

MAY 2025

# Valley Voice

Te Reo Hapori o Waimapihi – the Aro Valley Community Newsletter

**Community Co-ordinator:**  
Ahmen Mahal 384 8499

48 Aro St, [community@arovalley.org.nz](mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz)

**Office hours:** Wednesday closed;  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am – 2pm; Friday 12 – 4pm

**Aro Valley Community Centre – managed by the Aro Valley Community Council**



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**\*Pages 5 – 8 only appear in the online version! See us in colour online:** You can see the whole eight pages of this Valley Voice as a PDF by going to the web page [arovalley.org.nz/valley-voice](http://arovalley.org.nz/valley-voice) or using the QR code above.

(Financial limitations mean that we can only print the first four pages until we get enough advertising support to cover the full eight pages. – see page 2.)

Valley Voice is published on behalf of the Aro Valley Community Council Inc, 48 Aro St, Wellington; this issue on 1/5/25.

All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not of the AVCC unless adopted at a General Meeting.

Photographs and text are by the credited authors or the Editor, Brent Efford.

## Contributions welcome

Contributions – councillors' comments, poems, articles, letters, photos, historical snippets, news of events, business news, etc – relevant to the Aro Valley community are very welcome. Please email to: [brent.efford@me.com](mailto:brent.efford@me.com)

The deadline for Valley Voice articles and photos is set to enable distribution of paper copies early in the month.

Our next issue is **June 2025**, the deadline for receiving contributions is **Wednesday 21 May**



## “Hine e hine ... Goodnight Epuni Street

### Lockdown - five years ago.

Epuni Street, as it was then called, was very quiet. Ruby Solly and Daniela Butterfield looked down on the street from their top verandah and thought about what they could do to make lockdown easier for their neighbours and friends. Ruby had many musical instruments. She had just finished her Masters in Music Therapy, and played jazz on the cello.

Daniela played a few instruments as well, but mainly the guitar. They decided that their contribution to the well-being of their neighbours would be concerts from their balcony.

Each night they would sing the Goodnight Kiwi song, *HINE E HINE*. And each night they would play a different version, on different instruments. The guitar, a children's 'Tune Bells set' - and yes, the cello. Every night a surprise. The cello was amazing.

It didn't take long for the residents to follow the clear and soul-full singing of *HINE E HINE* as it drifted up the street and across the Valley. We would all be safe. Many neighbours wandered out into the street to hear Ruby and Daniela perform.

Alan from 25 had painted up some distancing sticks - 2 meters long.

Sahar Fanian, the movie maker, had just managed to find a flat in Levina Avenue before lock-down. Each night she came down with the flatmates and filmed us as we gathered. And when the restrictions were lifted she filmed the other musicians in the street as they performed for us all ...

Five years later Sahar, now studying film, has put it all together in the movie - *GOODNIGHT EPUNI STREET*. It is her first film and has opened the world of



Sahar introduces the movie

Concludes page 4 >>>

## Feedback ...

### Trees not fixed yet!

Hi Brent,

After getting a sign off from Fikit today (to my surprise) I looked at the trees and thought they had done a sterling job.

It may have looked aggressive while it was going on but now it is barely noticeable and the lines are cleared for the meantime.

Are you pleased too?

Julia



Hi Julia

No – while establishing native trees left to grow naturally outside built-up areas – a la the Tanera Park project covered in the April Valley Voice – is to be applauded and encouraged, fast-growing exotics in a small park in a dense urban area need management – just like the grass is mown to keep the park useable by humans.

Clearing the branches of the big gum tree away from the power lines was only the minimum (initiated by our Secretary reminding the Council that it was a legal requirement) and did not address the Community Council's concern at the excessive shading of Aro Park and the danger of some limbs suddenly breaking and falling on people, or even a whole over-height tree blowing over – as has already happened.

However, a proper trim now would be very expensive, because the WCC has neglected tree management in Aro Park in the past. We will have to keep nagging but probably won't see any early results.

