MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS
No. 4 October 1996

Our first **AGM** will be held on **Sunday October 20th at Crossways at 3pm**. Afterwards we will have a talk by local resident **Tony Bartley** about the **Shannon Street Fire** which occurred on the 30th May 1901. The fire was fanned by a good Wellington gale and destroyed about 22 houses in Shannon, Moeller and Hawker streets.
Tony's own Shannon Street house is an insurance paid rebuild after the fire.

It is hard to imagine that the Society has been going for a year now. We will have copies of the constitution available at the AGM. Only those who have paid their membership are entitled to vote. A committee of up to eight people is required to be elected. The committee itself elects its own Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer from its own ranks. All the current steering committee, including new member Ross Macfarlane are willing to be on the committee for another year. We would like some general feedback on the activities we have arranged this last year and discussion as to what the Society should be doing in the future, any ideas on potential speakers, places people want to visit, potential sponsors etc. Come along and give the committee your ideas.

We hope you enjoyed the last two activities that we organised. Images of whaling in Cook Strait in the 40's, the building of St Pauls in Molesworth St in the 60's and the last sheep drive through Wellington streets in 1950, provided us with some interesting viewing at the June film afternoon.

At the August meeting, Bill Main gave us a fascinating account of the technical development of photography and showed us slides of the work of early photographers who passed through or lived in Wellington. Amongst his slides were several interesting views of our suburb. He has kindly invited the Society to visit the Centre for Photography premises in Inverlochy House some time in the future, to see the old cameras etc he has on display there.

Thank you to those who have paid your 1996/7 memberships. The Society runs on a fairly minimal budget and this will clear a few of our establishment debts and put a little money in our kitty for running expenses and the future. Membership fees for the 1996/7 financial year are -

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

Please post this to 37 Ellice St or see our Treasurer at the AGM.

Our December activity will be a **Guided Walk of Northern Mount Victoria**. The route will be from the Queen Victoria Statue up to the Monastery and Shannon St, down to Majoribanks St and back via Austin and Elizabeth Streets to Crossways. We are preparing a guide to the interesting houses, buildings and the history of these streets with a view to publishing it in the future. Please meet at the **Queen Victoria Statue at 3pm on Sunday December 8th.** If the weather is not suitable we will hold it the next Sunday December (15th). Ring 3851022 on the day if the weather is inclement.

Happily the Queen Victoria Statue will be staying put. Lambton Harbour Management/Wellington City Council's application to shift it to Post Office Square was declined. The Hearing Commissioners were unimpressed by LHM/WCC's indecision, after its original application, as to where exactly the statue was to be put within the Square. We had wondered if they might make another application with a more definite proposal at a later date. According to the Evening Post of 5-9-96, the planners have given up altogether the idea of moving the Queen Victoria statue. They now intend to put artwork such as the statue of John Plimmer in Plimmer Steps in the P.O. Square.

There is an interesting exhibition currently on in the National Library Gallery - "From Wellington to the Wairarapa - watercolours by Christopher Aubrey". It has 13 original watercolours of early Wellington, the Hutt and some Wairarapa towns, some with accompanying photographs of the same view in the same period. Of particular interest to us is an 1889 painting of Oriental Bay, Aubrey's well known view of Brougham Street, and a harbour view over Te Aro Flat looking out to the Hutt. The exhibition is on until the 3rd November.

Did you take the opportunity to look over the St James Theatre on its recent open day? It is heartening to know that this building will now be restored and its future is assured. A recent front page article in Contact (12-9-96) outlined the restoration plans for the Embassy Theatre. This too is good news for the
neighbourhood. If people are interested in these buildings we could try and get someone to talk to us about them and/or take us on a tour?

You may not want to eat at the Burger King, the new fast food out let in the bank building on the Manners Mall/Cuba Street corner, but do go in there all the same. On the walls are photos of the surrounding streets in days gone by. Some interesting old advertising posters also adorn other walls.

With the summer weather comes the urge to take up the paint brush again. Levene has put out a series of painting colour guides called "Keeping in Character".

The series has a brochure for Victorian Cottages/Villas, Edwardian and Transition Villas, Californian Bungalows, English Cottage, and Modern/Spanish Mission styles.
Each brochure discusses the features of each style and suggests different colours schemes. They are similar to the Resene Heritage Colours brochures, mentioned in an earlier newsletter.
See you at the next meeting.

Julie Middleton

STEERING COMMITTEE

Alan Olliver (Convener)	ph 3851022
Julie Middleton (Sec)	ph 3851022
Jo Newman (Treasurer)	ph 3852254
Jim Harper	ph 3858377
Euan Harris	ph 3844770
Christine Marshall	ph 3842513
Ross Macfarlane	ph 3844388

Mount Victoria Historical Society Inc

presents

THE GREAT FIRE OF SHANNON & HAWKER STREETS 30 May 1901

an illustrated talk by Tony Bartley

preceded by the

MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

new members welcome

at

Crossways, Cnr Elizabeth and Brougham Sts,
Sunday 20 October - 3pm

Enquiries to Alan Olliver, 37 Ellice St, Mt Victoria ph 3851022

GUIDED HERITAGE WALK OF NORTHERN MOUNT VICTORIA

Sunday 8th December, 3pm

Meet at the Queen Victoria Statue, between Kent and Cambridge Terraces

Phone Alan Olliver on 3851022 for more information
(postponed to Sunday 15th if wet)