

## Democracy triumphs



Chair Ian McKinnon flanked by Bridget and Madeleine (Photo: Des Culling)

**A packed Aro hall last month elected a new committee that will hope to put the negativity of recent times behind it.**

Several former co-chairs – including Roland Sapsford, Jo Brien, Eileen Charman and Jaqui Tutt – stepped forward at the Valley’s annual general meeting (AGM) to form a full-strength committee alongside existing members and some new faces.

The Valley went into the AGM with the danger hanging over it that financial conflicts of interest could lead to its Wellington City Council grant being withheld.

The meeting was at times tumultuous, with some questions from the floor being labelled “appalling” by its chairperson, Lambton Ward City Councillor and Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon.

The meeting started at 7.30pm and did not finish until 11.15pm after one resident triggered a secret ballot, which forced the scrutineers to spend hours counting the votes.

Sapsford and current co-chair Bridget Stocker were elected co-chairs with 60 and 58 votes respectively. Existing treasurer Mattie Timmer was re-elected unopposed, while former community centre co-ordinator Sarah Jane Parton replaced Barry Thomas as secretary, after also standing unopposed.

A full committee of 10 was also elected (see sidebar). Those most opposed to the committee’s current direction were either defeated or did not stand for election. One of those not elected, Martin

The results of the elections for the 2013-14 Aro Valley Community Council

committee were as follows: (numbers of votes received in brackets)

- Co-chairs: Roland Sapsford (60) Bridget Stocker (58) not elected: Martin Wilson (10)
- Treasurer: Mattie Timmer (unopposed)
- Secretary: Sarah Jane Parton (unopposed)

**Committee:** Jo Brien (57) Charles Barrie (54) Jadwyn Lowe (49) Madeleine Rashbrooke (49) Julia Stace (47) Eileen Charman (47) Lisa Thompson (47) Jaqui Tutt (42) Keller Taylor (41) Jay Buzenberg (32)

Wilson, applauded the turnout of over 60 Valley residents. He posted on Facebook: “There’s certainly a lot of interest this year, and it looks like it will be an experienced, strong and enthusiastic committee. I look forward to a truly progressive year.”

The meeting also heard that the Valley’s accounts were in good shape. Timmer said income for the last financial year was \$178,000, up from \$160,000 the year before. With expenses steady at around \$162,000, that left \$16,000 in profit. The Aro Valley now has \$60,000 on its balance sheet, once liabilities are deducted from its assets.

The meeting also passed new policies setting out good employment practices, tighter handling of the conflict of interest problems, financial matters, and communications.

Tim Bollinger and Max Rashbrooke were re-confirmed as editors of *Valley Voice*.

During the meeting, the committee’s ability to act on the community’s behalf was repeatedly challenged, but it was pointed out – by Sapsford and McKinnon, among others – that the Valley’s constitution allows the committee to exercise its authority in between meetings of the wider community.

Various matters raised by residents may be considered at a future general meeting, if the new committee approves them.

**(For more details of the AGM, see p.2, photo of incoming committee, p.4)**



Andy Grant, who Ian McKinnon said he remembered from his university days, but who says he “never went to university”, helped to keep the meeting lively. (Photo: Des Culling)

## Co-chairs reflect on year of achievement

**Better bus services, saving the Devon Street gully and some packed cultural meetings were among the year’s highlights**

for 2012-13, Bridget Stocker and Madeleine Rashbrooke, at last month’s annual general meeting.

In their report to the meeting, they said the Aro Valley Community Council committee had helped coordinate submissions on the Town Belt review, which had threatened to ease the way for development of the land between Devon Street, St John Street and the Boyd Wilson field.

As a result of the submissions, the city council had indicated that the land would remain on its list for adding to the Town Belt, and some adjacent privately owned land could be added as well.

The committee was also keeping its eye on possible housing developments above 132-140 Aro Street, which it felt could damage the Valley’s character and natural habitat.

The committee remained in mediation with the city council on the issue of whether Landcross Street should be regarded as being in the Valley, which would bring it under the Valley’s heritage zoning and prevent inappropriate development.

Lots of work had also gone into

protecting – and potentially expanding – bus services for the Valley, which was set to get evening and weekend services for the first time.

A number of highly successful general meetings had been held, looking at local history, the plans for a Wellington supercity, and the results of the residents’ survey.

