



VALLEY VOICE

TE REO HAPORI O WAIMAPIHI

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE ARO VALLEY - MARCH 2014

8 year-old speaks her mind about intersection

One of our younger community members, 8 year-old Anika Green, recently voiced her concerns to the New Zealand Transport Agency about making sure the new road at the corner of Abel Smith Street and Willis Street, going up to Te Aro School, is safe for kids crossing the road. Here's her letter, and NZTA's reply (below)

Anika

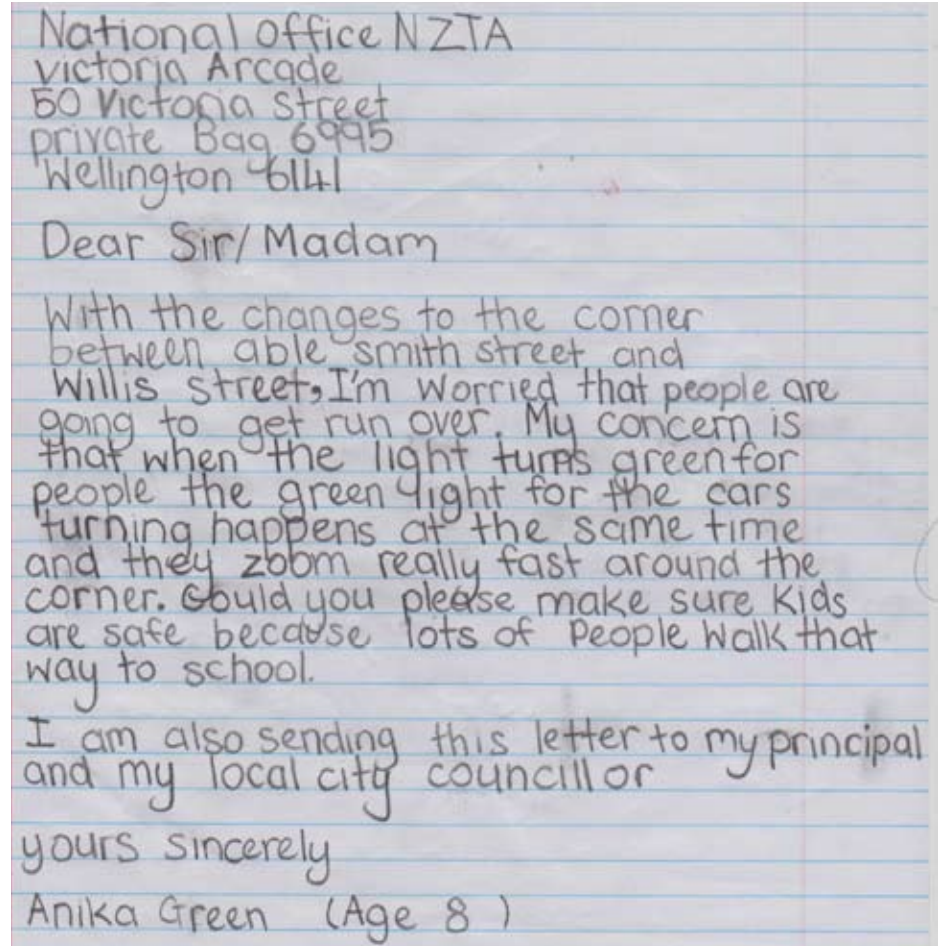
Thank you for your letter regarding safety at the corner of Abel Smith St and Willis St. I see you have already received responses from a member of the Alliance team and also from Iona Pannett (your councillor) which reflect the importance given to safety and more particularly the safety of children.

In answer to your specific concern: 'When the light turns green for people the green light for the cars turning happens at the same time and they zoom really fast around the corner' - You are correct the old situation does show a green light to vehicles and crossing pedestrians at the same time. You will be pleased to know that we are making a change at the intersection so the traffic lights will hold red for turning traffic to allow pedestrians to commence crossing, it will turn green but only after a delay. This is similar to many pedestrian crossings in Wellington so the driver has to give way to pedestrians on the crossing. This will improve safety for the crossing.

