



NEWSLETTER NO. 3, DECEMBER 2016

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Patron: Hamish Keith

This is the third 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/>

AGM

Our AGMs for the last several years have ventured into a variety of central Auckland heritage buildings, in our quest to provide members with new and interesting experiences. Our guest speakers have presented on a range of topics, usually related to the building in which the meeting is held. On 20 November this year we were fortunate have Edward Bennett regale us with interesting details not only about the Old Folks' Association Hall, but a number of other buildings in the K' Road area, including Rendells, Samoa House, the Newton Post Office and the Grey Ave flats, illustrated with a generous number of slides and with a focus on modernism.

Board Members 2017

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



photo - Roy Clements

We were well catered for by a K' Road establishment, Verona Café, and it was felt that the OFA building had its own charm and suited our purpose well, most of the gathering staying on to chat at length once the meeting was over. The hall was built by Fletchers Ltd and designed by their architect Henry Kulka.

Thank you to all those who helped set up and pack down.

We welcomed new Board member Bill Rayner. Bill is pictured on the right, upholding the CTA name during a campaign to save the Devonport Masonic Tavern in early 2011. Our next newsletter will have more about Bill and where he fits into the heritage scene.



photo - Audrey van Ryn

Queen Elizabeth Square - gone

As announced in the May newsletter and referred to in the president's report at the AGM, CTA followed up its further submission on the Auckland Architectural Association's submission by joining the AAA and others as an s274 party in the appeal against Private Plan Change 79, regarding the sale of public land to Precinct Properties Holdings Ltd for a retail development on land that was part of the square.

On 23 November the appeal was dismissed in the Environment Court by Judge L.J. Newhook.

Queen Elizabeth Square had seen many changes over the decades and embraced various sculptures and plantings, but it has now undergone the biggest change of all.

The smaller space the public are left with seems to have acquired the name "Lower Queen Plaza."

We hope that the new Auckland Council will recognize that as Auckland grows, it is important to retain and enhance public open space, not sell it off for financial gain or re-design established and valued places without good reason and without proper consultation with the community.

*Queen Elizabeth Square in the 1900s
Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 1021-531*



Summertime Submissions

The Board is continuing to make submissions over summer, including providing further feedback on Chamberlain Park in support of retaining the 18-hole golf course, the only public course on the isthmus, and submitting on the proposed Parnell cycleway on Gladstone Rd. Members who would also like to comment can go to <http://www.savecpark.org/> (you may like to refer to the submission on the CTA website) and for the cycleway, go to <https://at.govt.nz/projects-roadworks/parnell-cycleway-and-residential-parking-zone/> by 23 December.



photo - New Zealand Herald

As regards the cycleway, we are concerned that residents' and amenity/services parking needs are addressed, that the character of this early suburb is taken into consideration, that local design expertise is embraced, and that dangerous intersections are made safe.

SkyPath is Coming



Image - Auckland Council

The Environment Court on 15 December granted the resource consent for SkyPath, following an appeal by the Northcote Point Heritage Preservation Society Inc.

Bevan Woodward of the SkyPath Trust states that "SkyPath is a crucial catalyst project to improve walking and cycling across the region and in conjunction with NZTA's proposed Sea-Path will provide a seamless path between Takapuna and central Auckland."

The consent conditions will limit the number of people who can use SkyPath in the first few months to reduce the impact on the community, requiring the monitoring of traffic movements and parking effects at both ends of SkyPath, and consultation with various stakeholders and residents.

CTA has made numerous submissions to Auckland Council in support of improved walking and cycling infrastructure across the city, including support for SkyPath as an integral link in the cycling/walking network.

Our submission of January 2015 with regard to SkyPath included the following:

"SkyPath would provide a safe walking and cycling route between the North Shore and the city centre. It has the potential to lead to the provision of more and better walking and cycling connections once people choose this option for commuting as well as for recreational and training purposes.

"We recognise that there are concerns by residents about parking in their neighbourhood. We support ongoing fair and adequate consultation with residents.

"We understand that SkyPath will be constructed in modules that could be removed without too much difficulty and see this as good future proofing, as if and when there is a second harbour crossing and the current bridge is adapted for different modes of transport including cycling, then there is the option for SkyPath to be removed in conjunction with the removal of the clip-ons, which are the main items that require maintenance and associated ongoing costs."

Below: Past Board member Nick Robinson (l) and current Board member Audrey van Ryn (r) on the harbour bridge on 24 May 2009, during an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the bridge to traffic (30 May 1959).

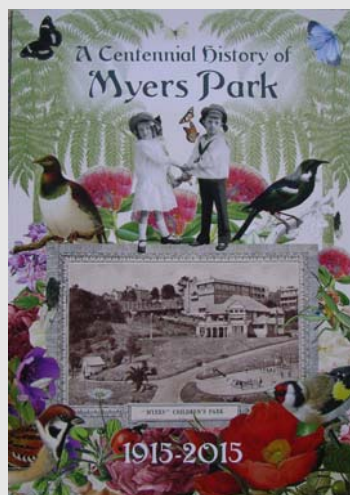
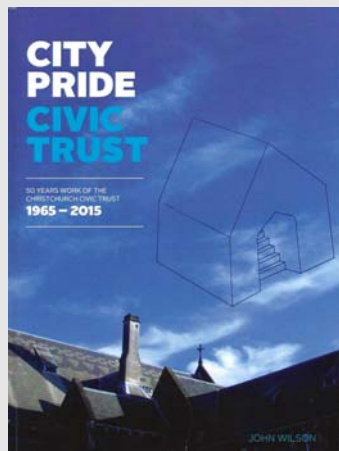
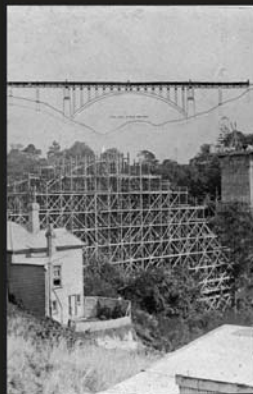


Happy Christmas to our all our supporters



Books Available

Heritage Walks —
The Engineering Heritage
of Auckland



CTA has added these books to its library.

The Myers Park book is by Edward Bennett, and he kindly made copies available to members at the AGM.

A number of the engineering heritage walks booklet were given to CTA by Elaine Bartley, and further copies are available.

Subscriptions

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

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