



VALLEY VOICE

TE REO HAPORI O WAIMAPIHI

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE ARO VALLEY - SEPTEMBER 2013

Election looms VOTE by 12 October

Rising rates, a \$374 million debt, liquor licences, street beggars, a government-funded inner-city highway, airport extensions into the harbour, and a new convention centre are just a few of the issues being canvassed in the lead-up to the Wellington City Council elections.

Whether Wellington becomes a “super-city”, a “craft beer capital”, a “tourism mecca”, an “information technology hub” or (as the Prime Minister would have it) an “economic backwater”, the election candidates are the people who will or won’t make it happen for you.

Under the Single Transferable Vote (STV), you can vote for any number of candidates and list them in order of preference. But REMEMBER, if you don’t like them at all, don’t give them ANY number. No vote is a vote against.

The Lambton Ward candidates (**three vacancies**) are: Michael Appleby, John Dow, Jennifer Stephen, Rex Nicholls, Iona Pannett, Mark Peck, Stephen Preston, Mark Wilson, John Woolf and Nicola Young. For more information, go to: <http://www.vote.co.nz/2013/elections/wellington-city-council-lambton-ward>

The Mayoral candidates (**one vacancy**) are: Rob Goulden, John Morrison, Karunanidhi Muthu, Celia Wade-Brown, Jack Yan and Nicola Young. For more information go to: <http://www.vote.co.nz/2013/elections/wellington-city-mayor>

The Wellington constituency candidates for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (**five vacancies**) are: Daran Ponter, Sue Kedgely, Mike Fleming, Chris Laidlaw, Paul Bruce, Fran Wilde, Ariana Paretu-tanganui-Tamati and Judith Aitken. For biographies of candidates see: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/candidates>

You may also vote for your District Health Board (**seven vacancies**). For a list of candidates, go to: <http://www.ccdhb.org.nz/news/2013/13-07-08.html>



‘Meet the candidates’ at Aro Hall (clockwise): Mayoral candidates Rob Goulden, John Morrison, Nicola Young, Celia Wade-Brown, Karunanidhi Muthu, and Jack Yan (Photos: Julia Stace)



Local man to stand up for ‘beautiful city’

Holloway Road resident John Woolf is putting himself forward for Wellington City Council as he seeks to take a stand against excessive development, “unwanted” flyovers and motorways.

Woolf, who is standing in the Lambton Ward, was born and raised in Worsler Bay, moving into the Aro Valley 30 years ago.

Woolf is “passionate about people and the environment”, having been involved in keeping Wellington Nuclear Free and Green over a long period of time.

Recently he was involved in the Keep our Assets campaign with the Greens: “Keeping our infrastructure in the ownership of New Zealanders is something I believe in passionately.”

He was also the spokesman for the Polhill Gully Action Group, successfully campaigning to stop Victoria University building playing fields in the gully. “An amusing moment was when the imitation ‘Polhill Gully Nature Reserve’ AA sign I had made was vandalised then replaced by the AA, as they thought it was the real thing.”

In earlier years, he propelled a home-constructed canvas canoe against American Nuclear warships in the harbour – and he has been involved in

other forms of direct activism.

Woolf says: “I, along with many in the Valley, led by Mark Webley, levered up the asphalt and planted the trees in what is now Aro Park, in a successful effort to stop the Salvation Army building a 700-seat citadel on this site.”

A sailor all his life, he returned from a six-year circumnavigation of the globe in 2011, and has “fallen in love with our city all over again,” he says. “Wellington is a world-class gem! It’s beautiful and compact. Great harbour, with bush-covered ridgelines that run down to the sea. Great culture! Great place to live!”

But, Woolf says, it won’t stay that way “unless councillors take a stand against excessive development along our waterfront, and unwanted flyovers and motorways that divide our city.” Indeed the issue that initially motivated him to stand for council “was that damn flyover at the Basin Reserve”.

Woolf is pledging to protect Wellington’s place as one of the world’s most liveable cities, by promoting “people-first development and business growth that generates real jobs. I want Wellington to be a smart city, making good people-first decisions.

