

THE LOCAL Mt Victoria

NGĀ KARERE HAPORI O MATAIRANGI

HERITAGE AT RISK



Alarm bells are going off among those who value Mt Victoria's heritage houses, after the Wellington City Council issued a survey asking residents if they would like to remove heritage status from their homes.

The survey has gone to the owners of buildings identified as having heritage significance in the District Plan, including homes in heritage precincts.

The survey – which closes 2 April – asks owners about the challenges and benefits of heritage status, and whether they would like it removed. It says the next steps could be a 'delisting process' under the RMA or future legislation. The Mt Victoria Historical Society says such a move could result in 'picking the eyes' out of the suburb's heritage area, rendering it meaningless. [Read more on page 3.](#) ➔

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Gazley **G**



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Heritage at risk

Heritage advocates are alarmed by a survey run by the Wellington City Council that could result in the removal of heritage protections in Mt Victoria. **Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

Mt Victoria residents are among those being asked about their views on heritage areas, so that the Wellington City Council can draw up a list of properties that could be delisted.

A heritage survey was posted directly to owners of houses in heritage areas throughout the city and closes on 2 April.

The consultation has not been promoted on the council's community engagement page, however anyone can make a submission.

The survey asks homeowners whether they have experienced any challenges related to owning a property in a heritage area, and whether the heritage area has had a positive or negative impact on the value of the property.

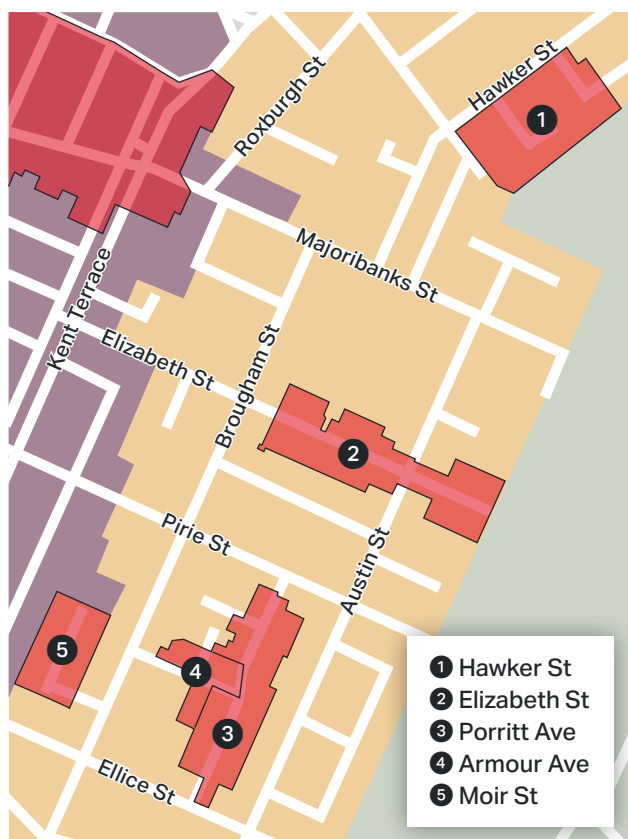
Joanna Newman, chair of the Mt Victoria Historical Society said her group had "serious concerns".

"The new District Plan was declared operative less than a year ago, after almost four years of consultation and Independent Hearings. Mount Victoria lost all its character protection with the exception of what remained in newly created Heritage Areas.

"Yet already WCC is working to demolish the Plan. If owners elect to remove their properties, Heritage Areas would be rendered meaningless – if the 'eyes' are picked out of the Area, it loses its special character."

Mt Victoria has heritage precincts around Moir Street, Armour Avenue, Porritt Avenue, Elizabeth Street and Hawker Street. In addition, the suburb holds around 30 heritage buildings or structures.

The origins of the survey started in March 2024, when a group of councillors attempted to remove 10 buildings from the schedule of heritage buildings in the District Plan review. This was rejected by the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Chris Bishop, due to the lack of evidence. However Bishop promised to do what he could to make the process easier in the future.



Heritage areas of Mt Victoria

Councillor Ben McNulty then looked for other avenues to remove buildings from heritage listings, and asked council staff for advice on a district plan change to remove or amend protections for heritage buildings, structures and areas using the streamlined planning process in the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025.

