

THE LOCAL



Mt Victoria

NGĀ KARERE HAPORI O MATAIRANGI

STEADY AS SHE BLOWS



Gig give away!

Win tickets to see legendary Flying Nun band The Bats. Details on page 10.

Does more need to be done to keep recreational users safe in the Wellington Town Belt, as established trees age and windier weather takes its toll?

A recent storm resulted in trees and branches scattered across Wellington, including in the Town Belt.

Mt Victorians are more nervous about using the Town Belt following the tragic death of a pedestrian

hit by a falling branch in October last year, with many saying they avoid the area when it's windy.

The Wellington City Council recently agreed to spend more money dealing with hazardous trees.

The Mt Victoria Residents' Association is holding a meeting in March to provide locals with more information on issues related to trees in the area.

Read more on page 2. ➔

In this issue:

03 Mayfair apartment proposal gets its resource consent

06 Nearly five decades of living in Scarborough Terrace

14 A pedestrian moans about cyclists and their moral high ground

15 The history of Moir Street, Mt Vic's hidden gem

Steady as she blows

How dangerous is our Town Belt?
Jane O'Loughlin tries to find out.

Mt Vic locals are avoiding the Town Belt when it's windy, due to the danger of falling trees. President of the Mt Victoria Residents' Association, Ellen Blake, also volunteers in the local native planting group. She says planters have seen a few big branches come down.

"They are not to be trifled with, yet predicting which ones are vulnerable is difficult. It is easy to spot broken, hanging branches and get them removed by council. Trickier to see which trees will fall and it really does seem to depend on the way the wind catches them."

Another volunteer who has also helped plant native trees in the Town Belt for many years is Elizabeth Street resident David Lee. He says the exotic trees on Mt Victoria are mainly North American conifers that are shallow rooted and being over 100 years old have a high risk of falling over in a storm.

Lee says he would never go into the Town Belt when winds are strong, and suggested the council could put up signs at entrance ways warning walkers and cyclists of the risk. Longer term he would like to see the older trees removed.

"I would love to see a massive removal of the conifers on Mt Vic and to have them replaced with longer living, strong wind-evolved natives, as was done with Ahumairangi (Tinakori Hill)."

John Scott and Kay Goodyear have lived on Scarborough Terrace for 21 years, in a house that backs onto the Town Belt.

In that time, they have seen several large trees come down, and many large branches.

They've done their trigonometry calculations to see if they are at risk.

"If one fell over it might touch the house," Scott says.

They've observed that trees tend to fall in line with the prevailing northerly, which they hope will keep them safe. The council has removed branches and trees near houses and tracks, which also helps. But there's no doubt the old trees pose a risk.

Long wait for fatal tree report

A report carried out by the Wellington City Council following the death of a walker in the Town Belt will not be released until the coroner's investigation into the death has taken place.

Retired Wellington GP Richard Tyler, died on 21 October 2025 after apparently being hit by a falling branch during high winds.

The council told *The Local* an independent consultant was engaged to assess the Mount Victoria Lookout walkway in response to the incident on 21 October 2025.

However, the council said the legal process prevented them from sharing this report or other related documents.

"Unfortunately, we are not able to release them all as they are still being considered as evidence." It can take several years for coroners to complete their work and make findings and recommendations.

"We don't go up there in the Town Belt on a windy day," says John. "There's an element of danger attached to that. After a big wind, quite significant branches will fall off."

However, Scott is philosophical. "The chance of it happening is slight compared to other things."

In February, the council voted to allow an additional \$500,000 in this year's budget for hazardous trees works.

Councillor Geordie Rogers said extra funding was needed for dangerous tree remediation due to climate change exacerbating the number of extreme weather events.

"The Town Belt is one of Wellington's biggest draw cards and we need to be doing what we can to make sure it continues to be a safe place for Wellingtonians and visitors." **TL**

MVRA is holding a meeting to discuss tree issues at 6pm on 5 March at Clyde Quay School hall.

Mayfair construction to start 'soon'

Will the Mayfair apartment development finally go ahead? **Jane O'Loughlin** reports.

Construction on the controversial Mayfair apartment building for Westbourne Grove in Mt Victoria will start 'soon' according to the developer, now that the proposal has been granted resource consent.

In February, Hearings Commissioner Alistair Aburn granted land use consent for a seven-storey multi-unit development of 32 residential units, 29 carparks, 25 cycle parks and associated earthworks. He also granted subdivision consent for 32 unit titles.

The project was opposed by owners and residents of the four properties situated along the narrow Westbourne Grove accessway.

