

Protected elm tree gets the chop



Left: 10 December, historic elm, split at the base.
Above: 15 December, "hard-pruned" by WCC
Below: 19 December, removed with base sculpted into seating and signed with a "W"

(Photos: Julia Brooke-White)

A listed heritage tree and one of Wellington's oldest elms was removed by the Wellington City Council in December, following fears it could fall over and injure the public.

The large and much-loved tree in Inverlochy Place – walked past by many Valley residents on a daily basis – was taken down after part of it was found to be falling onto the roofs of neighbouring buildings.

The tree originates from when Inverlochy and Oak Park Ave were part of a single private estate. It had survived the redevelopment of the area by the NZ Transport Agency in 2005 when many adjacent trees and buildings were cleared for the bypass. It was numbered 198 on the Wellington District Plan's list of heritage trees (see map).

Council tree staff and near-by residents had been monitoring the health of the double-trunked tree for some time, which had split at its base.

Inverlochy Art School were surprised

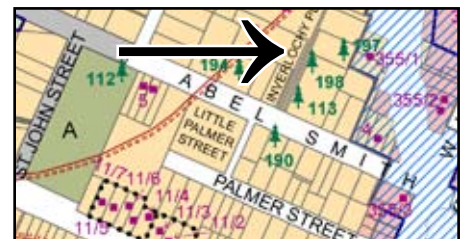
to be told just before Christmas that the tree was on their land and that they had 10 days to have it removed because of the danger it posed. Inverlochy, which is a Trust, had thought it was on public land, as indeed it appears to be to most passers-by. Unable to get an arborist at that time of the year, the council ended up doing the chopping themselves.

Locals had hoped that an initial "hard-pruning" of one falling limb might mean the tree could be saved. But WCC officer David Spencer said that the pruning "didn't stop the whole stem from moving" and it needed to be removed.

"The rest of the tree was also in severe decline with a lot of it being dead.

"On balance because of the poor health of the tree and the safety concerns we decided to remove it. It's a real shame as it was one of the biggest and oldest elms in Wellington," he said.

There is some community concern that a heritage listed tree could be so easily chopped back and removed, with no apparent effort to provide alternative structural support or bracing. There is also a question around how its health so rapidly declined. Many other large, old



trees on private land in Inverlochy Place have been removed in recent years, with a general de-greening of the historic inner-city area.

The base of the tree has been carved into seats by council workers "at the request of other residents and as a memorial to this lovely tree", Spencer said. "Hopefully people will still get some enjoyment from the tree."

The letter "W" carved into the base with a chainsaw is apparently the signature of the otherwise anonymous WCC artist who sculpted the stump.

AVCC General Meeting: Resilience and Community Self-Sufficiency Sunday 23 February 5.30–7.30 (followed by potluck dinner)

Come along to hear about:

Local planning for emergencies - Everyday self-sufficiency - Easy things you can do at home

We'll also be working through a disaster scenario with Massey University's David Johnston from the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, and brainstorming what a really resilient Aro Valley could look like.

Contact community@arovalley.org.nz for more information

LETTERS

Cycle tracks upset locals

Dear Editor,

If you stand by the water fountain at the top of Aro Street you can see great gashes in the landscape of Polhill Gully caused by mountain bikers. Do these people need resource consent to wreck the regenerating bush in the Aro Valley? Or are they such a powerful lobby in the Council that they have been gifted the Aro Valley as their playground?

John Whitty

Holloway Road

Cycle tracks supported

Dear Editor,

If you stand by the water fountain at the top of Aro Street and avert your eyes from the 'great gashes', you might consider for a moment that they were cleared by volunteers who were interested in the outdoors and being within it. You might also remember that they have cleared trash from what had oft become a dumping site (and I understand that's similar to what other groups have completed in this valley) and who planted trees throughout and are generally courteous to other users.

