



# VALLEY VOICE

TE REO HAPORI O WAIMAPIHI

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE ARO VALLEY DECEMBER 2016

## Festival of Place

On the weekend of 18-20 November we saw a series of events focused on developing Aro Valley's common spaces. This built on our month long residency in Aro Valley: interviewing people who used the common spaces and had a strong connection with its past work.

The programme was led by Anne Cunningham and Cally O'Neill – both of whom are participatory place-makers with a taste for the creative and a belief that a careful combination of curry and beer makes you brain work.

We kicked off The Festival of Place with a Friday evening event to celebrate our spirit and identity – and that of our neighbours, Vogelmoorn. Together we hosted an evening, with Barbarian Productions, of quick fire presentations that explored Berlin's artist squats, Aro's persistence and determination, Loomio's wizardry in bringing people together and many more. This was followed by an opportunity for a wee beer and lots of excited chat about the ideas raised – judging by the difficulty getting people to leave this went very well! It was made even more special by the School of Philosophy opening the doors for us to host the event there. Many people had not been inside and it is an incredibly beautiful and stately space - thank you to them - and to Barbarian and our presenters.

On Saturday we made ourselves at home in the Aro Valley Preschool. Our aim was to meet a wide range



of people and hear their stories and perspectives on Aro Valley. There were activities for children, archive materials, opportunities to record your ideas on our wall, experiences and thoughts - and together we made bunting from images we believed are relevant to Aro Valley's future. All over a bowl of gorgeous curry made by Saravana and Subbu. Thank you to all of you who spent time with us – and a special thank you to our volunteers Tim, Sam and Stephen, and to the Wellington City Archives – all of whom made us a priority during a difficult week.

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