The proposal is the first project to take advantage of the Wellington District Plan changes which allow six-storey buildings to be built in inner-city suburbs.

The site, off Austin Street, was previously a 'character area' which meant restrictions on the removal of pre 1930s age houses, and limits on building height to around two storeys.

The new building would be an "exemplary project for Wellington and the new District Plan," said Mark Quinn, director of Forma Group.

"We're going above and beyond our requirements for this development, because we want to demonstrate that the District Plan can be implemented responsibly as Wellington grows. The Mayfair development will show what can be achieved through sensitive design that reflects the environment."

The proposal is the first project to take advantage of the Wellington District Plan changes which allow six-storey buildings to be built in inner-city suburbs.

The commissioner decided that either a shared path or footpath solution could be used but that detailed design must be checked with the council.

More than 40 percent of the apartments had already been sold or are under contract, Quinn said. Construction would commence soon and is due to be completed in early 2028.

Although the hearings commissioner deemed the environmental impacts of the development acceptable within the limits of the District Plan or manageable with controls, nearby residents will likely be affected by noise, vibration, and increased traffic during construction. More than 5,000 cubic metres of earth will be removed to create the foundations.

The commissioner imposed a long list of conditions on the consent, including requirements for geotechnical investigations looking at ground water location and slope stability, and controls on noise, vibrations, dust, transport, and construction hours.

The main issue of contention at the hearing was the safety of residents using Westbourne Grove, and whether a shared path or a wider footpath was the best solution.

The commissioner decided that either a shared path or footpath solution could be used but that detailed design must be checked with the council.

Aburn also asked that a Westbourne Grove Residents' Liaison Group be established prior to work commencing.

In response to concerns about subsidence, the commissioner ordered surveys of neighbouring properties to be undertaken before and after the construction work, to monitor the impact of earthworks and vibration.

The commissioner said the dispute over the rights of the joint owners of Westbourne Grove to make changes to the driveway was an issue to be resolved separately as it related to property law, not the RMA.

Residents involved in the process had 15 working days to decide if they would appeal the decision.

"Plenty of things get resource consent and never get built, said Ralph Highnam. "After two years, there is still no sign of a safe and effective driveway to deal with the excess traffic from this proposed development, and the safety of our children and other pedestrians is a major concern." **TL**

Unexpected dangers

The issue of dangerous trees nearly got a bit too real for me, after I sent a person from my household up to the Town Belt to take photos and a branch hit the ground about a meter from where they were standing.

The branch wasn't massive, but with a number of pinecones attached, it could have caused a nasty injury.

The idea of being hit by a falling branch in the Town Belt probably seemed farfetched to most of us until the very sad event last year where Richard Tyler was killed in such a circumstance.

Now the risk seems real, and the big storms we have had since then have only served to weaken trees and break off branches that get caught in the foliage and eventually work their way through.

Over on Te Ahumairangi, a significant storm in 2004 felled hundreds of trees and required the removal of 10.5 hectares of pines from the lower slopes the following year, an expensive job for the council.

Perhaps it would be cheaper in the long run to have a more intensive programme of pine maintenance and removal, rather than waiting for disaster to occur.

If this is a subject close to your heart, don't miss the meeting arranged by the Mt Victoria Residents' Association coming up on 5 March.

In other news, the much-debated Mayfair apartment block has gained a resource consent. But will it actually go ahead? With some crunchy questions to be answered around property rights related to the access way, and an economic climate that means houses and apartments are struggling to sell, you would have to be a brave developer to start building.

Meanwhile, the State Highway 1 project, which includes a tunnel through Mt Victoria, is also facing headwinds. In assessing the country's greatest needs, the Infrastructure Commission has been critical of the Government's mega roading projects. Given the SH1 project's \$2.9 to \$3.8 billion price tag and modest benefits, is it possible it may fall down the list when the Government is forced to prioritise?

Whatever the outcome, it would be good to know once and for all, rather than continue to wait in limbo. **TL**



Jane O'Loughlin
Editor

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

The Local is published monthly by The Local News Limited. Find out more at the-local.co.nz

Show your support

Make a financial contribution to *The Local* to support independent neighbourhood journalism. Go to thelocal.presspatron.com

Advertising

The Local welcomes advertising. Check out rates at the-local.co.nz/advertise Email us at editor@the-local.co.nz

Get in touch

Got a news tip?
Want to write for us, or help deliver?
Email us at editor@the-local.co.nz
Follow us: [facebook/thelocal.mtvic](https://www.facebook.com/thelocal.mtvic)

Deliveries and Distribution

The Local is distributed to Mt Victoria letterboxes and local cafes on the first weekend of every month (except January).

