



NEWSLETTER NO. 2, September 2013

Civic Trust Auckland

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This is the second newsletter for 2013 and has again been rough drafted by Munroe then bulked up and made sensible by Audrey.

New Patron

During the year the Board agreed to contact Hamish Keith with a view to his becoming our Patron and it was with particular pleasure that Board members have since learned of his acceptance. Those who have read *40 years of Civic Trust Auckland* will be aware that Hamish was amongst the original members of this organization, being on the standing committee from 1968, so that his connection with CTA is from the earliest time.

Hamish is best known for his stint at the Auckland City Art Gallery in various guises from 1958 to 1970, afterwards sitting on the Board. His fame then and since has earned him a sizable Wikipedia entry and formal acclaim. For example, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the arts in 1981. He was conferred an honorary doctorate in 2009 by the University of Waikato and in 2013 he was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZOM) for services to the arts.

He has contributed reviews and comments on the arts as well as urban and social issues for numerous magazines and newspapers. He has shown longstanding support for a waterfront location for a northern Te Papa.

We look forward to introducing Hamish to members in his role as Patron and to his ongoing involvement.

Board Members 2013

Allan Matson (president)

Audrey van Ryn

(vice-president & secretary)

Julian Mitchell (treasurer)

Margaret Barriball

Peter Carter

Helen Geary

Munroe Graham

Jim Mason

Gary Russell

Scott Homestead Open Day - 12 October, 11am - 4pm

The Auckland Heritage Festival commences this weekend and once again Scott Homestead will feature with a CTA sponsored open day .

Last year's open day attracted over 70 visitors, many of them locals, who were very pleased to finally see the inside of the building.

Event details including a map are on the website. Contact: Helen ph 376 9411.

*NB Scott's Point is in **Mahurangi East**, not Mahurangi West, as incorrectly stated in the festival booklet.*

Enjoy the festivities on offer during this period. All events are listed on the Auckland Council website.



Scott Homestead, October 2012 - photo Allan Matson



Subscriptions are now due

Please see the last page of the newsletter for payment details for the Civic Trust Auckland annual subscription.

We very much value the ongoing support of our members and look forward to welcoming new members.

Auckland Unitary Plan

The new Unitary Plan for Auckland will be notified in a few days' time, on 30 September.

The so-called "discussion document" of mid-March resulted in over 20,000 replies and received negative publicity in a number of areas. Of most concern was the apparent lack of openness, even within Council, where information was for a time withheld from some Councillors. And why should a mere discussion document be so fiercely supported by its authors and political backers during the feedback period, as though it was already a done deal?

Let us hope that at least some feedback has been read and that some is acted upon, otherwise the formal submission process will be messy and take years to resolve.

The CTA Board submitted feedback of just over 30 pages - which is available on the website - and will soon be putting together a formal submission on the notified version of the plan. We would be interested in hearing from members who have points they wish to see included.

RMA Reform

There has been growing dissatisfaction with the proposed reforms to the Resource Management Act, the Māori Party and United Future being the latest to say they will not support the proposed changes to Part 2.

A comprehensive analysis has been undertaken by Sir Geoffrey Palmer, the architect of the RMA in 1991, which underlines serious concerns about environmental protections.

A number of proposed improvements are broadly acceptable, such as creating templates, common definitions and new timelines for resource consents. However, the Part 2 amendments have been widely criticised by environmental groups and others.

CTA is one of these groups, having voiced objections to (amongst others) limiting the scope of participation in consent submissions and appeals, to changing the principles of the RMA and to changing "matters of national importance" to "principles".

WHAT'S YOUR WHĀNAU DOING? Conservation Week 8 – 15 Sept

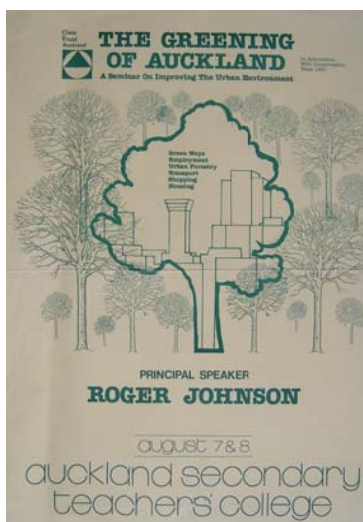


Conservation Week is run by the Department of Conservation each year to raise awareness of the benefits of conservation and encourage people to get involved.