“I have good business skills and understand local government ... I will be a councillor who stands up for our beautiful city.”

Obituary: Chris Mitson - Valley resident and TV producer

Chris Mitson, a much-loved journalist and Fair Go producer who lived in the Valley for many years, passed away last month in Nelson.

Mitson lived in Epuni Street from 1980 to 1999, with his wife, Robyn, two stepchildren, Josh and Selena, and his daughter Amy. He was chairperson of the Aro Valley Community Council for some years and active in the fight for the park and the preschool. He was also on the first board of trustees of Te Aro School. In his professional life, Mitson was a leading journalist, producer and director of current affairs television from the 1970s on, serving as field director of Country Calendar, director of Close Up and executive producer of Fair Go.

In 1997, he was “shabbily” dismissed by TVNZ, as his obituary in the Nelson Mail reported it. Mitson won a case for unfair dismissal against TVNZ, and used the subsequent compensation to pay off a cottage he had bought in Collingwood, in Golden Bay, where he then went to live permanently.

Fellow broadcaster Ian Johnstone recalled Mitson in these terms: “I remember big smiles behind the beard, a benign and unassuming manner, and a very clear eye for the absurdities visited on us by authority.

“He was a clever, motivated and positive broadcaster who worked always for the best interests of viewers and listeners.”



Failed road in election spotlight

The intersections of Victoria and Willis Streets with Karo Drive (the bypass that went through a few years ago) “are among the riskiest in the Wellington region” the NZ Transport Agency says.

The locally unpopular road has incurred 60 crashes in its five short years of existence, 16 at the Willis Street and 44 at the Victoria St intersection, two of them resulting in fatal injury.

The promised flyover, a \$100 million government-paid-for highway over the Basin Reserve, will extend the same piece of failed road as far as the Mt. Victoria tunnel.

The City Council lost an appeal for the flyover’s consent application to be heard by the Environment Court, which would have given the public more opportunities to alter, and delay the project. The Wade-Brown-led Council has consistently favoured “undergrounding” the road, but has now entered into discussions with NZTA over “landscaping treatments” along Karo Drive, which the Mayor describes as “a gravel desert”.

Transport Portfolio Leader, Andy Foster has now announced that “NZTA will complete work from the inner city bypass project, landscaping some of the currently vacant areas along Karo Drive during October and November...and allowing some other land to be built on”.

Down the track, the government has already allocated funding not just for a flyover, but for a second Mt. Victoria tunnel and the widening of Ruahine Street into the Town Belt. NZTA is

also quietly planning a second Terrace Tunnel, which would affect pedestrians in our area even more.

The justification for these developments is that Highway 1 ends at Wellington Airport. Now, the airport is proposing a runway extension, at a cost of \$300 million, which Wade-Brown and most of the current crop of City Councillors appear to support.

Wellington Airport is jointly owned by the City Council and Infratil, a company who also owns NZBus (Wellington’s principal public transport provider), the pricey ‘Airport Flyer’ (whose service ends at 9.25pm, long before the last flights arrive), the ‘Snapper’ card and the ‘Z’ petrol station chain, all of which profit from an ever-greater stream of motor vehicle traffic between the city and the airport on the government’s Highway 1 upgrades, at the expense of alternative transport options.

Tim Bollinger



*Monday, September 23rd, 7–9pm
St Peters on Willis Street*

Election forum: poverty and inequality

Everyone in the Aro Valley attends the famous local body election candidate meeting in the hall. But here’s another one worth attending!

On Monday, September 23rd, 7–9pm at St Peters on Willis Street, Living Wage Wellington, DCM and Wellington faith groups are hosting an election forum focused on poverty and inequality in Wellington City.

Mayoral and council candidates will have an opportunity to briefly state their commitment to Wellington becoming a Living Wage council and to policies to address homelessness.

The forum will also feature Bishop Justin Duckworth on the Living Wage, the DCM ukulele band and a bit of supper. In other words, it’s not your usual political forum!

