

WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST

Working for the city's benefit

The Wellington Civic Trust, which this month marks 10 years, was set up to stimulate dialogue on the physical development of the city.

The trust's aim has been to promote urban Wellington, its countryside and coastline, as a resource for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all its citizens.

In its 10 years, it has encouraged discussion on various parts of the city, from the harbour front and town belt to Courtenay Place and Miramar peninsula.

While other groups and individuals focus on individual issues, the trust takes a broad view, deputy chairman Duncan Joiner says.

Because it is non-partisan and does not draw money from its activities, it can approach issues from as neutral a position as possible, he says.

"The trust goes behind the physical issues and asks who are the people involved, why aren't they achieving successful results now, are they in fact talking to each other?"

"The trust sees its role as to bring these people together in discussions."

It is surprising how often people reach agreement when they talk, Mr Joiner says.

As well as bringing together official and statutory organisations, the trust publicises an issue to encourage public input.

"From time to time, one of a clump of issues become more significant. At that stage, a decision is made to have a seminar and raise public awareness of the issues."

Interested parties are invited to the seminar, which explores the issue and looks at possible solutions.

A shortlist of recommendations is drawn up and passed on to the appropriate authorities, Mr Joiner says.

"It would be no good having recom-



Board of Trustee members, from left: Oroya Day, Mary-Annette Hay, John Gray, Dorothy Tye, Duncan Joiner, Dan Lewis.

mendations that no one takes any notice of."

The response of these groups has always been positive and the recommendations have been adopted to varying degrees, he says.

"Any organisation confronted with a large issue is glad of a non-partisan organisation that can come along to

provide some sort of solution at a low price.

"They can't help but feel well disposed toward it."

The trust's greatest success has been to bring together the former Wellington Harbour Board and Wellington City Council to discuss the future of the harbour front.

It has since focused attention on Courtenay Place, the Parliament centre, the railway yards, Miramar peninsula and Wellington's open spaces.

The trust has about 350 members and a board of trustees, made up of members of the Historic Places Trust, conservation organisations, architects and business and community leaders.