

Mt Victoria Historical Society News

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For information contact:

Joanna Newman on 385 2254 (hm)

Alan Olliver on 385 1022 (hm)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, September 14 at 2.00 pm, Crossways

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a talk:

Michael Kelly, Heritage Consultant

On the Embassy Theatre renovations and Serious about Heritage

Come and see our newly designed MVHS logo, too!

The meeting will followed by afternoon tea.

Suburbs Review

The final decisions on Wellington City Council's suburbs review have been announced.

The MVHS convenor worked with the Mt Vic Residents Association to craft a submission but, unfortunately, we weren't entirely successful.

The good news first: we succeeded in getting the western boundary along Kent Terrace moved to Cambridge Terrace, so that the statue of Queen Victoria is within the boundaries of Mt Victoria. This seemed absolutely fundamental, particularly given our fight to keep it in its current location.

The bad news: we did not succeed in keeping the former Clyde Quay in Mt Victoria, or in including the Basin Reserve and Government House. We felt as strongly about Clyde Quay as we did about Queen Victoria, because the original Clyde Quay School, first built on the site of the fire station, was one of the earliest public primary schools in Wellington (founded 1889) and is such an integral part of the identity of Mt Victoria. We also felt that a view from anywhere of this area is a view of the heart of Mt Victoria. (This is now part of Oriental Bay, after strong lobbying from property owners.)

We wanted the Basin Reserve included in Mt Victoria because, again, views of it are part of Mt Victoria and its 'open' face is towards our suburb. We believe that Mt Victoria residents have a strong affinity with the Basin Reserve, whereas areas surrounding other sides are largely commercial. With Government House, we believed that as the entrance is in Mt Victoria, the grounds should be included.

One of the issues with such matters as these may be that we do not have the numbers of people to support us in presenting submissions, to show a depth of community or organisational support. Sometimes, this is because we do not have sufficient notice to alert members and ask for help. But, if you're willing to lend support in similar situations in future, we'd love to hear from you.