

Mt. Victoria Supplement



"Proudly serving the Mount Victoria community since 1956"

Vol.16.2, Spring 2008

Mt Vic residents battle Maori prejudice

A group devoted to building awareness and understanding of Maori issues has been set up by Mount Victoria residents wanting to make a difference for what they call "our indigenous brethren".

Charity facilitator Gaye White and arts benefactor Marylene Jones say the Mount Victoria Maori Development Council will give Pakeha an opportunity to meet every Tuesday and discuss these issues over a glass of wine and traditional Maori kai such as sushi.

"We think it's important to get together and address the many inherent social and genetic inequalities that feed rampant crime, poverty and poor health," says White.

White stresses that the focus of the group is to enable Pakeha to facilitate discourse about the problems faced by and contributed to by Maori.

"We're forming this group out of concern for the situation Maori have gotten themselves into, it's about what we can do to help mitigate their failure to fully adopt – and adapt to - the social enlightenment of colonisation. And we're doing it together as Pakeha because, at the end of the day, sometimes you need a group of citizens who don't have a vested interest."

"I once had a Maori Avon lady," notes Jones.

"As a pro-Maori group," continues White. "It would probably be somewhat awkward for Maori to attend, just as if I joined a pro-white group I'd be tarred and feathered out of town

"Besides, we're very much wine drinkers.



Gaye White and her companion Waterloo



Marylene Jones in her Sunday Best

We've seen Once Were Warriors, and it's clear they only drink beer. We want discourse on progressive strategies to counter prejudice to be the main incentive for turning up, not the lure of free beer, and the last thing we want to do is inadvertently contribute to domestic violence, which is another cause we're very committed to."

Election Hotline

Speculation mounts over Progressive Party's preferred coalition partner

Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party set to announce flagship policy

Labour showing worrying concern for poor, say Mt Vic residents

Gerry Brownlee admits conflict of interest over Big Ben share scandal

Blumsky reflects on triumphant stint in Parliament

Even Kedgley not voting for self, says campaign team

Kiwi Party splinters

INSIDE...

- Girl bites dog
- Pin-up
- Thank the rich day
- Oriental success
- Vital star signs
- Classifieds

YOUR LETTERS

Getting frank with Franks

I notice that Wellington Central candidate Stephen Franks explains that his insistence on voting against any piece of legislation that enhances civil liberties is that from his perspective as a lawyer, they are 'bad law', and he has concerns about the 'effects of word on law'.

Thus, he can claim that his constant stifling of social progress is nothing to do with bigotry.

I must ask, however; Franks was the Deputy Chairperson of the select committee that oversaw the drafting of the Civil Union Bill. If the legislation is that badly written, he must have been very ineffective in that role.

James Smythe

ED REPLIES: Mr Franks is a friend of the Mount Victoria Supplement, and we can't tolerate such mischievous nonsense. Neither have we ever received donations or other favours from Mr Franks. Good day to you.

Un-Classified

Hi there,

I'd like to advertise a Bake Sale for November 15 which is being organised by the Mount Victoria Pioneers Guild. Money will go towards orphans with Downs Syndrome. We really appreciate your assistance. The flyer with all the details is attached.

Joanne Seddon

ED REPLIES: I kindly remind you that community advertisements should be sent to mvsclassifieds@gmail.com, NOT the generic mountvictoriasupplement@gmail.com address, which is for letters and other correspondence.

Furthermore, you neglected to attach the flyer, despite your claim that you had. We run a busy publication and this kind of inconsiderateness is downright time wasting.

Please resubmit your advertisement WITH attachment to the correct email address, and we will be happy to include your advertisement in our Summer issue, due out in late March.

In The Dogbox

Dear Sir,

The dogs belonging to the following owners have befouled out streets since the last edition of the Mount Victoria Supplement:

- Joe McDonald
- Mssrs Jasper and Alena Smith
- That Guy from Hania Street Who Sometimes Wears A Kilt
- The Late Madeleine Malcolm
- Adrian and Danielle Fitzpatrick
- Sir Walter Huston
- The blind woman who lives up Majorbanks Street

Yours Sincerely,

Gwen Addison

ED REPLIES: Thanks again Gwen. You provide a valuable community service for us all.

