



NEWSLETTER NO. 3, December 2013

Civic Trust Auckland

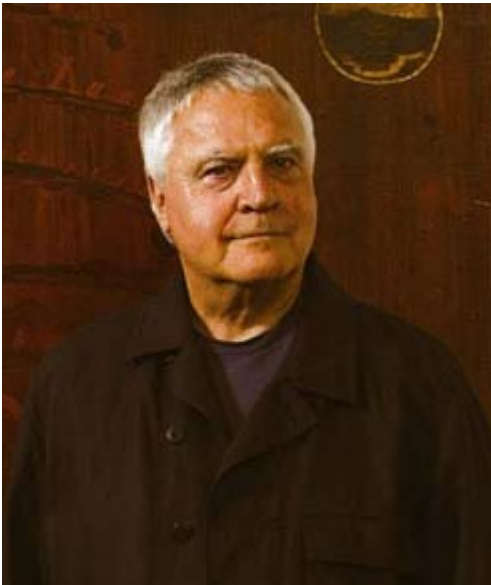
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This is the final newsletter for 2013 and has been largely created by Audrey with limited input from Munroe due to seasonal work pressure.

CTA AGM



Hamish Keith - photo Derek Henderson

Hamish Keith, the Trust's new patron, was our guest speaker at the AGM, held in the Logan Campbell Kindergarten on 2 November. He delighted the audience with tales of his recent trip to Ireland and elicited nodding of heads around the room with his comments about Auckland Council's record of heritage protection.

The membership of the Board remains the same for the coming year, except that we are sad to lose Peter Carter.

The AGM included the bestowing of life membership on John Stevens, a foundation member of CTA and an Auckland City Councillor for 27 years.

At the conclusion of the meeting most of the attendees crossed the road for a convivial few hours in another recently restored heritage building, the Birdcage. *(photos on page 4)*

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

Scott Homestead Open Day - 12 October

An open day at Scott Homestead was for the second year CTA's event in the Auckland Heritage Festival. This time nearly 50 people visited, about half being locals and half from further afield.

Many thanks to Auckland Council and Mahurangi Regional Park ranger, David Edge, for facilitating the day and providing display materials, and to Regional Park volunteer David Levesque, who was on hand to give detailed information. Helen Geary and Margaret Barriball were our Board members who organised the event and welcomed visitors throughout the day.

Displays included both the history of the homestead and information about CTA. A family who had owned the land previous to public ownership were welcome visitors and had interesting stories to tell about the house and surrounding area in the 1960s and 1970s.



Photo - Allan Matson



Photo - Helen Geary

Auckland Unitary Plan

The new Unitary Plan for Auckland was notified on 30 September and interested parties have until 28 February to make submissions and then there will be the opportunity for subsequent further submissions.

It is pleasing to note that some account had been made of the feedback received to the March "discussion document". However the basic philosophy behind the plan (intensification around all existing local commercial centres) is not necessarily the best way forward. It has in any case been applied patchily and inconsistently, to some extent by following the flaws in the original operative plans and in some cases as blatant yielding to developer pressure. Examples can be found immediately north and east of Otahuhu.

If members have issues they wish to see raised in the CTA submission, please email: cta@civitrustauckland.org.nz

Grey Lynn Park Festival

For the first time, CTA held a stall at this popular festival which has been running for 30 years. Our gazebo was located in the middle of the park amongst a mixture of community groups and arts and crafts.

One of our first visitors was Bob Harvey, who stopped for a chat and then moved on to join in a drumming session at a nearby tent.

A steady stream of visitors kept Board members Allan, Helen, Audrey busy, assisted in the afternoon by CTA member April Glenday. We spoke to Grey Lynn villa dwellers as well as people from other parts of the city who share our interest in and concern for the future of our heritage.