Daniel Patrick McCarthy, Gallipoli veteran 15 Aug 1885 - 2 Mar 1917

Somewhere on the spur of Polhill Gully track, the last of nine trees were planted with much labour in stony ground in August 1918, a few months before the end of the end of the First World War. They were to be a commemoration for the 'Old Boys' of Mitchelltown School who had been killed at the front. The children who did the planting "all promised to watch over the welfare of each and every tree put in", yet I doubt whether anyone knows if these trees survived or could identify them now.



The first tree was planted in 1917 for Daniel Patrick McCarthy. But though he was described euphemistically as "the first to pass hence in honour's cause", in reality his life – and his war – was salutary, shocking and sad.

His parents were Eugene and Annie McCarthy; they married in New Zealand in 1874, but were probably Irish Catholics. Eugene and Annie had at least four children, of whom Daniel was the youngest. After moving from Oamaru, the family probably lived in the Aro Valley throughout the 1890s, and Eugene may have been running McCarthy's Store in Holloway Road by 1902. By the time war was declared, the McCarthy family was probably dispersing; Daniel's father Eugene had died in 1912 and Daniel himself had gone south to work as a farm labourer; in 1914 he was living in a boarding house in Blenheim.

It is not clear if the McCarthy family was military minded, although Daniel served with the cadets in Newtown and must, like many others, have been caught up in the tide of enthusiasm when war was declared on 4 August 1914: he enlisted only ten days later. He was sent first to Egypt and embarked from Alexandria for the Dardanelles on 12 April 1915.

He must have been there through the Gallipoli campaign, and was wounded on 14 May 1915 with a gunshot wound, noted as a "slight" to the forearm but serious enough for him to be hospitalised on May 18th. Daniel rejoined his battalion on August 24th, and in early September he was again admitted to hospital with what was described simply as "enteric", presumably enteric fever or typhoid.

But something more tragic and intractable had happened, and by early January 1916 Daniel had what was described as "acute Mania". Probably he was suffering from what became known as shell shock and would now be seen as post-traumatic stress syndrome. In 1916 it was recognised as a psychological state that, at the time, was somewhat brutally termed "Mental".

There was no improvement. Clearly Daniel's health was broken beyond repair, and he was "returned Mentally Deficient" to New Zealand and formally discharged on 15 May 1916 as "being physically unfit for active service" and recognised to have no possible prospect

of employment in civil life.

In Wellington, Daniel was admitted to Porirua Mental Hospital. On 2 March 1917 he died suddenly, the cause recorded as "traumatic epilepsy". The words "following GSW (Gun Shot Wound) in Head" were crossed out. He was buried in Karori cemetery in a soldier's grave. There seems to have been no death notice. It must have been a small funeral; it is not known what friends and family stood around the graveside.

Elizabeth Plumridge

**Speak Now Spanish classes
coming to Aro Valley!**

**The language classes that get you
speaking from day 1!**

**These language classes literally
get people jumping up from their
seat shouting "I speak Spanish!"**

**Saturday midday classes (4
week block) starting Sat Oct 5th,
12noon-1pm.**

**The School of Divine
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leave a comment on the page – and
you're in the draw!*

Vote 1

**Iona Pannett
for Council
Making a difference**

Green

Authorised by Iona Pannett, 33 Caroline Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington



Signing off

Stephanie Cook, Lambton Ward councillor

Well, this will be the last time I contribute to *Valley Voice* as the local councillor. It is a strange time to be in an empty room with one door closing behind you and another opening. The closing door is rich with memories, years of experiences, good and bad, people, places, joy and sorrow. Eighteen years on council, a couple of years before that as the chair of the Aro Valley Community Council, making new friends and wishing some old friends farewell.

In this time I lost my mum, and also gained two beautiful daughters. Pets

have passed away and new ones arrived. Battles around the council table fought and won and fought and lost. And despite the best efforts of council at times, Wellington continued to thrive and blossom. My little house in Holloway Rd changed colour and ended up bursting with children pets, friends and family. And on and on run the memories.

