



NEWSLETTER NO. 2, August 2014

Civic Trust Auckland

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Patron: Hamish Keith

This is the second newsletter for 2014 and has been created by Audrey, with contributions from Helen, Munroe, Tony & Roy.

WINTER LECTURE SERIES



As winter draws to a close, so does our annual lecture series. This year CTA initiated something different: visits to two historic heritage homes. The first was on 8 June to Whare Tane, thanks to owner Kay Wooff, who not only opened up her house and garden to our thorough exploration but also shared with us her plans for the property. The audience of 40 was also treated to presentations by Martin Jones, Heritage NZ and John Adam, Endangered Gardens.

The talks held by the Kinder House Society in July and August were well attended: Ian Thwaites on Further Thoughts on the Kinder Sisters and John Webster on Eleanor, the Orpheus & Kinder House.

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



A Toast to Heritage - 12 October

CTA will run this event again in the Auckland Heritage Festival, this time at Brew on Quay, 102 Quay Street, on the last day of the festival. Allan Matson will present a talk on central city heritage pubs, both in original hotels and converted heritage buildings, to be followed by a drink or two in the company of friends. Look out for the event in the festival programme, along with a range of other heritage focussed activities across the city.

The single-storey brick structure, now housing a pub, was designed by architect Charles Arnold and completed in 1904. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company occupied the building for more than 50 years. In 1961 the New Zealand Police took over the lease and the building operated as the Wharf Police Station until 1993.



Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan



CTA wrote a 91-page further submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, supporting or opposing points made by other submitters. Some of the points we supported were:

- Retain the schedule of significant heritage places. (Heart of the City)
- Amend objectives and policies to include cultural values and recognise Mana Whenua considerations. (Ngati Whatua Orakei Whai Maia)
- Expand the range of heritage incentives. (NZIA, Property Council NZ, Salmond Reed Architects, Remuera Heritage, Herne Bay Residents' Association, Heritage NZ)
- Undertake collaborative engagement with stakeholders on the appropriate management of character and heritage. (Housing NZ)
- Add a funded plan to increase public transport patronage. (The Urban Design Forum NZ)
- Retain the concept of a 'high standard of design' ... within the areas of business and residential intensification. (Urban Auckland)
- Amend non-complying activity statuses to prohibited for rules J6, volcanic viewshafts and height sensitive areas. (Auckland Volcanic Cones Society)
- Include the role of trees in the heritage character overlays of all older residential areas. (Heritage Landscapes)
- Recognise the importance the proposed compact city strategy plays in protecting areas of high natural and amenity value;
- Provide for staging of the intensification programme and to ensure that development of quality infrastructure precedes intensification;
- Refer to the adverse effects of peripheral urban growth on the coastal environment, outstanding and amenity landscapes, outstanding natural features, ecological health, biodiversity and the future provision of ecological linkages;
- Retain climate change as a regionally significant issue. (Environmental Defence Society)

CTA also supported:

- retaining the pre-1944 overlay
- precincts for K'Rd and Herne Bay
- Adding Tamaki Drive to the St Heliers character overlay
- retaining historic heritage and special character overlays in Grey Lynn
- adaptive reuse of buildings
- more notification of resource consent applications
- restoring the St James Theatre
- Universal Access policies and provisions
- more controls on night-time lighting and noise.

These are some of the submission points we opposed:

- Delete the Historic Heritage Place / extent of place from 129 identified properties. (Housing NZ)
- Adjust the zoning, overlays, development controls and other rules to provide sufficient residential development capacity and land supply to meet Auckland's 30-year growth projections and the development objectives of the PAUP and the Auckland Plan. (Minister for the Environment)
- Rezone to provide for greater density of development across the Auckland Region as envisaged under the draft version of the Unitary Plan;
- Delete maximum storey controls in all zones; delete the requirements for Design Statements; delete the sustainable development provisions. (Mt Hobson Group)
- Delete reference to 'maintaining and enhancing' the values of heritage buildings in the precinct. (Britomart Group Company)
- Delete the Volcanic Viewshaft Overlay from 77 identified properties. (Housing NZ)

CTA also opposed most of the NZ Heavy Haulage Association's points regarding special character provisions and the pre-1944 Building demolition control including: delete the overlays and provide for all applications for consent to demolish or remove special character and pre-1944 buildings on a non-notified and non-service basis.

We also opposed all submissions that rejected Universal Access policies and provisions.

Grey Lynn Park Festival

Look out for the CTA stall at this popular festival. We had a presence there for the first time last year and we will be there again, on **Saturday 29 November**.



