

Mt Victoria Historical Society Inc

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18

Mt Victoria Historical Society continues to be busy, engaged in the Mt Victoria Community and revealing new historical information about our suburb. Our key activities and achievements for July 2017 to June 2018 are set out below.

Newsletters

In the past year we achieved our goal of distributing four newsletters to members, with articles on the Basin Reserve Museum Stand, the Mt Victoria memories of long-standing resident and member of MVHS, Pat Howard, on Mary Taylor (Charlotte Bronte's friend) and her connection with Mt Victoria and the history of 56 Pirie Street.

We hope the newsletters also provided other interesting or useful information.

Events

Events included:

- co- hosting, with Mt Victoria Residents' Association, historian Michael Kelly and Vanessa Tanner from Wellington City Council, to present the results of the Mt Victoria Heritage Survey.
- the AGM was followed by presentation by Jane O'Loughlin of ideas from a workshop about using modern communications methods to engage with citizens on heritage by a visiting Scottish scholar. This was followed by a discussion.
- a visit to the historic Fox homestead ('Crofton') in Ngaio in December
- our second Victorian picnic in honour of Mary Taylor. The weather miraculously smiled on us once more, we again attracted huge interest from tourists at the Mt Vic lookout and enjoyed the company of some of Wellington's steam punk devotees. This time, we aligned with WCC's Parks Week, which gave us some additional publicity.
- a mid-winter 'show and tell', where members brought along heritage items that and shared the interesting stories about them.

We also participated in the now-annual Mt Victoria community treasure hunt and members Jane O'Loughlin, Alan Olliver and Julie Middleton did sterling service running a quiz outside the home of Bernard Freyberg on Hawker Street.

Heritage advocacy

In January we wrote a submission on the Let's Get Wellington Moving scenarios and in May we submitted on the Draft Long Term Plan to Wellington City Council. You can find all our submissions on our website.

We have conveyed our concerns to Wellington City Council about one proposed demolition of a pre-1930's building near the Monastery and unsympathetic alterations to another in Ellice Street. We have also written to the Council urging it to complete stages 3 and 4 of the Mt Victoria

Heritage Study. We do not believe that the building survey was comprehensive enough but acknowledge that it is a valuable start and particularly thank Michael Kelly and former WCC staff member Vanessa Tanner for their efforts in realising the project.

Membership Matters

At the end of the 2017/18 financial year, our membership numbers stood at 48, with 19 of those being in the family category and therefore representing more than one person. It is of some concern that membership continues to drop.

Other

David McCrone was unfortunately forced to leave our committee at the beginning of 2018, due to illness. He is a great loss and we thank him for his work producing and distributing newsletters, organising our website, helping with events, including throwing himself enthusiastically into dress-up activities, and much more.

We also acknowledge the passing of two long-standing members to the Society: Pat Howard (mentioned earlier) and David Colquhoun. David also researched and wrote a number of articles for the newsletter over the years.

Conclusion

Once again, huge thanks to the committee of the past year for all their work. I'd particularly like to acknowledge Jane O'Loughlin and David McCrone for all their work on the website, Sue Watt for her meticulous financial and membership management, and David Lee for looking after cleaning and access to our interpretive panel on the Embassy Theatre Majoribanks St wall.

Thank you also to members for your support and we look forward to your continued involvement. In particular, we hope you feel you have received value and enjoyment from your subscriptions.

Joanna M.A. Newman
Convenor

September 2018