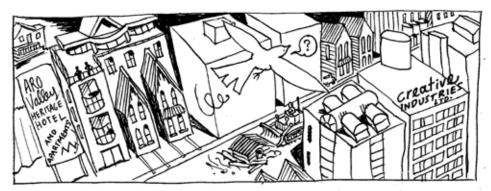
Demolition ruling costs us \$18,000

The judicial review of the Wellington City Council's decision to allow non-notified demolition of the historic bakehouse has resulted in a legal bill for the Aro Valley Community Council of over \$18,000.

The court case resulted in costs to the Community Council of:

- Legal fees for our lawyer Tom Bennion: \$8770.39
- Court costs payable to the other party: \$9552.00



Wellington City Council did not seek costs from AVCC so the only Court costs payable were to the developer.

"Action in the High Court is very expensive and costs are awarded routinely if a party is unsuccessful as we were," Co-Chair Roland Sapsford explained. "These are

the minimum level of costs a party can expect to face for a simple action, such as the one we took."

"Our lawyer's bill includes a substantial discount on normal charges and the court costs paid reflect a standard schedule contained in the High Court rules."

See also LETTERS - page 2

Valley set for competing grocery stores

Two grocery stores could be fighting it out from either side of Aro Street as the fallout between the managers and landlords of Patels continues.

As reported in last month's *Valley Voice*, Manjula Patel, who with her late husband Gunvantrai has run Patels 4 Square since 2000, had been asked to vacate the premises by landlord Has Patel (no relation) when the lease expires on 2 July.

Majula has now bought the building on the corner of Aro and Devon streets previously occupied by a painting firm, and plans to turn it into the new Patels. Meanwhile Has Patel plans to get new tenants to run a grocery store on the old Patels site.

Manjula said she would continue the Patels business "as usual without any interruption". While the new building would be smaller than the current Patels, she had applied for resource consent to enlarge it by building out into the backyard behind.

Manjula said there would not be big changes to the building's exterior, because it had a heritage zoning, and the entrance would remain on Aro St. She said the last two months were "very painful" but she had been sustained by an old saying that "God always finds the way if you have faith, courage and

effort".

"When I received lots of support and hope from the community, then I decided that I will find a place to run the business and stay in the Aro Valley and I did it."

A petition in the shop, and on the web, asking for community support for their application to Foodstuffs to retain 4 Square branding on the new shop has attracted over a thousand signatures and messages of support.

"I really would like to thank the Aro community for their support and comfort in my difficult time. It will be our first goal that we will do our best to service the Aro community," Manjula said.

She anticipates a delay of no more a few days between the old store closing at the end of June and her new premises opening across the road at 100 Aro St, whether she gets to retain the 4 Square branding or not.

However, she will face competition as Has Patel told *Valley Voice* that his new tenants – with whom he is in negotiation – would keep the shop as a grocery store, and would look to open by August. As long as Manjula is still a Foodstuffs member it can't be a 4 Square, but Has said: "It's definitely going to be a grocery store." Has said he decided not to renew Manjula's lease because of concerns about the store's condition. "We'll take

it back empty and fix it all up, like the flooring needs to be done, the lighting needs to be done, the carpark needs to be sorted out ... The condition of some of the amenities inside was not all that sparkling clean ... Some of it may have been my fault or our fault, it just needed a good spruce up so this was our opportunity to go in and spruce it up."

Manjula said he did not raise any of those concerns with her at any stage.

"Any grocery store has to go through the Wellington City Council and Foodstuffs hygiene standards and we have had consistently a very good record every year," she said. "The decision not to renew the lease was a very big surprise. It was a shock ... Anyway, if he had told us what to do, we would have paid all the costs. Instead, he is just not telling us anything."

When asked whether he had raised those concerns, Has said: "I'm sure, like, looking back at the lease, one of the conditions when we gave them the store was that they had to do those 2-3 things and it wasn't really done."

Has said that the carpark was part of the tenants' responsibility, but also that he would begin work on resurfacing the carpark once the lease expired. That would include painting in parking lines and possibly putting in some "barriers" to protect people's safety.