*Brent Efford*

Editor



## Meeting 15/4/25 ...

### AVCC Committee report

- **Resignations:** Sarah Jane Parton and Mark Russell resigned from the Committee. Both were thanked and will be missed. **Sarah Jane**, in particular, made an enormous contribution to the Aro Valley community over many years. Her work included being Co-ordinator, Secretary, Committee member and willing volunteer for many AVCC projects.
- The Committee members each signed a **declaration of conflict of interest**, which is a requirement of being on the committee.
- The Committee noted its disappointment with WCC's **limited trim of the trees** in Aro Park.
- The **draft financial report** to year end 31 March 2025 indicates a **loss for the year is likely**. The Committee noted this is a matter it will have to urgently address for the coming year.
- Unfortunately, **the Saturday farmer's market will not be happening**, as no veggie supplier is available.
- The Committee is interested in hearing from people who have **ideas for community events** or would like to be involved in making them happen.
- **Committee vacancies:** Given the resignations from the Committee, there are vacancies that we would love to have filled. If you have a passion for the Aro Valley and would like to contribute to its unique character by joining the Committee, send an email to [community@arovalley.org.nz](mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz).

## Yes, we will take ads!

*Foreshadowed in the March Valley Voice was the question of raking in a bit more money to enable the black and white printed version to routinely expand to more than four (i.e. eight) pages. As well as covering the extra printing cost, we want to expand our contact with local business operators.*

*With the fair and other distractions, and all our talented committee volunteers already being very busy, we do not have the resources to actively canvass our businesses for adverts ... BUT ...*

*We welcome advertising copy sent in by email to [brent.efford@me.com](mailto:brent.efford@me.com) You will be invoiced by email after publication.*

- **Rate:** \$400 per half page; smaller spaces pro rata based on area.
- **Minimum size:** a small classified style ad, 2 column cm for \$15.
- **Text:** as provided by the advertiser in an email or a .docx file; minimum size 9 pt; fonts to be defined by the advertiser or, if required, by the Editor (should not be the same as Valley Voice body text).
- **Graphics – logos, photos, drawings etc:** supplied by the advertiser in PDF, JPEG, TIFF or PNG formats.

This is the minimum area and font size.  
Email your ad and any attachments to:  
[brent.efford@me.com](mailto:brent.efford@me.com)

## Support the AVCC financially – hire our hall

*Hire a Community Centre space for your next meeting, function, event or party.*

Very reasonable fees and some activities by locals may qualify for a discount, contact [community@arovalley.org.nz](mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz) to discuss rates.

### Public hire fees at Aro Valley Community Centre

**Small meeting room** - seats 6 comfortably

\$15 per hour

**Hall** - up to 100 people, stage, kitchen, tables and chairs available to use

- \$20 per hr, Monday-Friday, daytime to 5pm
- \$30 per hr, Monday-Friday after 5pm
- \$300 Friday 4.30-11pm
- \$30 per hr, weekend daytime
- \$360 Saturday 5pm - midnight
- \$280 Sunday 4-10pm

Cleaning fee for functions /events - \$60

#### **Bond**

Per event - \$250 (refundable if all conditions met)

For shorter times and regulars - \$50

**PA system** hire - \$150

View the current regular classes and activities at the Community Centre on our website, [www.arovalley.org.nz](http://www.arovalley.org.nz)

From our elected reps ...



I hope everyone has been enjoying the at times amazing Wellington autumn and that you have had a good and safe Easter break.

The next few weeks at Council will be busy ones as we will be focused on listening to residents about critical city issues through our Long Term budget. We are expecting a large number of submitters and it will be a good opportunity to listen to the community on a very wide range of issues including water reform, covering our insurance bills, the future of community facilities like the Begonia House and Karori Events Centre, charging Airbnbs commercial rates and environmental initiatives like the roll out of a more sustainable transport system.

I am personally undecided about many of these issues so am looking forward to receiving some guidance from you all.

It will also soon be election season, a more exciting prospect for candidates than the public I imagine but I hope that the media and wanna-be politicians will not only communicate their policies and values but skills to do the actual job. There are some very big challenges coming up for the city.