However staff advised councillors to wait, as future legislative changes underway would likely to make the process easier. Instead, councillors agreed to a plan to survey people about their views so a list could be drawn up in preparation. Newman said the approach created a number of inequities.

"An owner at a particular point in time – maybe owning the property for less than a year – could choose to have their house removed. This negates the fact that it may have stood for over 140 years and been valued for its heritage by previous owners, and removes the option for future owners (and the city) to enjoy it." **TL**

More information on the survey:

wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/district-plan/2024-district-plan/heritage-engagement

Heritage under fire

Just when you thought the District Plan was all sorted, the Wellington City Council starts a survey on heritage areas.

Heritage areas work because they are relatively intact areas. If one property owner decides to delist and allow their home to be knocked down and replaced with a multi-storey apartment block, the effect of the heritage area diminishes. In other words, it is not at all clear how this could even be workable – at least in a way that makes sense to those who value heritage.

How has it come to this? For a long time, heritage was relatively widely accepted as adding value to our city, and deserving of protection. Anyone who has travelled knows that tourists are drawn to historic areas of a town, and indeed it is Mt Victoria's quaint wooden houses on the hillside that are so often used in publicity material for Wellington.

But in recent years, views have shifted among some to seeing heritage as a burden and bringing

unacceptable costs. Although these costs have mainly related to large civic projects like the Town Hall refurbishment, the general vibe of impatience seems to have carried over to anything old.

Anti-character Minister Chris Bishop even went to the extent of passing bespoke legislation to enable the heritage-listed Gorden Wilson Flats to be torn down. That politician is now working on a new RMA that may make it easier to delist heritage buildings and sites.

It seems likely that if the powers are put in place, there are at least some councillors who will want to use them. And there will be some property owners who find heritage restrictions frustrating and may welcome the opportunity to free themselves to do what they want with their property. Their personal freedom will come at the expense of the collective; heritage belongs to us all, helps tell our stories and give context to our community. Allowing further

change to Mt Victoria's intact heritage areas will signal the beginning of the end of the suburb's distinct character.

TL



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor

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Mayfair appeal lodged

Neighbours opposed to the Mayfair apartment block being built at the end of their shared driveway are now going to the Environment Court to try and stop it going ahead.

Westbourne Grove property owners lodged the appeal on 11 March, after developer Mark Quinn gained consent in February for a seven-storey multi-unit development of 32 residential units.

The legal action by the owners and residents of the four properties living along the narrow Westbourne Grove accessway puts a temporary halt to the project, which was poised to start. More than 40 percent of the apartments were already sold or under contract according to the developer.

A spokesperson for the residents, Ralph Highnam, said the group would be making no further comment as the matter was before the court. Timing for the legal action is not yet known. **TL**



New retaining wall

McFarlane Street residents will have to contend with single lane access for several months while work is carried out on the street's retaining wall.

The Wellington City Council has advised that from 16 March until May 2026 traffic will be managed under temporary traffic control using either a single lane priority system or stop/go control, and that access will be restricted at time.

The council says it is constructing a new retaining wall with anchored steel post to stabilise the existing walls and the undermined road slope. **TL**

Inner city negative about highway proposals

Residents in the CBD and inner-city suburbs are most negative about proposed changes to State Highway 1 including the construction of a Mt Victoria tunnel.

NZTA's community engagement carried out at the end of 2025 gathered feedback from 2,432 people and organisations on the SH1 Wellington Improvements project.

Overall, more people (49%) thought the project would make things worse or much worse for them personally than those who thought it would be better or much better (41%), but more people (44%) thought the project would make things better or much better for the Wellington region than worse or much worse (40%).

Split by council ward, 63% of CBD respondents (which includes Mt Victoria) believed the project would make things worse for them personally, including 39% saying it would be 'much worse'. 51% believed it would be worse or much worse for the Wellington region.

Feedback from all respondents on the second Mt Victoria tunnel element of the project was positive with 48% of people saying it will make things better or much better, compared with 40% of people saying it would make things worse or much worse.