(more photos on following page)



Local Body Elections

Candidates in the Auckland local body elections were sent a letter by CTA during the election period, which presented the Board's views on what Auckland Council could do for heritage. Our concerns included the following:

- Councils have not adequately recognised heritage in the past, nor have they appeared willing to use the processes available to protect it
- Councils' evaluation of heritage buildings is incomplete, and the process for assessment has not been transparent or robust, thus leaving it open to arbitrary manipulation
- Councils have attached too little weight to the collective character of a neighbourhood as distinct from the individual heritage value of scheduled items

CTA would like to see a Unitary Plan that:

- incorporates transparent, robust and consistent criteria for heritage assessment
- listens to and responds to matters of community concern that may be identified through public submission processes
- adopts tangible heritage incentives that are actually effective in encouraging developers to adaptively re-use heritage space

Replies from candidates across the region were received, including the following responses from successful candidates:

"Having been recently awarded the Heritage Award from Save our St Heliers, I sincerely hope I can work with you next term to support heritage in Auckland."

- *Orakei Local Board Chair Desley Simpson*

"Our Board in the last term has worked on heritage issues in a number of ways. ... I certainly would be keen to thrash out the specifics of what the issues your group has set out in the letter means in our area."

- *Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board Member Simon Randall*

"Certainly heritage issues are very important to me."

- *Waiheke Local Board Member Beattie Treadwell*

"I am sure that Sandra Coney will still be keeping an eye on our Heritage... something I am very concerned about along with Cameron Brewer and others on last term of council."

- *Councillor Sharon Stewart*

Keith Locke, Audrey & April



Helen & Edward Bennett



Shark Attack

CTA member Rio Rossellini invites you to her exhibition *Shark Attack*, which, in collaboration with SFFA (Shark Fin Free Auckland), is showing until Jan 31 at Sitka, 6 Osborne St, Newmarket.

Departing slightly, but not entirely, from her usual pointillist technique depicting animals with millions of tiny dots by hand, Rio has immersed herself in the world of sharks. Gradually developing a fascination and a huge respect over the years for these special creatures, Rio has sought to challenge the media's portrayal of sharks as beacons of terror.

Astounded and dismayed that NZ is one of the few countries who still allow shark finning, Rio highlights the beauty of the big fish

© Rio Rossellini



Shark Rider - Rio Rossellini

More Roads & Motorways

Notwithstanding that in the last three years Auckland debt levels have doubled and are budgeted to double again in the near future, there seems an undiminished appetite for new roads and motorways.

The Government has expressed its strong desire to see the "holiday highway" north of Puhoi built and has even offered some funding. It has been opposed on economic and environmental grounds, so naturally it can be expected to be fast tracked and started quite soon.

The Redoubt/Murphys/Mill Rd expressway has been opposed by locals on environmental and disturbance issues and this has led to creation of the Redoubt Ridge Environmental Action Group.

It is difficult to find data on Council's website about the East-West Corridor, but in discussions with members of the Campaign for Better Transport, it seems intended to facilitate heavy transport connections from such areas as Penrose, Onehunga, Mangere, the airport and Otahuhu, to and from the southern motorway. Already the motorway from Otahuhu to the central city represents the greatest bottleneck on the southern and adding more and easier access for large trucks will achieve little other than more gridlock for longer, within a corridor which has been very poorly designed. One of four possible alignments (north and south of the Manukau Harbour) involved the demolition of hundreds of homes.



Meanwhile, down by the water ...

Earlier this year it was announced that although Council had allocated \$8.2m to extend the Wynyard heritage railway to Britomart (at which point it might actually serve some purpose), the Waterfront Agency, apparently without consulting Council, withdrew its funding from the operations budget (J Chuang, TAUT May 2013).

More recently the Council owned Port Authority decided to take its owner to the Appeals Court over refusal to allow further wharf encroachment into the harbour.

Last week it was disclosed that Auckland appears to employ far more "spin doctors" than central government. Why should this be?

AGM - 2 November



Love Your Mountain Day

These photos show some of the activities held on Maungawhau (Mt Eden) and at Government House Grounds on Sunday 8 December for the 8th Love Your Mountain Day, organised by Friends of Maungwhau with support from the Albert-Eden Local Board.



Photos - Audrey van Ryn

Happy Christmas to all our supporters



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:

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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)