

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> and again on February 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 Ettrick 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.