



## NEWSLETTER NO. 1, April 2014

Civic Trust Auckland

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Patron: Hamish Keith

*This is the first newsletter for 2014 and has been created by Audrey.*

### EARTHQUAKES and AUCKLAND

There is currently discussion in the media, the workplace and over the dinner table about the necessity of seismic upgrades for Auckland buildings. Some work has already gotten underway but there are many owners of buildings who do not have the funds to meet the requirements of proposed government policy. It has been suggested that such work would cost Aucklanders \$3 billion.

The necessity for seismic building upgrades has been challenged by many, amongst them, Ian Harrison of Wellington's Tailrisk Economics, in his 100-page report *Error Prone Bureaucracy*, highlighted in Anne Gibson's article in the Herald last Tuesday. Mr Harrison suggests that only seven lives would be saved over the next 75 years, a huge financial burden would be created and many heritage buildings would be demolished. He says that no other country was planning to introduce across-the-board national earthquake strengthening standards.

CTA submitted on the government's consultation document, "Building Seismic Performance" and will be submitting on the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill. Our previous submission stated, *"In our view, the proposed Building Seismic Performance Policy is impractical and is an over-reaction to the risk of damage to property and loss of life and injury from potential earthquakes in New Zealand ..."*

*We are of the view that the resources required to effect the proposed policy would be better spent on ensuring safety in other areas where injuries and deaths occur daily, such as in the workplace and on the roads."*

#### Board Members 2014

Allan Matson (president)

Audrey van Ryn  
(vice-president & secretary)

Julian Mitchell (treasurer)

Margaret Barriball

Helen Geary

Munroe Graham

Jim Mason

Gary Russell

### Life membership presentation



At the AGM in November life membership was bestowed on **John Strevens** in his absence. Audrey and Allan caught up with John in January and presented him with a certificate.

Also in January the Board sent **Sandra Coney** a letter to thank her for her work for the benefit of Auckland's built and natural heritage during her time on Auckland Council. The letter acknowledged her talk in the Winter Lecture Series in September 2012 and her attendance the CTA garden party at the Strevens' home in March last year.

Sandra replied to express her appreciation for our letter and to thank us for our passion for heritage.

## Recent Submissions

CTA lodged a substantial submission on 28 February on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, partly based on feedback we had given to Council on the draft plan on 31 May and also as a result of attending various Council sessions about the plan.

Submissions are expected to be available to the public in May, and CTA intends to make further submissions and participate in the hearings, to be held in 2015 and 2016.

CTA also supported the Character Coalition in its submission through attending several meetings with planning lawyer Sue Simons, contributing to paying for Sue's work and providing input into the Coalition's submission.

Other recent CTA submissions have been on:

- Draft Annual Plan
- Draft Ponsonby Road Masterplan
- Proposed Low Carbon Strategic Action Plan
- Draft Heritage Buildings and Places Recovery Programme for Greater Christchurch.

The latter of these submissions followed a meeting on 30 January in Christchurch where Allan met with representatives of the Akaroa Civic Trust, Christchurch Civic Trust and Wellington Civic Trust.

Under discussion were opportunities for the Civic Trusts throughout New Zealand to speak with a combined voice on common issues. CTA values this connection with the other Trusts and looks forward to further collaboration.

Allan spoke to Council on behalf of the Board on 8 April regarding our submission on the Annual Plan and we are working on feedback on Local Board plans as the year progresses.

If CTA members have points to make about their own Local Board plans, we would be pleased to hear them.

## Cycling Safety

Earlier this year media attention focussed on the danger of cycling on Auckland roads. CTA members will have received at the end of January a link to a petition initiated by Generation Zero calling for separate cyclepaths in order to improve safety for cyclists.

On 30 January the road safety charity Brake issued a press release supporting more separation of road users and slower speeds to protect cyclists and pedestrians.

Mary Williams, Brake's chief executive, said, "Everyone has a right to cycle or walk to work or for leisure, health or enjoyment, without fear or threat from fast traffic. But too often the rights of people to cycle or walk are not prioritised in transport planning, even though active travel has huge health, environmental and economic benefits. Separating vulnerable road users from traffic, and implementing 30km/h limits in communities, are needed to help reduce the number of people on foot and bicycle needlessly killed and injured on our roads."

Auckland Council says it is committed to improving cycling and pedestrian safety and extending the network of cycle lanes and cyclepaths. It is pleasing to see Council's support for SkyPath, the cycleway / walkway over the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

This Saturday (April 12) two public sessions are seeking feedback on the latest designs for SkyPath:

**10 am to 12pm: Westhaven, beside AJ Hackett's "Bridge Climb" base, Curran St.**

**1:30pm to 3:30pm: Northcote, under the bridge at Stokes Point, Princes St.**

This is in preparation for SkyPath's Resource Consent application which will be fully notified to enable anyone to make a submission.