If you missed out on your copy, want extras or would prefer not to have a paper copy delivered, contact us at editor@the-local.co.nz

Subscribe to the electronic edition via our website the-local.co.nz

Design: homestudio.nz

Clyde Quay School loses tree

A large tree at Clyde Quay School came down in the storm that lashed Wellington in February, and closed schools across the city. Students arrived on Tuesday to find the fallen tree taking up most of the entranceway.

Principal Cameron Ross said they were sad to lose it. “Being a city school, we want as much nature as we can squeeze in and losing an established tree is never great. “However, we do feel very lucky. Firstly, it happened overnight while no one was here but also lucky that it fell away from the classrooms, missed the nearby trees and other property.”

It had been a major talking point with the children, he said. **TL**



New gallery opens

‘Nine Fathom Deep’, a new contemporary art gallery, has opened on Cambridge Terrace.

The gallery was dedicated to presenting a dynamic cross-section of practice from Aotearoa and beyond, according to a statement.

“The gallery will support conceptually driven work, delivered through an evolving programme of solo and small-group exhibitions.

“With a generous floor plan and in-house expertise, the space is uniquely equipped to accommodate ambitious, large-scale and installation work.”

The gallery will open with Soundings, a group show featuring fifteen artists who explore the origins and resonances of the gallery’s name. The exhibition introduces the scope of the gallery’s curatorial ambition and sets the tone for future offerings, the gallery said. **TL**

Brougham St boo boo

Those waiting at the Brougham Street bus stop opposite the dairy may be forgiven for thinking something was a bit off with the sign.

A spelling mistake on the bus sign had the street labelled Bougham instead of Brougham.

Metlink said the error would be remedied in April. **TL**



CubaDupa street festival coming up

CubaDupa takes place across the Cuba Precinct over the weekend of March 28 and 29, transforming streets, parks, laneways and venues into a free, accessible festival for all ages. Produced by Creative Capital Arts Trust, the festival celebrates community, creativity and the unique spirit of Wellington and invites audiences to discover something unexpected around every corner.

In 2026, CubaDupa will feature over 210 acts, 70 food vendors, 220 performances, from street music and theatre to dance and immersive, participatory experiences. **TL**



From party house to family home

A couple living in the same Mt Victoria house for nearly five decades have some stories to tell, as **Jane O'Loughlin** found out.

Rob Brown and Di Jordan have lived nearly 50 years in their Scarborough Terrace home. In that time, it's gone from a wild party house, hosting actors and exotic dancers, to a busy family home at the nexus of a familiar and much-loved community.

It all started when Rob arrived as a flatmate in the house in 1977. Number 12 was then known as the 'Close to Home' house, as it happened to house a lot of actors and workers from the popular 1970s TVNZ sitcom that was based in Wellington. Other actors and television industry people were in the neighbourhood including Jim Moriarty living next door. With lots of students in the street, Scarborough Terrace was known for its parties, including some epic ones at number 12.

Rob: "How we didn't set the place on fire and things like that, I don't know. There was one where we had all plastic streamers down the hall, and everybody had to come in through these streamers, and, you know, people smoked in those days!"

He recalls one memorable event when a flatmate did some publicity photography for the Club Exotic strip club on the corner of Cuba and Vivian Streets. As a result, the Club Exotic team promised to "bring

the party" to the next event at Scarborough Terrace, which is how George Beyer (later the famous Georgina) ended up dancing to 'Sweet Transvestite' from the Rocky Horror Picture Show in Rob's lounge.

Two things shaped history for the couple.

In 1978 Di responded to a flatmate wanted ad at Scarborough Terrace, and moved into the then all male flat.

Around that time, she says, "there was a real attitude towards Mount Victoria. It was considered to be quite dangerous."

One family in the street attracted multiple police visits due to its well-known links to the Mongrel Mob.

Di: "We got to know them pretty well because they were on the street. Actually, really great guys."

In 1979 Rob was able to buy the house off the owner who was in urgent need of a sale, setting the scene for a long history at the house.

“there was a real attitude towards Mount Victoria. It was considered to be quite dangerous.”

Rob and Di married in 1985. As they were “never going to be married in a church” their wedding took place at Crossways community centre which was then on the corner of Elizabeth Street and Brougham Street. They packed the wedding party into a red Toyota van to drive down, and the reception was at the Basin Reserve.

