



VALLEY VOICE

TE REO HAPORI O WAIMAPIHI

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE ARO VALLEY OCTOBER 2014

WCC approves removal of 115 year-old streetscape in Aro heritage protection area



The historic streetscape that the City Council thinks “contributes little” to the city’s heritage



Devon Street in 1909, with the historic bakehouse to the left. (Alexander Turnbull Library)

A development that will replace a 115-year-old bakehouse with two new townhouses behind the Aro Street shops has been approved, despite being inside a special heritage area and serious concerns from locals.

The development is planned for an area that sits behind 96 Aro Street and also fronts onto lower Devon Street. It is in the Aro Valley Heritage Area, which was established to provide greater protection for historic heritage centres.

Writing to the Wellington City Council, AVCC committee co-chair Roland Sapsford said the planned development “represents a direct challenge” to the intentions of the heritage protection.

“The Aro Valley heritage area clearly and deliberately includes the building behind 96 Aro Street which runs along Devon Street. The building, over 100 years old, originally served as a bakery, and is currently tenanted. The reason for inclusion of this site in a suburban centre-based heritage area, is that “the area is an excellent representative example of a late 19th century commercial centre in a working class neighbourhood”. As such, the heritage area helps to conserve the early 19th century streetscape ...

“The existence of such an outbuilding and the contrast with the Aro St streetscape is a central component of the heritage area and forms an important element in defining the boundary between commercial and residential

space on Devon St. This boundary has been unchanged for over 100 years and is a key element of the streetscape. The existing built form gives physical form to the story of bakeries being separate from retail premises in a time before fire brigades were in existence.

“In essence the existing building both tells its own story and embodies a crucial and longstanding transition between the heritage buildings of the Aro Valley Shopping Centre and the historic residential buildings along Devon Street.

... Demolishing this building would result in the loss of a heritage building in a heritage area, and would open up the site for development, resulting in a breach of the continuous flow of heritage and character buildings going around the corner from Aro Street into Devon Street.”

However, the council has decided that the development can proceed and will not be notified, removing an avenue for the public to object.

In its decision, the council says the bakehouse “has negligible design architectural values as a purpose-designed bakehouse of timber

frame, lean-to-roof, clad with various materials, and of fair condition. Items to distinguish the building as a bakery have been removed and it is now used as rental accommodation ... The bakehouse contributes little to these [Aro Valley heritage] values as it is not similar to the other commercial buildings being single storey, of a different design and of little authenticity”.

Continues on page 3



Approved replacement streetscape?

TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP 2014 THE ARO VALLEY OPEN 1ST NOVEMBER



AVCC news

Mental health

The Capital and Coast DHB has introduced changes in the mental health area. They are moving to a new approach – Te Ara Pai or ‘the good path’ – which is a model based on community-engaged support rather than drop-in centres for people with significant mental health issues. While about 60 people are currently using drop in centres in Wellington, the belief is that they may entrench behaviours. There have been suggestions that community centres will need to provide services to this sector.

AVCC members will attend a one-day workshop on the basics of helping people with mental health issues. In addition, the AVCC committee has agreed that it is concerned about the implications for community centres and will discuss this issue further at the next committee meeting.

World War I project

There are various forms of grant money available for WWI-related projects. The AVCC committee has agreed that it could be worth looking into a project around conscientious objectors in Aro Valley, particularly as Archibald Baxter was held at Te Aro Gaol.

Informed Consents

By Tom Beard

Reproduced from the *Wellingtonista* blog:
<http://wellingtonista.com/2014/09/30/informed-consents/>

It's a common complaint: "how could the Council let people build that, and not even notify anyone?" That's partly down to a misunderstanding of what "notification" means under the RMA: it's not just about letting people know, but also the start of a long and complex process involving hearings, lawyers and possible

appeals, and it only occurs when a proposal goes some way beyond what's permitted under the District Plan. Most resource consents aren't notified in that sense, but they are public information, so

theoretically everyone should be able to know about it.

In practice, though, it's not that easy. Lists of recently received or issued consents are published on the WCC website every fortnight, but you have to remember to look, download a PDF, and scan through to see if anything might affect you.

