

MARCH 2017

# OCULUS

**Noun:** oculus, plural noun : oculi

**Meaning:** A round or eyelike opening or design, in

HISTORIC  
PLACES

A O T E A R O A

*The Voice of Heritage  
for New Zealand*

## Historic Places Aotearoa President:



2017 is shaping up to be a very busy year. The primary focus for many will be the national election which is scheduled to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This provides an opportunity for those that value heritage to influence our politicians in a meaningful way. First, by challenging them with respect to what their party policies are towards the protection and funding for heritage and secondly by voting.

Historic Places Aotearoa will be working with several other like minded **NGO's over the coming** months to prepare a document aimed at providing some guidance for the various political parties as to how we believe heritage should be managed. This is expected to look at 4 areas:-

1. **Ideas around the formulation of a National Heritage Policy Statement.** This is something that has been talked about for years but no government has been willing to progress this notion of what heritage really means to New Zealanders.
2. **How government will manage its own built heritage resources.** The destruction of the Category I listed Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre in 2016 shows that the current management of the Crown owned heritage buildings is woeful and needs to be overhauled. The Crown needs to lead by example when it comes to the care and management of our nations heritage.
3. **Legislative Protection.** What changes to the law are required to ensure that our most valuable heritage fabric is protected for future generations.
4. **Funding and Initiatives.** What funding and initiatives are required to ensure that the New Zealand public understand the importance of maintaining our heritage. It is unique and it is one of the things that defines us as New Zealanders, along with our forests and birds, our sporting, scientific and cultural achievements and our climate. Each one of these elements are important, but our built environment is not well looked after and built heritage is not well understood.

If you are reading this you are likely to be someone who believes that our built heritage is important and I encourage you to question your local politician about their views on our heritage before the election. The more people that do this the more likely it is the heritage will be have a voice within the walls of government.

James Blackburne HPA President

## Andrew Coleman CEO Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga



### Comment:

The best results for heritage are most often achieved when interested groups work together. While there will be differing views sometimes on how that is achieved, constructive dialogue allows our respective positions to be understood. For that reason I am very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself here to Historic Places Aotearoa, its members and affiliated heritage organisations and provide a broad outline of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's goals for this year.

**I met a number of you at last October's AGM** and workshop event hosted by Historic Places **Hawke's Bay. At the time, I had been Chief Executive** of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga for just a few weeks. While still relatively new to the position I have visited Heritage New Zealand sites and staff in Kerikeri, Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, and met with a range of people within the wider heritage sector. All of this has helped me develop firm ideas and plans on how fantastic heritage opportunities can be realised. While we have regulatory and statutory mandates we apply in decision making under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, our relationships with owners, iwi, hapu, communities and organisations such as Historic

Places Aotearoa are very important in promoting, protecting and conserving heritage. I have already written a number of articles that highlight the importance of effective collaboration.

Before coming to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga I was the Chief Operations Officer for the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI). I also held positions of acting Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive for Operations with the Ministry of Fisheries before the merger with MPI in 2012. Prior to this I spent 10 years in the New Zealand Customs Service and 20 years with the New Zealand Police. To the outside observer my direct links to heritage appear limited but, in fact, they are very strong. The words preserve, maintain and protect have defined my working career and, in fact, were entrenched in my thinking from a very early age. I was born and raised in Taihape – a small town that respects its history and heritage as it continues to progress. It was here I was immersed in tikanga Maori which continues to help me greatly in all aspects of my life.

In a recent opinion piece for the *Dominion Post* newspaper I said it was wonderful knowing that **tomorrow's heritage was being created today**. Importantly, it was wonderful to acknowledge the efforts made by owners, and others, to retain heritage places that capture the story of who we are and where we have come from.

Organisations like Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and Historic Places Aotearoa play key roles in identifying and supporting these places and owners as best we can.

We must accept there will be occasions where how we handle heritage issues differ. It would be remiss of me not to mention the Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre demolition last year in which Historic Places Aotearoa, under President James Blackburne, played a very prominent role in advocating for its retention. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga publicly expressed its disappointment at the loss of the centre. It had provided information to the owners and decision **makers on the building's significance and advice** on opportunities for its retention and reuse.

There are success stories, most notably the retention of the former Harcourts building in central Wellington. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, with support from Historic Places Wellington and others, was successful in the Environment Court in preventing its demolition. And the result? A strengthened, refurbished, four-and-a-half star Hilton Hotel for

## Andrew Coleman (continued) CEO Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga:

the city that will showcase its special heritage characteristics as it continues to be used and tell our collective story.

