



NEWSLETTER NO. 2, August 2012

Civic Trust Auckland
P O Box 74 049 Greenlane 1546
cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz
www.civictrustauckland.org.nz

This is the second newsletter for 2012 and has been drafted by Munroe Graham, with additional pieces by Audrey van Ryn.

Volcanoes

With the country experiencing eruptions from three of its volcanoes - Tongariro, White Island and Monowai (Kermadecs) - at the same time during August, it should be unsurprising that this issue has a somewhat volcanic theme.
(See pages 2-3.)

Heritage groups attack mayor's 'empty promises'

In a Herald article on June 19 entitled as above, CTA was quoted as follows:

The Civic Trust said it would like to have confidence in Mr Brown, but also said the mayor had to bring about a culture change in the planning department to value heritage.

"There needs to be more sensitivity in approving new buildings in character/heritage areas," said the Civic Trust, adding that there were good examples which respected their local heritage.

Read the full results of the survey on heritage which formed the basis of the article.

Re-opening of Logan Campbell Kindergarten

Five members of the Board attended the re-opening of the Logan Campbell Kindergarten on May 5, including Jim Mason, who received a special mention during the ceremony as a long-time advocate for the restoration of this century old building. Some former pupils and teachers were also in attendance.

A submission on the future use of the kindergarten has been provided by the Board, supporting a mix of community and commercial use. We felt that the local community should be consulted on what community and recreation facilities were needed in the area. We congratulated Council, NZTA and others who played a part in its restoration, which we consider a good example of adaptive re-use of a heritage building.



photos Audrey van Ryn



Membership renewal

Please note that as the new financial year for Civic Trust Auckland began on 1 August, subscriptions are now due.
Refer to page 6 for details. We do value your continued support.

Volcanoes

Matukureia – MacLaughlans

It will be recalled that this volcano (the watchful bittern, or, as known collectively with Wiri Mount, one of the two bitterns) had been purchased by the Crown some years ago, but the full extent of the reserve has never been publicized. The Volcanic Cones Society failed last year to have a women's prison re-planned on a site next door to the southwest, to reduce proximity visual impact and an industrial subdivision is at stage 1 (of 2), right on the western flank. Once again in Auckland an important volcanic landmark has not been able to properly express its mana and is destined to be crowded out by urban sprawl.

However, there are small blessings. The mountain can be approached closely at the end of a short industrial cul-de-sac, Wilco Place, where a small piece of extra land has been purchased by the local authority in order that industrial buildings, although near, will not directly abut the volcanic flank. Still, there is now insufficient room available to reinstate the original mountain form, so that it is likely to remain forever a dreadful symbol of physical and waahi tapu heritage desecration. The volcano reserve merges with a Queen's chain waterfront reserve around the nearby estuary perimeter and it appears that the latter reserve (to be opened to the public on completion of stage 2) has been enlarged sufficiently to include two recently discovered explosion craters. We await that opening with great interest.

Matukureia - photo Munroe Graham



Matukutūruru – Wiri Mount

This, the second of the two bitterns (the lazy or inattentive one), has a number of distinctions which make it of prime importance. It is the site of Auckland's longest lava cave, scheduled following some years of strenuous effort in the 1990s. It represents the southern extremity of the Auckland field. It was a defended pa site of importance to Maori and should therefore, along with most volcanic sites in the region, remain today waahi tapu.

CTA is supporting a strong submission by David Fraser, a young Manurewa resident, to have this important landmark and heritage feature returned to public ownership and perhaps to some extent re-instated.

Council owns the low northern flank between the mountain and Wiri Station Road, which contains a small heritage building, under restoration.

The mountain remnant and presumably the lava cave entrance come within the adjoining site owned by Winstones, sold to them ex Railways Dept in one of the worst episodes of the 1990s series of panic privatizations. The lava cave extends beneath the road into land to the north, also in Winstones ownership. This is undesirable from both public safety and site management points of view.

David Fraser's photo manipulation reconstruction of Matukutūruru, viewed from Roscommon Rd



Auckland Heritage Festival - Civic Trust Auckland Event

The heritage festival runs from September 29 to October 14. This year CTA is organising a guided tour of the Scotts Homestead (pictured) and surrounding heritage area at Scotts Landing, Mahurangi East. CTA members spent many years restoring this beautiful property.