If you turn 180 degrees, you'll smell piss from a bus shelter, see rats from an overflowing rubbish bin, be confused by profane graffiti from some transient interlopers and realise (I hope) we might have bigger things to worry about than recreational types who enjoy and enrich our little valley.

Not a mountain biker, but play on.

Peter Plowman

Holloway Road

Pyrrhic "Victory for Democracy"

Six months into the term of the new AVCC Committee, and much is going well. We have a good new coordinator, programmes are running well, the hall is being used. But wait: these are administrative matters; what of the substance of our Council, the democratic rights and issues of us, the populace, the members? Committee meetings are secret, minutes are withheld (I have only managed to obtain those from two of the several meetings), sub-committees have become "working groups" and populated only by committee members; not one motion put by members in 15 months has been allowed to be put to a General Meeting; letters to the committee are not minuted or replied to; and the suggestions that the committee should become skilled in being good employers, facilitating meetings, and applying the consensus method, have not been enacted. The AVCC Committee seems to have become a bourgeois bunch of property owners. The media have an important role here; to keep us informed. However, Valley Voice is not objective, a result of the editors being related to committee members. Benjamin Franklin said, "The first responsibility of every citizen is to question authority". It seems the price of that in Aro Valley is to be excommunicated. Benevolent dictatorship may be the most efficient governance, but I would not call last year's governance "benevolent". Congratulations on the administration; but it's a total fail on the democracy.

And now a co-chair can have total right of response to say whatever they want and rip me to shreds. But will they answer any of these issues?

Unspeakable Secrets of the Aro Valley.

Martin Wilson

Aro Valley resident

The co-chairs respond:

Dear Martin,

You have sprung us; we are the despots you claim.

Glumly we await the revolution when you and your massed supporters will sweep us away and restore the people's democracy. We will then return to our bourgeois bungalows, and mourn the absolute power we once enjoyed meeting as volunteers in cold meeting rooms on rainy nights planning more demotic 'administrative' activities such as the Aro Valley fair, school holiday programmes, discussions on the native flora of Aro Valley, community composting, and information on community resilience.

You have seen through our cunning attempts to distract you from your vigilance by holding well attended meetings on such trivia as the roading changes on Willis and Abel Smith St when we could have instead debated the meaning of sub-clauses of our Constitution at length at three meetings instead of just one. Securing a quorum would have been a snip.

Our sinister attempts to deliver the pathetic administrative tasks which most people ask of us, rather than giving all our limitless time and energy to ensuring topics proposed by you dominate all our discussions, have been exposed to the harsh disinfectant of sunlight through the media.

Clearly also our ludicrous attempts at secrecy have been foiled as despite our meetings being in secret and our decisions un-minuted you have discerned that our consensus processes are a sham and our attempts to be good employers are nothing but a facade. We are in your debt.

Humbly and penitently,

Roland and Bridget

Co-conspirators, AVCC (Aro Valley Covert Cabal)

Aro Valley Community Council news

Highlights from the AVCC committee meeting held in January

The Fair

Preparation for the fair, to be held on Saturday, March 22, is going well. Young environmental group Generation Zero are keen to run a stage, which would act as a fundraiser for the planned solar panels on the community centre. On the main stage, a number of bands, including the Balkanistas and Clube de Choro, have been lined up to play. The fair will include a children's zone and encourage healthy, local and sustainable food.

School holiday programme

As the co-chairs have noted elsewhere (see page 4), the school holiday programme, though successful in many ways, has recently had low numbers attending, and won't break even for the most recent holidays. Community Centre coordinator Kelvin Aris has noted the need for a general rethink about the programme and what it is trying to achieve.

Composting

The AVCC has supported a successful application by Kai o te Aro to run a community composting project in Epuni Street. More details on page 4.

Finances

Treasurer Mattie Timmer presented reports showing a surplus of \$19,000 and a closing balance of \$113,000 for December 2013. No final figures are available yet for the Christmas tree sales, though they are thought to be down on last year. Committee member Jaqui Tutt will lead a full analysis of the Christmas tree sales, what has been profitable, and lessons to be learned for the future.



