



Mt Cook Mobilised

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A VISION FOR Mt COOK

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IN THE WCC LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

Mt Cook Mobilised (MCM) represents the interests of the residents of the suburb of Mt Cook in Wellington. MCM works with Wellington City Council and other stakeholders on issues affecting people living in Mt Cook and the character of the community. The suburb of Mt Cook is a short walking distance from Cuba St and downtown Wellington – it has a mixture of old heritage/character housing, and high density apartment dwellings, both privately owned and a sizeable number owned and managed by Wellington City Council or Housing NZ. The population of Mt Cook is very diverse, multi-ethnic, and ranges from established residents of 20+ years, to new migrants and a transient student population; from seniors to a growing number of people with young families. Mt Cook is also a major commuter route. It is bordered by high traffic roads but also has an overloaded arterial route running through its middle (Wallace/Taranaki Street). This is juxtaposed with pedestrian pathways which help promote walking as Mt Cook's first choice in transport.

Mt Cook Mobilised's February submission on the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) took a wider approach than the focus on minimising rates increases for 2009/10. Our view is that the LTCCP is a long-term process, and our aim was to be both practical and visionary.

The long-term vision for Mt Cook is for a community and suburb with a good environment and quality of life for its residents, as well as for people who commute daily through our suburb. The submission recommended ways WCC can help us achieve that goal.

- We recommended ways to clear our streets of rubbish and promoted greening and beautification of Mt Cook, including trees linking the Town Belt with the city and Mt Victoria, and from the waterfront to Newtown. The submission supported recycling (and recycling education) to help the city reduce waste (and costs), and also practical measures to reduce water consumption.
- With the demolition of the BGI/YMCA complexes, we lost our

community focal point. Unlike other Wellington suburbs, we have no playground, library, shopping centre or community centre; this reinforces the sense of Mt Cook not being a community in its own right. We recommend that WCC support us in getting started with a part-time community coordinator. MCM also envisages a stronger relationship with Massey University.

- With many busy arterial roads, Mt Cook is overdue for a transport review, with consideration given to deflecting traffic *around* rather than through our suburb. Mt Cook is now scheduled for review in 2013-2015 as part of the Safer Roads Programme (we have concerns such as vehicle speeds and pedestrian safety at key traffic intersections). We support walking and cycling by locals and commuters, but recommend improvements to give access for buggies/wheelchairs, and making walkways wider, greener, well lit and pleasant to use. More pedestrian routes east-west across Mt Cook would enhance Mt Cook's walkability. We

Mt Cook Mobilised's full submission is available at
<http://mtcookmobilised.pbwiki.com>

MT COOK! MOBILISED

No 3 - May 2009

Welcome to the third Mt Cook Mobilised Newsletter. Read about the issues we are lobbying for. In this issue we relate the vision for Mt Cook delivered to the City Council for its long-term planning. Many thanks again to the Southern Cross, 39 Abel Smith St, for sponsoring the newsletter printing. Now, read on...



*A banded kokopu
resident in Mt Cook's
Papawai Stream.*

FISH, YES FISH, LIVE IN Mt COOK

Last December consultant Frances Forsyth joined residents in spotting fish and koura in Papawai Stream. This watercourse runs beside the lower playing field in Prince of Wales Park, down past the clubrooms and disappears into the stormwater drain in Papawai Reserve. A healthy population of banded kokopu were found, including mature, sub-mature and juvenile fish. A mature banded kokopu can reach 25cm, but the species is endangered.

Banded kokopu usually migrate to the sea after hatching from eggs laid

endorsed promotion and use of public transport.

- A heritage programme for Mt Cook could help revitalize parts of this old and historic suburb; the submission noted the grants programme which enabled businesses in Jackson St, Petone to upgrade buildings.
- We recommend that rates increases be kept to a minimum, while noting that there may be a small amount of tolerance to increase some user charges. Mt Cook's submission also supports a council review of spending.

in quiet water at the wetted stream edge. They return from the sea after 12-16 weeks as part of the spring whitebait run, not necessarily to the same stream they were born in. They are more likely to return to a stream that already has fish in it. Some populations of banded kokopu, such as the one at the Karori Sanctuary, complete their lifecycle in lakes or reservoirs rather than migrating to the sea.

Pools along the stream's course are important as the fish may be using them to complete their lifecycle rather than migrating along 2.1 km of stormwater drain to the Chaffers Marina. An expensive laboratory test would be needed to confirm the lifecycle behaviour of the fish.

Recent stormwater work at Papawai Reserve has replaced the old debris arrestor with a new one, and introduced a drop of around 1.5 metre from the stream to the stormwater drain. If the banded kokopu have been using the drain to get to Chaffers Marina, their route back to the pool by the changing rooms will have been cut off.

Mt Cook Mobilised is raising these concerns with the City Council.

DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW – RESIDENTIAL AND SUBURBAN CENTRES

The Wellington City Council has suggested allowing more commercial activity in homes in the inner city residential areas. It proposes that more than three workers can be employed in residential properties, and that they no longer have to reside on the premises as currently required. The types and hours of work this proposal seems to allow is too open ended.