NZTA said the input will help to inform the next stage of the project design, which will be included in the Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA) application for the project in mid-2026. **TL**

Responses to NZTA survey

● Much worse ● Worse ● No difference ● Better ● Much better

How much difference will the proposed SH1 Wellington Improvements project make to you personally? To the wider Wellington region? (% of responses)

	Much worse	Worse	No difference	Better	Much better
Personally	30	19	10	11	30
Wgtn region	24	16	16	12	32

'Overall, how much difference do you think the SH1 Wellington Improvements project will make to you personally' by residential location. Note: 'CBD' responses included inner city suburbs like Mt Victoria. (% of responses)

CBD	39	24	10	9	17
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Iconic musician and foodie

Sharon Greally caught up with a Mt Victoria musician who changed the food scene in Wellington.

Alan Norman has lived in Mt Vic for nigh on forty years. “I love lots of things about Mt Vic – the community gardens, the green belt, I walk everywhere, and wander down to the beach, or the Freyburg. I just love it.”

Norman is known to many as the proprietor of what was The Victoria Cafe on the corner of Queen and Brougham streets, which was a huge part of the fabric of Mt Vic in its day.

Norman started his food journey working in London in the 80’s, in a vegetarian cafe called *Food For Thought* in Covent Garden. He married one of the cooks there and together they went on to open a successful eatery in Brighton.

“But I wanted to come home, and so we came back to Wellington, to Mt Victoria. It was just at the end of the old school dining – La Normandie and such like, but Wellington was tired. Same old institutions. We got in just at the right time and opened The Victoria Cafe. It was a hit. Originally it was an old joinery, but then developers made it into a cafe, which didn’t last very long. Initially I was washing dishes for them, and I could see its potential, to do what we did in Brighton. We didn’t call it vegetarian, we called it a wholefood restaurant, and it just went nuts. We had live music, art exhibitions, regular entertainment, an open fire. It was over three levels, so quite big. I think we were one of the first places in Wellington to have an espresso machine. Sometimes the queue would snake down the road. And Clyde Quay School let us use their car parks for koha. It was great, and great for the community.”




Norman is known to many as the proprietor of what was The Victoria Cafe on the corner of Queen and Brougham streets, which was a huge part of the fabric of Mt Vic in its day.

“Regulars at The Victoria Cafe were Barry Saunders and Wayne Mason from The Warratahs, and they would often come in and enjoy their leek and potato soup, and the bread we used to make, and I was a real big fan of theirs. Little did I know that that fifteen years later I’d be playing in the band, and I’m still there! I was originally on keyboards, but over time I played more accordion, and it’s become a bigger part of The Warratahs sound now.”

The talented Norman plays percussion, accordion, guitar, drums, and piano, and he's in a lot of bands – four currently.

He's also known for another foody fixture in Mt Vic – Stamp and Go in Majoribanks St, where Tom-boy is now, which he started with his brother Kit. "It was Caribbean food – wraps and baps. We had a really good jerk chicken. Kit developed the recipes in a scientific lab, so the recipes were very exact. We patented that recipe, because it was so popular, and we didn't want anyone to copy it. Stamp and Go is actually a Caribbean term for takeaways sold at street stalls. Kit was also a chef, more of a food developer, and actually wrote the cookbook *Food For Thought*. He just had a natural flair for food. We'd sell wine by the carafe. We sold really good rum as well. It ran for about six years. However I was taking more and more time off with The Warratahs, and it was just getting too difficult. Ran out of time, ran out of juice. "It's got its own history in the annals of Mt. Victoria eateries. David Burton came and visited us not long after we started. He gave us a really good review."

Norman also worked for the Downtown Community Ministry for sixteen years pre Covid. This included putting together a ukulele group with some of the street kids. "We did shows and it was great as they'd

make twenty bucks each, and felt part of something. I still see some of them around, and they call out and say hi." 

“Regulars at The Victoria Cafe were Barry Saunders and Wayne Mason from The Warratahs... I was a real big fan of theirs. Little did I know that that fifteen years later I'd be playing in the band...”

You can catch Alan at some of his upcoming gigs:

11 April 2026: The Thistle Inn with The Warratahs

18 April 2026: Bill Lake's Slow Bake at Hilltop – featuring new album Lost and Found.



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!

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Avoiding unwelcome surprises

Nothing throws a spanner in the works of a sale process quite like needing to disclose an issue with a property. **Anji Foster** from **Lowe & Co** highlights some issues she encounters.

Here are some common disclosure issues that come as a surprise to my clients as they go through the sales process.