General meeting on community resilience

AVCC members Charles Barrie and Madeleine Rashbrooke have organised a meeting, to be held on February 23 from 5.30pm, which aims to discuss and plan for a resilient Aro Valley. Speakers include the Wellington emergency management office aka WREMO (formerly Civil Defence), David Johnston from the Joint Centre for Disaster Research and others.

Landcross Street

AVCC co-chair Roland Sapsford discussed current progress with regards to establishing whether Landcross Street is part of the Aro Valley for town planning purposes or not (appeal against WCC Plan Change 72). Victoria University own all but four properties at present. Roland is hopeful that a resolution of this long running issue may be in sight.

New trees for park

Aro Valley Restoration project met with David Spencer, from Wellington City Council to discuss appropriate trees to plant in Aro Park in place of the *Lawsonia* lost in last Winter's storms.

There is room enough to plant three native trees. Species that will mature to bear fruit and so attract native birds into the park, such as Hinau, Tawa and Rata are suitable.

WCC is sourcing specimens large enough to establish readily. They will be on the bank that is often used as public seating during events and will be protected initially with netting.

Above:
Local insect life. A weta on 'the bunker' (photo: Jaqui Tutt)

Meeting on Karo Drive roadworks

Tuesday 18 February, 7.30pm at Aro Hall

Come and hear the latest on the roadworks at the Karo Drive/Willis Street intersection. New Zealand Transport Agency representatives will be in Aro to listen to the community's ongoing concerns over the work, and answer your questions.



Grant ROBERTSON
Labour MP for Wellington Central

For appointments and advice:

Electorate Office
220 Willis Street
P +64 4 801 8079

office@grantrobertson.co.nz

grantrobertson.co.nz



Labour

Co-chairs' chat: Roll on 2014



Summer – Christmas Day was a beauty, though after that it's been a bit of a mixed bag!

According to the Met Service, this year isn't extraordinary – it's just that last year was unusually warm and dry, bordering on drought conditions. Even so, 11 degrees at 9am in midsummer just doesn't seem quite fair! One thing is certain, our weather will be less certain in years to come. At some point of course, humanity will realise we need to change; meantime we each do what we can to create that change, and reduce our impact on the environment. In doing so we need to be kind to ourselves – there is a huge difference between doing a little and doing nothing.

Here in Aro Valley, we are fortunate that many amenities are in walking distance. Your community council is looking at sustainability locally. With Generation Zero, we are exploring the idea of solar panels on the roof of the Community Centre, and we are partnering with Kai o te Aro and Wellington City Council for a community composting trial in one Aro Valley street.

Aro Valley fair is also coming up in late March, and that too will have a focus on the local and the sustainable. Our community coordinator Kelvin is already hard at work planning this event. The fair remains a community highlight and this year we look forward to a great day of music and stalls in Aro Park.

The community council has run school holiday programmes for several decades and recently had a favourable review by the Ministry of Social Development. We remain approved for OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) Funding. Our programme is seen as well-managed and well-run. However, the last two programmes have seen a drop in the number of children attending. We will be reviewing the programmes to ensure they are still relevant to the needs of the

community.

The next month will also see a further meeting with the New Zealand Transport Agency about the road works at the Willis and Abel Smith St corner. We hope that a diagonal crossing may be possible. After a shaky start, we've been impressed with the project staff's willingness to engage and take on ideas from the community. Of course, many of us would prefer an entirely different approach to transport but that requires changes at a national level. Let's see what election year brings!

Finally, we'd like to say thanks in advance to the members of the Aro Valley Community Council committee and the other community volunteers who will make our work possible this year. The AVCC is back on track after a difficult previous term. We have a cohesive committee and a supportive community. People in the valley do express their views strongly and we wouldn't want it any other way, but AVCC is a voluntary group and to sustain ourselves we need to focus on doing good for the community rather than giving too much attention to the negative comments of a few.