Barber gallery to become a bar

Ron Barber's Aro Street gallery and woodworking shop is set to turn into a bar run by the owners of the Garage Project brewery.

Barber is closing up his shop after 35 years because "it's time", he says. The Garage Project plan to turn it into an "intimate" bar with seating for 50 people, a range of their beers on tap and food from local producers.

The Garage Project's Pete Gillespie said the bar, which doesn't yet have a name, would be "almost like an extension" of the brewery, and would respond to regular customer requests for such a venue.

"A lot of people come in [to the existing site] and say, 'That's delicious, can I have a pint', and we say, 'No, you can't, because it's not an off-licence."

Gillespie said he didn't have a definite opening date in mind, although he hoped to be set up by August. The liquor license application has been made for "the biggest possible range of hours", so as to avoid having to go back to the council for extensions, but Gillespie said the bar might primarily be open Thursday-Saturday. "I don't envisage it being open particularly late," he added.

The Garage Project hopes the bar will allow them to continue doing unusual things and special one-off events that go "beyond just giving someone a beer".

The location is important, Gillespie said. "It keeps us in Aro, which we like. We are pretty proud to be part of the community, and this is just extending that in a positive way."

Any residents hoping for a wine bar, however, may be disappointed. "It will be [serving] Garage Project product primarily. If you want wine, you are right out of luck."

ARO HALL is looking for an IN TUNE piano. Contact: 384-8499 or community@arovalley.org.nz •

ARO SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

will run from Monday the 6th July until Friday the 17th July 2015. Contact: 384-8499 or community@arovalley.org.nz

Hi Tim & Max

What were the total AVCC legal costs over the demolition of the bakehouse in Devon St? I'm keen to know where our money goes. Can you publish that information here now? (See story page one - Ed). The Co-Chairs never answer my questions adequately, as other correspondents have pointed out.

The media should be independent, and challenge the decisions of those in power, keeping them accountable, and members informed. This role is crucial in a democracy. VV has lacked independence for some years, including editorial conflicts of interest. Consequently, VV never challenges the processes or decisions of those in power on the AVCC Committee.

VV has looked beautiful though. And you've published my letters. Thank you for those aspects. In my opinion, a community group is primarily about participation and inclusion, not retaining power and pushing one's own agenda. Invitation-only Committee meetings,

not reported on, and minutes not made available, is neither democratic nor participatory. Plutocratic, perhaps; a villa-owners club. Let's have a media that does its job and helps create a lively yet PARTICIPATORY community council.

This might require learning how to facilitate meetings, rather than excluding members with different opinions. Martin Wilson

Dear Editor

Would Mr Paige Carlyle, the developer who recently demolished the historic bakery on Devon Street, please clean up the site? There are rusty nails and sharp bits of tin ready to gouge the limbs of the children who run past it daily on their way to school. I asked Mr Carlyle to do something about this on about May 18, and he assured me he would, but two weeks have gone by and this hazard remains. If it has been cleared by the time this goes to press, great, but it is disappointing that it has been left this long. Yours, James Hollings





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Residents find flood problems draining



Locals have complained to the Photo: Brent city council about repeated flooding from drains on Aro Street in heavy weather.

Efford

Boston Terrace resident Brent Efford said there had been three floods in 2-3 weeks. and the response from council workers was not fixing the root problem. "Each time they clear the top of the drain of leaves but not the accumulated debris in the drains we can see when it is fine."

Owners of the heritage cottages across the road on Aro Street had told Efford they had experienced flooding in their houses, indicating the depth of the problem.

"Regular cleaning out of stormwater street drains is the most basic of council responsibilities but it is not being done. If it is because of budget penny-pinching ,then I suggest councillors need to reassess priorities and divert some capex to opex – from vanity projects like the current never-ending and clearly bungled rebuild of Victoria St, for example. If it is because of management 'oversight' then someone needs a bit of political kicking!"

