

Historic Places Aotearoa President James Blackburne



Tairāwhiti / Gisborne - Exciting AGM News

This year's HPA AGM is to be held in Tairāwhiti Gisborne shortly after the national Tuia 250 Commemorations are launched, which marks 250 years since the first formal meeting between Tangata Whenua and Europeans.

As President I am very pleased to announce HPA will be jointly hosting the event with ICOMOS NZ. (ICOMOS is a United Nations UNESCO organisation devoted to conservation and preserving our Heritage. The New Zealand Aotearoa Branch is largely made up of members who are practicing heritage Professionals.)

The event will run from midday Friday 11th October through to midday Sunday 13th October. There will be a variety of presentations, heritage visits and social events and time has been set aside within the programme for each organisation to hold their individual AGMs.

You will be notified of the details as soon they are finalised.

This will be great weekend and will provide an opportunity to mix with heritage advocates and professionals while enjoying Gisborne's hospitality, culture and heritage.

I would strongly recommend you start making your travel plans and book your flights as soon as possible. Tairāwhiti / Gisborne is well worth a long weekend and the locals will be out to prove it!

Tuia 250 - A Watershed

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the eventful first formal meeting between Tangata Whenua and Europeans. While the 200th in 1969, was very Eurocentric, this year's commemorations are themed "A Dual Heritage and a Shared Future". They will recognise the incredible feats of the Polynesian voyagers around the Pacific and well as the European explorers.

Tuia 250 is an opportunity to talk about our history, warts and all, in a mature way. It provides an opportunity to weave our voyaging stories together and to learn from them to better educate ourselves about our separate and combined histories.

This equally relates to our built heritage and sites. Without knowing the stories associated with our heritage buildings and the land on which they sit, they are just facades and interiors that represent a past fashion and whim of the owner or architect. It is the stories associated with our heritage places that enables these places to be brought to life and gives them real meaning for the current generation. How we interpret our history is important and we need to recognise all the stories associated with our heritage places and that while you may not agree with one persons story associated with a place, it does not necessarily mean that it is any less or more valid than your own. Places like our voyaging histories can have multiple threads and stories to them which can all be weaved together to create something of greater significance and relevance.

“A nation is bound together not by the past,
but by the stories of the past that we tell one another in the present”
Ernest Renan

Tax Working Group Report: A Great First Step for Heritage

We generally support the Working Groups proposal that seismic strengthening be written down by Depreciation. HPA will be looking to involve ourselves in any political and public conversations and are looking forward to hearing the Government's response and the fine details of any changes proposed.

<https://taxworkinggroup.govt.nz/>



MEDIA RELEASE

for immediate release, 11 April 2019

Tax changes for earthquake-prone buildings wins support

Historic Places Aotearoa applauds the tax working group's proposed changes to tax policy relating to earthquake strengthening of buildings.

HPA President James Blackburne supports the initiative to review or change the tax policy as it would benefit owners of earthquake-prone buildings, many of which are an integral part of New Zealand's heritage .

"One option being considered is to restore building depreciation for seismic strengthening work on commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential buildings.

"Reinstating building depreciation deductions or allowing owners to claim strengthening as a repair and maintenance cost will benefit owners of earthquake-prone buildings.

"While the devil will be in the detail as to whether it will be implemented and in what form, the underlying concept of tax relief will have a positive effect because it will reduce the cost to building owners of strengthening buildings and may mean that strengthening is considered rather than demolition being seen as the only viable option.

"We believe this will have a positive effect on the retention rate of heritage buildings throughout New Zealand, and in particular provincial New Zealand, where many main streets are lined with unreinforced masonry heritage buildings."

Mr Blackburne said the proposed tax change, in addition to the continuing with Heritage EQUIP grants, would be of benefit to owners.

Heritage EQUIP offers two grants for seismic strengthening projects – Upgrade Works Grants to a maximum of \$400,000 or, for regional building owners, up to two thirds of seismic upgrade works; and Professional Advice Grants to a maximum of \$50,000 per project or, for regional building owners, up to two thirds of professional advice costs.

The new professional advice grants are aimed specifically at regional building owners outside the three main centres.