1. Unconsented tiled shower

If you are renovating a bathroom and replacing things 'like for like' you often wouldn't need a building consent from Wellington City Council. However, as soon as tiles are involved in a wet area, particularly a shower, the situation changes.

If a bathroom renovation includes re-tiling the shower, the work generally does require consent. WCC's reasoning is that tiled showers involve critical waterproofing and potentially structural elements, so they want key parts of the process signed off.

This often slips through the cracks, as many homeowners assume their builder, plumber or tiler would have mentioned it during the renovation.

Retrospective sign-off can be difficult to obtain unless there is a clear paper trail showing the correct building processes were followed, and even then it can be challenging. If purchasing a home with an unconsented tiled shower, insurers will often place exclusions around that area of the home.

2. Insulated exterior walls

Many clients proudly tell me, "we insulated all the exterior walls." This of course sounds like a great thing; warmer homes are always a positive selling feature. However, WCC want to know about this too.

Internal walls, ceilings and underfloor insulation can generally be installed without consent, but ex-

terior walls are treated differently. WCC's position is that retrofitting insulation into exterior walls carries risks related to moisture, weathertightness and electrical safety, meaning it is not automatically exempt under Schedule 1 of the Building Act. In most cases, it requires building consent.

This is probably one of the more common accidental issues I come across. Fortunately, buyers are usually pleased the home has been insulated and it rarely derails a sale. However, insurers can be cautious around unconsented work, so working with a good insurance broker can be helpful for buyers.


3. Defective cross lease title

This is less common in Mount Victoria, as there are only a sprinkling of cross-lease titled homes in our neighbourhood. The most common reason for a defective cross lease title is when additions such as a conservatory, garage or extension have been built but never updated on the flats plan (flats plan is unique to cross lease titles).

When the flats plan no longer accurately reflects the buildings on the site, the title is technically defective.

In summary

Being fully informed before entering the sale process puts you in the strongest possible position. If selling might be on the horizon, it's worth understanding whether anything at your property might need to be remedied or at least researched and disclosed.

Having clear and comprehensive information ready for buyers gives them confidence and makes the process far smoother for everyone involved. It's also one reason I often suggest getting a building report earlier rather than later – ideally before the home goes to market – so there is time to understand any issues and deal with them properly. 





Buzzing with endorphins

A table tennis group for seniors is exercising their minds as well as their bodies, as **Rowena Fry** found out.

A few minutes' walk from the start of Alexandra Road (or accessed from the walkway at the very top of Mein Street) you reach the stadium which hosts Peak Players – a club for over 55s – every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. It was initiated in 2013 by Diana Winn, who had come from a thriving club of senior players in Whanganui and missed the fun, fitness, and especially the collegiality that had built up over her 15 years with the club. So, she put an ad in the paper to gauge interest and at the first meeting 30 people turned up.

At each session the group plays for an hour before stopping for a cuppa and having a go at solving the world's problems. Someone jokes that they never discuss politics.

This is when I meet octogenarian, Dennis McQuade who lives at a local retirement village. It was in the village cafe, three years ago, where he connected with another resident who shared that he was a regular table tennis player at the club and would he like to join. Dennis was quick to sign up since, like many at

the club, he had played a lot when he was younger.

Everyone at the club attests to the fact that table tennis is a brilliant game for both physical and mental fitness. Especially those who have come from a higher impact sport such as tennis and now want to go gentle on their joints. “It exercises every part of you,” says Diana. “It’s a very good overall sport to keep up fitness, especially in older age. And it’s good for the brain.”

Agreeing with Diana’s views is Paul Gadd who has chosen to return to table tennis after a few decades’ break. He had heard a psychologist on the radio talk about how playing the game is excellent in preventing Alzheimer’s due to the game demanding quick decision-making all the while using both sides of the body. So, when a fellow pickle baller invited him to come try the tables at the stadium he went through his storage cupboard and dusted off his faithful bat.

Everyone there clearly loves this ageless sport and it’s not long before they have moved back to the tables and the tick-tock of balls on bats and timber recommences. Paul drains his cup, leaving me with a smile and saying, “The other thing about table tennis is that it encourages the flow of endorphins. This place is just buzzing with endorphins in the air!” **TL**

“It’s a very good overall sport to keep up fitness, especially in older age. And it’s good for the brain.”