To make that easier, I've been doing some work with local company Thundermaps to gather this information, map it, and let you receive alerts when something pops up. I've written a full description on their blog, but all you have to do is: sign up (it's free); draw the area that you're interested in; and receive email alerts or smartphone notifications whenever the Council publishes information about a new consent in that area.

If you don't want the notification service, you can just go and browse the map to see what's happening across Wellington. At the moment, we're just gathering public information about WCC consents, and this is only updated every fortnight, but we hope to get other Councils on board to make it easier for everyone to keep in the loop about developments in their community. That would make it easier for everyone to see, for instance, that...hey, a rooftop bar in Mt Vic!

About the author: Tom Beard lives in a tasteful neo-Tuscan mansion in Churton Park. He is a teetotaler, and his hobbies include golf, gardening and watching V8 supercars. He owns three SUVs, but his favourite vehicle is the Hummer with the "I ♥ Peter Dunne" bumper sticker, which he enjoys driving to church.



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Centre

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LETTERS

We welcome your opinions

Please send us your letters, feedback, photos and stories from around the Aro Valley.

Email: aro.voice@gmail.com

Media's role in transparency

Dear *Valley Voice*

Can I suggest that someone writes a monthly VV column, reporting on the meetings, discussions and proposed activities of our Community Council Committee? I, for one, would love to know what issues are addressed, and what decisions and planned activities result.

The media should play an important role in objectively and critically reporting on the activities of those in power. This is a very important part of a democracy and the right of free speech. I think our *Valley Voice* has been wonderfully written and produced recently, but has lacked any detailed reporting on AVCC Committee discussions, and, to me, lacked any objectivity whatsoever in reporting on AVCC issues.

Would I like to do that reporting? Of course I would! That might require a change to the current rule that committee meetings are invitation-only (which I consider to be very undemocratic). It would have the wonderful additional benefit of making the Committee minutes and discussions available to general members.

I further suggest that, prior to the AGM, candidates be asked to supply their profile and policy statements for publication in *Valley Voice*, for the edification of us, the members.

Transparent, accountable, participatory democracy! Yes please.

Martin Wilson

Thanks to everyone who dropped off drawing paper for the school holiday programme. It was well-used and much appreciated!!!

Devon Street development



(Continued from page 1)

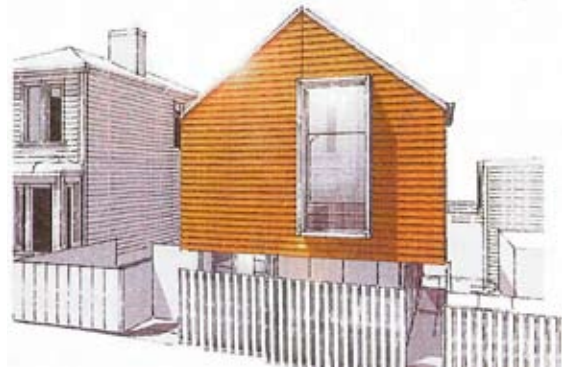
Sapsford argued that the proposed new townhouses, which will be of modern design, will “disrupt the heritage streetscape, with a built form and alignment that respects neither the existing residential Devon St streetscape nor the existing built form and alignment of the heritage area. This represents a radical change in built form and as such has adverse effects on both streetscape and heritage values which are more than minor.

The claim that the proposed development creates positive effects is at the very least tenuous and certainly a matter that needs to be tested via public notification.”

However, the council argued that the proposed development “is consistent with the prevailing building and roof forms, materials and street alignment. Its design is clearly new but is compatible with the existing, maintaining conservation principles

when designing in a heritage area

“The pair of townhouses as depicted on the plans submitted are appropriate in terms of bulk and mass. Their maximum height will not exceed that of any neighbouring buildings ... Given that the applicant proposes not to employ matching materials to the surrounding buildings, the introduction of this mass to the streetscape will be easily read as a new structure in the heritage area that is sympathetic to the surrounding context”.



free kids theatre fortnightly



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11 OCTOBER
08 NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER 27 | INTERACTIVE
OCTOBER 25 | KIDS THEATRE
NOVEMBER 22



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Great to see Valley going green

Iona Pannett

Lambton Ward councillor

As I write this, I'm loving seeing all the great green initiatives in the Valley, including the installation of solar panels on the roof of the community centre (in part supported by the Wellington City Council) and the composing initiative in Epuni Street. Congratulations too to James Shaw, a long-time Aro Valley-ite just elected as a Green MP, and to returning MP Grant Robertson, for their respective successes.