Lovely Tulips

Dear Editor

Did you see the tulips at the Botanical Gardens? I've seen them twice now already. Aren't they just lovely? I'm considering going a third time.

Your Sincerely,
Astrid Murdoch

ED REPLIES: Yes. Yes, they are.

AT CROSSWAYS THIS MONTH:

- Let's Talk About Syphillis
- Indoor Croquet
- Mount Victoria Spinsters & Curators Collective: Annual General Meeting
- Shoes, shoes, shoes!
- Yentyl
- The Writer's Studio: The Craft Of Writing Tragedies In Limerick Form

GIRL BITES DOG

Anti-smacking law blamed as toddlers run wild



A public outcry over toddler control has erupted after a three year old girl mauled a German Shepherd on Elizabeth Street last week.

The dog was being walked past Elizabeth Street School when it was attacked by an unrestrained Scottish-Australian cross. It is understood the girl's mother was picking up the older brother at the school and the toddler was momentarily unsupervised as the mother exchanged date truffle recipes with another parent. The dog has required plastic surgery and over thirty stitches, although a full recovery is expected.

Toddler control groups say this is yet another example of unattended toddlers causing harm to innocent pets in Wellington. It follows an incident in Karori last week in which a two year-old ginger male tore off and devoured the hind legs of a dachshund. Other cases in the last month include a three year old Johnsonville lego construction foreman who sexually experimented with guinea pigs, and a four year old unemployed girl from Berhampore on her last day of childcare who shot a kitten in the face.

"We're not blaming the children. They're just doing what comes naturally. We're blaming the parents,

and the general breakdown of discipline in society brought about by the anti-smacking legislation," says concerned resident Botany Carruthers Jr.

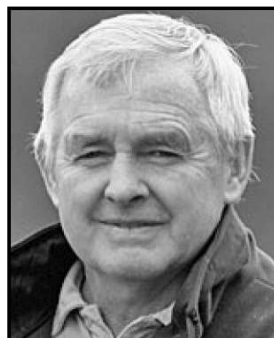
"If we can't physically restrain our toddlers, they will turn into killing machines. This is what we warned

about, and this is what has happened."

Garth McVicar was available for comment but he had nothing lucid to say.

Ms Carruthers is demanding that tougher legislation be put in place to punish negligent parents who fail to beat sufficient discipline into their children, and for ginger urchins, believed to be the most aggressive, to be phased out. Toddler control groups claim that in talks with National Party Leader John Key, he agreed to reverse the anti-smacking legislation bill he had supported yet later feigned to deplore, and to introduce their suggested legislation, but he now denies such an agreement has been reached.

The girl has since been destroyed.



Garth McVicar:
Nothing lucid
to say

PIN-UP PROFILE: Stephen Franks



"I'M GAY"

That's what "whining gays" might say to Stephen Franks before explaining to him why gay people should be allowed to marry like normal people. He has his reasons, of course, for disagreeing - "I love my dog but I'm not allowed to marry it."

He makes a fine and carefully thought-out point (although I'm sure he didn't mean to imply that he has romantic and sexual relations with his dog, or that he actually would have married his dog if only his efforts weren't stymied by the registry office).

Gay people have as yet failed to prove that they have the loyalty and obedience of 'man's best friend'. Gays are not monogamous - everyone knows that they change their partners more often than their underwear. So why you would let them marry? It would be like voting for someone who changes political parties! I'm all for gay rights, but I want to be able to go to a public toilet without some fruit in arseless chaps proposing to me.

Wellington prides itself on being a liberal community. Like all liberals we support freedom of expression, and therefore, we love Stephen Franks' free and brave expression of what ordinary liberals might be afraid to say lest they be accused of actually being latently (or blatantly) homophobic.

Grateful poor to thank rich for trickle down wealth



November 17 marks Thanks The Rich day, and poor people everywhere are gearing up to offer their gratitude to the rich for their contribution to the welfare of the poor through the invention of trickle-down economics.

Thank The Rich Day is the brainchild of grocery packer Joe Brown, who says the poor have been too laissez faire in thanking the rich for distributing their wealth through the 'trickle down' mechanism. He sees Thank the Rich Day as a well overdue day of formal recognition of the inherent benevolence of the rich, who are in more need of moral support than ever after being wrongly pilloried for their supposed role in the credit crisis.