But the new door opening, now that's exciting, because I only have a vague picture of what lies behind it. I know there is another beautiful valley but this one not filled with quaint old houses and a bustle of life. This one is filled with native bush. And it's quiet, so silent with only the rush of the river and the call of the birds. And there is a house, much bigger for children and pets and family

and friends. Then maybe a goat or two and some chickens and who knows what else.

So yes, I'm not just leaving council, I'm also leaving Wellington. The Aro Valley is a wonderful place to live and I have had such a great time here. I heard Kelvin's fulsome praise on Radio NZ earlier just before writing this, and for a fleeting moment thought I must be mad to leave! But I leave it in good heart with a great new committee and an awesome new coordinator. And if you feel the need to escape the creative hustle and bustle, and earthquakes, come for a visit – the goats and chooks, dogs cat kids and I will be delighted to see you!

Stephanie



Mystery of the Missing plaque

The above plaque used to sit beneath the large eucalyptus tree in Aro Park. Where is it now? Any information to: aro.voice@gmail.com

A good
choice for
Wellington's
future

CELIA WADE-BROWN 

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 @CeliaforMayor  [celia.wadebrown](https://www.facebook.com/celia.wadebrown)

Authorised by Celia Wade-Brown
101 Wakefield St, Wellington





Well, all went to plan last month: the school greenhouse was completed and it sure does look fantastic! Te Aro School has already begun installing shelves and garden beds into it and I've been told it is one of the highlights of the 'new parent's tours'.

We're still working away on the second greenhouse up at the Steps site, but need to collect some more upcycled materials (we're not focusing on bottles this time). If you have any suitable plastic or other cladding materials, please let us know. This second greenhouse will support the redevelopment of the Steps site, which we are planning to develop into a productive garden with a distribution strategy to ensure the kai gets to those people in the area who need it the most.

By the time you read this, we will have



This poem was submitted by Lewis Scott, an African-American jazz poet who has recently moved into the Valley.

HELLO

L.E.Scott

My dear friend,

In the last few hours I have been having

 this lovely affair

You know that I am going away
 on a big trip soon

And you know that I have learned
never to lose

 an address book ever again

So I am transposing all my
addresses

 into a new book

And I am meeting you all again

 as I move you into the new
neighbourhood

had our first garden day at the new (okay old) time of 10am on the last Saturday of the month. We have settled on this for now to have one big accessible working bee day per month, allowing people to find other times that suit them if they want to do work more often. This time we'll be updating the Secret Garden's planting plan then getting started on developing the new allotment sites up at the orchard. We're also on the look-out for timber or other suitable materials for building raised beds for these allotments, so please let us know if you have any available, or have any leads – see the next *Valley Voice* for more details of what we need.

We have also changed the day of our monthly potluck planning meeting. These will now be held at 128 Abel Smith St on the second Sunday of the month from 6.30pm; the next of these will be on Sunday 8th September.

To add another string to our



communication bow we now have a Facebook group that we can use for arranging to meet up down at the gardens. We resisted this for a while, but couldn't any longer! We'll still be having our face-to-face catch ups and email reminders, but you can now also keep in touch here: www.facebook.com/groups/kaiotearo.

You can also email us as always at arogardener@gmail.com or leave a message at the Aro Valley Community Centre.

Ngā mihinui to you all,
Charles

Vote 1
Sue Kedgley
for Greater Wellington
Regional Council

Authorised by Jon Field, Level 2, 17 Garrett Street, Wellington

Green

Vote 1
Paul Bruce
for Greater Wellington
Regional Council
www.paulbruce.co.nz

Authorised by Jon Field, Level 2, 17 Garrett Street, Wellington

Green

Consulting on consultation

Iona Pannett, Lambton Ward councillor



Transport as ever is one of the most contentious issues in the city. Council has just debated whether we support another inner city roading project following the Bypass. We unfortunately lost the debate around the Basin Reserve flyover at the Council table, but I would certainly encourage those with concerns

to make a submission to the Board of Inquiry, which will decide whether it gets the green light. More information is here: www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/Basin_Bridge/Pages/Basin_Bridge.aspx (Submissions closed 6 September - sorry, Eds)

On a more positive note, the City and Regional Councils are consulting on light rail and bus rapid transit. Consultation closes the 30th September. You can have your say here: http://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/ptspinestudy?module=survey&survey_tool_id=2#tool

We continue to consult on consultation.

