



# Mt VICTORIA

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## Historical Society News

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**No. 100, June 2022**

### **AGM**

**Sunday September 25, 2.30 pm  
Friends Meeting House, Moncrieff Street, Mt Victoria.**

**Followed by a talk by Barbara Brookes, Professor Emerita in History at the University of Otago.**

Over the year 1916-1917, 1051 young women passed through the Wellington Young Women's Christian Association's Hostels, including the one at 115 Brougham Street. Men's enlistment in the services for WWI meant an influx of young women into Wellington to take over their jobs and there was great demand for hostel accommodation. This did not abate after the war; in August 1919, forty more residential rooms were opened at the hostel in Brougham Street and were filled on the first day.

Now named 'Rowena's Lodge', this talk will explore the heyday of the YWCA Hostel and the role it played in young women's lives.

### **100 newsletters**

This is our 100<sup>th</sup> newsletter! Our first newsletter was produced in November 1995 and talked about the activities of steering committee set up to establish the Mt Victoria Historical Society and announced a talk by Ian Bowman, well-known architect and building conservation expert on architectural styles in Mt Vic. The full-page notice about the talk featured a border of some of the historic houses of the suburb. Fortunately only 2 buildings (top right-hand corner) are significantly changed – one has had another storey added and the other demolished (to make way for leaky apartments). For fun, we're attaching a copy of the notice, created in the days when painstaking cut and paste was required, at the end of this newsletter.

### **Volunteers**

We have a very small, rather stretched, committee and would love some new members! We'd particularly welcome someone to take on our very-uncomplicated membership/accounts, but you can also just start by getting to know more about what we do. And here's a project you might be interested in getting involved in, whether as a committee member or *ex officio*.

### **Heritage plaques**

We're keen to progress our heritage plaques for Mt Victoria homes project. The committee has done some preliminary work but would welcome involvement by members in any aspect, to really get it under way. The project will investigate the feasibility of installing 'historic site' plaques in Mt Victoria, including, funding, design, production, installation and communications. The purpose is:

- To enable Wellingtonians and visitors to identify sites of historic/architectural interest and undertake self-guided walking tours.
- To increase awareness and understanding of our rich history by making information more accessible
- To encourage residents of Mt Victoria to learn more about, and value, its heritage.
- To build Mt Victoria's reputation as a heritage destination

### **District Plan**

The District Plan has now been passed by Council, with virtually no change for Mt Vic from the Draft. Another round of consultation will start mid-July, but we will email separately with information and guidance about this.

## Edge Hill – the street that is not a street

By Anne Molineux

Edge Hill is a short, unassuming, no-exit street that runs off Kent Terrace between what is now Big Barrel and Saffron Haveli. Arguably its most distinguishing feature is a row of nineteenth century town houses at numbers 10 to 16, which look out over the city to the West, and Clyde Quay School to the East.



*Limpsfield Lodge,  
ca. 1886-1892*

Edge Hill was at one time home to one of Mount Victoria's earliest and most prominent dwellings – 'Limpsfield Lodge', later 'Marlborough House' – situated atop a small but prominent hill at the base of Mount Victoria, at the site of the present-day Halswell Lodge.<sup>1</sup>

Edge Hill was formed as the result of the subdivision of Town Acre 305, some time between 1891 and 1895. There is no evidence of the street or houses on the Thomas Ward survey of 1891, but an 1895 picture shows the four row houses in place by that time.<sup>1</sup> These houses were of a classic New Zealand villa style, with similar internal layouts. Given their style and location it is likely they were built by the same builder as 'spec' homes of the time, to be purchased by or rented out to working families.

Edge Hill was presumably named as such because it runs up the small hill on the edge of the city – although there was also an Edge Hill in Liverpool, England at this time, and it was also the name of an Otago farm, and a school in Auckland.