The other big news of course over the last few weeks is the decision by NZTA to appeal the landmark decision against the Basin Reserve Flyover. For those of us who fought the bypass in the 1990s and early 2000s and then the flyover,

the decision by the board of inquiry was wonderful news, so it is disappointing that NZTA have not been able to accept this decision. But we will fight on and I'm committed to putting a stop to this project along with the second Terrace tunnel.

As I write this, the council has literally just hours ago agreed unanimously to a bill to protect the Town Belt. It will now be sent off to Parliament to hopefully be put into law. I would hope that the bill will be introduced before the end of the year and will soon give stronger protections to all land within the area, including in the Aro Valley.

Thanks to those of you who came along to my caffeine clinic recently. Good discussions were had and I am following up on a number of suggestions around making it easier to recycle, improving pedestrian safety in Aro Street, dealing with tagging, and upping the ante on bike safety, amongst others. I'm making some progress on some of the suggestions and hope to report back with some concrete proposals soon.

Iona 384-3382/021-227-8509

Polhill's newest leafy residents need your help!

Earlier this year Kai o te Aro, the Aro Valley Restoration Project and Brooklyn Trail Builders got together with the Wellington City Council to plant up a large patch of native trees above the KotA orchard.

Those plants are now in serious need of weeding and mulching to keep them happy over summer. We would love some help in getting this done, as we're struggling to keep up with the weeds!

The date is Saturday 8th November 10am-12pm at The Orchard/Polhill Reserve (227 Aro St).

Please bring your own gloves, trowel, forks and/clippers if you can.

Hope to see you there!

Charles Barrie, Julia Stace and Jamie Murphy

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Website: arovalleypreschool.blogspot.co.nz

Also a community playgroup for under 3 year olds, operates on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30 to 5.00 pm.

Contact Sacha Green for details at:

whanaukariki@gmail.com

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Kate Sheppard and city lanes

Nicola Young

Lambton Ward councillor

Kate Sheppard, New Zealand's best-known suffragette, has replaced the traditional 'green man' at eight intersections around the Parliamentary Precinct. There's been an enthusiastic response, with requests for the theme to be rolled out more widely. New Zealand led the world in women's suffrage, so it's good Kate Sheppard's role has finally received tangible – albeit modest – public recognition. Even better, the quirky signals cost only \$12,000. My great-grandmother, Jacobina Luke, was so keen for women to get the vote that she signed the 1893 suffrage petition twice!

Victoria Street's southern end will soon be transformed, largely for pedestrians, in accordance with consultation done some years ago. Plans include widened pavements, two new paved parks, lots of deciduous London plane trees (a tough variety that's ideal for such a busy street), and the provision of a rudimentary cycling lane. The decision will be made at the next Wellington City Council meeting, which happens to be just after the Valley Voice deadline! The work should be completed by next July; far speedier than normal, as mid-term capital expenditure review spending requires projects to be completed by mid-2015.

Several of the city's lanes will be transformed soon: Bond Street, Mason's Lane, Leeds and Eva streets will receive attention from the council's urban design team. Lower Cuba Street will also get an overhaul, as the 'shared space' design hasn't worked, and Civic Square will get a 'green wall'.

Recently I visited MenzSheds in

Frederick Street's former Chinese Mission church – a group of enthusiastic retired men using their skills to improve the central city. It's really heartening to see such terrific community projects underway in the city centre.

Nicola Young T: 801 5100; M: 021 654 844 E: nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

Aro Valley lands in Bristol City



Kelvin Aris and Stephen Templer just returned from the Playable Cities conference in Bristol, UK.

What a trip!! Two weeks in Bristol immersed in street play, community arts and public space activation -YES!!

We stayed in St Werburghs, an innercity neighbourhood on the East side of Bristol, that reminded us a lot of Aro Valley, home to some amazing self-build projects, and a network of allotment gardens and sheds, an urban farm, a camping area and our official home away from home the Miners Arms local pub.