<http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-input/public-inputs/consultations/open/draft-engagement-policy>. Have we got it right? Let us know.

Finally, it will be soon be time to say good-bye to our friend Councillor Stephanie Cook and her two girls as they seek a new future up the Coast. It has been a pleasure to work with Stephanie, a strong advocate for the Valley, and I have appreciated her friendship and support over the years. I wish her and the girls the very best of luck.

Iona 384 3382 / 021 227 8509

Come and play!
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REGULAR HALL USERS

Day	Time	Activity & Cost	Contact
Monday	7.15 – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)	Yi Ching Mao 384 3588
	6.00 – 8.00pm	Capoeira (\$10 casual /\$40 - 8 classes)	Bobby Semau 027 6961708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
Tuesday	11.15 – 12.00pm	Sit and Be Fit (\$3 per class)	Kathy McConville Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	7.30 – 9.00pm	West Coast Fling Social Dance Group Experienced dancers only	Tim Goddard 021 207 5001 tim@goddard.net.nz
Wednesday	7.15 – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)	Yi Ching Mao 384 3588
	4.00 – 5.00pm	Capoeira music, rhythm and movement class for kids of all ages (Koha)	Kelvin Aris 384 8499
	6.30 – 8.00pm (Term time only)	Starjam	Genevieve@starjam.org 212 4971 • 021 782 866
Thursday	6.00 – 7.00pm	Samba Hillary Mitchell & Fabiola Stevenson	Hillary Mitchell Hillary.Reid@vuw.ac.nz 021 230 8732
	7.30 – 9.00pm	Yoshukai Karate (\$10 a week – pay what you can afford. Includes 2 nd weekly class Northland Community Centre)	Colin Berry 027 249 5342 • 475 9985
Friday	7.15 – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)	Yi Ching Mao 384 3588
Saturday	11.00 – 12.00pm	ZUMBA Fitness (\$15/\$10 with ID)	Rafael Ferrer 382 8232 www.cubanfusion.co.nz
	12.00 – 1.00pm	Speak Now Language Spanish Language Class All levels STARTS 5th October	Olivia Sumich 022 312 6351 o.sumich@gmail.com
	1.00 – 3.00pm (last Saturday of the month)	Capoeira (28 September 2013) FREE	Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
Sunday	9.30 – 2.30pm	Forward in Faith	Shadreck Mamhute smamhute@yahoo.com 021 244 6045



VALLEY VOICE

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or 022 694 0871

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48 Aro St
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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: Mattie Timmer

Committee members:

Charles Barrie, Jo Brien, Jay Buzenberg, Eileen Charman, Jadwyn Lowe, Madeleine Rashbrooke, Julia Stace, Kellar Taylor, Lisa Thompson, Jaqui Tutt

Aro Valley Community Centre
Coordinator:

Kelvin Aris

Community@arovalley.org.nz

(04) 384-8499

The Great Aro Valley School Holiday Programme is on again !

September 30th - 11th October
@t the Aro Valley Community Centre

Samba drumming, baking, exploring the amazing community gardens and learning about raising seeds, Te Papa treasure hunt, swimming at the Karori Pool, Zines at the Wellington Library and Monster theatre to name but a small few.

The cost of this programme is \$30 per child, or \$28 per child for multiple children in the same family. It's \$28 per child (flat rate) if you pay before the 23rd of September.

