



# VALLEY VOICE

TE REO HAPORI O WAIMAPIHI

JULY

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE ARO VALLEY

HŌNGONGOI 2015

**All people  
who live,  
work, OWN  
PROPERTY  
or a business  
in the ARO  
VALLEY**

are warmly invited to attend and participate in the AGM of the Aro Valley Community Council (AVCC)

**Annual General Meeting of the Aro Valley Community Council Incorporated WEDNESDAY**

**15 July 2015**

**7pm, Aro Valley Community Centre, 48 Aro St**

• **FREE PIZZA** •

## Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of 2014 AGM
- 4 Matters arising not covered elsewhere
- 5 Co-chair's report and Financial Report
- 6 Election of Officers and Committee
  - (i) Co-chairs (2)
  - (ii) Treasurer
  - (iii) Secretary
  - (iv) Committee Members (10)
- 7 Urgent General Business

**ALL WELCOME**

• **FREE PIZZA** •

## Garage Project expands business



Local brewery, the Garage Project is busy with changes and developments. Earth works at the front of the property will restore the drive through entranceway that existed when it was a petrol station. The company is also about to open a small bar, across the road at 91 Aro Street.

The Garage Project's Pete Gillespie said that the drive through would "improve flow and beautify" the forecourt. It will reduce traffic congestion and prevent vehicles having to turn, making the area "safer and less annoying" for both parkers and pedestrians.

The prospect of a Garage Project bar in Ron Barber's gallery building has been generally welcomed by the community, but some residents concerned about possible added noise and drunkenness only heard of the proposal once the time for objecting to the liquor licence application had expired. The last day for public objections was Wednesday 22 April, and plans for the bar only became more generally known in the community when the gallery announced its closing exhibition in May.

The Garage Project has been granted a licence to sell liquor six days a week, from 10am until midnight, but Gillespie assures neighbours that the bar is unlikely to be open for more than five days a week, "not late, and from lunchtime on weekends only".

"It's not a booze barn," he said. "The whole effort is for something that will fit in with and support the community."

Their licence application emphasised

sourcing bar food from local producers and suppliers. Gillespie also expressed surprise that neighbours didn't know about the application, as the company had complied with the requirements for public notification in the Sale of Alcohol Act. A notice was displayed in the

window of the gallery and the application was advertised in two newspaper notices on 2 and 9 April (*Note: not this one -Ed*).

Members of the public who have an "interest that is greater than the general public" - generally interpreted as people who live or work close by - can object to an application if it is lodged within 15 working days of the first newspaper advertisement.

Wellington District Licensing Committee spokesperson Karen Binnie said: "There is no requirement in the Act for applicants to consult with neighbours, like there is in the Resource Management Act."

The city council publishes lists of applications received on its website and provides a web alert/email service for those who wish to be notified, at: <http://wellington.govt.nz/services/consents-and-licences/alcohol-licensing/have-your-say-on-licence-applications/recent-applications>



# LETTERS Graffiti Feedback

We had lots of letters about the issue of the graffiti on Tanera Park steps being painted out, including these:

Kia ora

I live across the valley from these walls and admire the art work every day. It always makes me smile when they have been changed as I never seem to see them being painted. Yes some art work is more delightful than others but all are 100% better than the grey walls. I hope my graffiti elves come back and put colour back in my life. Thanks. *Carolyn English*

It was a noble effort to paint out the graffiti on the path to Tanera Park. A wasted effort tho'. It was precisely a week before it was

painted with graffiti again. If anything, this wall is a good place for people to graffiti. It's far away enough from residences not to bother anyone. I can see it quite clearly from our house but it's never worried me, and is interesting to see what gets painted next. I personally don't like graffiti on residences. If you don't commission it, it's vandalism. I don't hate all graffiti, I love the artier murals around the area. I've taken photos of them assuming they're a transient thing and will change or get damaged by some idiot. Please go ahead making sure ugly graffiti is painted out in residential areas. Efforts should be targeted tho', e.g. the wall on the path to Tanera Park is not a priority area, but the pump house in Epuni St beside houses is. *Daphne Carvalho*

