

MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

No. 5 APRIL 1997

Future Events-

❖ St Gerard's Monastery

On the Saturday 26th April at 3.30 p.m. the Society has arranged a visit to St Gerard's Monastery. After a guided tour, there will be a talk about this historic building and afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome to attend. So we can inform St Gerard's of the numbers attending please ring Alan Olliver – phone 3851022 if you intend coming.

The Committee is currently working on organising activities for the winter. Check the Mt Victoria Newsletter for details and look out for further editions of this newsletter.

Queen Street Stables

Most of you will have read the item about the Stables in the April Mount Victoria Newsletter. We would really like to hear from anyone that we have not already spoken to, so we can complete our research into the history of the stables. Phone Alan or Julie on 38510022

Reprinted here is the item from the Newsletter -

HISTORIC STABLES – 21 QUEEN STREET

With the recent sale of this property, concerns developed about the fate of the horse stables at the rear. Could they be lost to a town house development? Could something be done to protect them and the historic environment?

Neighbour Barry Thomas and other locals put notices up in the street to raise awareness of the stables while the Residents' Association and Historic Society wrote to the Council to request a heritage order be placed on them. The Historic Society also began researching the origins of the stables. Our thanks goes to locals Jan Simpson of the Mount Victoria Cafe, Pat and Jack Howard, David Lee, ex Queen St residents Arthur Ashenden, Ngaire Boniface and Mr Fred Langdon, the grandson of the original owner, and the Wellington City Archive staff, who have all helped to piece the story together.

21 Queen St was purchased in 1885 by Hart Langdon and the house was constructed soon after. The family lived there until 1895 when they purchased the building on the corner of Queen and Brougham St (now the Mt Victoria Cafe). They lived on the premises and opened a store and later a bakery. The family continued to own 21 Queen St (until 1963) and rented it out.

The stables at 21 Queen St were built in 1906/7, and were probably to supplement the stables at the Langdon's corner shop. As well as the normal deliveries associated with a shop and bakery, they were involved with general cartage, eg. delivering coal to the Wellington Gas Company in Tory St.

In 1924 Mr Oliver Sommerville moved into neighbouring number 19. He worked for McGowan & Magee, a cartage company based in Barker Street and used the stables to store a long covered cart. The stables were also used to garage a local doctor's car. Locals can remember horses grazing up on Mt Victoria in the area that is now the bowling club and Pirie Street park.

We are still trying to establish exactly when the stables ceased being used as such. In order to complete our research we would be grateful to hear from anyone else who has any other information about the stables, or the Langdon's store, or has any photographs of Queen St or environs. We are also interested to hear from people who can tell us of other stables (or stable remains) in Mt Victoria. If the Queen St stables are the only ones remaining in this locality, then their priority for heritage protection is raised considerably.

Lottery Grants Board

On 14th March the Environment and Heritage Committee approved a grant for us to produce a reprint and (possible update) of Fanny Irvine-Smith's Streets of My City. As one of Society's aims is to promote the history of Mt Victoria, this grant is welcomed. A great deal of preparation went into the application by Julie Middleton and Jim Harper, with strong supportive references coming from Mike Hartfield, Heritage Analyst, WCC and Wayne Tomlinson of the Resident's Association.

Walking Guides -

❖ The Northern Walking Guide

The Northern Guided walk has been held twice, firstly on Sunday December 8th and again on February 9th. Just over 20 people took part on the first occasion, a beautiful sunny afternoon. The harbour looked magnificent from Macfarlane Street with a cruise ship berthed at the Overseas Terminal. After about two hours we were ready for afternoon tea, hosted in Elizabeth Street by committee member Christine Marshall and her husband Gary.

A small select group braved a windy and initially wet afternoon for the second walk. The weather cleared and was fine enough for us to enjoy the walk and Christine's hospitality and garden once again.

The Northern Walking Guide is still evolving with corrections and additions being included. We don't know much about the shops in the lower Marjoribanks/Roxburgh Street area, or much about the Elizabeth St area. If you know of any historical building, feature, event or anecdote, please contact Alan or Julie on 3851022.

❖ The Southern Walking Guide

This guide has yet to be written, with research still in its infancy. The proposed route starts again at the Queen Victoria statue, goes along Kent Tce to Pirie St, turns up Pirie St into Hania St, and takes the alleyway through to Moir St. Upon reaching Brougham St, we turn left then first right into Armour St, right into Porritt Ave, left into Ellice St, right into Austin St to view Wellington East Girls College and Etrick Cottage. We proposed to backtrack down Austin St to Pirie St, walk down Pirie Street and turn right into Brougham St to end the walk.

We have clusters of information along the proposed route but the jigsaw puzzle needs to be put together. If you can help with research or provide any information or photographs please do not hesitate to contact Alan or Julie.

❖ Heritage Trails

Two more Wellington City Council Heritage Trails have been produced to add to the ones produced last year on the Aro Valley and Thorndon.

The Old Shoreline guide begins with the City Council Destructor and yard in Herd Street and progresses along Courtenay Place, through to Civic Square, Willis Street and then along Lambton Quay. This booklet contains some interesting photographs of the Courtenay Place area, as well as details on the Art Deco Prudential Assurance Building and its neighbours on Lambton Quay which are currently under threat of demolition.

The Maritime guide covers the waterfront area from Shed 21 by the Railway Station, along the wharves to the band rotunda at Oriental Bay, detailing the history of all the main waterfront buildings. Of interest to our part of town is the Herd St P.O. and the Chaffers Marina/Clyde Quay Boat Harbour area. An interesting map at the end of the booklet details the dates and locations of the harbour land reclamations.

