



NEWSLETTER NO. 2 OCTOBER 2019

Civic Trust Auckland

P O Box 74 049 Greenlane 1546

cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz

www.civictrustauckland.org.nz

Patron: Hamish Keith

*This is the second newsletter for the year. It has been compiled by Audrey.
CTA newsletters from 2010 onwards are available at www.civictrustauckland.org.nz*

*For up-to-date news, visit <http://civictrustauckland.org.nz/> and/or
<https://www.facebook.com/CivicTrustAuckland/>*

Auckland Heritage Festival - 5-28 October

The festival is now well underway. This year's theme is: how our people travelled to Tāmaki Makaurau to create a shared future together, and CTA's event in the festival is a photo competition for school-aged children, based on the theme. Details are on the CTA website, as well as in the festival programme and the Education Gazette.

Our president is again giving his own lecture in the festival, at the Ellen Melville Centre, Tue 22 Oct, 6-7pm, Wed 23 Oct, 12.30-1.30pm, Sat 26 Oct, 12.30-1.30pm: <http://www.heritagefestival.co.nz/events/detail.asp?ID=2937>

There are over 200 events in the festival, including exhibitions, walks, talks and tours, and the programme is online as well as in hard copy at libraries and other places around the city:
<http://www.heritagefestival.co.nz/>

Board Members 2019

Allan Matson (president)

Audrey van Ryn
(secretary)

Helen Geary (treasurer)

Margaret Barriball

Munroe Graham

Bill Rayner



Climate Change Emergency

Emergency: a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action

On June 11 this year, Auckland Council declared a climate change emergency. The climate change school strike on 27 September brought 80,000 people to Aotea Square to march down Queen St, and large numbers elsewhere throughout the world.

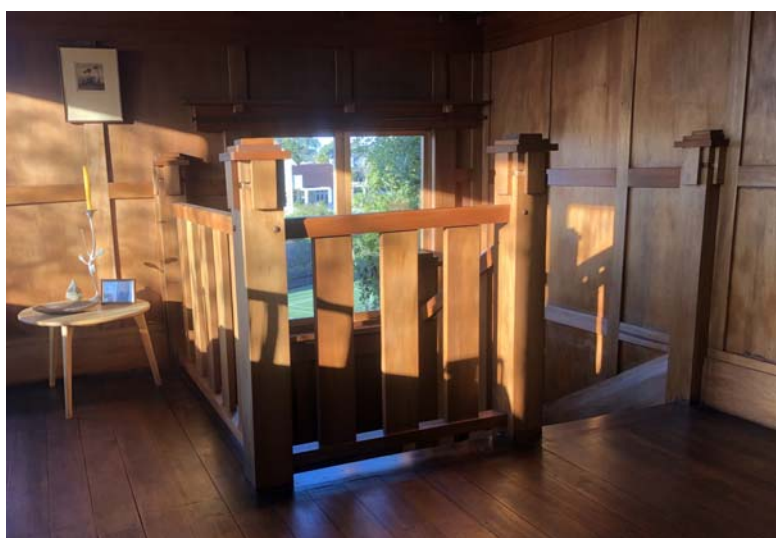
The Youth of Aotearoa's open letter states: *"We have a vision for a safe climate future. One with plentiful native forests, clean rivers and thriving ecosystems that allow life to flourish. ... We envision a world where each generation actively works towards a more beautiful world for the next. ... We need fundamental systemic change."*

CTA's submission on Council's Climate Change Framework notes: "We consider that Auckland Council is headed in the right direction to bring about the change that is needed but that it is moving too slowly. The focus should be on action."

Ideas can still be sent to: climate@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. Endorsement by Council of the final version of the framework will be sought in mid-2020.

Whare Tane - 7 July

For the second time, CTA members enjoyed a tour of this special place, hearing from Ken Wooff about the restoration work that has taken place since our visit on 8 June, 2014, and a description by Lucy Treep of the work done on the heritage garden by herself and Kay Wooff. We also appreciated the afternoon tea that Kay provided at the tennis club rooms next door, before we went over to the house.



photos - Helen Geary

Bishop's Palace - 10 August

Our second winter lecture was a tour, in two groups, of the Catholic Bishop's residence, a Category I and Category A building. See <https://civictrustauckland.org.nz/category/past-events/>



photos - Allan Matson & Audrey van Ryn

Auckland Volunteer Heritage Organisations: Contributions & Motivations

A number of CTA members took part in Polly Smith's research earlier this year, some providing quite extensive comment. Polly has shared the summary of her findings with us (next page), the last paragraph being pertinent to where CTA is positioned at the moment.

