



NEWSLETTER NO. 3, December 2012

Civic Trust Auckland

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This is the third newsletter for 2012, compiled by Audrey van Ryn.

AGM



Joel Cayford

Thank you to members, both new and long-standing, who attended the AGM on 10 November. We trust you appreciated Joel Cayford's presentation as much as the strawberries and ice-cream that followed. Joel took us on an interesting journey, not only along local footpaths but right into his back yard, as well as down to the waterfront to look at planning issues there.

Winter Series

It's now definitely summer but the final lecture of the Winter Series was not so long ago. On 9 September Councillor Sandra Coney spoke about heritage protection and encouraged us to take part in the community engagement process for the Unitary Plan. In an early reference to Christmas, she noted that under Auckland City Council's points-based system for identifying heritage, the stable where Jesus was born would not have qualified as a heritage site.

Board Members 2013

Allan Matson (president)

Audrey van Ryn
(vice-president & secretary)

Peter Macky (treasurer)

Margaret Barriball

Helen Geary

Munroe Graham

Jim Mason

Julian Mitchell

Gary Russell

Attendees at the AGM



Garden Party 24 March

Due to popular demand, the Trust will again be holding a garden party in the early part of the year.

Pencil this date in your diary and look out for further details in the New Year. This time we will be venturing into a new garden, but that's all we're revealing for now.



Scott Homestead Trip

Our heritage festival event this year took us up to Mahurangi to the beautiful Scott Homestead, on a very windy day in October. Board members Helen and Margaret, with assistance from CTA member Valerie Richards, welcomed up to 70 people to the property, many of them locals who had been waiting a long time for their chance to see inside.

Past members of the Trust spent 20 years restoring the building, which was in a very dilapidated state, handing it back to the ARC in 1995.

Downstairs are four rooms with a central hallway, with six bedrooms upstairs. It was the home of shipbuilder Thomas Scott, who bought the land in 1852. His first home in the area was a raupo dwelling, built nearer to the hill and away from the beach.

For a period the homestead was a well-known accommodation house known as Scott's Hotel.



l-r: Margaret, Audrey, Helen & Allan at Scott Homestead



Undergoing restoration in the early 1970s - photo Mary Newman



As at 13 October 2012 - photo Allan Matson

NZ Shakeout 26 September

Four members of the Board took part in the national earthquake drill and organised for others to join them. CTA was one of 37 Auckland community groups which participated in the drill and was listed as such on the NZ Shakeout website.

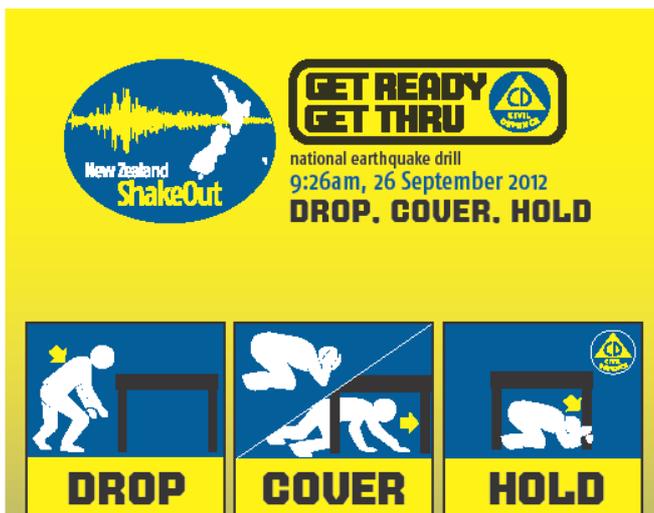
Recent Submissions

Since the last newsletter the Trust has made the following submissions:

- Plan Change 38 (Masonic Tavern, 29 King Edward Parade, Devonport)
- O'Connell Street Upgrade
- Civil Fees Review - Environment Court Proposals
- Draft Auckland Regional Public Transport Plan
- Federal Street Upgrade
- Draft Hibiscus and Bays Area Plan

We will be speaking to the submission on the Draft Auckland Regional Public Transport Plan at a hearing on 4 February.

These submissions, along with other recent ones, are listed on the CTA website.



by Helen Geary

Since being formed earlier this year, the Character Coalition has been growing fast – it now has over 50 community groups collected together, and the number seems to be growing every week!

They have come from all over the greater Auckland area – from Warkworth to Franklin, showing the interest in heritage right across the region. The types of organisations include area heritage groups, local historical societies, residents' associations, The Tree Council, and the Auckland branch of New Zealand Historical Places Trust.