All the best for 2014, and see you round the Valley.

Bridget Stocker and Roland Sapsford, Aro Valley Community Council Co-chairs



Happy new year everyone! Kai o te Aro has been busy over the summer and we plan to get heaps done this year. Here's a little update of what we're working on.

If you want to know more or to get involved, email us at arogardener@gmail.com, find the Kai o te Aro group page on Facebook or come along to one of our fortnightly garden days (see notice in the window of the hall each month for dates and locations).

Secret Garden (come along to a garden day and find out where it is!)

The Secret Garden has been getting heaps of love recently with a bit of a makeover and some changes to the bed layout. We're getting heaps of great compost from the bins and the grapes are going rampant. Becca our Secret Garden guardian has been doing a great job of keeping the garden looking good and producing beautiful veges, not to mention all the berry shrubs which are doing really well.

The Orchard (227 Aro Street)

The Orchard has been the group's main focus over the last few months and we have made great progress with the development of new beds to be used as community allotments. We've been using pallets from Commonsense organics and filling them with homemade compost, sheep dags, mulch and both coffee grounds and husks. They should be ready to go for the autumn season. We'll be exploring who might like to use these beds over the year.

The Steps (up the steps beside 197 Aro st)

Our most (recently) neglected site is soon to become one of our most productive. Ania Upstill from the Local Food Network has recently moved to the Valley and joined forces with KotA. Over the next few months she will be working with some other members of the Local Food Network and KotA to set up a mini market garden at the steps and explore producing and distributing fresh veges. Watch this space for more info about this exciting project.

Community Compost

Last year we were thrilled to hear we had been successful in our funding bid to run a trial composting project on Epuni Street in order to work out the best way to divert organic waste and produce really high quality compost at a neighbourhood scale. Kelvin Aris (the AVCC coordinator) will be running this project with support from Jamie, Erik and other members of KotA.

Seasonal Planning Meeting

Following decisions made last year (more gardening, less meetings), we are now just having one planning meeting each season rather than monthly. We'll be having our autumn planning meeting (at which we work out planting plans and project priorities) sometime in February. Get in touch if you'd like to come along.

Best wishes to all,

Charles



William Richard Higgs Bowden 1892 -1917

Elizabeth Plumridge continues her survey of some of the more than 100 names listed on the World War I memorial at the corner of Holloway Road and Aro Street.



Will Bowden's life and death offers a rare glimpse into the darker side of family life in the Aro Valley and in the New Zealand Army.

Will was the only son in a Catholic family of eight children. The father Sam Bowden was a cook and his wage cannot have met their needs. In the late 1890s his family was certainly struggling. Two daughters joined a group of schoolgirls who took to petty crime to get money for little luxuries like sweets and fizz drink. They absconded from home, begged from local men, stole from them and sold them sexual favours. When in late 1897 these men were charged with sexual assault, the root causes for this 'deplorable state of affairs' were said in court to be 'total absence of home control' and 'a certain amount of want'. One of Will's sisters was sent to a reformatory industrial school.

In 1898 Sam Bowden got into debt and was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment in default of immediate payment. We don't know if he was able to pay, but as some of the children left home things probably got easier and there seems to have been some money to spare. For Will's 14th birthday his father gave him a pea rifle. Will and friends shot at and terrified horses in a paddock on the corner of Aro Street and Upper Willis Street. Police laid charges against Samuel since it was illegal for children to have such guns.

Will seems to have moved around the North Island after leaving school but was back in Wellington and married Katherine Walsh in the Wellington

Catholic Basilica in July 1912. By the time war broke out he was working at a local brewery and he and Katherine had one child. Then, in May 1916, Will enlisted. It seems odd he acted then; everyone knew conscription was imminent and his wife must have just discovered she was again pregnant.