Playable City was a two-day event.

Highlights included learning about the rich history of street games in the UK, conversations with the mayor of Bristol George Ferguson about the city as a laboratory for change, a place to steal great ideas from around the

world, experiment and have fun in the public space without necessarily asking for permission. We hit Bristol by bike and

interviewed some really inspiring people about street theatre, festivals, games, the self-build movement and community land trusts, protecting arts neighbourhoods from gentrification, repurposing old buildings, back yard cider brewers, puppeteers, our heroes the kings of ping, founders of the people's republic of Stokes Croft, the Bristol local currency, social enterprise people and generally up-for-it folks making the most of city and neighbourhood life.

Bristol has a rich history of public art - the home of Banksy, street theatre, festivals and music in public spaces. We met people doing very similar things as we are doing here in Aro Valley - there is a really strong sense of neighbourhood identity.

We are starting the Aro Valley Fun Lab this summer and are looking for people who are up for getting up to fun and mischief in our awesome neighbourhood this summer.

We are kicking it off with the Aro valley table tennis open on November 1st. Thanks to all who contributed to the Pledgema Playing for Wellington.

It's great to be back and we are looking forward to a summer of fun and games in the Valley.

Kelvin and Stephen

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Kai o Te Aro

Kia ora Aro Valley,

Just a brief update this month as we've been so busy planting seeds and pulling weeds. While these nights have sure been crisp, the soil is certainly stirring! So what's up?

After some great help from the Wellington City Council (WCC) and a little fundraising of our own, we now have some wonderful new additions to our fruit stock. Persimmon, another apricot, a double pear, feijoas and lemons. All our existing trees had a good prune from Laurie and a number of Aro gardeners got to learn from the Aro master. I reckon we might get some Apricots this year ... or will that be next year ...?

We've also been making great progress in refreshing our beds and sewing seeds, and now that we have access to a weedeater again (thanks Julia!) the garden should be looking good this summer.

Enjoy the sun everyone, and enjoy the rain. As always, you can get in touch with us at arogardener@gmail.com or find us as www.facebook.com/groups/kaiotearo/. *Charles, Kai o te Aro*

Gardens in the park – carers wanted

Would anybody like to care for a small part of the various flower beds under cultivation in Aro Park?

The soil is good and the aspect sunny. There is occasional heartbreak when rascals without any empathy for plant life pull out them out but overall the plants flourish.

If you're interested, please contact the Aro Valley coordinator in the office by the park, or via email: community@arovalley.org.nz.

Check out our solar generation

Now that the solar panels on the community centre roof are up and running, residents can see online just how much power they are generating.

Readouts of the electricity produced are available at the following link: <http://www.splashmonitoring.com/system/arovalleycommunitycentre>

The Splash monitoring system has been installed by Right House, a home energy efficiency company. The savings on electricity bills thanks to the solar panels are shared between the Aro Valley Community Council and the Pre School.

Aro candidates' meeting provides rare highlight for Left

In an otherwise dismal election campaign for the Left, the Aro Valley meet the candidates forum in September was a shining highlight for leftwing candidates, who – as is traditional – received a far warmer welcome than their rightwing counterparts.

Blogger Danyl McLaughlan, author of *Unspeakable Secrets of the Aro Valley*, produced a brilliant round up of the evening's events, beginning thusly: *It was scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM, but by 6:45 all the seats in the humble Aro Valley community hall were taken. By 7:00 the crowd spilled out the doors into the brisk Wellington night. At 7:15 Kim Hill and Linda Clark appeared and*

prowled the crowded aisles, glowering at people with seats until a group of scruffy, bearded hipsters relinquished their chairs to them. I'm no good at estimating numbers but in a hall designed to accommodate about fifty people I'd guess there were around three hundred. The candidates arrived and chatted amongst themselves, looking nervous. Rows of people stood on the benches outside peering through the open windows, occasionally slapping their hands against the frames like hordes of ravenous zombies. At 7:30 sharp it began.

For the full version, google "The only election event that matters".

