

Queen of the Park in Recovery

Lola –aka the “Queen of Aro Park” is currently recovering from an operation to amputate one of her front legs following a dog attack in the park.

For those of you that don't know Lola, she is a regal tabby who has reigned over the park and nearby precinct for many years. People strolling through or sitting in the park receive her gracious attention while they stroke and talk to her, and she has entertained and comforted many.

Several weeks ago a dog on an extending lead attacked her in the park, and despite the owner valiantly throwing himself between Lola and his dog (and getting badly scratched himself), she was injured. The vets at Central park clinic tried their best to save her paw, but in the end her right front leg had to be amputated. The dog's owner paid the vet bill, some of which was also paid for by donations from concerned locals who'd heard about Lola's plight.

I've often wondered while walking through Aro Park and seeing Lola there at different times of the day and night, whether she has a home base and “staff”. (There is that very true saying that dogs have companions and cats have staff!) She is definitely not feral, as she is very socialised and in good condition. It turns out that she does occasionally visit, sleep and dine at what could be called her home base in nearby Palmer Street, but her staff there describe Lola as “a free ranging cat” with her own agenda.

Lola is currently recuperating at her Palmer Street base, and doing remarkably well. I've visited her



a few times (with gently poached chicken breast, which is well received!), and after being a bit wary in the first few days she is almost back to her usual gregarious self – though still clumsily getting used to getting about on three legs. However as a sign of her remarkable character, she has twice got out of the house and shimmied up a tree ... getting down is a little harder!

Lola has her own Facebook page, which has received many hits and people have posted pictures of her – some taken while she has strolled through their homes and gardens, proof she has many fans.

So while Lola may have lost one of her nine lives, she is working on her recovery and metamorphosis into her next one. Having three legs means she may not be as free ranging as she used to be as she is less fleet and more vulnerable, but there could be

pre-arranged days and times where she is able to hold court in the park under supervision. Long Live Queen Lola!!

Catrina McLeod

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<http://www.arovalley.org.nz/valley-voice-newspaper.html>

Subscribe to AVCC E-Newsletter - <http://www.arovalley.org.nz/>

Kids yoga in the hall

Maggie Loveday is very excited to bring “Loveday Yoga” Kids Yoga sessions to the Aro Valley Community Centre! We will use song, body movement, relaxation techniques, mindfulness craft activity and lots of props to experience yoga play with young souls. The kids yoga sessions will run the length of Term 2 on Monday afternoons from 3:45-4:30. Sessions are open to all ages- please register with Maggie at lovedayyoganz@gmail.com. Each session is \$5. A total of 9 sessions will run from 1 May to 7 July. Please note no session on 5 June due to Queens Birthday celebrations.



Maggie is delighted to continue to teach the mixed level adult Hatha yoga class on Saturday mornings from 9-10 am. The adult yoga class is a lovely opportunity to enjoy friendly conversations with neighbours, calm the mind, and improve strength and flexibility.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with Maggie at lovedayyoganz@gmail.com with any questions or to discuss anything yoga related!



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Reports from Holloway Road Fire - 5 April 2017

Parking lessons for all from Holloway Rd fire

Hello Valley Voice

Information about fire in Holloway Road. Points to note are:

- victim left with nothing and there is a givealittle page.
- Fire engines had difficulty accessing and had to remove vehicles.
- On a windy dry night whole valley might have gone up in flames.

Regards

John Whitty

The fire that happened on Wednesday

I am sure that everyone heard about the fire that happened on Wednesday [5 April] at ~1am. 113A sadly has been reduced to smoking rubble.

I recorded almost the entire event, here is short clip from the beginning of the fire <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBOFmVdvtWQ>

Sadly our tenant Zack did not have contents insurance and has literally lost everything he owned other than the boxer shorts he was sleeping in. I have setup a givealittle page to help Zack get back on his feet: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/fireat113ahollowayroad>.

The intensity and speed of the fire was incredible. Seeing the outcome in person is pretty sobering. I love our old houses on this street but

this did highlight the fact that, even though it had been raining all day and Holloway road is a pretty damp area, in a fire these old houses will go up like throwing a road flare into a box of oily rags.