Much work had also gone into securing the Valley’s more than \$40,000 grant from the city council.

The school holiday programme was now being run under more “rigorous” procedures so that everyone in the Valley had the chance to work on it and the best possible candidates were appointed.

The co-chairs were also building a stronger relationship with Te Aro School and the Pre-School, and hoped to have the three groups working more closely together in future.

The meeting’s chairperson, Ian McKinnon, commented an “exceptional” report, telling residents: “You are fortunate to have people prepared to volunteer to put in this time.”

**AGM Thank you!**  
I would like to say a big thank you to everybody who attended this year’s AGM.

First, thanks to the members of Aro Valley who took the time to vote in what turned out to be a long but eventful meeting. Councillor Ian McKinnon also deserves special mention for his outstanding role as an independent chair and for his good humour throughout the evening, particularly when faced with challenging questions from the floor.

**Vote 1 for Council Making a difference**



Nicola Drayton-Gleest from Community Law was on hand for queries regarding the constitution and, along with scrutineers Fraser Robinson, Brent Efford, and City Electoral Officer Charlie Ingers, went beyond the call of duty to count the votes. Community Law intern Marianne Dorfner also acted as an independent minute taker and for this we are grateful.

Residents Julia Stace, Jaqui Tutt, Sarah Jane Parton, and Kelvin Arts are also thanked for their assistance in the registration and voting processes, and in the printing and distribution of the various reports.

The continued support from the WCC, particularly from community liaison officer Jenny Rains and councillors Stephanie Cook and Iona Pannett, also needs to be acknowledged, as does the support from those who have helped the AVCC in whatever way they can. From making cups of tea to cleaning up, it is all part of what makes our community strong. It is the goal of the new committee to build upon that community spirit. Thank you all for your support.

**New committee sets to work**  
The new Aro Valley Community Council Committee (AVCC) has already started on a work plan for the next year.

Armed with enthusiasm, experience, and common values, the committee is investigating ways to enable all the folks in the Valley to share their ideas, opinions, and concerns. One option could be to develop an online forum linked to the Aro Valley website, or something similar. In the meantime, the AVCC committee would like to encourage folks to like the ‘Aro Valley Community Council’ on Facebook and keep an eye on the AVCC web page: [arovalley.org.nz](http://arovalley.org.nz)

Mahi has begun on organizing the next three general meetings of the AVCC – there are plans afoot to hold a meeting on Local Food Creation and Resilience, another on the AVCC Constitution and Possible Changes, and, of course, the eagerly anticipated Meet the Candidates meeting for the upcoming local body elections. Watch this space for times and dates so that you can catch each meeting and have a chance (if you wish) to propose possible agenda items.

*Sarah Jane Parton (AVCC Secretary)*



## New Co-ordinator Appointed

### New Aro Valley Community Co-ordinator, Kelvin Aries, began his role in early July.

Originally an Aucklander, Kelvin came to Wellington from Turangi, where he was working at Awahi Farm Centre for Sustainable Practice.

Recently Kelvin has been teaching Monday's Capoeira classes in the Aro hall.

"I love the Aro Valley. I've been here since November. I feel like I've been here all my life," he says.

Kelvin is a co-operator of Epuni Street's heavyweight Solid Gold Sound System, responsible for the inaugural "Lovers Disco" in Aro Park on Valentine's Day this year. He's also been involved in the Kai o Te Aro community



Kelvin, helping with the Upcycle greenhouse project (see page 5)

## Father and son go to war

### By Elizabeth Plumridge

### Have you ever examined the World War I memorial at the corner of Holloway Road and Aro Street?

There are over 100 names listed, all of them men who served overseas during the war of 1914-1918, including 19 men killed in action. These men lived in our locality, but now, as we near the centenary of that war, who knows their stories? Some family names recur. At least one father and son are listed: William Henry Hampton and his son Henry Roy Hampton.

At the outbreak of war in 1914,

William, his wife Eliza Annie and their six children lived in Holloway Road.

William Hampton was popular and a stalwart advocate for the Mitchelltown School. He fought its absorption into the larger Te Aro School, which was then in Willis Street. He was a prominent labour man, active organising trade unions in Wellington, and active in his own union, the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners. He was at one point chairman of the local Trades and Labour Council and a union delegate to conferences of the early political labour movement.