This is among draft changes to the District Plan put forward by the Council for consultation.

Also proposed are changes to the rules allowing or disallowing alterations and additions to pre 1930 houses in the inner city residential areas, to make it clearer what is or is not allowed (more detail is to come, with further consultation with affected suburbs).

There is a new designation of 'Live/work areas' as a form of Suburban Centre – the Adelaide Rd area is proposed to be one such area.

Proposals of concern to Mt Cook Mobilised include:

- height limits in the Adelaide Rd zone of 18 and possibly up to 24 metres (6-7 levels), which could create a wall of high buildings and crowd over surrounding residential areas if there is not careful planning and control.
- suggestions that the sort of commercial activities to be encouraged in these live/work areas could include garden centres and other larger scale commercial yards, rather than the smaller high traffic and specialist retailers that would encourage people to live and work in or close to these areas.

Submissions on these draft proposals have closed, and the Council will now decide on specific changes to the District Plan in the light of those submissions. Further submissions on those changes will be sought by the Council later in 2009.



Above The MCM stand and a MCM person at Massey's Orientation.

OLD HOUSE?

LET MCM KNOW IF
YOU HAVE HAD ISSUES
WITH WCC'S
PRE-1930 HERITAGE-
PROTECTION OR WORK-
FROM-HOME RULES.

WEAR YOURS WITH PRIDE

Mt Cook Mobilised has just printed its 200th t-shirt, thanks to local Mt Cook residents and supporters who wear theirs with pride.

Our t-shirt exposure has widened recently with a presence at the Newtown Fair, Mt Victoria Fair and at a MCM stand at Massey University during Orientation Week. We wanted to raise awareness of Mt Cook Mobilised and its objectives with staff and students. It was a great chance to build closer ties with Massey University, the largest landowner and employer in our community.

The iconic t-shirt, with shades of the 1932 opening ceremony of the National War Memorial (the Carillon), was designed by local graphic designer, Sharon Murdoch. The t-shirts give residents an opportunity to display their pride in Mt Cook, enhancing our sense of community and raising awareness and funds to support local issues and initiatives.

Order yours at <mtcookmobilised@gmail.com> or by ringing Julia on 021-645-547.

(T-SHIRT IMAGE COURTESY OF
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY)

WALLACE ST CROSSING

The new pedestrian crossing on Wallace St (*below*) makes it easier and safer to get to the bus stop, dairy or Prince of Wales Park. Crossing Wallace St with a buggy is easy now (previously the long way round was not wheel-friendly). Locals say the foot traffic via Howard St to Newtown has increased. Because drivers cannot easily see the white road markings (even though they are extra-long), make sure traffic is slowing or stopped before stepping out onto the roadway.



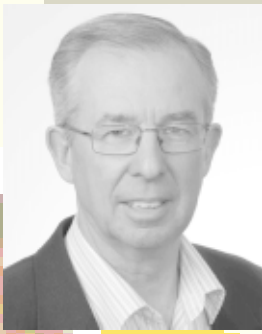
SUPERRRR GRANS

Super Grans are mature women who share their home-making skills and experience with others. Typically, Super Grans can help with meal planning, basic cooking, budgeting, shopping and other household tasks. Super Grans are volunteers who spend up to two hours a week helping people help themselves.

To find out more, phone Super Grans on 566 9778, or email <erin@supergran.org.nz>, or visit <www.supergran.org.nz>



Housing NZ, the landlords in the Rolleston/Hargreaves Street apartments, is intending to upgrade them. We look forward to a safer family-oriented environment here in future.



IAN MCKINNON

The changing demographic patterns throughout areas of a city present challenges which must be recognised by Councils, and Mt Cook is no exception. As with other suburbs on the periphery of the CBD, it has an increasing number of families with school age children, as evidenced also by the roll of Mt Cook School.

At a recent meeting in my office with Council Officers, the issue of the need for a children's playground was discussed, with demographic maps 'supporting' the case. Also discussed was where, noting the reservation that Prince of Wales Park may not be so easily accessible for many families.

Such matters aren't resolved quickly though as resources are invariably limited and there will be priority listings, but a playground is now on that 'radar screen'.

This is an advantage of residents' groups, for Councillors quite often attend meetings, listening to concerns, and my thanks go to Peter Cooke and the others at Mt Cook Mobilised meetings - the announced delay in the Memorial Park may give a further opportunity for community and school views to be heard.

I was pleased to arrange for an Officer to speak on the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The engagement phase is over, when we asked what residents wish to be included, noting many of us wish a less than 4% rates rise. The Draft Plan will shortly be released, with submissions invited - giving a second opportunity for residents to express their thoughts before end-of-June finalisation... please do so.

Do contact me at anytime on this or any other matter:

<ian.mckinnon@wcc.govt.nz>



IONA PANNETT

Road safety is a significant issue in Mt Cook. Speed limits are being looked at and I hope we will be implementing some reductions here soon - as well as building more pedestrian crossings after the successful implementation of the Wallace Street crossing.

