# Mount Victoria Historical Society News - no. 2, FEBRUARY 1996.

GREETINGS

The Steering Committee hopes you all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas holiday. We have enjoyed The Evening Post's "Old Wellington" series published over the holidays, and several related "Letter's to the Editor". One letter (24-1-96) told of a tram accident on the corner of Brougham and Pirie Streets on 3-1-20, in which three people were killed. We also hope you have taken the opportunity to inspect the newly refurbished/restored Parliament Buildings and Old Government Buildings during their recent open days. The Dept of Conservation has published a small booklet about the latter. Entitled The New Zealand Government Buildings - Past and Present, it costs $5-00.

The Steering Committee has decided to arrange an activity every two months, varying talks with visits, and trying a variety of venues and meeting times. It is hard to find times that suit everyone, but we will try. The committee has just completed a final version of a constitution for the Society and hope to get it ratified soon.

We have arranged a visit to one of our local landmarks - **Wellington East Girls College Main Building** on **Sunday 11th February at 3-30pm.** We will start with a talk about the history of the Main Building, then will be shown around it in small groups. Refreshments will served afterwards. Please meet at the Main building entrance. Parking is available behind the school.

The Main building was built in 1924 by C. A Lawrence and has a NZ Historic Places Trust classification and Wellington City Council Heritage Listing. The Council's Heritage Building Inventory describes the architectural style of the building as "Stripped Classical with elements of Inter-War Palazzo".

The Society's next activity will be a visit to the **Wellington City Council Archives** in April. Archivist Michelle Redwood and her assistant Adrian Humphris will talk to us about the resources of the archives including City Council records, maps, photographs, individual house plans etc. They will then give us a tour around the facility. The Archive is in the process of moving into it's purpose built facility within the Council's premises in Tory Street and is not yet officially open to the public. We have arranged this visit for a week day - **Wednesday 17th April at 5-00pm**. The Archive entrance is at the very end of Barker Street, off Cambridge Terrace. Look for the blue door entranceway and WCC Archives sign.

For our June activity, we are arranging to show some old films of Wellington. More details later.

We hope you enjoyed Ian Bowman's talk last year. Ian refered to several books during his talk and I have listed these below in case people wish consult them.

OVERSEAS BOOKS

Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, Identifying Australian architecture, styles and terms 1788-present.
Carter, Goss, Utah's Historic Architecture 1847-1940.
Poppeliers, Chambers, Schwartz/National Trust for Historic Preservation, What is style? - a guide to American Architecture.

NEW ZEALAND BOOKS

Ashford, Jeremy, The Bungalow in New Zealand, 1994.
Bowman, Ian, Heritage Building Inventory, Wellington City Council, 1985.
Hill, Martin, Restoring with style - preserving the character of New Zealand Houses, 1985.
Salmond, Jeremy, Old New Zealand Houses 1800-1940, 1986.
Stewart, Di, The New Zealand villa, past and present, c1992.

The Society has generously been given a copy of the three volume Heritage Building Inventory by the Council and we will bring them along to our next meeting for people to look at.

The Thorndon Society's latest Thorndon News (no.108) is an interesting special issue. It lists and gives brief details about, all the Wellington City Council, NZ Historic Places Trust listed, and the Thorndon Trust's Notable Homes. The centre pages feature a map of Thorndon, giving the building locations, providing an excellent guide for a fascinating Sunday afternoon stroll. The Public library has copies of the Thorndon News and you can see this issue there.

Most will know that the Lambton Harbour Management wants to remove Queen Victoria's statue from Kent/Cambridge Terrace to put in Post Office Square.
This action requires a resource consent and the Steering Committee has decided to put in an objecting submission. We feel the statue is appropriate in it's current position and will present that view to the Council.

Terence Hodgson's book Colonial Capital, 1990, details the statue's history and has an interesting photo of it's removal from P.O. Square. The citizens of Wellington wanted something to mark Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and commissioned a statue. It was finally installed in 1905. The statue only reigned in Post Office Square for some 6 years before it was removed to it's current position in 1911, so electric tram lines could be laid in the wharf area.

We hope you will be able to come along to our forthcoming meetings. If you have any comments, know of a potential speaker for the group, please speak to one of the Steering Committee members.

Julie Middleton, Steering Committee, Mount Victoria Historical Society, P.O. Box 6276, Te Aro, Wellington

# MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY, 3-30pm**

Visit to **Wellington East Girls' College Main Building**, a local landmark and heritage listed building.

Listen to a talk about the building and go on a tour around it.

Meet outside the Main Building, parking at the rear of the school.

**WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL, 5-00pm**

Visit to **Wellington City Council Archives**, Barker Street (off Cambridge Tce).

Hear about the Archives resources - City Council records, maps, photographs, house plans etc and be shown around by the staff.

For further information contact Alan Olliver
ph 3851022.

MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 6276, Te Aro, Wellington.