The response time of the fire department wasn't too flash so I did a bit of investigating and I found out that the first fire engine would have arrived much sooner if people had parked their cars better; specifically along the long straight part of the road they had to shift THREE cars to get the engine up here.

I have mentioned in the past that I am no saint when it comes to parking but this should be a wake up call to everyone, it is time to tighten up our acts with kerb distances & common parking courtesy.

Cheers

Louis White

[This reminds me of an incident many years ago when I lived at 16 Devon St. Being a, then, law-abiding type I parked our car strictly on the road – no wheels up on the footpath. Then, one night, a fire engine, fortunately on a no-siren training and checking run, not an emergency call, scraped a long dent along the side of our car. There was simply no clearance for a large vehicle if cars are legally parked.

Since then all cars in the street park with two wheels up on the footpath. Not strictly legal, and maybe annoying to pedestrians, but at least not obstructive to emergency vehicles. Other narrow streets in the Valley, like Boston Terrace where I now live, also have clearance issues with overhanging trees and other vegetation, and wires which have been installed too low. Ed.]

Valley Vibes

Our Book Exchange is open.



In the entryway of the hall you will find a book case with a wide selection of books.

Please take and read at your leisure and then you can return or swap for another book.



Local bibliophile Judy Buchanan ponders an exchange





AROUND the Valley Discover Your Neighbourhood

Saturday 13 May 1-4pm

The Aro Valley Community Centre have organised an epic wee adventure around Aro Valley. Come and grab a map from the Community Centre at 48 Aro Street from 1pm onwards and explore your neighbourhood.

You will have access to all sorts of fabulous Aro Valley locations on the day, including:

- Philosophy House - tours
- Inverlochy Art School – tours and art workshops
- Tanera Gully – discover the fish life in the stream and plant and name a tree to look after for the future
- The Secret Community Garden
- 128 Abel Smith Street – Community and Radical Centre
- The Garage Project – beer making tours
- Beekeeping at Te Aro School

And lots more. It's going to be one fun afternoon, so grab some friends or the kids and come explore. It's a day out

that all will enjoy.

If you want to be part of the Garage Project beer making tours these need to be pre-booked. Contact us on community@arovalley.org.nz to organise this.

From 3.30pm come kick back and join us for some kai, drinks and music at the Community Centre.

This is a Neighbours Day event and is supported by Wellington City Council and Lychgate Funeral Home.

Aro Valley Preschool

A caring
learning community

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm

04 384 5156
arovalleypreschool.nz

Located at 48 Aro Street in the heart of Aro Valley, we cater for children aged 2 to 5 years, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.30pm

Open from the last week in January through to the end of Term 4 in December

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

We have places available now !

A community playgroup also operates on Tuesdays from 3.30 to 5.00

Email: info@arovalleypreschool.nz





Update from Sue Kedgley, one of your local Wellington Regional Councillors.

The Wellington Regional Council has been consulting on its Annual Plan, which gives priority to making Wellington more resilient, by improving flood protection; upgrading water reservoirs; assisting Centreport to repair the damage it sustained during the

earthquake, and other measures. The Annual Plan will be finalized on June 28.

The Council is intending to keep bus fares frozen this year (for the fourth year in a row); and to bring in new package of public transport measures next year, including a 25% off-peak discount on all bus and train fares; free transfers when transferring between buses and a single snapper card across all buses in the Wellington region. I am also working hard to ensure there are discounted bus and train fares for students.

The Council is also finalizing new bus operating contracts and a new bus network (which will be introduced in July 2018) and a new bus ticketing system.

Tragically, our wonderfully iconic, quiet, pollution-free trolley buses

will be taken out of service in November-- despite having many years of life left in them. We don't know what will replace them yet. NZ Bus is hoping to convert them into hybrid buses --but we have yet to see a successful outcome to their trials. If their hybrid trials aren't successful, our iconic electric trolley buses will be replaced with polluting diesel buses--something I warned would likely happen five years ago. That would be a giant step backwards!