Peak Players Table Tennis

New players are always welcome. \$5 per session. Monday 9:15–11:30am, Wednesday 1–4pm, or Saturday 1–4pm (all ages). ttwellington.org.nz/clubs/



Tree problems needle residents

No council representatives turned up to a public meeting to discuss Mt Victoria's trees, after an official pulled out at the last moment.

The Mt Victoria Residents' Association called the meeting in March at Clyde Quay School to discuss tree-related issues in the suburb.

Colin Kelly, a former resident involved in the community olive harvest said the harvest had been cancelled for the past two years due to the trees being stripped bare by other harvesters who got in first.

Kelly said the council refused to prune the trees, which made them harder to scale and less productive.

Other concerns raised were around the removal of significant trees located on private property, the planting of trees unsuitable for the environment, and the dangers arising from the ageing pine trees in the Town Belt.

MVRA President Ellen Blake said she would relay the messages to the council. **TL**

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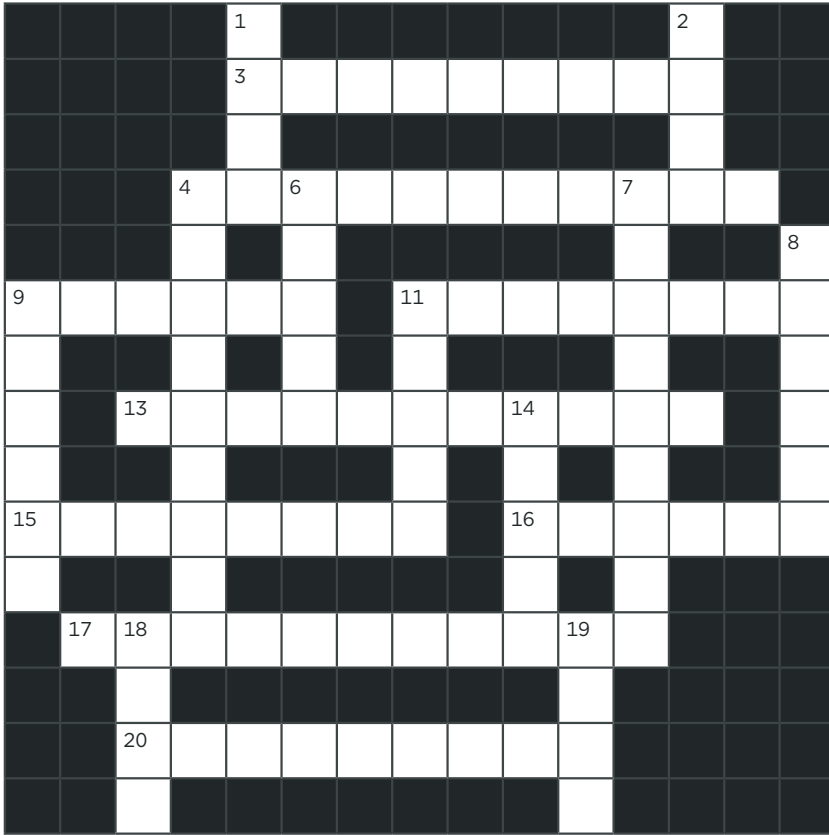
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Beau's Crossword #6



Across

3. Global pandemic accelerated by WWI. (9)
4. The word 'racecar' has this property. (11)
9. A way to narrow results. (6)
11. Tinged with a colour often found in nature. (8)
13. Easy peasy. (5,2,4)
15. Kennel for a canine. (8)
16. Dead body. (6)
17. Launch pad. (11)
20. Large and impressive. (9)


Down

1. A bit of a drama queen. (4)
2. Do the ----, get the treats. (4)
4. The scent of wet earth. (9)
6. Line from a song. (5)
7. Named. (9)
8. A dairy product, ----- board. (6)
9. A disguise, or the front of a building. (6)
11. A short mythical creature, garden -----. (5)
14. Roasted chocolate ingredient, ----- bean. (5)
18. This crossword is on one. (4)
19. Coral -----, ---- knot. (4)

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

ULO ? Unidentified Local Object

Identify the mystery object – something in the Mount Vic area – to win a \$20 voucher to Tomboy cafe on Majoribanks Street.

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 Alan Cousins who identified the March ULO as the mural on the ramp by Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten. 