I appreciate the work done by local parents to get a playground for Mt Cook. Ian McKinnon and I are working together with Council officers to look at whether this can be built in the next few years.

The campaign to stop the Basin Reserve flyover is in full swing. For

more information or to get involved, go to <www.savethebasin.org.nz/>. The Regional Council has now put the project at no.2 in its list of priorities in the Regional Land Transport Programme which I'm disappointed about. On a more positive note however, there is money set aside for the Adelaide Road project.

Finally, just a reminder that the Council is consulting on its Long Term Council Community Plan. Submissions close 18th May. For more information, go to <www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/annualplan/ltccp/ltccpengagement.html>. Mt Cook Mobilised has already put in a very good preliminary submission and the points made will be taken into consideration at deliberation time including money for a community facility and road safety initiatives.

Iona Pannett - 384-3382 or 021-227-8509 or at <iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz>



STEPHANIE COOK

As the recession starts to bite, many of us are thinking of ways to trim the budget, both at home and at Council. But spare a thought for those for whom the budget is already pared to the bone and for whom any room to manoeuvre is virtually impossible. Food Banks and drop-in centres providing a hot meal, such as the soup kitchen, are a lifeline for those who are really struggling.

See if you can spare a few dollars for a purchase or two for the Foodbank box at the supermarket. For those with vegetable gardens or fruit trees, your local foodbank or drop-in centre may be able to use your excess produce. Fresh produce is always difficult for these groups to come by and they are an essential part of a balanced diet. We are starting to hear about some serious health effects for those who are struggling and living on rice and noodles. The measure of a truly great community is how it looks after its most disadvantaged members.

Another way that we can help is to set up community gardens. Council already has several of these on council land, so if you would like to get involved contact me and we can see what we can do.

At a local level, there have been some issues arising concerning the Papawai Reserve stream. These include sewage spills from private drains and ensuring that the new piping still allows native fish to access the stream. It is always great to see a local community take ownership of local amenities, and I look forward to coming along to future working bees.

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MINI MINSTRELS

Mini Minstrels have fun singing, playing on percussion instruments and moving to the beat. Mini Minstrels

meet at St Paul's Lutheran Church in King St, Wednesdays at 10am.

To find out more phone Georgina on 970 6123.



MEMORIAL PARK

This project is on hold, leaving an unsightly wasteland (left). MCM has met with the Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage to represent the community's interests in it. Its fate is intertwined with the Basin's traffic solutions.

WHY MT COOK NEEDS A PLAY AREA

Parents with preschool children attending Mt Cook Mini playgroup want a play area 'within walking distance'. One that can be used everyday for the benefit of children and their caregivers.

Mt Cook does not have the facilities or 'places to meet' that a suburb of some 5,000 residents deserves. A play area with a unique local character will help to provide a focus for Mt Cook identity and help create neighbourhood networks. A 'destination' type playground could be located in Prince of Wales Park or an 'en route' type playground on the large grass area bounded by Wright, Hutchison and Wallace Streets (opposite Toi Whakaari, the NZ Drama School).

Hutchison Road is the preferred location, being a more visible location with mature trees. It will have a higher profile and get well used, is accessible by foot, has nearby car parking and would be useful to break-up trips to and from Newtown, Vogeltown, etc. Other sites may also be considered.

The initial response from council officers to the creation of a playground in Mt Cook was not promising! This was despite an acknowledgement that the provision of a playground was supported by the Council's own 2002 Playground Policy. Council funding for a new playground will not be available before at least 2017.

Councillors Ian McKinnon and Iona Pannett, however, have recently met with council officers and had a more positive response. The development of a playground in Mt Cook is an initiative of Mt Cook Mobilised. Please attend the next meeting or contact

us by email if you would like to help with this project.

[<mtcookmobilised@gmail.com>](mailto:mtcookmobilised@gmail.com)

This grass verge on Hutchison Road - opposite the NZ Drama School Toi Whakaari - is an ideal site for a play area, n'est-ce pas?.



MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Minis Coffee & Cookies

We will be meeting at 10am on:
Tuesday 19th May
Monday 15th June
Tuesday 21st July

Wellington Scottish Athletic Clubrooms
(Access from Salisbury Tce next to Prince of Wales Park)

Just turn up with your own snacks and meet other preschooler parents & kids in your neighbourhood. Coffee & Tea provided.

Get-togethers in 2009 will be alternating 3rd Mon or Tue per month.

Email mtcookmobilised@gmail.com for info
or ring Julia 385 1782 or Kirsty 384 8369

We have a toy box, but there is room for small bikes/ride-ons, so you are welcome to bring yours along on the day.



community

It's your party

bring a clown if you want to!



...oh

and don't
let ya olds
forget the
mates and cake...

Parents - no fake I.D's!

SOUTHERNCROSS
GARDEN:BAR:RESTAURANT

Check out thecross.co.nz or give us a bell to discuss venue party-hire options

p.s free face painting



tuner and technician

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