Hi, I was wondering why the graffiti in Aro Valley on the path up to Tanera Park was

covered over with plain grey walls? It seems a bit of a shame. I know that this art may not be to everybodys taste, but there was nothing offensive about it, it was colourful and bright. A lot of effort had been put into it, it wasn't mindless tagging. This is not to say that we should encourage graffiti but it was well thought out and looked better than what is there now. I know a lot of artists who would love to have their work on those walls. If we planned a piece and got somebody talented to do it for free, this would be really nice and not too hard to organise. Thanks, *Holly Ormond*

*Hine Sullivan, Wellington City Council Graffiti Programme Advisor, replies:*

Kia Ora Holly,

Thank you very much for taking the time to contact us with your feedback, I appreciate it.

I agree that there is a lot of talent and skill involved in the work that appears on these walls. As you have rightly pointed out, the plain grey walls are not always that attractive, but the 'ugly' pieces that appear on the wall do not do it justice either.

The Council has a zero tolerance to graffiti and if the work is not sanctioned, it will be removed from Council assets. As Parks are responsible for this particular site, I will discuss options with them.

There is an alternative. Artists can approach Council with a concept/art piece that they would like to put on the wall. If it meets with Council's approval, they will be given permission to proceed. The work will be graffiti guarded and their piece protected.

The artist/group can apply for funding through various grants and Council can assist with this process.

It would be great if an artist/community group were to submit a proposal and brighten this wall up with art relevant to the site, similar to what has been done at the southern end of Hopper St, Mt Cook.

If you are aware of a group or artist who has an interest in this wall, please do not hesitate to contact Lola or I to discuss further. Thanks again for your feedback, we value input and solutions from the community.

Kind regards, *Hine Sullivan, WCC*

## Local Handyman services in Aro Valley

All small building, maintenance & repairs work. High quality work at affordable rates. Happy to assess & quote work for free.

Local references available.

Call Lian on 022 626 8154

# James Shaw

## Green Party List MP

based in Wellington Central

Contact: [james.shaw@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:james.shaw@parliament.govt.nz)

Authorised by James Shaw Parliament Buildings Wellington



# Green

**Note:** The Aro Valley Community Centre is currently in discussion with the Wellington City Council about murals and graffiti on walls within the area of the Aro Hall. Contact: [Lola.Liavaa.Tonga@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Lola.Liavaa.Tonga@wcc.govt.nz)

## Vet Hospital seeks parking

Wellington City Council has received a request from the management of the Central Vet Hospital at 8 Brooklyn Road to allocate short term parking for their clientele.

Customers are currently finding it difficult to find available parks near the hospital to allow for short stay drop off or pick-up.

The proposal is for P30 for two parking spaces outside the front of 10 Brooklyn Rd, next to the vet hospital, Monday to Friday 8am-6pm.

Feedback period closes 24 July 2015.

Email: [orencio.gueco@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:orencio.gueco@wcc.govt.nz)



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.

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104 Aro Street, Wellington  
Ph: 04 384 7989 | [www.vildersgallery.co.nz](http://www.vildersgallery.co.nz)



# Important trees at 290 Willis St



By Julia Stace

**Tenders have closed with Bayleys for 290 Willis St, the boarded up house on the corner of Willis and Abel Smith Streets.**

This heritage listed building was built in 1888 for the Nancarrow family, and became a private hospital run by nurses who added on the operating theatre upstairs at the rear of the building in 1914.

The house features a substantial garden, including three mature trees, two elms

and a sycamor, as well as many other well established plants. Although none of the trees are heritage listed, they form a magnificent entrance to that stretch of Abel Smith St which has four heritage listed trees up to The Terrace corner. It is a leafy, residential street of which there are few left in Wellington's inner city. This whole area of stately houses is now undergoing rapid change with the completion of work on Karo Drive, a 'highway of national

significance'. The first 12 storey block is already rising on the corner of Abel Smith and Victoria Streets.

Any alternations to the listed building at 290 Willis St will require resource consent. At that stage the Wellington City Council will put a case for the trees to be retained. If you see the trees at 290 Willis St, or any other mature trees in our area being cut down, please contact the Wellington City Council Tree Team on (04) 499 4444.



