

# **NEWSLETTER, May 2018**

# The Annual General Meeting will be held on

### **Tuesday 5 June 2018**

#### at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori

at 7.45 pm.

#### Members and friends welcome

#### **Business**

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Confirmation of last year's AGM report
- 4 President's annual report
- 5 Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet
- 6 Election of officers: President, Vice President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer

### 7 Election of Committee

We are always looking for members joining the Committee. If you are keen to help run the Society and plan future activities and events, please contact the President Adrian Humphris: <a href="mailto:adrianinka02@gmail.com">adrianinka02@gmail.com</a> or leave a message on 973 2612.

- 8 Election of Hon Auditor James Graham
- 9 General Business
- 10 Speaker Panel –Teachers College Karori Campus

# Supper will be served after the meeting

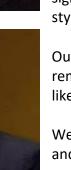
We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5 June

#### Talk

The theme for the talk following the AGM is the Karori Teachers College site. The Teachers' College is a significant site, designed by architects Toomath and Wilson in the 1960s.



Teaching here focused on social good and personal development, and in a similar spirit, the buildings represent dynamic, people-focused creativity. There is also the history of the are prior to the development of the campus.



We have a couple of speakers for the evening. Jamie Jacobs, Director Central Region for Heritage New Zealand, will outline the architectural significance of the site, and talk about both the architects and the style of the buildings.

Our very own Secretary Henry Brittain will then give some reminiscences of growing up as a school boy in the area, what it was like, and the mischief they use to get up to.

We will also share some images from both our own archive collection, and also from Wellington City Archives. There will be some time at the end of the talks for audience members to share their memories of the Teachers College, if they would like to do so.

## **March Speaker**

In March Dr George Gibbs presented an entertaining talk about his grandfather George Hudson (1867-1946), a British-born New Zealand award-winning entomologist and astronomer, as well as Karori resident. George Hudson is the publisher of seven books dealing with New Zealand insects, which contain 3,127 painstakingly hand-drawn illustrations. The first book was

published when George was just 19 years old, and the longest took 24 years to complete.

After sharing some family history, George Gibbs focused particularly on his grandfather's time in Karori. George Hudson first moved to Karori in 1881, building a house in Donald Street, where he would live the rest of his life. His lettuces were famous on the hilltop, and he often shared the fruits of his garden with neighbours.

Being a keen astronomer Hudson built an observatory at the back of his section, which once again was well used by residents. He had success with his stargazing, for example being the first person in New





Zealand to have seen Nova Aquilae in June 1918. Diaries of his observations are part of the Carter Observatory Collection held by Wellington City Archives.

Gordon Hudson worked shift work at the Central Post Office from 1883 until he retired in 1908 aged 51, so he could focus on publishing. Dr Gibbs told us about the many places in and around Wellington and Karori that George Hudson used to visit to capture specimens; places such as Bush Hill, Campbell's Stream, and the Reservoir (now Zealandia). It is not quite clear where some of these places actually are now, so there was a lively discussion trying to pinpoint some of them

The detail of Gordon Hudson's insect drawings was exquisite; particularly given he was drawing specimens at the size they appear in his books, rather than much larger and later shrunk down. For its wide systematic coverage as well as its historical and scientific value, the Hudson Collection, now held by Te Papa, is perhaps the best private insect collection ever made in New Zealand

# Your Committee needs you (we really, really do!!).

Although all our current committee members have said they will continue on into the coming year (for which they all receive a huge thanks and applause!), we are still a small Committee,

and it's always great to get new members or more people involved.

If you are keen to get involved please let us know. Some of the tasks we are looking for help with include

- Keeping our membership records up to date, and sending out newsletters
- Looking after and promoting our archive collection
- Helping organise quarterly speakers, and outings for our members

We are also missing a treasurer at the moment; since the departure of Valerie we have had much appreciated help from Maurice Horner but have not yet found a long term replacement. If you are willing to help please let me know!



### It's subscription time!

Subscriptions for the 2018-2019 will be due shortly. After discussion by the Committee we have agreed that the rate should remain the same for the coming year, which is

\$20 for individual membership \$25 for a family membership.

An invoice will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. You can either pay this at our June meeting, or via online banking. If you would like to get in early and pay online our account is below. Please enter your Name and phone number in the 3 panel payer space

Bank account: 06 0501 0208280 00

If you have any queries please contact me (Adrian Humphris, adrianinka02@gmail.com)

# Stockade is turning 50!

By now everyone should have received the most recent Stockade (if you haven't, please let me know so I can follow up). Work is already under way on the next edition, which will be a special one this year, as it is issue 50.

The success of Stockade does depend on members contributing articles, images or stories. You may have a family connection to Karori you could share, or an early image or document people will find interesting. You could also uncover an untold story or fact about Karori via our Society archives; you can find these on the top floor of the Karori Library.

If you do have something to share or are prepared to write an article, please let the Committee know.



Remember also you can browse copies of earlier Stockades online, via the following link:

http://www.wrhpc.org.nz/archive/khsindex.htm.

# Don't forget to check out our website and see what's new

A reminder a wealth of information about the society and our activities can be found online at our website, <a href="http://www.karorihistory.org.nz/">http://www.karorihistory.org.nz/</a>.

We are also on Facebook; check it out and contribute! <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Karori-Historical-Society-184528484931598/">https://www.facebook.com/Karori-Historical-Society-184528484931598/</a>



Adrian Humphris President