Soon after, kids arrived. Two daughters and a son led to involvement in the local preschool as helpers and a stint by Rob on the Clyde Quay School board of trustees.

To make ends meet, the family took in boarders and then later international students.

Di: “Our kids grew up thinking that having someone from another country living in your home was normal. They knew no different. And we never thought to say to them, this is not normal, because it’s just what we did. At the table each night, there’d be a person from a different country. It was it was win-win for everybody. We loved it. It was so enriching.”

Many friendships made through the visitors have endured over the years, giving Rob and Di connections around the globe.

Hockey has been a passion for Di, and that included coaching local teams. She found that sport was a great opportunity for children from a cross section of society to come together and find a non-judgemental and supportive space that was their own.

The couple have instigated regular street parties over the years, some of them memorable, like the time Julia Deans and another member of Fur Patrol – who lived in the street– gave a concert.

Another time Rob recalls how the police turned up with a paddy wagon and truncheons, thinking some out-of-control teenage party was underway, only to find a street gathering that included children and elderly. They stopped the party anyway, on the basis the group didn’t have a permit to close the street.

Rob: “We never did!”

Di: “We were slight rule breakers I suppose.”

Reflecting on the years that have passed and seeing generations come and go, Di says there have been clear cycles.

In the 1970s the area was dominated by Greek families and renters crammed into houses that had been divided into flats, and it certainly wasn’t middle class.

From high density renting in the 1970s the area slowing evolved into families with young children, who turned rental homes back into single dwellings. In the last ten years, however, she has observed homeowners moving away but retaining their homes and renting them out. There has been a change in the



Many friendships made through the visitors have endured over the years, giving Rob and Di connections around the globe.

number of young families around, due to the higher cost of housing.

Although the composition of the suburb has changed, and become more middle class, Rob and Di believe the suburb attracts a certain kind of person who wants to be part of a community, that makes it special.

“There’s no arrogance. [people tend to be] solid, humble, good citizens, who, in the main, have worked hard their whole lives to get to where they are to today. There’s no ‘of right’. It’s not like ‘first boat Christchurch’ at all,” says Di.

“You wouldn’t choose to come in here if you had the attitude of status. You’d go to Oriental Bay. People are making a choice to come here because they want to be in a community like this,” says Rob.

Children have come and gone from the house, and some of them have returned to stay with grandchildren in tow.

The couple have a laugh recalling a chance meeting with a neighbour from their earlier life, who couldn’t believe Rob and Di were still in the same house decades later, and married to each other.

But they wouldn’t have it any other way. **TL**

Could winter be the hot time to sell this year?

The cooler months could be a good choice for Mt Vic home owners looking to sell, says **Anji Foster** from **Lowe & Co.**

Election years are always a slightly uneasy time for Wellington real estate. We live in a city where most of us are only a degree or two removed from someone whose job or income is affected by a change of Government, if it's not in fact ourselves who will be impacted. So, as November approaches, the general mood in the capital can become noticeably cautious.

In the property space, this particular general election carries a bit more weight than usual. Around half of the homes in Mount Victoria are tenanted. These properties are owned by hundreds of investors who bought without capital gains tax ever being a factor in their investment calculations. A change of Government later this year looks to bring that era to an end, and the uncertainty around what that might look like is already a frequent topic of conversation.

From experience, this "wait and see" feeling tends to creep into the market from early spring onwards. As the flowers bloom, some buyers can shrink away. Buyers become more cautious, sellers hesitate, and decisions that might have been made confidently earlier in the year are pushed out until after the election dust settles. This will be the seventh election I've worked through in real estate, and each time the pattern has been similar.

What that creates, however, is an interesting window earlier in the year.

Mount Victoria is fortunate in that it is one of Wellington's best winter selling suburbs. A high percentage of our homes enjoy good sun even in the colder months, and when that is paired with decent heating, properties here can present well year round. Buyers who walk into a warm, sunny Mt Vic home in June, July or August know that if it feels good in winter, it's going to feel even better in summer. Our handy

Sun Seeker app helps show people the sun's trajectory throughout the year to give them confidence.

The other strong advantage of a winter campaign is the supply and demand balance. Over the years, winter has consistently been when the number of listings on the market drops significantly, while the number of active buyers only dips slightly. Fewer competing properties means more attention on the homes that are available, and that can work very well in a seller's favour.

This timing doesn't suit every suburb in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Some of our hillier and coastal areas lose the sun entirely for a stretch of the winter months, which makes presentation more challenging. But in Mt Vic we are somewhat spoiled, with good access to that all important vitamin D for much of the year.

