



VALLEY VOICE

TE REO HAPORI O WAIMAPIHI

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE ARO VALLEY

SEPTEMBER 2014

Proposed demolition challenges Aro heritage rules

An application to demolish an old wooden bakery that forms part of the streetscape of lower Devon Street for townhouses, will test the Wellington City Council's special heritage provisions for the area.

The proposed development behind 96 Aro Street, sits directly within the Aro Valley heritage area established in 2010, as one of six such designated suburban centres around Wellington.

The developers, who bought the shopfront properties following the 2010 heritage classification, propose four new unit titles and infill housing, behind the row of original shops.

The proposed demolition goes against the intention to establish greater protection for these historic heritage centres.

"These buildings, with shops on the street and residential above, haven't changed much in 100 years," says the 2010 Aro Valley heritage assessment.

"The area is an excellent

representative example of of a late 19th century commercial centre in a working class neighborhood.

"The old bakery behind 96 Aro St is an interestingly shaped single-storey structure with a mono-sloped roof - the result of incremental additions - with its west wall built hard up to Devon St and a small yard between it and 94 Aro st."

The even numbered side of Aro St is still original, unlike the modified buildings on the other side of the street. The five properties 88-96 are the key component of the heritage centre.

The demolition consent was applied for under the address of 88 Aro St, although the site of the townhouses is the yard of 96 Aro St.

It is the first challenge to the intention of District Plan Change 75. The outcome of the planning decision will influence heritage protection across the whole city.

The Aro Valley Community Council has asked the WCC for the resource consent application for to be publicly notified.



Shaw plans to be "MP for Aro"

"Can I get a joke in?" James Shaw asks. "So, a robot walks into a bar. The bartender says, 'We don't serve robots here,' and the robot says, 'Ah, but one day you will.'"

Shaw tells the joke to illustrate a point: technological change, in the form of a robot army of labour, is going to displace most of the work people do, with devastating consequences for unemployment, just like climate change threatens the future of the planet. A Green response? Much higher wealth taxes on those who control the robotic labour force, with the dividends going to a universal basic income for all.

It's a far-sighted vision from a man who, at number 12 on the Green Party list, looks set to enter Parliament unless the party's vote drops from its current average of 13% to under 10%. As a long-standing resident of Maraama Crescent, he could be the first "Green MP for the Aro Valley".



Above: The proposed development

Left: The threatened historic streetscape behind 96 Aro Street



Continues on page 3



Aro Video turns 25!

The Aro Street Video Shop (its full name) is celebrating its 25th year in existence this month, having opened its doors on 23rd of September 1989.

The store opened in the original premises at 79 Aro Street (next to what is now The General Store) and moved into its current premises at 97 Aro Street in 1991.

Owner Andrew Armitage says that he knew that he was onto something when on the Good Friday holiday of 1990 over two-thirds of the VHS tape rental library went out on hire. "And in those days everything was 'overnight' hire only." In the quarter century since, the library has ballooned from a 180-tape 'start-up' to carry over 20,000 titles, mostly with the arthouse/classic specialist slant that the store is known for.

Aro Video plan to celebrate with a range of promotions in September, kicking off with a "golden ticket" promotion that runs through the entire month and for which fellow Aro Valley business have donated instant prizes. So rent a DVD from the Aro Video

catalogue this month and chances are you'll be instantly rewarded with a renowned beverage and nourishment from the Garage Project, Aro Cafe, AroBake or Haya, or beauty products from Skin Focus and Aro Hair, as well as film-related prizes from in-house.

Then, on their actual birthday, they'll be hosting a "Free Movie Day" in which all rentals will be available to members for no charge! "Together with some other surprises, we're hoping it'll be a video equivalent to Record Store Day," says Andrew. "We have a lot to celebrate in spite of the stormy trading conditions of the last few years.

"Many of our conventional competitors have shut up shop and we are rapidly becoming the 'last video store', which is both reassuring and frightening. But whatever the future holds, Aro Valley has been exceptionally good to me, and a wonderful community in which to have a business".