Efford said there also needed to be more regular clearing of sumps by a vacuum truck, and an extra sweep and cleanout whenever road works or deluges left behind silt and shingle on the paved surface, or leaves accumulated.

"The immediate problem is being fixed, it is the long-term maintenance cycle that needs to be tuned up."

Lambton ward councillor Iona Pannett said a report was being prepared at the moment on flooding issues. "Aro Street will definitely be looked at in terms of what we need to do in the future. This report will be discussed with affected communities."

Aro Valley Community Council **Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday, 15 July 2015, 7PM at Aro Hall (watch for details)



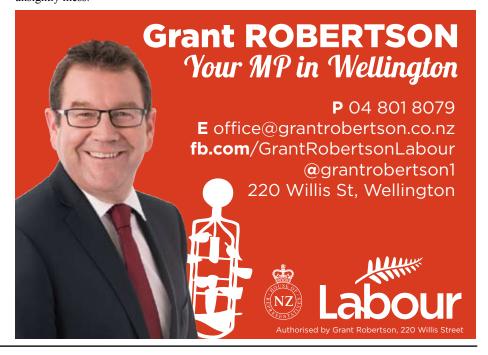
St Vinnies concerned by lightfingered and messy locals

The St Vincent de Paul charity shop has asked locals to stop rifling through donated goods sitting outside the shop, saying it's wrong and makes such an unsightly mess.

Goods for the shop are frequently dropped off in the evenings and left on the pavement outside, and St Vinnies staff say they have seen people who they know are locals going through the goods in search of bargains. The staff are asking people to stop doing this, firstly because the goods are supposed to be sold to raise money for the church's charitable work with the poor and vulnerable, and secondly because the goods - including clothes, books and kitchen items - are often left strewn all over the footpath, creating an unsightly mess.



Photo: Julia Stace Brooke-White



Cycling funds 'landmark' decision

Iona Pannett, Lambton Ward councillor

As I write this, Council has just voted on a master plan for cycling across the city. The \$40m that will be poured into creating safe cycling routes all over the city over the next three years is a landmark decision for the city. Councillors and the Government have been persuaded by many cyclists that cycling is growing and that it needs to be made safer now.

The debate was somewhat difficult. For some allocating road space away from car use is profoundly unsettling. The debate will continue (as it legitimately should) over the best routes and your feedback is most welcome on whether we have got the principles and those routes right. Public consultation will

start soon.

The debate took place in the context of the approval of the Wellington Regional Transport Plan, which continues the trend of many decades of going on a shopping spree on major roading projects. The spending on cycling (\$93m region wide) and \$60m for the flawed Bus Rapid Transit system needs to be put against well over \$1b on roading over the next 10 years for the top 10 projects. Finally, July sees the appeal being heard on the flyover. This is an important case as it will in part test the rigour of the New Zealand Transport Agency's planning processes and will hopefully force a rethink of urban roading projects in Wellington. For more information and to support Save the Basin, who are taking the case, go to www.savethebasin.org.nz.

Iona 384-3382 or iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz

Before and After

The brightly coloured graffiti walls on the pathway up to Tanera Park were recently painted out by the Wellington City Council and volunteers organised by Conservation Volunteers NZ. Do people really prefer blank grey walls to the colourful words and pictures usually painted on them? If you have an opinion, please write to: aro.voice@gmail.com or contact the Graffiti Programme Advisor:





Cut-priced haircuts at the hall by Kellie



'Hair For You' @ Aro Valley Community Centre is a new cutpriced haircutting service available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1pm-4pm.

Haircuts can be expensive and sometimes we just need a basic cut, a bit of a trim and a tidy up, and that's where I can help. I have been cutting hair for many years for people of all ages. I don't charge salon prices, and if you have a community services card you will get a further discount.

Please txt or call Kellie on 0278007432 to book a day and time. I look forward to hearing from, and meeting, you soon.





