

SEPTEMBER 2017

OCULUS

Noun: oculus, plural noun : oculi

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

HISTORIC
PLACES
AOTEAROA

*The Voice of Heritage
for New Zealand*

Historic Places Aotearoa President:



The 2017 election is done and dusted and the nation has spoken. Now we all have to sit back and wait for the dust to settle to find out what the final make up of the government for the next three years will look like.

The focus of the main political parties over the past few months has been the standard big three - housing, health and education. This is very understandable as these are the items that feature the most in the media and on people's minds.

Unfortunately, Arts, Heritage and Culture doesn't feature highly as this does not appear to have a major economic or social benefit to New Zealand.

For me the main focus of the heritage sector needs to be on effective communication and education. This was part of a recent discussion between Heritage New Zealand, ICOMOS NZ, and the NZ Archaeological Association. Some would like to focus on education and communication to the general population, but in my view this is short sighted.

The heritage sector needs to focus on the school curriculum if it wants to effectively raise the importance of our heritage in people's general psyche.

It is also important to note that it is not the heritage buildings or places in themselves that are important, it is the stories that are associated with them that is. It is the stories that bring our heritage places to life and what engages with the widest audience.

By engaging with children we can engage their parents and grandparents, as students talk about what they have been learning in school with their parents. Field trips involve parents and thus we can effectively engage with a wide audience.

The development of a nationally driven heritage education and communication framework will be the subject of upcoming heritage sector meetings. In the words of one political party leader "Let's do this".

James Blackburne HPA President

HPA AGM 2017 @ TIMARU: THE DETAILS

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of Historic Places Aotearoa Inc. is to be held in Timaru on Saturday, 4th November.

The venue is the historic Landing Service Building in George Street owned by the Timaru Civic Trust.

Accommodation for participants is available close by at the Grosvenor Hotel. The hotel has standard king rooms at \$100 and superior king rooms at \$120 per room per night and inclusive of GST. The rooms can be twinned if required to have 2x single beds.

Air New Zealand has flights into Timaru from Wellington only.

There are two inward flights on Friday 3rd, leaving Wellington at 10.10am and at 7pm, and one outward flight on Sunday 5th, leaving Timaru at 12 noon.

Participants travelling by air would need to travel to Timaru on the 3rd and stay for two nights. This is because on Saturday the only flight in arrives at 11.35am and the last flight out is at 12 noon.

The programme will broadly follow the format of the Napier AGM last year.

With the AGM and speakers on a Saturday and a short tour on Sunday morning.

The budget has not been finalized but we have noted that the cost per head at Napier was \$40 which was covered by HPA.

This involved participants each paying for their own meals aside from catering at the meeting.

I can be contacted for any further details.

Regards Jimmy Wallace
wallacesundrum@clear.net.nz

Jimmy Wallace is on the HPA Executive.
He is a member of the South Canterbury Historical Society
and the Timaru Civic Trust

“Big L” and “little l” : Two (Different) Landmarks & Lists

There are two Landmarks (& Lists) which differ and it is confusing:

- 1. National Historic Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu.**
This was established under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* and is administered by Heritage New Zealand. Inclusion on this list means the heritage building or site has the highest protection. This list has been set up by legislation.
- 2. Landmarks Whenua Tohunga**
According to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage web site this is a “partnership between Manatū Taonga - Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga which showcases New Zealand’s historically and culturally important places. Until now, there hasn’t been a unified approach to promoting them and encouraging people to visit them.”
This list appears to be an administrative creation.

Since the establishment of **Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu** in 2014, **no** heritage buildings or sites have been added to it. The List is empty.

For a New Zealand heritage building to be put forward for World Heritage Status, it needs to have the highest protection and thus it must be on the Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu list, which according to the HNZ web site “Applications for the Landmarks list are not yet open”.

We understand ICOMOS NZ has been attempting to meet with Minister Barry to facilitate adding heritage buildings and or sites to the Landmark’s List.

PS “Big L” and “little l” are the Landmarks nicknames used by Heritage Professionals and Advocates

CONNECTING WITH THE HERITAGE COMMUNITY

Forming and enhancing valued partnerships through outreach programmes is a very important part of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's work in identifying, promoting and protecting heritage alongside like-minded people and organisations such as Historic Places Aotearoa and its affiliated regional heritage groups.

Three key members of this outreach work are John O'Hare (based in Kerikeri but whose area covers the Far North, Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty and as far south as Gisborne), David Watt (based in Wellington and responsible for the region extending in a line from Taranaki across to Hawke's Bay and down to Nelson and Marlborough) and Rosemary Baird (based in Christchurch and looking after the remainder of the South Island from Kaikoura to Stewart Island from west to east coasts).

The trio work closely alongside their General Managers, Area Managers and colleagues in Kerikeri, Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin to promote Heritage New Zealand's work in the media, publications such as *Heritage Quarterly* magazine and the electronic newsletter *Heritage This Month* and through outreach programmes and events.

Rosemary, a university-qualified oral historian, has been at Heritage New Zealand for just over two years and loves the variety of projects she works on.

"There's always something new and interesting – from film shows to exhibitions, heritage tours and PechaKucha events," says Rosemary.

"It's always great to collaborate with all the varied heritage supporters, organisations, and enthusiasts in the areas I cover to put on these events."

Key projects Rosemary is working on in the coming year include developing a rural heritage stall at the Canterbury and Wanaka A&P Shows, film shows with Nga Taonga Sound & Vision, involvement in the upcoming Christchurch Heritage Week and Heritage New Zealand becoming an award sponsor for the Canterbury Heritage Awards in which Historic Places Aotearoa is a key partner.