February meeting explains NZTA's plans

The community consultation meeting at Aro Hall on 18 February clarified NZTA's final plans for the Willis Street - Abel Smith - Karo Drive intersection.

Richard Galloway (NZTA), Duncan Kenderdine and Brian Aspin (Memorial Park Alliance), explained how they had arrived at their decisions and canvassed views on further planned alterations to vehicle, cycling and pedestrian traffic arrangements in the Victoria Street, Karo Drive, Willis Street area. Community calls for a single diagonal pedestrian crossing phase for the lights at Karo



If you have any more questions about the project please do ask.

Thanks again for your interest.

Brian Aspin

Memorial Park Alliance

Phone: 931 8915

027 554 1145

Email: brian.aspin@nzta.govt.nz

(Edited)

Drive and Willis Street were finally rejected in favour of separate crossing phases for each, with a connected phase for pedestrians crossing Abel Smith Street and the motorway on-ramp. Several car parks on the city side of Willis street are to be removed for an additional traffic lane. Adjacent NZTA land is being sold at 290 Willis Street and the vacant triangle of land between Karo Drive and Abel Smith Street, formerly a grassy verge with magnolia trees, and, since the road revisions, levelled and apparently used for casual parking.

Volunteers wanted for Aro Fair

Volunteers are wanted to help with the fair on Saturday March 22, both in the week running up to it and on the day itself.

In the week before, help is particularly sought from people who have experience in decorating, putting up banners and dressing places up. On the day, people are needed to do traffic control, rubbish and recycling, and setting up and packing down.

Anyone interested should contact Kelvin the community coordinator on 384 9999 or community@arovalley.org.nz.

Aro Valley Community Council news

Highlights from the AVCC committee meeting held in February

Pokies funding

The Committee debated whether or not they should apply for grants from societies whose money comes from pokie machines. Following a long discussion, they agreed to allow application for a one-off grant, although in the event, no funding was actually applied for.

Paying volunteers

The committee debated at length whether the musicians playing at the fair should be paid or not. Some argued that the fair relied on a number of volunteers, and it was wrong to pay some while not paying others. Other committee members argued that since the musicians were doing something that was their livelihood, they needed to be paid.

In the end, the committee resolved to create a 'green room' for all volunteers, as a place for them to have food and refreshments, and to reimburse musicians for any costs associated with performing, as the budget allows.

Christmas trees

Initial reports show that around 700 trees were sold as part of this year's Christmas tree fundraiser, around 100 less than last year. Net profit is estimated to be \$11,000, giving \$3600 each to the community council, the school and the preschool.

The long-term supplier of the trees, David Hammond, is retiring, so a new

source of trees will have to be found. The committee noted the great work of David Ball as the coordinator of the tree sales.

Aro Street development

A development involving two large 3-bedroomed townhouses is being proposed for the slope between the Mews leading off Aro Street and Durham Street. The committee is considering a letter to the city council to ask for the development to be publicly notified.

From the co-chairs

The time has come for another issue of the Valley Voice. This issue crept up on us with February coming and going before we had time to reflect on its summertime glory, for in all fairness, February turned out to be a pretty good month. The AVCC have been kept busy with a number of events and by the time this Valley Voice comes to your doorstep, probably the most significant of those is the Aro Valley Fair – which hopefully you don't need to be reminded about. As for other committee matters, insight into our administration protocols is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. We would also like to highlight recent meetings on topics such as 'resilience', 'the NZTA Karo Drive by-pass', and 'Aro Valley flora and fauna' and give special thanks to the committee members who enabled these and numerous other activities to succeed. Unfortunately, the meeting with NZTA did not see a diagonal crossing on Willis and Karo Drive despite committee member Jaqui Tutt threatening to hold a square dance to illustrate the different ways to cross the (now even more cumbersome) intersection. But stay positive. It's now official. Thinking positively

about others is good for your health, as stated in a recent edition of 'The New Scientist'. See you all at the fair for a great day. *Bridget and Roland*

Wunderbikes are go!