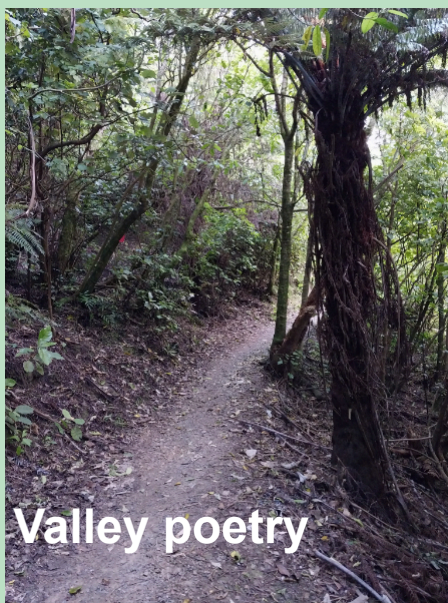
Local Government doesn't have many formal powers so it will be up to leaders to exercise their soft powers to affect real change to protect our climate and communities

Contact: **Iona 021-227-8509** or [iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz).

## Recycle your tetrapaks

A reminder that the Community Centre has a **recycle bin** for food and beverage tetra pak cartons.

Examples of types of cartons that can be recycled include milk, yogurt, custard, juice and Up & Go. Please wash and dry them before recycling. The recycle bin is in the foyer, just inside the front door. The cartons will be made into a product called SaveBoard (a type of GIB board).



## Valley poetry

### Redundant

In my younger days  
Throughout the war years and for  
Quite a while after that,  
I had some status

Now, I'm old hat

Young and old, once came to visit,  
almost everyday  
The lot of them  
now stay away

I once was sought out,  
sometimes eagerly,  
Sometimes with apprehension  
Today I barely get a mention

People, in the past, impatiently,  
awaited  
my every new bon mot  
Now, it seems,  
they've totally forgot

Today, I'm still standing, but  
washed up,  
unwanted, finished, on the rocks  
today,  
who'd be a letter box

*Don Franks*

### POEM NUMBER 1:

a shattered angel  
only 12 years old  
broken wings  
full heart

he slumps  
under the weight  
of the world's problems  
that have gathered  
on his shoulders  
and settled  
like dust  
blown by his  
'friends'  
the universe acting  
as just  
a witness.

### POEM NUMBER 2:

bumblebee suitcases  
struggle to keep up  
after we have seen  
our cousin  
tracking bracelets  
dangle loosely  
tags slung around our necks  
drift to our knees  
run ahead of our attendant  
toothless grins wide  
wondrous eyes  
dart to the plane ahead  
quick distracted hugs  
before we board

giggles as we inspect  
people  
passing our three across seats  
greta on the aisle  
ella in the middle  
me by the window  
just like always  
staring in awe  
at the cloud ridden sea  
while we nibble  
at cookie time cookies  
and sip lemonade  
we flip through sketchbooks  
plays about lemon and lolly  
coming to life  
vineyards in sight  
we touch down  
leaning over each other  
to find gee and pa first

the car ride home  
blue eyed māori  
playing on the radio  
gee and pa  
murmuring and agreeing in the right  
places  
past 80 year old john with the bonsais  
rick and barb with the amazing house  
and orchard  
marge with the curly mini afro and  
stylish clothes  
and then  
we  
are  
Here.

*Esther Bond*

Continued from page 1 ...

## Good night Epuni St

film-making and documentary for her. She is now pursuing an MFA in film.

It was the people of the community who gave her the first sense of home and belonging in this country, and it came into her life at exactly the right moment - when she needed it the most. It was a community unlike anywhere she had ever experienced, "full of quirky events, amazing musicians, and just the warmest kindest people that greet you as you walk down the street and make you feel part of something bigger."

The film was launched in the Community Centre. There wasn't much notice (and didn't make it into Valley Voice). Posters were delivered to everyone in the street and put in many shop windows.

The AVCC helped out, and declared the viewing a public meeting. At least 80 people attended. It was an excellent night!