This year's theme was '**Celebrate Conservation Week! What's your whānau doing?**'

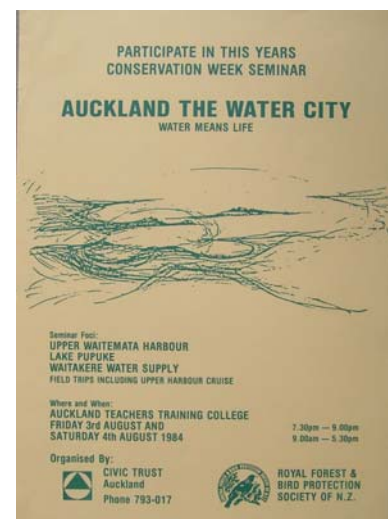
Thousands of people across the country participated in over 150 events run by DOC and other conservation minded groups.

Whānau - family, friends, work mates, sports teams and flatmates - were encouraged to make a conservation pledge during Conservation Week. These were activities like having a picnic lunch in a nature reserve with co-workers, planting native trees or testing others with the conservation quizzes.



from the archives:

Conservation Week seminars
run by CTA in 1981 (left)
and 1984 (right)



Our Broken Bus-ways

Few realize that the bus-ways in Auckland are in a truly parlous state. This was finally made clear by Auckland Transport in its media release of 24 October 2012 which stated "Dominion Road is one of the few transport corridors in Auckland where there are more bus passengers than drivers in peak hours".

What does this mean? What of the non-peak situation, which must be worse than dreadful?

Are the passengers we think we see mere images painted on the insides of the windows?



Barrow House

The May newsletter made mention of Barrow House at 49 Church St Mangere Bridge as being advertised on the property market as being built in 1841 by Sir John Logan Campbell. Munroe asked if anyone know the history of this home and Lisa Truttman kindly supplied some notes, which are summarised as follows.

The house was named after Noel Barrow, past owner of the house. According to Val Payne's book on Mangere Bridge, the house was owned by the Dickie family, then passed through to the Barrows, Noel's mother being a Dickie. On Christmas Eve 1969 it was destroyed by fire. The Barrows family rebuilt it from scratch in eight months, using timber from villas being demolished for the Grafton Gully motorway. The thick pit-sawn kauri floorboards were the only parts left, badly burned and gouged, but the brothers repaired them.

The site is on land confiscated from the Maori during the Waikato War. The Dickeys appear to have called their house "Hollybrook" (after the ancestral Irish home), but when a Mrs Dickey advertised leaving Mangere in 1901, her house was described as:

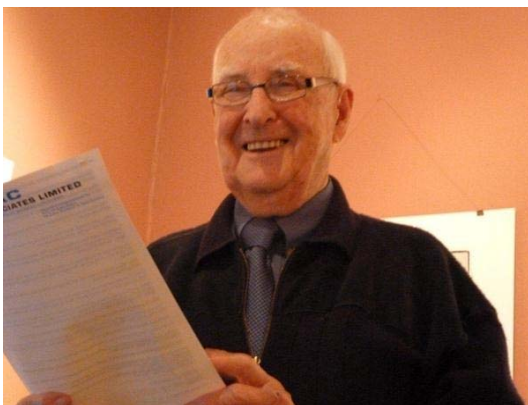
THAT DELIGHTFUL RESIDENCE in Mangere, containing 8 rooms on one floor; also, bathroom pantry, and scullery, four fireplaces, range, bay window, etc.; concrete dairywash house, with copper; coach house and cow shed; all in good order.

Winter Series

The fourth and final of the winter series of lectures in conjunction with the Kinder House Society was held on 22 September. This was an interesting look at the period of the 1800s as evidenced through the samplers created at the time. The speaker was Vivien Caughley, the author of a forthcoming book called *Samplers: their Role in NZ Social History*.

Other lectures in the series were by Bryan Bartley on Saving our Masonry Buildings, Sally Hughes on the formation and successes of the Character Coalition and Peter Charlesworthy on antique furniture restoration.

If members have ideas for the next year's Winter Series, please pass them on to the Board.



