



## NEWSLETTER NO. 2, June 2011

Civic Trust Auckland

P O Box 74 049 Greenlane 1546

[cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz](mailto:cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz)

[www.civictrustauckland.org.nz](http://www.civictrustauckland.org.nz)

This is the second newsletter for the current calendar year and has been drafted by Munroe with additional input from Audrey.

### Special Board Meeting - Unified Heritage Group

Further to the Board's strategy workshop last year and a recent approach by a number of heritage groups in the region, a special meeting of the Board was convened on 20 April to consider our relationships with other heritage organisations. (Gary was overseas at the time and Munroe was also unable to attend but provided a written submission to the meeting.) Although the form that this may take is yet to evolve, the Board has decided to progress the matter of representation of other groups, as it is in the best interests of CTA. It is hoped that CTA's ability to provide such representation may be enhanced if we gain a position on the new heritage advisory panel proposed by Auckland Council.

### New Board Member



Helen Geary has been co-opted to the Board and is well known for her passionate stance on heritage, particularly her splendid efforts in ensuring a Category B heritage scheduling for Building 5 at the Greenlane Medical Centre. Trained as a teacher, Helen has a working history mainly in adult education, along with positions in health charities, and community involvement in local organisations. A Mt Eden resident for nearly 30 years, she has been active in heritage and planning issues in the area, securing a new park for Mt Eden, the Balmoral Heights Reserve, and getting modification to the Eden Quarter development at Valley Rd, where a heritage bank building was demolished. Helen is keen to profile heritage issues and work to get public support for more proactive heritage regulations.

### Life Members

The Board has approved four new life members: Munroe Graham, Margaret Barriball, Jim Mason and Elaine Bartley, who will be invested on 12 June during the first of the CTA organised winter lectures (see below).

### Winter Lecture Series

Once again CTA joins in with the Kinder House Society to produce a series of four winter lectures, from 3.15pm at Kinder House:

On June 12 **John Gundersen**, Marketing and Communications Manager for Waterfront Auckland will present "Waterfront Auckland Project Overview".

On July 10 **Peter Reed** of Salmond Reed Architects will present "Restoration of an Organ", being the organ at St Matthew-in-the-City.

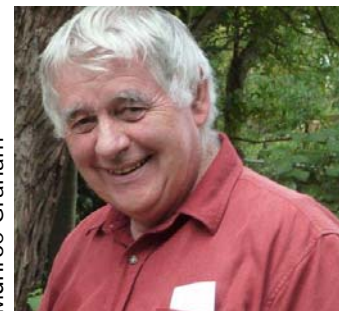
On August 14 **Lisa Truttman**, an historian from Avondale, will present "Timespanner stories".

On September 11 **Graeme Burgess** will present "The McCahon House, a Conservation Challenge".

We look forward to seeing both Civic Trust and Kinder House Society members at these talks, particularly the first one, where our four new life members will be invested.

### Board Members 2011

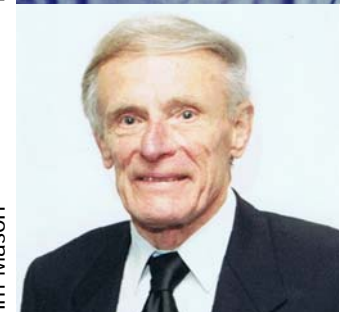
Allan Matson (president)  
Audrey van Ryn  
(vice-president & secretary)  
Peter Macky (treasurer)  
Margaret Barriball  
Helen Geary  
Munroe Graham  
Jim Mason  
Julian Mitchell  
Gary Russell



Munroe Graham



Margaret Barriball



Jim Mason



Elaine Bartley

## Alten Road Cottage

Pursuant to an agreement reached in 2004, the then Auckland City Council agreed to pay the costs of producing a conservation plan (completed last year) and the new Council has held to this agreement and advanced the funds to CTA. The Board is embarking upon a further round of maintenance/restoration work, including painting of the exterior.

## Parnell Railway Workshops

The Parnell railway workshops have been occupied for many years by a rail heritage group, which uses the buildings for their original intended purpose of locomotive and rolling stock maintenance. The group has an impressive line-up of heritage locomotives, some of which have been restored to mainline condition. This is a leasehold property and its future is in some doubt. It would appear to be ideally suited to partial use as a railway station, serving both Parnell and the Domain and its museum, while retaining existing heritage structures.

It seems likely that Parnell has never had a railway station at this point because of the steep grade, which would have made it impossible for steam powered trains to have stopped, then restarted on their way up to Newmarket. This will be a simple task for the new electric trains which are to be introduced in the next few years.

Recent reports indicate that Parnell is indeed to have a rail station at last and the historic restored Newmarket Station is to feature within the site. Let us again hope that any architectural mix of old and new is treated more sympathetically than in the case of some other recent Auckland developments (e.g. the art gallery and the Jean Batten building).

## Auckland Spatial Plan

The discussion document on the Auckland Spatial Plan, "Auckland Unleashed" runs to about 128 pages and had a submission date of May 31. In an impressive joint effort, Allan and Audrey prepared a 17-page submission (plus appendix) which answered 19 of the 31 questions posed. It focussed on questions 21 and 28, which were on the built environment and transport respectively.

