



Mt VICTORIA

Historical Society News

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Paterson Street & Wellington Girls' College Guided Walk

Find out about Waring Taylor's house and Ettrick cottage, amongst other historic sites, and enjoy a special visit to Wellington East's renovated main building with Principal, Gael Ashworth.

Sunday March 28 at 2.30 pm

Meet at the corner of Brougham and Paterson Streets



Event

Sunday April 11 at 2.30pm - Victorian afternoon tea on Mt Victoria

Join us for a picnic afternoon tea on Mt Victoria to mark early settler, Mary Taylor's, climb to the top to look for a ship to take a letter to her friend Charlotte Bronte.

Come in Victorian costume with a small contribution to the picnic. (Cancelled if wet - but it's never rained yet!)

Meet on the grass beside the last set of steps up to the lookout. (Just look for the people gathered in Victorian garb.)

Spatial Plan and District Plan

For those keenly interested in the progress of these planning documents, we won't fill the newsletter with process and timing details because you have very likely received updates directly from the Council. Amongst other activities, however, MVHS is now part of a Mt Victoria Planning Group, which is working on an 'alternative plan' as a way to show that intensification can happen without four- and six-storey zoning throughout the suburb (you'll hear more about this soon). We're making it clear that we consider Kent Terrace the boundary of Mt Victoria. Apart from that, MVHS's position remains that, while we support the heritage area proposals, we'll be seeking adjustments to those and retention of character protection rules outside them for most of the rest of the suburb. To that end, we have also recently provided Council officers with historical evidence for including Tutchin Avenue in the Porritt/Armour Avenue heritage area and a history of Stafford Street to show the importance of its character. In addition, we're looking at buildings which should be considered for inclusion on the District Plan heritage list.

If you would like more information about what we are doing, or know of a building you think should be added to the heritage list, don't hesitate to contact Jo on 027 7577 984.

25th Anniversary celebrations

This year marks 25 years since Mt Victoria Historical Society was incorporated. We planning something pretty special to celebrate this around the middle of the year, so watch this space.

Home Restorers' Group

Historic Places Wellington has started a home restorer's group for members, with the first meeting held on March 3. Meetings will be held about every 6 weeks and future topics are still being developed but will be very much guided by participants. At the first meeting (led by Christina Mackay, architect, adjunct research fellow at the Wellington School of Architecture and HPW committee member), we shared information about resources available to support restorers of historic buildings. Christina arrived with a great collection and a list which she will later put on the Historic Places Wellington website, and one or two others also had useful books to recommend.

If you are interested in joining Historic Places Wellington or finding out more about it, here's their website:

<https://historicplaceswellington.org>

Stained glass in Mt Victoria

For some time now, I (Jo) have been fascinated by the stained glass in houses around Mt Victoria. Many still have their original glass, particularly in front doors and the bay windows of the 1910s/1920s. Walking around at night, when hall lights are illuminating the glass, some of the designs are quite spectacular. I would love to be able to identify designers one day, but Charles Carter is one whose work I'd particularly like to track down because of his Mt Victoria connection. Thanks to the current owner of the house Carter built for himself, I have photographs of the glass in his own front door and you can read about him on the next page. Please let me know if you have interesting stained glass in your house!

Here's a collage of some of Mt Victoria's special stained glass:



And here is the simple, but beautiful, stained glass in Charles Carter's house taken looking into the late afternoon sun:



The Carters of Scarborough Terrace

The house for Charles Carter at 39 Scarborough Terrace would have been completed not long after a permit was granted in late 1894.

Charles came to New Zealand in 1883, having been apprenticed to Charles Groves, a stained-glass manufacturer in London. In the late 1800s he was employed by Robert Martin, who had a home-decorating business (established ca 1863) in Manners Street, where he and his family also lived. Initially Charles worked as a sign writer, but later excelled in stained-glass work. Probably his best-known glass work was installed in “Carrigafoyle” on The Terrace.

Charles met Robert Martin’s daughter, Zoe, at work and they married in 1890 when she was 20 years old.

Zoe is at least as interesting as Robert. She was among the first intake of students at the Wellington School of Design in 1886. Its Director was AD Riley from the South Kensington Design School in Britain and the examination papers of his students were sent to South Kensington for assessment. After design school, Zoe worked with her father as an interior decorator, and also sold beaded bags which she made.

In 1905/6, the Carters moved from Scarborough Terrace and were living in Te Aro.

When her father died, Zoe and Charles took over his very successful business. Charles, however, suffered from poor health and died of tuberculosis in 1908, when he and Zoe were on a visit to England. He was just 46 years old. Zoe continued running Robert Martin Ltd until 1923 when a fire destroyed the back of the shop and forced its closure.

The date of construction of the Carters’ house is relevant to the stained glass used in its entrance. It’s hard to imagine that Charles would not have used his own stained-glass design, so I like to think it is his. If so, it indicates that he was up-to-date with design trends. The Art Nouveau period is generally accepted as lasting from around 1895-1910 and the style used in his own house shows clear Art Nouveau features.

Unusually, there are quite a number of informal ‘people’ photos of the Carter/Martin family publicly available, which give us an intimate look into their lives about 120 years ago.



Zoe Martin (left) in her father’s shop, Robert Martin Ltd, Manners Street, c.1886



39 Scarborough Terrace c.1904, presumably Zoe and children in front [ATL 1/2-173037-F]



Zoe Carter with her eldest son c.1893 [ATL 1/2-173088-F]



Zoe with two of the children (Matthew and Doris) in the conservatory at their home c.1895 [ATL 1/2-173065-F]



Zoe and Charles Carter, c.1903 [ATL 1/2-173060-F]