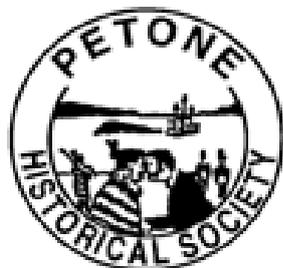




# Petone Historical Society Inc.

## April 2013 Chronicle

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### **2013 committee**

**President** tbd

**Deputy Chair**

*Ruth Dickson*

**Secretary.**

*Roy Hewson*

**Treasurer**

*Joan Hewson*

**Minute Secretary**

*Marianne Jenner*

**Committee**

*Basil Chan*

*Zandra Brickhill*

*Pam Hanna*

Welcome to the April 2013 Chronicle. A bit late because of Easter. Sorry about that

WE have had our A.G.M and with some regret we accepted the resignation of Nik Zangarouopoulos as president. He has shifted out of Petone and is carrying a heavy workload. But he still remains a valued member of our society. We are looking for a vibrant new president so if any of our members would like to assist the society by becoming our new president or know of a person who fits the bill let us know. You need to be able to run meetings, act as spokesperson and set goals and agenda. Apart from Nik we welcome back our last year's committee. We would still have room for one new face to bring new ideas.

Prior to our meeting the Mayor Ray Wallace officially restarted the chimes on our 100 year old clock. Its official birthday will be July 7 and JSP has planned a celebration along with Weltec students. Keep a watch on the newspapers.

Nik gave us an excellent presentation on his recent visit to Romania and Greece where he met up with family members and friends. Nik spoke about his family and their migration to New Zealand in 1959 and their previous life in Greece. Nowadays Greece basically relies on tourism to build its economy but there are so many expectations on the state by the people that there seems little chance of a recovery without massive changes to their life. Athens has over a quarter of the population and the rest of the country struggles

Activities since our last bulletin. There has been a tremendous amount of work happening.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March we helped organise an Earthquake and Insurance forum in the Speight's Ale House conference room. IT took a fair amount of time getting the people together and organising the event but it was worth the effort and the evening was a success. Protection of our local heritage buildings in Jackson Street is of real



Air raid wardens being addressed from the balcony of Petone Council Chambers during the WW2

importance to us all. Win Gray's talk is provided later in the this chronicle

1. AS members are aware our Historical society acts as the heritage committee for the Jackson Street Programme in return we get to use the office for our committee meetings and use the Jail as our heritage museum. Both J.S.P. and P.H.S. see this as important in the promotion of our Historic Village. Our biggest regret is that while the museum is now open most days during the week and supervised by the JSP administrator we would like to be able to supply members to supervise the museum during Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m to 2 p.m. On Fairday we had two of our members. Ross Jamieson and Basil Chan supervising the museum for two hours each and we had 87 visitors during that period. The cruise ships have also brought visitors. Please can you help just one day a month? Ring Roy 5686449..

2. Plan Change 29 has the potential to greatly alter Petone and especially our Heritage shopping area. We have attended 4 pre hearings and the official hearing begins on Wednesday 10 April. Council officers have listened to people and their final report is much better but there are questions on the size of the retail and the need for them west of Victoria Street. Our members will be attending the hearings and making oral submissions on the retail and heritage aspects of the plan.

3. Over winter we will be creating some new exhibitions for the jail. And a working bee will be called to spruce the place up. We still have one museum volunteer who has offered to help with the exhibition projects. We have three new projects with research almost complete. Any designers about who can help with final designs?

## **Coming Events**

Some members will be presenting their submissions on the Plan Change 29 which begin on Wednesday 10 April and may last for a week or so. If you have any spare time call in to the Hutt City Council Chambers and listen to what is being said. You can stay as long as you wish and will give you some idea on how submissions work. These hearings are very important to us in Petone. We are not against changes but they must be well designed and compatible with the character of the village

Our next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. (7.p.m. at the old police station) Visitors are welcome to attend. The main topics for discussion will be:- changes to heritage month; workshop for new exhibits; jail computer; walk of champions plaques for this year; July 7<sup>th</sup> celebration of clock; getting member involvement. Publishing. Someone to edit our Book of Petone Memories. Our May meeting is at this stage not finalised. It possibly will be a workshop in the Jail. It looks a bit tired.

## **Heritage Month...**

Like many activities, heritage month has become rather jaded and needs a spruce up. It has been decided to send out a monthly newsletter about heritage happenings in the region and offering each member society to provide copy. At present Wellington Heritage Promotion Council is advertising for an editor. All copies will be by email and each society member can receive a copy. It is one way of keeping everyone up to date with local heritage events. September will still be heritage month and although the format has yet to be finalised it may be that each society will mount its own activities to promote what is happening locally. This means that we will have to put our thinking cap on and devise some local activities and events. One will be more plaques along

our Walk of Champions and another will be a series of heritage walks around Petone. We will be interested in encouraging other groups to display their own heritage.