This submission, along with some other recent submissions made by the Board, can be found on the CTA website at <http://civitrustauckland.org.nz/subcommittees.php>

## Earthquake Upgrading

The Auckland Council has published a list of pre-1930s unreinforced brick buildings within the isthmus which may be prone to earthquake risk. Following the Christchurch earthquake earlier this year, the Christchurch City Council is addressing the need for older buildings to be brought up to a higher standard than the clearly inadequate standard of the current building code and it seems likely that the government will upgrade code requirements throughout the country.

If it does so, there will be ramifications everywhere, particularly in Auckland upon listed and unlisted heritage buildings. It appears that at present Auckland Council has merely highlighted some structures (apparently two storeys or more) which may represent a risk and it will be producing similar lists for other parts of Auckland.

So far nothing has been made public concerning the next stage, namely, what the various building owners must do and within what timeframe they will need to meet Council's new requirements.



## Hulme Court Sold

Hulme Court, built in 1843, is Auckland's second oldest home and the oldest still on its original site, located on Parnell Road opposite lower Birdwood Crescent. It had been on the market since late last year and has reputedly fetched \$2.5m. The agent appears to have expressed disappointment over the price achieved, but all parties may have been misled by the existing rating value of \$4.7m, a value now shown to have been unrealistic. This highlights an area where Auckland is well behind most Australian cities, because over there, a heritage listing usually triggers a rating value re-assessment to reflect any alteration to the market value.



It is understood that the new owners are proposing to occupy the property as a home, but with an element of business usage. Everybody will welcome the prospect of this rather rundown heritage building being finally restored.

## Tree Scheduling

The Environment Court published its decision on 20 May on its interpretation of the wording "*tree or groups of trees specifically identified in a plan or proposed plan*", as stated in the amended RMA regarding tree protection rules (section 76).

The Court found that councils can retain existing general tree protection rules in specified areas in the District Plan or just for particular species of trees in those areas, whether those areas are ecological areas, residential or other specifically identified areas.

This means that now there will be large areas of the Auckland region (and other parts of NZ) where trees will not have to be scheduled in order to retain general tree protection. It also means that Auckland Council has the potential to create new similar areas, where appropriate, and with consultation, for its soon to be developed Unitary Plan.

View the decision at [www.thetreecouncil.org.nz](http://www.thetreecouncil.org.nz)

## Former Mt Roskill Fire Station Sold

The historic former Mt Roskill Fire Station, built in 1927, was listed for sale in May and expected to generate considerable interest, and has subsequently sold. The building, designed by prominent architect Gerald Jones, is not yet scheduled, although Allan Matson has requested a plan change to do so.

It is hoped that it will be retained by the purchaser with architecturally sympathetic treatment of any future alterations, either to external or internal heritage elements.



## International Walking Charter

CTA has signed up to the International Walking Charter on the grounds that it encourages health and sustainability and more pedestrian friendly civic design.

The charter begins:

*I/We, the undersigned, recognise the benefits of walking as a key indicator of healthy, efficient, socially inclusive and sustainable communities and acknowledge the universal rights of people to be able to walk safely and to enjoy high quality public spaces anywhere and at anytime. We are committed to reducing the physical, social and institutional barriers that limit walking activity. We will work with others to help create a culture where people choose to walk through our commitment to this charter and its strategic principles.*

Anyone can sign up to the charter, whether as a group or as an individual. See this website: <http://www.walk21.com/charter/default.asp>

## Tree Council Course



Albert Park trees

The Tree Council is again providing a unique and popular eight-part course for those interested in understanding more about the value of trees in the urban environment. The issue is increasingly important with the forthcoming changes in urban tree protection legislation, and with relentless development pressure on urban land.

Eight sessions will be divided into classroom work and field trips. Sessions include tree identification, structure and function, environmental value of trees, heritage trees, tree adaptation and selection, health, disease and pruning, and tree planting and maintenance. Certificates will be presented on completion of two assignments – one being a portfolio of ten trees of Auckland, and the other being a presentation on one great Auckland tree.

The course costs \$80, and is led by a range of experienced professionals, either academic lecturers, or practitioners in their field. For those not wanting to do the whole course, individual sessions will be able to be booked, in advance, at \$15 a session.

The sessions will take place on a Wednesday evening (6pm-9pm) and Saturday (9am-4pm), every other week over an eight-week period.

The course will run at the Sustainable Living Centre, EcoMatters Environment Trust, 4 Olympic Place, New Lynn, starting Wednesday 31 August and finishing Saturday 15 October.

Further information and bookings:  
Sherylle Scott 523 1647 / 021 652 316  
[thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz](mailto:thetreecouncil@ihug.co.nz)

## ECO Conference

CTA is a member of ECO, the Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ. This year ECO is holding its annual conference in Auckland.

This conference is specifically developed to strengthen the work and profile of the environment and conservation groups across NZ.

### Annual Conference and AGM

1-3 July 2011

#### Resilient Environment:

#### Resilient Communities

Friday 1 July: Parnell Community Centre

Saturday 2 July and Sunday 3 July:

Carey Park Camp, Henderson

#### Key Topics:

- Exploring resilience
- Coastal community action
- Urban resilience
- Climate change and energy futures
- Resilient democracy and governance
- Vote for the environment

#### Further information:

<http://www.eco.org.nz/news/163/60/ECO-Conference-July-2011.html>



Attendees at the 2010 conference in Christchurch

## Join Civic Trust Auckland

If you have been forwarded this newsletter and are not a member, and would like to join the Trust, please go to this page on our website:  
<http://civictrustauckland.org.nz/joinus.php>