

The Bidwill St Rat Run

More and more vehicles use Bidwill Street every day. Residents are aware that two-way, through traffic on this narrow route has increased markedly since Karo Drive opened. We suspect this is the new shortcut for Karori and Brooklyn traffic going south.

Mount Cook Mobilised has some suggestions to reduce risks for pedestrians and cars. Removal of one carpark at the bottom of Bidwill would make the entrance wider (and safer) for cars turning in from Taranaki/Wallace St, or exiting Bidwill. More notices warning drivers coming down from Brooklyn to give way to uphill traffic, a sign at the bottom reminding up-hill drivers they have right of way.

Bidwill is both narrow and steep. As well as vehicle issues, there are risks for pedestrians (residents and commuters) crossing at Bidwill St. Here, a short phase for cars imperils pedestrians. Traffic entering or leaving Bidwill St is rushing to squeeze an arterial traffic flow into a signal phase suited for a side street.

Like many in Mt Cook these crossings are used by large numbers of pedestrians, including students. An improvement is required.



Mt Cook Mobilised
mtcookmobilised@gmail.com

www.mtcook.wordpress.com

www.mtcookmobilised.pbwiki.com

No 1 July 2008

MT COOK!
MOBILISED

Community Facilities Under the Bulldozers

There is an irony in WCC approving demolition of the YMCA hall and Boys & Girls Institute (BGI) pool in Tasman Street at the same time as surveying the city's community facilities. The survey is a stocktake to enable the Council to develop a database for assessing 'future direction' of its provision of community facilities and potential new initiatives in the community.

Mt Cook is bounded by Buckle/Webb St (north), Adelaide Rd area (east), John St (south) and Brooklyn Hill Rd (west). Our suburb is surrounded by communities with facilities and meeting places (eg Newtown, Berhampore, Te Aro, Brooklyn). If you know of, or



belong to, a group or organisation (social, religious, ethnic, educational, sports, recreational) or have meeting space available, please let us know, and we will create a Mt Cook Directory.

More irony. On 21 August 2007 a public meeting was held in the YMCA hall to consider local issues such as retaining such community facilities. Around 250 concerned people attended. Since then the venue has been flattened, but Mt Cook Mobilised was formed.

The Repco building comes down on the corner of Tasman and Rugby Streets. Plans for a fuel station here have been dropped.

MT COOK!
MOBILISED



The BGI was built in 1914-15 through the generosity of widow Sarah Anne Rhodes, and had Wellington's oldest indoor swimming pool.

On its website WCC notes that one way of meeting the social, cultural, recreational and information needs of Wellington people is by providing space for services, and as focal points for community activities. Here people can meet, play and learn, form groups and share information and knowledge. They are venues for arts, cultural, educational, recreational and leisure activities, and gathering points in civil defence emergencies. Some facilities are provided, or leased, by Council, others belong to organisations such as schools, church/religious/ethnic groups, marae, and clubs – sometimes with Council funding.

We have lobbied WCC and the supermarket developers to provide community space in the redeveloped complex. We also asked for fewer car parks, no fuel station and pedestrian access diagonally across the site. Watch this space.

**Got an upcoming event in
Mt Cook? Let us know.**

Why Mobe?

Mt Cook Mobilised was formed in July 2007 to give the suburb a voice. It exists to resist any inappropriate development and represent the interests of all residents.

We formed in the face of the development of the BGI/YMCA site and Memorial Park. After the public meeting 1428 signatures were gathered on a petition (mostly by Jacky Haydn). The petition was presented to Council on 19 December to keep the development within character and in scale. We make submissions to WCC on is-

such as its Suburban Centres review, Adelaide Road proposal, and seeking another level crossing on Wallace St's summit. We supported the NZHPT proposal to register the prison-brick wall on Tasman St as a historic place. We work closely with Newtown Residents Assn (NRA).

We meet once a month in various venues, keep a website and issue news by email.

For further information email us <mtcookmobilised@gmail.com>.

Peter Cooke, Mt Cook Mobilised

Massey on Mt Cook

Massey University's Creative Campus in Wellington has about 3500 students studying mainly art and design, business, communication, health (including nursing, midwifery, and sport and exercise science), engineering or music (jointly with Victoria University through the New Zealand School of Music, NZSM). There are also bridging programmes into university study and English language courses. For course information phone 801 5799 ext 6896 or email <m.williams1@massey.ac.nz>

Information evenings are being held from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

- Monday 21 July: Design, Fine Arts and Music (Museum Building, Buckle Street)
- Tuesday 22 July: Health Sciences, Nursing, Midwifery and Sport (Museum Building, Buckle Street).
- Wednesday 23 July: Business and Communication (Executive Seminar Suite, Entrance A, Wallace Street).
- Thursday 24 July: Engineering and Technology (Room 3D31, Level D, Building 3, Entrance C, Wallace St).

RSVP to <wgtnevents@massey.ac.nz> or phone 801 5799 ext 6988.