Of course, it's entirely possible that the Wellington property market powers through to the end of 2026 with renewed confidence and strong activity. I certainly hope that's the case. But if this election year follows the pattern of the previous six that I've witnessed first-hand, we may see a bumpier ride in the final third of the year.

So, if selling is on your radar for 2026, it might be worth giving some thought to the colder months. This could be one of those years where winter, rather than spring, is your time to shine. **TL**

Source: REINZ Suburb Report
December 2025

Mount Victoria is fortunate in that it is one of Wellington's best winter selling suburbs.



Lowe & Co
REALTY

Andco Realty Limited - licensed under REAA 2008

Keeping parcels safe

Jane O'Loughlin hopes the future is better mailboxes

In my line of work, you see a lot of letterboxes. Helping to deliver *The Local* each month means putting newspapers in letterboxes. Big ones, small ones, ones that are so hidden you spend minutes trying to work out where on earth they are. Ones that are falling apart, ones placed frustratingly almost out of reach, and scary ones with spiders.

But most letterboxes haven't evolved much. They were made to accommodate letters, which we don't get many of these days.

What we do get is parcels – parcels from online delivery that need to go somewhere.

And that's the other thing I observe as I perambulate about the streets – a lack of places to put parcels. You will often see parcels sitting in open letterboxes, on porches and in other obvious places – hoping and trusting in the goodness of passersby not to swipe them.

It's terribly frustrating to have a parcel stolen, and there's very little you can do about it.

This is why I admire the new kind of letterbox that is actually a parcel box. These clever inventions accept large items, and secure them so they can't be removed by others.

Having spotted a few of these innovations around the traps, I popped online to find out more, and came across Vanessa, who founded the New Zealand company Aspect Box. Having had something stolen from her front door – and a subsequent, terrifying visit from a burglar – prompted her to think about security. She sat down at her kitchen table and decided to design a modern, lockable dropbox system that was attractive and suitable for Kiwi homes. Now she sells these across New Zealand, to homeowners who want peace of mind when it comes to their parcels.

The product works like a magic trick – you put the parcel in the top and it disappears into a lower section, secure until you come along to unlock the device and get it out.



While they are pricier than your average mailbox, you can factor in the savings of not losing parcels to thieves, and the fact they look nice.

Aspect Box mailboxes come in a range of sizes and styles depending on whether you want it free-standing or to integrate it into an existing fence or wall.

Sick of getting parcels nicked? Invest in a cool parcel box, and ideally one from a New Zealand company like Aspect Box. **TL**



The Bridge
Your inner city local

 GUINNESS

GUINNESS 1759 CLUB



Every Thursday
at 5:59 PM



Enjoy \$12 pints &
Irish Fries
for 2.5 hours

Split the 'G'

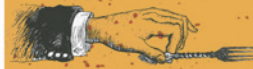
Be in the draw to win a
\$50 bar voucher

THE BRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE
HOTEL

THURSDAYS

STEAK NIGHT


BUILD YOUR OWN




CHOOSE YOUR CUT
PICK A SAUCE
ADD A SIDE

Starting
from
\$13



 28 Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro

 www.cambridgehotel.co.nz

 04 801 1950

See The Bats

The Bats are playing in Wellington in March and *The Local* has a double pass to give away to its readers.

Legendary Flying Nun band The Bats are back on the road again, with their most extensive national tour in over 20 years.

The tour celebrates the indie band's much-loved 2025 album *Corner Coming Up*, recorded in Port Chalmers. Their 11th studio album debuted at #1 on the IMNZ Chart and #2 on the Official Aotearoa Music Charts.

Formed in Christchurch in 1982, The Bats – Robert Scott, Kaye Woodward, Paul Kean and Malcolm Grant – have maintained the same lineup for over 40 years.

The band is playing at Meow on 14 March. To go into the draw for two free tickets to the gig, email editor@the-local.co.nz with the name of your favourite Bats album.