The event is on **Saturday 13 October 11am - 4pm**. If CTA members and friends would like to carpool for the journey there, please contact Margaret Barriball on 631 5260 / margb@ihug.co.nz. Participants are invited to bring their own picnic lunch. A map of the area and further details about the trip will be on the Civic Trust website shortly.



photo Hazel Lamb

Volcanoes

New Volcanoes Discovered

Volcanoes are fairly big things, sufficiently so that nobody would want to be too close if one decided to go bang. It follows therefore that they would probably be difficult to lose. It is nevertheless true that certain types of volcano can leave little trace of their past activities, which can be obliterated by erosion or subsequent ash fall. Within the Auckland field alone, many lost features may never be known. However, improved aerial mapping and closer study of suspect sites in the field have led to some interesting finds in recent years.

At least two explosion craters have been discovered near Matukureia/MacLaughlans and preliminary advice suggests that they may be located happily within an area earmarked as a reserve (see separate story).

Boggust Park in north-central Mangere has been confirmed as a shallow explosion crater with a surrounding tuff ring and is happily in public ownership as a small local reserve, albeit lacking in appropriate signage. It is worth a visit. Subject to Iwi consultation and agreement, should there be a competition for a more appropriate Maori name?

Outhwaite Park in Grafton has been known as the site of a small scoria cone volcano for over 150 years. Recent foundation work for major buildings a few hundred metres to the north have revealed the presence of a substantial explosion crater covering most of Grafton and named in the meantime therefore the Grafton volcano.

Unlike its neighbour the Domain volcano, which developed a small scoria cone in its centre, it appears that the Grafton volcano completed its activity in the form of two small scoria cones, one to the south at Outhwaite and the other to the north at the eastern end of the present hospital grounds.

Daffodils in the Botanic Gardens - photo Audrey van Ryn



Viewshafts

Brian Rudman of the Herald recently produced a column highlighting the possibility that Council might be losing interest in retaining sight lines to the various iconic volcanic cones around Auckland. Letters to the editor confirmed this as a story of significant public interest and it is pleasing to note that it received a response from Ann Hartley, Chairwoman, Auckland Council Regional Development and Operations Committee. Strangely, she made no mention of Council policy in this area and merely noted that "everything in the proposed unitary plan will be up for discussion and public feedback". CTA is rather more encouraged to note her words: "our iconic maunga are critical to Auckland's sense of place and we support the desire to achieve world heritage status for the volcanic field".

CTA supports Council, the Volcanic Cones Society and other organizations and individuals in this endeavour, but doubts that world heritage status would be seriously considered while destruction is still ongoing, as it is in various places, such as Three Kings, Wiri Mount, Crater Hill and Maungataketake.

CTA takes the view that although it is of prime importance to retain volcanic features, it is also important to allow those features to "express their mana", by allowing them to be visible from close up and far away and, where possible, provide safe public access.

Volcanic Landform Protection

CTA has a sub-committee chaired by Munroe which has been attempting to tread the long path towards protection and ultimate public ownership of the main features within the Auckland volcanic field, with its 54 or so volcanoes, followed by similar efforts to be undertaken for the South Auckland field, where there are well over 85 features.

Volcanic landforms comprise a number of different geological features, ranging from the volcanoes themselves (which might be explosion craters, or built up hills) to lava flows, lava tunnels and areas of collapsed ground, typically where the roofs of lava caves have collapsed, such as the Puka Street and Grotto Street sink holes in Onehunga. There are also a number of important non volcanic geological features to be found within the Auckland region and strictly speaking we should support our friends in the Geological Society and perhaps therefore the CTA subcommittee should become the geological land form protection subcommittee.

CTA has joined Friends of Regional Parks and has received notice that on Sunday 30 September FORParks will be organising a trip to the Botanic Gardens and all member groups are welcome.