## New developer welcomes ideas

**Lexi Goodman is the newly appointed Community Developer at the Aro Valley Community Centre.**

A local mother of three, with a long-standing association with the Pre-school, the school and the Community Centre, Lexi is in the office most mornings

each week. "Come in and chat," says Lexi. "If there's any events, activities or anything you want to see going on in the community, let me know!"

This year, the AVCC reviewed the Co-ordinator's role at the Community Centre, and the job has been divided into two new roles - a developer and an administrator. The administrator role is due to be filled shortly (next issue).

## Shalimar Four Square

corner of Willis Street and Aro Street

**Open from 6:30am to 12 midnight seven days a week**

308 Willis Street 3845-053 or 3846-553

**The Shalimar has been caring for and serving the community for 35 years. The operator Mrs Nalini Patel is a local fixture who always has a smile and a story for customers.**

*For personal and friendly service – please call in*



**Don't pass by, buy here. Everyone is welcome!**

SOUTHERN CROSS GARDEN BAR RESTAURANT PRESENTS

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## KIDS THEATRE PUPPET SHOW & WORKSHOPS

2ND & 4TH SATURDAYS OF THE MONTH  
11AM IN THE CROSS GUEST ROOM

SOUTHERNCROSS GARDEN BAR RESTAURANT Kidz Stuff PlayShop THEATRE

## Stormwater solutions

*Iona Pannett, Lambton Ward councillor*

Stormwater issues have been keeping me busy recently given the recent flooding over April and May. I have been working closely with residents and Wellington Water to try and work out how we address some of these issues. Whilst there is always room for improvement in terms of cleaning sumps, the issues generally are with the capacity of the network to absorb large amounts of water in a short period of time. The flooding that some parts of the city experienced were also highly unusual events and overwhelmed our stormwater system for a brief time. Recently a meeting was held with affected residents in Aro Valley to discuss this issue. A follow up meeting will be held in the near future but in the meantime,

Wellington Water is working closely with residents on an individual basis to look at what solutions can be implemented. \$8m has also been made available to deal with suburb wide stormwater problems over the next few years which should be of great assistance.

Ultimately, it may however require a multi-million dollar pipe to be constructed in Taranaki Street to deal with Aro flooding. Other more low cost solutions will also be investigated. The issue is being taken seriously but will take some time to resolve.

Discussions are now starting on the process by which the Aro Valley community precinct will be developed with the money that the Council has earmarked for the project. I hope that lots of Aro people will get involved in this process. Let me know if you want to find out more. Finally, the High Court hearing to appeal the Board of Inquiry's

decision to reject the Basin Reserve flyover will be heard on the 20th July. The New Zealand Transport Agency who is leading the appeal has deep pockets. If you would like to find out more about the campaign to protect the Basin and to stop the flyover, you can get more information at [www.savethebasin.org.nz](http://www.savethebasin.org.nz). *Iona 384-3382 or [iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz)*

## Carillion bells silenced by upgrade

Several residents have contacted me about the echoing silence from the Carillion since the opening of Pukeahu War Memorial Park, so I'm delighted to report that the silence is temporary. (I also learnt that it's the third largest carillon in the world, by weight and number of bells).

Almost half of its 74 bells were damaged by concrete dust during the campanile's repair, exacerbated by the perennial problems of our brutal maritime climate. The bells and fixtures are being refurbished, and we can look forward to hearing the bells peal out across Te Aro again (*Although this work is unlikely to be completed before year's end, recordings of the bells exist, and it is understood that playing some of these is being considered as a temporary measure while repair work is being completed.* - Ed).

The Local Government Commission's decision against regional amalgamation was no surprise, although I believe there is an appetite for some less ambitious change. Several Plan Bs are now being mooted, including mini-amalgamations (Wellington, Porirua and – possibly – Kapiti; the two Hutt cities; and the various Wairarapa councils) and more shared services.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council's recently announced 9.8 percent rates increase is outrageous, especially when it's spending more than \$500,000 to subsidise KiwiRail's Palmerston North train service (the 'Capital Connection') and Wellingtonians have the most expensive bus fares in New Zealand (and possibly Australasia). I have described the GWRC as the "Malvina Major home for retired politicians" because of its high count of former MPs and mayors; it may be no co-incidence that all, bar one, have Super Gold cards, so enjoy free off-peak bus travel!