## Jaqui Tutt



**A full hall!** A popularity indication for planning similar future events.



**The screening underway** (Daniela and Ruby in the picture).



**Local musicians and composers**, Jacqueline Nordon, Ross Harris (obscured) and Helene Pohl provide live music to round out the evening.

On at our hall ...

## Experience Chinese Culture

**Saturday 10 May,  
10am - 3pm**  
Aro Valley Community Centre

### Experiences include

- making dumplings
- practicing calligraphy
- making an origami lotus
- guided meditation



## Kia ora koutou

**Let's talk about our community.**

Get in touch about any local issues or if you need support. I'm here to help and would love to hear from you!

**Tamatha Paul** Green MP for Wgtn Central  
wellington.central@parliament.govt.nz | (04) 3891290

Auth by Tamatha Paul, Green MP for WLG Central, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. Funded by Parliamentary Services.

## Celebrating Nalini Naginbhai Patel: The Legend of Aro Valley and Shalimar Mama

On April 25th, 2025, we celebrate the birthday of Nalini Naginbhai Patel, a true legend and the beloved "Shalimar Mama" of Aro Valley. Nalini served the communities of Aro Valley, Wellington, and New Zealand for over 40 years, starting her journey with the New Zealand Government Printing Office. She later worked at Parvati Dairy in 1977, located at 312 Willis Street. Afterward, she purchased Lau's Four Square, which eventually became Shalimar Mini Mart and Four Square, where she continued to serve the community for 39 years.

Nalini was known for her pleasant, kind, and helpful nature, always cooperating with and assisting people of all ages, from children to senior citizens. She was greatly respected and loved by all communities, including the Indian, Maori, European, Pacific Island, Chinese, and multicultural populations of Aro Valley and Wellington. Her warmth and generosity were felt by everyone she encountered.

She was especially devoted to providing free food to the Wellington Indian community, Aro Valley residents, the



Stillwaters community, and even the wider Indian community during Diwali celebrations. Nalini also helped many children and took care of those in need, always offering her love and support.

To celebrate her remarkable life and legacy, a documentary and an article from the Dominion Post was featured, highlighting her incredible contributions.

In honor of Nalini's birthday, her husband, Neil Patel, hosted a special gathering at Stillwaters House on Friday, April 25th, 2025.



# Paws & Feathers

Building harmony in Aro Valley through a community approach to cat care and bird conservation.

**Annabel Burgess: Masters of Science Student at Victoria University and Founder of Third Era Sustainability Consulting in partnership with Ngā Kaimanaaki o Te Waimapihi**

I moved to Te Whanganui-a-Tara in January 2024 and have been welcomed with open arms by the community, the city and its wildlife. As a newcomer one of the first things that put a smile on my face was the absolute abundance of birdlife I engage with on a daily basis. On my e-bike commute to work/uni I find myself dodging swooping tui and have lost count of the number of kereru that enjoy basking on the power lines in the morning sun. My favourite has to be the kākā that eat the moss off my sunroom roof and have on occasion have had a good ol' kitchen kani kani with me at the window whilst I'm cooking dinner.

The main reason for my shift to Wellington was to complete my Masters in Science at Victoria University. In one of my papers ERES526, my classmates and I were tasked to work with local community groups to design and deliver a conservation project.

Enter Rachael Shaw (Senior Lecturer in Behavioural Ecology, Vic Uni), Lisa Whittle, Rachel Woolford, Simon Carryer (Ngā Kaimanaaki o Te Waimapihi) and Paul Ward (Capital Kiwi). All powerhouses in their own right and each bringing unique experiences, skills and drive to foster a community where people, pets and manu can thrive together.

Standing on the shoulders of their work I was invited to complete a comparison of the survival of Toutouwai (the North Island Robin) within the Zealandia fence line compared to the neighbouring Waimapihi Reserve where many robins have spilled over and made their homes.

The sad news is that through years of monitoring, we know that Toutouwai are unable to survive outside the Zealandia fenceline despite comprehensive and regular trapping, monitoring and predator control by the team at Ngā Kaimanaaki o Te Waimapihi. Toutouwai within Zealandia are seen breeding year after year, with some birds being as old as 14.

