

# Mt Victoria Historical Society News

No. 20, February 2002



For information contact:

Joanna Newman on 385 2254 (hm)

Alan Olliver on 385 1022 (hm)

## A Royal Tour

(of sorts)

Saturday March 2nd

Meeting at 1.00 pm at the Queen St/Austin Street intersection

Stroll down Queen Street and hear about life and times, people and places there over the years. Our guide will be Alan Olliver (of Moir Street and Brougham Street tour fame).

This will be followed by refreshments at Mouldings and Finishings in Home Street, generously hosted by the proprietors.

### Future Events

The next events planned for the Society are:

May 19, Sunday, 2.30pm

Another in the popular *Renovations* series, when we invite speakers to talk about new aspects of renovating old houses.

September 22, Sunday, 2.30pm

AGM and a speaker yet to be confirmed

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### HISTORICAL NOTE

#### Mr. John Beck, of Kent Terrace, Mt Victoria

Under the section headed "The Wood Trade" in the 1901 Cyclopaedia of Wellington, there is an entry for John Beck. He was a prominent businessman in Wellington at the time and in this newsletter we tell you a bit about his life and activities.

September 19, 1870 I received a letter written in the following terms "We beg to inform you that we are ready to commence laying pipes and shall be glad to have your instructions in reference to the same. We propose starting in Willis St. opposite the printing office of the Evening Post. on the West side of the street. our object in commencing at this point is to enable the works being carried on from the Centre to both ends of the town at the same time. Yrs. J. W. Beck  
On receipt of this letter I gave the matter