How to Jazz Up Compost

Kai o Te Aro

A friend of mine suggested during a cocktail party that we should go and collect seaweed the following afternoon...I was already helping out the Kai-o-Te Aro working bee group the next morning (we were tidying up the compost bins down at the Orchard) and so I said "yes, let's do it", I could use gathered seaweed in the compost! BINGO!

I first saw seaweed being used as an 'ingredient' for compost after watching that delightful documentary 'Gardening with Soul' (you can hire this DVD from Aro Video, I highly recommend it). From my experience the best bit about seaweedy compost is collecting it. Yes, Wellington beaches can be wind struck and moody but therein lies the joy. When collecting,

try to gather seaweed from various spots along the beach so not to disrupt the natural way of things. Only take what you need and harvest either from below the tide mark or from the floating shallows. Also be prepared for flies! I collected seaweed from Seatoun and by the time I got back to Aro there were so many flies in my car. Word from the wise, keep the windows down and don't dawdle (or take a flash plastic container with a lid to contain the flies). Once home, tip the seaweed out onto the drive/openspace you may have and give it a good rinse. This gets rid of the sand and the salt. Then add to your compost. Voila!

The benefits of using seaweed in the garden is that it keeps the soil moist at ground level (when used as a mulch), it repels slugs and other pests due to the natural salt content, it enriches the soil and it is free. It's a fun way to jazz up compost.

Now for the truth. I am not a knowledgeable gardener. I enjoy pottering in the garden but have a terrible memory for plant names and identifying weeds. I have never consciously made compost and up until recently viewed compost as the place you pile lawn mower clippings. I have been a member of Kai-o-Te Aro for four months and, despite my poor gardening skills, have loved it. So if you're keen to join us then please find our group on facebook (Kai-o-Te Aro) or send us a message at arogardener@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome.

Also if anyone has a sunny window sill going spare and is keen to grow some vegetable seedlings (or donate seedlings to us) we would be happy to hear from you too. Jo Cushen arogardener@gmail.com

Wonderplay Drama in the Aro Valley!

Wonderplay drama classes have begun on Mondays at Aro Valley Community Centre.

For the past two years Wonderplay has provided drama training and education to over 100 children at the Churton Park and Island Bay community centres.

The classes are led by teacher Deborah Eve Rea, who is a graduate of Toi Whakaari, NZ Drama school and has been teaching drama for over 10 years – including coaching young professional actors on film and television sets. Deborah is also a regular on Wellington's professional stages.

Wonderplay's afterschool drama classes use fun activities to teach performance skills such as vocal technique, movement, character building, devising and script work. Students learn ways of working together, stepping forward into leadership and listening to others. Drama class is just like any other team and students will be guided in how to support each other in performance, learning and discovery.

All Wonderplay students come together in term three to perform a show. This year's performance, Robot SU-Z and the Cattle Kids, will see robots and cowboys working together in a time travelling western.

Deborah invites all children to come and try out a class for free. 5-8 year olds' class is 3.30pm-4.30pm and 9-12 year olds' class is 4.45pm-5.45pm on Mondays at Aro Valley Community Centre.

For more information contact
Deborah Eve Rea: **021-172-2836** or **wonderplaydrama@gmail.com**www.wonderplay.co.nz