"Whose fault was it really?" says Brown. "The poor who were buying houses they can't afford. The rich are victims in all this."

"Who pays our paycheques? The rich. Who pays their paycheques and owns their companies? The rich. Us poor don't thank the rich enough. The hourly wage I earn packing their smoked salmon at Moore Wilsons has made me so grateful. When they make an investment in a bottle of fine wine, they're making an investment in me.

"Under National, my tax cuts will be smaller, but that's a good thing. A dollar or two for me, that's not going to make a difference, but a couple hundred a week for an executive, that's a lot of money to trickle down."

"And when they hold back pay rises so they can pay their executives million dollar bonuses, I sleep easy knowing that at the end of the day, they're thinking of my interests, that million dollars is gonna trickle down and look after me."

Mr Brown says the lukewarm reaction to National's tax cut package was a reflection of the naivety of the common man.

"Under National, my tax cuts will be smaller, but that's a good thing. A dollar or two for me, that's not going to make a difference, but a couple hundred a week for an executive, that's a lot of money to trickle down.

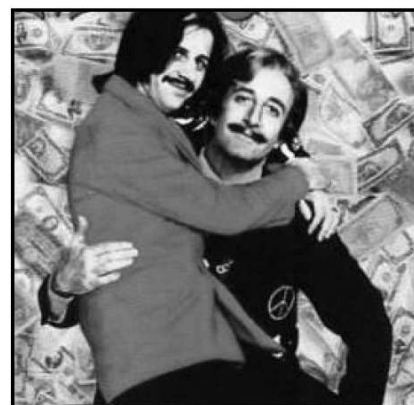
"The money's better off in their hands, where they'll spend it overseas or save it, thus not affecting inflation, and thus keeping my grocery prices down. If I had the money, I'd only fritter it away on groceries and power or footwear for my children, and we all know increased spending leads to inflation, so I'd be making things more unaffordable for myself. Which could be alleviated by a pay rise, but that would be inflationary, so I'd actually be worse off in the long run. Besides, if I have a pay rise, that's less money for my boss to trickle down to me.

"The rich are rich because they're good with money, and by ensuring what trickles down to me is finite, they teach me how to budget – it's like pocket money."

Mr Brown says trickle down theory is proof that capitalism works for the poor.

"There's an old view that if you feed the horse enough oats, some will pass through to the road for the sparrows. And as a sparrow myself, I'm grateful to be feasting on my share of the oats."

Poor people can celebrate Thank the Rich Day by making a donation at their local Business Roundtable castle. Donations over \$15 will receive free shoeshine.



Maori prejudice battle, from page 1

"I opposed the anti-smacking bill from day one." nods Jones.

White says she finds some of the ignorance she encounters upsetting. "For instance, I overheard someone in a cafe saying the other day, 'those Maori should go back to where they came from'. But of course, Maori were here before we were. A lot of people don't know that. Of course, I guess you could argue they came from Polynesia, and that perhaps they'd be better accepted if they moved back there. Perhaps it would be empowering. They'd be able to walk down the street in their grass skirts and no-one would stare at them.."

"I had a Maori in my house once. He stole a pincushion." says Jones. "Not their fault of course, they're very poor."

"We're good empathisers." stresses White. "We know how hard it is to be part of a minority. Marylene and I once got outvoted three to two by the Crochet Facilitation Committee on a motion about changing to a fair trade thread supplier. It was like living in the shoes of a Maori for a day. Except, of course, we don't shoplift ours."

"It's not their fault. They're very poor." says Jones.

White says Mt Victoria is an ideal place for such a group as there are very few Maori in Mount Victoria., giving an apt contextual backdrop for the group

"Maori people would probably feel out of place here, and it's that kind of mindset we want to address. People just aren't very welcoming to Maori here. It's not that they're openly racist, not at all, it's just a subliminal thing, stereotypes are a very powerful influence, especially when they're backed up by facts and figures. If any Maoris moved in, the reaction would be, 'Oh, what treaty settlement bought you this villa?' or 'Hmm, there's a Maori walking down the street, I hope I locked my car'. Often they're not a threat at all, they're just lost and want directions. So we want to educate people, and get people away from that condescending attitude that has plagued our attitudes towards Maori."