But it seems that Hampton parted company with the labour movement over matters military. Many in the labour movement resisted the scheme of compulsory military training introduced by the Defence Act 1909. But apparently the Hampton family did not. The eldest son, Henry Roy, had been a junior

garden co-operative. Kelvin is planning a Spring clean of the bunker behind the Community Centre on Saturday 24 August. "Come and have a cup of tea, and ask how you can get involved."

## Why all the brouhaha?

Dear fellow residents,

First, I believe AVCC was not being a good employer (this is not contravening employee privacy; this is about what being a good employer means). Second, I found meetings to be poorly facilitated, with the chairs frequently criticising contributors. I was also disappointed *Kalley Voice* showed so little interest in my "Summer Fun" activities (try to find mention of it in VV).

The chairs were elected, so they hold the power. In a representative democracy, checks on that power include regular general meetings, referenda, and a free media. In my opinion, none of these were being offered, and notions of no confidence in the co-chairs, to test if they still held the confidence of AVCC members, were not allowed.

The Constitution is the backbone of AVCC. It allows for a formal process, should that be required. It should be upheld. I will gladly debate, in any neutral forum, the constitutional and Committee failings of the last year. That neutral forum, or any useful forum, has been lacking.

I am sorry it was unpleasant. I am not sorry I spoke out in defense of democracy. I hope this year will be a better one.

Martin Wilson (resident)



Photo: Max Rashbrooke

**Former AVCC co-chair Madeleine Rashbrooke responds:** All these issues have been raised many times in *Kalley Voice* and elsewhere, and people in the Valley are aware of them. The AGM provided an opportunity for the Valley to indicate its views on these matters, and the voting shows they support the committee's current direction.

cadet under the Defence Act of 1909, and volunteered for the front on 22 October 1915. He left for France early in 1916 and was soon at the front. He was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches for bravery in 1917, fell ill in the field and was hospitalised for a short time. In September 1918, he was promoted to corporal and awarded the Military Medal "for acts of gallantry in the field". He was then again wounded and again hospitalised.

His father's story is more tragic. William had joined the 33rd Reinforcements in mid-1917. Most of the men were conscripted but some were volunteers, and William may have been either. The 33rd reached Europe at the end of February 1918, and it seems William was briefly in England, but by the mid-1918 he was in the trenches

in Northern France. Just a few weeks later he was killed. On 13th September 1918, Eliza Annie would have read this, in the Evening Post, of her husband: an 'exceptionally fine type of Labour man... his useful life [now] terminated'. On 11 November 1918 the Armistice was signed. Fighting stopped.

Henry Roy Hampton did not have to return to the trenches and set sail for New Zealand in early February 1919. By then the Hampton family had left the Aro Valley. Nothing is known of how Eliza Annie and her 6 children made their way in the world thereafter.

**• If you have any information about the Hampton family, please contact Elizabeth at: [elizabeth.plumridge@xtra.co.nz](mailto:elizabeth.plumridge@xtra.co.nz)**

## Congrats after a hard year

Iona Pannett, Lambton ward councillor

**Congratulations to the incoming committee of the Aro Valley Community Council (pictured) after the recent AGM. I'm confident that you will do a great job. My thanks also to those who have worked so hard for the community over the past year.**

It has been a challenging year, and a special thanks go to co-chairs Bridget Stocker and Madeleine Rashbrooke for their huge contribution.

At the time of writing, Wellington has come through well after a significant earthquake. But it is a timely reminder to be prepared. It is not expensive or time consuming to make a plan and to get your emergency supplies together. For more advice go to [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz).

A more complex issue is how we



The incoming AVCC committee, L-R: Kelvin Aries (co-ordinator), Jacqui Tutt, Eileen Lowe, Lisa Thompson, Sarah Jane Parton, Charles Barrie, Kellar Taylor, Roland Sapsford, Bridget Stocker, Mattie Timmer, Jo Brien, Missing Madeleine Rashbrooke, Julia Stace & Jay Buzenburg (photo: Julia Stace)

will strengthen the hundreds of earthquake prone buildings around the city, a few which are in the Aro Valley. We have made very good progress in the last few decades and especially the last two but much more remains to be done. The key issue is how we will pay. My view is that a partnership approach between building owners, the Council and Government is the best way forward.