On enlistment Will underwent the standard medical examination: he was found to have limbs well-formed and 'full and perfect' in movement, to have a normal heart, lungs and vision, to have no hernia, varicose veins, haemorrhoids or contagious disease, to have been vaccinated and to be 'free from any physical defect that would render him unfit'. He went to Trentham camp for training before being sent overseas on 19 August 1916.

In England, like many New Zealanders, Will was sent to Sling Training Camp. There, in November 1916, a British

Army medical examination detected venereal disease. It is impossible to know how Will contracted this, but we know that although VD was common amongst New Zealand soldiers, in 1916 the New Zealand Army medical Corps did not deal with VD and offered neither advice nor prophylaxis lest it 'make vice safe'.

Will was sent to a specialist medical unit in a military hospital where he stayed until a few days after Christmas 1916. After a few weeks of further training Will was again hospitalised for mumps. He was discharged in early March 1917 and was finally sent to the front on 27 May 1917, just over a year after he had enlisted. Four weeks later, Will was killed in action 'somewhere in France or Belgium'. His body was recovered and he was buried in 'Motor Car Corner Military Cemetery, 1¼ miles north of Armentieres'.

We don't know how much his wife Katherine knew of Will's time in the army or how she coped with his death. We do know she shifted from Wellington. On 17 June 1919, she placed a memorial in the paper 'In loving memory of my dear husband, William Bowden'. Later that year, Katherine remarried.

Workers available for gardening and property maintenance

022 137 6715 or 934 8516 rustlecanstruct@gmail.com

Energetic, young, and not so young, local workers with a range
of skills and tools seeking small or big jobs

- Section clearing
- Slip clearing
- Weed elimination, (especially old-mans-beard and ginger plant)
- Garden bed care and general gardening
- Edge and hedge trimming
- Pruning
- Tree trimming and felling
- Chimney demolition
- Gutter cleaning
- House and window washing
- Trailer loads to the tip
- Painting
- Fencing
- Firewood and kindling

We can create outdoor braziers, BBQs, wooden compost bins, planters, and furniture.

We have a trailer, weed eaters, scrub bar, lawnmower, chainsaws, skill saws, wheel barrows, fadges and bags and a range of hand tools.

We can provide advice on permaculture and landscaping for your location.

You can trust us to deal with the tough stuff as well as jobs that need special care!

Fee by arrangement.

We should be able to respond within 48 hours and are interested in repeating and/or ongoing contracts.

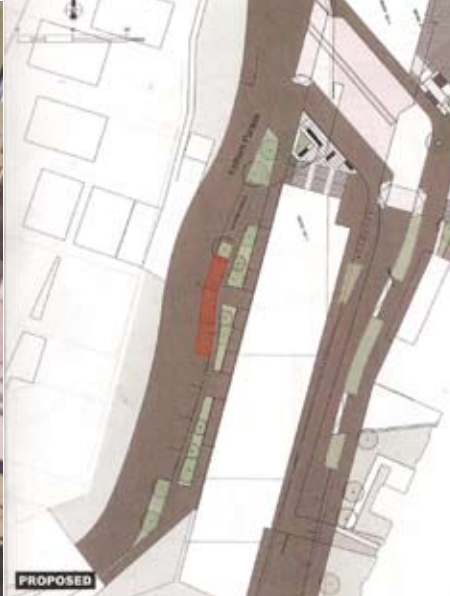


References and examples of our work are available.

Contact Russell on:

022 137 6715 or 934 8516 or rustlecanstruct@gmail.com
(text or email preferred)

Kelburn Parade development update



Victoria University seems determined to press on with its development of a new science block to hug the side of Kelburn Parade, just up from the corner of Glasgow Street. The University applied to the WCC for resource consent last year, and are not required to undergo any further public submission process.

The University Council is doing a full financial feasibility study for the \$100 million project and if it gets the go ahead, construction will start later this year.