Comparatively, Toutouwai outside the fence do not have the same success. Most birds do not make it past 1 year and none have made it to a second year of breeding.

What we know from the years of monitoring and research is that the main cause of predation in the reserve is likely to be our furry feline friends - *felis catus*. To me this is heartbreaking - I'm a cat lover and the thought of my tabby being the cause of such damage is not what I want to hear.

I'd love to tell you that stray and feral cats are the issue. However, through our observation cameras many pet cats with collars and clear identification have been

*Annabel making friends with one of the resident kakā - April 2024*



*Male Toutouwai "Spark" within the Zealandia Ecosanctuary fence line. Photo taken by the author on her first Zealandia field trip on 6 August 2024. Spark is 10 years old and is one of the surviving juveniles from the first breeding season that Professor Shaw started Toutouwai population monitoring in Zealandia 2014.*



spotted roaming the nesting grounds of Toutouwai and our other precious species.

Much like other sustainability challenges, I'm emotionally conflicted. I love to come home to a cat snuggling on my lap, but through personally engaging with the Toutouwai I am aware of the impacts cats have on our native taiao more than ever.

So what can we do? Many of you may remember Gareth Morgan's 2013 election policy and website "Cats to Go" that was largely hinged on a chariot of fire, cat eradication campaign.

While arguably the conservation science behind his message is sound, the 'good vs. evil' showdown didn't exactly bring us together— in fact it seemed to polarise cat lovers and bird enthusiasts further. In 2025 times have changed. We've moved on from the Gareth Morgan polarising conversations and we all know that simply expecting that a little bell on a cat collar is enough of a deterrent (we all know that cats are crafty and bells don't do the job of helping birds - especially vulnerable fledglings in their nest).

As someone who likes to see both sides, I'd love to find a balance where pets,

humans and native birds all live side by side. For me, this starts with a little self-reflection and making a few (potentially uncomfortable) tweaks to how I and my cat live – sometimes the small changes can make the biggest difference.

With a growing awareness of the impact of cats on native bird life, and the clear evidence that when we start to control predators in urban areas we see an abundance of bird life returning (the booming kākā population being the most obvious success story) people are becoming more and more willing to put in place stronger restrictions on their cats.

For example, many locals neighbouring Waimapihi reserve, are choosing to home their cats indoors 24/7. Apartment owners choose to have cats as pets and these too, always live indoors.

One Holloway road household has all four of their pet cats living as inside cats. And luckily, when it comes to creative cat care, some fantastic ideas are already out there. Cat scrunchies, hi-vis collars, bells, walking cats on leads, restricted roaming times and catios, to name but a few. None of these actions will be silver bullets (but when it comes to

sustainability and conservation, nothing ever is).

As we look to the future, it's clear that we all have a part to play in protecting the native birds of Aro Valley and beyond. The challenge is real, but so is the opportunity for positive change.

Whether it's our cats indoors, experimenting with new ways to let them enjoy the outdoors safely, or joining community-driven conservation efforts, every action counts. I challenge you to take a step and try something new, be it a catio, a lead walk, or keeping your cat indoors, and lets see the difference it makes. Who knows, maybe we will start to see a thriving Toutouwai population in Waimapihi Reserve. Together, we can create a sustainable, harmonious environment where both our furry companions and our precious birds can thrive.

The question is: are you ready to make that change for the future of Aro Valley's wildlife?

Let's show the rest of Aotearoa what's possible when we all act as one.

If you have trialled any creative approaches to supporting your cat to live in harmony with our native birds we would love to hear from you!