Early morning bottle collection annoys residents

Valley residents have complained about the noise of early morning recycling collections – but the council says nothing is going to change.

Aro Street resident Aizak Salanoa told Valley Voice: "Surely I'm not the only one who is annoyed at being jolted awake by the sound of a hundred bottles smashing. I realise that

the bottle collection is essential but it's unreasonable to do it at 6.30am."

Durham Crescent residents can also be woken up by the sound, despite their distance from Aro Street.

Salanoa lives right above Aro Café "so it sounds as if someone is in our room throwing bottles around. You can hear the rubbish truck as it slowly makes it way up the street and it takes ages before it is out of earshot, and then half an hour later it comes back down the other side of the street."

He said he had complained to the Wellington City Council, but nothing had happened.

A council spokesman said: "Basically, Aro Street is one of those 'rock and a hard place' areas for us – the reason being that we have to start early on that street because if we don't start early, we cause major issues with the traffic coming from Karori into the city."

Salanoa suggested collection start later – "the traffic is never crazy busy after 10am". The council spokesman was unable to say why that couldn't happen.



VILDERS
CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY GALLERY

Goldsmith artist Dorthe Kristensen of Vilders Gallery in Aro street, makes contemporary jewellery with individuality and flair. Vilders also recycles gold jewellery inspired by making it sustainable. Bring in your old gold and Vilders will work with you to give it new life.

**New website, now buy online.
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104 Aro Street, Wellington
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James Shaw talks Green politics

(Continued from Page 1)

Last election Shaw was on the party list at 15, but just missed out on entering Parliament. Since then he has been splitting his time between his main job, working as a consultant to banking giant HSBC on environmental awareness programmes for its future leaders, and another role helping foster social enterprise at Wellington's Akina Foundation.

Some Greens are sceptical about big business, but Shaw says he's helping foster "a cohort of people inside the organisation who are committed to sustainability". And, he adds, "I don't think you will see the real impact of that for about a decade ... from people staying in community with each other and bringing a different set of personal values to what they do."

In Green politics, he's on the side that believes technological change can "decouple" growth from environmental damage: "Technology can get us to a point where economic activity can grow or continue without increasing use of

resources." For instance, most cars sit idle for 97% of the time, but Google's self-driving cars could be deployed as "a public transport system of robot taxis", dramatically cutting the number of vehicles on the road.

No hair shirt or reduction in consumption needed, then. "That going back to the land thing? It's not going to happen. There are too many of us. [But] within the next 100 years, we will have a sustainable economy because we'll have no choice but to invent one."

Shaw is one of the new breed of Green MPs who have no problem with leader Russel Norman's statement that the party is "pro-market". The fuss around that statement, he says, came from "people who are afraid of the word 'market' because of the switch to a free market economy over the last 30 years" – people, in other words, who don't understand that properly functioning markets can serve the wider good.

But Shaw would still like to see capitalism socialised. The consultancy he works for, Future Considerations, is a co-operative, and his "fantasy economy" would have the vast majority of businesses run as cooperatives, whether owned by workers, consumers or local communities.

Shaw came to the Valley as a 16-year-

old in 1989, when his parents moved to their house in Maraama Crescent. After graduating from university, he worked overseas for a while, including a stint at consultants PWC, before returning in 2010. He and his wife now live in his parents' granny flat, "with [her] inlaws just upstairs".

In the 2011 Greens selection process, party members "didn't have a lot of time to get to know me" and saw Shaw as "an ex-PWC management consultant in a suit". Since then he has proved his worth to the party, helping organise the successful push for more councillors in last year's council elections, and has travelled around the country assisting other branches. He prefers not to label himself left or right but "out in front".

Shaw doesn't expect to displace sitting MP Grant Robertson, but has an ambitious party vote target: lifting the vote from 10,900 last time round to 14,000 – roughly a third more. On current polling, it looks a feasible target.

Wgtn Central Party Vote 2011:

Labour: 10,459 - 26.56%

National: 15,128 - 38.42%

Green: 10,903 - 27.69%

NZ First: 1,132 - 2.88%

ACT: 462 - 1.17%

Positive for Wellington.