Polly's findings will be integrated into Auckland Council's Heritage Unit's Auckland Heritage Counts document. See below.

Launch of Auckland's Heritage Counts

The next edition of *Auckland's Heritage Counts* will be launched on 23 October at 5.15pm in the Town Hall Concert Chamber, as an event in the Auckland Heritage Festival:

<http://www.heritagefestival.co.nz/events/detail.asp?ID=2792>

Learn about the latest statistics and research relating to Auckland's heritage, including insights from the heritage volunteer sector. Hard copies of the document and some refreshments will be provided after the presentation.

The document will also be available online after the launch.

Please RSVP, as space is limited: david.bade@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Seminar on Heritage Funding

A heritage funding seminar, co-presented by Auckland Council's Heritage Unit, Heritage New Zealand and Foundation North, will be held on Thursday 14 November from 5-6pm at the Ellen Melville Centre.

Anyone who wishes to get tips on how to write a strong funding application is welcome.

communityheritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Mission Bay Development Refused

A \$200 million high-rise residential retail development on Mission Bay's beachfront has been refused resource consent.

The proposal included demolition all the buildings on the development site, including some of the Mission Bay's best-known buildings, and the construction of seven new multi-level buildings extending across the entire area, providing for retail, food & beverage, entertainment (cinema) and residential activities.

CTA contributed towards the cost of the objection to the resource consent and we put in a submission, which began as follows:

"All except one of the seven buildings in the proposed development exceeds the recently created permitted height limit of 16m. This would result in the development dominating the Mission Bay area, where all buildings to the east of the proposed development are restricted to 8m."

Reasons for the consent being refused:

a. ... overall, the adverse effects of the proposal to construct a new multi-level mixed use development would be unacceptable. The excess height of the proposal will result in adverse visual and dominance effects on the amenity of the surrounding environment, including the local centre environment itself, nearby residential areas that overlook the site, and the wider landscape.

b. ... the proposal is considered inconsistent with some of the key objectives and policies of the AUP(OP) ... (ii) the scale and intensity of development within the local centres being in keeping with planned outcomes identified in the AUP(OP) for the surrounding environment; (ii) managing the height and bulk of development to minimise adverse effects on adjoining residential sites and developments.

As the Mission Bay Kohi Residents Association wrote this week: "We don't know what happens next. The Applicant could file an appeal to the Environment Court, they could just accept the verdict, or they could redesign the project and resubmit it."

Opposite: The proposed development, photo - NZ Herald



Summary of Findings: The Contributions and Motivations of Auckland Volunteer Heritage Organisations

Polly Smith

Research Objectives

To establish a greater understanding of the social benefits of the Auckland heritage sector, this research collected information on the contributions that are made by the volunteers of Auckland heritage organisations, and the motivations that encourage volunteers to participate within these groups.

Research Participants



This research invited the volunteers for over 70 heritage organisations throughout the Auckland region to complete a questionnaire and/or an interview exploring the contributions and motivations associated with their heritage organisation. 80 questionnaire responses were received, and 57 volunteers were interviewed.

As the research did not survey all heritage volunteers in Auckland, the findings can only be interpreted as indicative rather than representative.

Auckland Volunteer Heritage Organisations

The participating heritage organisations ranged in size from 8 members through to 300 members. The organisations varied in purpose with some associated with museums, heritage places, or archival collections, and others operating without a physical space to hold their records, collections, or meetings. The volunteers of these groups generally fell into three categories: the committee members, a group of core/active volunteers, and a peripheral group of volunteers who were available to assist as needed.

