



# Mt Victoria Newsletter

TE KARERE O MATAIRANGI

JULY / HŌNGONGOI 2023



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to our first poetry slam with Motif Poetry! The event was epic. Powerful poems, stunning storytelling and cups of tea all round. We can't wait for our next slam on **August 16th**. Hope to see you there!

Wellington City



Special congrats to the winning poet, **Kerry**! Also to **Haz & Kasi**, joining Kerry at Regionals!



The Mt. Vic Newsletter is proudly sponsored by Just Paterson



Kia ora

It has been another busy month for us as we have got back into running events. We loved the poetry slam so much that we are gearing up for some more arts based events including an open mic right here at the Hub for National Poetry Day (25th August). More on that very soon.

As we hurtle into July we are on the lookout for some local volunteers. Firstly, we are looking for a **treasurer** to join our board of trustees. If you have financial experience and are keen to be involved in our awesome non-profit, please get in touch on the email below for a full role description.

We are also looking for the following volunteers:

- Newsletter delivery help (occasional holiday/sickness cover for our main delivery routes)
- Sub-Committee members - to help us plan events and fundraise
- Hub hosts (regular or occasional hosting for social drop ins at the Hub).

If any of the above is you, get in touch!

Have a great month and wishing our school students and teachers a lovely holiday!

Ngā mihi

**Sara / Mt Vic Hub Team**

Email: [hello@mtvichub.org.nz](mailto:hello@mtvichub.org.nz)

# Harakeke happenings at Innermost Gardens



He Rā Pā Tītapu o Mataiterangi - Planting of a new Pā Harakeke

Rangimarie Keall (Ngā Mahanga a Tairi, Taranaki) was introduced to Innermost Gardens by the Mt Vic Hub. As a holder of taonga tuku iho mahi raranga (Māori weaving), Rangimarie was keen to source harakeke in the area. Innermost planted several pā harakeke in the corner of the southern area of our mara a few years back, and they were in need of manaaki, so it was a timely introduction.

Since then, Rangimarie has taken on the role of revitalising these taonga and has shared mātauranga to some of our Tuesday kaitūao, and is helping to plan more pā harakeke plantings.

Rangimarie has been working with mātanga Sarni Scott (Ngati Whakaue, Ngai Tūhoe) and kairanga Nate Rowe (Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui, Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata) to expand the existing pā with a muka variety gifted by Sarni.

Our Rā Pā Tītapu will happen on Friday 30 June at 9am and will be a great opportunity to connect local kairanga in our rohe with some of the regular Innermost volunteers.

# Meet: BenchSpace

In 2023 a fast-growing Wellington community initiative, BenchSpace, has been bringing together more and more people with an interest in the craft of working with wood.

Since the beginning of the year BenchSpace - see [www.benchspace.nz](http://www.benchspace.nz) - has continued to build up woodworking resources that can be accessed through events such as workshops at its hub at the Central Park Apartments.

Mt Vic Hub was an early supporter of BenchSpace, and our trust chair Laurina Munro says it has been incredibly heartening to see the initiative go from strength to strength. Laurina: "At heart, I think of BenchSpace as a community group, with core values of diversity, inclusivity and accessibility. It stands out in terms of its governance, focus, the mahi of its volunteers and its potential for future impact".

BenchSpace chair Oliver Dickie is excited by an increase in activities being held at their Central Park venue. "During Pride month we had a stall at Out in the City followed more recently by a popular introductory woodworking event for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and in June put out a successful call for experienced woodworkers to meet with us on-site to find out more about the options BenchSpace can offer to them for future involvement".

"For our first beginners workshop being held in July more than 80% of the sign-ups are women. We also have two upcoming workshops planned exclusively for City Housing tenants. The growth in the profile of BenchSpace and its momentum show something good is happening".

A schedule of activity will be regularly promoted [www.benchspace.nz/events](http://www.benchspace.nz/events) and on Facebook ([benchspace.nz](https://www.facebook.com/benchspace.nz)). Watch that BenchSpace!





# The Old Kilbirnie Road



Many readers will have noticed that the Council is doing major work to upgrade the track on the Town Belt from about Majoribanks Street to Alexandra Road. The quality of the finish makes it look like almost like a highway. As the track is increasingly heavily used by cyclists as well as walkers, this appropriately reflects its history, because the section from the tunnel on Pirie Street to the saddle on Alexandra Road was actually once The Old Kilbirnie Road.

