MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS - No. 3 JUNE 1996

Greetings

A lot seems to have happened since the last newsletter. Our visit to the Wellington East Girls College Main Building was very successful. It was interesting to see the results of the recent building refurbishment, to hear about the history of the school and see their collection of historic photos. Thanks to Christine for arranging this visit, to Principal Janice Campbell for her hospitality, and to Old Girls Mrs Alice Stubbs and Betty Martin for their tales of school days gone by. The School has a strong Old Girls Association and welcomes new members.

In April about twenty members enjoyed an early evening visit to the Wellington City Council Archives in Barker St. Archivist Michelle Redwood explained the background of the archives and the resources it holds. She showed us the neighbouring warehouse where records are being temporarily stored, having been rescued from the basement of the Old Town Hall before its refurbishment. We then saw the newly refurbished corner of the Tory St building with moveable shelving, where the records will eventually be housed. Eventually the archive will acquire all the paper records of the Maritime Museum, and also all the photographs taken by the WCC Photographer. The archive staff had set up a display of material for us to look at - rating registers, committee record books, architectural plans, old city street maps, and an interesting map of the Basin Reserve as it was planned as a dock, with Kent/Cambridge Terraces as canals.

The archive is being officially opened soon. The public are welcome to go to there and use the resources. Michelle and her staff are very knowledgable and happy to assist you with your inquiries and research. Our thanks to Michelle and her assistants, Adrian and Jo for an enjoyable and fascinating visit.

We realise that the early evening timing of the archives trip was probably not convenient for some people. Unfortunately the Archives is not open at the weekends. Michelle has generously offered to host another visit sometime in the future at a different time, perhaps during the weekend, if there was sufficient interest.

Our **June** activity is scheduled for **Sunday 9th, 3-00pm at Crossways**. Euan Harris will show us black and white **Newsreels from the 1940's, 50's and 60's**. Each newsreel has three or four short items of everyday New Zealand life as well as the more newsworthy events such as state funerals, the opening of Parliament etc. Euan will chose some newsreels which have a least one segment about Wellington on them. If you haven't seen old newsreels before, they are a fascinating glimpse at times gone by.

On **Sunday August 11th, 3pm at Crossways** we have **Bill Main** from the **NZ Centre of Photography,** to speak to us. He will give an illustrated talk about the history and development of photography in New Zealand. Many of you will be familiar with Bill Main's excellent books "Wellington through a Victorian Lens" and "Bragges Wellington and the Wairarapa".

You may have seen in the newspapers that the City Council recently launched the first of a series of Heritage Trail booklets - one on Thorndon and one for the Aro Valley. These booklets can be purchased at the Visitor Information Centre (City Council Building) and are excellent value for $1-00 each. Each booklet has a map, and guides you through the area, describing the history and main places of interest as you go. Further booklets are planned on the themes of the Shoreline, Maritime and Maori Heritage. The Heritage Trails Foundation, which coordinates the trails, is working on establishing walking and driving trails all over the country, for the benefit of locals as well as tourists. Our own committee is working on a walking guide for Mt Victoria and hopes to take people on guided walks this coming summer.

Reviews have appeared in most newspapers lately on David Johnson's book "Wellington Harbour", costing $69-95. With 580 pages and lots of photographs, it is a comprehensive history of the port.

Members of the Historic Places Trust will have noticed the article on George Shannon in the March issue of the Trust's magazine "Historic Places". Shannon St is named after this successful colonist as is the township of Shannon, from his involvement in the Manawatu Railway Company. Several other articles in this issue also relate to Wellington. If you don't belong to the Trust, individual issues of this magazine can be purchased in the shops.

The Committee made a submission against the removal of the Queen Victoria Statue from its current site to Post Office Square. Alan presented the case at the Resource Consent hearing on May 2nd. The Residents' Association also made an objecting submission. We delayed sending out this newsletter hoping a decision on this case would have been made by now, but unfortunately no decision has yet been made.

Finally to some administrative matters. We are now a fully fledged Incorporated Society. The committee had been working on the constitution and luckily we had it all signed, sealed and delivered before the price increase from $22 to $200 that occurred on 1 April. Thanks to all those who at short notice, signed and witnessed the incorporation documents.

Our constitution itself is fairly standard. The aims are as discussed at the first meeting. The financial year chosen is 1 July to 30 June with the AGM set for around September. The committee will consist of up to 8 people with the usual convenor, secretary and treasurer. The power to set membership fees is initially vested in the Committee and afterwards amended as necessary by the AGM. The Steering Committee has set the fees at the following for the 1996/7 financial year -

Individual/Family	- $20-00
Student/unwaged	- $10-00
Newsletter only	- $10-00

We hope you think these amounts are reasonable. They are certainly in line with other organisations that people belong to. Membership fees are due soon so you can get out your cheque books out at the June or August meetings. We will have a form to fill out when joining, just to give us some basic information about you.

The Committee has decided to give up having a Post Office box number. The expense did not warrant the use it got. In future we will use the Convener's address - 37 Ellice St, Mt Victoria.

See you all at the forthcoming meetings.

Julie Middleton, Mount Victoria Historical Society, 37 Ellice St, Mt Victoria.

Steering Committee

Alan Olliver (Convener)	PH 3851022	Jim Harper	PH 3858377
Julie Middleton (Sec)	PH 3851022	Euan Harris	PH 3844770
Jo Newman (Treasurer)	PH 3852254	Christine Marshall	PH 3842513
Anna-Maria Sviatko	PH 8016329		

MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sunday 9th June at 3-00pm
Crossways, Brougham St

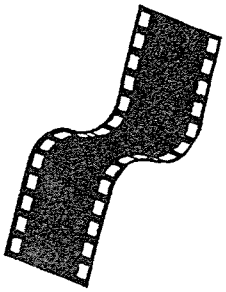
Movie Screening
Black and White Newsreels from the 1940's, 50's and 60's.

All Welcome

For further information contact Euan Harris ph 3844770
or Alan Olliver 3851022

Sunday August 11th at 3-00pm
Crossways, Brougham St

Speaker - Bill Main, Director of NZ Centre of Photography

Topic - An Appreciation of New Zealand Photography.
(an illustrated talk on the history of photography in NZ)

All welcome, contact Alan Olliver ph 3851022