Please contact me if you have local issues or concerns at sue@suekedgley.com

Sue Kedgley

**Wellington Regional Councillor
Chair, Environment Committee
Board Member, Capital and
Coast District Health Board**



Wet fair marked the end of "summer"

The Aro Valley Fair ran in spite of rain all day on Saturday 11th March - the best little event at the tail end of the Wellington "Summer".

Approximately 400 residents, their friends and family, and the Wellington public came out to support the village community vibe that is so unique to the Aro Valley Fair.

The community games, run by the always energetic Pie in The Sky and the scrutineers: The AROlympics were held in wet conditions, but with high spirits. The competition was tough with the smallest nation, Levina Ave taking out the overall gold.

Two music stages were set up, the Palmer St stage being relocated to the hall that consisted of many local

acts from Te Aro School kapa haka, Hawaiian Dancing, Starjam and Country and Rock music. Brave stallholders that attended were spread wide across the site and there was plenty of food and drink to keep people warm.

A BIG thank you to our volunteers:

- Those manning the waste station keeping Aro Valley clean and diverting as much waste from landfill as possible.
- Our set up crew, who rose nice and early to direct stalls, build stages and move furniture.
- Our green room volunteers, especially Rachel and Lisa who organised all the food and prepared fresh made salads. To everyone else who provided food.
- Our traffic officers, who are up before the crack of dawn, making sure everyone is safe.
- Special volunteers who arranged and picked up and

drop off of the bins, waste signs and crockery.

- Entertainment: The Aro Fair would not be the same without all of our performers, who volunteer their time and talents in order to entertain us. Special thanks to Andrew, Warwick and our MC Bryan Crump who ensured the entertainment ran smoothly
- To AroBake, Aro Fish & Chips, Patels Superette for providing food for our green room and of course Garage Project.
- To Ideal Cup, Tommy's Real Estate, Compass Health for donations to minimise waste.
- The Aro Valley Community Council committee that supports this event by volunteering and, of course
- The Wellington City Council for financial and practical support





Getting Aro Valley Predator Free

Volunteers and participants are sought to help with the trapping of pests across the Aro Valley. Backyard trapping is gaining momentum across Wellington as part of the effort to restore our native bird populations and moving towards making Wellington predator free.

The idea is to add Aro Valley to the areas that have removed or reduced predators to see the return of native bird populations. The Zealandia sanctuary has been a massive success. We have already seen many tui and kaka return but many other native

birds struggle outside the sanctuary fence. Considerable success has been achieved in reducing the predator threat in our neighbouring Polhill reserve and increasingly in suburbs such as Brooklyn, Highbury and Kelburn through backyard trapping.

The trapping of rats in Aro Valley will help provide an additional area for rare native birds to expand into from current sanctuaries and also stop the reinvasion of neighbouring areas where they have been removed.

Predator Free Aro Valley is open to any level of participation. Whether it be putting your place forward to have a trap the backyard, helping others in your street with setting the traps, or

supporting the running of the effort across the valley, all help will be welcomed.

If you want to help in any way, please drop by the stand on Neighbour's Day from 1-4pm 13 May – come along to the Polhill Protectors stand at the main entrance to Polhill on Aro St. There will be a limited number a traps available; first come, first served.

Otherwise email predatorfreearovalley@gmail.com. You can also follow the group on the Facebook page at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1115738981873892/>

Aaron Matthews



A kaka apparently enjoying some of the Aro Valley's finest in the bush next door to Te Aro School.

Photo: Paul Stanley Ward

A Big Year for the Gully

You might say we had a lousy summer. The plants put out in the Tanera Gully these past 12-months and before beg to differ. We've had excellent growth: check out the Epuni Street entrance to the Gully. Great growth and few losses. The one problem this wet and warmish summer has caused is prodigious weed growth, and yes, plants can be smothered and lost. That's why anyone who's willing to transform the bamboo stands in the Gully into wands to mark the site of newly installed plants would do a most welcome job. A quarter of the way into 2017 has seen several working parties (the first Sunday of each month and any additional time you're

able to volunteer). Tasks undertaken include erecting a new sign at the top of the Gully (next to the electricity pylon, adjacent to the cricket/football field), weeding, planting out and removing bags and bags of rubbish from the same area; a big thanks to Rachel our Ranger, for the use of your vehicle! A seasonal highlight is the arrival of new recruits for planting out in the Gully: our plant allocations are starting to turn up – WCC's Berhampore Nursery and F&B's Highbury Nursey are doing fantastic work in supplying us with locally-sourced plants that, per our fundamental objective, characterised the Gully before 1840.