BANISHED MUSIC
PRESENTS

THE BATS

CELEBRATE CORNER COMING UP


w/ ALBERT RIVER

MARCH 14

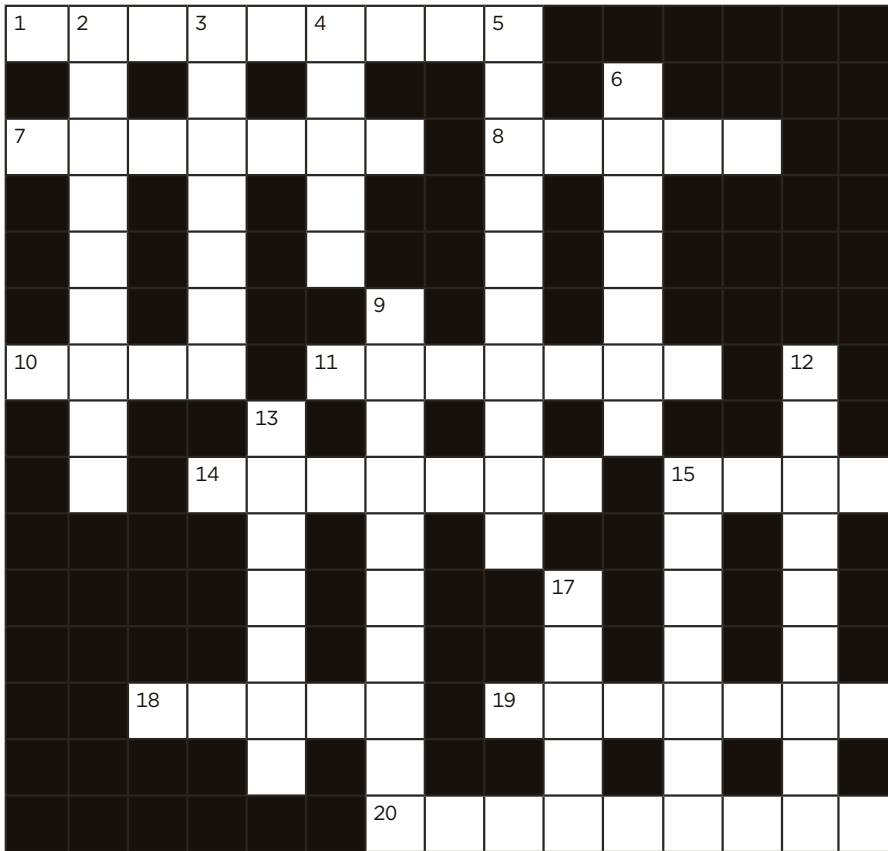
MEOW

WELLINGTON

TICKETS FROM BANISHED MUSIC



Beau's Crossword #4



Across

1. Texture of food during consumption. (9)
7. Blemished, ----- glass window. (7)
8. A steed or a hill. (5)
10. Perseverance. (4)
11. Something or someone that verifies. (7)
14. Declares confidently. (7)
15. A segment of DNA. (4)
18. Humped desert mammal. (5)
19. Guile, ----- of hand. (7)
20. The capital city of Sweden. (9)


Down

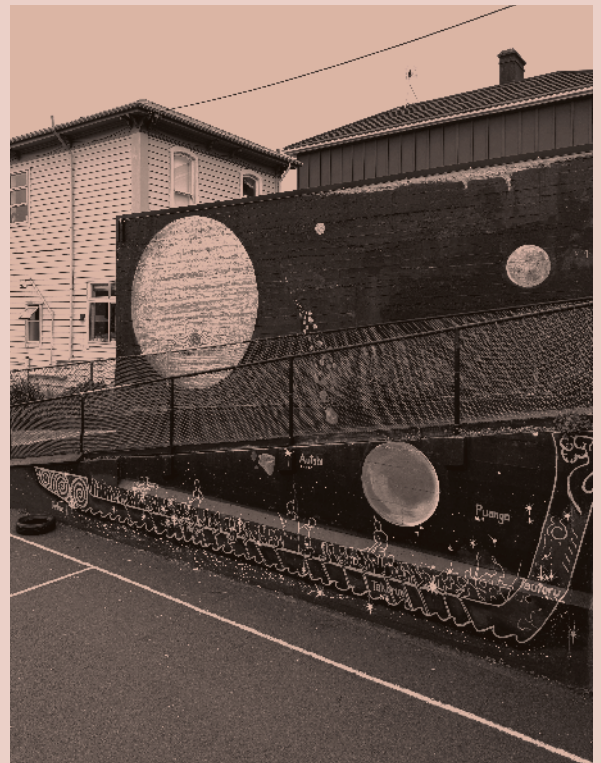
2. Done consecutively. (2,3,4)
3. Pronged Greek weapon. (7)
4. Refer. (anag)
5. Symbol of infinity. (10)
6. A musical group of four. (7)
9. Levels that must be reached. (10)
12. Won't have fatal consequences. (9)
13. Watery natural disaster. (7)
15. Edible decoration. (7)
17. Artefact, a ----- of the past. (5)

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 Donna Owen who identified the February ULO as the top of the Kent Terrace fire station (as seen from Roxburgh Street). 