The Coalition has been engaging directly with Auckland Council to lobby for more robust heritage protection measures to be written into the new Unitary Plan.

There was a presentation to Council's Auckland Plan Committee in July, followed by a meeting with Len Brown. Council then agreed, as part of its community consultation process on what should be in the draft Unitary Plan, to have a dedicated planning workshop just with the Character Coalition.

This was held in the Council Chamber on 25 October and was attended by over 50 representatives of the Coalition groups, along with Head of Planning, Roger Blakely; Penny Pirrit, Head Planner responsible for the Plan; Noel Reardon, Heritage Department; and several councillors. It was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Penny Hulse, and it was made clear to councillors and staff, in no uncertain terms, that heritage matters were a serious issue in the new supercity.

A further workshop followed at the Fickling Centre, Mt Roskill, on 22 November, once again with a large turnout from the Coalition members. This was a more practical session, discussing the specific mechanisms that could be included in the draft Unitary Plan.

The Coalition is promoting some of the ideas of the Brisbane Plan, in operation since 1993, and refined in 2000, which has seen the character of Brisbane's inner city suburbs largely maintained.

These include:

- Interim blanket demolition controls on pre-1940's buildings – where the case for demolition has to be proven, rather than at present where the case for retention must be made.

- All demolitions of pre- 1940's buildings require consent and must be publicly notified.
- Any replacement building must satisfy a design code, requiring sympathetic design, scale and materials to be used.
- Local Plans to recognise differing characteristics and issues of each area, to ensure private and public sector development proposals are consistent with local aspirations. Regarding development proposals, Local Plans can change and raise conditions of compliance, public notification requirements, and other standards.
- Adequate council resources to be allocated to the identification and assessment of heritage and character of an area, as the local Area Plans are completed, and *before* intensification rules are applied to an area.
- Adequate budgets and resources applied in council to build up an experienced and knowledge heritage department.
- Continuing engagement with interested community groups on how to best preserve our heritage.

Within days of this second workshop, the council brought over from Brisbane Peter Marquis-Kyle, conservation architect and consultant to the Brisbane council, to present on the Brisbane Plan to council staff and to the Heritage Advisory Panel and the Character Coalition. He urged local heritage groups to lobby for increased heritage protection rules to be included in the draft Unitary Plan, and said that the provisions in the Brisbane plan (after nearly 20 years) "now just make good sense". *(cont next page)*



Character Coalition

(cont from previous page)

The next day Council announced that it is considering interim blanket demolition controls on pre 1940s residential housing, with the onus being to prove why demolition *should* go ahead, rather than the present constant battle *against* demolition.

The Coalition feels that it has been instrumental in bringing about some fresh ideas and thinking on the part of Council staff and councillors. It would encourage all those with an interest in heritage to take part in the debate – lobby your local councillors and Local Board members, and check on the Coalition website <http://charactercoalition.org.nz/> for updates.

The Character Coalition, through all its member organisations, will be championing the retention of our unique built heritage character as an election issue in the council and local board elections in 2013.

Susan Yoffe



Susan Yoffe, a longstanding member of CTA and a highly regarded historian, died on 13 November. Her memorial service was attended by several CTA members, including our president.

A member of the NZHPT Auckland branch committee, Susan was also a founding member of the Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust. Her book "Holiday Communities on Rangitoto Island, New Zealand" was published in 2000. Susan organised tours of the Rangitoto baches, often as part of NZHPT and Heritage Festival events.

Susan was also a valued member of Devonport Heritage and was one of its original members.

Rosebank Rd Oak & Pohutukawa

The Tree Council issued a media release on 21 November to announce that the oak and pohutukawa at 317-321 Rosebank Rd, Avondale will be added to Auckland Council's Schedule of Notable Trees in the Auckland Council District Plan (Isthmus Section).

CTA wrote a letter in September 2010 to support the Tree Council regarding the retention of both trees, objecting to the developer's application to remove the pohutukawa.

The huge amount of work that Sigrid Shayer, late Chair of the Tree Council, carried out to save these two trees is to be acknowledged. Sigrid died earlier this year from cancer.

The Tree Council made representations at hearings, including in the Environment Court, and collected more than 1,100 signatures for a petition supporting the addition of the trees to the Schedule .

The developer (Connell Place Ltd) has withdrawn its appeal seeking removal of the pohutukawa and their appeal against addition of the two trees to the Schedule.

