

JULY 2024

# Valley Voice

Te Reo Hapori o Waimapihi – the Aro Valley Community Newsletter



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This lets you:

- See Valley Voice as soon as it is published,
- See photos in full colour
- Zoom in to small print and fine details
- Use live links to websites

Valley Voice is published on behalf of the Aro Valley Community Council Inc, 48 Aro St, Wellington.

*All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not of the AVCC unless adopted at a General Meeting.*

*Photographs and text are the responsibility of the Editor, Brent Efford, unless otherwise credited.*

## Contributions welcome

Contributions – councillors' comments, poems, articles, letters, photos, historical snippets, news of events, business news, etc – relevant to the Aro Valley community are very welcome. Please email to: [brent.efford@me.com](mailto:brent.efford@me.com)

The deadline for Valley Voice articles and photos is set to enable distribution of paper copies early in the month – i.e. for the August 2024 Valley Voice it is ...  
**Thursday 25 July.**



**Chair yoga:** Kristin McGuigan leads an exercise group in our revamped, warm, Community Centre.

## What's on at the Community Centre ...

### Chair Yoga – preventing trips and falls

Every year, one in three people over 65 injure themselves in a fall. Luckily gentle exercise reduces the risk of tripping or falling and many falls are preventable.

It's estimated over 300 people aged 65+ live in the Aro Valley and for more than 12 years there has been a weekly class at the Community Centre to help them be steadier on their feet.

The benefits of doing this class include maintaining confidence, health and independence, and being able to keep on doing the things you love.

The class has had several tutors, starting with Donna Cogleton. It is currently led by Kristin McGuigan, who ensures it is fun, effective and safe. Kristin makes sure participants are doing the exercises correctly and her great sense of humour creates a very friendly atmosphere.

Chairs are used for stability and support – but it's not all sitting around. Music helps people get into the rhythm, and a seemingly infinite array of exercises target different muscles. No two weeks are the same and it's never boring!

Whatever your age or ability this class will help you improve and maintain stability, flexibility and joint movement. Those not able to get out of the house to attend the Community Centre classes can join in from home, as Kristin live-streams them via the Internet.

If you are interested in trying out a class go to the Community Centre just before noon any Tuesday during term time. You don't need any special clothing or equipment, and no enrolment is necessary. Each session costs \$10/\$5 or koha.

**If you have any questions, contact Kristin at [kristingiorgi@gmail.com](mailto:kristingiorgi@gmail.com).**

*Judy Buchanan*

## Inverlochy Art School a local treasure



**Inverlochy Art School is a treasure on our doorstep.** Whether you want to try something new or improve a current skill, Inverlochy has something for everyone.

The School offers a large range of courses taught by practicing artists and artisans, hosts exhibitions, concerts and other events, and has some studio space for rent. The courses are designed for different skill levels and age groups.

Classes are held during the day, in the evening and on weekends; some are for a full day, others are for 3-4 hours; some are only one session and others are spread over several weeks. The range of fees reflect this.

Check out the extensive timetable at [www.inverlochy.org.nz](http://www.inverlochy.org.nz).

Coming up are some interesting sessions for children and teens:

- **Children's Art Holiday Programme** for 6 to 10 years (15 to 19 July, 9:30 to 11:30am)
- **Art, pottery and jewellery making** holiday workshops for teens, 13 and above
- **Young artists**, 6 to 11 year olds, after school on Mondays, 29 July to 16 Sept

The staff are very welcoming and invite people to pop into the office for information, a chat or to view the beautiful, historic listed building, or contact them at [inverlochyartschool@gmail.com](mailto:inverlochyartschool@gmail.com).



## Fund raising for the accessibility project

Inverlochy has 30 steps leading to the main entrance, which makes it inaccessible for people with mobility issues. To tackle this, they have developed a plan to improve access for all.

The Accessibility Project will improve drive-on access and parking, and connect the carpark to the main house and pottery studio through a ramp leading to a raised level walkway. Then they will renovate the existing west entrance and bathroom to make it wheelchair friendly, and beautify the alternative entrance through painting and landscaping.

The good news is that the first step, improved exterior safety lighting, is complete!

The current fundraising drive is for step two - the creation of a ramp and raised walkway connecting the two buildings. This will allow for level and step-free access into the school from the top level car-park. For a (home made!) video tour of this project see [here](#) on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6IHnLcvSnz/>.

