



NEWSLETTER NO. 3, December 2014

Civic Trust Auckland

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Patron: Hamish Keith

*This is the third newsletter for 2014 and has been created by Audrey,
with material contributed by Allan.*

AGM

The CTA AGM on 9 November was held in the Ponsonby Baptist Church, a complex of three buildings built between 1875 and 1905, which attendees were able to tour through prior to the meeting. Gloria Jenkins, CTA member, entertained us with several pieces on the 1779 Avery organ.

Our guest speaker, Bryan Pooley, Built Heritage Specialist with Auckland Council's Environmental Strategy and Policy Department, described several historic heritage restoration projects, including Loombs Hotel, one of the buildings on which CTA submitted in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan.

Board Members 2015

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



photo - Allan Matson

The membership of the Board remains the same for 2015.

Everyone who attended the AGM gathered for refreshments afterwards at Dida's, opposite the church.



photo - Roy Clements

A Toast to Heritage - Auckland Heritage Festival Event

On 12 October CTA ran another *Toast to Heritage*, this time at Brew on Quay. Allan presented a slide show about central city heritage pubs, Brew on Quay itself being one of a number of heritage buildings that has been converted from a previous use, in this case the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and then the Wharf Police.



photo - Audrey van Ryn



photos - Helen Geary

New Zealand Civic Trusts

Following a meeting in Christchurch in January when representatives of the Akaroa, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland Civic Trusts explored shared common interests, particularly arising from the Christchurch earthquakes, and from upcoming proposed changes to the Resource Management Act, the goal of working together on issues of common concern has been progressed by Alan Smith, chair of the Wellington Civic Trust.

Contact has been made with further groups in Kerikeri, Rotorua, Napier, New Plymouth, Nelson, Greymouth, Timaru, Oamaru and Dunedin.

As Alan says, the intention is "that local initiatives and work can be strengthened by drawing from, and contributing to, the collective pool of 'Civic Trust' experiences and thinking".

If CTA members know of other groups of a similar broad purpose which may be interested, please contact alan.smith@extra.co.nz

In Christchurch



Shop 7 **Valuing Our Heritage** is a heritage info centre and display presented by Historic Places Canterbury, Christchurch Civic Trust, IConIC and Restore Christchurch Cathedral. It brings to the public's attention listed heritage buildings and sites demolished, restored, pending restoration and under threat.

Thousands of visitors from around the world and New Zealand, as well as locally, have visited since it opened in October 2013. It has become something of a "heritage central" for heritage groups and campaign meetings.

Unitary Plan

The hearings for the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan began in September this year. Having made wide-ranging submissions on matters relevant to our aims and objectives, CTA is involved in a number of hearings before the Independent Hearings Panel. These will continue for the next two years and we will be engaged in attending pre-hearing meetings, mediation and expert conferences, and presenting evidence at hearings.

Information about the process can be found at <http://www.aupihp.govt.nz>

Pohutukawa Under Threat



Pohutukawa & Logan Campbell Kindergarten
photo - Freestyle Event Photography

While pohutukawa are currently gracing many parts of our city with their beautiful Christmas blooms, Auckland Transport wants to remove six 80-year-old pohutukawa from Great North Road so that more lanes can be added to the main highway.

If you think these trees should stay, email the CEO of Auckland Transport, David Warburton. Nearly 500 people have taken this action over the last few days and the campaigners are now looking to put up an art installation by the trees to further increase awareness of the campaign

http://www.actionstation.org.nz/save_the_pohutukawas

Chamberlain Park Golf Course

Help shape the Albert-Eden Local Board's master-plan for Chamberlain Park. Fill in the online survey by 30 January to give your opinion on what sports or other activities you would like to see take place in this green open space, what you think the environment could consist of and whether there is a place for housing at Chamberlain Park.

[Have your say on Shape Auckland](#)

St James Theatre - saved

The recent purchase of 302 Queen St, including the St James Theatre, by Relianz Holdings LLP, means that the theatre has finally been saved. It will be incorporated into a 39-storey apartment block with nearly 3,000 square metres of prime retail space.

A thorough evaluation of the theatre will be carried out by mid-2015. Auckland Council has consented the development, and construction will begin in the second half of next year, to be finished by 2018. Paul Brown & Architects is the architectural firm and the project will be managed by Elemental Construction Solutions.

A performance theatre intended primarily for vaudeville acts, the St James went on to host cinema, plays, operas, and musicals. Later, it became popular as a contemporary and popular music venue, comedy theatre and dance venue

The Category A and Category I building remains in good condition despite its closure seven years ago. The outside merely hints at the magnificence of the interior, treasured by many Aucklanders who have attended shows here in the past and look forward to its door reopening.

