



NEWSLETTER NO. 2, OCTOBER 2016

Civic Trust Auckland

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Patron: Hamish Keith

This is the second newsletter for 2016 and has been compiled by Audrey. For up-to-date news about CTA activities and the wider world of heritage, make regular visits to our website, at <http://civitrustauckland.org.nz/>

Two Winter Lectures

A Parnell Cottage, 10 July

Continuing our objective of providing an opportunity to see inside a building that is not generally open to the public, we were grateful to our hosts Mary Barry and Tom Curham for making us welcome to explore every aspect of their three-storey late 1800s cottage at 6 Bradford St.

They had undertaken extensive renovation work spanning several decades, to respectfully adapt this house to suit their style and needs. After a presentation from Mary and her son about the history of the house and the processes they had gone through to create this lovely home, our group of 20 were able to tour the house, returning to share a glass of wine and chat by the fire.

A Devonport Castle, 25 September

Again we benefitted from a generous host, who gave us the liberty to explore every part of her large house and garden. Charmaine Barnett's home at 34 Mays St was restored by Geoff Richards Architects, and Geoff himself provided us with details of the project and a history of the site. Then we were able to wander at leisure around the property, including visiting the kitchen garden, and the remodelled stables and shed. The house (known locally as "the castle") has very generous spaces, being the original building with the addition of wings on each side.

After their exploration, most of the 30 visitors regrouped for refreshments.

(photos - Allan Matson)



The group gathers on the driveway of the cottage to begin the downstairs tour.

Board Members 2016

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

AGM 20 November, 3pm

Please diarise this date and see the next page for details, including how you can become more involved.

A view of the house across the garden from the shed, with the stables to the left.

CTA AGM

For several years the Board has added value to the AGM experience by choosing a venue in an historic building. In a month's time we expect to hold the AGM in the Old Folks Association Hall in Gundry St off Karangahape Rd. Our speaker this year will be Edward Bennett, who some of you will know from his talks about K' Rd, mostly recently in the Auckland Heritage Festival.

Aside from the attraction of a new venue and the speaker, we always provide refreshments, often at a nearby café. The business of the meeting is usually conducted within half an hour.

Please note that to be able to move or second motions or vote at an AGM you need to be a paid-up member. Non-members are welcome to attend but cannot vote.

For the 2017 year, the Board would welcome the addition of several further members, which would enable us to more easily maintain a quorum and accommodate periodic absences. The workload is not onerous and what Board members do outside of Board meetings for the benefit of Auckland's heritage is up to them.

Board meetings are generally monthly and last no more than two hours, and we have made a habit of sharing jellybeans and laughs.

Although we welcome those with expertise relevant to heritage, the Board benefits from a range of skills and passions.

Scott Homestead before (l) and after (r) restoration



Scott Homestead Open Day 8 October



For the third time, an open day at Scott Homestead was the CTA event in the Auckland Heritage Festival. For the third time there was a good number of attendees (74) and also for the third time it was a very windy day.

Thanks go to Helen and Margaret, who have yet again run this event very successfully. Helen reported that it was a very busy day and that some people stayed a very long time and read everything!

We were pleased to note that the sign (pictured above) that used to read, "This place was ready for demolition when a Civic Trust took over the lease in 1971" now reads "This place was ready for demolition when Civic Trust Auckland took over the lease in 1971."

The rest of the story is that for the next 20 years, members of CTA raised money and worked on site to restore the 1877 colonial Georgian style building and its surroundings.

The property was handed back to the Auckland Regional Council in 1995 and is now part of the Mahurangi Regional Park.



ECO Conference

by Oliver Hoffmann

With the rather wordy title of "Moving through the Climate Crisis, and Water Matters," this year's ECO conference was held on the weekend of 13th/14th August in Auckland, enabling both Audrey and myself to attend various parts of the event. Most unusually, I found that not even once during the four sessions I attended was I nodding off. The organisers did a great job with the time-keeping, and the speakers graciously and effectively managed to compress what would normally be one-hour presentations into ten minutes.

The first day was devoted to freshwater and water quality. Mike Joy (Massey University) started the day by showing us what a failed environment looks like, particularly with regards to the inferior quality of the water in our rivers and lakes. Some of the statistics were most revealing: 62% of the total length of all New Zealand rivers is unsafe for swimming; over the last 20 years the percentage of pollution in freshwater fish habitat increased from 22% to 74%. Even more alarming was the realisation that instead of doing anything about water quality, ministry officials and local councils "falsify" the figures by setting a lower statutory limit for quality categories. Mike left us with the message that we must hold our ground and refuse to accept lower baselines and adhere to the existing official Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC). Marnie Prickett of Clean Fresh Water spoke of the dreadful current state of many of our rivers and lakes, putting the health of anyone swimming in them at risk. The government needs to take urgent steps to improve the situation by raising the minimum standard for waterways so that they become swimmable. See also the group's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/choosecleanwaternz/>