On a related note, the AVCC would like to thank **Neil & Nalini Patel of the Shalimar Dairy** for their generous sponsorship of the supper after the 'Meet the Candidates' event held at the Aro Hall on 8 September.

Db4dance for children New enrolments welcome!

Thursdays at the Aro Valley Community Centre

Pre school fun class 2.40-3.10pm

Jazz Dance 7-10yrs 3.30-4.15pm

**There will be an informal Xmas performance at the end of the year!
Taking enrolments for 2015 incl new dance classes for 5-7yrs old
For enquiries of enrolments email: db4dance@gmail.com**

Spring fling featuring the cute small ciabatta loaf, crusty white sourdough, amazing lamingtons and the best ever classic sausage roll. Come share our party...



Monday to Friday 7am – 5.15pm
Saturday 7am – 3.30pm

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04 384 5473
www.arobake.co.nz

Day	Time	Activity & Cost	Contact
Monday	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)	Yi Ching Mao 384 3588
	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Capoeira (\$10 casual /\$40 - 8 classes)	Bobby Semau 027 6961708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
Tuesday	12.00pm – 12.45pm	Sit and Be Fit (\$3 per class)	Kathy McConville Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	1.45pm – 2.45pm	Wellington Community Yoga with Rebekah Rasmussen \$5 - some mats provided	Rebekah 027 306 7180
	3.30pm -5.00pm	Wellington Community Children's Choir Ages 4 - 6: \$40, Ages 7 - 12: \$50	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@xtra.co.nz
	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Peace Planetary Meditation FREE	Purnima Mishra 022 124 2192 yppvurnima@gmail.com
Wednesday	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Pilates with Erica Casual \$15, Unwaged \$13 10 class concessions	Erica 292 7909 or 022 646 3994 elattughi@hotmail.com
	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)	Lynsey 384 5520
	1.15pm – 2.45pm	'Sing for your Life' (daytime singing for all) No need to book! \$5 a time	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@xtra.co.nz
	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Starjam	Genevieve@starjam.org 212 4971 • 021 782 866
	Thursdays CSA Organic food pick up	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Kids Jazz Dance Classes \$12 per class / \$100 per term
Thursday	4.30pm – 5.10pm	Group Singing Lessons with Geoff \$23 per lesson	Geoff 021565750
	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Samba Hillary Mitchell & Fabiola Stevenson	Hillary Mitchell Hillary.Reid@vuw.ac.nz 021 230 8732
	7.30pm – 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 CSA Organic food pick up	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class (Koha)
Saturday	9.00am – 10.00am	Yoga With Maggie \$5 per class	Maggie Kelly maggiek52@gmail.com
	11.30am – 1.00pm	Beginners Samba Class Drop in \$15 Student \$12 Six classes \$65	Arawhetu 027 465 1511 arawhetu@gmail.com
	1.00 – 3.00pm (last Saturday of the month)	Capoeira FREE	Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 bobbysemau@gmail.com

Emerging artists needed for Central Park art trail

UPSTREAM: the Art Trail will be a temporary exhibition of work by up to 12 new and emerging artists and designers responding to the theme of shelter at Wellington's Central Park in Brooklyn. The organisers, led by the Friends of Central Park, are right now looking for artists and designers who want to be included in this exhibition in March 2015.

UPSTREAM will take place over four days from 5 to 8 March 2015. It offers a great opportunity for practitioners who have recently graduated or are in the early stages of their careers to produce

and showcase works that:

- demonstrate a high standard of artistic merit
- are designed for temporary outdoor display in late summer
- will connect with Park users by recognising the site's features, history, use and ecology
- will withstand weather
- respect health and safety concerns are family-friendly.

The Friends of Central Park see the art trail as an opportunity to further develop the park as a key community asset.