Wunderbikes, a free-bike hire programme featured in previous issues of *Valley Voice*, has launched and is going well. Following a launch last month in Aro Park, people can come into the community centre to hire bikes or call 022 371 3923.

Old Hall gig features drum solo, and more

Aro Hall, March 22nd, 8:30pm

Old Hall Gig #5 with Nadia Reid, Jo Randerson, Hikurangi Schaverien-Kaa and more...

\$15 waged, \$5 unwaged

There will be an 'Old Hall Gig' in Aro Hall on March 22nd (the night of the Aro fair).

Old Hall Gigs were created by people dreaming of non-rowdy places to listen to our favourite bands. A roving series of events taking place in halls around Wellington, each Old Hall Gig will also include readings from local writers, work by visual artists, and contemporary dance. There will also be performances by solo musicians and bands from unexpected genres.

Old Hall Gigs hopes to reinvigorate some of the community halls around Wellington and to encourage each local community to take part and share these events with their families and neighbours.

This gig will have music from Nadia Reid, a reading by Jo Randerson, and a drum solo performance (with a 'How to listen to a drum solo' talk beforehand).

School Holiday Program Dates

Please update your diaries with the year's school holiday program dates:

- 22, 23 & 24th April
28th April - 2nd May
- 7th July - 18th July
- 29th Sept - 10th October



Grant ROBERTSON
Labour MP for Wellington Central

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Labour

LETTERS

Humour queried

Dear Valley Voice,
The smart-arse sarcasm of the co-chairs' response to Martin Wilson's letter (VV Feb) is uncalled-for and unhelpful. Why could they not, for the sake of other readers if not for Martin's, just address his concerns?

Perhaps they can put their personal animosities aside for long enough to tell the rest of us whether a) the AVCC meeting minutes are available to the public, and if so, how they may be accessed, and if not, why not; b) it is true that motions by members are not put to general meetings; and c) it is true that letters to the committee are not minuted or replied to and, if this is the case, why not?

Jill Brasell
Aro valley resident

Dear editors,
Thank you for publishing my last letter. And thank you to the Co-Chairs for replying so humorously. Since this newsletter seems to be the only medium the AVCC Committee will reply to correspondence through, could I ask: Has there been any (much-needed) training for Committee members in meeting facilitation, applying the consensus method of decision-making, and being a good employer?

If yes, when exactly did that happen? And, if so, I look forward to reading the details in the minutes, and it is a pity this was not opened up to all general members (and future committee members) so we could all benefit from acquiring these skills.

I am still trying to gain copies of Committee meeting minutes since the AGM (and the AGM draft minutes), so please feel free to email any of those to me. I think they should be readily accessible to members.

The WCC tagging person attended a Committee meeting recently to discuss this problem. I am surprised that the community were not invited, as many locals are profoundly affected by tagging.

I have recently repeated my suggestion that the small room in the hall be converted into several workstations for community members to use. This would be great facility for locals to use for

business or community activities, and would be a good business incubator-type environment. It could produce considerable income. The Enspiral workstations in Allen St have been a brilliant success. I think an objective assessment of this proposal is warranted.

Martin Wilson
Aro valley resident

Co-chairs respond

Dear editors,
This is a reply to both Jill and Martin's letters.

Thanks Jill for your letter; we hope people read our rather pointed but humorous reply alongside the final part of our column: "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."

Our reply reflected the fact that the author had already posed the questions and been answered more than once by several people before the letter appeared. The Aro Valley Community Council is made up entirely of volunteers and the reality is that unless we say 'enough' at some point, people will simply leave the Committee and the community as a whole will suffer.

The following general points apply to the topics raised in Jill and Martin's letters.

Minutes: AVCC Committee meeting minutes are, and always have been, available to AVCC members once they are approved. We endeavour to also post them on the AVCC website and have been working on getting this process streamlined. General meeting minutes are generally confirmed at the next general meeting and then posted on the website; we aim to have draft minutes on line as well, but this has been a challenge over the Christmas break.