Cath Wallace (chair of ECO and lecturer in economics and public policy at Victoria University) talked about ecosystems and left us with the message to imbibe moral values with the intent to leave the environment in a healthy state for future generations. There are factors that transcend the market economy and there is a need to attach spiritual values to ecosystems. To end the first session, we heard from expert river ranger Millan Ruka, who used a camera with a GPS attachment to display a series of photos showing unfenced farmland along the Waikokopa Stream, north of Ruakaka, and a couple showing unfenced banks on the Waiotou River (north of Whangarei), both in Northland. He left us with the message to support the



Mike Joy presenting to the conference (photo - ECO)

fencing of rivers in order to prevent pollution from farm animals as well as erosion and sediment deposits. Geoff Keey, Forest & Bird climate advocate, highlighted the dangers of global warming: it would need only a 4°C temperature increase for tuatara to become extinct, since that would suffice for no more females to be born, rare plants in alpine areas would not survive, the unique wrybills on Tasman Glacier would no longer have a home, Northland's forests would suffer, and the oceans would be at risk of acidification. Geoff left us with the message to start the conversation to future-proof conservation projects, and to incorporate climate change policies into future developments.

The second day focussed on climate change and the reduction of fossil fuel dependency. It included two awesomely inspirational sessions, inspirational because they were youth-driven and full of passion. Two speakers (Lisa McLaren and lawyer Jamie) of Generation Zero had formed a youth climate action group back in 2011 when the group started drafting legislation for a Zero Carbon Act, a campaign put together with the help of 12 regional contacts communicating via Skype. The campaign was launched in front of Parliament in July of this year. It exposed government's claims of reducing net carbon emissions from a figure of 60 megatonnes to 35 to what it is really doing, allowing that figure to increase to 80.

The campaign is reminiscent of an Act passed in the United Kingdom which also aims for a substantial reduction in net carbon emissions by 2040 with full accountability for reaching specified targets along the way. Our version is similar: a long-term goal of zero emissions with legally binding interim targets, establishing an independent climate commission to monitor progress, a mitigation plan with a duty to create a comprehensive policy plan with transparent reporting, and an adaptation plan. (cont. next page)

ECO Conference (cont.)

Two further youth speakers (Lee and Sandy), from 350 Aotearoa, reported on the divestment campaigns that they had been running, particularly with regards to the banks (ANZ) and Auckland Council. The campaign against the banks received wide publicity at the time and resulted in some ANZ branches closing their doors before the end of the business day. Some Australian banks, including the fifth largest one, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, have come out clearly against fossil fuel investments. Despite claims of an ethical investment policy, Auckland Council is known to have \$320 million invested in tobacco, alcohol, sugary drinks, and fossil fuels.

Genevieve Toop of Greenpeace covered a national campaign launched in May and aimed at highlighting the threats of increased dairy farming, importing palm kernel (contributing to the destruction of Indonesian rain forests), using chemical fertilisers, and developing irrigation schemes – sucking water out of the rivers for growing grass to provide feed for even more cattle than the country can currently afford to sustain. Some successes in stopping major environmentally damaging projects were noted (hydro-power schemes, oil drilling), and there is optimism about the message “enough is enough” getting through. In future the goal is to change the emphasis from industrial farming to ecological farming – and to achieve that goal, the development of irrigation schemes like the one currently ruining the whole Mackenzie country needs to be halted.

Support ECO's Open Government Work

ECO has conducted a survey on civil society's views on open access to government data in New Zealand and are now asking for help to write and publish the report so it will make the maximum impact.

ECO has launched a new **appeal for funds** to pay for this work - for the software for the survey, and funds towards the time taken to conduct the analysis and to write the report. We need to produce an impactful report which will be widely read.

Please consider helping with this appeal by donating via <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/ECO> or by making a contribution directly to ECO's bank account: 38 9016 0185477 00.

Unitary Plan

On 22 July the Auckland Unitary Plan Independent Hearings Panel delivered its recommendations on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan to Auckland Council, which had 20 working days to consider the report. On 19 August Council notified its decisions on the recommendations, largely accepting the panel's recommendations.

Since that time, over 100 appeals have been lodged, including those of the Independent Māori Statutory Board, Forest and Bird and the Character Coalition (of which CTA is a member), joined by Auckland 2040.

The Coalition opposes late zoning changes in the final version of the plan, and the removal of some blanket protections for neighbourhoods built before 1944. Sally Hughes, spokesperson for the Coalition said, “It's extremely important the planners look again at a small number of areas ... once the character homes in these suburbs are gone, they are gone for ever. We only have one chance.”

photo - Auckland Council



Subscriptions

If you would like to join Civic Trust Auckland please supply the following information to cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

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)