They want to establish an opportunity for artists to contribute temporary contemporary works that will speak to



VALLEY VOICE

Editors: Max Rashbrooke & Tim Bollinger

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 2014-15:

Roland Sapsford

Charles Barrie

Secretary: Sarah Jane Parton

Treasurer: Rachel Griffiths

Committee members:

Luke Allen, Jay Buzenberg, Cindy Jemmett, Jadwyn Lowe, Madeleine Rashbrooke, Julia Stace, Bridget Stocker, Lisa Thompson, Mattie Timmer, Rochelle Walker

Aro Valley Community Centre
Coordinator:

Kelvin Aris

Community@arovalley.org.nz

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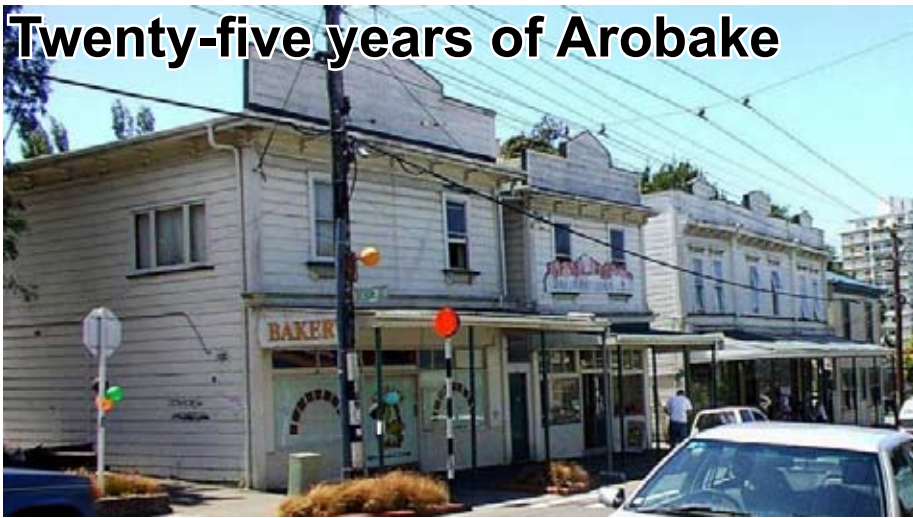
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the site, its history and significance. This in turn will attract more visitors keen to discover what the Park has to offer.

The closing date for submissions is 14 November 2014. Written and visual proposals need to provide a clear understanding about what is being put forward and how it will be executed. The announcement of selected artists and designers will be made on 28 November:

For full details on the call for proposals email info@upstream.org.nz or check out the website upstream.org.nz

Twenty-five years of Arobake



“You can’t beat the meat at Aro Street!”

I can remember 25 years ago, Ernie [my brother] with the above phrase on his shirt back, at Aro Street Butchery, telling me that the health food shop across the road was for sale. “Aroma” it was called. I had only been back in New Zealand for about 2 weeks, returning after a three year stint in Switzerland that had followed my apprenticeship.

Dad lent me \$30,000. Family chipped in on a 3 week clean up and quick paint job. No logo or proper name, “Aro Street Patisserie” was what we first called it. There were those old self-serve sandwich cabinets in the shop which we taped shut

as we wanted to serve the customers ourselves. No real plan, I just started baking with one apprentice. Not sure if you could get away with being so rough and, well “not ready” today, but there it was our beginning. I was 25, huh, half my life I’ve given to baking in Aro Street. Mind you it’s the best Street in Wellington; we at Arobake would like to think we have contributed to this. Not without all those who have given us their patronage over the years of course.

This month we are celebrating 25 years. 25 years of multigrain, belgium biscuits, and carrot cakes to name a few. We have also added an item or two over

the years. We have trained 16 apprentices and paid 10 million dollars in wages in those 25 years. Attended weddings and funerals and journeyed with an amazing bunch of people through laughter and tears, it’s pretty much a family.

We want to celebrate with the valley as well, so on the 30th of October we will be having a fun day. Pop in and check it out. *Max Fuhrer, Arobake*

Children turning 5 and beginning school in 2015

As part of Te Aro School’s Strategic Planning for our future needs and roll growth, we are interested to know any children in our area who may come to Te Aro School for their primary education in 2015 and beyond.

Please email the school office: office@tearo.school.nz with details - name of child, date of birth and expected start date.

We would appreciate these details by Friday 14 November 2014 to enable us to provide the Ministry of Education with our predicted roll numbers. Thanks! *Sue Clement*

speaking the language of today's market

After living in the Valley for nine years I can easily understand why no one ever wants to leave!! Come and experience the all the benefits a passionate local advocate can provide;

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- From a trusted local company
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