If you are interested in this trip, please mark the date in your diary and either watch out for a notice from CTA or contact the FORParks Secretary, Mels Barton ph 816 8337 / 021 2137779 mels@subliminal.co.nz

A Victorian Farm at Mangere

Abbeville Estate has been recently developed on land coming within the Auckland International Airport precinct and comprises a farm including the main homestead and outbuildings developed from the 1850s by Col Nixon, plus two other detached historic buildings, namely a further homestead and the former Westney Methodist Church, the latter of which had been moved from a site located a short distance away. The buildings and grounds have all been superbly restored and operated commercially as an events centre. See details at <http://www.abbeville.co.nz>

As there are issues regarding security, it will be necessary to gain permission to see through any of the buildings. At present it is unclear whether there are plans to relocate other buildings, houses and cottages in the locality to this site in order to create a heritage precinct. Business viability may be an issue.

Please note that a number of listed buildings of similar age are situated in the vicinity of the airport, for example at 254 and 299 Kirkbride Road. There are many unlisted homes of interest between the south-western motorway and Ihumatao, making a brief round trip most rewarding for Aucklanders and their visitors. It is hoped that a badly degraded home on the lip of the Pu-kaki crater can be reinstated as a public meeting area with a future viewing platform, to celebrate both local Maori history, shared Maori and early settler history and local geology. The land is in mixed iwi and local authority ownership.



Homestead, Abbeville Estate - photo Munroe Graham



Former Westney Methodist Church - photo Munroe Graham

Heritage Buildings at Risk

An article in the *Aucklander* by Rowena Orejana on 21 July highlighted the plight of several older buildings located in the flat bush area of South Auckland, where only a few buildings of heritage value exist.

Those dealt with in the article included an old factory manager's cottage on the corner of Smales and Chapel Roads, Guys homestead on Ti Rakau Drive and major Bremner's Homestead on McQoids Road. Some of these and other homesteads in the south Auckland area are in private ownership on land earmarked for future development. Generally these are buildings which are quite easy to move elsewhere and there are a number of mid-to large sized parks handy where they could be placed in safe-keeping, at least to external viewing static use, pending upgrading, ultimately for local community uses.

Battersea Power Station in London

Detail of this listed (1935 and later) "industrial cathedral" can be found in Wikipedia. The complex on 15.83 ha sold in June at international tender for UK£400 million and is of interest to Aucklanders because it represents an extreme example of various problems which exist on a much smaller scale locally. The building itself is a rare example of world-class industrial heritage. In Auckland, modest examples would include Victoria Park Market and Grafton Bridge. The transaction highlights the fact that some sites are too big to develop locally and require international consortia.

In Auckland two developments in recent times have been of international scale, namely, the development of ex-railway Ngati Whatua land east of the CBD and the ongoing staged development of tank farm, west of the CBD. The Battersea development will cost billions of pounds to develop, including £150 million to upgrade the (in part) near derelict building and a contribution of £200 million towards the cost of a £500 million underground rail extension. This is reminiscent of the high and increasing upgrade costs, particularly in terms of earthquake strengthening, for heritage buildings in many parts of Auckland and the ever increasing financial contributions required in Auckland and elsewhere towards "infrastructure upgrading" (where does that money really go)?

There is much food for thought here, not the least of which involves the future high property ownership maintenance costs for ratepayers and others owning heritage buildings and corresponding reduced rating values and therefore income for the rating authorities. More importantly this property highlights the very real negative effect of heritage listing on market value which can occur and is probably the greatest single factor causing opposition to the heritage movement. This is something which must be addressed, not ignored by all heritage advocacy bodies.

New National Heritage Body

Historic Places Aotearoa Incorporated was launched by the Governor General this month. The new body is independent of Heritage New Zealand, which is the proposed new name for the Historic Places Trust.

It is proposed that the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill 2011 will replace the Historic Places Act 1993. Key changes relate to archaeology and governance. The archaeological provisions of the Bill will achieve efficiency gains, reduce some costs and improve alignment with the Resource Management Act 1991. Proposed governance changes include the disestablishment of the existing branch network and replacement of three board positions elected by Trust members with two positions appointed by the Minister.

Some branches have already joined Historic Places Aotearoa and others are still considering whether to establish new organisations, join with Historic Places Aotearoa or join with local heritage groups.

More information:

Historic Places Aotearoa

New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill 2011

Trees in the Urban Environment

The Tree Council is once again offering their informative course "Trees in the Urban Environment". This year's Spring course from 5 September - 20 October will include the new tree protection rules for Auckland.