James Blackburne

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Avoiding “Demolition by Legislation

Felicity Wong

This article was first published in the Historic Places Wellington Newsletter



There are almost 700 earthquake-prone buildings in Wellington, and a fair few of them are heritage buildings. The previous National led government passed legislation requiring earthquake strengthening of building facades or their demolition. Wellington buildings in “priority areas” have seven years in which to do so, while regional centres of lesser earthquake risk have either 12 or 15 years. Given the lower economic returns for such buildings, older town centres in New Zealand risk “demolition by legislation” at the expiry of the relevant time limit.

Last year, HPW raised the problem with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. We expressed concern about the potential to radically change town centres of Wellington and other smaller towns.

We called for tax relief or other funding options to assist with the strengthening costs and avoid demolition.

In September 2018 Rangitikei, Manawatu and Wanganui Council representatives also called on Building Minister Jenny Salesa to explain the problem caused for their heritage town centres.

These regional mayors offered rates and consent assistance but called on central government to “come to the party” as well. The September Interim Report of the government’s Tax Working Group suggested tax relief by treating earthquake strengthening as a deductible expense rather than a capital investment. HPW is pleased the Tax Working Group referred to the issue and made a recommendation about the treatment of depreciation in its Final Report issued last week. We support tax relief through deductibility of strengthening costs.

In addition, Associate Minister for Arts and Heritage, Grant Robertson announced an increase to the EQUIP fund for earthquake strengthening in recent days. That will now fund up to 50% of the cost of professional advice for listed heritage building owners in regional areas. Many building owners in regional areas are also able to apply for up to 67% of works costs. HPW welcomes the extension to this fund for regional folk.

Currently earthquake prone buildings must be brought up to code if more than 25% of the value of the earthquake prone building is spent on alterations or renovation. This results in many heritage and older buildings sitting dilapidated. The owner can’t afford to spruce them up, or strengthen the facade as required, without strengthening the whole building at an uneconomic cost.

The regional mayors also asked that the “demolition by legislation” law be amended to alter this “trigger” threshold for strengthening. They asked for it to be calculated as either 25% of the capital value of the building, or \$200,000, whichever is the greater. In many cases the work to strengthen the facade will cost less than \$200,000 and therefore won’t trigger the need to bring the whole building up to code. We also want this change.

In December HPW made a written submission and followed up with oral comments to Wellington City Council about the issues, but the Councils are limited by the legislation. If the tax changes are implemented by government, the EQUIP funding provided, and the trigger adjusted, demolition by legislation could be avoided. Here’s a photo I took in Foxton Main Street on 10 January 2019.

Felicity Wong is a member of Historic Places Aotearoa Executive and is Chair of Historic Places Wellington Committee

Overview Of The Heritage Report Process

The Ministry of Culture and Heritage Policy Team has provided the following updated Overview of the Heritage Report Process

In 2018, Ministers requested the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) undertake an assessment of New Zealand's system for protecting heritage buildings and make recommendations on how to enhance the system.

MCH sought input from heritage stakeholders to prepare the assessment. Feedback was gathered through a Colmar Brunton designed survey and workshops in a number of regional centres. Stakeholders included central and local government, iwi, academics, architects, planners, engineers, advocacy bodies, property owners and developers. A total of 293 individuals and organisations provided feedback.

The enthusiastic response to the Ministry's outreach highlighted some common concerns. Stakeholders focused on improved regulation, increased funding and enhanced information. Many respondents asked for the Crown to demonstrate best practice in relation to its own heritage properties. Stakeholder feedback indicated strong support for some level of Government intervention to improve the current system.

A draft report based on the stakeholder input and policy analysis was circulated to stakeholders for comment. The finalised report and policy advice was then approved by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. This report has informed the Ministry's heritage protection work programme for 2019.

MCH is currently in the process of determining the most appropriate means of addressing the issues raised in the report.

MCH thanks stakeholders for being involved in 2018, and looks forward to working with them on the next stage of the assessment as policy options are worked up later this year.