My vision for Wellington, and for New Zealand is a place where everyone has opportunity, no matter their background. Where people get a fair share and we look after each other and our environment. This is what a Labour government will mean.

A central piece of Labour's plan is to upgrade the economy, create more high paying jobs and revitalise the regions, and to do this while protecting our environment. We will protect and enhance our

environment for its own sake, and for the sake of the economy.

Labour will clean up all our rivers so they are healthy for swimming and we will move to a low carbon economy that supports sustainable jobs. **Read more about our plans at labour.org.nz/environment.**

For a better Wellington, Party Vote Labour, and vote for Grant Robertson.

Vote positive. Party vote **Labour**
labour.org.nz

Kai o Te Aro

The late winter is usually a quiet time for Kai o te Aro, and our gardens get a bit bedraggled, but this year thanks to the work of our dedicated team they are looking very happy.

The Orchard and especially the Secret Garden have been steadily producing throughout winter. We've harvested rhu-barb, various brassicas like kale & kohlrabi, lettuces, celery, Jerusalem artichokes and a good range of herbs. Broad beans and garlic have been sown and planted in the past month and are flourishing, and Laurie has kindly kept an eye on trees, bushes and vines, and given another pruning class.

The Orchard now has more fruit trees. A lime, two lemons, a persimmon and apricot have been planted this winter, and four more trees will go in soon. The guys have started digging a trench at the Orchard for more brick paving, and we're still on the hunt for a weed-eater after the old one broke down. We'd be delighted if someone could lend or donate a weed-eater to Kai o Te Aro, or help us out with the remaining mowing at the Orchard.

Jamie has turned all the compost in the bins behind AVCC – a fiendish job because they weren't designed for it, and the

contents were mainly half-rotted garden rubbish. He is planning a new bin system for that space and tells me that the new compost bins in Epuni St will be ready very soon. Maybe by the time you read this the Grand Opening will have happened already, and the Valley will have another valuable amenity.

The Steps garden has been cleared and prepared for future planting by the Urban Kai people, and we've just harvested the last of our yakon for the season. This is a new winter root crop for us; an experiment, and it looks like a goer. Anyone who is interested in this sweet, nutritious, versatile vegetable and would like to grow their own should drop us a line at arogardener@gmail.com or join our Facebook group. Better still, come along to a Saturday morning working bee (every second Saturday 10am-noon) and maybe we'll have some to give away. The photo is our yakon plants back in February. They are related to sunflowers, and grow as tall. Aren't they gorgeous?

Lynsey

Facebook group: Kai o te Aro
Aro email: arogardener@gmail.com



Left: Yakon plants - a sweet, nutritious winter vegetable

Aro Constitution discussion

Residents' feedback is being sought on a discussion document on amending the Aro Valley Constitution.

The constitution has been the subject of debate in recent years, as some of its clauses are ambiguous, and it may need to be altered in the light of likely changes to the Incorporated Societies Act.

The discussion document notes: "The current version of the constitution was endorsed and registered in 2004. The

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Website: arovalleypreschool.blogspot.co.nz

Also a community playgroup for under 3 year olds, operates on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30 to 5.00 pm.

Contact Sacha Green for details at:

whanaukariki@gmail.com

free kids theatre
fortnightly



11:00 PUPPETSHOW & WORKSHOP | 13 SEPTEMBER
11 OCTOBER
08 NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER 27 | INTERACTIVE
OCTOBER 25 | KIDS THEATRE
NOVEMBER 22



SOUTHERN CROSS GARDEN BAR RESTAURANT
39 ABEL SMITH ST, TE ARO WWW.THECROSS.CO.NZ

general consensus of those present at the general meeting, subsequent discussions and in correspondence is that the constitution is a good document and most of its provisions are widely accepted and work well.

“There is some ambiguity in the terminology of selected clauses. There is also a difference of opinion as to how a number of clauses should be interpreted. The purpose of this document is to refine the material to date, and focus on the issues raised and suggest a framework to determine if changes are necessary. If there are to be changes, how should the process be managed?”