The first reference to Edge Hill can be found in the Evening Post on 10 March 1892, in which Mrs Ingram advertised for a "strong girl, about 16, to assist with housework".<sup>1</sup>



*Edge Hill, 1895*

A photograph from 1928 offers the best illustration of the original, unaltered facades of the four row houses.<sup>1</sup>



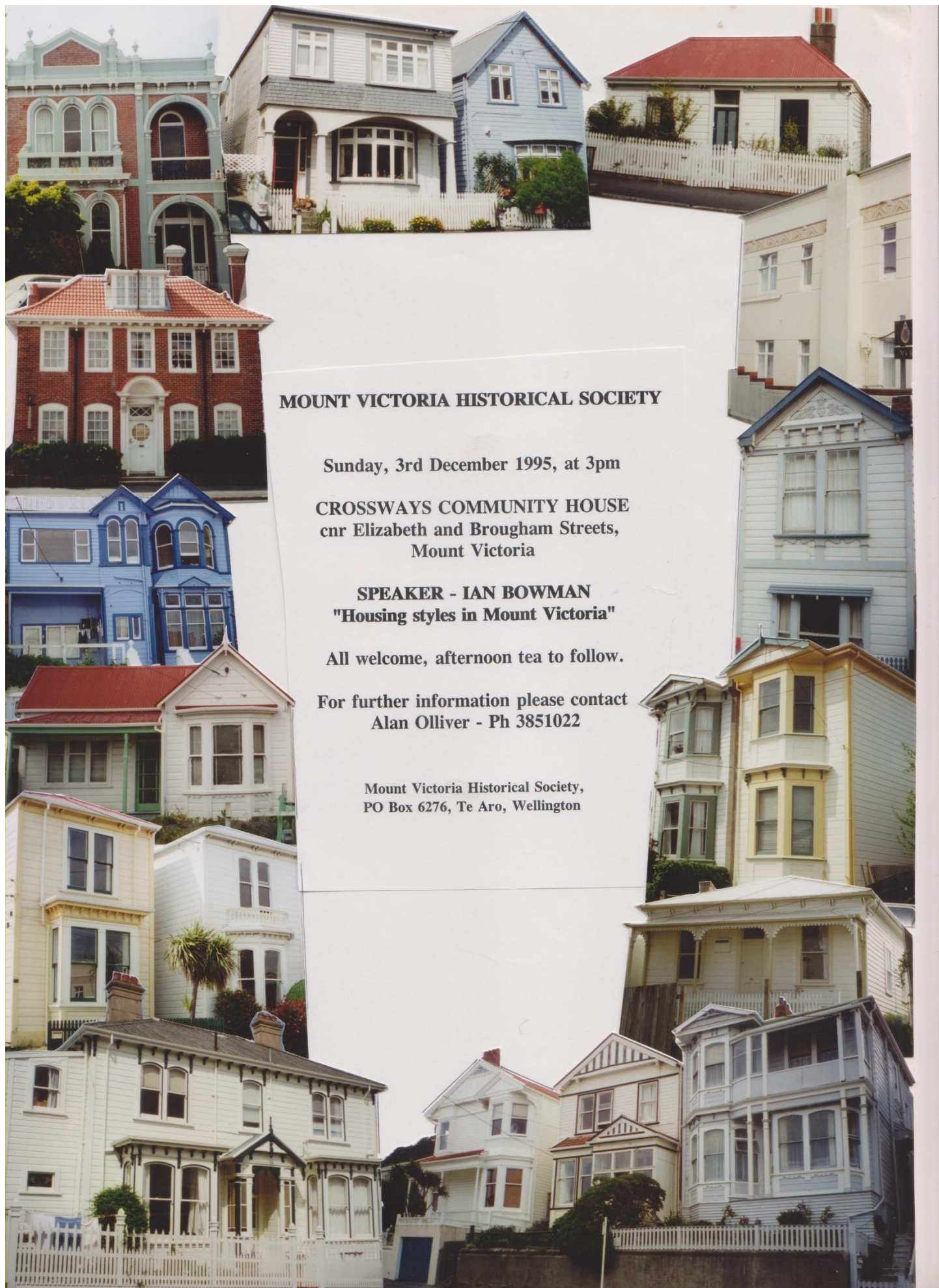
*Edge Hill, 1928*

I took inspiration from this photo in building this model, imagining what these houses might have looked like when first constructed in the 1890s. The model is loosely based on a scale of 1:50, and is constructed primarily from foam board and cardboard. The paint colours were taken from the Resene Heritage collection.



*Model of houses at 10 to 16 Edge Hill*

<sup>1</sup> Mt Victoria, Wellington. Ref: 1/2-059957-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. records/22779475



**MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Sunday, 3rd December 1995, at 3pm

**CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
cnr Elizabeth and Brougham Streets,  
Mount Victoria

**SPEAKER - IAN BOWMAN**  
"Housing styles in Mount Victoria"

All welcome, afternoon tea to follow.

For further information please contact  
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