It is a critical public safety issue and

government needs to be involved. Grants, targeted rates loans and tax breaks are all possible solutions. Just a final reminder to make sure you are enrolled for Local Body elections in September/October. You can do that here: <https://enrol.elections.org.nz/app/enrol/>

• Iona 384-3382/021-227-8509 or [iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz)

A good choice for Wellington's future

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# KAITIAROA Garden Community

**With the Te Aro upcycle bottle greenhouse project in full swing, the Kai o te Aro Orchard has been a hive of activity. We had our first greenhouse-building workshop there as part of an orchard open day yesterday and it was a great success.**

Kai o te Aro faces new and old joined forces to make columns from bottles collected by Te Aro school and fitting them into the frames made by our friends at the Wellington Menzshed.

There has been a lot of support from all kinds of other places to make this project happen: Mire 10 gave us a good discount on the wood and the Department of Corrections' Community Service team put in a huge effort to help us get the orchard ready for the workshop. Thanks also to Andy and Malcolm for helping us move the (very heavy) greenhouse frames from the Menzshed to the Orchard and then up to Te Aro School for the second workshop—which will have also happened by the time you read this. This project wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Packaging Waste Community Grant we received — so thanks KNZBI!

The orchard will continue to get a lot of energy this year as we work towards our new goal of developing it into a series of allotments for people in the valley, and working together with some partner organisations to help them get used by the people that need them the most. This idea is part of a new 'community pantry' idea we are exploring with the orchard and at the steps garden. This is a very exciting project for Kai o te Aro and will help us manifest some of the deeper aspects of our vision:

- *Creating welcoming, supportive gardens for people to learn food-*



growing skills, meet like-minded people and engage in proactive community development

- *Producing locally grown organic food for communities in need*
- *Supporting the development of locations for other groups and individuals to grow food for themselves*

- *Advocating for, educating about, and demonstrating local organic food production to support community resilience in Aro Valley and Wellington*

**• Nurturing the growth of a community of care and cooperation**  
Watch this space for more info about this project. And as always, if you want to know more about Kai o te Aro or get

involved, flick us an email at [arogardener@gmail.com](mailto:arogardener@gmail.com), or leave your contact details at the community centre and we'll get back to you.

Maurora

Charles



**COME AND PLAY!**  
**PLAYGROUP**  
at Aro Valley Pre-school

**Wednesdays 3-5pm during school terms**  
Indoor & outdoor play for babies and toddlers

## Skin clinic named in national awards



the win was "not bad for a one-woman band", she said.  
"I was up against some amazing spas, with huge facilities and a large team of beauty therapists, nurses and doctors. Most of the owners of these new businesses were on their second and third business, whereas I have a small clinic and have built it up from scratch as opposed to buying an existing business." Daly's point of difference "was that I was a skin clinic, concentrating on long term skin health. I also take a hard stand against cosmetic enhancement and appearance medicine and the like, which has become primary in a lot of salons and an increasingly accepted means to respond to the natural ageing process."

**Aro Valley's own Skin Focus clinic has been named runner up in the 'best new business' category at this year's New Zealand Beauty Industry Awards.**

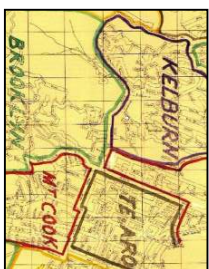
Helen Daly, who runs the clinic (pictured), said she was "thrilled" with the win for her business, which is not quite one year old. She was competing against beauty salons, spas, med-spas, and resort spas from across the country, and

## What are the boundaries of the Aro Valley?

A sub-committee set up by the AVCC to investigate and define the boundaries of the Aro Valley in order to determine the eligibility of members of the AVCC, has recommended leaving them as they are currently defined by the Wellington City Council. This boundary line excludes Landross Street and the north side of Abel Smith Street, letterboxes that currently receive copies of the *Valley Voice*. It also excludes Inverlochly Place.

The group, comprising Russell Taylor, James Grant, Barry Thomas, Charles Barrie and Mattie Timmer (with the support of Andy Grant and Clarry Inwood), looked into various options for how AVCC's constituency boundaries might be revised.

