-key, warm, homely, “sit down and take a load off” option. It brings a diverse clientele – brooding uni students,



young professionals, blokes and blokettes, and the interlopers from Wales and beyond. But it doesn’t stay quiet for long – a rugby game, a rowdy pub quiz, or the notorious “sea shanty night” gives the place a great European flair after dark. Jones never set out to make another nightclub. He loves what he’s got.

“It’s very much a community aspect, a family feel, which is what we try to attain in everything we do.”

The bar and its owners seem like they’ve been there forever. The building itself, a contradictory Indian-style architectural icon, is a part of Wellington’s DNA. When it was a public restroom, it served the tram system as a midpoint between the city and suburbs. The building itself will have its 100th birthday in 2028. A public campaign to save the building from demolition in 1964 saw it sold and converted into a storage unit for the nearby Hannah Playhouse building. By 1978 it was retrofitted and turned into a teashop. In one of the main dining rooms, a sistine-esque mural adorns the dome ceiling, depicting Seddon, Fraser, Nash, Holland, Holyoake, Muldoon and Lange. They seem to be enjoying each other’s company. In the cupboards and bathrooms and backrooms remains evidence of the building’s historic purpose, in its ceramic “rag-style” tiling. The history of the place is something that Jones says he will never touch. It’s a Welsh bar in a Wellingtonian icon, a hybrid of cultures not too different from one another. “We love it, and it’s part of the building.” Now, so are they. **TL**

“And I was halfway through my year away, feeling a bit homesick... I fell in love with the place straight away.”

Are we there yet?

Anji Foster from Lowe & Co takes a critical look at the local property market.

For several years now, many of my colleagues and I have been saying “surely we are at the bottom now!” with regard to the property market, and yet the stats keep saying otherwise. In autumn and winter 2025, economist Tony Alexander quotes REINZ figures showing that Wellington prices dropped another 4%. That doesn’t sound like a big percentage, but if you have a million-dollar home, that’s \$40,000 and that’s not a small figure.

I’ve spoken of grass shoots in this very newsletter, so over the past few years we have had moments of brightness. In fact, in 2023 and months in 2024 you would be forgiven for thinking we had turned a corner, but the following months have left quite a different taste in the mouth.


Lowe & Co agents sold more Mt Victoria property in the past twelve months than any other agency, so we have a pretty good handle on what buyers are talking about when it comes in purchasing in our neighbourhood. So, what are they saying?

First home buyers are more likely to spend \$1million in a neighbouring suburb because they get more bang for their buck. A \$1m home in Newtown for example will likely be renovated, with an off street carpark and nice little back yard. In Mt Vic at that same price point there is likely to be work required, no parking and a compact site. First home buyers are not seeing the value in the Mt Vic post code currently.

There is a distinct shortage of \$1.5m+ homes in our area, with owners of those homes reluctant to sell while the market is still in the doldrums. In many situations, the family home will be the owner’s largest asset, so when a 4% drop in prices represents \$60,000+ (and that’s on top of the significant decrease from 2021), the owners of these homes are often sitting tight unless personal circumstances necessitate a move.

Several of our colleagues are searching for buyers looking for high spec \$2.5m+ homes in our area, but they are few and far between in terms of willing sellers. I believe this is one of the reasons that our median price in Mt Victoria is -17.8% in the past 12 months as a lack of high-priced sales can drag down a suburb’s median price.

In my experience, a change in the market is often driven by the first home buyers. When they start paying \$1,100,000 for the homes currently transacting at \$1m, then the sellers of that property will have more to spend on their next home in the higher price bracket and so on. So, while first home buyers are the most active buying group currently, it won’t be until they return to Mt Vic with enthusiasm that values in our neighbourhood will start to strengthen again.

In the meantime, if you are a first home buyer, you probably won’t find a better period to secure yourself a property in what is typically one of Wellington’s most coveted suburbs. So, while the additional features afforded in a property located in one of our neighbouring suburbs might be tempting in the short term, in the medium term a property in Mt Vic is always the better bet in my opinion. 

While first home buyers are the most active buying group currently, it won’t be until they return to Mt Vic with enthusiasm that values in our neighbourhood will start to strengthen again.



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Quiet achievers

Joining Rotary could be a chance to make a difference, and some friends, as **Jane O'Loughlin** discovered.

There's a local group that gives away tens of thousands of dollars each year to projects far and wide, yet you probably haven't heard about their good deeds.

