

NEWS

March 2008

1	History for sale in Vulcan Lane (New Zealand Herald Colin Taylor) Four adjoining city buildings containing three well-known city pubs are being offered for sale. The pubs include the Occidental and the Queens ferry.
1	Blaze at MOTAT aviation park-train carriage destroyed and shed under threat (New Zealand Herald)
3	Uphill slog to fix rail-train service hopelessly prone to breakdowns (New Zealand Herald Geoff Cumming)
3	After a summary trial, another landmark to be executed-the building 5 saga at Green Lane continues (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) Building owners the Auckland District Health Board wanted to demolish this historic building to make way for car parking. Auckland City Council had given permission to demolish on January 5, 2007, then three weeks later changed their minds and notified an intention to list as a category B scheduled building, following a pass mark of 53 under the much criticised Auckland City Council points system. Later, bowing to pressure from the Auckland district health board, the points were massaged downwards to a fail mark of 49. Have the Health Board and City Council no sense of shame? Note: Civic Trust Auckland is also greatly concerned that this saga should again highlight inadequacies in calculating heritage value, not only by Auckland City Council but by many other parties throughout the country. As a result of this latest fiasco Civic Trust Auckland is shortly to produce a paper, presenting a system of its own for discussion and hopefully wide adoption. Board member Alan Matson is to be commended for his efforts in attempting to preserve this heritage building. See also in the same paper "demolition looming for historic building" by Elizabeth Binning.
3	International accolade for Auckland architects RTO studio (New Zealand property investor)
5	Historic Newmarket station building lifted up and away to secret site (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
5	\$1 billion loop tunnel plan to unlock Britomart (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) The Auckland regional transport authority has begun preliminary planning for a 3.5 km tunnel between Britomart and Mt Eden, beneath Albert St, including underground stations near Wellesley Street and Karangahape Road. Note: Civic Trust Auckland is aware that a similar plan was first produced in the mid to late 1920s.
5	Royal commission to enquire into the question of Auckland's local government (New Zealand Herald open letter)
5	New Zealand running late on carbon targets (New Zealand Herald Brian fallow)
5	Community health not only pills and surgery-saving building 5 will make Aucklanders feel well again (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) See also numerous letters to the editor, showing huge public concern over the possible loss of this heritage building.
7	Water bill hikes to help Council balance books-cash cow to be used again (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
7	Takapuna North Post office towers application withdrawn (North Shore Times Jodeal Cadacio) Heritage architect Dave Pearson has been asked to redesign the proposed extensions so as to meet in so far as is reasonably possible objections received.
7	Master plan proposed for sensitive coastal site on Orakei basin (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
7	Government bids to buy back trains and ferries from Toll (New Zealand Herald Paula Oliver)
8	In time we will be proud of our rail service (New Zealand Herald Merv Smith)
9	Category A scheduled 1898 Domain grandstand's entertaining history (City Scene)
10	Recovery of rail must be accelerated (New Zealand Herald editorial)
11	Auckland leaders lash out over historic building (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) Following weeks of angry letters to the editor and news articles, Auckland leaders John Banks and Mike lee have finally joined the fight to stop the Auckland district health board demolishing the historic Green lane hospital building. Prime Minister Helen Clark, minister of arts, culture and heritage, has also expressed concern. It is shameful when a lone nurse, Helen Geary is left to take the lead in protecting an important heritage building.
11	Battle for Piha cafe heads to environment Court

	(New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
11	Call for public views on Auckland Art Gallery extension design (New Zealand Herald-two thoughtful letters to the editor, from retired architect Malcolm Mackenzie and Warren Sanderson).
14	Petition for rail link from downtown Auckland to Auckland airport presented to ARC today (East and Bay's Courier) The campaign for better transport collected 10,000 signatures over four months.
14	Tunnel into Britomart a basic design flaw (New Zealand Herald letters column Alan Bufton) This letter from the group manager, transport strategy, Auckland City Council, attempts to justify the narrow tunnel access into Britomart, which had been criticised in a Herald editorial. His explanation? It was all the land made available by the Crown at the time.
14	Protecting all old homes unjustified (New Zealand Herald editorial) The New Zealand Herald had recently uncovered a backroom plot between three lawyers and the Auckland City Council planning department to lift demolition restrictions within the heritage zone 2. This editorial tends to support the position of the three lawyers, but a huge number of letters to the editor show the public quite dismayed over the affair.
14	Historic hospital building 5 gets reprieve (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman)
17	Heritage love looks hollow-a further note on the dreadful saga of building 5 at Green lane (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)
18	New Zealand can grow all its own bio fuels (New Zealand Herald Angela Gregory)
18	Planning chiefs reject Orakei proposal (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) see also " battle won - for now", East and base Courier, Melanie Verran.
18	Home rules not needed in Remuera (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) The position of Remuera lawyer Derek Nolan, supported by lawyer colleagues Brian Lattimore and Tim Burcher is presented in this article. The New Zealand Herald last week had uncovered their "backroom plot" to lift blanket demolition restrictions within the heritage 1 and 2 zones.
22	Tolls possible on Grafton Bridge (East and Bay's Courier Melanie Verran)
24	Spitfire for sale: up to \$5 million? (New Zealand Herald Valmoana Tapaleao) How can this beautiful and historic aircraft be kept in New Zealand?
24	Art Gallery blowout adds \$16 million to project (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
25	Legal threat used to bludgeon opponents-The high cost threat wielded by the environment Court (New Zealand Herald Margot McRae)
25	Keeping them safe as houses under plan change 163 in residential 1 and 2 zones (New Zealand Herald Peter Watts)
25	Toll defeat (actually a win) opens way for tunnel (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
26	Forget clearways for airport traffic, give us a rail link (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)
26	Motorway bypass at Hobsonville comes a step closer (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
27	At loggerheads again over trees (New Zealand Herald Brian fallow)
28	Bio fuels drive running out of gas-political support no longer assured (New Zealand Herald Paula Oliver)
28	Concerted effort needed to prevent putrid future for Hauraki Gulf (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city)
29	Kaipara Harbour Atiu Park opening a dream come true for benefactors (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Retired farmers Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat are pleased that Atiu Creek farm is shortly to open to the public. They had gifted the 843ha property to the Auckland Regional Council in 2006, one of the most generous public offerings in recent times.
31	Bring in the muscle to ensure protection (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) The cavalry has arrived at last. Auckland regional Council has finally decided to join the appeal against the demolition permit granted this year for building 5 at Green lane hospital. In its interpretation of the Auckland City Council points system, it gives a least one third more to this buildings than the 49 calculated so far.
31	2 more Heritage homes in Mission Bay threatened (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) The houses involved are at 18 and 26 Ronaki road