The Tree Council has asked the public to help them keep an eye on the site to see that both trees are treated well and appropriately.

More information



Audrey visiting the trees in December 2010

Love Your Mountain Day

Friends of Maungawhau held their seventh Love Your Mountain Day on 9 December, celebrating the volcanic heritage of Auckland and providing a varied programme of events that spanned Maungawhau (Mt Eden), Eden Gardens and Government House gardens. The mountain was closed to vehicular traffic for this special day.

A ban on large buses has been in place on the mountain this year, serving not only to protect important feature of Auckland's volcanic field from the damage these heavy vehicles cause but at the same time improving pedestrian safety and enhancing the experience of this premier park for both local and overseas tourists.

CTA has written a letter in support of the ban. A report by the NZ Tourism Research Institute about the problems caused by buses on Maungawhau can be read [here](#).

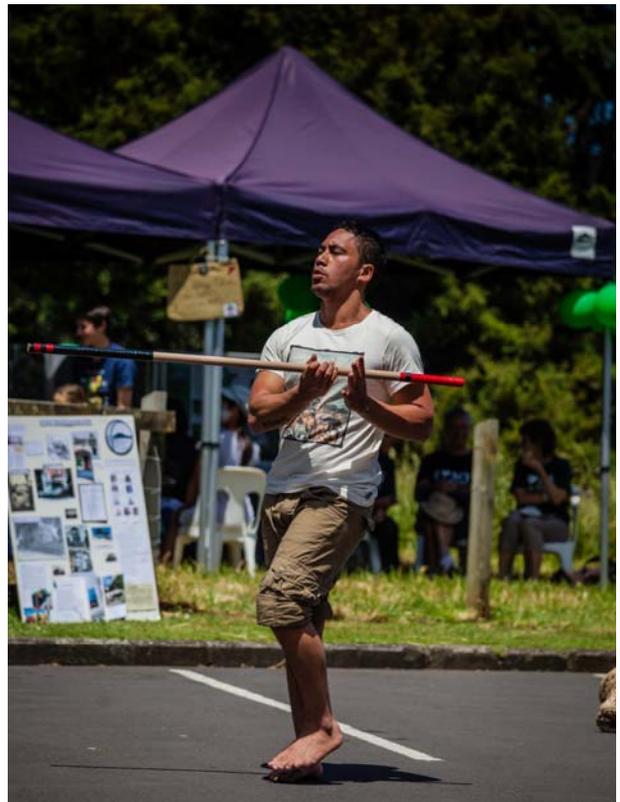
The Friends also organised a displays at the Mt Eden Village Centre and the Epsom Library in the week before the event. Amongst them were photos of the mountain taken in 1956 by former CTA Board member Roy Clements.

The programme included tours of Government House grounds led by the head gardener, a tour of Withiel Thomas Reserve, a history walk on Maungawhau led by a Tāmaki Hikoi guide, a geology walk, Mau rākau display (Māori weaponry), Raranga (Māori weaving) interactive workshop, films by two local schools about caring for the mountain and musical performances.

Two CTA Board members were volunteers on the mountain for the day and one participated in the musical programme. It was good to see further CTA members taking part in one of the tours of the Government House grounds as well as Bruce Hayward's geology tour.



The Wish Tree on Maungawhau



Mau rākau display
(CTA static display in background)



Government House garden tour

Bikes for Refugees

Do you have or do you know someone who has a bike they are no longer using?

RASNZ (Refugees as Survivors NZ) is recycling old bikes. This worthwhile programme equips refugees from the Refugee Resettlement Centre in Mangere with a bike and teaches them bike skills to help with their successful settlement in Auckland. 100 bikes have been donated to refugees in Auckland since the project began in 2010.

The programme is looking not only for bikes but also for bike accessories such as helmets and tool kits, and they will particularly welcome people to help with repairing bikes and people who can collect and/or deliver bikes to the Centre.

Contact Mike on 623 2229 or email recyclingbicycles4refugees@gmail.com



Seasons Greetings to all our members and supporters and their families!



Rainbow Warrior Visit in January



A new Rainbow Warrior is coming to NZ in January 2013 and the public will be invited to go aboard to find out about Greenpeace's latest environmental campaigns. This is a purpose-built ship and the third to carry the Rainbow Warrior name. It is one of the most environmentally friendly modern ships ever built and is said to be "leading the campaign for a cleaner, smarter more innovative future". More information

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

Subscriptions

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your subscriptions. We do value your continued support.

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Name:

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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)