The Mt Victoria Rotary Club is one of 32 clubs in the lower North Island and one of 45,000 Rotary clubs in the world, that are quietly helping out in their community and around the world. There are over 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide.

I popped in to chat to club members at one of their twice monthly meetings. As well as enjoying a delicious meal and a nice glass of wine at the Oaks Hotel, I was warmly welcomed by the dozen or so members.

The purpose of the Club is to fundraise, and then to allocate funds to projects that are worth supporting.

"It's a service club. It was set up initially to help the community by developing local projects and welfare, and to engage members and get them involved in social activities and at the same time, have fun," says club president Avinash Figueiredo.

Rotary has a strong international focus. Famously, Rotary International has partnered with the Gates Foundation to try to eliminate polio. The Mt Victoria club itself has led projects in the Pacific, Asia, and even in Africa. Some of these are hands on: a current project is inviting Rotarians in the Wellington area travel to Vanuatu to help build and paint bunks for a school.

However the club also looks locally for areas of need. One Wellington-wide project they are really proud of is Lifting the Lid, which helps to prevent youth suicide by helping schools source interventions for students who are at risk of developing mental health issues.

"Schools know the kids and they know who needs help," says District governor Carol Green.

"But they can't always afford counsellors or it can take months and months to get to see a counsellor. So they come to us, they've got a one-pager to fill out. We don't need to know much about that child and we approve it, so it may pay for a counsellor, may pay for companion dog, or therapy.

"Teachers and the social workers love it. It's been life changing, literally life changing."

Although the club is good at fundraising and running projects, they haven't been so good at talking about



A friendly bunch: Members of the Mt Victoria Rotary Club. From left Lindy Murrell, Roger Morrell, Carol Green, Ben King, Avinash Figueiredo, Nigel Miller, Mark Chew and Euan Macpherson.

their successes. In line with many service clubs, numbers are dwindling. Now Rotary Mt Victoria is on the lookout for new members, including younger people with a desire to make a difference.

"If they've got a project in mind, and they've done their homework we can support them, we'll provide funds and manpower and mentoring," says Figueiredo.

But as well as helping others, membership of Rotary can help oneself.

Long time member Mark Chew says: "It's great to give money away. There's a sense of satisfaction derived from that."

Recently joined member Ben King says the face-to-face social contact members get is also important.


"Loneliness is quite common now, you don't have that interaction with a lot of people these days. For the older generation, and even people of my age if you're working you may not be in teams where you meet each day in person. You need that connection with others, that Rotary gives you as well as helping out in the community."

If you're looking for new social connections, and the chance to do good in your community and the world, the Mt Victoria Rotary Club could be for you. **TL**

"Loneliness is quite common now, you don't have that interaction with a lot of people these days."

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 Irina Karpov, who identified the September ULO as the weather vane on top of the apartments at 42 Queen 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.

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.

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.

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Probus Wellington Central – October



Probus Wellington Central is joining with other organisations and businesses at the Age Concern Wellington Region's "Making Connections" event for seniors this month. We will have a stall with information about Probus and its activities. Connect with us at the St James Theatre, Tuesday 7 October, 9.00 am till 3.00pm! www.acwellington.org.nz/events/making-connections. Our speakers at the monthly meeting on 17 October will be Colin Carr, speaking about his trip to Pakistan during a conflict with India, and Dr. Faisal Aziz Ahmed, Pakistan High Commissioner. 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



'Why collect art, and how to do it?' is the lecture that opens Term 4 for U3A Wellington City on Tuesday 7 October. 'Why there are two sexes and what this doesn't mean', and 'Where have all the carpets gone?' are two more intriguing topics from a list that covers medical, literary, historical and mycological subjects before lectures end for the year on Friday 14 November. Regular talks are Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.30am at the Embassy Theatre. \$5 for visitors; \$50 membership. Full programme: u3awellingtoncity.org.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 0274667123, massagewellington.nz.

Host Your Next Event at the Taranua 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**.

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.



K-pop demon council candidate

She's not running for council but **Jane O'Loughlin** offers a satirical view of what she might have offered if she was.

Thank you for your attention. This election, we must focus on the basics. This means infrastructure, pipes, roads, community facilities, swimming pools, parks, roads, safety, buses, infrastructure, pipes, sludge, waste, housing, homelessness, the Begonia House, the City to Sea Bridge, the beaches, green spaces, zebra crossings, font sizes, dog registration fees, parking tickets and any projects in my ward that my voters want to see.

