

Mt Victoria Historical Society Inc

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

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

The Mt Victoria Historical Society has had another full year and we hope members have enjoyed the various offerings which have been available.

Events

The committee arranged four events for the year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

- Following our annual general meeting in September last year, Gavin Maclean delivered a very entertaining and informative talk about governors-general
- In November, we presented a Christmas miscellany, with Joanna Newman providing a history of the bowling club with pictures and Alan Olliver another fascinating selection of then-and-now photographs. We were also able to raffle a copy of *A New Zealand Christmas: Three centuries of Kiwi Christmas celebrations from the Alexander Turnbull Library*, which was kindly donated by David Colquhoun.
- Our annual March walk was a well-researched heritage-centred ramble through the town belt above Mt Victoria, led by Alan Olliver
- The theme for Wellington Heritage Month this year was the environment, and we arranged for two very interesting and knowledgeable speakers – Joan Quinn and David Lee – to talk to members about the town belt and threats to its future.

For the second year, we had a stand at the Mt Victoria Street Fair in February. It attracted a lot of interest and we signed up four new members as a result. We also ran a quiz, with a prize of the recently published book *Ring Around the City*, and offered two guided walks for the public, one on Art Deco Mt Victoria and the other Northern Mt Victoria.

In February, we also arranged a tour of the former Rehabilitation League building in Hania Street. It is undergoing substantial renovation by its new owners, who wish to preserve or restore some of the original architectural features created by its designer, Edward Ancombe.

Newsletters

As usual, four newsletters were produced and delivered to members over the year. They included Historical Notes on Town Belt history; anniversary days in the 1840's; an early Maori resident of Mt Victoria; and the builder and residents of 55 Pirie Street. Thanks go to all our researchers and contributors for these articles.

Research

A key piece of research this year related to the attempt to prevent demolition of No. 2 Stafford St which, unfortunately, we now know has not been successful. Research takes time, but is so rewarding, so if you think you'd like to get involved, or share what you already know by writing for the newsletter for instance, please let us know.

Submissions

This year we made a submission to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, seeking registration of Waring Taylor's house at 7 Paterson Street. This was based on our research into the history and an architectural heritage assessment by Chris Cochran.

Website

This year has seen a lot of activity relating to our website. There has been significant work behind the scenes to upgrade to new software and we have also made changes to enhance usability and add a large collection of Mt Victoria historical photos for browsing. We would like to particularly thank two individuals who are not committee members for their assistance: Stanley Wing, who has donated a significant amount of time to working with us on design and on implementing the technical changes, and Owen Watson, who updates content for us.

Membership

We had 74 paid up members at the end of the year, including 12 new members. It's time to address how we increase our membership, so please pass on the word or let us know how you think we can do this.

Conclusion

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

Joanna M.A. Newman
Convenor
October 2010