MT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
NO. 8 NOVEMBER 1998

AGM

Our AGM is being held a little later this year and in the evening, not on a Sunday afternoon as in the past. Please come along as we need to make some amendments to our constitution. Its hard when setting up a constitution to foresee all future eventualities and get it perfectly right the first time, coupled with the Inland Revenue's habit of constantly changing the rules, has necessitated these changes. The rules relate to our status as a charitable organisation and our need to pay or not to pay, tax. If we make these changes to our constitution we will not have to pay tax. It seems a bit of a bureaucratic nightmare, but it is necessary. Please see the attached note.

AGM GUEST SPEAKER

After the AGM we are very pleased to have Committee member Jo Newman speak about CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES. Most of us have a collection of "family papers" of some sort. This can be made up of old photographs, framed and unframed, brittle negatives, various certificates which are beginning to tear along the folds, old wills held together with a rusting pin, land titles, browning newspaper clippings, and family bibles, to name just a few. Many a time I have wondered if I am looking after my family documents properly. These treasures have survived a lot to reach us, and it would be good to know exactly how to look after them so our children can enjoy them, and learn from them as we have. Jo is happy to answer specific queries and to look at anything people would like her to see. She is an archivist not a conservator, but will be happy to try and seek answers to people's queries if she doesn't know the answer herself. If people have lots of questions relating to conservation, we could make this a topic for a further talk, with an appropriate expert.

REVIEW

It has been a quiet year for the Society, although things are always quietly chugging along in the background. The Xmas function last December was enjoyed by those who attended. The February Mt Vic Newsletter told us of the saving of the Queen Vic statue yet again. Lets hope the Council will restore the old girl in the not too distant future. The visit to the Nairn Street Cottage in April was enjoyed by all those who attended. This is a fascinating place to view our colonial history and is well worth a visit.

Please give any ideas you have about possible guest speakers, or places to visit, to committee members. It is your society and the committee wants to arrange activities that you will enjoy and benefit from.

MONASTERY WALKWAY

You may have noticed an item in the September Mt Vic Newsletter about the opening of this new walkway. It begins at the end of Mcfarlane Street and winds around the edge of the escarpment, joining up with the zigzag pathway of Oriental Tce. The interesting thing for those interested in heritage architecture, is the view of the monastery. We have all admired this building from afar, but now you can see the front side of the building close up. The dilapidated steps leading down the side of the Monastery from Hawker St to McFarlane St have also been repaired.

WELLINGTON MARITIME MUSEUM'S "OLD WELLINGTONIANS" PHOTOGRAPH REQUEST

You may well have seen publicity in newspapers about this, but for those who haven't, here is the item we put in the October Mt Vic Newsletter.

"Wanted - Photos of Old Wellingtonians.

The Wellington Maritime Museum is currently being redeveloped to tell the stories and history of Wellington. One of it's exhibitions will be titled "Wellington 100 years ago" and will contain a wall of photographic portraits of Wellingtonians from this time period, accompanied by a database with information on the people in the portraits. The museum is seeking photos and relevant biographical information and has asked the Mt Victoria Historical Society to help publicise their search. The Museum wants to have a range of photos covering Wellingtonians from all walks of life and all ethnic origins. The photos will be copied by the Museum and the originals retained by the owner. Anyone interested in loaning photos should contact Wendy Adlam at the Museum on 472 8904".

WCC HERITAGE TRAILS

Two more heritage trails have been launched recently and are available from the Council Information Centre. The Maori Heritage trail - Te Ara o nga Tupuna, The path of our ancestors begins at Pipitea Marae and Pa, and winds its way through the city to Courtenay Place. You will have noticed the red Pou (carved post) at the end of Courtenay Place on the island between Kent and Cambridge Terraces. This marks the site of Waitangi lagoon and the brochure explains the significance of this site. The trail winds around the coast and ends up in Owhiro Bay.

The second Trail entitled "Northern Suburbs", begins at Kaiwharawhara, winding all the way through Ngaio, up to Granada Village, and back to Ngauranga Gorge.

These two are obviously driving not walking trails. Even if you can't go on the trails, just browsing the brochures is fascinating.

DISTRICT PLAN HERITAGE PROVISIONS

If you would like to see Mt Victoria's heritage streetscapes (Victorian/Edwardian cottages and villas) maintained then write a submission to the WCC by 27 November. Details in November Mt Victoria Newsletter or contact Alan Olliver 3851022 or Craig Palmer 3842127.

THORNDON FAIR

This is "not to be missed occasion" is traditionally held on the first Sunday in December - this year on the 6th. Even if you have no need to buy anything, go along and soak up the atmosphere of this heritage suburb.

Mount Victoria Historical Society, 37 Ellice St, ph 3851022.

MOUNT VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER AT 7-30 pm

CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY HOUSE
CNR BROUGHAM AND PIRIE STREETS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Followed by

GUEST SPEAKER – JO NEWMAN

Speaking on the topic of

CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES

Jo Newman is a Historical Society Committee member, who is an experienced Archivist and Records Manager. She has worked at Te Papa and is currently running the Wellington City Council Archives. Jo will talk about the best ways to look after and store documents and photographs, as well as videos and film. She is happy to discuss people's specific archives problems and is happy to look at any items people may wish to bring along.

SUPPER TO FOLLOW

For further information contact the Mount Victoria Historical Society Convenor –Alan Olliver ph 3851022 or Jo Newman ph 3852254.