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*.

Long term plan funding discussion

Join us for a discussion on what we want to see Wellington City Council fund in its annual plan. This Mt Victoria Residents Association meeting will review the Mayor's 3 year plan, and what we might want to see happen in Mt Victoria. We'll be making a submission based on your feedback. We've invited the Mayor and councillors along – check our Facebook page for any updates. **Thursday 2 April, 6pm at Clyde Quay School.**

Climate Festival Pōneke

A three-week community-led programme of events, activations, and creative climate solutions designed to bring together organisations, communities, and individuals to accelerate climate action across Wellington. Interweaving emissions reduction and caring for te taiao, the Festival provides opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and connection, while highlighting local initiatives and success stories that inspire and enable further action toward a resilient future. **18 April – 9 May. letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/climate-action-info-hub/climate-festival-poneke-2026-events**

Work That Reconnects workshop

The climate festival includes a one-day interactive workshop based on the international programme *Work That Reconnects*. This programme that helps participants to feel strong and respond effectively in this time of environmental crises. It is coming to Wellington on Saturday 18th April, and will be repeated on 2nd May, as the one-day workshop *Turn Your Climate Concern into Confident Action for a Better World*. Held at Innermost Gardens in Mount Victoria. Supported by WCC, cost only \$20. Details: events.humanitix.com/twtr

Crossways Community Creche

We are a not-for-profit early learning centre welcoming children aged 1 to 5. We are passionate about delivering quality early childhood education, with a curriculum shaped by play, partnership, and respect every day. Open Monday to Friday, including school holidays, we are located at 61 Majoribanks Street. Contact us on **022 153 4604** or enrolments@crosswayscreche.org.nz. For more information, visit crossways.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 8 tables and play 3 times a week at the stadium on Alexandra Road. We want to encourage new people to join our fun social event. Only \$5 each time – no subscription. For more information contact Diana Winn, email winnich@xtra.co.nz or phone **04 801 9556**.

Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten

SPACES AVAILABLE! Pikopiko is open for 2-5-year-olds, Monday to Friday, except public holidays. We are operating as a full year kindergarten from 2026. 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.

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.

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: **022 364 1145** or email wgtnquakers@gmail.com

Do you offer guitar lessons? Are you a dog-walker looking for customers? The Listings section is an affordable way to let people know about your service. Advertise in *The Local* for as little as \$40.

U3A in April 2026

 Term 2 for U3A Wellington City begins on Tuesday 21 April with Richard Shaw's Small Stories of Colonisation. Other April speakers are Prof Richard Beasley on medical research and Stuart Niven's How Wellington could be even better. Details, along with updates on the events programme, at U3awellingtoncity.org.nz. Regular talks are Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30am at the Embassy Theatre. \$5 for visitors; \$50 membership.


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. Check us out at ttc.org.nz/TTC/HallHire or make a booking via the clubrooms [booking inquiry form](#).


Feldenkrais classes

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

Probus Wellington Central

 The next meeting of Probus Wellington Central is on April 17 at 10.00 am for a 10:30 am start. The speaker will be Dr Paul Duignan, a strategy expert and tech entrepreneur, who will speak on AI (artificial intelligence) and social media. 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

Rotary

 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



Holy Week and Easter Services

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**29 March
PALM SUNDAY**
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**2 April
MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7pm: Foot washing and Eucharist

**3 April
GOOD FRIDAY**
10am: Stations of the Cross
4pm: Liturgy anointing Jesus for burial

**4 April
HOLY SATURDAY**
9:15am: Prayers at the Tomb
9pm: Lighting of the New Easter Fire

**5 April
EASTER SUNDAY**
8am & 10am

Everyone is welcome at St Peter's!



The first sign that the world had shifted on its axis was the handwritten sign outside Daniel's Kitchen that said 'muffin of the day banana chocolate chips'.

Actually, I didn't need to order it at all, because Virginia remembered my order, as she did for all of their loyal customers. I just needed to turn up to the counter and she would say 'regular falafel kebab' and I would say yes, and soon after I would tell Daniel what salads I wanted (not too many onions) and he would carefully wrap it up and I would leave with a smile on my face for the friendliness and the familiarity of it all.

AND THEN IT ALL CHANGED and there was a sign advertising a banana chocolate chip muffin and faces I didn't recognise behind the counter.