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Rosemary (rbaird@heritage.org.nz, (03) 363 1882

CONNECTING WITH THE HERITAGE COMMUNITY

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David Watt is a Heritage New Zealand stalwart, having worked at the organisation for close on 20 years and developed ongoing relationships with many heritage advocates when the former branch committee structure was in place.

The Central Region's focus has been helping new heritage organisations with their strategic direction and promoting connections with Heritage New Zealand's work. Heritage Taranaki has worked closely with the Central Region Office developing a phone app project on the Land Wars in Taranaki.

"We have strengthened our community profile through more regional events to increase appreciation and support for heritage preservation, arranging property visits, including the opening of Antrim House to huge numbers of people to understanding its history and conservation, and to access other landmark properties in our region. A Wellington Heritage Week in association with Historic Places Wellington will be piloted in October," says David.

"We have made significant headway in reforming a heritage organisation in the Wairarapa which has been in recess for a number of years, and another target is the Tararua district to form a refreshed heritage organisation. Similar actions are being taken in Central Hawke's Bay to strengthen advocacy and outreach.

"Our clear message is partnership, showing that strength in achieving our common objectives comes through good stakeholder relations."

John O'Hare is also something of a stalwart, having worked with Heritage New Zealand for 15 years, liaising with media to generate positive coverage as well as telling some of the amazing stories associated with some of our fascinating historic places.

"I love being able to support our work in engaging Kiwis with their history and making it accessible, interesting and fun – whether it's through stories in the media, displays or other means," says John.

There has been a number of Northern Region community outreach initiatives John has been involved in recently. These include working with colleagues to develop a series of A2-sized posters looking at the history of Bank Street in Whangarei.

"The posters generated a lot of interest and conversations, and council and local business owners are developing plans to promote Bank Street as a heritage place."

Other initiatives have been helping design and produce posters focused on the Northern Wars which were displayed at the Te Waimate A&P Show and at Waitangi at the Waitangi Day Festival; producing an information poster on the listing of Thames' three historic post boxes as a Category 2 historic place as part of 150th anniversary celebrations of the Thames goldfields; and supporting staff in hosting local kohanga reo and kura students in a fun day learning how to use an archaeological stone fish trap near Kerikeri.

Please feel free to contact John (johare@heritage.org.nz, (09) 407 0481), David ([dwatt@heritage.org.nz](mailto:d watt@heritage.org.nz), (04) 494 8322) or Rosemary (rbaird@heritage.org.nz, (03) 363 1882) during working hours.

Jamie Douglas Heritage New Zealand Media Advisor

HERITAGE FOCUS FOR TIMARU'S NEW CBD GROUP



Timaru has recently formed a new CBD Stakeholder Group to guide and help stimulate the development and enhancement of the towns Central Business District, with heritage playing a key role.

A series of stakeholder workshops and one-on-one interviews were conducted by Colin Bass of Business Lab (specialists in community engagement and collaborative strategic planning) and Aoraki Development, the Timaru District's economic development agency, in order to gain an understanding of the current issues at play and identify potential opportunities for improvement of the central business district.

These consultations illustrated that Timaru's existing built heritage was seen as one of the most important and unique assets of the CBD, along with its proximity to Caroline Bay. The resultant strategic plan identified the CBD's predominant Edwardian architectural character as an important and positive identifying attribute, which should be promoted and enhanced in order to attract more people, businesses and activity into the city centre.

The culmination of the consultation process resulted in the formation of a new organisation called the Timaru CBD Society, composed of a dozen stakeholders, ranging from building owners, landlords, retailers and representatives of local interest groups, who have all generously volunteered their time to get the initiative up and running.

Running alongside the Executive Committee, four Working Groups have been set up, with individual focuses – Enhancement, Investment, Experience and Heritage. The Heritage Working Group is chaired by local Urban Designer Nigel Gilkison and is investigating ways of using heritage as a leverage tool to attract more people and businesses into the city centre.

Some of the initial ideas which have been explored by the Heritage Working Group include:

- Promoting the value of our local heritage and its potential economic, social and cultural benefits to Timaru's CBD.

HERITAGE FOCUS FOR TIMARU'S NEW CBD GROUP

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- Sharing knowledge and resources relating to ownership of heritage buildings, including assisting building owners with information about earthquake strengthening and available funding sources which can assist with meeting the costs associated with building maintenance and seismic strengthening.
- Facilitating the adaptive re-use of currently unoccupied heritage buildings (both temporary and longer term uses) within the town centre. Working with heritage building owners the group hopes to encourage local entrepreneurship and increase street activity by utilising these empty buildings for things like business start-up spaces, small business hub; local craft market, artist studios or gallery/display spaces, as well as encouraging more inner city residential uses in the currently under-utilised upper floors of many of the heritage buildings in the city centre.
- Introducing heritage information plaques, heritage walks, heritage signage and lighting of heritage buildings to distinguish and publicise heritage buildings within the CBD.
- The establishment of a new centrally located 'heritage information centre' to promote the story of Timaru's establishment and its evolution.

The group are also looking at the possibility of establishing Timaru's historic city centre as a defined 'heritage precinct' and are looking at other examples around the country where heritage precinct regeneration has been a catalyst for successful revitalisation of other town centres in places such as Dunedin, Invercargill, Gore and Oamaru.

Nigel Gilkison is an Urban Designer.
He is Deputy Chair of Historic Places Mid Canterbury
and a member of the Timaru Civic Trust.

Architectural Term *for this issue of Oculus:*



Image of old government house, Auckland

Quoin

One of a series of stones or bricks used to mark the corners of a building, often through a contrast of size, shape, or colour.

Where quoins are used for decoration and not for load-bearing, they may be made from a wider variety of materials beyond brick, stone or concrete, extending to timber, cement render or other stucco.

See Image of old government house, Auckland .

This is a timber building made to look like stone. Note the highlighted quoins to the corners.