"Yes, they're much better off in Porirua I think," adds Jones

White accepts there is a long way to go before Maori can live as equals among Pakeha.

"While we may appear to be a liberal and multicultural society, we've always been behind the rest of the world." says Smith. "When Australia was rolling out progressive integration policies in the seventies for the Aborigine community, we were looking the other way hoping the problem would solve itself.

"We've made a lot of mistakes too, and I think Pakeha need to be brave enough to admit that. For example, when we bought our land from them so we could turn it into something productive, we paid them in firearms, that was a mistake, you look at the crime rate and the gangs, and you know what they've used those firearms for. But we also did some good, things, we also paid them in blankets, and I think we could perhaps revisit that approach, it would help keep their power bills down. And if we gave them money they'd just spend it on the pokies anyway."

"It's not about saying 'we're better than you'. It's about being constructive, saying, 'this is why, and this is what you can do to address it.'"

"I once had a Maori limousine driver" says Jones. "His name was Dances with Wolves. Just like that negro gentleman in Driving Miss Daisy. Lovely man. Had a license and everything. Good on him. Had to send him to jail for stealing my Valium though. Throw away the key, I say."

"What we really would like to do," says White. "Is to share the knowledge that helped has made Western civilisation prevail, work sets you free, that sort of philosophy. Our husbands work sixty hour weeks and that enables myself and Marylene to live lives of freedom, away from the seductive clutches of the welfare system. And our parents worked hard too, and if Maori perhaps worked a little harder, they too would be able to generate enough money to leave trust funds for their deserving daughters."



An artist's impression of a Maori

"A Maori took a bullet for my grandfather at Chunuck Bair," says Jones. "And Harold made sure his death wasn't in vain. He made millions from the Depression, and used it to feed the homeless and create jobs, so the world was a better place for that Maori making the ultimate sacrifice. Very brave, very brave man indeed. It took a uniquely courageous sort of character to play the Wall Street game in those precarious times."

White stresses that the group are keen patrons of all things Maori, particularly the arts.

"I don't like rugby, but I watch the haka" says White. "I also listened to Poi-E before it was famous."

"I think Air New Zealand's logo is lovely," says Jones. "And I voted for Winston in 1996. It's sad to see he's become symbolic of the Maori problem, committing the political equivalent of benefit fraud."

White says part of the Council's mission is to spread awareness of how far Maori culture has come.

"For example, you only need to look at Destiny Church to see that many Maori have ditched their silly spiritual beliefs for the indisputable truth of Christ and the Resurrection."

Maori prejudice, contd...

White notes, however, that traditional Maori taonga still receives a pleasing level of mainstream acceptance.

"It's funny, Pakeha, it means 'white meat', and white meat introduced by Europeans, such as chicken and pork, are eaten freely with a sense of spiritual detachment, but birdlife introduced by Maori, like the kiwi and the kakapo, are not eaten, like they're sacred cows. And I think that encapsulates the respect we have for Maori customs. We'll let you eat our Kentucky Fried Chicken, we'll let Mike King eat our trim pork, but we won't eat your kakapo."

"They did eat all the moas though," laughs Jones. "It's a shame, imagine being at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and getting to go on a moa ride! They are poor though,

so I don't blame them for eating what they could find. They didn't have handouts back then.

"Was Moa a white meat? Emu meat is red."

"Well, we'll never know, will we?"

White says the biggest barrier to Maori being fully integrated into society is prejudice. "The thing is, when your history is that of living like savages, even when you're colonised by a superior race, old habits die hard. And then when people start pigeonholing you as primitive savages, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, it's a real tragedy, and so society is almost as much to blame for their predicament as they are."

White concedes that without Maori, New Zealand would probably be a crime free,

poverty free utopia, but that it is churlish to belabour that point. "Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but we're all in it together now and we need to step up and make a difference."

And besides, she says, Mount Victoria is as close to utopia as herself and Jones need.

The inaugural meeting of the Mount Victoria Maori Development Council will focus on themes such as the congenital Maori propensity for tagging and cannibalism.

White and Jones are also forming a group to campaign to relocate the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary to Mount Victoria, on account of it being closer. Non-Maori are welcome to attend.