A major forthcoming event is the Aro Valley Neighbours' Day on Saturday, 13 May from 1-4pm. You'll have the chance to adopt a tree – plant it,

attach a name tag and then (with the occasional weeding) watch it grow. Frances Forsyth, our resident native fish expert will be on hand to tell you about what's in the Gully stream, and what should return to the stream. Others will be present to explain the restoration project in more detail and help you enrol as a volunteer. We're keen to see more weeding, rubbish removing, planting out and predator-trapping.

The latter not least because our list of birds sighted in or over the Gully continues to grow: a karearea the other day. And Janice Swanwick describes red-crowned Kakariki as "common" at the top of the Gully. Would it not be marvellous to be able to describe Kiwi in the Valley in the same way?!"

The Adult Sippy Cup

The takeaway coffee cup has not always been around. People managed for years without walking and drinking and without a lid on their beverages. But that has all changed.

2.25 billion takeaway coffee cups are consumed around the world each day (see <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/bring-one-get-one-tree.html>) and it is estimated that every year 500 billion disposable cups are discarded to landfill (<http://vskeepcup.com.au/>).

They say they are recyclable, compostable or biodegradable. So what is the difference?

RECYCLABLE: Takeaway cups cannot be recycled, as they are lined with polyethylene, or PE (a plastic material). The lids can be recycled in some places, but NOT in Wellington.

COMPOSTABLE: These cups need industrial style composting systems to be compostable, high temperatures or UV light. However, they are often just



send to landfills, which do not provide the conditions for these cups to break down efficiently.

BIODEGRADABLE: There are mixed reviews with 'biodegradable', as there are still many problem with manufacturing and use of resources. These cups also need special conditions to break down and are mainly sent to landfills.

Not only is the process of disposing a massive strain on the environment, the process of making the cups for single use is exploiting resources, such as water, plants, oil and coal, creating

carbon emissions.

Ultimately, the best option is to use you own cup or just sit down and enjoy your hot beverage.

Arobake, with the support of Ideal Cup and the Aro Valley Community Centre, has taken the plunge to provide the option of re-useable cups for customers. They can be returned and then re-used again. Please take advantage of this on those occasions when you do not have your own re-useable cup.



Plastic Free July will be in full force this year. But it is worth thinking about now. There is no reason why you can't start making changes before July. The top four plastic culprits infiltrating our ecosystems and food chains are.

- Straws
- Coffee Cups
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Bottles

These are all items we do not NEED. Try saying "no straw" with your next cocktail or shake order. Grab a re-useable cup. Bring your own bag and carry your own drink bottle.

We will be holding plenty of events and workshops at the Community Centre and would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. You can contact Sarah at the Community Centre, developer@arovalley.org.nz or call 384 8499.



Aro Valley now has a Boomerang Bags pick up and drop off station in the Community Centre meeting room. You can take home a bundle of straps, bags or mix and match the materials you like to create whole bags. This will allow people to help out an amazing initiative in their own time. We will continue to have working bees and events for people to get together. There is plenty planned over the next few months. So keep an eye out on the Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/Aro-Valley-Community-Council-138101758033/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BoomerangBagsWellington/>

Or contact Sarah at the Aro Valley Community Centre: developer@arovalley.org.nz

Councillor Iona Pannett



Along with some of you in the Valley, I was disappointed not to be able to secure the Holloway Rd land recently put up for sale through the Public Works Act by

the university. Thanks to those of you who worked hard for this end with councillors. If the land is to be developed, my hope is that good quality housing will be developed, either for students or social housing. But we will keep looking for opportunities to purchase land in the Valley. Bringing land back to the Town Belt remains a priority.