The St James Saviours and the St James Theatre Trust have been advocating for the restoration of this theatre for some years, writing submissions, attending meetings and gathering public support for its retention.



photo - Cathy Casey

Sir Bob Kerridge and Allan Matson speak at an Auckland Council hearing on behalf of the St James Theatre Trust

The CTA further submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan supported submissions to restore the theatre by (among others): Jon Stubbs, Aimee Shaw, Yvonne Stewart, Mei-Lin Hansen and Heart of the City. CTA sought “the restoration of the St James Theatre as a building and its reinstatement as a working theatre to serve the Auckland entertainment scene”.



photo - Audrey van Ryn

A busy rear entrance to the St James Theatre - Music Month 2014

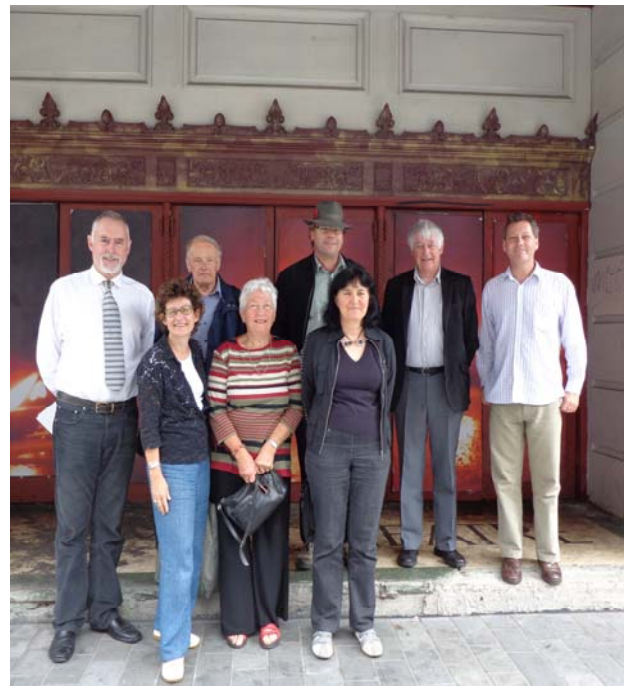


photo - Allan Matson's camera

CTA Board members outside the St James Theatre after their last meeting for the year in 2012

Love Your Mountain Day - 7 December

The CTA secretary was the event organiser for Love Your Mountain Day this year, working with Friends of Maungawhau and supported by volunteers from the group, with funding from the Albert-Eden Local Board. The annual event celebrates Auckland's volcanic heritage and provides a range of activities based around the information centre on Maungawhau, Eden Garden and Government House grounds.

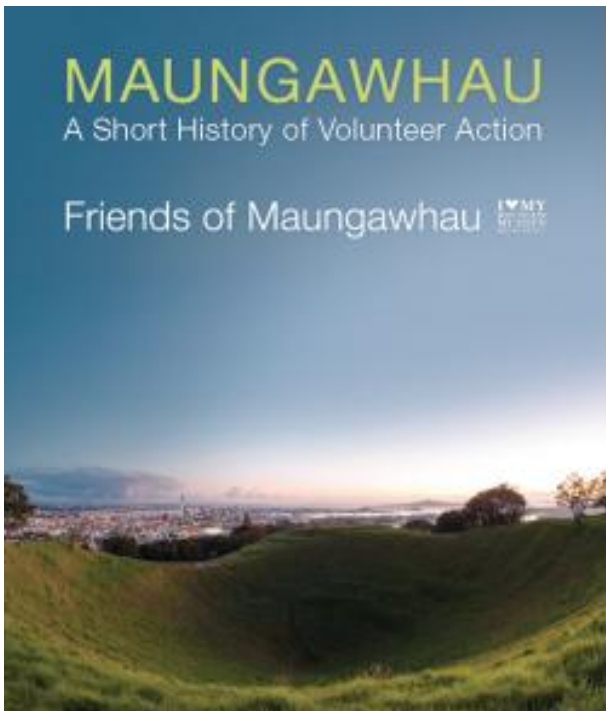


Happy Christmas to all our supporters



photo - Freestyle Event Photography

Pohutukawa & the Red Fence



The Friends of Maungawhau launched this book on 17 October and the CTA library has a copy. It describes two decades of community effort to preserve and protect Auckland's volcanic heritage. It explores the complex issues and challenges that the Friends have faced, and describes their experience in restoring native vegetation to unstable scoria slopes.

It is intended to inform people about the mountain's cultural, geological and ecological significance and to stimulate debate about how heritage sites should be managed and protected in an intensified city.

Special offer until 5 January:

Buy one copy for \$20. Buy two copies for \$30. Offer includes P&P

sales@maungawhau.co.nz

Illustrations: Colour photos, maps and diagrams

Cover: Soft cover

No. of pages: 116; includes bibliography

Dimensions: 250mm x 210mm

Weight: 500g

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

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Membership categories are: Individual (\$30) / Family (\$45) / Student/Senior (\$15)