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

Mount Victoria Historical Society Sunday March 15, 2.30pm

Join us for a Paterson Street Guided Walk – find out about the big history of this small street, which will be lost if a second tunnel is built. Phone or text Jo on **027 7577 984** to register interest and find out details. For more information about the Historical Society, or to join it, go to mtvictoria.history.org.nz.

A discussion about Mt Victoria's trees

The Mt Victoria Residents' Association meeting on 5 March at 6pm will be in our new larger venue at the Clyde Quay School hall. We will have speakers with our first topic for the year about how we manage our trees in Mt Victoria, the street trees and Town Belt park trees. We will be asking do we want more street trees and how would we go about getting them? What to do if there is an issue? Each of our meetings during the year (first Thursday of the month 6–7.30pm) will have a theme. Future topics include an emergency management session, what transport improvements we want in our suburb, what issues affect bodycorp and apartment dwellers, and our election candidate meeting in October. For more information and to join up with your residents' association check out mvra.org.nz.

Talks to whet your appetite for adventure

Tararua Tramping Club's talks every Tuesday night at 7.30pm are open to all. Here's the March line-up:

- **3 March:** Andy Buchanan
'An Alpine Panorama Challenge'
- **10 March:** Ross Bidmead
'Cycling from Ship Cove to Dunedin'
- **17 March:** Chris Munn
'Threading the needle in Kahurangi'
- **24 March:** Jenny Cossey
'Trekking in Tajikistan'
- **31 March:** Peter Barry
'End of the Earth: the far south of South America'

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, 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.

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**.

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.

LISTINGS

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.

Probus Wellington Central in March



The March meeting has been deferred to Friday 27 March which is also the AGM. The speaker will be Probus member Dennis Rowe, who will be discussing "Development on the West Coast". 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. Visitors welcome. More information: probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wellingtoncentral.

U3A in March 2026



U3A March programme starts with a Sunday March 1 special screening of the film GRACE: a prayer for peace, ahead of the March 3 lecture by Dame Gaylene Preston and Dame Robin White. March also brings Dan Henry celebrating 60 years of Country Calendar on screen, and Dr Philip Bagshaw speaking about public elective healthcare in disarray and what to do about it. 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.

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.

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.

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.

THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY NEWS

**Get your message
seen by Mt Vic
residents**

The Local is delivered direct to letterboxes every month.

Sign up for six months of advertising **before 31 March** and get an **additional two months of free advertising**.

See our website for more details:
the-local.co.nz/advertise



All hail the hero cyclist

Jane O'Loughlin wonders why cyclists get such a fuss made of them.

One day in summer I decided to take my bike to work. It was a hot day, I had a few heavy things to take, so it was going to be more pleasant to cycle.

When I arrived at work in my hi vis coat, helmet in hand, I got approving glances from other cyclists.

“You biked! Well done Jane!” was the general tone. This irked me for several reasons.

First of all, cycling isn't hard. For me it's actually much less effort than walking, due to something to do with physics and how wheels work. It takes me about 35 minutes to walk to work, but I can zoom in effortlessly in about 15 minutes on a bike (no battery).

Secondly, from what perspective was I doing good work? Saving the environment? But every other day when I'm not cycling, I am walking or occasionally taking the bus. I don't think I have driven my car to work in the last 10 or more years. My perambulating causes no carbon emissions and indeed I would argue that walking is much more environmentally friendly than a bike, as it requires less infrastructure and equipment.

So why are people so admiring of cyclists, but significantly less impressed by pedestrians?

My indignation on this issue was set off this earlier this year when I saw the event 'Ride to work' day advertised. I knew what this meant – free breakfast and treats on the waterfront – for cyclists.

I happened to walk past it on the day, when it was in full swing.

Sure enough, there was coffee, donuts, bananas, giveaways, all sorts of free stuff rewarding the lycra clad legionaries of our streets.

I went by and glared at them all, sipping their free coffee.

I wandered up to a tray of glistening donuts, waiting to be told that they were just for cyclists. Unfortunately for my narrative, I was kindly invited



to partake. It appeared there was no discrimination when it came to the kai.

I also observed some t-shirts worn by regional council staff that said 'WALK BIKE BUS' or something to that effect. Even the font sizes were the same.

A good contingent of councillors from the city and regional council had turned up to the event, to be seen backslapping our hero cyclists.

