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Mt Victoria Newsletter

Issue 3 | 2025 | Haratua - May

Food provided by Taco Addicts

Mt Vic Hub & Innermost Gardens present:

Autumn Community Dinner

**Pay What
You Can**
(\$20+ recom.)

**Saturday
May 24th
5:30pm**

Tickets at:
tinyurl.com/3n5yash5



Innermost Gardens | 31 Lawson Place | Mt Vic

Coordinator's Column

Apologies for the lack of an April issue of the Newsletter. Some unavoidable health issues got in our way, which is a shame, but at a certain point that is life. Our apologies once again for that. We've got a Plan B now.

I've got to give a real thanks to our hub hosts. We've really maxed out in the last year with 6 at our peak. They've been a great group of people keeping the Hub open outside of my office hours. Answering questions, helping people out with small problems, or just having the jug ready for a tea/coffee. It's such important work.

We've had a few of our hub hosts step back from hosting duties recently (moving into full-time work! Woo!), so if you have some time and are keen to give back to the community, get in contact.

We've got a busy end of May, with the Community Dinner (24th), Seedling Swap (25th) and Olive Harvest (TBC) coming through. All exciting and different elements of community connection. So make

some time and pop in, it gives you the chance to meet some neighbours you might not have otherwise.

I'm a big fan of building community. I know from personal experience, that it can be really easy to not even know your next door neighbours. So these little things can be great conversation starters.

Beyond that, I have 300 seedlings* I've been growing for our seedling swap, so please come and pick some up, as I don't know what I'll do with them otherwise. Lol

* 50 each of kale, parsley, spinach, cress, coriander and something else I can't quite remember right now.

PS. we love any contemporary magazines on our lil public library, Listeners etc. move very quickly, if you have any magazines you're down with, drop them off at the Hub, they move around the community so quickly!

PS. apologies for design or typos, that's all my fault this issue!

Margaret Austin

Coordinator Joel sat down with Margaret Austin, talking with her about her life, travels and relationship to Poneke.

Note: the interview has been edited for conciseness.

Joel

Where did you grow up?

Margaret

I'm a Palmerston North girl.

Joel

Poor thing.

Margaret

I didn't realise at the time, but it was conservative. Cautious.

Lacking excitement.

They plucked up the railway station from the middle of town and thought fit to plonk it in the outskirts, thus, removing all source of excitement from Palmerston North.

My childhood was characterised by my very proper mother's cucumber sandwich afternoon teas for her upper middle class lady friends. I was always there and I knew exactly what to say

and do.

I would describe my mother as beautiful, gracious, and proper. My father, on the other hand, a bit of an adventurer. Dairy farmer, inherited a farm. Was an agricultural correspondent for the Manawatu Evening Standard. He was a writer, and a man of the land.

Joel

And how long did you stay in Palmerston North?

Margaret

Till I was 20, and then I took off for the big smoke: Victoria University.

Joel

Once you finished university, what did you get up to from there?

Margaret

Well, a couple of my friends, women, were planning a trip to Perugia, Italy, to learn Italian. And they asked if I would like to join them. Now, I was married at that stage. And my husband said, if you want to go, go. I don't think he realised quite what that



The boa is a souvenir from my stint as show girl at the Folies Bergere in Paris

meant.

Joel

And so you went to Italy to learn Italian?

Margaret

That's right. I learned a good deal else. I learned that life outside New Zealand was extraordinarily exciting and one would need several lifetimes to explore it all,

me I got moving.

Joel

How did you find jumping from New Zealand into a cosmopolitan, much older, in terms of from a Pākehā perspective, culture?

Margaret

Well the language for a start would set you up for that and

then the sight of the buildings being as old as they were, even the smell of the old buildings was very exciting. Everyone should do it. That was only for three months and then I came back to New Zealand.

I was still married. But it didn't really last after the trip to Italy. I was hooked on adventure! I didn't want a husband, I wanted an ex-husband and the only way to get an ex-husband is by getting a divorce.

Joel

And so you came back and you headed to Italy again?

Margaret

No, this time I headed for England. Heading for London as all good Kiwis do, but London didn't do it for me. People are surprised when I say that. So all I will say instead is that when I got onto the ferry that you cross the channel on and got to Calais, France, something in me said, 'oh, I think this is more like it'. And then I got to Paris. And that was definitely mind-changing. The whole culture, I mean, London is still boring brick houses.

My first three weeks in Paris were on crutches, which was very useful because people made

allowances for me and helped me and even kept museums open for me, that kind of thing. It was salutary because it slowed me down and when you slow down you see more. You notice more. You observe more. So that was a good start to my European sojourn.

After Paris I did the European tour and my first place to stay for a long time was Amsterdam. And Amsterdam was a total freak out eye opener. I'll never forget seeing my first red light woman. Amsterdam was and I hope still is the most liberal city in the world. There was a joke that you could ask a policeman to light your joint.

And Paris said to me "Well, okay, girl, you've been here before. What are you here for? This time, what are you going to do?" I said, "I don't know". But cities have got messages for you.

I went to a bar on the Champs Elysees. And the barman said to me immediately "You're new in town. You're looking for work. What kind of work are you looking for?" And I, off the top of my head, decided not to say school teacher. I said "I'm a dancer now". And the next thing

he says to me completely changed my life. He said, “I happen to know they're looking for girls at the Folies Bergere.” So I decided. That's what I was going to do in Paris. The next night, I barged into Folies Bergere and demanded to see the artistic director. I got an interview that became an audition. The guy liked me and I got employment on the spot.