The public are also welcome to join the BPM Fitness Centre (phone 801 2545) and attend free public events including:

- Thursday 21 August 6 -7 p.m. Writers Read series: Martin Edmond reads from his work (contact< j.w.fink@massey.ac.nz> or phone 801 5799 ext 6696).
- Friday 22 August: Campus Open Day .

School News

* Air-quality measuring on Mt Cook School's boundary has finished after six months. It was done pending development of the proposed Memorial Park at Buckle St. Gabrielle O'Brien, Chairperson of Mt Cook School's Board of Trustees, says once the school Board has the NIWA report from the Ministry of Culture & Heritage it will consider the findings and, in the first instance, will inform and consult the school community. Buckle St (State Highway 1) is 40m from the school and initial proposals were to realign the route much closer to the school's south boundary. In August 2007 the Mt Cook community noted the school's concerns, and discussed options of keeping Buckle St as it is and trenching or bridging the route when developing the park.

• Resident artist: Lyne Pringle will be based at the school until the end of term 3 as a dance Artist in Residence. Her residency is a newly funded initiative by the Ministry of Education, and Mt Cook is fortunate to be one of the first schools to be involved. Lyne will be assisting the school children involved in Wellington High School's production, *Puke Ahu the Mount Cook Project*, in September this year.

• NZSM's fortnightly Friday lunch-time concerts (phone 463 6050 for next semester's programme).

• periodic public lectures by leading researchers.

• November 7-22. *Blow08* the Creative Arts Festival.

Venues can be hired through the Events Office (phone 801 5799 ext 6386).

MT COOK!
MOBILISED

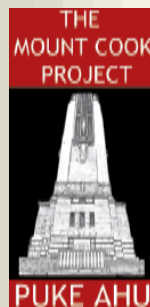
Mt Cook Goes to the Theatre

Puke Ahu the Mount Cook Project is an exciting community initiative that will tell the story of the Mt Cook district of Wellington through drama, dance, and music. The project involves the local and wider community in telling its story and will celebrate the creativity of the Mt Cook district. Its focus will be on education, participation, ownership and pride in community.

The Mount Cook Project will culminate in a community **parade and production, September 2008.**

A core group of professional artists are working with the wider community to develop and present the project: Script Lynda Chanwai-Earle, Musicians STRIKE, Choreographer Lyne Pringle, Design Jim Davenport, Project Co-ordinator Belinda Carey.

There are many ways you can be involved -



• As part of the parade.

The parade is a snapshot of Mt Cook 2008. You are all invited to participate.

Raise the profile of a group or issue with banners etc. Dress up or come as you are. Bring a balloon.

The parade will set off from the WHS field at **Midday Friday 19 September**. It's a walking parade only, probably along Wallace-John-Adelaide-Buckle-Taranaki Streets.

• On stage

Come to see the project at the Riley Centre, Wellington High School. Five performances starting **Saturday 20 to Fri 26 Sept.**

• Backstage

Props, Sets, Makeup, Sewing Costumes, Stage management, Publicity, Front of House. Please contact us if you would like to be involved in any way.

Wellington High School

(04) 3858911 or email

<belinda.carey@whs.school.nz>



Pointing Back

Mt Cook has a long history. From the 1840s it was Wellington's 'compliance quarter' - the home of the military, police and prisons. The main magazine to store explosives was built off Tasman St opposite Rugby St. Tasman St from there to Buckle St was formed by prisoners (and origi-

nally known as Banks Tce). Drainage run-off caused a nuisance and residents complained that the Government had not retained the bank above the road (or laid drains - very relevant in times of typhoid outbreaks). So in the 1890s a retaining wall was built. It used bricks made in the prison brickworks (with the distinctive broad arrows). In 1942 steps were hurriedly cut through it to provide access to four air raid shelters dug into the hill behind. The wall is now the oldest surviving State structure on Mt Cook. The NZ Historic Places Trust has just registered the wall as a Cat-2 historic place.

My Sweet Town

CD/DVD review -

Paddy Burgin and the Wooden Box Band

"My sweet town is crumbling into a pile of splinters..." Originally written about the construction of the Inner City Bypass, these words hang like a cloud over Tasman Street, blighted by the YMCA and BGI demolition. Packaged in an artistic photo essay of Mt Cook, this CD is chocka with wistful poetry and slick instrumentals from the souls of backroom philosophers in touch with the concrete side of life. Cuba street personalities are the subject of *The garments of the underclass*, characterising the places where commuters allow their thoughts to turn up street-dwellers along the walking route to the city.

Mt Cook is smack in the middle of NZ and home to the *National War Memorial* of Aotearoa. *The big parade* was inspired by the nation-stopping day when the route from Parliament to Buckle St was thick with people paying their last respects to the remains of the Unknown Warrior on his way to be interred outside the Hall of Memories, to rest in peace beneath our beloved carillon. "Caravan of smiles will bring you life and carry you for miles today," the final stanza.