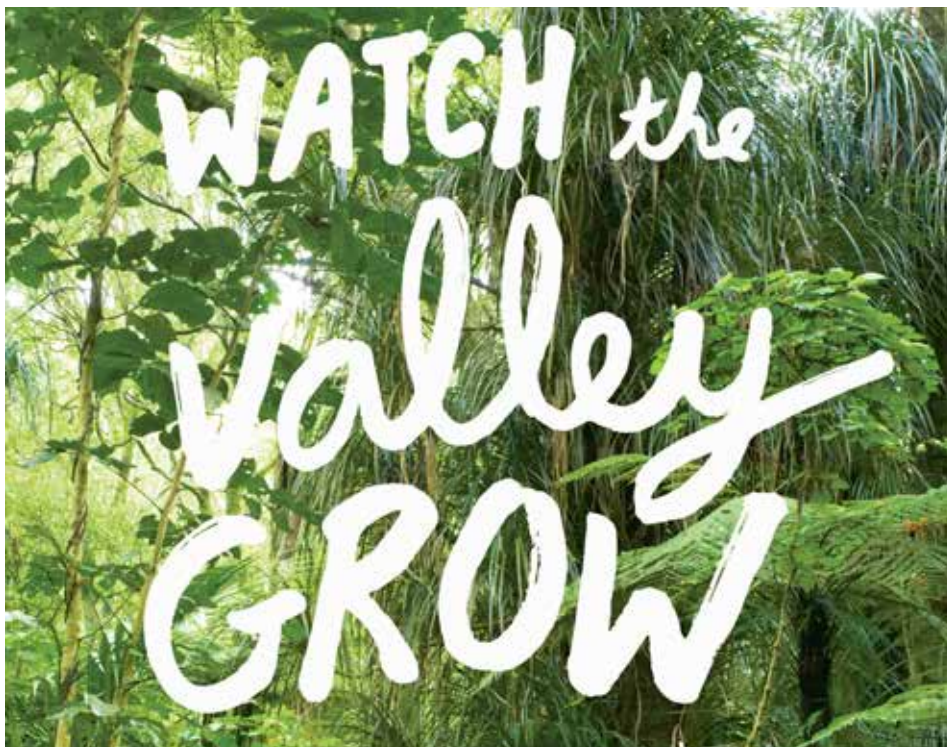
It is that time of year and we are consulting on our Annual Plan. More information is here <http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/2017-18-annual-plan>. There are some good things in here like lifting the Living Wage to over \$20 an hour, giving some car parks over to electric cars and car share schemes, strengthening the Town Hall and a test pilot to make our homes more resilient.

Wellington is lagging behind other cities in NZ in terms of the

amount of waste that we send to the landfill. We are currently consulting on a new Waste Plan for the region to rectify this situation. You can have your say here <http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/consultations/open/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan>. Some of the ideas suggested are an organic collection (green waste and food), public recycling bins, lobbying on plastic bags, shared services with other councils in the region. I also believe that there is a need to have a discussion about the future of our landfill. We need to find better ways of dealing with our waste than putting it in the tip.

Iona Pannett 021-227-8509

iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz




Tanera gully
• RESTORATION •
PROJECT

Feel free to come and join us and get your hands dirty at our next weeding and planting session.

11 June 2017, 2-4pm
(Usually the first Sunday of every month)

Contact:
- Denis Asher, denis.asher3@gmail.com
- Julia Stace, jbwstace@gmail.com



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48 Aro St, Wellington

AVCC

Co-chairs: Luke Allen and Hilary Unwin

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Jay Buzenberg, Jo Brien, Karen MacIntyre, Madeleine Rashbrooke,
Nicole Benkert, Roland Sapsford,
Chris Carey-Smith, Catherine Carey-Smith,