Profile of Auckland Heritage Volunteers



95% of Auckland heritage volunteers were aged 45 and over. 55% of volunteers were retired, and 37% in employment. 58% of volunteers identified as female, and 40% identified as male. 69% of Auckland heritage volunteers had been a member of their organisation for six or more years. There was a lack of ethnic diversity amongst Auckland heritage volunteers with 90% identifying as New Zealand European.

Contributions of Volunteers



The research participants identified a wide range of tasks and activities that they fulfil as heritage volunteers. The most common tasks for questionnaire participants were the provision of guided walks and visits (completed by 50% of volunteers), advocating for heritage (48% of volunteers) and completing historical research (41% of volunteers). The interview participants

identified further contributions such as communications with Auckland Council, the running of meetings and events, administration tasks, and maintenance jobs. The hours of volunteer contributions were predominantly in the range of 0-10 hours per week; however, some volunteers were contributing over 31 hours each week.

Volunteer Motivations



Four predominant factors motivated volunteers to participate in the Auckland heritage sector:

- Passion – A general interest and passion for heritage and history.
- Connection – A personal bond or link to a local heritage feature or place.
- Community – A charitable desire to help the community in some way.
- Wellbeing – The opportunity to meet new people, develop friendships, feel useful, have a need or purpose, and have an outlet through which to keep their minds active, educated, and engaged.

85% of volunteers stated that volunteering made them happy, 14% were unsure, and 1% indicated that it did not make them happy. Some volunteers were frustrated by matters such as a lack of funding, a lack of progress, time wasting, and a lack of gratitude or recognition for their efforts.

The level of interaction that the organisations had with the Auckland Council Heritage Unit was varied, with some unaware of the Unit's existence and others receiving support and grants. There was a shared interest amongst the organisations to increase and/or improve the level of communication that takes place between the Heritage Unit and Auckland's heritage organisations.

The Future of Heritage Organisations



When considering the strength of their heritage organisation over the last year, participants predominantly reported a static or declining level of interest, with 75% of the groups identifying a want for more volunteers. Participants acknowledged issues such as the difficulty of attracting volunteers when people have alternative commitments and engagements in their lives, the loss of members to declining health, and a fear that the groups will eventually disappear. Despite these responses, when asked to consider their organisation in 12 months, most respondents believed their group would experience no change or be slightly stronger. The optimism of these outlooks reflects the keen interest and dedication that volunteers have for Auckland's heritage.

443-445 Mt Eden Rd

Council's independent hearing commissioners have refused a resource consent application for a proposed development in Mt Eden village.

Samsom Corporation applied to demolish two buildings on the site and construct a building that exceeded Unitary Plan height limits.

Civic Trust submitted on the resource consent application, focusing on the intrusion into the viewshafts to Maungawhau.

The application was refused on the grounds that that the demolition of the character defining building on the Mount Eden road frontage, a 1920s shop would erode the "special character values" of Mt Eden Village. The decision states that "Demolition of the building would therefore erode the 'special character values'. While the degree of adverse effect would be modest compared to other more prominent or distinguished examples of such buildings, it is the type of effect that could cumulatively erode 'special character' (e.g. 'death by a thousand cuts')."



The proposed development at 443-445 Mt Eden Rd

42, 44-48 Ponsonby Rd

CTA has also made a submission on another Samson Corporation development, this one at 42, 44-48 Ponsonby Rd, also exceeding Unitary Plan rules with regard to height, as well as seeking to demolish a character supporting building. This matter is yet to go through the hearings process.

This submission is also on the Civic Trust Auckland website.

CTA AGM

The AGM this year is scheduled for 24 November at 3pm at Kinder House, and further details will be emailed shortly.

As indicated in the last newsletter, the current Board members have a range of other demands on their time, and with past efforts to bolster Board membership having met with limited success, the Board has suggested bringing new focus to the way in which CTA connects with the community.

It is proposed to enhance CTA's digital presence, adding to the information currently accessible on the CTA website and Facebook site.

Existing officers would continue to operate CTA as usual, with the ability, as and when needed, to call on current Board members, along with Chris Grove, who has attended several of our meetings this year, and whose input we have appreciated.

Subscriptions

If you would like to join Civic Trust Auckland, please provide 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)

Please note that from 28 February 2020, Kiwibank will no longer be accepting cheques.