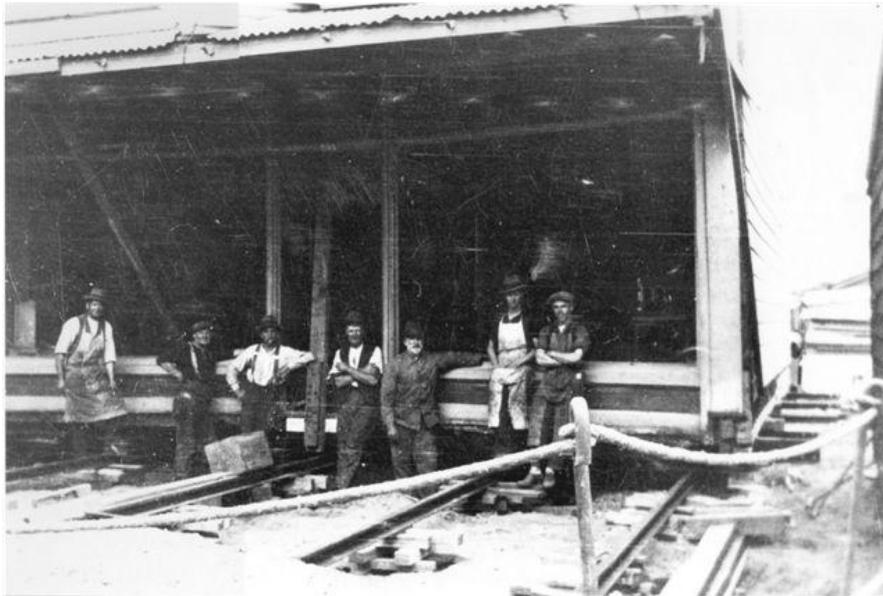


photo Petone library stock

This is a photo showing workers on the job of realigning Jackson Street to get rid of some of the kinks. A project that took some 10 years and was notable for the way all retailers and council worked together between 1926 and 1936. Mr Kirk the then town clerk did a great job in consulting all groups and the changes all happened without a lot of dispute. Shops were set back or demolished or physically shifted. That is why so many of our Jackson Street buildings are shown as being built in the 1930's

### **SEISMIC RESILIENCY MEETING HELD IN SPEIGHT'S ALE HOUSE 6.00p.m. 6TH MARCH**

The special guests were Win Clark, (executive Officer N.Z, Society for Earthquake Engineering NZSEE) who was the guest speaker; Ann Neill ( Central Region Manager N.Z.H.P.T) Simone Naylor ( Corporate Executive Officer AON Insurance; Helen Oran (Hutt City Council )

Also present were Mayor Ray Wallace HCC,; Deputy Mayor David Bassett; John Daniells Wellington Heritage Trust Aotearoa

The evening was organised by Roy Hewson P.H.S., Leone Dobbs J.S.P and David Watt N.Z.H.P.T.

Win Clark gave an impressive talk entitled "Can earthquake – prone buildings be strengthened?"

Win began his presentation by noting that he was a Hutt Valley Resident and is familiar with the areas issues. His illustrated talk would cover why masonry buildings fail 'what the basic issues are for strengthening and what solutions meet structural and economic criteria and six simple steps to take. He noted that a major issue was business continuance after an earthquake.

He began with analyses of damage sustained by masonry buildings in Christchurch Earthquakes . This work has enabled engineers to identify key structural difficulties and suggest remedies which can be undertaken.

In some cases new technologies may allow this strengthening work to be achieved at a much lower cost than commonly assumed.

A key finding was that deferred maintenance, common in tough economic times had, had tragic consequences with some collapses directly caused by . for example rusted guttering leading to rotted roof timbers which could not hold the facade in the quake. Also of concern was damage to buildings which had previously been strengthened where poor workmanship was identified as the problem.

Studies identified ten areas which contributed to building failures in the Christchurch quake. "foundation", "Appendages", 'irregular shapes', tall buildings pounding a shorter one', 'gable end walls' lack of fixing between walls and floors', the ratio of height or length to wall thickness', 'Large windows', wide shop-front windows', and narrow piers between window/doors'.

Mr Clark covered types of masonry and their relative strengths (ranging from rubble filled natural stone to cut stone, (with the former more vulnerable than the latter) and typical collapses in the Christchurch and L'Aquila (Italy 2009) earthquakes.

In looking at key issues regarding strengthening Mr. Clark pointed to six key issues for assessment: The boundary wall; parapets, piers between windows; front facade; canopy and shop front windows. He gave an example of at least one type of strengthening method, e.g. tied and true technologies such as tying facades to internal floor joists and also explained some of the new technologies which have been developed. One example was a carbon strip which can be set in a vertical channel carved into an interior wall. He noted that while the material was expensive the process was relatively simple and quick.

Mr Clarke emphasised that the owners need to ACT NOW. Identify if their building is earthquake prone, determine what the structural weaknesses are by working with one or more engineers, design and document the solution to improve the carrying capacity, cost the scheme and develop a programme of work which is affordable - a staged works programme is acceptable. He also pointed out that an owner who acts now will have first call on the expert resources which will be in high demand over the next few years

*These are notes compiled for the JSP*

Next month the Q and A from the panel on insurance of buildings will be given. No room now.

## Administration

Have you paid this year's subscription yet? It is now overdue. Cost \$15 single or \$20 family. Post your subscription today to Treasurer 143 Esplanade Petone. The subs pay for among other things this Chronicle

Can you help the society by manning the jail one Saturday or one Sunday for two or three hours (11 a.m to 2p.m) each calendar month? Good fun meeting new people from all over the country and overseas.

Can you encourage other active people to join our society?

Will you help us tidy and organise our jail museum at a workshop?

Have a good day.....