Historic Places Aotearoa Workshop - Christchurch, 12 - 13 July



Allan attended this workshop on CTA's behalf, along with representatives mostly from Historic Places Canterbury and Otago, but also from Hawkes Bay and Wellington. The meeting was chaired by the President of Historic Places Aotearoa, Anna Crighton.

Presentations were given by Bruce Chapman and Rob Hall, (CEO and Southern Regional Manager respectively of Heritage New Zealand), on the fostering of relationships amongst heritage groups, and Wynn Clark (Engineer) discussed earthquake strengthening issues. Most of the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing opening up the membership of HPA to more organisations, and to this end, a working proposal on that matter was tabled by Historic Places Wellington.

Intensification Issues

A meeting was convened on 21 August by Character Coalition member the Herne Bay Residents' Association to discuss issues around intensification.

Allan attended this meeting, held at the Ponsonby Cruising Club at Westhaven, where presentations were given by National and Labour Auckland Central MPs, the Hon. Nikki Kaye and Jacinda Adern.

Jacinda pledged that Labour, if elected, would establish a National Policy Statement on heritage.

Jacinda Adern

Nikki Kaye



Earthquake-prone Buildings

A meeting was hosted by Maggie Barry on the topic of earthquake-prone heritage building issues at St Paul's Church in Devonport on 28 August. The speakers were the Hon. Maurice Williamson, who talked about the changes to the Building Act (requiring earthquake strengthening), which has been progressing through parliament; and the Hon. Chris Finlayson, who spoke about heritage matters and in particular the landmarks list proposed under the new legislation.

Notwithstanding that this beautiful brick church's earthquake strength is less than 20 percent of code, the meeting was well attended. Helen and Allan were present and took the opportunity to put questions to the Ministers. There were also several other CTA members at the meeting.



Ivan Mercep

Just after the last newsletter was compiled, CTA members Tony Watkins and Roy Clements provided the following biographical information about Ivan Mercep, a former Board member of CTA, who died on 8 April this year.

More than any other person, architect Ivan Mercep gave the University of Auckland a human face. International House in Whitaker Place, completed in 1971 in the days of the Colombo Plan, was notable for its intimate touchability and friendliness. The Collingwood student accommodation in 1976 gave students a home in the city. The Recreation Centre in 1977 hunkered down to respect the passer by.

Arts Commerce followed in 1984, reflecting the original domestic scale of its Symonds Street corner site. It linked the original houses that had been saved. The Waipapa marae and associated buildings in 1988, and the Fale Pasifika in 2004, gave a strong and unique identity to the University.

Ivan graduated in architecture from the University of Auckland and was then a founding partner of Jasmad, which later became Jasmax. This firm conserved and designed other campus buildings, and became one of the largest practices in New Zealand. Ivan continued working until his death, aged 83. The legacy of his buildings has made generations of students feel that they belong and are at home. They will live on as his memorial: a family of buildings for a family of scholars.

Ivan was a strong and wise member of the Civic Trust Board during the years 1987 – 1991, a time which saw much of the destruction of Central Auckland. He often gave measured advice on new developments and so was of great assistance in the preparation of the flow of submissions that the Board wrote. He helped in many other ways too, for instance, he was the principal leader of a seminar CTA held on Ponsonby (see photo).

Ivan also had a big hand in the making of Te Papa in Wellington and Samoa House in K' Road.



Lecture to St Andrew's Church Social Group



CTA Board member Helen Geary was invited to give a presentation to the St Andrew's Church social group that meets monthly to hear about issues of interest.

On 5 June Helen presented to group of about 20 in the church hall at St Andrew's Rd, Epsom, next to the magnificent St Andrew's Church, which dates from 1868. Category 1 on the Heritage New Zealand register, the church is one of Auckland's best known examples of the Selwyn style and is closely connected with Rev Dr John Kinder. As the vicar, a contributor and fund raiser, and having an influence on the design of the building, he was the principal force in the establishment of the church.

This congregation has a strong interest in heritage, being responsible for one of Auckland's most beautiful and historic churches.

The presentation, entitled "Heritage Issues in Auckland", covered the range of heritage organisations in Auckland; the changes, current and proposed, to legislation affecting heritage; and losses and threats to heritage currently in Auckland. Helen also discussed future heritage, some of the many good news stories about recent heritage preservation (particularly the Britomart precinct) and talked about the economics of heritage preservation.

Members of the group were encouraged to take away heritage information and to browse the various books that were made available.

It was gratifying to receive this invitation, as the Board is very keen to have a strong community presence to facilitate discussion of heritage issues.