Day	Timo	Activity & Cost	Contact
Day	Time	Activity & Cost Tai Chi Class	Contact Yi Ching Mao
Monday	7.15am – 8.15am	Koha	384 3588
	3.30 pm – 4.30 pm	Wonderplay	Wonderplay
	4.45 pm – 5.45 pm During school	5 – 8 years 9 – 12 years	5 – 8 years 9 – 12 years
	terms	First class FREE!	First class FREE!
	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Capoeira \$10 casual /\$40 - 8 classes	Bobby Semau 027 6961708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
Tuesday	9.30pm – 11.30pm	ESOL English Language Class (Koha)	Wendy Vink: teacher Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	12.00pm –12.45pm	Sit and Be Fit \$3 per class	Kathy McConville Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	1.00pm – 4.00pm	Hair for you @ Aro Valley	txt or call Kellie on 027 8007432
Wednesday	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class Koha	Lynsey 021 267 6638
	9.30pm – 11.30pm	ESOL English Language Class (Koha)	Wendy Vink: teacher Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	6.30pm- 8.00pm	Starjam	Wellington@starjam.org 212 4971 • 021 782 866
Thursday CSA Organic food pick up	9.30pm – 11.30pm	ESOL English Language Class Koha	Wendy Vink: teacher Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
	12 noon - 12.30	Lynsey's QiGong Free	Lynsey 021 267 6638
	2.45 pm - 3.15 pm 3.30 pm - 4.15 pm During school terms	Kids Jazz Dance Classes Preschool School Age \$12 per Class \$100 per term	Debbie: db4dance@gmail.com
	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Samba from Brazil Hillary Mitchell & Fabiola Stevenson	Hillary Mitchell Hillary.Reid@vuw.ac.nz 021 230 8732
	7.30pm – 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		Tai Chi Class	Lyncov
CSA Organic food pick up	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class Koha	Lynsey 021 267 6638
	10.30pm -12.00 noon	Sing For Your Life - community singing. Come along any time to have a great sing and a cuppa - \$5 a time	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@xtra.co.nz
Saturday	9.00am – 10.00am	Yoga with Maggie \$5 per class	Maggie Kelly maggiek52@gmail.com
	11.00am -12.30pm	Meditation with Purmina FREE	Purmina Sharma 022 124 2192
	1.00 – 3.00pm (last Saturday of the month)	Capoeira Free	Bobby Semau 027 696 1708 bobbysemau@gmail.com
	3.30 pm – 5.30 pm	Kung Fu \$13 or pay what you can afford	Bruce Luo 022 389 5823 2014@gmail.com
Sunday	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Small Voices - Munting Tinig Children's Choir and Filipino culture - All Welcome	Miriam Vilalba 0221 757 243

NEW VALLEY VOICE EDITORS WANTED

We would STILL love to hear from people keen to take over the *Valley Voice* editor's job which consists of gathering Aro news from various sources, attending local meetings, writing some of the articles, and laying out all the content. The work isn't paid, but you get to meet a lot of interesting people and it provides an important service to the community. Contact us on: aro.voice@gmail.com or 022 694 0871.



VALLEY VOICE

Editors: Max Rashbrooke & Tim Bollinger

Distribution: Jo Brien

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: Roland Sapsford

Charles Barrie (in absentia)

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

Aro Valley Community Centre Coordinator (acting):

Jo Brien Community@arovalley.org.nz

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World War One, a 'great wrong war'?



World War I was a deeply unnecessary war that New Zealand should never have got involved in, and which caused untold suffering and repression of basic liberties, locals heard at a conference following Anzac day, on the weekend 9-10 May.

The 'My Country Right or Wrong?' conference, held at the community centre, was tagged as 'An Aro Valley Contribution to the World War I Commemorations'.

Delivering the keynote speech, historian Stevan Eldred-Grigg argued that most of the pretended reasons for going to war were mistaken. World War I happened against a background of increasing militarism, with European powers colonising and divvying up other parts of the world between them.

Eldred-Grigg attacked the idea that it had been a 'war for democracy', arguing that Germany was at the time of the war a complex constitutional monarchy, just like Britain, with a parliament elected by a more liberal franchise than any other in Europe. Most German men could vote (although not women), whereas only "a few percent" of British men could.

NZ versus Germany

Although it is widely believed that the New Zealand public enthusiastically supported the war, in fact, Eldred-Grigg said, "We don't know what most people in New Zealand thought about World War I. We have no way of knowing."

Against the idea that Germany's aggressive behaviour helped spark World War I, he said the Germans had in fact "blundered into war unwillingly", and their ultimate aim had been only to take a series of new independent states out of Russian control, including the Ukraine, Estonia, Finland and Poland – "that is, what we have now".

From New Zealand's point of view, Germany had decided not to fight in the Pacific, so any idea that fighting was important to protect our regional interests was incorrect. Germany was also an extremely important trading partner for New Zealand, so economic interests could not be used to justify the war.