*Annabel Burgess*



Cat sighted on monitoring camera - 1 September 2024



Marmalade modelling her new fluoro collar 2025



Bing Bong enjoying hanging out in his Catio 2025



## STOP PRESS

*Brent rant ...*

### 102 Aro St Liquor On-license application

*I've been advised of the application for a licence for the new bar/tavern which plans to open in the refurbished veggie shop at 102 Aro Street.*

See:

<https://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/public-notice/open/alcohol-notice/2025-03-octopus>

**Public consultation closes at midnight on 6 May.**

Aspects of the application that the community might be interested in include:

- There is an outdoor area at the back
- Opening hours for the inside space are proposed for Wed - Sunday from 10 am to 2 am the next day
- Opening hours for the outdoor space are proposed for Wed - Sunday 4pm to 9pm

*The community successfully opposed a Thirsty Liquor off-licence for the same premises some years ago.*

*A bar not selling booze to take away is a different proposition. Some addition to the village's night life might be welcome, particularly if there is decent food service. Concerns centre around noise, the potential impact on nearby residents and possible safety issues.*

*I love and use the little existing Garage Project bar at 91 Aro - but it can get awfully crowded at times and an alternative venue for socialising might be welcomed by many.*

*Brent Efford*

## HELP WANTED

**Volunteer needed** to deliver Valley Voice to Durham St and Durham Tce on the first weekend of each month. Just pick up a satchel from the Community Centre on the Thursday or Friday before 4pm, or after that from the porch at 1 Boston Tce, opposite Aro Park - and email [judsybuch@gmail.com](mailto:judsybuch@gmail.com) to go on the list!



**A tavern in the town?** 102 Aro St still being rebuilt 29/4/25

# The prisoners' impromptu public meeting

A prison to accommodate drunken soldiers and sailors and the usual run of miscreants was an early priority for the Wellington colonial settlement. The first 'permanent' establishment was established in 1852 on a ridge at the south side of the Waimapihi valley – known then as Polhill's Gully and now the Aro Valley, and beside Woolcombe St – now the south end of The Terrace.

At the time Polhill's Gully was still partly covered with dense bush which was being cut out largely for firewood, while dairy farms and market gardens were being established. The gaol site may have been 'urban fringe' when it was established but became very much 'inner city' by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The prison – or gaol as it was referred to – grew over the years to include a brick cell block and various wood and corrugated iron buildings and a high corrugated iron security fence. Extensive vegetable gardens to feed the inmates covered the slopes down into the gully beside Devon St.

As the gaol grew, houses for increased staff numbers were provided in Devon St and St John St – many of which remain today.

However, it was not long before the inadequacy of the site, and the limited opportunities for expansion, became apparent. Construction of a new gaol in Mt Cook commenced using prison labour. Prisoners were marched in chains from the Terrace Gaol to the brickworks at the Mt Cook site (now the Wellington High School playing fields).

The Mt Cook gaol became an unpopular ugly edifice on the Te Aro skyline and was never completed – and was demolished in the 1920s, the Dominion Museum (now Massey University) being built on the site.

The practice of marching prisoners in chains through an increasingly dense urban area was becoming pretty problematic, as this Papers Past clipping from 1913 suggests, and the use of prison labour on the Mt Cook site ceased in 1915.

The Terrace Gaol itself finally closed in 1927, replaced by Mt Crawford. The demolition, to make way for Te Aro School, and the construction of the new prison, were both done using prison labour.

More gaol tales, including the several roles of WW1 prisoner/community leader/local MP/NZ's 'best' Prime Minister, Peter Fraser can be expected in future issues of Valley Voice.

Information about the gaol is drawn from **Peter Methven's The Terrace Gaol: a short history of Wellington's prisons 1840-1927** (Steele Roberts Publishers, 2011) – no longer in print, or online, but in libraries.

An academic history from Victoria University – whose Kelburn campus adjoins the gaol site – is:

<https://www.crimejusticejournal.com/article/download/2741/1327>

## PRISONERS' PROTEST

### AN INTERRUPTED MARCH

#### REFUSE TO PROCEED.

The spectacle of nineteen prisoners standing in double line with one of their number delivering an oration attracted a large crowd of the public at the corner of Willis and Abel Smith streets last evening. The affair was a further development of the bread-throwing incident on Wednesday for which the prisoners of the Terrace Gaol were responsible. As stated in last evening's Post, this performance was repeated while the gang were on their way to the Mount Cook brick kilns yesterday morning, but a vigilant warder gathered up the loaves cast upon the roadway, and the notes of complaint which some of them contained did not fall into the hands of the public as they did on the first occasion.