Costa Botes filmed the DVD at the School of Philosophy. All instrumentals, the session is peppered with tales and Paddy's tips on DIY guitar making, the most poignant when the very talented Justin Clarke (guitars and banjo) speaks of his Grandfather who inspired *Crete*. The other members of the Wooden Box Band are Tom Callwood (bass), Bruce McNaught (cajoun), Chris Nichol (saxophone), Peter Daly (viola) and Paddy Burgin (guitar, weissenborn, resonator guitars,

vocals, harmonica, piano).

This CD/DVD set has appeal for guitar music lovers of all ages. The back cover says it all – smile, and let's not get too serious here! Find out more about Paddy's guitars at <www.burginguitars.co.nz>, (04) 384 5572.

My Sweet Town is available from Paddy, Slowboat Records and Real Groovy Records in Cuba St, \$35 for the set, CD, DVD and photo essay of Mt Cook.

Carol Comber



Arlington

Wellington City Council has more than 2,300 housing units in Wellington. Over a quarter of these households live in Mt Cook. The Wellington Housing Association of Tenants - affectionately known as WHAT - has its office at the Arlington housing complex, meets regularly with WCC to discuss landlord/tenant issues, and sends out a newsletter with useful tips to all WCC housing tenants.

Tenants are encouraged to form committees at their complex. The Arlington committee is very organised. They run a youth group, play groups for pre-schoolers and junior school children, tai chi classes, have a computer area, Plunket visits, Push Play visits, a kids gardening group and a school holiday programme. A social worker is available on site most afternoons to assist when needed.



This is very good news that Mt Cook residents will be receiving a community newsletter.

On becoming a Councillor in 2004 I realised immediately that so much that is Wellington City comes from its many communities – residents know the character of their community, what must be preserved and what must be improved. This is not to say that an overview objectively presented shouldn't be noted nor, regrettably, does it mean that every request can be satisfied. It does mean though that residents must be listened to and that different areas will have different concerns. This was evidenced by the very full meeting last year when issues specific to Mt Cook, such as the controversial proposal to relocate the road at Memorial Park, were considered.

I look forward to working with the newly established Residents' Association, while individual residents are still welcome to contact me directly.

Ian McKinnon

Deputy Mayor , 021 227 8511. or <ian.mckinnon@wcc.govt.nz>



It's great to see this first newsletter for Mt Cook residents and a sense of community developing in this area over the last year.

I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Mt Cook Mobilised over the last twelve months on issues like the proposed Memorial Park on Buckle Street, saving the old BGI building, further heritage protection for the suburb and a new vision for Adelaide Road.

I look forward to working with the community on these issues and others affecting Mt Cook over the next two years.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any issues.

Iona Pannett

Wellington City Councillor

384 3382, 021 227 8509

<iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz>

Below Geoff Stone (right) guides the MCM public meeting through the very successful workshop session.



MT COOK!
MOBILISED

community

NEWTOWN KINDERGARTEN



Newtown Kindergarten has vacancies for 3-year-olds!
We have bright spacious indoor areas, a big beautiful sunny outdoors - and many animal friends.

Hospital Road, Newtown • Phone 389 8245

zookenee hairdressing
2 adelaide road



zookenee



9393 258
zookeneehairdressing
@xtra.co.nz

NEWTOWN CAB Volunteers Needed



Do you enjoy a bit of detective work?

Do you get real satisfaction out of helping a wide mix of people?

Can you commit 3 hours a week?

To find out more, contact:

Caz Sheldon on 389 3813 or 389 8347, cab.newtown@xtra.co.nz

Creative
Hospitality
CATERING & VENUE HIRE

Our friendly team of hospitality professionals delight in designing functions around individual requirements. Creative Hospitality caters within the Massey campus; anything from casual lunches to formal buffet or a la carte events, or cocktails and canapés.

Creative Hospitality (part of the Student Services Trust) was established in 2005. Serving Massey and the wider community, Creative Hospitality can facilitate your event or function within:

- Tussock Bar and Cafe

- Level 1 Events Area
- The Old Museum Building and Tea Gardens
Bookings via <<http://museum.massey.ac.nz>>
- Meeting and function rooms on the Massey Campus

Any surplus made by Creative Hospitality is reinvested in supporting Massey University students.

Contact us through our website
<www.creativehospitality.co.nz> or our email
<creative.hospitality@massey.ac.nz>



OPEN 7 DAYS 11am—10pm
Basin Reserve, Adelaide Rd/Rugby St
920 0334 0800 CURRY TO GO
WE DELIVER



tuner and technician

phone/fax (04) 385-9238
mobile 027 210-7536
email sues@actrix.co.nz

member
NZ piano tuner
and technicians guild

Chilli Jam
riceburger

Chilli Jam

One of our really really support this first newsletter!
Tel: 385 8 385 www.chilli-jam.co.nz
13 Adelaide Road, (Basin Reserve side)

Present this voucher when you buy burger & any side order
you will have a free can drink. Offer ends in 30th July.