When Kilbirnie was just a country hamlet and South Kilbirnie and Maranui sandhills dotted with patches of flax, the only ways to get to the land to the east of Wellington city were a rough track over from the top of Pirie Street, or a long trek round the harbour via Oriental Bay. In 1877 a group of Kilbirnie land-owners applied to the City Council to build a road from Pirie Street to Kilbirnie. Construction started the following year, although the Council forced a pause in works until the road was fenced on both sides. It was soon completed and horses, carts and pedestrians enjoyed the short route across the Town Belt between the city and Kilbirnie all through the 1880s and 1890s.

Recreational users of the open space expressed some concerns, though. In 1897 a letter-writer to the Evening Post expressed his displeasure at “the use of barbed wire on the boundary fences of the Town Belt on the Kilbirnie road.” He appreciated that fences were necessary but felt that at least gates or stiles should be provided to allow access to the public land. Regular use of the road came to an end in 1906, when the approach to the Hataitai Tunnel was being excavated.

The junction of the Kilbirnie Road with Pirie Street was cut away, leaving it only accessible by a flight of wooden steps. For a while, the Council considered either grading it across the hill over the tunnel opening and round in a curve to Pirie street, or bridging the cutting that was made for the approach to the tunnel, but it was not to be.

## Joanna Newman

Convenor, Mt Victoria Historical Society  
If you would like to know more about the Historical Society, or to join, contact Joanna on 027 7577 984.



Mount Victoria c.1890, showing the old Kilbirnie Road

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

## A couple of poetry events for your diary:

Next month at the Hub we will have an open mic for National Poetry Day (25th August) and a poetry slam on 16th at Clyde Quay School. More info to come, but save the dates!



# Getting to know the locals...

## Jacob from Myrtle is full of surprises!

Jacob works as an owner, manager, and baker at Myrtle. We interviewed him on Wednesday, and got a quick tour around the kitchen and bakery. Jacob never thought that he would be a baker. Before he worked at Myrtle, he was a chef, and worked in a restaurant. He noticed that the bakers were always tired and had long hours. Except he had to try, because it's in his blood. Jacob's favourite part of his job is making bread, and then having that magical moment of pulling it out of the oven. He has an odd schedule, he starts work at 1 o'clock in the morning. This goes to show how devoted he is to Myrtle and the community! Myrtle definitely pays special attention to having incredible staff.



He told us that his favourite Myrtle fare is either a morning bun or a croissant, depending on the day. Jacob mentioned that the staff at Myrtle are like family, they all work together because happy staff make happy people! He explained how he loves Mt. Vic because it has character and many diverse, caring people. His message to the community is, simply, and we quote, "Try everything". Whether he was referring to life, or Myrtle food, we will never know!

By Harriet & Zoe. Year 6 pupils at Clyde Quay School

message from  
councillor Iona Pannett

PUKEHĪNAU/  
LAMBTON WARD



A big thanks to Elizabeth Street residents and Council staff who put a lot of time into help re-design the street. The Regulatory Processes Committee has now approved a final design and work will begin in July.

There were a variety of views but we have settled on non-native tree species to maximise light into people's homes, reinstated a speed cushion that was going to be removed and only removing one car park instead of 21. We are also looking at changing the ratio of coupon to residential parking to make more space for residential parking.

As I write this piece at the end of June, Council is preparing to vote on very significant changes to the Golden Mile. There are lots of great things about the plan: more pedestrian friendly spaces and trees and safer routes for cyclists but I have been concerned about the removal of bus stops and I'm aware that a number of businesses have concerns about a lack of access for delivery vehicles and a loss of parking. I will be putting up some amendments to try and respond to some of these issues. We acknowledge that as we try to transform the city the transition period will be challenging but the end result should be a more people and climate friendly city.

For further information, [iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz) or 021-227-8509.





## message from councillor **Tamatha Paul**

Pukehinau/ Lambton Ward

Kia ora Matairangi Mt Vic!

My name is Tamatha Paul, I am one of your local city councillors. Matariki is approaching. Matariki marks the time of the year when the Matariki constellation (Pleiades) rises again and is visible in the sky with the naked eye. It's a special time of year for reflection, goal-setting for the new year, and also remembering and honoring those who have passed on throughout the year.

In Māori, we say “kua whetūrangitia” which means this person has passed and has now become a star. Each Matariki we gaze upon the Pohutukawa star in the Matariki constellation and remember our loved ones. My favourite star is Hiwa-i-te-rangi.

Hiwa is the star where we put all of our intentions, hopes and aspirations for the new year. It is awesome to see Matariki embraced as a time of national significance. If you would like to learn more, I recommend following Living by the Stars with Professor Rangi Matamua on Facebook where Professor Rangi Matamua does many informative live videos around Māori astrology and the Māori lunar calendar (māramataka). You can also read his book “Matariki: The Star Of The Year”.

