

# Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | MARCH 2018

## Meeting draws good support

Maungaraki Community Association recently hosted a well-attended public meeting on the Hutt City Council's proposed District Plan change.

Many people throughout our neighbourhood and Hutt City have been unaware that some of the proposed planning changes to residential areas apply throughout the City, not just the nine targeted areas that have received most of the publicity. The meeting heard that infill housing could be built on any sized section.

Previously, it required that a section size be a minimum of 800 sqm plus a driveway before it could be subdivided. While these sub-divisions are proposed to be discretionary, the new rules will certainly make them easier to occur in Maungaraki than is currently the case. Comprehensive



Paul Matthews addresses the meeting at the Maungaraki Community Centre.

development on a section size of at least 1,400 sqm will be permitted and can be as high as 10 metres, up from the existing 8 metres, whilst covering 60% of the site compared to 35% at present.

Such developments are likely to be expensive in Maungaraki, given the value of housing at present and the earth works required. However,

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the proposed rules will make such developments easier to be built in Maungaraki.

It was agreed for the Maungaraki Community Association to make a submission on the proposed plan change. Concerns raised at the meeting were the potential for the 'character' of Maungaraki to be lost, increased traffic during the morning rush hour, less parking and less safer and efficient use of local roads.

The MCA would like to thank Environmental Planner Jenny Grimmett for attending and explaining many of the technical issues surrounding the plan change and the general district plan process which is a highly complex system.

Hutt City Councillors Margaret Cousins, Chris Milne, Josh Briggs and Simon Edwards were also present at the meeting, with each making helpful contributions to help ascertain greater clarification of the proposal and how best for the MCA and others to prepare submissions. National MP Chris Bishop was also in attendance.

The MCA would like to especially thank Paul Matthews for chairing and helping make the meeting run

smoothly. We are fortunate to live in a community where we are able to meet and discuss matters of importance to us. *By Max Shierlaw.*

## **Dog Grooming Service opens on Cypress Drive**

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Western Hills Toy Library update – March

Come on down and check out our great range of fun and educational toys for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

We are always updating our toys, with our range including: Train sets, vehicles & rocket ship, Dolls, dollhouses, buggies, cots.

A great range of dress-ups, Ride-ons, bikes & mini slides, New fold-up tables + chairs for parties.

Why join? Access quality toys for a minimal hire charge, Rotate toys to keep your child's interest, Age appropriate toys are

always available. Meet and chat to other families in our community Hiring is a good environmental option, reducing landfill waste from unwanted toys

Our online toy database (MiBase) enables members to login and view/reserve toys from home. If you have any queries talk to our Toy Librarian Mandy or email westernhillstoylibrary@gmail.com

\*\*March promo\*\*

Sign up or renew your membership in March and get your first three toys for free!

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Mixed age sessions Tuesday through Friday 9.15am - 11.45am Big kids 3.5years and over Mondays 9am-1pm  
Maungaraki@playcentre.org.nz

## Piano plays the right keys at Playcentre

A huge thank you to the Maungaraki Community Association for the donation of an upright piano.

Our young Playcentre children have enjoyed creating lots of musical noise, a wonderful asset for our centre.

We would love for any one in our community with children, from new-born to school starter, to visit us for a play, either on session or at our Open Day, Saturday 10th March, 10am-2pm.

We will have our awesome slides out, bikes, playdough, water play, mud kitchen and of course music!

Come join us for a coffee and some homemade baking.



A young girl's curiosity is peaked after tapping some keys on the Playcentre's latest addition, a piano, which was kindly donated by the MCA.

**Maungaraki Views** (ISSN 1171-1574 Print, ISSN 1179-5743 Online) is published by the **Maungaraki Community Association Inc.** The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the committee except where stated. For all news & advertisement enquires email [views@maungaraki.com](mailto:views@maungaraki.com). Copy deadline is the 20th of each month. Contributions & photos are welcome on the proviso that there is no obligation to publish. Any item may be edited and there exists no breach in copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect to the content of any article, photo or advert, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the contributor. **MCA President** | Tracey Coleman  
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