General Meeting Agendas: General meetings are generally held to promote the objectives of the Community Council. The agenda has to be notified two weeks in advance and so motions from the floor are only considered if they are relevant to the agenda. This creates a 'no surprises' framework and

avoids anyone hijacking a meeting. Most general meetings are held on topics in which the community has indicated an interest through surveys and feedback. For example, the general meeting on the AVCC Constitution reflected feedback that some people wanted a discussion on this topic. The recent resilience meeting was also one which a number of people had requested. We are also going to trial a "feedback forum" to assess the extent to which people want to discuss the operation of the AVCC rather than community issues per se.

Correspondence: Replies to letters are dealt with on the basis of urgency and the availability of people to respond. For example, Martin wrote a lengthy letter to us in late October concerning his interpretation of the AVCC Constitution. He also posted this letter on the Aro Valley Facebook page. The letter has been acknowledged and we are in the process of finalising a reply. There have been competing priorities in the last few months and a significant amount of work is involved in developing a reply. We expect to respond formally by the end of March.

Training and Development: We also support training and skills development for volunteers. However, Martin, we are not going to debate your opinions of people's skills and training needs through this or any other public forum.

Use of Meeting Rooms: We are always keen to see the best use made of the space available at the community centre. Martin, as we've already discussed with you, we are exploring ways to make some workstation capacity available. However, it is not as simple as converting the only small meeting room in the community centre into a 'for hire' workstation space.

On the subject of tagging, when there is something to discuss with the community then, as has always been the case, we will seek to initiate a community conversation. The City Council is currently reviewing its whole approach to this issue.

We are also keen to ensure the space in Valley Voice is used to best effect. We are unlikely to respond to further letters on topics which have already been extensively discussed directly with the authors.

Bridget and Roland
AVCC Co-chairs.

Composting toilets and Tsunamis on the agenda, post-disaster

Valley residents will help draw up a new disaster response plan for the area, following a meeting on fostering community resilience organised by the Aro Valley Community Council committee.

The meeting last month heard from Kerry McSaveney from the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, who said the best disaster readiness strategy was based around personal preparedness, connected neighbours and strong communities.

In a disaster, she said, "you are not on your own. You are with your family, your neighbours, your community."

The most important thing was to know your neighbours. "If you don't have your [disaster] plan and your survival items, hopefully your neighbours do ...

connected communities are that much more resilient in an emergency."

McSaveney said she would "love" to help forge a new community-driven resilience plan for the area, potentially involving Kelburn and Highbury.

The plan would look at issues such as whether the school was still the best emergency centre, and potential sources of water if the mains supply was knocked out. Sources such as the Waimapihi stream could be useful, provided there was not a large number of households above it, as their waste could contaminate it especially in a disaster. But ideally the stream and other watercourses would be tested now to identify potential sources before the fact.

Composting toilets were also an excellent idea in an emergency, McSaveney said.

David Johnstone, from the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, warned that a major earthquake could spark a tsunami 10-20m high, leading to a large number of people escaping into the valley. "You will have a lot of people running towards you... your community may change. You might have another large number of extra people."

Another big threat was the chance of a fire following an earthquake, which was the one time that people should try to put out fires themselves, he said. "It may make the difference between the whole

suburb burning or not."

In a disaster, the key things included the ability to get water, whether sewage can be managed, and access to food and healthcare. A community with strong existing networks "will potentially be more resilient", he said.

The audience then discussed different aspects of a disaster scenario for the valley, and the responses needed.

The results of that discussion will be made available to the wider community, and McSaveney is willing to help facilitate the drawing up of a new community response plan, as the current one is at least 10 years old.