The document is online at <http://www.arovalley.org.nz/avcc-policies.html> and available from the community centre.

Responses are sought by 30 September, so that they can be analysed and presented to a general meeting in November. Please send them to community@arovalley.org.nz.

Composting Epuni Street

(Photos: Julia Brooke-White)



Ross Harris adds composting noises on the horn, a few paces behind piper Chris Griffin



Alan Fairless, Jaqui Tutt & Joseph Nichols

The first bucket of compost was ceremonially tipped into the Epuni Street composting project on Sunday August 31.

Locals processed up Epuni Street to the sounds of bagpipe and trumpet before community centre co-ordinator Kelvin Aris got ceremonies underway.

The project is trialling street-wide composting, in which residents are supported to compost in the facility at the top of Epuni Street.



Phantasticus, L to R: Michael Kingston, Charles Barrie and Rick Shaw

Wednesday
ROAST MEAL & MOVIE DEAL

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 +
 LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

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The deciduous dawn redwood on the edge of Polhill Reserve. The native, evergreen kawaka is to its left, August 2014

Significant Trees at the Aro Street bus terminus – part 3: Dawn redwoods – *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Story and photo by Julia Stace

Before 1945 this species was known only through fossil records, being common in the age of the dinosaurs, when a stand of living trees was discovered in western China. From 1948 onward there were a number of seed introductions into New Zealand, most coming via the USA.

A Wellington grower was lucky to receive seed in 1949, by the usual method of 'someone who knew someone' (an American here to survey wipiti in Fiordland had a friend with a connection with the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University). From a tablespoon of seed, several Wellington trees were cultivated. From early introductions such as this

there are now many mature specimens throughout the country, with 29 currently listed on the New Zealand Tree Register (www.notabletrees.org.nz).

Dawn redwoods are one of the few conifers that are deciduous. They have foliage that turns russet in autumn. These trees grow rapidly in cool climates with good summer rainfall, and were considered here as a potential timber tree for forest plantings. They can be propagated by cuttings as well as seed.

Dawn redwoods have gained acceptance as specimen trees in parks. There are more to see in Wellington. There is a large labelled specimen near the western gate of the Botanical Gardens which is thought to be one of the original seedlings. It was planted

there in 1951. There are two more in the gardens, undated, not far away. Another was planted in the grounds of Government House by Sir Willoughby Norrie on the 7th August, 1956 to commemorate his period of office as Governor General of New Zealand (1952-1957).

Around 1985 the Wellington City Council planted our fine tree, now about 10m tall, near the kawaka on the frontage of Polhill reserve, just above the community gardens. Over the road, alongside 206 Aro St, are four more. A lot of trees were raised by the WCC for planting in 1990, the year of the Sesquicentennial celebrations. These four might have been trees surplus to those requirements. Next time you look at them you could perhaps imagine the dinosaurs resting underneath.

School Holiday Programme Dates

Please update your diaries with the year's school holiday programme dates:

29th Sept - 10th October

Drawing paper wanted:

Any old paper that can be used for drawing would be appreciated by the holiday programme

(Drop off at the community centre or the hall)

APOLOGY

In last month's issue we spelt the name of new Community Council Committee member Cindy Jemmett incorrectly. We apologise for this error.



MANAGER SPECIAL

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| VIMAL Ready to Eat | 2 for \$6.50 |
| Heineken 6 Pack Bottle | \$15.99 |
| Cow N Gate Milk 2L | 2 for \$8.00 |
| Pepsi Range 1.5 Ltr | 2 for \$5.00 |