I promise I support all of those things and more. I will also ensure rates do not go up. I don't know why you are sniggering.

Your vote is important to me, because without it I will remain unelected and unemployed, so rest assured I am listening hard to your concerns and will act on every one of them, even the ones I don't really understand, and those that contradict other things I have previously promised.

I would like to offer you a very clear and concise account of my policies this election which I will deliver without a shadow of a doubt, unless I fail to win support from my council colleagues in which case you can forget about it.

I have a clear strategy. This involves promising to spend money on things I think will get me elected. I am 100% behind those things that you want to see. This will not change, unless of course I am talking to a group that has a different set of priorities in which case I will adjust my messaging accordingly.

If elected I will encourage councillors to wear a uniform so they can be easily identified and therefore will be more accountable to their voters. I suggest something distinctive like those hats from K-pop Demon Hunters. I am not trying to appeal to a younger demographic but you should check out my viral video of that soda pop dance. It's eating!*

The council needs no more gossip. If elected I will ban gossip. Gossip undermines the reputation of our council, especially that really juicy personal stuff that – I think you know what I'm talking about? No? Oh



I am not trying to appeal to a younger demographic but you should check out my viral video of that soda pop dance. It's eating!*

let me tell you! You will not believe it!

We need to get rid of this toxic back-stabbing culture. I am an easy-going person who can work across the council chamber, with absolutely anyone, except for those morons I don't like. Please don't vote for them or I will spend 3 years sulking.

I have an impeccable record of achievement. My CV has got lots of impressive words on it like 'governance' and 'corporate' and 'executive' so you can totally trust that I know what I'm talking about even if my understanding of those terms is a bit hazy.

I am optimistic about Wellington but I am also pessimistic. Wellington is an amazing city with amazing people. Wellington is also going to the dogs. We have so much potential! And the only thing holding us back is you electing me, so get onto it.

Have you seen my posters? Have you watched my videos? It may be that I am saying exactly the same things as every other candidate but you should really check out the TikTok of me doing the soda pop dance from K-pop Demon hunters. I can't believe some people think it's cringeworthy. Soda pop is an appropriate metaphor for my election policies which are easy to digest and I really identify with that cute boy band. Apparently the characters are actually evil demons that suck out your soul, but don't read too much into that.

This election vote me #1. You won't regret it. Well, you might. But it will be too late.

*Young person speak. Means 'it's good'. **TL**

Mount Victoria's Iconic Monastery



St Gerard's Church and Monastery (Fitzgerald's Folly) c.1907–1909 with Father Patrick Clunie in the foreground. ATL PAColl-6477-01

St. Gerard's Church and Monastery is an iconic part of the Mt Victoria landscape. The Mount Victoria Historical Society's **Alan Olliver** looks into its history.

The church and monastery were built on the site of "Fitzgerald's Folly" in 1908 and 1932 respectively. James Edward Fitzgerald, a prominent politician, previously had his house built on the site in 1871, far away from the town hence the term "folly."

The Redemptorist Fathers of New Zealand purchased the site in 1905 for £500 and lived in Fitzgerald's house until the Monastery was built.

Two well-known Wellington architects designed the buildings. John Swan drew up the plans for a church able to seat 200, of a simple gothic design with stained glass windows made by Hardmann and Sons of Birmingham. In 1931, Frederick Clere designed the new monastery with reinforced concrete and brick infill panels and gothic style windows.

The Fathers left the Hawker Street site in 1989 and since then extensive restoration work has been carried out. The buildings were sold in 1993

The church and monastery were built on the site of "Fitzgerald's Folly" in 1908 and 1932 respectively.

for \$800,000 to the International Programme of Evangelisation (ICPE).

In March 2023, the Church and Monastery were sold for \$4.65m. The new owners have set up a company called St Gerard's Ltd which will be tasked with considerably more seismic and restoration work to be undertaken. The future use of the buildings has not been made clear.

Both buildings have a category A classification from the NZ Historic Places Trust.

Recently the Mount Victoria Historical Society, in association with St Gerard's Limited, have publicised tours of the St. Gerard's Church and Monastery, as part of October's Heritage Festival. Not surprisingly these iconic buildings were fully booked in days. 



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Congratulations to the winner of our colouring in competition
- 12 year old Jodie!

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