The proposed “K2” project will transform that part of Kelburn Parade, turning what is now a winding, local bush-clad street into a straightened and widened public footpath bounded by the new science building on one side and additional street parking on the other. The new block will run up to the NZ Music School buildings.

“All of the existing trees and vegetation along the Kelburn Parade boundary are proposed to be removed to make way for the new building,” says University spokesperson Jenny Bentley. “These will either be removed or, where possible relocated into the open spaces of the campus.”

The project will also remove a large area of University parking and three private local car parks, so more street parking will be created on Kelburn Parade alongside the building. It also includes a drop-off bay, with space for five vehicles at the top of Culiford Drive, that runs down to Te Puni flats above Boyd-Wilson Field, frequently used by

pedestrians walking between Kelburn and the Aro Valley. The Glasgow Street corner has long been known for its poor pedestrian crossing access on the walking route between Aro Valley and Upland Road. Pedestrians are required to walk down Kelburn Parade in order to venture back up the hill on the other side, while cars use the busy corner as a roundabout. The proposed new arrangements offer no improvement, and seem likely to further impede safe foot access, especially during the building’s construction.

The development includes an overhead walkway at the top of Culiford Drive, between the proposed science block and the other university buildings. The overall effect will be to incorporate more Kelburn streetscape into the formal structures and design of the University campus.

Discover the Valley’s original vegetation

How Wild was the Valley?

What did it look like before Pakeha arrived? What can we realistically restore? A public talk on pre-European flora in the Aro Valley by Jean-Claude Stahl, Te Papa

Venue: the Aro Valley Community Hall

Start time: 7.30 PM, Fridays
28 March and 4 April 2014

Koha to the Aro Valley Restoration Project

Aro Valley Community Pre-school

FREE early childhood education for 3 and 4 year olds for up to 20 hours per week



We cater for children 2 to 5 years old
Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30 to 2.45

Open for 2014
Monday 3rd February to Friday 19th December

Fees: \$5.00 per hour for 2 year olds and for 3 and 4 year olds using more than 20 hours per week

We have places available now!

Phone 384 5156

Email: arovalley@clear.net.nz

Website: arovalleypreschool.blogspot.co.nz

REGULAR HALL USERS

Day	Time	Activity & Cost	Contact
Monday	7.15 – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)	Lynsey 384 5520
	6.00 – 8.00pm	Capoeira (\$10 casual /\$40 - 8 classes)	Bobby Semau 027 6961708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
Tuesday	9.30am-11.30am	English Language Class "Elementary Class" (\$3 per class)	Teacher: Wendy Vink community@arovalley.org.nz 384 8499
	12.00 – 12.45pm	Sit and Be Fit (\$3 per class)	Kathy McConville Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	3.30pm -5.00pm	Wellington Community Children's Choir Ages 4 - 6: \$40, Ages 7 - 12: \$50	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@extra.co.nz
	6.30pm – 7.30pm (starts 18th February)	Meditation \$30 for 6 sessions \$10 drop-in	gayatri.fernando@gmail.com
	8.00 – 9.00pm (excluding the third Tuesday of the month)	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)	Lynsey 384 5520
	9.30 – 11.30am	English Language Class "Beginner Class" (\$3 per class)	Teacher: Wendy Vink community@arovalley.org.nz 384 8499
	4.00 – 5.00pm	Capoeira music, rhythm and movement class for kids of all ages (Koha)	Kelvin Aris 384 8499
	6.30 – 8.00pm	Starjam	Genevieve@starjam.org 212 4971 • 021 782 866
	8.00 – 10.00pm	Aro Valley Table Tennis Club \$3 New members welcome	community@arovalley.org.nz 384 8499
Thursday	7.00 – 8.00am (starts 20 February)	Yoga (\$20/4 sessions, \$10 drop in)	gayatri.fernando@gmail.com
	9.30 – 11.30am	English Language Class "Higher Level Class" (\$3 per class)	Teacher: Wendy Vink community@arovalley.org.nz 384 8499
	3.30 – 4.30pm	Kids Jazz Dance Classes \$12 per class / \$100 per term	Debbie: db4dance@gmail.com
	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)	Lynsey 384 5520
Saturday	11.00 – 12.00pm	ZUMBA Fitness (\$15/\$10 with ID)	Rafael Ferrer 382 8232 www.cubanfusion.co.nz
	1.00 – 3.00pm (last Saturday of the month)	Capoeira	Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
Sunday	9.30 – 2.30pm	Forward in Faith	Shadreck Mamhute smamhute@yahoo.com 021 244 6045