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103 Aro Street

Neel Patel

Phone: 385 0337

REGULAR HALL USERS

| Day | Time | Activity & Cost | Contact |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| Monday | 7.15 – 8.15am | Tai Chi Class (Koha) | Yi Ching Mao 384 3588 |
| | 6.00 – 8.00pm | Capoeira (\$10 casual /\$40 - 8 classes) | Bobby Semau 027 6961708 bobbysemau@gmail.com |
| Tuesday | 12.00 – 12.45pm | Sit and Be Fit (\$3 per class) | Kathy McConville Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz |
| | 3.30pm -5.00pm | Wellington Community Children's Choir Ages 4 - 6: \$40, Ages 7 - 12: \$50 | Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@extra.co.nz |
| | 6.00 – 7.00pm | Peace Planetary Meditation FREE | Purnima Mishra 022 124 2192 ypvpurnima@gmail.com |
| Wednesday | 7.15 – 8.15am | Tai Chi Class (Koha) | Lynsey 384 5520 |
| | 1.15 – 2.45pm | 'Sing for your Life' (daytime singing for all) No need to book! \$5 a time | Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@extra.co.nz |
| | 6.30 – 8.00pm | Starjam | Genevieve@starjam.org 212 4971 • 021 782 866 |
| Thursday | 2.45 – 4.15pm | Kids Jazz Dance Classes \$12 per class / \$100 per term | Debbie: db4dance@gmail.com |
| | 4.30pm – 5.10pm | Group Singing Lessons with Geoff \$23 per lesson | Geoff 021565750 |
| | 6.00 – 7.00pm | Samba Hillary Mitchell & Fabiola Stevenson | Hillary Mitchell Hillary.Reid@vuw.ac.nz 021 230 8732 |
| | 7.30 – 9.00pm | Yoshukai Karate (\$10 a week – pay what you can afford. Includes 2 nd weekly class Northland Community Centre) | Colin Berry 027 249 5342 • 475 9985 |
| Friday | 7.15 – 8.15am | Tai Chi Class (Koha) | Lynsey 384 5520 |
| Saturday | 9am – 10am | Yoga With Maggie \$5 per class | Maggie Kelly maggiek52@gmail.com |
| | 1.00 – 3.00pm (last Saturday of the month) | Capoeira FREE | Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 bobbysemau@gmail.com |

Take a journey to internal amazingness

By Purnima Mishra

The Aro Valley Community Centre will have a new fun-filled mediation – a meditation which will fill you up with enthusiasm, energy, peace and happiness. It is called Peace Planetary Meditation.

This meditation is short and effective. It's so simple that it can be done by children over the age of 10 years. It has been done by students to improve their grades, in 58 countries, throughout the world.

Why meditation? In our fast-paced and often stressful modern lives, meditation is becoming recognized as a powerful life skill, bringing a renewed sense of clarity, purpose, simplicity and calm. Real peace is an inner achievement, and real happiness a spiritual blossoming – these are the gifts of meditation.

Effective and natural, meditation reconnects us with our inner strength, unburdens the mind, takes us down to an inner space of stillness.

What does it do? It's a technique to tap into a vast reservoir of energy that surrounds us for our personal development. It has following benefits (physical): improved health, stamina, sense of well-being, charismatic personality, happiness; (emotional) balance, empowerment, courage, confidence, emotional intelligence, proactiveness, tolerance, happier relationships; (mental) sharper mind, organised self, positivity, intuitiveness, objective perception. Apart from personal benefits, this is also considered to be a great service towards humanity and Planet Earth.

Come and join the meditation session from 9 September 2014, every Tuesday from 6-7pm in the community centre. This is an absolutely free session. No need for registration, just drop in. Preferably wear loose and comfortable clothes.



VALLEY VOICE

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All contributions and feedback to:
aro.voice@gmail.com

or 022 694 0871

Valley Voice is published on behalf of

Aro Valley Community Council
48 Aro St
Wellington

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not of the Aro Valley Community Council (AVCC) unless adopted at a general meeting.

AVCC co-chairs 2014-15:

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Charles Barrie

Secretary: Sarah Jane Parton

Treasurer: Rachel Griffiths

Committee members:

Luke Allen, Jay Buzenberg, Cindy Jemmett, Jadwyn Lowe, Madeleine Rashbrooke, Julia Stace, Bridget Stocker, Lisa Thompson, Mattie Timmer, Rochelle Walker

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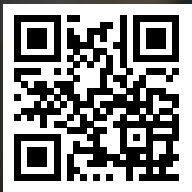
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Authorised by Jon Field, Level 2, 17 Garrett St, Wellington



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