Fran Wilde's departure from chairing the GWRC will leave a big hole in Wellington's political scene. She has been both formidable and effective in all her roles (MP, Minister of the

### Aro Valley Preschool

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Quality education  
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Visit us at 48 Aro Street, Wellington or at [www.arovalleypreschool.nz](http://www.arovalleypreschool.nz)



Crown, Mayor and chairing the GWRC), and changed the face of our city – the stadium is the most obvious example. Although not every one liked her style, Fran got things done and we should all be grateful for all she's done for Wellington.

Finally, the Victoria Street upgrade is almost complete, with the final asphalt under way. It's been a huge project, and highly disruptive – especially for Aro Valley residents as it's an arterial route for you – but the end of the road works is nigh. Within about six weeks, we'll all be able to enjoy its wider, tree-lined footpaths, southbound cycling improvements, and two new paved parks.

The area will be transformed within a few years; with several new apartment complexes (including one on the site adjacent to St Peter's Anglican church, currently occupied by Gordon Harris and The Stationery Warehouse) and work has now begun on the new Whitireia and WelTec campus on the Cuba Street Deka site. Exciting times ahead!

*Nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz*

021 654 844

**The Aro Valley Community Council would like to thank Ann Hall for her generous contribution to the legal expenses incurred by the committee in their endeavours to save the 'bakehouse' in Devon Street. Thank you very much !!!**

## Kombucha is a brewin' in Aro

**First there was Garage Project beer, then Redding Cereals, and Fix and Fogg peanut butter – and now Strange Hat kombucha. Aro Valley has become a centre of boutique food and beverage manufacturing in Wellington.**

What was that? Yes, "Kombucha" – an ancient beverage thought to have originated in China around 2,000 years ago and believed by many to be a great health tonic. Strange Hat is the brainchild of Aro Valley residents Jamie Murphy and Josh Wrigley, who have perfected the craft of making this amazing drink, and are turning it into a thriving start-up enterprise.

"We started experimenting with fermented food a few years ago," says Jamie. "Just started mucking around with different cultures – sourdough, sauerkraut, kefir. One of our happy discoveries was kombucha: a delicious beverage that my flatmates also really liked. That's when the business idea began to ferment as well..."

Strange Hat kombucha is a very different drink from other beverages: it's made from a base of sweetened tea to which Jamie and Josh add a culture of yeast and 'good' bacteria to start the brewing process. The result is a sparkling drink that is low in sugar, only 1.1% alcohol, alive with healthy probiotic

goodness and that tastes like a fruity ginger beer without the overpowering sweetness. In Jamie's words "Enjoy a great night and have a great morning! You no longer have to compromise taste when choosing to drink responsibly."

Diagnosed with cancer last year Jamie realised diet was a key component in his recovery. "I drank litres of kombucha! I believe it really helped get my digestion back on track after each round of treatment." There is ongoing research around the potential benefits of adding probiotics to a diet, and living drinks and foods, such as kombucha, are packed full of these good bacteria.

Jamie and Josh value community, sustainability, creativity and health – and these values drive the company's decisions and direction. Jamie and Josh are really keen for Strange Hat to take its place in Wellington's foodie scene. "We plan to make an entire range of naturally brewed low alcohol drinks that we'd sell from a cellar door, hopefully in the Aro Valley" says Jamie.

And what's in a name? "Strange Hat" is a reference to the way the kombucha culture forms a floating layer on the tea when it is brewing. It looks like a hat, the kind of strange hat that you'd probably only wear to a fancy dress party. As a joke. Want some kombucha delivered to your door? Fire an email to [jamie@strangehat.com](mailto:jamie@strangehat.com), check out the website [www.strangehat.com](http://www.strangehat.com), or facebook, twitter and instagram.

## Tommy's Aro Valley Specialist

**zoe smith**

is in the Valley this week if you would like to request an updated current market appraisal, please either call or email on [zoe@tommys.co.nz](mailto:zoe@tommys.co.nz) to make an appointment.