Zeke O'Connor-Sapsford

Aro Valley Community Centre
community@arovalley.org.nz 04 384 8499

REGULAR ARO VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE USERS

Day	Time	Group and Cost	Contact
Monday	7:15 am – 8:15 am	Tai Chi Class free	Lynsey 021 267 6638
	6.00 pm – 8.00 pm	Capoeira \$10 per class \$50 for 8 classes	Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Tai Chi with John Young	Craig Wallace 382 8135 / tozot@outlook.com
Tuesday	9.30 – 11.30	ESOL – Intermediate Class Koha donation	community@arovalley.org.nz 384 8499
	12.00- 12.45 pm During school term	Sit and Be Fit \$3 per class	Kathy McConville: teacher Contact Community Coordinator 3848499 / community@arovalley.org.nz
	1.00 – 2.00 pm	Hair for you @ Aro Valley Haircuts \$20 and under	Kellie 027 800 7432 / klwtkns@gmail.com
	3.30 – 5.00pm	Aro Jam Introductory Music Programme	Hannah and Ruby arovalleyjam@gmail.com / facebook.com/aromusicacademy
	6.00 – 7.00 pm	Yoga with Katie \$5.00 class	Aro Valley Community Centre community@arovalley.org.nz
	7.10 – 9.10	Taiko Drumming	Jessie Gibbs / narukamitaiko@gmail.com
	Wednesday	7:15 am – 8:15 am	Tai Chi Class free
10.00-11.00am		Open Yoga Class with Bridget Koha donation	Aro Valley Community Centre community@arovalley.org.nz
11.00-12.00pm		Indian Cooking Class Koha donation	Aro Valley Community Centre community@arovalley.org.nz
3.30-5.30pm		Drama Class for Kids	jennyrowan.mcarthur@gmail.com / 021 321 508
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm		Starjam	wellington.starjam.org 212 4971 / 021 782 866
8.00-9.00pm		Tango Class	Sharon atelier.tangonz@gmail.com
Thursday		9.30-11.30am	ESOL – Intermediate Class
	12.30 – 2.00pm	ESOL – Beginner Class	Community Centre community@arovalley.org.nz / 384 8499
	4.00-4.30	Ballet and Jazz Class	info@db4dance.co.nz www.db4dance.co.nz
	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Samba from Brazil Hillary Reid & Fabiola Stevenson \$10 per class	Hillary Reid 021 230 8732 Hillary.Reid@vuw.ac.nz
	7.30 pm – 9 pm	Yoshukai Karate \$10 or pay what you can afford. Includes 2 nd weekly class at Northland Community Centre	Colin Berry 475 9985 / 027 249 5342 Cberry2020@gmail.com
	9.00 – 10.00pm	Open Meditation Group Koha / Free	Open to all
Friday	7.30 am – 8.30 am	Tai Chi Class free	Lynsey 021 267 6638
	10.30 am – 12.00 noon During school term	Sing For Your Life – Community singing Come along any time to have a great sing & a cuppa. \$8 a time or \$60 a term.	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@xtra.co.nz
Saturday	9.00 am – 10.00 am	Yoga With Maggie \$5 per class	community@arovalley.org.nz or lovedayyoganz@gmail.com ph: 384 8499 or 0220193208
	10.30 – 11.00am	Pre-School Dance Class - Ages 3 and 4	info@db4dance.co.nz www.db4dance.co.nz
	11.00 – 12.00pm	Latin Fitness Class	Raphael Ferrer Noel raphael@cubanfusion.co.nz
	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm First Saturday of every month	Capoeira free	Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 / bobbysemau@gmail.com
Sunday	11.00 – 12.30pm	AfroBrazilian Dance	Yovana yovana.lienqueo.m@gmail.com
	7.00pm-9.00pm	Taiko Drumming	Jessie Gibbs narukamitaiko@gmail.com

AROUND THE VALLEY
SATURDAY 13 MAY 1-4PM

TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

START AND MAP PICK UP FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM 1PM 48 ARO STREET.

DISCOVER YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PHILOSOPHY HOUSE, INVERLOCHY ART SCHOOL

THE GARAGE PROJECT

ARO BAKE

THE SECRET GARDEN

& LOTS MORE

FOOD AND MUSIC FROM 3.30PM
DETAILS AT ARO VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FB PAGE & WWW.AROVALLEY.ORG.NZ

neighbours day
LYCHGATE