Heritage and The Budget 2019

HPA Exec Members Felicity Wong and Nigel Isaacs had a look at the Budget 2019

"There is some useful "top up" spending in the budget but does not seem to be any exciting "new spending initiative" for "Heritage". We found the following:

Building and Construction

Residential Earthquake Prone Building Financial Assistance Scheme

Led by the Minister for Building and Construction. This funding supports the remediation of multi-unit, multi-storey residential earthquake-prone buildings in high seismic risk areas through a suspensory loan scheme. It will be available to owners of such units who are in, or facing, financial hardship, where properties were purchased or acquired before 1 July 2017. (\$ million)

Estimates	Vol.10
Vote	Building and Construction
2018/19	-
2019/20	5.400
2020/21	4.900
2021/22	1.500
2022/23	1.500
Capital	10.000

Management of Historic Places (M4) \$14,364,000 ->\$15,114,000

Earthquake-prone Heritage Buildings (M4) \$2,870,000 2018/19 -> \$6,986,000 2019/20

See p16 of attached "Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage"

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga \$13,838,000 2018/19 actual -> \$14,588,000 2019/20 budget (increase 5.4%)

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2019/20 is mainly a result of the new policy initiative for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to maintain and improve heritage outcomes in the face of increasing demand for its services nationally. In addition funding is provided to Heritage New Zealand for costs associated with the acquisition and repurposing of heritage property.

Heritage "Blue" Plaque



Nigel Gilkison has produced a Heritage "Blue" Plaque promotional flyer (DLE) available to help with your marketing.

You can order copies of the flyer by contacting Nigel at blueplaque@hsitoricplacesaotearona.org.nz

In addition, Nigel has updated the documentation for the Heritage Plaques.

Email Nigel and he'll send you the link.

The documents are:

General Info Sheet and **Technical Info Booklet**.

There has been a pricing adjustment for bulk orders:

One off price for one plaque is still \$1700.00 (GST inclusive)

If your order is included in a batch of 5 the price drops to \$1500.00 (GST inclusive)

Don't forget as well promoting your local heritage the Heritage Plaques are a great fundraiser for HPA Membership Organisations as your Committee can earn a commission for everyone ordered.

Historic Places Mid Canterbury: Heritage "Blue" Plaques Installed



“THE HERITAGE OF CHANGE”

Conference 2019

Historic Places Aotearoa

ICOMOS NZ



11 - 13 October
2019

Gisborne Tairāwhiti

Welcome to the joint 2019 conference of Historic Places Aotearoa and ICOMOS NZ

“The Heritage of Change”

New Zealand Aotearoa has seen much change in its history of human occupation. People have periodically arrived by sea, and in later times by air, and have modified and adapted the land to their lifestyle.

Change brings tension, as people are forced to confront new ideas or technology. The reasons for these changes and their impacts are varied.

2019 marks a significant anniversary for the people of Tairāwhiti, being 250 years since Cook made contact with Aotearoa. This landmark event triggered huge change - nothing would ever be the same for the people on both sides of the exchange.

This event and how it is interpreted has itself been the subject of much change over recent decades – older stories have given way to more enlightened and thoughtful approaches.

Change continues to evolve in the heritage sector: change in information available, change in technology, change in professional practice and philosophy. These changes affect what we do, how we do it and most importantly why we do it.

The joint conference between HPA and ICOMOS NZ will explore many of these changes and their impacts and implications.

Programme overview

Venue:

Waikanae Beach Surf Lifesaving clubrooms

282 Grey Street

Gisborne

Friday 11 October

Midday	Registration
1.00	Bus to a marae at Manutuke
1:15	Powhiri & Lunch
2:30- 5.30	Welcome and Keynote Speakers
6.00	Social event
8.00	Bus returns to town

Saturday 12 October

8.30-9.00	Registration & coffee
9.00-12.00	Papers
12.00-1.00	Lunch
1.00-2.30	AGMs
2.30-5.30	Fieldtrips - Voyaging and First Encounters Stories
7.00	Conference dinner

Sunday 13 October

9.00-10.00	Papers
10.00-10.30	Morning tea
10.30-12.00	Papers
12.00	Conference end

2:00 - 5:00 First Meeting Korero hosted by Historic Places Tairawhiti, held at Waikanae Surf Life Saving Club. All welcome.