Aro Valley has only existed as a suburb since 2003 when the current boundaries were established, although the term



**WANTED: Valley Voice deliverer - Essex and Devon Streets, phone Jo: 385 3051**

'Aro Valley' has been used to define the community of the AVCC since its first constitution, established in 1978. At that time, Aro street marked the boundary between the suburbs of Te Aro, Brooklynn, Kelburn, Highbury and Mitchellton (see map below). The new council is expected to keep pursuing this and other matters, with any future recommendations to be put before a future general meeting.

The group thanks Nathan Stocker at WCC archives and Keith Clements for their input.



**Above: Bus Rapid Transit. "The ability to use the future Mount Victoria tunnel duplication and widened State Highway 1 corridor is key to the benefits of this option." -Pg 6 Summary Report, Public Transport Spine Study**

## Have your say on: The Wellington Public Transport Spine Study

Feedback by 4pm, Monday 30 September 2013

The Public Transport Spine Study (PTSS) is setting the future for public transport in Wellington city.

They've short-listed three options:

- Bus Priority
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Light Rail Transit

Do any of them include preserving and extending those much-loved public transport icons, the Wellington trolley buses? Or has the Greater Wellington Regional Council missed the bus? **SEND OUT MORE** at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/ptssstudy>



Photo: Julia Stace

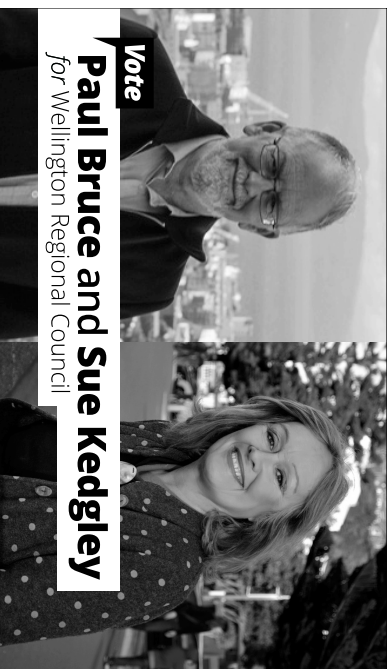
## Mauve plaque unveiled

**On Sunday 28th July, and has painted her house the colour of the first Aniline Dye, invented in 1856, also dressed in shades of Mauve, Jaqui Tutt and Alan Fairless unveiled a plaque that explains why their house has been painted that unusual hue. Jaqui seems to have stayed as vibrant as the day it was painted.**



## REGULAR HALL USERS

| Day       | Time                                       | Activity & Cost   | Contact   |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| Monday    | 7.15 - 8.15am                              | Tai Chi Class (Kohu)  | Yi Ching Mao<br>384 3588  |
|           | 6.00 - 8.00pm                              | Capoeira (\$10 casual /\$40 - 8 classes)  | Bobby Semau<br>027 6961708<br>bobbysemau@gmail.com                        |
| Tuesday   | 11.15 - 12.00pm                            | Sit and Be Fit (\$3 per class)  | Kathy McConville<br>Contact: AVCC 04 384 8499                             |
|           | 5.30 - 6.30pm                              | Nia Classes   | Alison Henderson<br>04 728 4618<br>021 861 849<br>alison@zenstation.co.nz |
|           | 7.30 - 9.00pm                              | West Coast Fling social dance group (experienced dancers)   | Tim Gooddard<br>021 207 5001  |
| Wednesday | 7.15 - 8.15am                              | Tai Chi Class (Kohu)  | Yi Ching Mao<br>384 3588  |
|           | 6.30 - 8.00pm (Term time only)             | Starjam   | Genevieve@starjam.org<br>2121 9271<br>021 782 846                         |
| Thursday  | 6.00 - 7.00pm                              | Samba<br>Hillary Mitchell & Fabiola Stevenson   | Hillary Mitchell<br>Hillary_Reid@vuw.ac.nz<br>021 230 8732                |
|           | 7.30 - 9.00pm                              | Yshukai Karate (\$10 a week - pay what you can attend. Includes 2 Weekly classes Northern Community Centre) | Colin Berry<br>027 249 3542 • 475 9985                                    |
| Friday    | 7.15 - 8.15am                              | Tai Chi Class (Kohu)  | Yi Ching Mao<br>384 3588  |
|           | 10.00 - 11.30am                            | Chinese Ballroom Dancing Group  | Yvonne Curry<br>938 7887 • 021 212 1635<br>17yvonne@185.com               |
| Saturday  | 11.00 - 12.00pm                            | ZUMBA Fitness (\$15/\$10 with ID)   | Refael Ferrer 382-8232<br>www.cubdentusion.co.nz                          |
|           | 1.00 - 3.00pm (last Saturday of the month) | Capoeira (31 August 2013) FREE  | Bobby Semau<br>027 6961708<br>bobbysemau@gmail.com                        |
| Sunday    | 9.30 - 2.30pm                              | Forward in Faith  | Shadreck Marniute<br>smarniute@yhoo.com<br>021 244 8045                   |