Above is a picture from a tree planting on Mt Vic that I did a few weeks ago. It was really special. Matairangi maunga is home to many urban streams and has seen the return of many taonga species including kārearea! A big thank you to Stu Farrant for organising a fantastic tree planting event. We will be planting again after Matariki on 22 July if you would like to join us, send me an email for more information.

Last week we passed our Housing Action Plan which I lead as the Chair of Environment and Infrastructure.

Highlights included a plan to end homelessness in Wellington City and plans to pilot a rental inspection service which will help to increase the rights of renters to a healthy home, and will influence the standards of rental housing available in Wellington.

Kia pai tō koutou Matariki!

**Tamatha Paul**  
Wellington City Councillor



**FRIDAY  
AFTER 5**

Weekly Friday evening social at the Hub

Pop in for a cuppa or BYO wine/beer  
Debrief the week, meet your neighbours  
5-7pm at the Hub

Call John for info 0272460411



# what's on?

**The Quakers**, 7 Moncrieff Street has meeting rooms for regularly scheduled or one-time meetings for nonprofit and governmental agencies. Wifi and projector available. Call: 04-385-4897 or Email: [wgtquakers@gmail.com](mailto:wgtquakers@gmail.com)

**One Mindful Breath** is a meditation group based on secular Buddhist principles. Beginners and experienced are welcome. We come together on a Wednesday evening to meditate, followed by thoughtful discussion and a cup of tea. We meet at the Friends Centre, 7 Moncrieff St, Mt Victoria. Doors open at 7.15pm, the meditation starts around 7.30pm. You can just turn up! For more info [onemindfulbreath.co.nz](http://onemindfulbreath.co.nz)

**Mt Victoria Bush Regeneration Group**  
Join us to look after our park and support native ecosystems. We meet at the top of Majoribanks St at 10am on the last Sunday of every month. Bring gloves and your favourite tool, wear boots. See Facebook page for full details.

**Innermost Gardens** - Gardening Sundays 11am-1pm - First and Third Sunday of the month. Everyone is welcome and Tuesday morning gardening every week during school term 10am - 12pm. Contact them on [innermostgardens@gmail.com](mailto:innermostgardens@gmail.com)

**Local Poi Class**  
Thursdays 12-12.45pm \$10 waged, \$5 unwaged, in the local Y, Te Pokapu Hapori, Manners St.  
Spin Poi is a NZ initiative incorporating traditional and modern poi movements in a way that supports movement and co-ordination as well as being relaxing and fun.

## Hall for hire: Tararua Tramping Club

The Tararua Tramping Club offers a hall and a room for hire for meetings, theatre productions and more.

Located at 4 Moncrieff St., Mt Victoria.  
For details please contact: [ttc.clubrooms@ttc.org.nz](mailto:ttc.clubrooms@ttc.org.nz)



**Crossways Community Crèche**, 61 Majoribanks St is a parent-run early learning centre for children aged 1 to 5. It is open Monday to Friday and offers 20 hours of state-funded ECE for over 3s. Contact us at 04 3848201 email [info@crosswayscreche.org.nz](mailto:info@crosswayscreche.org.nz)

**Professional dog walking and dog sitting service - Adventure walks - \$30**  
Does your dog need some exercise? Or do you need someone to watch your dog for a few hours, for a day or for the weekend? Call or text Tamara 022 1063540 for more info.

**Awareness through Movement classes** (Feldenkrais Method) start Tuesday 7 February 6-7pm. Improve posture, flexibility, breathing and more. Phone Sue Field 0274667123

**PikoPiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten**  
Mon-Fri 8.45-2.45pm, @ Elizabeth & Brougham. Offers 20 hours ECE. 04.385.0441 or [www.wmkindergartens.org.nz](http://www.wmkindergartens.org.nz)

**If you would like to include anything in the newsletter please get in touch.**

**Email the newsletter at [hello@mtvichub.org.nz](mailto:hello@mtvichub.org.nz) or**

**Call/Text us 04 3901411 or 021765525**





**JUST  
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## Are We There Yet??

Our recent open homes have been buzzing with activity with buyers back in action and confidence on the rise. The good news is that it seems like interest rate hikes might be slowing down, allowing buyers to 'crunch the numbers' with some sense of assurance. Our most recent sales have closed with multiple offers, indicating a high level of interest. Enquiries are pouring in and even investors are starting to call. So the big question: Are we finally hitting the bottom of the market? Well, it's too early to call, but the signs are definitely pointing in a positive direction!

## Spotlight on Mt Vic Property Market

Pirie Street \$1,850,000

Brougham Street \$550,000

Roxburgh Street \$3,479,875

*REINZ, May 2023*

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**Living and Selling in Your Community**