This was all political of course – in the war of car v bike, politicians want to let it be known whose side they are on, and who would not want to be associated with this healthy happy crowd.

I tried out my 'it's not fair' story on a few people but they pretty much pointed me towards the donuts and told me I was welcome.

The problem with setting up a story with villains is sometimes they all turn out to be desperately nice and well-meaning people.

Good on you cyclists, but I am still hopeful that one day there will be a similar celebration for those unsung warriors of our streets, the walkers.

I snaffled a donut and trudged off to work. **TL**

I wandered up to a tray of glistening donuts, waiting to be told that they were just for cyclists. Unfortunately for my narrative, I was kindly invited to partake. It appeared there was no discrimination when it came to the kai.

Moir Street – a hidden gem

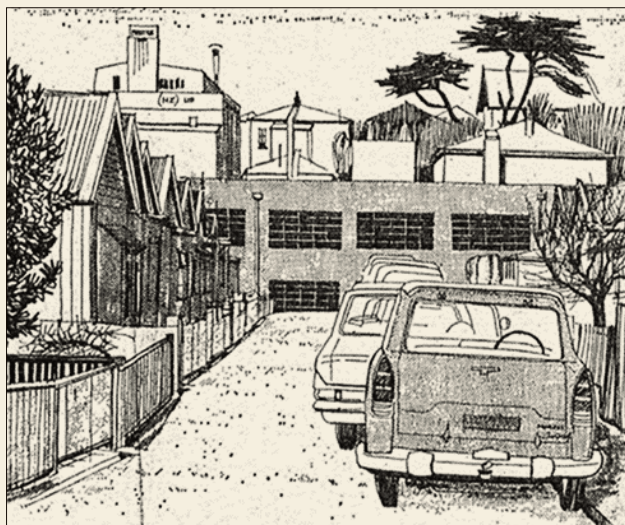
Alan Olliver of the Mt Victoria Historical Society traces the history of one of Mt Victoria's quaintest streets.

Moir Street began as a muddy little private lane off Brougham Street after the Reverend John Moir subdivided his town acre in 1877. Over the next 14 years two adjacent town acres were subdivided turning the muddy lane into the street we have today. A unique feature of the street is its concentration of working-class cottages, built mainly by developers George Baker and Robert Mason between 1888 and 1891.

The most common occupation for residents in the street was labourer. From a sample of Moir Street occupations from 1878–1918, there was a diverse range of manual work, including artilleryman, artist/upholsterer, baker, brush-maker, fireman, hansom cab driver, carpenter, iron moulder, laundress, lithographer, master mariner, meat preserver, platelayer, sawyer and turncock. The work reflects the industries of the time. Surprisingly many also owned their own home, in part thanks to developer Baker's rent-to-buy scheme.

The closeness of the houses sometimes led to arguments or feuds but also created a close-knit community. With a lack of backyard space, children played games together in the street including cricket and hopscotch. Nearly every woman in the street signed the 1893 Suffrage Petition, leading to women, 21 years and older, gaining the right to vote in government elections. During World War I, on average, every second house in the street sent soldiers off to the war.

Right from the very beginning residents were united in complaining to the Council about poor lighting and drainage, and a lack of street maintenance. Despite this, residents clearly liked the street with 11 families living there for over 50 years, and the longest staying for 84 years. Some families also shifted houses within the street.




Above: Moir Street. Martin Hill – Wellington Townscape as Seen Through an Architect's Eyes. The Dominion – 30/9/1967

A unique feature of the street is its concentration of working-class cottages, built mainly by developers George Baker and Robert Mason between 1888 and 1891.

Fast forward to today, the close-knit community remains with residents holding an annual street party. These parties have been going for nearly thirty years and are well attended with invites extended to past residents and other privileged guests.

Times have changed though. Many of the residents are now professionals, and own cars which at times clog up the street. They still rightfully complain to the Council about infrastructure issues. The houses have been extended at the back or sleepouts have been built in the backyard. However, the building form has remained the same at the street front, despite threats of demolition and redevelopment. Recently the whole street gained Wellington City Council heritage status.

If you are not familiar with Moir Street, take a walk and discover one of Mt Victoria's hidden gems. 



Not Thinking Of Selling?

**We help homeowners get their
properties *Open Home Ready*,
whether selling or not.**



**Call today for a chat about our
Open Home Ready service.**



@anji.foster.property



@Anji Foster Property

Lowe & Co
REALTY

Andco Realty Limited - licensed under REAA 2008

Anji Foster
027 274 5047

James Lowe
027 345 0600