Donation for this project are gratefully accepted, and can be made via internet banking to:

Account name: Inverlochy Art School  
Account number: 38-9005-0858533-00

Please indicate your name and "donation" in the reference field.

**If you have expertise or contacts that you could offer, they would love to hear from you!**

## Feedback ...

Hello Brent,

Just a comment on what seems to be a "throw-away" word in the caption to the photo on page 2 of the June Valley Voice. It states that 'the NZ Company didn't bother to use his [Hōniana Te Puni] proper name'. The word I refer to is "bother".

I understand that it is a fact that the NZ Company didn't use his proper name, but "bother"? Is there evidence of this or is this a way of putting a current spin on an event that happened 184 years ago?

BTW, many thanks for printing the excellent presentation by the historian Dr Schrader. I think his first paragraph is pertinent to my comment.

Kind regards,

*Verena Watson.*

Thank you, Verena. I take your point, but I think there is ample evidence that the colonists were not overly keen to adopt the names used by the tangata whenūa – the 1904 New Zealand Times editorial said as much – when drawing up maps and assigning street names, as Captain Mein Smith did with the August 1840 plan for Wellington. That settlement's name was itself an honour for the 'hero of Waterloo' who was still in charge of the British Army (in which my great great grandfather was then somewhat drunkenly serving) – replacing 'Port Nicolson' and 'Britannia', which applied to the flooded settlement in Pito-one (now Petone).

In fact, when you look over that whole plan, you will find only a few street names that had any apparent Māori origin – Kumo To To (now Woodward St), Warri Pori Street (sic), Aro, Taranaki and Tinakore (sic – See below\*).

Exactly what process was used for determining street names in 1840 is unknown, although honouring individuals and ships involved in the New Zealand Company project seems to have been a priority. Captain Mein Smith proceeded to get the town acres ready for sale and occupation – see below – and determining names to recognise the original owners was probably not high on his agenda.

Given Hōniana Te Puni's importance in facilitating the NZC settlement, perhaps the main street could have been named after him (rather than after a director of the Company who never even visited the settlement). Instead he was only remembered by a cul de sac at the back of the township – and even then his name was mis-spelt.

Perhaps just another symptom of the colonial racism of the time.

*Brent Efford*

*\*By July 1841 Captain Smith has corrected the spelling of at least one street on his big drawing:*

Wellington, July 1, 1841.

**Wanted.**

**A FEMALE SERVANT.** Apply at Capt. Smith's, Tinakori-cottage, Tinakori-road. July 9, 1841.

**Wanted.**

### NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF LAND ORDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Plan of the District of Port Nicholson, upon which there are more than one hundred sections of land open to selection, is now ready for inspection at the Office of the Surveyor-General, and that the selection in it will be made on Monday, Dec. 7th, at 11 o'clock.

The plans of the Districts of Wanganui and Taranaki will also be ready for inspection on and after Tuesday next, Dec. 1st, and the selection of sections therein will take place on Monday, Feb. 1st, 1841.

W. M. SMITH, Captain Royal Artillery,  
Surveyor-General.  
Wellington, Nov. 27, 1840.

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator,  
5/12/1840*

## Poetry boom in Valley Voice

One of the delights of publishing a local newsletter is the opportunity to promote neighbourhood talent. We have an emerging panel of poets – in this issue the panel doubles in size, because Lewis Scott, the 'Bard of Hōniana Te Puni St', is joined by 11 year-old Esther Bond.

Both have submitted several lovely poems in contrasting styles. Some poems that can't be included this time for space reasons (we are trying to stay within four pages) will definitely be published in the August issue.

## Three sets of people looking after each other

When I was a little boy  
I was told by my Mama to watch  
My Grandmother and  
My Grandfather sitting under  
The shade tree  
And each time the sun moved  
They moved  
They went all around the tree  
Me too  
And when the sun set  
They told me  
It was time to go in the house

*Lewis Scott*

## The labyrinth

As deep  
as the universe  
As forever  
as mother's love  
As formidable  
as The End of The World

The waiting travellers  
As optimistically hopeful  
as British citizens  
waiting for a sunny day  
As innocent  
as a young child  
As oblivious  
as a lamb to the  
slaughterhouse  
As unconsidered  
as raw steak

The trapped  
As petrified  
as the day  
they birthed  
As persistent  
as trees reaching  
for the sky  
They cling together  
like wet paper  
a connection  
between them all.

