

NEWS

February 2009

2	Slump hits city's major projects-Auckland regional Council in crisis talks (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) At risk are rail electrification, tank farm, integrated ticketing and ports of Auckland profits.
2	Dual use best scheme for Whenuapai (New Zealand Herald editorial)
2	Fiddling figures no way to build a motorway-further thoughts on Waterview (New Zealand Herald Rudmans city)
4	Money still needed for historic St Michael's church upgrade in Beatrice Road Remuera (New Zealand Herald Justine Glucina) The church won an architectural award in 1934 and is designated category one by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
5	Demolition plan revived for building number five at Greenlane Hospital (New Zealand Herald) See also letter to the editor from Helen Geary on the sixth of February pointing out that it is the Auckland District Health Board which is responsible for maintenance of this building.
5	Historic Schoolhouse threatened with demolition - not-withstanding terms of Buddhist temple consent (New Zealand Herald Valmoana Tapaleo)
6	Electric trains on track despite downturn (New Zealand Herald Jacqueline Smith)
6	Giant sewer tunnel drill at Hobson Bay pushes into light (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
9	Art gets buried by mountain of paperwork (New Zealand Herald Rudmans city) Another plea to find a home for the wind sculpture.
11	Electric cars to be free of road tax charges (New Zealand Herald) Environment Minister Nick Smith says that the government plans to waive road user charges on electric vehicles. Note: Civic Trust Auckland considers that road user charges should be scrapped for all cars (perhaps even all vehicles) and that some form of government subsidy should be introduced for farm vehicles, to reflect their special status.
11	Ellerslie in for revamp (East and Bay's Courier Melanie Verran)
20	Well planned reserve re-vamp takes shape at Waitarua (East and Bay's Courier Justine Glucina)
22	Dave Veart presentation on the history of baking at Kinder house (The Darling February)
24	The changing face of a cultural landmark-shall the National library building be preserved (New Zealand Herald Jim Traue) The National library building in Wellington is one of the few examples of acceptable, even memorable commercial architecture in New Zealand dating from the 1980s. It is to be "modernised" by being enclosed within a standard airport terminal style glass box. Civic Trust Auckland objects in the strongest terms to this ravaging of architectural heritage in the name of upgrading.
25	\$80 million Aotea Square upgrade under way (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson)
26	Ice declining faster than expected in both Arctic and Antarctic glaciers (science daily)
28	Kiwi art (\$50 million Wallace collection) finds home in restored Pah homestead mansion (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
28	Sir Edmund Hillary's home in Remuera on market - should it be purchased by a public body? (New Zealand Herald for sale feature Estelle Sarney)
	Parnell community committee publicises four pressing concerns (the Darling February) plan change 196-Newmarket growth strategy (and Parnell by stealth) This plan change has the potential to seriously damage the living amenity and intrinsic heritage character of the small residential enclave and heritage interface with the Jubilee building in northern Newmarket. Extensive use of residential 8 city zoning is proposed by Council. This is the high-density zoning which distressed so many people when it was applied to various areas around Glen Innes. Parnell community committee fears that the outcome could be an extension of what has occurred in Newmarket- poor architecture and a crowded environment, with further gridlock. Auckland Regional Policy Statement review This is a fundamental resource management and planning document for the Auckland Region and Auckland City Council

	<p>is required to "give effect" to this document when preparing its Isthmus plan. The regional Council has recently reviewed the mechanisms to protect volcanic view shafts (plan change 8) and these will be integral to this new review. Parnell community committee is concerned that submissions from Council seem to be at odds with ensuring effective protection of these view shafts.</p> <p>Auckland City Council new district plan area 10: Parnell, Grafton and Newmarket Parnell community committee provided an initial report and Forum in August 2008. A first draft is expected in the first quarter of 2009. There are a number of key issues and heritage is extremely important to residents in these areas. At present Council has only nominated homes in zones 1,2,3 and 4 as deserving of heritage protection controls. The committee submits its case for an overall blanket control, at least for Parnell, but perhaps also for designated heritage areas of Grafton and Newmarket.</p> <p>Parnell train station Parnell community committee claims that there is huge support for the Mainline Steam site to be the new home of the heritage Newmarket train station.</p> <p>Civic Trust Auckland supports all these initiatives and would go further in extending heritage protection throughout all areas under the control of Auckland City Council.</p> <p>As far as the Parnell train station is concerned, the case for a station serving Parnell in the location suggested is surely incontestable. Whether the historic Newmarket station building is suitable for that location is open to question and somewhat doubtful.</p>