



**Join us for our next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 5 December 2017**

**at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori at 7.45 pm.**

**Members and friends welcome!**

*A Strange Beautiful Excitement, Katherine Mansfield's Wellington 1888-1903*

We are lucky this year to have Redmer Yska talking at our Christmas meeting. Redmer will talk to us about his recently published book, *A Strange Beautiful Excitement*. From the grubby, wind-blasted streets of Thorndon to the hushed green valley of Karori, author Redmer Yska, himself raised in Karori, retraces Mansfield's old ground: the sights, sounds and smells of the rickety colonial capital, as experienced by the budding writer.

Along the way his encounters and dogged research – into her Beauchamp ancestry, the social landscape, and the festering, deadly surroundings – lead him (and us) to reevaluate long-held conclusions about the writer's shaping years.

They also lead to a thrilling discovery. This haunting and beautifully vivid book combines fact and fiction, biography and memoir, as Yska rediscovers Mansfield's Wellington, unearthing her childhood as he goes, shining a new lamp on old territory.

Described by Fiona Kidman as a 'ravishing, immersing read', 'A Strange Beautiful Excitement' is a 'wild ride' through the Wellington of Katherine Mansfield's childhood.



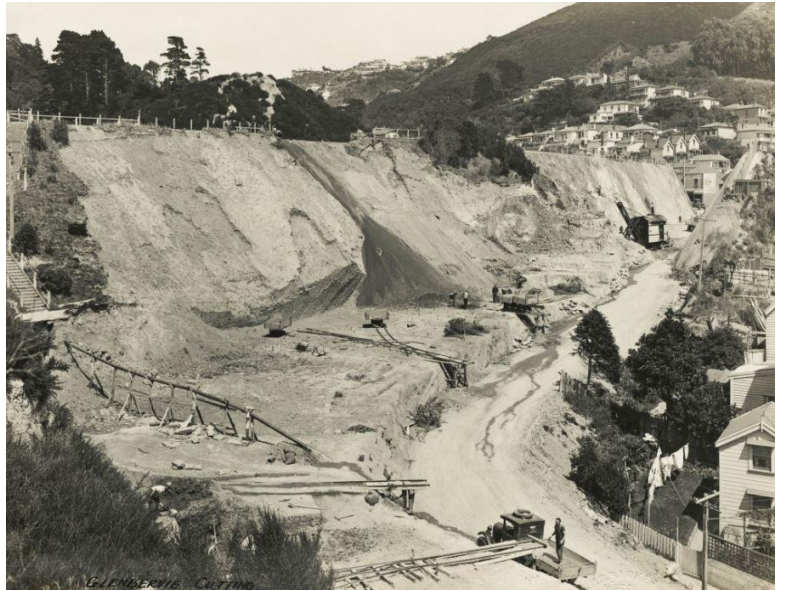
For more you can check out the [article by Jane Clifton](#) originally published in the Listener, or go to the Otago University Press [website](#). Supper will be served after the meeting.

## ***September Meeting***

In September we were lucky enough to hear Local History and Rare Books Librarian Gábor Tóth, Wellington City Libraries, present to us on the Western Access Scheme.

For some time in the early 1900's there had been agitation from residents of the Western suburbs for a more direct route into the City rather than the current route that traversed the longer way around via Tinakori Road and Molesworth street.

In 1920 a survey was undertaken to identify the various options that could alleviate this problem and as a result 17 were identified. The most favoured involved the acquisition of land that had been set aside as Cemetery land. A referendum was held with the intention of raising £19,000. The results went against the Council and some work had commenced at the Tinakori road end, the Council had to look at alternatives.



Time elapsed and the next route chosen was a new one that skirted around cemetery land and the unemployed manpower scheme, created during the depression, was used to undertake initial work. Although this work proceeded there was still a problem at the City end where the Government was not prepared to let the new road use Museum Street as part of the route.



After some negotiation the Council was able to purchase land immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the Cemetery and this allowed them to bypass Museum Street.

Progress continued and after some issues with land slips that necessitated the building of large retaining walls, the road was completed in late 1939 and then opened for tramway traffic in August 1940.

Bowen Street was named after Sir



George Ferguson Bowen, New Zealand's 6<sup>th</sup> Governor (1868 to 1873) and initially ran from the Lambton Quay gates of Parliament up to the Terrace. When the new road was formed in the late 1930's it was regarded as an extension of the existing Bowen Street and named accordingly.

The images reproduced here are from the Wellington City Council City Engineers album of photographs documenting the Western Access Scheme. The album is held by the Council's Archives and was digitised with thanks to Gábor at the Central Library. The full collection can be [accessed online](#). You also find more about the wealth of resources and information available through the [Central Library](#).

### ***Can you place where this is on Chaytor Street?***

The below image is part of the Western Access scheme collection, and shows Chaytor Street being widened. However it's hard to place exactly which way it is facing, and where the image was taken from. If you can recognise the location or provide any detail let me know via [adrianinka02@gmail.com](mailto:adrianinka02@gmail.com); we'll share it at the December meeting.



## ***Welcoming Judith back on to the committee***

We would like to welcome Judith Burch back on to the committee, and look forward to her contributing her wealth of experience and passion for Karori and its history.

## ***Trip to Government House***

We are considering organising a trip to visit Government House. We have not set a date yet, but are looking to gauge what interest there is in a visit.

We will circulate a clipboard at our December meeting for members to sign up to the trip. If you can't make the December meeting you can also email me at [adrianinka02@gmail.com](mailto:adrianinka02@gmail.com) to register your interest.



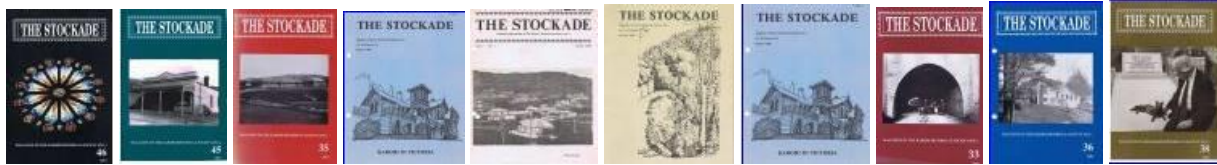
## ***Subscriptions***

There are a small number of outstanding subscriptions so if you haven't quite got round to it remember these can be paid online. The rate is \$20 for individual membership or \$25 for a family membership. If you would like to pay by online banking our account is below. Please enter your name and phone number in the 3 panel payer space.

Bank account: 06 0501 0208280 00

## ***The Stockade is progressing***

Jo is working away putting this year's stockade together. Just a reminder that if you would like to contribute, or have ideas of what you would like to see in the stockade, please let the Committee know.



Remember also you can browse copies of earlier [Stockades online](#), via the following link:

A reminder also of the wealth of information about the society and our activities at [our website](#). We are also on [Facebook](#); check it out and contribute!

***And finally, Seasons Greetings!***

Wishing all our members a Merry Christmas and all the best for the  
New Year!

Adrian Humphris  
President  
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