*Esther Bond*

## Council comment

From: Councillor Geordie Rogers  
[Geordie.Rogers@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Geordie.Rogers@wcc.govt.nz)



It's been a massive couple of months at Council and I especially want to thank all of you who came along and made a submission on our Long-Term Plan. There were over 300 people that came and spoke to us and many more of you made submissions, emailed, or called.

Both reduced rates and responding to climate change were major themes amongst the submissions and the decarbonisation of our swimming pools does just that. Through working with the Mayor and Councillors I was able to get it back in the plan and it will save us \$10m and stop 30,000 tons of CO2 from entering our atmosphere over the 10 years.

We're also making the long overdue investment in our water infrastructure. We're investing \$1.8b and will begin to fully depreciate our water assets so that we don't get ourselves back into the same situation we were in last summer.

Much of this Long-Term Plan is bringing back investment in the basics like water and setting us up for success with transport and housing. The rates increase next year will be difficult, but we also know that pushing the can down the road wouldn't make it any cheaper.

*Geordie Rogers*

[All Pukehinau Ward councillors were invited to submit a column – this is the only one received for this issue.]



## A Home eviro poem

The ball floats alone  
Deserted by its past  
owners  
From above the surface  
it just looks like entertainment  
but down below  
it holds  
Many more secrets

It holds a home  
it holds a refuge  
it holds a protection

To so many lives  
A beauty beneath  
But one day  
It will all fall over  
Destroying the peace  
Once again

*Esther Bond*

## Pic 'n' mix

The bright sign  
glows from afar  
shining up  
my boring carrot adventure  
10, 11, 12 boxes  
of sugary glutanis  
treats  
I sway towards it  
trapped  
under the spell  
all my favourites  
jaffas  
liquorice all sorts  
jelly beans  
gummy snakes  
preservatives lead a path  
to a whole new world  
my hand unwillingly reaches out  
to the shiny handle  
of the magnificent scooper  
but my arm  
slapped away  
and I'm back  
in the tiring world of vegetables.

*Esther Bond*

## A Mother's Song

Child  
May you never know  
The same pain in life  
More than once

*Lewis Scott*

# 'Here Today Gone Tomorrow: Wellington Street Art' by Jamie D Baird



I didn't expect to, but I totally love this book, 'Here Today Gone Tomorrow', and highly recommend it.

My review reflects this bias! As noted in the book itself, if you disagree with me – 'Please don't shoot the messenger'.

I've used the term 'street art' throughout as a neutral description of what has variously been called vandalism, graffiti, bombing, advertising, tagging, murals, statues, etc.

Jamie Baird's recently published book is a powerful reminder of how weird, controversial, funny, clever and diverse Wellington's street art has been; how it has challenged, offended, irritated, engaged and entertained us. It suggests how street art contributes to Wellington's internationally recognised 'quirky' character.

To me the book is a nostalgia trip, a history lesson and great fun. It celebrates the artists who have gone from being liable to prison if caught at work, to those commissioned to adorn public facing, multi-storey walls of privately owned buildings.

Like it or loathe it, everyone who lives in the Aro Valley will be familiar with street art, especially if you walk through the park to town. So it's not surprising that Aro Valley fences, walls, and garage doors feature in many of the pictures in 'Here Today Gone Tomorrow'.

It introduced me to street art from other suburbs, eg Miramar, and brought into focus the range of stories told, the skill and creativity of the artists, celebrations and challenges faced, anger, colour, humour, and strangeness.

Most of these pictures are images that were around for only a limited time. It was great to see images from the past that I'd forgotten, eg huge flags hanging from the anarchists' house in Abel Smith St, and delightful to see again some personal favourites, such as the now disappeared Webb Street mural 'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.'

Browsing through the book is a unique way to experience a comprehensive and powerful voyage through the last forty years of New Zealand's social history. Each picture and every page tells multi-layered, rich tales. They are a kaleidoscope of colours and shapes, the real and the imaginary, complex designs and simple shapes, chaos and order. Some I understand, some I don't.

There is no endorsement or promotion of any particular viewpoint. There is hardly any text, just pages and pages of images. The reader is left to interpret everything for themselves.