#### "PUTTING THEIR HEADS TOGETHER."

Last evening's episode would seem to indicate that the prisoners, while at work at Mount Cook yesterday, must have conspired to take concerted action on the homeward march, in order to bring their grievances (visionary or otherwise) before the community at large. Forty-eight in number, and escorted by six warders, they left Mount Cook shortly before 5 o'clock. The first mattering of revolt came when the intersection of Wordsworth and Upper Willis streets was reached. The prisoners leading the procession unexpectedly stopped, and the men behind were compelled to do likewise. The warders commanded them to proceed, and, after a few moments' delay, during which one of the men asked to be allowed to address the public, they again proceeded on their journey. But the mutinous conduct was only beginning. Not a great deal further down Willis-street—at the corner of Palmer-street—the gang again halted. Again one of their number, a prisoner named Condon, made an attempt to speak (publicly), but again the men were persuaded to proceed after a brief standstill.

#### DISCIPLINE DEFIED.

The third halt was a far more deter-

mined attempt to defy discipline, being practically open mutiny. As the procession went along Willis-street past Abel Smith-street the ringleaders of the trouble once more stopped. All their companions did the same. Sharp orders to "march on" came from the warders, but nineteen of the men resolutely refused to do so. The remaining twenty-nine showed no inclination to have their

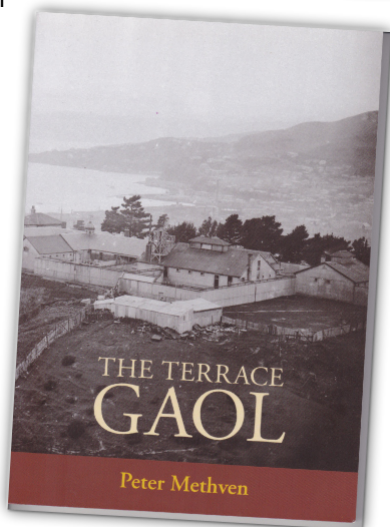
#### DISCIPLINE DEFIED.

goads shortened, and were marched to gaol in charge of some of the warders without giving any trouble. As they departed an effort was made to get the more obstinate prisoners to join them, but they refused to do so. The warders, realising that the position was fraught with possibilities, did not further attempt to make the men move on, but allowed them to carry out their original purpose of making a public appeal. Two of the men (one of them Condon), who had been practically ringleaders in the mutiny, took turn about in addressing the large crowd of spectators that had assembled. They complained that they had had no opportunity of ventilating their grievances. The bread-throwing, they said, was the only method left to them. They alleged that the food was bad, that the prison was insanitary, and that medical attention was entirely inadequate. "We would be glad if any man or any woman in the crowd would write to the papers," said Condon, in the course of his harangue, "and let them know what we have to put up with. We may then get justice." The efforts at eloquence of the two spokesmen having finished, the men then marched back to gaol without any further incident, and were soon in their cells.

#### PRISONERS WELL TREATED.

The query naturally arises, what is the cause of this remarkable conduct? The explanation is not readily ascertainable. There appears to be some grounds, however, for the supposition that the men are annoyed that the sharp eyes of the warders make it impossible for them to secure the tobacco "planted" for them by misguided friends at the brick kilns. Another reason advanced is that the men abhor the degradation of marching through public streets, especially at "rush times," when the thoroughfares are busier than they are at any other time of the day. Certainly the food supplied to the men gives no excuse for unruliness. The bread, a sample of which was yesterday examined by a medical man, is wholesome and sweet—quite equal to that supplied to the general public. Mr. Scanlon, the chief gaoler at the Terrace Prison, indignantly denies that the men have any cause whatever for complaint. Their allegations, he says, "are a tissue of falsehoods." They have an ample bill of fare, their accommodation is comfortable and the sanitary arrangements are perfectly satisfactory. As far as the impeachment in connection with medical attention is concerned, it is disproved by the fact that the medicine bill for the prisoners is £4 a month. So confident is he that close scrutiny will reveal none of the evils complained of that he invites reputable citizens to inspect the gaol.