Accompanying these guides are information panels strategically placed along the routes. You may have noticed one in Blair Street, one in Civic Square and another outside the Maritime Museum, to name but a few.

These booklets are available from the Visitor Information Centre in the City Council building for \$1.00 each.

❖ Art Deco Walk

On Sunday 23rd February Judy Siers of the Onslow Historical Society ran the first Art Deco walk around Wellington. Art Deco has been much maligned but is now being noticed as something worth keeping. Napier has recently restored many of its Art Deco buildings and its annual Art Deco Festival has proved a great success with locals and tourists alike.

Many of the buildings along this walk are located within our own heritage catchment or nearby - including the Embassy

Theatre, the Central Fire Station, Fountain Court, Herd St Post Office, Edmund Anscombe's own apartment at 212 Oriental Parade and Wekutawai, a house he designed at 90 Oriental Parade. Other buildings which could easily be added to the list could include Belvedere in Austin/Majoribanks St, Strawberry Fare and Flanagans in Kent Terrace, the old Rehabilitation League building at 21 Hania St reet and Owd Trafford - 17 Brougham St, to name but a few. If you would like to know more about this fledgling Art Deco group contact Judy Siers on 4796896

Queen Victoria Statue

Queen Victoria would not be amused with WCC's Russell Blacks intention of trying to move Her Majesty again. In the Evening Post 6-11-96 he made it clear that the fight was not over and that the planning process would begin again, sometime this year. So far we have heard nothing further - will keep you posted.

❖ SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to all those who have paid their 1996/7 subscriptions. 1996/7 subs are as follows -

Individual/Family	\$20.00
Student/unwaged	\$10.00
Newsletter only	\$10.00

Please see our Treasurer, Jo Newman, at one of our meetings or post your cheque and details to 20 Porritt Ave, Mt Victoria.

❖ COMMITTEE

Alan Olliver (Convener)	Ph 3851022
Julie Middleton (Sec)	Ph 3851022
Jo Newman (Treasurer)	Ph 3852254
Jim Harper	Ph 3858377
Euan Harris	Ph 3844770
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THE MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

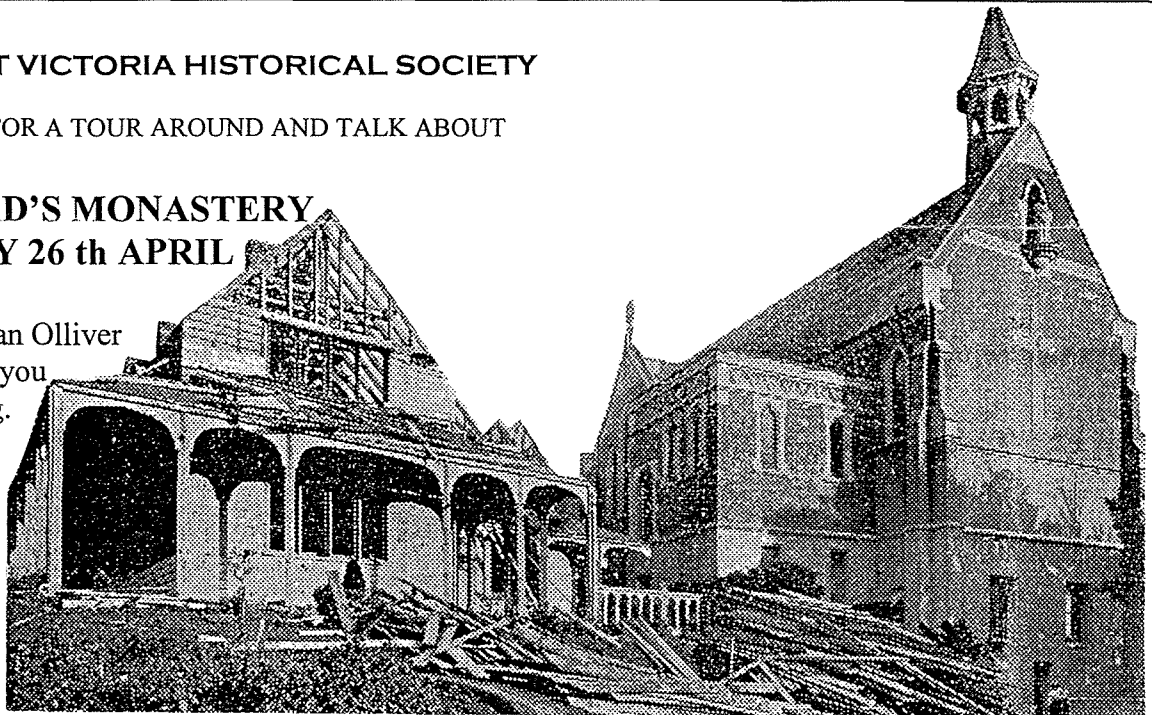
INVITES YOU FOR A TOUR AROUND AND TALK ABOUT

ST GERARD'S MONASTERY

SATURDAY 26 th APRIL

3.30 PM

Please ring Alan Olliver
on 3851022 if you
intend coming.



Evening Post 12 June 1931. Making Room For A New Monastery Building - *The house on the left in Hawker St is being pulled down to make room for the new monastery building for the Redemptorist Fathers. It was once the residence of the late Mr James Edward Fitzgerald, formerly Comptroller General.*

Mount Victoria Historical Society, 37 Ellice St, Mt Victoria