I think they must have told the top man, the artistic director “There's this strange woman in your office”. And you know, I've learned that people at the top

are often lonely and a bit bored. I did that for a year, and then, believe it or not, I got bored. It was very mechanical.

Joel

And what drew you back to New Zealand?

Margaret

I was going to get a book published. I called it Amsterdam Affair, and I managed to sell the idea to a publisher in, I don't think they exist anymore, Hodder and Stoughton.

[The interview will pick up in next month's newsletter with Margaret's return to New Zealand]

My favourite recipe for dinner parties:

—Moroccan Chicken—

Ingredients

- Chicken drumsticks
- Chicken stock
- Onion
- Dash vinegar
- Spoonful honey
- Two slices preserved lemon

Method

Brown drumsticks and transfer to casserole. Brown some sliced onion, add chicken stock, vinegar, honey and preserved lemon. Add to casserole.

Cook in oven at 200 for 30 minutes.

Duke's tip:

Let cool, keep and reheat for eating next day. Tastes develop in the fridge overnight.



Mt Vic Hub presents:

Seedling & Cutting Swap

Celebrate the change in seasons, with a community seedling/cutting swap.

Bring plants, or take plants, you can bring plants & not take plants, or take plants & not bring plants, or take plants & bring plants.

Light refreshments provided.

*free hub provided seedlings include:
kale, coriander, parsley, rocket, cress, spinach

Sunday
May 25th
1pm-5pm

Mt Vic Hub
24e Elizabeth St
Mt Vic

TedX speaker

Jo Robertson

presents

WELLINGTON
**ONE
NIGHT
ONLY!**



Parenting in the Digital Era

Practical solutions to protect kids from online harm
For parents of kids 4-13+

Thursday 22 May

Meow Nui, Vivian St, 7.30pm

JO ROBERTSON FEATURED ON

seven**sharp**

TEDx

Stuff

ibreakfast

© RNZ



Limited tickets – Book Now at MeowNui.com



TedX speaker

Jo Robertson

presents

Parenting in the Digital Era



WELLINGTON
**ONE
NIGHT
ONLY**



Practical solutions to protect kids from online harm | For parents of kids 4-13+

Join us for an essential session on creating a safe online experience for your child. Led by Jo Robertson, you'll explore the online world that kids navigate today, identifying potential risks and strategies for addressing them.

The workshop will cover harmful content, exploitation, popular apps and filters. Evidence based and expert led, you'll leave with strategies on how to prevent and respond to harm, to keep your child safe.

Jo Robertson is a therapist holding a Master of Science in Medicine, specializing in the effects of online sexual content. Jo has years of experience delivering sexual health education to professionals, parents, caregivers, and young people. Jo has presented a TEDx talk, and continues to speak globally on topics related to youth, sexual culture, and media influences.

Thursday 22 May

Meow Nui, Vivian St, 7.30pm

Limited tickets – Book now
Book Now at MeowNui.com

THE
TRICKY CHATS™
PARENTING COURSE

DID YOU KNOW?

**Mt Vic Hub has
started sign ups
for a mailing list
and volunteering!**

Join the mailing list for:

Periodical updates via email about what the Mt Vic Hub are up to! Link below!

eepurl.com/iOoFLM

Use our volunteers sign up for:

Direct contact with us concerning upcoming volunteering opportunities and ways to get stuck in with the Mt Vic Hub. Link below!

forms.gle/4CZdjaYesjcRQvn26

Mt Vic Olive Harvest

**It's that time of the year! Olive time!
Olives take about a month or so longer
to be ready for oil harvesting. Sign up
below to keep in the loop.**

**Sign up:
tinyurl.com/36c557vj**



What's Going on in Mt Vic?

Innermost Gardens Working Bees

Morning gardening, everyone is welcome.

1st/3rd monthly Sundays 10am -12pm

Every Tues morning 10am-12pm

Contact: innermostgardens@gmail.com

Awareness through Movement classes

(Feldenkrais Method) Tuesdays 6-7pm.

Improve posture, flexibility, breathing and more. Phone Sue Field 0274667123

Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten:

27 Elizabeth St, Mt Victoria

Spaces available: Pikopiko sessions are open for 2-5 year olds, Mon-Fri 9am-3pm during school terms. 20 Hours free for 2-5 year olds.

Contacts: 04 385 0441

pikopikoclydequay@wmkindergartens.org.nz

www.wmkindergartens.org.nz

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: wgtnquakers@gmail.com

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.

Crossways Community Crèche,

61 Majoribanks St is a parent-run early learning centre for children aged 1 to 5.

Open Mon-Fri and offers 20 hours of state-funded ECE for over 3s.

Contact: 04 3848201 or

info@crosswayscreche.org.nz

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.

Contact: ttc.clubrooms@ttc.org.nz

Underworld Tavern: Mt Vic's friendly local divebar

13 Pirie Street

Upcoming events include live music, Heavy Karaoke, Cult and Collectibles Market, Horror Movie Pub Quiz, film screenings and more! Enjoy a beer or two in a cozy and welcoming environment and even bring your dog along!

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 Mt Vic Hub.

Call John for info at **0272460411**

Dogs of Mt Vic Fred

Fred is a friendly chap, such a mild mannered little charmer. A bearded collie/huntaway cross, this 4 year old is just coming into his own.

Described by his owner as a “...very relaxed chao, a friend to all”



HELL
✕

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