

Mt Victoria Historical Society Inc

<http://mvhs.wellington.net.nz>

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

The Mt Victoria Historical Society has had another full year for its small, hard-working committee and we hope members have enjoyed the various offerings which have been available.

Events

The committee arranged four events for the year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

- Following our annual general meeting in September last year, Marian Minson from the Alexander Turnbull Library presented a collection of images of Mt Victoria from the Library's collections, some of which none of us had seen before.
- In November, Costa Christie showed us two exceptional films. One was a history, created by Costa himself, featuring his father's immigration and life and the Greek community in Mt Victoria. The other was a delightful film of race relations set on the Wellington waterfront and in which Costa had a starring role.
- We shared a promotional stand with MVRA at the first Mt Victoria Street Fair in February and also planned to run two guided walks for the public but the shockingly wet weather meant that these had to be called off. We will offer them again at the fair next year, however.
- In March, our walk focused on the heritage of the Basin Reserve and there was a great turnout for a pretty chilly afternoon tour. As has now become tradition, the walk was also promoted as part of Wellington City Council's *Stepping Out* programme.
- The theme for Wellington Heritage Month this year was theatre and drama, so we took the opportunity to research and focus on the history of one of the great theatres of Wellington, which happens to be in Mt Victoria. BATS is a theatre with a proud heritage, housed in a building with a fascinating history and architecture, all of which Natasha Naus brought to life on stage in June.

Newsletters

As usual, four newsletters were produced and delivered to members over the year. They included Historical Notes on an enclave of Edwardian houses off Brougham Street; Charles Taylors' romance on Mt Victoria; historic schools on Brougham Hill; and Mt Victoria resident and first woman to receive a degree in a New Zealand university, Kate Edger. A huge thanks to all our researchers and contributors for these articles.

Research

Newsletter articles, presentations and walks given by members are all based on their own research. As I said last year, this takes a considerable amount of time, detective work and persistence but a good deal of new information about Mt Victoria has been added to our 'stock' over the past year. This research puts the Society in a much better position to argue for preservation of aspects of our heritage, should we ever need to. The more people involved in this the better, so do let us know if you are interested in doing some research, or writing about what you know for the newsletter.

Submissions

This year we have made a number of submissions in the interest of Mt Victoria heritage. We made a submission to the Maori Affairs Select Committee on the Port Nicholson Wellington Tenth's Trust Claim covering part of the Town Belt on Mt Victoria, to the Wellington Regional Council on the Proposed Regional Land Transport Strategy 2009-12, particularly focusing on the Basin Reserve area (we also made an oral submission in relation to this); and also to Wellington City Council on implications of Proposed District Plan changes.

Other

For a small fee, we became members of the Wellington Heritage Promotion Council this year, which assures us of publicity for events we organise around Heritage Month and potentially other benefits in future.

We have had to change our Rules to meet new registration requirements under the Charities Act, and correspondence relating to this over the past year culminates in the resolution being put to the AGM today.

Membership of the Society now stands at 82, down a little on last year. Do tell all your friends about the Historical Society – anything we do is strengthened by our support base. We don't need everyone to be active and we are very happy to have members just enjoy learning more about our suburb – though, of course, active participation is always welcomed!

In conclusion, I would like to particularly thank the committee of the past year – Judy Southworth, Alan Olliver, Natasha Naus, David McCrone, Trevor Bleakley and Sue Watt - for their hard work, enthusiasm and the sense of humour which makes it all fun. Thank you also to members for your support and we look forward to your continued input into our activities.

Joanna M.A. Newman
Convenor
September 2009