In closing, Eldred-Grigg noted the extreme levels of suppression and censorship in wartime New Zealand. One man who said Left: The WWI history walk on Sunday 10 May ended at the Mitchelltown memorial

at his family breakfast table that he didn't care if Germany won the war was given six months in prison after his mother-in-law dobbed him in.

The conference then heard three speeches on the national background to the war. Historian Tony

Simpson praised the contribution of Col William Malone at Gallipoli. Malone risked battlefield execution by refusing orders from his commanding officer to lead his men on a suicidal mission to capture Chunuk Bair in daytime. He took it in darkness without any loss of life. Simpson said Malone could thus lay claim to being the first truly Pakeha New Zealander thanks to this decisive "rejection of colonial cringe".

Harry Holland remembered

Writer David Parkyn described Labour Party leader Harry Holland's prominent anti-war activism, which led to his being jailed for sedition. A longtime resident of Ohiro Road, Holland died in 1933, having given away of his possessions to the poor.

Historian Mark Derby outlined Maori involvement in World War I. Contrary to the idea that many Maori served in the war, only around 2000 did so, a per capita rate less than half that of the general population. Initially, Maori faced strong opposition – especially from the British authorities, who wanted it to be "a white man's war" – and were kept away from combat roles. Later, "disastrous" casualties at Gallipoli and elsewhere forced the British to change their minds, but 90% of Maori who served still did so in noncombatant roles. Enlistment rates were lowest among the iwi who had fought just 50 years earlier against the Crown in the Land Wars, and attempts to conscript them were "a disaster".

The second half of the conference programme was devoted to Aro Valley perspectives on the war. Freelance writer Peter Methven gave the history of the Terrace Gaol, which sat on the site of Te Aro school, and which housed people jailed for opposing the war, including Archibald Baxter and future Prime Minister Peter Fraser, who was imprisoned for sedition. The jail was eventually disestablished, although not before an infant school had been built next door, occasioning complaints from the teachers about the very prominent executions of prisoners happening on the other side of the retaining wall.

Archivist and labour historian Jared Davidson profiled Philip Josephs, an anarchist-communist tailor who lived for several years at 43 Aro Street. Having immigrated from Latvia via Scotland, Josephs jumped straight into political battles as an early member of the New Zealand Socialist party, and turned his Taranaki Street tailor's premises into a kind of "info shop" where workers could come and be educated on politics, economics and left-wing thought. Josephs favoured the common interests of workers around the world over allegiance to his local ruling class, and was raided by police suspicious of his anti-militarist views.

Grim faces of war

In the last of the formal presentations, writers Robin Cohen and Denis Welch analysed the artistic side of the war. Official war artist George Butler, who had lived nearby, painted scenes of environmental devastation, showing how war made the landscape "smashed up, burnt out, chaotic, unrecognisable". But there were also many ordinary soldiers who wrote poems or painted pictures and sketches, such art being "a protest against the war". And even the reconstruction of faces damaged by the war, by pioneering New Zealand surgeon Harold Gillies, could be seen as art, Cohen and Welch suggested. They showed the conference powerful images of soldiers' faces before and after reconstructive plastic surgery, noting that such "mangled faces" never appeared in official historical accounts of the war thanks to a kind of "collective looking away".

After dinner discussion

After dinner, the conference heard from radio personality Bryan Crump, who suggested that Anzac Day was increasingly serving as a kind of "secular Easter", with the sacrifices of thousands of soldiers standing in for Christ's sacrifice. Crump then introduced novelist and blogger Danyl Mclauchlan, who described his experiences of visiting Gallipoli as a tourist. There was a strange contradiction, Mclauchlan noted, between the idea that New Zealand had become "an independent nation" at Gallipoli, yet its military leaders had since acted in a deeply subservient way to larger powers such as Australia and the United States.

Note: the conference organisers would like to thank all those who supported the event, notably Wellington City Council. They would specifically like to thank Arobake for their generous donation of food.

