

THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mike Popple



Born in Sydney Australia. 12th October 1950

- Three sisters all living in Australia. Julie, Barbara and Elizabeth.
- Qualified Automotive Engineer.
- Certified Level 7 Northern Territory Government Local Govt. Town Clerk.
- Arrived in New Zealand December 1980.
- Moved into Mt Tabor rented house at 48 Williamson Ave.
- Married Lorraine Sands 14th March 1981.
- Had four daughters Renee, Kylie, Juanita and Elisha who all grew up living in Mt Tabor Houses with the core people.
- Have been Community Leader alone twice.
- Have been shared Community Leader twice, once with Lorraine and once with Marta Cullen.
- We usually lived 3 years in the Community and then a break for three years in Australia.

*Regards Mike Popple.
7th September 2016*

Andrew Melville



For the past 35 years Andrew Melville has worked in all forms of media sharing, telling and creating stories.

He has worked throughout New Zealand, Australia and Europe as a broadcaster, writer, PR consultant, writer, facilitator and community worker. Andrew also had a stint as a university lecturer at AUT University in Auckland and wrote a feature film, Mangrove, as part of a Master's degree in communication.

Andrew started Spoke, a communication consultancy, in 2004 with a focus on community engagement, storytelling and facilitation.

For the past decade, Andrew has been working with Maori tribes, government and business in New Zealand developing engagement strategies to help build better partnerships.

On and off since 1985, Andrew has worked in a number of roles with Mt Tabor, ranging from support worker, trustee, core people facilitator, manager and advocate.

Vicky Carr



Warm greetings to you all, he mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa.

My name is Vicky Carr, I am a retired teacher and I have been associated with Mt Tabor for seventeen years. I met one of our core in 1998 and became her advocate in 1999. Through attending core meetings with her, I began to know Mt Tabor's way of life. As an educator, I admired the way people were encouraged and supported to be the best they could be.

In 2004, I took on the voluntary position of Advocate's Coordinator and I am still doing this work. An important part of this is the convening of the Core meetings and the distribution on our Agendas and minutes. Every time I attend the meetings, I celebrate the growth in our Core Peoples ability to express themselves. I have had four years attendance at Board Meetings supporting the Core Trustees, which has deepened my understandings of Mt Tabor and its community. I have been working with another advocate to develop a Māori language and Culture programme that will respond to the various needs of our community. Now I have joined the Community Council and I hope to be able to put the experience I have gained through participating in the amazing world of Mt Tabor to very good use.

Mariet Janssen



Mariet Janssen, born in 1953 and was employed as a social worker, speciality community work in The Netherlands.

Came to NZ in 1978.

Worked for the post office and later telecom for 13 years. Was union rep in my branch.

Met partner David in 1979. We adopted Kevin Hannam in 1989 and had two other sons Rory and Sean. We separated in 1997 and moved to West Auckland.

We met Mt Tabor in 1981 in Grey Lynn, we were friends for years., and joined in celebrations, parties and camps.

David worked for Mt Tabor for 18 years and I now for 6 or 7.

When the boys were little, I took them to Play Centre, later I volunteered at their schools for reading, art and trips. I also drove people to a day program in Swanson Rd and tried to set up a parent support group with help from Ignite. I later joined a younger support group there and was their librarian.

In Mt Tabor I have worked at #30, Bex's house in Kumeu, #27, the cottage and now #43 Art and Drama and Choir.

Janine Felton



Janine has been part of the Mt Tabor community since May 2014 and has been our Community Leader since January 2015. Her approach to life and work is holistic, people focused and strength based and her leadership style is one of collaboration and clear vision.

Janine has a passion for working in community and assisting people to live fulfilled and positive lives. In her past life she has been a Community Chaplain in West Auckland, along with her experiences with Vision West Community Trust, Waitakere Alternative Education Consortium and Target Education.

Stacey Cuff



Stacey has been with Mt Tabor since August 2015. During that time he has enjoyed living with other deaf people, some of which we already knew from years ago.

Stacey is currently looking for work as he is saving for his driver's licence and then a car.

He really enjoys Deaf Club and goes every fortnight. He also enjoys his job of cleaning the Mt Tabor Offices every week and helping with Deaf Day Programme cooking and cards. He enjoys the trips and other activities Mt Tabor offers and going to the zoo.

Richard Swingler



Richard has been with Mt Tabor since 2005. In 2007 he started dating Nellie and they have now been together 10 years. They celebrated with a Commitment Ceremony in 2015.

Richard enjoys the activities, birthday parties, and other events, such as camp, that Mt Tabor offers.

He is currently looking for work and has great computer skills along with being a good artist.

As our newest member of the Community Council, Richard is looking forward to developing new skills for the future.