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Cycle racks, chicken rolls and civil emergencies

Nicola Young, Lambton Ward councillor

I'm no stranger to the Aro Valley – with regular visits to Arobake (trying to get there before its 'long chicken rolls' are sold out), and the Aro Street Video Shop. So I'm honoured to represent Lambton Ward, knowing I'm following in the footsteps of two dedicated councillors: Ian McKinnon and Stephanie Cook.

It was good to meet so many familiar faces when I helped to sell Christmas trees, and I appreciated your warm welcome at the AVCC Christmas Party – my first taste of Garage Project's craft beers, and I returned the next day to get some supplies for the festive season.

I'm delighted to have the portfolio of Central City Projects, and can already report some progress on some things on which I campaigned: car parking is returning to WCC control; Opera House Lane is now being upgraded (the new lighting is almost finished); and the residue of funds earmarked to upgrade Taranaki Street will be used for some ceremonial banners (not quite the \$3.8m upgrade the Council promised a few years ago). I'm also working with council officers to ensure all buildings carry street numbers – helpful when trying to find places, and vital in civil emergencies.

Since my election in October, I've been on a steep learning curve learning more about how our city is run; I've had a few surprises. The Council makes grand announcements, but doesn't always follow through (Taranaki Street!); I'm disappointed at the lack of process around issues with major financial implications – in particular, the decision to implement the 'Living Wage' without consultation about its cost or implications. It's also disappointing several councillors have already forgotten their campaigns for fiscal prudence; our rates must be manageable – especially for those on fixed incomes – so councillors must be vigilant when spending your money.

It was certainly a shock to learn about the huge increase in costs to re-

strengthen the Town Hall (almost double original estimates, and possibly even more) so it's imperative all options are explored before a decision is made. It won't be easy.

On a more cheerful, positive note, I had a meeting recently with Sylvie Froncek of Wunderbike; I am now working to get some (more) bike racks at the Community Centre – it's such an obvious place to have them!

Please contact me to discuss any issues.
Nicola Young 801 5100/021 654 844. nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz; Twitter: @nmjyoung and Facebook: NicolaYoungWellington.

Roading time warp

Iona Pannett, Lambton Ward councillor

I have now spent a few hours at the hearing to decide whether the Basin Reserve flyover gets the go ahead. In some ways, it is like being in a time warp – nothing much has changed since 1998 when some of us opposed the Inner City Bypass and went off to the Environment Court.

Speaking of the Bypass, this issue is of course still ongoing, expanding this road has caused a number of problems. Resolving all of these will be difficult given the expansion of road space is fundamentally at odds with making pedestrians safe.

Still, I am very much enjoying the late summer as I'm sure most Wellingtonians are; the icing on the cake will of course be the Aro Valley Fair.

I'm very pleased to hear that the community is looking at ways of becoming resilient; this is a great initiative and critical if we are to make sure that all Valleyites are supported in the event of an emergency and also on a daily basis.

I know tagging has been a bug bear for a while; there are some appalling examples around the Valley so I will explore the possibility of a community clean-up day as has been organised in other suburbs.

Iona Pannett 384-3382/021-227-8509. iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz

Aro Valley businesswomen to get the chop for charity

Two Aro Valley businesswomen are gearing-up to lose their luscious locks at this year's Aro Valley Fair.

But going under the razor will depend on the generosity of fair goers, they say.

Helen Daly, 32, and Jemma Jeffs, 29, will shave their heads live on stage at 2pm provided they can raise \$4,000 for their chosen charities, Camp Quality and Fostering Kids.

Helen, beauty therapist and owner of Aro Valley's Skinfocus, says: "So far we've raised about a thousand dollars through public sausage sizzles, Christmas raffles and a Facebook campaign called 'We'll get the chop, if you cough up'.

"The Aro Valley Fair, in a couple of weeks' time, is our big opportunity to bump up that total. It's about doing what we can for kids-in-need – and entertaining people at the same time.

"The fair is always great fun, with a great community vibe. We're telling people to come along, to give generously – and to see two local women get the chop," says Helen.

Helen and Jemma decided to pair up for the head shave event after finding they shared a common desire to give back to the community in some way.