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# Kai o Te Aro

**Well, winter sure has been showing us what it's made of recently. But when the horizontal rain stops, and the sun's out what a fabulous day it is, and I'm in love with Wellington all over again. Fine winter days have a special kind of magic that cannot be replicated at other times of the year. And what better place to be on those crisp fine days than in the garden.**

Winter is the time to catch up on maintenance, and plan for the year ahead. It's a great time to quietly get things in order. Even the weeds are sleeping. With this in mind, we've been reorganizing the layout of the Secret Garden. The new path is looking great, and the new beds alongside are beautifully easy to access. The compost bins by the basketball court have received some attention, and are looking good too. Please add your compostable food scraps to the bin nearest to the bunker. All the bins are labeled "use" or

"don't use"; please check the signs.

For me, the gardens are a wonderful time out; time away from the everyday rush, and away from the computer screen. When I'm in the garden, I'm always relaxed and happy. And what's more, coming along on the scheduled garden days means there's always good company. One of the many lovely things about the community gardens is the sharing of skills and knowledge. It was about this time last year that I was first introduced to Jerusalem artichokes. Tall and leafy during the summer, they then die back over winter, and are ready to harvest. Digging them up is like uncovering buried treasure. Treasure that has multiplied since you buried it. Each plant can produce more than 75 tubers. Jerusalem artichokes can be stir-fried, baked, steamed or boiled; but I like them best raw. Yum! There's nothing more satisfying than harvesting (and eating!) something you've planted and tended yourself. Or in the case of Jerusalem artichokes, just watched

grow - they're about as low maintenance as it gets.

The parsley is continuing to flourish. And the humble silverbeet is another wonderful winter staple. My favourite way to eat silverbeet is to make it into a pie. Beat some eggs and yoghurt, and add gently cooked silverbeet to make the filling of the pie. Sundried tomatoes go well in this too. Top with cheese, and a sprinkling of nutmeg. Bake in the oven. I like to experiment with different pie crusts. My most recent favourite is to make a short crust pastry, but to substitute some of the flower for ground sunflower seeds. Delicious!

Garden days are fortnightly on Saturday mornings.

New gardeners always welcome.

Email: [arogardener@gmail.com](mailto:arogardener@gmail.com) Cindy

## Maggie's yoga classes at the Hall



It is hard to believe that the Saturday morning Community Yoga classes have been going for eleven months now!

I have thoroughly enjoyed the community feel of the yoga environment- lots of colour and conversations. I enjoy following up with someone regarding back pain while passing them on Aro street, making new friends to catch up for a coffee and most importantly, being a part of such a wonderful community. I appreciate your positive feedback and words of encouragement. I am happy to announce an additional yoga class on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. Classes will begin on Tuesday the 28th of July. I am honoured and privileged to be taking the class. The classes will remain to a style similar to the Saturday morning classes- compassionate, yet dynamic, which covers the range from Vinyasa (athletic) to Yin (restorative). Perfect for anyone and everyone. I look forward to seeing you on the mat Tuesday evenings at 6.

Namaste!

Maggie Kelly [maggie52@gmail.com](mailto:maggie52@gmail.com)