Mt Vic celebrates Oriental success story



The Lovely Lilly has seen clients of all creeds come far and wide

Yellow Fever is spreading fast throughout our suburb, but that's not necessarily a bad thing, says Mount Victoria Oriental Business Association Chief Executive Alfred Wong.

Wong is pointing to the success of new local business The Lovely Lilly, which is drawing a loyal and prolific client base, vindicating the faith Wong has shown in the ability of Orientals to run a successful business in this quintessential New Zealand suburb.

The Lovely Lilly, situated on Pirie Street, was established earlier this year by Oriental entrepreneurs Li Dan and Jason Shao, and its presence has already aroused considerable community interest.

"The Lilly has gone from three permanent staff to five in no time at all – all with the Council's blessing - and we feel there is ample potential for further expansion," says Mr Wong.

Mr Wong says he is delighted with the support from local community, and he credits Mount Victoria's parochial passion for locally supplied goods and services. He welcomes support from neighbours such as Anne Kelly, who lives

next door to the brothel, who has said "The Lovely Lilly has dramatically changed the nature of the community."

Ms Kelly, however noted ruefully that she has seen clients "leaving and entering the premises in the early hours of the morning . . . and behave in a secretive manner, avoiding eye contact and common pleasantries". Mr Wong agrees this attitude by some clients is disappointing,

"In these enlightened times, people should not be ashamed of being seen to embrace Oriental services," says Mr Wong.

Mr Wong accepts there has been some resistance from locals. For example, Mt Victoria Residents' Association president Kent Duston said increased business at The Lovely Lilly would create "traffic chaos".

Asked if such opposition was informed by racist pockets of our suburb, Mr Wong laughed off such suggestions.

"You don't have to be racist to be small-minded and stupid," he said.

CLASSIFIEDS

Now unvetted!

COME AND SEE MY CONSERVATORY. I just had it remodeled and you just have to see what I've done with the natural light. Visit anytime. I'm been so lonely since Ethel died.

GREEN TEA ENEMAS. Great for invigorating both your inner health and dinner party conversation. Very expensive. No refunds.

SIGN OUR PETITION: TV One's Sunday show recently went two entire weeks without an item on the youth drinking problem. Please sign our petition now to persuade Sunday to return to normal programming. Our lives are empty without shaking our heads and tut-tutting over drinking escapades while pretending we never got drunk, had a fight, and both vomited and fornicated in telephone boxes. And when our lives are empty we turn to the sherry. Which costs more now thanks to those drunken youths.

PERVERT ALERT. We've heard a rumour that someone who may have touched a child thirty years ago has moved into our neighbourhood. Join fellow concerned residents to remove scum like this from our midst, and have him moved either to a neighbourhood that doesn't have any children, or Porirua, where their children are surely already a lost cause.

GARDEN PARTY. A white collar convicted 'fraudster' has been released from prison after being persecuted for embezzling a mere \$5m from a pension fund he was only trying his best to manage. Garden

party to welcome this poor martyr back into the community, and to hear about how to sign up to his fantastic new wealth creation scheme. Sunday 9 November, I I am, Nicest House On EllisStreet

IF YOU ARE THE OWNER of a White Prius, registration OJF7673, that is parked near the corner of Brougham Street and Elizabeth Street; you've left your lights on.

OUIJA BOARD DISAPPROVERS SOCIETY meeting Tuesday. Bring own Ouija board.

LEARN TO SMILE. Let's turn those frowns upside down! Thirteen years experience. NZQA approved.

LOVE CROSSSTITCH? Call now for a group suicide on the first Tuesday of each month.

PILATES CLASSES. Great for the body and mind, and you can tell everyone that you do pilates.

SINGLE MALE, 44, well adjusted, recently divorced, seeks female who is into the arts and theatre. I also like to fill my mouth with water and pretend I'm a bidet. If you're into what I'm into, drop me a line.

I MET PETER JACKSON when he was filming Lord of the Rings in Mount Victoria. Email me and I'll tell you all about it.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP VEG-ETARIANS WHO LIKE THE SMELL OF COOKING MEAT We've formed a new community group devoted to providing support and creating awareness about vegetarians who like the smell of cooking meat. Thanks to the smell of cooking meat, we are never free from the tyranny of animal cruelty. Perhaps we can get it banned or something.

FEAURED HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT

Electric Toothbrush!

