

Annual Report 2008

Mt Victoria Historical Society Inc

As convenor of the Mt Victoria Historical Society, I would like to again thank our small, hard-working committee for their efforts throughout the past year. We also benefited from the knowledge and enthusiasm of two members co-opted onto the committee during the year.

Events

The committee arranged four events for the year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. They were:

- A talk by Redmer Yska, the author of *Wellington, Biography of a City*, followed our AGM in September.
- The last meeting of 2007 was a presentation by Joanna Newman marking the centenary of the Hataitai (Kilbirnie) tram tunnel opening. We were fortunate to also have a member of the Tramways Society attend, bringing with him some fascinating tram memorabilia.
- In March, Alan Olliver and Joanna Newman led a walking tour of the Paterson Street/Ellice Street area. Starting facing the Mt Victoria tunnel, the walk focused on the history of the area potentially under threat from plans for a second Mt Victoria tunnel which had just been announced. The walk also featured as part of Wellington City Council's *Stepping Out* programme.
- In June, Alan Olliver presented another series of 'Mt Victoria Now and Then' images, sharing with us new research and contemporary photographs from interesting angles.

Newsletters

As usual, four newsletters were produced and delivered to members over the year. They included Historical Notes on Charles Baeyertz, the Baker family and two contributions by members – one on cricket at the Basin Reserve by David Colquhoun and a story by Jennifer Robinson about driving the last tram through the Hataitai tunnel as a school girl. Jennifer's article was picked up and printed in an issue of the Tramways Journal. We would like to thank members for their contributions and encourage more!

Research

Newsletter articles, presentations and walks given by members are all based on their own research. This takes a great deal of time, detective work and dogged persistence and a considerable amount of new information about Mt Victoria has been discovered over the past year. Not all new information can be immediately shared with members because sometimes an elusive fact or two is needed to bring a story together. In time, however, it will all be shared with members one way or another and in the meantime we are slowly building up a much better picture of the history of our suburb. This also puts the Society in a much better position to argue for preservation of aspects of our heritage, should we ever need to.

Submissions

The Society made submissions to Wellington City Council on its **Proposals for Change and Character Protection** and the **Transport Strategy**, and also wrote to Council expressing concern about inappropriate infill housing in Mt Victoria.

Website

Our website got up and running in 2007 and thanks go to committee member, David McCrone, Society member, Owen Watson, and to Stanley Wing for their work. New material is slowly being added – for instance, two walking guides are now available on line, so do check it out at <http://mvhs.wellington.net.nz>.

Membership

Membership now stands at 85, which is around the same as last year. In conclusion, I would like to thank all our members, those of long standing and those who have recently joined us, for their support over the year. We look forward to your continued input into our activities.

Joanna M.A. Newman

Convenor

September 2008