Our not-for-profit community programme has been running for over thirty years. We employ wonderful, caring, and experienced staff who really connect with the children. Our unique location - five minutes from the heart of the city and five minutes from kaka-filled native bush - means that we can take our kids on incredible adventures.

If you want to apply for Work & Income

support, please let us know.

Starts Monday 30th September until 11th October.

For applications contact Kelvin, the Community Coordinator

(contact details at right)

Spring is here!

And we have a range of workers seeking small or big jobs. Chimney demolition, paths and edging, cleaning, gutter cleaning, house and window washing, weed especially old mans beard and ginger control, mould-removal, section clearing, tree butchery (controlled - Ed), painting, fencing, pruning, gardening and landscaping, trailer load to tip (or recycling), garden beds created, pots for the patio, bar-b-q sorted, outdoor furniture, firewood, kindling, compost bins, brazier...or even just advice on how to apply permaculture to your location.

If you need willing workers for fetch and carry who also have a range of

experience - we can probably help out. We also have car and trailers, wheel barrows and carts, bins, fadges and bags, petrol and electric lawnmower, weedeater, scrub bar, chainsaws and range of hand tools.

We are a loose group of locals seeking more work - from youth to old hands. We also want to see a greener, growing and safer Valley.

Minimum rate a living wage of \$18.50 an hour. We are open to barter, time bank, or arrangements other than money.

We should be able to reply within 48 hours and interested in repeating and ongoing contracts.

References and examples of our work are available. Contact Russell on 022 137 6715, rustlecanconstruct@gmail.com (text or email preferred)

New bike track to ease conflict fears

Mountain bikers and the Wellington City Council are building a new track in the gully behind Durham Street in order to minimise conflict between bikers and walkers on other tracks.

The track, to be called Serendipity, will be “bike priority”, and will run off the current shared use track, Transient, from the spur of the hill above Polhill Gully. It will then run down into the gully behind Durham Street, and finish by the grassy area at the bottom of Transient.

Once it is completed, bikers will be discouraged from using the lower section of Transient, allowing the two types of use to be more separated.

“The purpose of this track is to take bikes travelling downhill off the lower section of Transient. This will help to ease concerns regarding downhill bikes,” city council project officer David Halliday said.

“This type of trail management is occurring in a few places on the trail network where there are shared tracks that are two way. The other example of this is Windmill, which is just above



‘Artworks’ on the Serendipity track where it runs beside the stream at the bottom of the Durham Street gully

Polhill in Te Kopahou Reserve. Windmill is two way walking, one way uphill for bikes, which leaves the previous track, Carparts, to be downhill bike only.”

The decision to build the new Windmill track caused some upset in the Valley, sparking one letter to *Valley Voice* entitled ‘What have mountain bikers ever done for us?’

However, Halliday said the new tracks were “not about bike expansion [but] shared trail management. Council is working with the trail buildings to ensure that potential shared use trail conflict is minimised and Serendipity is a response to this.”

Restore the dawn chorus to your neighbourhood

Polhill, Waimapihi Reserves and George Denton Park, situated between Brooklyn, Aro Valley and Highbury, are now home to a number of rare native New Zealand birds including NZ robin, kakariki, whitehead and even saddleback. These birds have dispersed from Zealandia and are now breeding in the reserve.

A number of other increasingly common species also live in the reserve including fantail, grey warbler, tui. Shining cuckoo and kaka are becoming increasingly common visitors. The reserve is also home to native reptiles, insects such as the giant bush dragonfly and contains some fine examples of native plants – including tree fuchsia.

Polhill Reserve provides an important buffer zone between Zealandia and urban areas and is part of the “green halo” that wraps around the Zealandia.

Introduced predators including stoats, rats and hedgehogs kill adult birds and raid nests, threatening these birds.

Do your bit to help protect this special place. We are seeking volunteers to help check a network of predator traps in the reserve. Training will be provided.

To register your interest or find out more information contact:

Marc Slade marcslade@gmail.com
or 021 0278 1556.

THE ARVO SHOW

AT THE SOUTHERN CROSS

4-6PM
SATURDAYS

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