Bryan Bartley - 9 June



Sally Hughes - 14 July

photos - Roy Clements

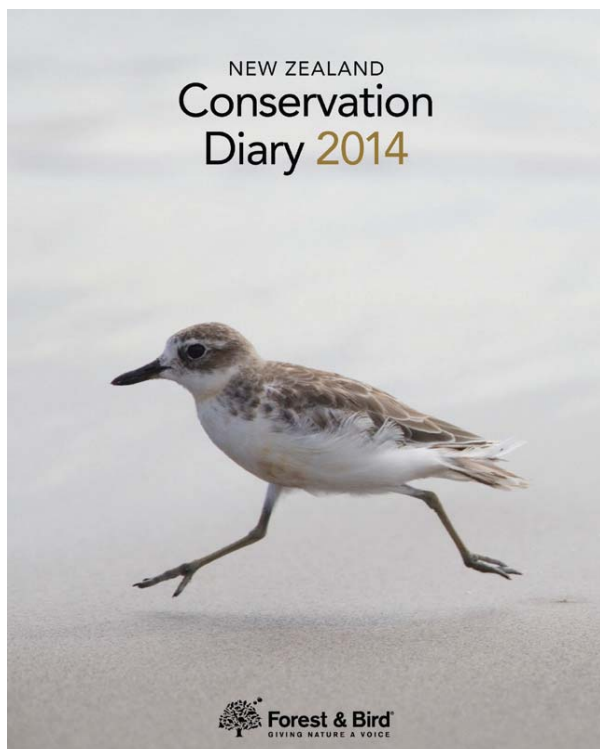
Forest & Bird Calendars & Diaries

All proceeds for the sale of these Craig Potton calendars and diaries go towards Forest & Bird projects in central Auckland.

\$15 Calendars + postage
\$22 Diaries + postage

Orders will be filled as they are received and sales will continue until stocks last

Email cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz if you would like an order form.



The 100% Pure Campaign

The New Zealand tourist industry has allowed advertising spin to far exceed the reality on the ground and received a wake-up call when a botulism scare shook up our milk trade with China and many other countries a few months ago. This had followed deregulation of the meat inspection industry, which caused a shambles when meat was sent to China under a new system without end consumer awareness.

Sure, NZ looks picturesque in the travel brochures, but why are so many organizations, including CTA, dedicated to environmental matters? Are not virtually all our waterways polluted to some extent? Are not many Auckland beaches on pollution alert? See for example "Estuarine marinas a ticking time bomb" NZ Herald August 20.

And our farm practices, are they not to some extent unethical, verging upon the criminal in terms of animal husbandry (tight living space, injections, hormones and food additives etc) and of a basically polluting nature (animal waste, sprays, weed killers etc) in so many areas? See "5 Keas die in poisoning op" NZ Herald August 22.

Will this flawed campaign be quietly dropped?

The Wong Doo Building

This 1880s Victorian style block is one of the few left in the CBD and (together with some, indeed, most others) threatened with demolition by site developers. There are problems integrating the building into an overall concept and earthquake upgrading is a monumental task.

However there are reasons for increased optimism. Watch this space.



Wong Doo Building detail - photo Allan Matson

Tree Week Bus Tour

The Tree Council
Taikina Rākau • est 1986



TREE WEEK BUS TOUR of

Auckland's Remarkable Urban Forest

Sunday 20 October

Departs Unitec-Entry 3 NW side of Building 48

9.30am

This tour led by Penny Cliffin, a senior lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture, at Unitec Institute of Technology will visit Western Springs, Western Park, and Myers Park before a lunch stop in Albert Park and then across the road to the University collection returning to Unitec at 3pm.

Members \$20, Non Members \$25

Numbers are limited

Email thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz

Notable Tree Guidance Form

Auckland Council now has a notable tree guidance form which covers all the information you need if you are wanting to nominate a new notable tree or notable group of trees.

This form should be completed along with the location of the tree on the site shown – an aerial photo should be used. This is because Auckland Council often receives nominations for, say, an oak tree on a property and when the arborist goes out he finds there are a number of oaks on the property.

The notable tree guidance can be found on the Auckland Council website. This completed form can then be attached to a submission to the proposed Unitary Plan or emailed to the Tree Council.

Contact Auckland Council if you have any questions. They can also assist with providing an aerial photo. Council also has two specialist heritage arborists who provide advice on heritage trees including for resource consents for work around scheduled trees and those on heritage sites.

The British Lakes District

On a foreign note it is worth commenting on an exchange of ideas taking place at present in Britain. It seems that the Lakes District is being considered for inclusion as a World Heritage site. There is no doubt about its incredible beauty, but the debate is centered on the fact that it is an area popularized during the so called Victorian "romantic" period and is seen by some as merely a Disney-ized version of an idyllic landscape, as envisaged by the likes of Wordsworth, Ruskin and many others.

Sheep are said to be ruining the land and making it difficult for the original fauna and flora to survive. Rather similar to the situation described above, is it not, but with the added nuance of "how much change is too much" in heritage terms? Should a natural environment be maintained as a time capsule? Should it revert back to a post ice age "natural" state? Should farming practices be pre-industrial, and, if so, which era should be chosen? Who pays when this is un-economic? What rules should apply to land use in such circumstances?