**Vote**  
**Paul Bruce and Sue Kedgley**  
for Wellington Regional Council

Authorised by Jon Field, Lvl 2, Garrett St, Wellington

**Green**

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### VALLEY VOICE

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not of the Aro Valley Community Council (AVCC) unless adopted at a general meeting.

AVCC co-chairs 2013-14:

Bridget Stocker

Roland Sapsford

Secretary: Sarah-Jane Parton

Treasurer: Marit Timmer

Committee members:

Charles Barrie, Jo Brien, Jay

Buzenberg, Eileen Chaman, Jadyvn

Lowe, Madeleine Rashbrooke, Julia

Stace, Kellar Taylor, Lisa Thompson,

Jacqui Titt

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## Killing Martha, and other pests

By Julia Stace



L-R: Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Home and new community co-ordinator Kelvin Ais. Chris shows mouse trap with freshly caught 'Martha'.

Around 40 people heard last month about what the Wellington City and Greater Wellington councils are doing in the public land that borders Aro Valley and Zealanda.

At a meeting at Aro Hall, the city council's Ewan Kelsall said they had been placing possum and rat bait stations on the bushy slopes and controlling pests outside Zealanda for two decades now.

Ewan showed us various traps and said he favoured Pelitred®, a tube of poison that you can attach up a tree in your garden. He favoured this because it goes on working, poisoning rats and possums for a month, until the bait becomes stale or is all gone, whereas a trap, once it has something in it, is out of action until it is reset.

The Pelitred is baited with anticoagulant poison, which is available to anyone, to handle with care, and has an antidote if necessary. With a bait station the only way you know that you have pests is by the bait disappearing, as you are unlikely to ever see the kill. I myself favour traps as you kill more humanely, don't add poison to the environment and you know what is around. But they are grunsome.

I have started trapping rats and hedgehogs but need some way of keeping the trap inaccessible to cats. (I dread catching Bengali Marlo from Epmi Street.) At the meeting we were



Ewan Kelsall of Greater Wellington Regional Council explains traps

and unload.

Possums, rats and hedgehogs are to be our primary targets, as it is too hard in the suburbs to catch only the feral cats, not the pets. Bells on cats are better than nothing, and keeping them in at night reduces their hunting hours. There are very few if any possums left in Aro Valley, but like all these pests they may reinstate vacant territory, from the borders.

Reducing pests will allow their food – invertebrates, skinks and geckos – to recover and to provide traditional food for our native birds, who are poor competitors otherwise.

We need to have individual households set traps or set up bait stations. The aim is to have a trap every few properties echoing the ideal, 50m grid pattern that trapping schemes aspire to – so that even in an urban environment, we can have an outstanding dawn chorus.

## Polishing the Aro Valley Halo



Enhancing the  
**HALO**  
halo.org.nz

The sight and sounds of kaka soaring above Aro Valley is one to savour. Visits from tui and kaka are becoming increasingly common, but this is just the start of what is possible.

Over the past couple of decades Wellingtonians have invested heavily in our wildlife hotspots – with both money and sweat. We now have world-leading reminders of what our country should be like. All those who have been involved can be justly proud of the conservation gains those projects have made.

But we are not making the most of these wildlife hotspots. Outside of these sanctuaries (like Zealanda and Oram-Wilton Bush), our native wildlife gets mangled, by predators or lack of food.

The Enhancing the Halo project aims to transform our back yards into safe havens for native wildlife. By registering at [www.halo.org.nz](http://www.halo.org.nz) you can get access to tips to improve your backyard, equipment, and even cheap trapping equipment.

"We were blown away to hear about a recent meeting of Aro Valley citizens to discuss predator trapping," says Halo ambassador and former radio personality Nick Tansley. "That shows real leadership. We want to get in behind the community and help you achieve your goals. If one in every 50 households

