

Mt Victoria Historical Society News

No. 17, May 2001



For information contact:

Joanna Newman on 385 2254 (hm)

Alan Olliver on 385 1022 (hm)

Haining Street – Wellington's Chinatown

Sunday, May 27 at 2.00 pm
Crossways
cnr Brougham and Elizabeth Streets

Presented by Lynette Shum

Come and hear Lynette Shum talk to us about the history of the Wellington Chinese community, particularly around Haining Street, so close to Mt Victoria.

Based on oral histories she has conducted, she will give us a special insight into such things as the gambling and myths and attitudes towards the Chinese.

This promises to be a lively and fascinating presentation, accompanied by slides and tapes. Lynette may even bring the Chinese gambling game of pakapoo for us to try!

Hot off the Press! A must-read!

Philippa Swan, until recently a resident of Porritt Avenue, has just published her first book, [Life \(and death\) in a Small City Garden](#).

That small city garden of the title is 6 Porritt Avenue.

Mt Victoria features large in it, as do so many other things related to gardens and gardening. It's written in a wonderful, humorous style and full of anecdotes about people, places and life in Mt Vic. If you love Mt Victoria or gardening, you must read it.

What's more, the Historical Society features in the first paragraph!

'Don't mention this to ANYONE,' I warned the dog through a mouthful of florist's wire as I carefully reattached a flowerhead back onto its stem. Even given my unorthodox methods of gardening this was weird, but I was expecting the local historical society for a garden visit any minute. My potted green zinnia had, until yesterday, made rather a tasteful display on the garden table; however, the unfortunate combination of a southerly and what looked to be a touch of collar rot had managed to dislodge the flower. . . .

Get hold of a copy soon!