



NEWSLETTER NO. 3, December 2015

Civic Trust Auckland

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Patron: Hamish Keith

*This is the third newsletter for 2015 and has been created by Audrey.
Special thanks to Roy for the AGM photos and the effort he went to in delivering them!*

AGM

This year our AGM was held at the Leys Institute in Ponsonby, on the afternoon of Sunday 22 November. After the meeting we were given a tour of this historic and interesting library by librarian David Gunn, starting downstairs from where the meeting was held, then proceeding further down into the basement and out to the lovely sunny courtyard, to gain a fuller appreciation of the building and its history. (photos pg 3)

The board membership remains the same, except that we have farewelled Jim Mason. We thank Jim for his years of service. He is one of our life members and has had a long association with CTA.



photo - Roy Clements

Board Members 2016

Allan Matson (president)

Audrey van Ryn

(vice-president & secretary)

Julian Mitchell (treasurer)

Margaret Barriball

Helen Geary

Munroe Graham

A Beginner's Guide to Understanding Our Places: Auckland Heritage Festival Event

We ran our event twice this year, on 3 and 8 October, our two presenters sharing the hour: Mark Bishop with 24 images from his "Helping Our Heritage Come Alive" series, and landscape historian and CTA member John Adam, exploring some of the resources available to people undertaking historical research.



Images by Mark Bishop. Black and white photographs from Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries

Winter Lecture - Hum Salon

Also known as the "bridge house", and originally Basley-Bush House, 123 Grafton Rd is the last remaining one of a row of Victorian-Edwardian villas that graced the street.

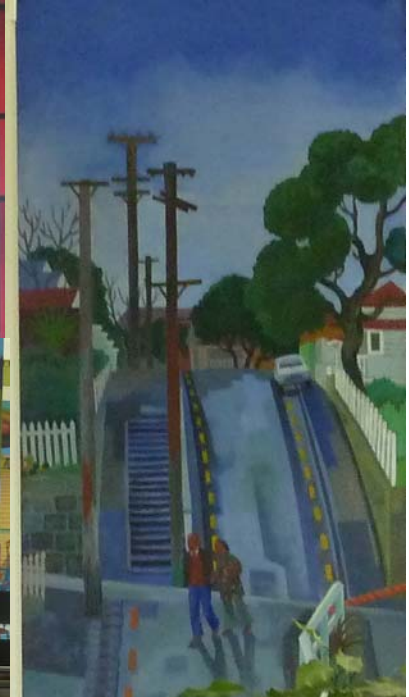
Built for the mayor of Parnell at the time, George William Basley, its various uses have included a private hotel, a halfway house for drug and alcohol rehabilitation and the residence of W.E. Bush, who, as city engineer, supervised the building of Grafton Bridge from 1908 and 1910.

On 6 September for our second winter lecture CTA members enjoyed a double lecture from Oskari Miettinen on the history of the house and the restoration work that has been carried out, much of it by a large number of both local and international volunteers, and Rosy Armitage, who talked about the vision and work of the Falling Apple Charitable Trust. Hum Salon currently operates as a café, meeting place, event venue and gallery.

The comprehensive restoration work followed a period where the house was derelict for many years. There are plans for further work, including building a commercial kitchen and extending the decks.



AGM - 22 November



Grey Lynn Park Festival

At the Grey Lynn Park Festival, held on Saturday 28 November, Civic Trust again took a stall, following on from the success of the stall in 2013 at raising community awareness of heritage issues.

CTA presented information on heritage at risk in Auckland, showcasing the plight of both the King's School Hanna Block, and St David's Church in Khyber Pass, with a petition to sign to support the retention of the Hanna Block and quatrefoils for sale from the Friends of St David's Art of Remembrance fundraiser to secure funds for the strengthening of the church.

Board members Helen, Margaret, Allan and Audrey staffed the stall during the day, engaging with interested members of the public. Several local politicians visited and were lobbied for their support on heritage matters. We also explained the tortuous Unitary Plan process in basic terms and what the risks are for heritage with the proposed new planning rules.



The highlight, however, was our "What the Heck is This?" competition, where people were asked to guess the original use of a century old kauri block. Only one was close - those who don't yet know can keep guessing!



photos - Helen Geary's camera

Peter's Train Station

The guest speaker at our 2011 AGM was our treasurer at the time, Peter Macky, who told us about his project in Halbe, Germany where he had recently bought a 19th train station, the Kaiser Bahnhof, built for Kaiser Wilhelm II. Peter was asked if he could give an update on the restoration works and he reported that the exterior is virtually finished apart from landscaping. He provided the images below.



Climate Change

The many groups that took part in climate change marches and other actions ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris from 30 November - 12 December have been celebrating the positive outcomes of the talks. After 20 years of meetings, world leaders have come to agreement.

It was good to see a number of CTA members on the 15,000 strong Auckland march on the morning of 28 November, which went from Albert Park to Myers Park.



Auckland Climate Change march in Bowen Ave - photo Generation Zero

The Paris Agreement signals the start of a new low-carbon, post-fossil fuel era. Countries have pledged to:

- Maintain the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, with the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
- Increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production
- Provide finance in pursuit of low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.

In New Zealand we should see huge investment in electric car infrastructure and public transport, and institutions coming under pressure to withdraw their money from fossil fuel extraction. Globally, we need to leave at least 80% of all known fossil fuel reserves in the ground.

As individuals we can:

- choose not to do business with companies that invest in fossil fuels
- make more use of public transport and active means of transport (walking/cycling/scooting)
- use less energy and less water
- eat less meat
- reduce, reuse and recycle.

Happy Christmas to all our supporters



Recent Submissions

The Board has recently made submissions on:

The Aotea Quarter Framework

Our 18-page submission included the following points:

- Carry out a more thorough assessment of heritage buildings and features in the quarter before planning proceeds to the next stage
- Make the quarter more pedestrian friendly by gradually minimising motorised traffic
- Accommodate rough sleepers in the Civic Administration Building
- Underground the current surface car parking and develop it as park-like pedestrian areas
- Support renewable energy generation by making this a requirement for all new buildings
- Instigate a resource recovery centre in the quarter, perhaps based at AUT
- Declare the quarter smoke-free.

The Pioneer Women's & Ellen Melville Hall & Freyberg Square Upgrade

Our 26 points included:

- Supporting use of the hall as a community space, with no retail space within it
- Not closing Freyberg Place to motorised vehicles but making it a shared space
- Objecting to the removal of any trees, particularly the Phoenix Palms
- Not redesigning the square but just carrying out maintenance and repair of the current design.

Keep an eye on the CTA website for news and notices:

<http://civictrustauckland.org.nz/>

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

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