Other people may wish to travel to Tolaga Bay, about 55kms north of Gisborne to see the Endeavour Replica and Polynesian Voyaging waka, which will be located there as part of the Tuia 250 Commemorations.

A detailed programme is being developed and information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

This preliminary flier is to assist attendees with travel plans; travel to and from Gisborne is restricted by limited flight availability.

This early notice of conference dates and times is to enable attendees to make early travel and accommodation bookings.

The Presenters @ the HPA AGM (with HPA Exec)



James Blackburne HPA
President with Minister Hon
Iain Lees-Galloway



Andrew Coleman CE HNZ, Stefan
Corbett Manager Heritage Policy MCH,
Matthew MacKay Policy Planner
Palmerston North City Council & James
Blackburne



Hon Nicky Wagner with
Mark Gerrard HPA Exec

HPA AGM Sunday Heritage Coach Tour



Government Moves on Stronger Heritage Protection

Denis Harwood

The following text is a reproduction of a Historic Places Hawkes Bay "HB Heritage News" newsletter article on the HPA AGM presentations by Minister Lees-Galloway and Stefan Corbett MCH Manager Heritage Policy.

Our previous issue included coverage of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Survey on strengthening New Zealand's protection system for heritage buildings which was the first step by the new government in overhauling heritage policies. The findings of the survey which included nearly 300 responses were discussed in a paper presented by Stefan Corbett, Manager Heritage Policy at the Ministry at the recent Historic Places Aotearoa AGM held at Caccia Birch House in Palmerston North. Apart from the completed surveys received the Ministry had also conducted several workshops in the major cities where further input was received. Stefan Corbett had also travelled to Australia to study heritage policies in the State of Victoria. Stefan reported that, "Respondents consistently reported that the Heritage NZ identification process is too slow and complex, and that local councils have insufficient capacity and guidance on how to best protect heritage buildings. The two processes are not well integrated. Formal mechanisms to prevent the loss of heritage buildings are generally inoperative and seldom used. The most consistently raised to address these issues were the development of a simplified listing process for Heritage NZ and a National Policy Statement under the RMA. The complexity and lack of centralized information about the heritage system were acknowledged as significant issues, creating a barrier for meaningful public engagement in the heritage system. Good quality information and technical assistance is hard to obtain. Respondents regularly identified that creating an easily accessible, centralized portal of information would improve the awareness, understanding and opportunities for engagement in the heritage system." There was concern about the cost of maintaining heritage buildings well targeted incentives are needed to facilitate positive heritage outcomes. Management of crown owned heritage buildings is often poor and the government needs to make positive steps to lead by example. Local heritage protection policies vary considerably around the country and examples mentioned were Dunedin where built heritage is actively promoted while policies in Invercargill tended to be at the other end of the scale. In response to questions Stefan commented that the question of providing tax write offs for strengthening earthquake prone heritage buildings has been referred to the Tax Working Group. He also mentioned that formulating a national policy statement on heritage was not currently a preferred Ministry option on the grounds that policy statements tend to be slow and costly to prepare and ultimately offer little statutory protection. He also commented that suggestions that there should be an automatic linkage between the Heritage NZ List and local council district plan listings can raise private property rights issues for building owners through regulatory restrictions that go with listing in a district plan. The survey findings are due to be considered by the Minister before the end of the year and we await finding out what interventions may be proposed to strengthen heritage protection in New Zealand.

Also speaking at the AGM was local Palmerston North MP, Minister Hon Iain Lees-Galloway representing the Prime Minister in her capacity as Minister for Culture and Heritage. He said that, "just last month, the Prime Minister launched 'Our Plan', which sets out the Coalition Government's long-term priorities and the steps we are taking to build a modern and fairer New Zealand. One of the three pillars of 'Our Plan' is 'Making New Zealand proud'. A proud New Zealand is one that recognises and celebrates the value and uniqueness of its culture, its languages, its history, and of course, its historic buildings and places." He also mentioned The Living Standards Framework which incorporates other dimensions of living, focusing on the health of our people, families, communities, and environment. "The Government is also using the Treasury's Living Standards Framework to measure our success differently. The Living Standards Framework breaks wellbeing down into four broad areas – social capital, human capital, natural capital and financial capital. Heritage places contribute to all of these areas." However, "many heritage places in New Zealand contribute significantly to the tourism economy, as well as the reputation and attractiveness of urban areas."