Jemma, a senior stylist at Aro Hair Studio, says: "Fundraising for kids made sense to both of us. For me, it's about helping kids in families dealing with cancer. For Helen, it's about helping foster families continue to do a great job for kids in care.

"All we need now is for the good people of Wellington to get behind us at this year's Aro Valley Fair – come on folks, we'll get the chop if you cough up!"

How can I show my support?

Come to Aro Valley Fair on Saturday 22 March – bring cash for the bucket!

Give generously now through the Give A Little website: <http://www.givealittle.co.nz> (search: *We'll get the chop if you cough up*)

Join Helen and Jemma on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/Well-get-the-Chop-if-you-cough-up/579334095472877?ref=br_tf

db4dance

By Debbie Groves

The floor space in the Te Aro Valley Community Centre is fantastic and cries out for a dance class! Here it is!

The children's jazz dance class runs Thursdays 3.30–4.30pm, for 7-10 year olds.

The class is limited to the first 20 students who enrol for the term. If the numbers increase, I will then look at opening up another class and possibly divide the age groups.

The class will be learning the basics first, with a good foundation in technique and progressing from there. I would like the students to understand the importance of technique that will allow them to advance their abilities to learn steps and put them together to make up dances. At times I will incorporate ideas from the students so that co-operation is encouraged and they gain confidence. My approach will be to have a relaxed, fun atmosphere with, of course, some discipline thrown in.

I will endeavour to create an exciting, encouraging environment for both the serious student and for those who want to learn and have fun. Students will learn basic isolations, stylized steps, develop a good sense of rhythm, strength-building, flexibility and age-appropriate choreography.

I started dancing when I was seven years old. I am a Distinguished Graduate of the NZ School of Dance,

Yeung Shing No More



The last (now vanished) remnant of the old eatery at the corner of Willis and Palmer Street. A three-storey townhouse building is being built.

a founder member of Impulse Dance Theatre, a recipient of Arts scholarships which allowed me to study jazz, ballet and contemporary dance styles and techniques in London and New York. I have travelled the world as a professional dancer and then taught in England, Spain and Germany before returning to New Zealand. I have been teaching in the Wellington area with other companies and schools and I have now decided to set up my own classes.

Parents need to enrol their children as soon as possible to secure a place.

Email Debbie d4dance@gmail.com to receive more detailed information.

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**

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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
	1.15 – 2.45pm	'Sing for your Life' (daytime singing for all) No need to book! (\$5 a time)	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@extra.co.nz
	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
	2.45 – 4.15pm	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



VALLEY VOICE

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All contributions and feedback to:

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or 022 694 0871

Valley Voice is published on behalf of

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

Aro Valley Community Centre
Coordinator:

Kelvin Aris

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Valley Voice is printed by



they can offer a pick-up and drop-off service for people's compost.

"It's really exciting working on the designs, and we have been enjoying the conversations with Epuni Street residents. They are really excited about it too," Aris said. "Watch this space."

Composting trial getting underway

Kai o te Aro are making good progress with plans for a community composting site on Epuni Street.

The plan, which has funding from the city council, is to erect bins that can be

used by neighbours who would not otherwise compost their household waste.

Community coordinator Kelvin Aris, who is helping lead the project, said they were talking to street residents about where the bins would be located. They are going to trial some 'drum' bins, which are easily rotated to better mix the compost, as well as some conventional bins. They are also investigating whether





Have your say on Wellington's draft annual plan

Wellington City Council's draft annual plan is now open to consultation.

The 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan sets out what the Council's work programme will cost over the next financial year, along with the proposed rate increase. It also has some proposed changes.

These include:

- stronger incentives for owners to strengthen quake-prone buildings
- lower costs and other ways to help stimulate development
- investing more in cycling improvements.

Find out more and make a submission here at:
<http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-input/public-inputs/consultations/open/draft-annual-plan-2014-15>

SUNDAY ROAST

\$18 WITH A SOFT DRINK

SOUTHERNCROSS
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