Save the Basin Campaign

invite you to a screening of
"The Human Scale"

Danish architect Jan Gehl documents how modern cities repel human interaction

4-6pm, Saturday 22 February, 2014

Crossways Community Centre, 6 Roxburgh St, Mt Victoria
 Koha on the door (suggested \$10), limited seats available

We are campaigning to stop the proposed construction of a flyover at the Basin Reserve. All proceeds go to supporting our case. savethebasin.org.nz



VALLEY VOICE

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All contributions and feedback to:

aro.voice@gmail.com

or 022 694 0871

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Aro Valley Community Council
 48 Aro St
 Wellington

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:

Roland Sapsford

Bridget Stocker

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

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Valley Voice is printed by **THE BIG PICTURE**

The winners of the Culture Vulture competition were Tara Kawharu and Joanna Ludbrook, as the first two correct entries (as drawn out of the hat, rather than in the order received) to name *Goodbye Pork Pie* as the classic New Zealand film that had a scene shot in the building that is now Aro Video. Just pop in to the video store to pick up your vouchers!



Fringe Festival hits right notes on Essex Street

Pianist Douglas Mews's Essex Street home will this month play host to a show featuring Lord Nelson, his lover Emma Hamilton and a 19th century piano belonging to one of the Valley's original families.

Lines from the Nile, showing as part of the Fringe Festival, is a soirée of music by Joseph Haydn and the lesser-known Daniel Steibelt, celebrating the heyday of the British Navy and the wedding between Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It takes its title from a piece commissioned by Nelson's lover Emma Hamilton and written by Haydn to commemorate Nelson's victory in the Battle of the Nile in 1798. The setting for the show is an imagined meeting of the Port Nicholson Musical Appreciation Society, gathered in 1840 to mark the royal wedding. Mews and singer Rowena Simpson have selected their favourite pieces for the one-hour show, which will also feature a beautiful square Broadwood piano that

originally belonged to 19th-century Aro Valley resident Robert Tait. He gave his name to what was known as Taitville, now the area around Norway Street. Mews now owns the piano, which has the names of the various Tait children written in hidden places on the piano's keys.

The show was written by Jacqueline Coats, whom Mews and Simpson worked with on a previous Fringe Festival success, Home, which premiered in 2010 and has since toured to 17 centres nationwide.

"Home was a more serious show, but with Lines from the Nile, we aim to have some fun and indulge in a little British flag waving," says Simpson. "We hope the audience will come dressed in their best 1840s costumes!"

Event: *Lines from the Nile*

Time and Dates: 8.00pm, Thurs 20 Feb to Sun 23 Feb

Venue: 1 Essex Street

Tickets: \$20 Full,

\$15 Concession,

\$12 Fringe Addicts

Bookings: www.fringe.co.nz

Aro Valley Fair

A day of Music, Markets, Food, Fun and Games under the Aro sun

Saturday 22 March 10am

All Stall holders, Artists and Volunteers Contact Kelvin at community@arovalley.org.nz

We're raising some funds to make Aro valley the first Community Centre in NZ to be powered by the sun



Get Involved!!

Kroon
For Your Kai
6pm Wednesday

SOUTHERNCROSS
GARDEN · BAR · RESTAURANT