

# KARORI HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The next meeting will be held on

Tuesday 2 September 2014

at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori

at 7.45 pm.

Members and friends welcome

## *Speaker*

The speaker is Dr Rodney Grapes who will talk on **'The 1848 earthquakes and the destruction of Wellington'**

Wellington was only a fledgling settlement of some 3000 people when it was struck by a cluster of devastating earthquakes in 1848. The fearful violence of the shocks, the destruction of property, and the frequency and continuance of the danger caused universal alarm, and it was feared the settlement and its future was ruined. But Wellington did recover, quite quickly. In Karori, Judge Henry Chapman recorded details of the earthquakes and their effects on a daily basis. Although not known or understood at the time, the fault that ruptured to produce the first great shock of the 1848 earthquakes was the Awatere Fault in Marlborough; historical evidence suggests that other great shocks in the 1848 sequence may have been accompanied by movement on the Ohariu and Wellington Faults in the North Island, suggesting that the earthquake clustering was controlled by fault interactions across Cook Strait.

Wellington born, Dr Rodney Grapes has had a distinguished academic career both in New Zealand and overseas. A PhD from Victoria in 1972 was followed by a post-doctoral fellowship to Japan. As a result of that research he was awarded a DSc. from the Japanese Imperial Universities in 1976. He returned to Victoria in 1977 where he held an academic position in Geology. In 1982 & 1986 he was a Humbolt Fellow at Ruhr University, Germany. He was Visiting Professor to Kokkaido University in 1987 and Ehime University in Shikoku in 1990. From 2001 until late 2005 he was Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Freiburg in Germany. He was then appointed Professor of Geology at Sun Yat-sen University in Canton China, and from 2007 to 2010 was Professor at Korea University, Seoul.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of Rodney's talk.

**We look forward to seeing members and their friends on Tuesday 2 September 2014.**

## ***June Meeting - AGM***

**The following officers were elected at the AGM:**

**President**, Judith Burch

**Vice-President**, Jan Heynes

**Secretary**, Henry Brittain

**Treasurer**, Valerie Carter

**Committee members:**

Peter Anderson

Elizabeth Bradford

Jeni Bryant

Jo Elworthy

Mike Foster

Adrian Humphris

Margery Renwick

At the conclusion of the formalities former diplomat and current president of the Bolton Street Cemetery, Priscilla Williams, gave a very interesting and informative talk about the history of the cemetery, referring in particular to the role which the late Margaret Alington had played in ensuring the preservation and documentation of the tombstones, writing a history of the cemetery – *Unquiet Earth* – and the establishment of the Friends of the Bolton Street Cemetery.

Priscilla's talk used a power point presentation.

## ***Committee Meeting***

The new committee had its first meeting and was very pleased to welcome Adrian Humphris who has re-joined the committee after a few years 'rest'.

One of the matters discussed was the question of the digitisation of our archives. Jan Heynes and Lyn Chadwick, a member of the Society spent many hours investigating the feasibility of digitising our photograph collection. However, it became clear to them, that there is a great deal of work involved and currently the Society does not have the necessary resources and time to undertake such a project at this time.

Our sincere thanks Jan and Lyn for the time and effort they put into assessing the project.

## ***Visits***

Currently we are organising a visit to Government House. As soon as the details are finalised we will email members with the details of possible dates and times

## ***Volunteers to help with the Supper***

Please contact the president on 476 4400 or [artybees@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:artybees@actrix.gen.nz) if you are able to help with this task. It would be good if we had some different faces behind the 'bar'.

## ***Next quarterly Meeting***

Tuesday 2 December 2014, the speaker will be Dr Vincent O'Malley, a Karori resident.