**Heritage New Zealand's immediate priorities** include continuing proactive and constructive discussion with owners and authorities on the earthquake resilience of heritage buildings. Public safety always remains the main priority in any discussion, exploring all options of retention and/or sympathetic adaptation. There needs to be financial incentives for owners of heritage places with **high public value**. **The Government's** \$12 million contestable, discretionary fund scheme Heritage EQUIP (Heritage Earthquake Upgrade Incentive Programme) is designed to assist owners required to meet the set timeframes to strengthen their buildings under the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act and will help in this regard. Heritage is being created each day, and we are pragmatic in acknowledging that not all heritage

can be retained. Again, as mentioned in my newspaper opinion piece, heritage buildings are the places the community values which have important stories to tell. It is here where Historic Places Aotearoa, and its affiliated heritage groups, can help identify and promote the values of these special places.

There is greater strength in a collective focus and it is my job – and great pleasure – to help achieve this.

**Andrew Coleman**  
Chief Executive  
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

### *John Daniels HPA Exec and HPW Member Reports:*

## Wellington's Heritage Buildings Dodge the Earthquake Bullet – This time!

**Last November's** earthquake caused major damage in Wellington, but fortunately not to most of its heritage buildings.

The nature of the quake and the type of shaking it induced mostly affected some multi-storey modern structures. Two of these, an office block and a parking building, have had to be demolished. It has recently been announced that the 10-year old Ministry of Defence building will also be coming down. Other badly damaged modern buildings may yet have to be demolished when investigations have been completed. Internal damage in other buildings has been severe.

Most heritage buildings, however, were not badly affected. This was due to the type of shaking which did not greatly impact on lower structures. One such building, Shed 35 on the waterfront, will **have to be demolished, and some others, notably Old St Paul's, suffered minor damage. Other well-known buildings came through unscathed. One such is Harcourt's Building, which was the** subject of a major campaign against demolition, and is now being converted into a boutique hotel.

**Wellington's heritage buildings may not be so lucky in another type of shake. Recently Government** has announced requirements for unreinforced parapets and facades to be strengthened within a twelve month time-frame. Some assistance will be available from central and local government, but the prospect is still a big challenge for some owners. Well-loved character areas such as **Cuba Street in Wellington and Petone's Jackson Street are particularly affected. If the work** is not done these areas could be devastated if another quake of different character hits Wellington.

John Daniels is on HPA Exec and the Historic Places Wellington Committee.

## Hydro Grand Hotel: Update



The Reconvened Commissioner's Hearing is to be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The Timaru Herald has an online article on the upcoming Hearing.

Link via Timaru Herald headline:

[Hydro Grand assessment critical of hotel's heritage values](#)

## Christ Church Cathedral- The Wait Continues ...



Minister Brownlee made a statement:

[Government, church at odds over offer to restore Christ Church Cathedral](#)

The Bishop responds:

[Anglican bishop worried over fundraising targets for Christ Church Cathedral restoration](#)

Decision may be imminent or not:

[Christ Church Cathedral decision imminent, but 'could change in an instant'](#)

## Architectural Term *for this issue of Oculus:*



### Dentil

In [classical architecture](#) a **dentil** (from Lat. *dens*, a tooth<sup>[1]</sup>) is a small block used as a repeating ornament in the [bedmould](#) of a [cornice](#).<sup>[2]</sup> Dentils are found in classical Greek and Roman architecture and also in later styles, such as [Beaux Arts Classicism](#), [Classical Revival](#), [Federal](#), [Georgian Revival](#), [Greek Revival](#), [Neoclassicism](#), [Renaissance Revival](#), and [Second Empire](#).

Source: Wikipedia

Photo from the Townley's Building in Gisborne.

## Heritage At Risk - Your Support Appreciated:

### EUPHRASIE HOUSE



A petition has been created to try and save Euphrasie House in Hamilton. Euphrasie House is a pre-war Spanish Mission style convent located in Hamilton East. It was closed in 2011 and reports claim it would cost too much to earthquake strengthen. Quality Spanish Mission buildings of this scale are rare in New Zealand.

Link to Euphrasie House Change.Org petition page:

[SAVE EUPHRASIE HOUSE](#)

The Waikato Times has an online article:

[Peter Dornauf: The people speak up to save Hamilton's Euphrasie House](#)

*Latest developments on the Historic Places Aotearoa Facebook page.*

### Golden Bay Grand Stand



A community trust has been formed to save the Golden Bay Grand Stand.

There has been an Environment Court Hearing where expert witnesses James Blackburne and Ian Bowman appeared on behalf of the community.

There is now a wait for the courts decision on this matter. The hope is that the decision will be along the lines of the 1999 Peel Street Toilets case and therefore the case law around enforcement orders for heritage buildings that councils attempt to demolish, is supported.

*The latest details are on the Historic Places Aotearoa Facebook page.*