## Symonds Street Houses Upgraded

It is pleasing to see that the University of Auckland is taking good care of its three Category II (late 1800s) Italianate houses at 12, 14 and 16 Symonds St.

Seismic strengthening is being carried out by Aspec Construction: building new foundations, installing steel connections between walls and floors, carbon fibre wrapping to the walls and new diaphragms in the roofs.

The buildings have been occupied by the Political Studies Department, and dampness and ventilation problems will finally be addressed.

The cost of the works is \$4.5 million.



14 Symonds Street

## Puhoi - Warkworth Toll Road

The Campaign for Better Transport has labelled the proposed Warkworth toll road as "fundamentally flawed".

Spokesperson Cameron Pitches says that without improvements to the notorious Hill Street intersection or the inclusion of a new link road to Matakana, the \$750m project will not meet one of its key objectives of reducing congestion at Warkworth.

An NZTA report cites travel time savings of only one or two minutes for trips to Warkworth and the Matakana region at most times of the day after the toll road is complete.

"This is because the fastest route will still be the existing State Highway 1," said Mr Pitches. "The travel time savings for this project are microscopic, outside of the relatively infrequent holiday periods." He says because the toll road won't achieve the objective of reducing congestion at Warkworth, the application should be declined.

## Waste Not

The Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund is a new Council grants programme that supports projects to reduce and minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.

This fund emerged from the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, adopted in June 2012 (on which CTA made a submission).

Applications for the next round of funding are from 1 April to 30 April. This round is for grants of up to \$5000. Funding is open for initiatives that complement and enhance existing council programmes, or address gaps or opportunities.

The four priority outcome areas are:

- resource recovery initiatives and facilities
- commercial waste
- organic waste
- community action and behaviour change.

Auckland Council's website has more information.



See the Council's website under "Environment and Waste" for what to put in your recycling bin.

For what to do with unused goods go to:

<http://www.donatenz.com/>

Donate to deserving organisations in your community, using this unique "matchmaker service" by being put in touch with worthy organisations who are waiting to receive what you have to give.

<http://www.asksharegive.org.nz/>

Asksharegive is an online community where people share their time, skills, transport and old or unused goods.





Eye on Nature © 2012

# NURTURING OUR FORESTS FAMILY DAY

AUCKLAND BOTANIC GARDENS EVENT SITE  
(ENTRY VIA EVERGLADE DRIVE)

## FREE EVENT

SATURDAY **12 APRIL 2014**  
12.00PM-8.30PM

WEARABLE ARTS FASHION PARADE  
6.00PM-8.30PM

[WWW.BEAUTIFULMANUKAU.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.BEAUTIFULMANUKAU.ORG.NZ)

PHONE: 269 4080



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Auckland Botanic Gardens  
Where ideas grow

Auckland  
Council

Te Kaurihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



## Auckland Conversations

A number of CTA members regularly attend Auckland Conversations, hosted by Auckland Council on a variety of city planning issues. The next Conversation is on 26 May:

### Cities for People – Janette Sadik-Khan

Former New York City Department of Transportation commissioner, Janette Sadik-Khan will share her expertise on sustainable public transportation in New York City.

### The Human Scale

Prior to Janette's talk, this internationally acclaimed documentary will be screened.

**Time:** 3.45pm – 7:30pm. Doors open at 3.30pm.

**Venue:** ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre

3.45 pm The Human Scale

5.00 pm Networking (cash bar)

5.30 pm Janette Sadik-Khan speaks

To find out more about Auckland Conversations and to get on the list for notification of events, email

[AucklandConversations@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:AucklandConversations@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



## Upcoming Conferences

The Annual General Meeting for **ECO (Environment & Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand)** will be held on 23 August in Wellington - venue TBC. The proposed theme is "Achieving Genuine Progress for the Environment". Further information : [eco@eco.org.nz](mailto:eco@eco.org.nz)



Participants at a recent ECO conference (incl CTA secretary)

The **Environmental Defence Society** conference "Navigating our Future: Addressing Risk and Building Resilience" will be held 5-7 August at the Viaduct Events Centre, Auckland. It will focus on how New Zealand can successfully navigate through this challenging environment to build a resilient, prosperous and sustainable future and will closely scrutinise the environmental policies of political parties. <http://www.eds.org.nz/>

*CTA newsletters from 2010 onwards are available at [www.civictrustauckland.org.nz](http://www.civictrustauckland.org.nz)*

### Subscriptions

If you would like to join Civic Trust Auckland please supply the following information to [cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz](mailto:cta@civictrustauckland.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)