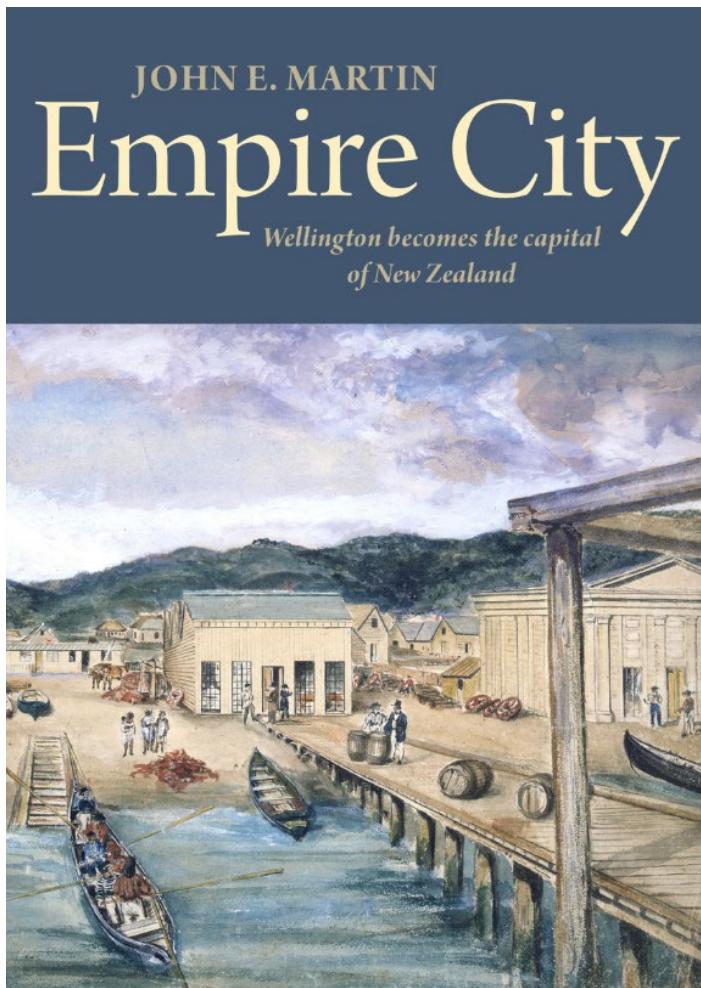


**November 2022**

**Our end of year meeting will be held on  
Tuesday 6 December 2022  
at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori**

**at 7.30 pm.  
Members and friends welcome**

***Empire City: Wellington Becomes the Capital of New Zealand***



Join us for a talk by Dr John Martin about his new book *Empire City*, just launched in November. The book takes Wellington from the first encounter between Māori and the New Zealand Company in Te Whanganui-a-Tara in 1839 to it becoming the Empire City by the 1870s.

You can learn more about the book on the [publishers website](#), and copies will be available to purchase on the night.

Dr. John E. Martin has researched and written about New Zealand history for forty years. Before becoming parliamentary historian he worked in the Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs and taught in universities. His publications include rural and labour history, the history of science and engineering, and social and political history.

**Supper will be served after the meeting**

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6 December

## **Johnstons Hill Domain turns 80**

There is a certain amount of serendipity in historical research, as there is in life, as the following shows. Just this weekend I spent a pleasant afternoon at Raumati with John Penlington, both to catch up on the state of the world but also to discuss archives relating to his grandfather, architect Edmund Anscombe. Architecture must run in the family; John is a retired architect, and his father was also an architect; George Felgate Penlington, who was Assistant Government Architect, under Robert Adams Patterson. The family were also Karori residents, George designing the family home at 16 Hauraki Street which was built in 1934.



As well as sharing the architectural plans for the Centennial Exhibition, for which Anscombe was the architect (and was the reason I was visiting with my City Archives hat on), John also shared photographs of the building models he made in his youth, as well as other family photographs.

One was of his father George, standing next to a sign for Penlington's Track, leading up to Fletcher's Lookout. The photo was taken by Hubert Fletcher, and is reproduced to the left.

This is where the serendipity comes in to play – earlier in the week when discussing content for this newsletter,

Chris had suggested we feature Johnson's Hill Domain, which celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Filing that thought away in my mind to write something up, not realising that in a couple of days I'd be viewing a photograph of one of the two key people who saw the land preserved as recreation area, photographed by the other!

Johnston's Hill Domain was officially declared a public recreation area in March 1942. The bush remnants on Johnston Hill and nearby Otari-Wilton's Bush are part of a significant native ecosystem - the native forest that extends from here all the way to Khandallah and Johnsonville Parks.

You can read more about the work to preserve the area, as well as Penlington's Track, in the [September 1986 Stockade](#), and on the Council's [website](#).

## ***Our PO Box is closing***

Just a reminder our PO Box is now no more; if you need to mail the Society, please send it care of 21 Tiro Street, Karori 6012.

## ***Be a committee member!***

Our committee has ebbed and flowed over the past years, and we are currently in a period where we have had members stand down but not be replaced. We have been lacking a Vice President for several years, and as above additional help to look after our membership would be greatly welcomed.

The Society is only ever as strong as its committee, so we are looking for keen, enthusiastic members who are willing to join and actively participate in organising events, finding interesting speakers for our meetings, and other ways we can share and capture the history of Karori. If this could be you, please let me know; all offers are welcome!

## ***Stockade content is always appreciated***

You may be aware that the Stockade has been absent for a year, but a new edition is being edited now, and we hope to distribute it to all our members in the new year.

We are also planning to produce a special edition of the Stockade later in 2023, to celebrate the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We always welcome content, so if you have a story about Karori you would like to share, please contact [Jo Elworthy](#), our editor extraordinaire.

Adrian Humphris  
President