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<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	KROON FOR YOUR KAI GIANT JENGA COMPETITION
<b>THURSDAY</b>	SLOW BOAT RECORDS MUSIC QUIZ
<b>FRIDAY</b>	LIVE MUSIC
<b>SATURDAY</b>	THE ARVO SHOW + LIVE MUSIC
<b>SUNDAY</b>	BINGO WITH MRS MABEL SMITH RECOVERY SESSIONS
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Day	Time	Activity & Cost	Contact
Monday	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class Koha	Yi Ching Mao 384 3588
	During school terms 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm 4.45 pm – 5.45 pm	Wonderplay First class free! 5 – 8 years 9 – 12 years	Deborah Rae 021 172 2836 wonderplaydrama@gmail.com
	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 – 2.00pm	Hair for you @ Aro Valley haircuts \$20 and under	txt or call Kellie on 027 8007432
	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Yoga with Maggie koha	Maggie Kelly maggiek52@gmail.com
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	9.30am – 11.30am	ESOL English Language Class Koha	Wendy Vink: teacher Contact AVCC 384 8499 community@arovalley.org.nz
CSA Organic food pick up	12 noon - 1.00pm	Lynsey's QiGong koha	Lynsey 021 267 6638
	2.00 pm - 2.30 pm 3.30 pm - 4.15 pm During school terms	Kids Jazz Dance Classes Preschool School Age 5-8yrs \$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 <sup>nd</sup> weekly class Northland Community Centre)	Colin Berry 027 249 5342 • 475 9985
Friday	7.15am – 8.15am	Tai Chi Class koha	Lynsey 021 267 6638
CSA Organic food pick up	10.30am - 12.00 noon	Sing For Your Life - community singing. \$5 a time	Julian Raphael 802 5398 communitymusic@extra.co.nz
Saturday	9.00am – 10.00am	Yoga with Maggie koha	Maggie Kelly maggiek52@gmail.com
	11.00am - 12.30pm	Meditation with Purmina free	Purmina Sharma 022 124 2192
	1.00pm – 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	10.30am – 12.00 noon	Yoga with Mary \$10 waged \$7 unwaged	Mary Dimmock marydimmock@hotmail.com
	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Small Voices - Munting Tinig Children's Choir and Filipino culture - All Welcome	Miriam Vilalba 0221 757 243



### VALLEY VOICE

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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

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

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**(04) 384-8499**

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## NO FLYOVER?

NZTA is appealing the EPA  
decision. Find out how you  
can save the Basin and  
help stop the flyover at:  
**www.savethebasin.org.nz**

## Birds of Aro Valley

Holly Ormond emailed us the other day with this picture, suggesting we cover more stories about the birds in Aro Valley: "There is a kaka outside my window in the crack of Devon street right now, and I got this attached photo the other day too. I saw about five colourful parrots together. (see picture)," she wrote. So send us your bird photos and stories too: **aro.voice@gmail.com** and we'll print them in the paper. Thanks Holly!



## Superette update

Manjula Patel's grocery business has closed its doors at 103 Aro Street, and plans are now commencing for the superette's redevelopment. Meanwhile building owner Has Patel has an expensive upgrade planned for the superette, which will reopen under new management.

"Basically we [want to] upgrade it and it'll be a grocery store again," Has Patel says. "We want it up and running as soon as possible." Patel feels that the upgrade will improve the shopping experience for locals.

"Hopefully the people of Aro Valley will get a lot more satisfaction out of [the store], the service, the facilities," he says. "There's a lot of little things that need to be redone."

Patel's nephew Jayesh Patel and business partner Raj Solanki will be installed as management.

Jayesh Patel feels that he and Solanki will be able to deliver great service and fresh management.

"We will try to give [Aro Valley residents] the best service, and make them happy," Jayesh Patel says.

Business partner Solanki says the new business will have a wide range of stock and longer opening hours.

"We're spending over half a million on that upgrade.

"It's a good benefit for Aro Valley," he says.

The building will be closed for the duration of the renovations.

Meanwhile, Manjula's new dairy across the road at 100 Aro Street will reopen in a few weeks.

Elizabeth Beattie

## Native regeneration in Tanera Gully and Epuni St



Denis Asher, with volunteers Malcolm Yockney and Jo McKay after a planting session at the Epuni St Tanera Gully restoration site. Photo: Julia Stace

Community support for the idea of re-wilding Tanera Gully/Epuni St proved immediately strong and has been ongoing as demonstrated by consistent numbers and individuals turning out for weeding and planting out events. Significant ongoing issues are to undertake a species list of plants growing in the area, and an audit of pest mammals, so as to accurately target suppression initiatives. Weeding and animal pest control will require ongoing effort, because of ready re-invasion from uncontrolled, adjoining areas, and the huge reservoir of pest seeds already coming to life as areas are cleared for planting back the original native species. But efforts to date have proved immediately rewarding as the potential for restoration of this valuable, inner-city recreation area is revealed.

Denis Asher

**green computers**  
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