AN HISTORICAL TOUR AROUND

Suzanne Aubert’s
WELLINGTON
TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA

Suzanne Aubert (1835–1926), founder of the Sisters of Compassion.

Suzanne Aubert
SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
2 Rhine Street, Island Bay
ONE PUNCHER'S WOMAN

IN JANUARY 1899, Suzanne Aubert and three Home of Compassion Sisters arrived in Wellington, with two shillings and sixpence between them. They immediately set about establishing works of charity that would win the loyalty and admiration of Wellingtonians from all backgrounds and strata of society. It was Suzanne Aubert’s city. This was the city where her pioneering vision was most fully realised and where her practical Christianity shone so brilliantly. She and her Sisters became well known and loved around the city, as they pushed their baskets on wheels to collect food and clothing for the poor. Suzanne was also a raconteur and master-influencer, winning the support of the governor-general of the day, as well as Wellington’s politicians and community leaders, for her ambitious projects.

NEW ZEALAND’S FIRST CRECHE

Another house on New Zealand’s first Burke Street was used as a crèche, which enabled elderly men suffering from dementia and degenerative conditions who had nowhere else to go. At one stage of the property, a sheltered workshop was opened on Burke Street to Compton Terrace. This building was used as a home for disabled children, and in 1906-7 it was the site of the formation of Sisters of Compassion.

ORIENTAL BAY

Oriental Bay is a must-see destination for visitors to Wellington. This was where Suzanne once saved the lives of a mother and child. The mother had been sucking from her position, and in desperation wanted to end her own life and take her child with her. Suzanne came to the rescue of the woman, saving her life and taking care of her baby.

TOHAINA TE HAERENGA

In 1899 Suzanne established the first Home for Incurables in Wellington, catering for elderly men suffering from dementia and degenerative conditions who had nowhere else to go. At one stage of the property, a sheltered workshop was opened on Burke Street to Compton Terrace. This building was used as a home for disabled children, and in 1906-7 it was the site of the formation of Sisters of Compassion.

SHARE THE JOURNEY

TO FIND OUT MORE

www.suzanneaubert.org