Denis Pilkington is a HPA Exec Member and also the Historic Places Hawke's Bay Committee.

The following is a rough report taken from notes of the topics covered by Andrew Coleman in his presentation to the HPA AGM

Youth and Heritage: Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) will be looking to foster awareness of the importance of Heritage to the younger generations.

HNZ Regional Services: The Regional Offices have been re-organised so are providing a "recreated regional services". Their heritage decision making has been strengthened and they will be more autonomous with less direct Antrim House involvement and overview. There is an expectation the Regional Offices will be more proactive in their interactions. Andrew Coleman noted he is less inclined to quantify rules and wishes to open up HNZ.

Communications: The Social Media platform presence ie Facebook and Instagram will continue to be developed. A "what is hot now" approach with 2/3 updates a week is an aim.

Heritage and Insurance: He observed the insurance Premiums are still rising. HNZ is working with the Insurance Council and related parties.

Time Ball Station (Lyttleton): He outlined the work being done on recreating the tower and mechanism.

Landmarks: He briefed that Minister Grant Robertson has responsibility for Landmarks (as laid out in Legislation). An outline was given on progress in having the first Landmarks being announced.

Tohu Whenua: The reasons for the name change was outlined. (It used to be called "landmarks".) An overview was provided in its role for telling stories. He briefed on the change and that HNZ will be the primary driver. West Coast is on the list and there have been many approaches from Territorial Authorities.

HNZ Grant to Historic Places Aotearoa: Andrew announced a grant of \$5000 to HPA.

His expectation is that HPA will use it to promote Heritage in the Community and its role. There is an expectation of HPA having a higher profile. In addition he expects more "sharing" of Heritage events.

HNZ and Heritage Building Owners: Communication with heritage building owners will be improved and he HNZ mentioned Cat 2 (supporting) on the HNZ List.

The Digital Realm: HNZ is currently assessing what could be a trial Featherston Virtual Reality Project (VR). The RSA are part of the conversations. He observed that overseas sites (American Wars and Bannockburn) which feature virtual worlds of what a site was, show the real potential of VR.

Andrew Coleman is personally supportive of the Heritage "Blue" Plaque and asked for a formal request seeking HNZ endorsement and he will refer it to the appropriate staff.

Hon Nicky Wagner @ the HPA AGM

The following text is taken from rough notes taken during the Presentation

Mark Gerrard.

The Opposition Spokesperson for Arts Culture and Heritage stayed for the whole HPA AGM and Presentations as well attending the evening dinner

Nicky Wagner explained the National policy development has been broken down into three stages:

First Year: Listening (2018)

Second Year: Discuss (2019)

Third Year: Propose

There was an acknowledgement of funding constraints and protecting property rights. More "collaboration" was put forward as an option for preserving heritage.

Heritage is part of an eco system and thus there is potential for collaborations and partnerships.

The approach of the presentation was that we should be positive on the opportunities for Heritage and featured the following themes:

1. Giving more value to Heritage: e.g. Our young should be made aware of the values of our Heritage.
2. Positive reinforcement of Heritage: She cited the Canterbury Heritage Awards where Heritage is celebrated as a positive. The Melanesian Mission is another success that should be widely celebrated.
3. Development of Partnerships:

Working with local people.

Offshore (and internal) Tourism promotion opportunities.

Mark Gerrard is on the HPA Executive and is
Chair of Historic Place Canterbury

The National Assessment RMA Policies and Plans: Heritage Provision 2018 (HNZPT Report)

Every three years HNZPT does a survey / assessment and releases a report on the RMA Policies and Plans of the local authorities i.e. their District Schemes.

You can download a copy of the latest report (2018) at the following:

<https://www.heritage.org.nz/protecting-heritage/advocating-for-heritage>