See the flyer which came with this newsletter for details or email thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz or phone Sherylle Scott, 523 1647.

Picnic at Drury, 6 May - photo Audrey van Ryn



Past CTA Events

There have been a number of events organised by Civic Trust since the last newsletter, some in conjunction with other groups.

The first of these was our event on 21 April for World Heritage Day, a toast to heritage at the Empire Tavern with CTA members and friends, with slides by John Stacpoole running in the background.

On ANZAC Day we combined with the Auckland Esperanto Society to hold an event which included a talk by a visiting Esperantist, Martin Ebner from Germany, on the heritage of Pompeii. (See photo below.)

On 6 May Munroe organised a successful and convivial occasion to mark the beginnings of the North Island main trunk line at Drury 150 years ago. Members of CTA and other groups got together for a picnic in Drury Domain, enjoying the sunny afternoon alongside plenty of conversation about trains. (See photo in opposite column)

Winter Lecture Series

Over the winter months we have joined forces again with the Kinder House Society to present another Winter Lecture Series, with talks by Ross Healy on the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings, Michael Smythe on NZ product design and Phillip Hartley on stone house building and restoration.

The final of the series will be a talk by Sandra Coney, Auckland Councillor about the challenges facing Aucklanders in protecting our heritage buildings and natural landscapes.

9 September 3.15pm Kinder House 2 Ayr St Parnell

Pompeii scene - photo Martin Ebner



Books

Book Gift

We record with thanks the generous gift of eight books to the CTA library from long-time member Briar Wilson. They are a valued addition to our collection, of which a list is being compiled and will appear on our website in due course.

Book Alert

The purpose of this section of the newsletter is not to provide any formal reviews but to advise readers about recent books of interest. Please contact us if you are aware of others published in recent years worthy of mention.

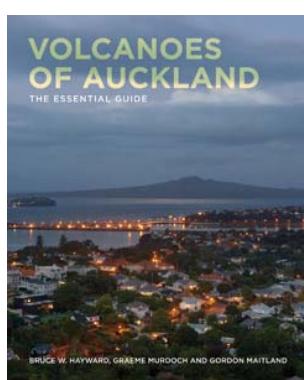
Tunnel Vision

This book by Martin Butler, author and publisher (2012) deals with the history of North Head Naval Base and its tunnels. Urban myth or cover-up? A fascinating story and you may decide.

Volcanoes of Auckland: The Essential Guide

Bruce Hayward, Graeme Murdoch & Gordon Maitland, Auckland University Press 2011

This is the definitive guide to the history, geography and geology of Auckland's unique volcanic landscape.



E-Waste Survey

Jonathon Hannon, a PhD researcher at Massey University is exploring the issues and opportunities around e-waste (i.e. 'dead' electronic equipment, which needs disposal / recycling) and is keen on as many Kiwis as possible to make their views known. In this first ever national e-waste survey.

e-Waste is the fastest growing waste type and is seen as a significant global issue. e-Waste contains both, hazardous material and critical resources. Internationally it is recognised that, quality 'end of life' e-waste recycling is a practical and effective way of protecting the environment.

Jonathon's findings will be made public and he hopes they will stimulate some informed debate.

To fill in the e-survey click [here](#).

All completed surveys are eligible for a prize draw for a VEON 19" LED TV/DVD combo.

Environment Photographer of the Year

This competition organised by Parker Harris is open to photographers of all ages and backgrounds. The main theme for the competition is images that examine environmental issues; specifically images that explore our relationship with the environment and the impact our actions have on the natural world.

Following submissions by 31 December, the final selected entries will be brought together for an exhibition which initially shows in London before touring UK and internationally. During the London exhibition the £5000 Environmental Photographer of the Year award is presented, along with £1000 prizes for both a Young Environmental Photographer of the Year and an Environmental Video of the Year.

Further information about the initiative can be found on the competition website.

Vintage Fountain Pens Wanted

Does anyone have any old fountain pens they no longer want and would be happy to pass on?

One of our members has begun a new hobby of restoring old fountain pens and he is keen for any unwanted pens people may have.



Contact cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz

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

Subscriptions

If you would like to join Civic Trust Auckland, please supply the following information to:
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)