The book is a display of approximately 1,200 of the over ten thousand photos Jamie has taken around the streets of greater Wellington. Designer Matthew Bartlett – an Aro Valley resident – deserves a huge shout out for his contribution to the book's power.

'Here Today Gone Tomorrow' is a book to browse and return to often, and you'll get something different from it each time. You can buy a copy at [www.wellingtonstreetart.co.nz](http://www.wellingtonstreetart.co.nz) and good book shops.

*Judy Buchanan*



**Aro Valley street art, including Jo's famous garage door in Palmer St promoting peace and justice, features extensively.**



## Regular classes & activities ~ July 2024 ~

Day	Time	Class	Price	CONTACT
Mondays	8:30 - 9:30am	Tai Chi with Yi Ching	Koha	<a href="mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz">community@arovalley.org.nz</a>
Mondays	6:30 - 8pm	ON - Ungu Capoeira	\$15 casual \$100 for 10	027 367 1567 <a href="mailto:kate.turner.espe@gmail.com">kate.turner.espe@gmail.com</a>
Mondays	6:30 - 7:30pm	Foreign Language Class	Contact for price	<a href="mailto:info@foreignlanguages.co.nz">info@foreignlanguages.co.nz</a>
Tuesdays	12am - 12:45pm	Chair yoga with Kristin	\$8/\$10 or koha	022 694 1197 <a href="mailto:kristingiorg@gmail.com">kristingiorg@gmail.com</a>
Tuesdays	6 - 7pm	Community free yoga	Free	<a href="mailto:mark@hotmetal.nz">mark@hotmetal.nz</a>
Tuesdays	6:30 - 7:30pm	Foreign Language Class	Contact for price	<a href="mailto:info@foreignlanguages.co.nz">info@foreignlanguages.co.nz</a>
Tuesdays	7:30 - 9:30pm	Estudio de Samba Wellington	\$13.30 \$80 term	<a href="mailto:estudiosamba@gmail.com">estudiosamba@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://estudiosambawellington.com">estudiosambawellington.com</a>
Wednesdays	8:30 - 9:30am	Tai Chi with Yi Ching	Koha	<a href="mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz">community@arovalley.org.nz</a>
Wednesdays	1 - 2pm	Dance 4 Us With Dance Therapy NZ	Gold coin (if possible)	(09) 636 3029 <a href="mailto:admin@dancetherapy.co.nz">admin@dancetherapy.co.nz</a>
Wednesdays	6 - 7:30pm	Afro Brazilian Dance	\$132 term or koha	<a href="mailto:afrobrazilidances.ba@gmail.com">afrobrazilidances.ba@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	7:45 - 9:45pm	Argentine Tango	\$10	021 542 7136 <a href="mailto:irinatangon.z@gmail.com">irinatangon.z@gmail.com</a>
Thursday	4 - 6pm	Trash Planet Beat Clinic	Koha	<a href="mailto:contact@olmecha.com">contact@olmecha.com</a>
Fridays	8:30 - 9:30am	Tai Chi with Yi Ching	Koha	<a href="mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz">community@arovalley.org.nz</a>
Fridays	10:30 - 12pm	Community Singing With Jo Shrigley	\$10/\$70 for The term	<a href="mailto:jshrigley@gmail.com">jshrigley@gmail.com</a>
Fridays	12:30 - 1:30pm	Handstand Workshop	\$20	021 996 782 <a href="mailto:nicolas@oni.co.nz">nicolas@oni.co.nz</a>
1st Saturday Monthly	10 - 3pm	Arts & Crafts Market with Art Collective		<a href="mailto:hello@twotwenty.co.nz">hello@twotwenty.co.nz</a>
Sundays	4:30 - 5:30pm	Community free yoga	Free	<a href="mailto:mark@hotmetal.nz">mark@hotmetal.nz</a>
Sunday Fortnightly	2 - 4pm	Aro Valley Jazz Jam with Aro Valley Jam Band	Drop in & play or listen	<a href="mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz">community@arovalley.org.nz</a>

**Community Co-ordinator: Ahmen Mahal 384 8499, 48 Aro St, [community@arovalley.org.nz](mailto:community@arovalley.org.nz)**

**Office Hours: Mon closed; Tue to Thur 10am - 2pm, Friday 12 - 4pm**

**Aro Valley Community Centre – managed by the Aro Valley Community Council Inc**