I glared at them as I walked by, pointedly not going in. How dare they buy this business. How dare Daniel and Virginia retire? Why must things change? Where on earth was I going to buy my lunch now?

I like to think of myself as being someone who embraces change, but I had to reconsider once I found myself weeping for lost kebabs on The Terrace.

Perhaps it's the small things that throw us. Or is it just food?

There are certainly some people in our household that have never gotten over the closure of Myrtle Bakery on Kent Terrace. Now even the building is being demolished, and soon there will be no sign of once was the site of where the community gathered for delicious sandwiches and scones. Perhaps we should erect a plaque.

As Wellington goes through some tough economic times, quite a few familiar places are closing. I think we are justified in being traumatised. These places make up our community, and create our memories.

But things will change, no matter how much we may not want them to.

So I went into my old kebab shop with the new owners and ordered my falafel kebab (not too many onions). The new proprietors were friendly, and the kebab was pretty much just as it always was.

Maybe things will be ok after all. 

Takeaway trauma

Jane O'Loughlin's lunchtime routine takes a hit.

The first sign that the world had shifted on its axis was the handwritten sign outside Daniel's Kitchen that said 'muffin of the day banana chocolate chips'.

Never in the possibly 20 years of me buying my regular falafel kebab at Daniel's Kitchen on The Terrace had there ever been a muffin of the day on offer, let alone one with banana and chocolate chips.

What on earth was going on?

Then I heard the terrible news: long time proprietors of Daniel's Kitchen, Daniel and Virginia, had sold the business to new owners. This news rocked me to the core. At least once a week I would pop into Daniel's Kitchen and order a regular falafel kebab.

House of Wellington significance



If a second (actually, third) Mount Victoria tunnel goes ahead under the current Government's 'Roads of National Significance' programme, one of the homes of great Wellington significance that would be lost is 7 Paterson Street. **Joanna Newman** from the Mt Victoria Historical Society explains.

The house at 7 Paterson Street is one of the oldest large houses in Wellington. It was built in 1869 by William Waring Taylor and still retains many original features.

We all know the name Waring Taylor from the eponymous street in the middle of the CBD. In 1868, Taylor bought two acres of land where 7 Paterson Street sits and built his house in 1869. At the time, there was no Paterson St and he would have swept up the drive to the front of his home from Brougham St.

He was a successful businessman and in 1860 he had become Member of the House of Representatives for Wellington City and Deputy Superintendent of Wellington Province, also serving as its speaker for a decade from 1865. By the 1870s he was rich and respected and Waring Taylor Street in the heart of the city was named in his honour.

But all was not as it seemed. Taylor had left Mount Victoria by 1884, but that year he was arrested for fraud. The most serious charge related to fraudulently appropriating money as a trustee or agent. He was tried, convicted on one of the indictments, and sentenced to five years in jail. There was a move to change the name of the street commemorating him

Laureston House, Brougham Street (7 Paterson St), 1890s. [ATL 1/2-017986F]

in 1885, but enough councillors felt his earlier contributions deserved to be remembered and it stayed.

After Taylor sold the property in 1878, it was owned by a couple of other businessmen, then by Alexander Rutherford (1895–97), who was Clerk Assistant of the New Zealand House of Representatives (Parliament).

In 1897, developer and builder Harry Crump bought the two acres at the southern end of Mount Victoria, including Waring Taylor's house. He created Paterson St and built a number of houses which are still there. He continued to live at No. 7 until 1909.

That year, the house was bought by Archbishop Redwood and Father O'Shea for the Catholic Church. It became the residence for Father O'Shea and the priest serving Te Aro. When O'Shea was consecrated Archbishop in 1913, a torchlight procession went from Paterson Street, down Ellice Street to his consecration in the Town Hall. From that point on, it became known as Archbishop's House. The Archbishop lived there until he was hospitalised just before his death in 1954.

The concrete block attached to the building and fronting onto Paterson St was added in 1936 to create a boys' home. In the 1980s, the Good Shepherd Sisters took over the building and it was occupied by Catholic Social Services until it was acquired for motorway purposes under the Public Works Act in 1989. From that time on, it was rented by NZTA, but now it's been empty for a couple of years. **TL**



Thanks Mt Vic!



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