This morning the men were marched to Mount Cook as usual without any trouble or demur whatever.



Evening Post 27/9/1913

# Can co-housing be a response to the current housing crisis?

## Providing homes for more people in the Aro Valley

Given the current housing shortage in Wellington and the need for more affordable housing perhaps it's time to consider the role that co-housing could play in providing a new and different way forward. In its housing strategy and action plan the Wellington city council estimates that up to 30,000 new homes will be needed by 2043 in Wellington. Not only are homes needed to be built but they must also be affordable. RNZ news reported in February 2025 that the average house value was sitting at \$1,086,000. However, price alone is only part of the housing equation, the other part is how do we want to live as we go forward. Many in Wellington live in houses that are too big for them and that could be freed up if different housing options were available. For many, used to living in a family home or starting out life as a family with young children the option to move into an isolating apartment is unappealing. In Europe co-housing has been growing in strength with organisations such as the UK Cohousing Network, the German Miethäuser Syndikat, or coliving.com that identifies 597 co-living arrangements mainly aimed at young professionals. Co-housing varies substantially in arrangements, the type of building (some are purpose built houses or apartments others converted buildings), the degree of 'sharing', the age profile and the type of regulations. Here are 4 Australasian projects that illustrate how cohousing can work, all are not for profit developments, with prices mainly cheaper than open market homes.



### **Toiroa Dunedin**

Built on the site of an old school. It has 21 eco-friendly passive house homes, ranging in size from two bedroom to

large five-bedroom homes, each with their own private outdoor area. Part of the former school buildings accommodates a communal community centre with dining area, offices and meeting rooms with houses arranged around a shared garden.



### **Co Haus Auckland**

A 20 unit housing development in Grey Lynn, Auckland with a mix of single level apartments in a three storey walk-up and two-level terraces. The design and building materials emphasise sustainability from stormwater, to heating, to community resilience through gardening, waste recycling, shared laundry, 25 bike storage spaces and only 6 car parks.



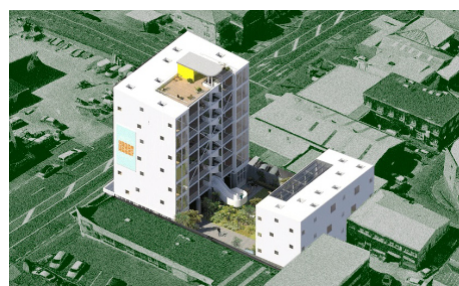
### **Nightingale housing Melbourne**

The Nightingale scheme is a large multi-unit scheme in Brunswick Melbourne adjacent to the rail network that continues to expand. All are apartments of varying sizes, with 20% of all homes allocated to community housing providers, who give affordable, long-term leases to vulnerable community members. Sustainable design is built into all the homes and is a signatory to the reconciliation process commitment to first nations people.



### **Wellington cohousing project**

A small project of 4 town houses (90m<sup>2</sup>) attached to a communal deck and communal multi-purpose room.



A bigger apartment project was proposed by the Urban habitat Collective on Adelaide Road for 25+ families. The project was defeated by escalating building costs.

## **Co-living and the Valley**

Co-living will be increasingly important as society ages, as parents work, families are scattered and reliance on other people for help and social support becomes ever more important. It provides more homes on smaller areas of land so can increase housing supply in the inner city and suburbs of Wellington.

Aro Valley already has a strong community ethos, is close to amenities so seems an ideal location for co-housing projects to work. Large old buildings could be repurposed, several currently separate homes or sections could combine into larger shared housing units. Sharing could include cars, laundry, gardens, and systems of communal help with childcare, shopping, vegetable growing, dog walking and other activities.

To meet the housing needs of current and future Wellingtonians means we may have to swop some of our private benefits for shared ones, but the shared benefits should exceed any private losses.

*Claire Freeman*