Urban Transport

Amongst its many aims, CTA wishes to ensure that planning for the future is undertaken professionally and in the best interests of the people in the region. Munroe is cobbling together some thoughts for the website on urban transport, initially covering the rail part of the scene. This has been triggered by his membership of the Campaign for Better Transport (bettertransport.org.nz), an organisation with an excellent discussion forum involving many qualified professionals in this field and with aims running well alongside those of CTA.

Another trigger was the realisation of a hopeless disconnect between the proposed zonings around most rail stations under the Unitary Plan and the need for Auckland Transport to improve the viability of the existing network. The last Auckland transport vision was for a mere ten-year period commencing some time ago, and for a major rapidly growing city that is not good enough.

Munroe has several personal visions himself for the next 100 years for CTA to discuss and either support or discard, including a tramway from Onehunga to the airport, (rather than the present light rail proposal), connecting via Manukau and Te Irirangi Drive perhaps to Howick.

He favours another tramway from the Strand station under Albert Park (via re-engineered WW2 tunnels) to Victoria St and perhaps on to Ponsonby and yet another from MOTAT to Greenlane Station, to mention just the first three.

The City Rail Loop

It is unfortunate that this system of mind boggling cost (of similar order to the line recently opened in Tibet from Lhasa to Shigatse), needs to be built and build it we must. Munroe went to the first workshop on this proposal on 27 August. He confirmed that the Newton Station is no more and discovered that the Mt Eden Station is to serve only two of three lines and that accordingly there will be no intermediate access for passengers on the loop between K' Rd and Grafton.

The reasons are cost cutting and, apparently, local line topography. However this is a long-term strategic mistake, just like the four-lane harbour bridge decision, and requires a rethink.

Saving a Bendy Bus



CTA was approached some months ago by a member of the public, John Osborne, to assist in saving the last intact original ARA bendy bus, then at a scrapyard awaiting its fate.

ARA Bendy Bus No. 2009 was part of an order of 20 MAN SG 220 Chassis for the Auckland Regional Authority. They were bodied by Hawkes of Takarini and entered service in 1983, the first such fleet of bendy buses in the entire country.

These buses soldiered on for 30 years, being finally withdrawn in 2013. NZ Bus Limited wanted \$5,000 and offered the last one to MOTAT, which receives significant funding from ratepayers so as to preserve important technological heritage, but sadly and for whatever reason, notwithstanding support from Mike Lee, it has declined to take it.

John has incorporated the Vintage Omnibus Preservation Group, of which he is secretary and treasurer, and is fund raising for the bus purchase. It is to be taken to Hamilton and stored in the workshop of Peter Fairgray (group president), who is an experienced diesel mechanic, where it will be maintained and eventually repainted in its original ARA livery. Other than one being converted into a motorhome, this bus, no. 2009, is quite literally the last original ARA bendy bus left.

Any support and assistance would be much appreciated by this group and donations may be sent to the treasurer at 6 Hobson Street Waihi 3610.

Perhaps one day the bendy may be permitted to make its way to MOTAT where it can be seen again by Aucklanders. CTA gives moral support to organisations caring for heritage items and its members have given personal donations to many of these in the past.

Join the People's Panel



The People's Panel is a quick and easy way for Aucklanders to have their say on Auckland Council's plans, activities and services by taking part in short surveys.

- Those signed up will receive surveys by email.
- There is approximately one survey a month, but members need to complete only those that interest them.
- Most surveys take 10 to 15 minutes.
- Key findings and the full reports, including how the results have been used, are made available on the Auckland Council website.
- Members are kept informed about other opportunities to give feedback to Auckland Council.
- Members may also be invited to take part in focus groups, workshops and online forums.

Recent surveys on matters relevant to CTA's objectives have been on:

- Household battery disposal
- Kauri dieback disease
- Parks and open spaces
- The Auckland Plan
- Biodiversity
- The Unitary Plan
- Auckland's air quality.

Go to the Auckland Council website or phone Council on 3010101.

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

A Tree Returns to the Park

T22 was one of 19 trees removed in 2007-08 to make way for the Auckland Art Gallery extension. Audrey planted acorns from this English oak and Kit



Howden (Chair of Friends of Maungawhau) nurtured this seedling until it was ready to be planted. Thanks to Simon Cook, Auckland Council, and Christopher Dempsey, Waitematā Local Board for finding a location in Albert Park for T22a.



Audrey van Ryn, Kit Howden & T22a - 8 July

Subscriptions

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

Name:

Address:

Email:

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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)