These are matters without boundaries and therefore of importance worldwide, even to the bewildered many living north of the Bombay Hills and south of Warkworth.

ECO AGM

29 November - 1 December

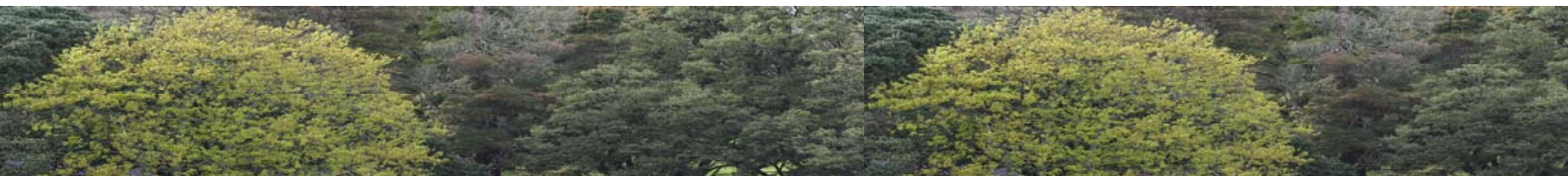
Kauaeranga Valley, Thames, Coromandel

Theme: Which Way New Zealand?



ECO, the Environmental & Conservation Organisations of NZ, has invited member groups - of which CTA is one - to register for their conference & AGM. The topics will focus on choices we can make to improve our environment and decision making, ranging across sea and land, including marine spatial planning, mining - local v national decision making and planning. Conservation, including local successes in protecting ecosystems and species and recent changes at DOC will be considered, as well as good decision making and policies for the future. The conference is also a celebration of ECO, its members, and other community efforts. The place of the environment in a possible constitution and due process in decision making will be discussed.

Programme and registration: <http://www.eco.org.nz>



St James Theatre



Board Members outside the St James Theatre in December 2012
M l-r: Peter M, Jim, Julian, Munroe, Allan. F l-r: Helen, Margaret, Audrey

It was encouraging that after years of activism by many organizations and individuals about saving this iconic piece of CBD history there were faintly encouraging signs of support from within Council, with the Mayor Len Brown to the fore.

It is therefore disappointing to read a Herald editorial (19 August) indicating that the chances have dimmed and that development on part of the larger site may commence soon. Getting purchase and/or upgrade cash to put good money after bad following so many years of neglect has always been the name of the game.

It is difficult to make an economic case for a site worth far more vacant than presently "encumbered" by the present building. This situation is not uncommon and applied many years ago to the old Customhouse building - yet that lovely architectural gem was nevertheless saved - with help from CTA and many others.

Diary Note

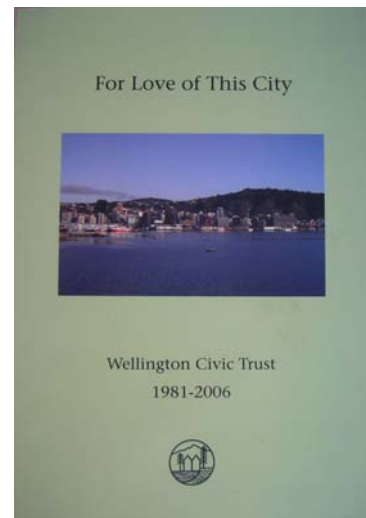
Love Your Mountain Day (Maungawhau / Mt Eden) will be held on Sunday 8 December this year: history, walks, talks, music, displays and more.



For Love of This City

Helen brought a copy of this book back with her from the Wellington Civic Trust when on 21 May on CTA's behalf she attended the WCT's awards ceremony, an annual event which celebrates the built environment, public open spaces, preservation and restoration projects, and city art works. This book joins a number of others in the CTA library which are available to members to borrow.

Helen gave a full report to the Board on the awards ceremony, which was a well attended and well run civic event at the Wellington Town Hall.



CTA newsletters from 2010 onwards are available at www.civitrustauckland.org.nz

Subscriptions

If you would like to join Civic Trust Auckland please supply the following information to **cta@civitrustauckland.org.nz**

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Interests:

Qualifications:

Either post a cheque to:
Civic Trust Auckland, PO Box 74049 Greenlane, Auckland 1543 or transfer to the Trust's account: 389010 0336852 00, including your name in the reference field.

Membership categories are: Individual (\$30) / Family (\$45) / Student/Senior (\$15)