

# NEWS

## Leaders' forum proving valuable

### FROM THE TOP



HPA President  
James Blackburne

This year's AGM was a great success. A huge thank you to Helen Craig and the team from Whanganui for hosting us all. It was great to catch up with so many members

during the three days of events.

I was very pleased with the turnout and particularly the representation from Auckland with Auckland Civic Trust and new Associate Member, the Auckland Heritage Society. I officially welcome them to the organisation.

About every six to eight weeks for the past two years, I have met via video call

with ICOMOS, NZAA and Heritage NZ heads for the Heritage Leaders' Forum. We find this beneficial to coordinating a national heritage agenda. At our latest meeting, we discussed the need to work together on upcoming RMA changes, signalled before the election, and heritage protection work advanced by MCH. We aim to soon form a working group from across the heritage sector to respond to this work.

The heritage leaders will contact the new Ministers for Art, Culture and Heritage before 2021. Our first port of call will be the person with the heritage responsibility. I hope it's Minister Kiri Allan as she is based in my electorate.

Christmas is upon us and a year of challenges almost over. I wish you well for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## HPA members urged to look for wider heritage story

The challenges involved in volunteer groups and individuals representing history and heritage locally and nationally was highlighted at last month's Historic Places Aotearoa conference in Whanganui.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Chief Executive Andrew Coleman and board chair Marian Hobbs urged those involved to look for the wider heritage story when promoting heritage or seeking funding for heritage projects. They suggested looking for what is under the ground – the archaeology of a site – as well as built heritage, and the links between a site and its history, for instance between farming, the meat industry, railways and ports.

Marian Hobbs said these linkages were important when seeking funding, eg heritage trails linked to the environment, the Otago bike trail and the railway and the ensuing economic benefits to locals able to set up tourist accommodation on the trail. Another example was the Benhar Kiln in South Otago, complete with a workers' village, that has strong links to railways to transport the product and cemeteries. She applauded HPA as a voice with



Conference coordinator Helen Craig, also Whanganui councillor and Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust member, leads a London bus tour of conference attendees to Whanganui Collegiate. James Blackburne

local knowledge and energy, and encouraged a joining of heritage efforts, thinking and forces. She said much more could be achieved with a collective, shared effort and willingness to work together. She also urged more people under the age of 30 to become involved.

Andrew Coleman also talked about HNZPT owning 45 properties, which involved a huge insurance cost. Preferential rates were being negotiated for Category 1 and 2 buildings that could ultimately be available for all listed building owners.

He said the board and management of HNZPT were there to support members, offer advice and help Historic Places

Continued on p2

## TERMS explained

The dead are buried in graveyards and cemeteries. What's the difference?

### GRAVEYARD

Graveyards are affiliated with a church and typically located on church grounds. They tend to be smaller due to land limitations, and usually only have members of their religion or that specific church.



### CEMETERY

Cemeteries are public burial grounds not associated with a church, and are often larger. Religious people and non-believers can be buried here. New Zealand's first cemetery was the Boulcott Street Cemetery in Wellington.

## HPA EXECUTIVE MAHI

Over the past few months, the Executive has been working on:

### Our Strategic Plan.

This has three interlinked aims of membership growth and development, publicity and national lobbying.

Having more members generates more publicity for heritage. Lobbying effectively needs more members and greater public awareness. With greater public awareness comes membership growth.

### Growing membership

It's fantastic to have Auckland and Patea groups joined HPA as Associate Members. The Executive has contacted heritage groups throughout the country for several years. It seems persistence pays off. We plan to shortly contact groups in Southland, Westland and the top of the South Island, and next year will focus on the Bay of Plenty and Waikato and Northland.

Please use your own contacts and networks to encourage other heritage groups you know about to make contact with us and to consider joining.

### Gaining publicity

We've plan to publish Oculus every February, May, August and November and have contracted Sheridan Gundry

to manage this for us. Sheridan will also prepare media releases as required, something she's been doing at no charge for the past few years.

Heritage NZ CEO Andrew Coleman encourages us to get articles in their Heritage Magazine and Heritage Quarterly insert.

Helen and James will manage an update of our clunky, dated website.

Blue Plaques are a key asset to HPA and Member Organisations as they provide a lasting and notable link to the organisation. We need to push these throughout the country. (See page 3)

### Lobbying nationally

The lack of national political parties that had heritage policies was a concern at the last election.

With the upcoming proposed update of the RMA and the Heritage Protection work being driven by MCH, it is important that the Heritage Sector has a co-ordinated lobbying approach.

Working with the likes of ICOMOS and NZAA will be beneficial, but we also need to lobby our local and government politicians independently.

The Executive can only do so much and we will need the support of the members to lobby their own politicians.

## Call to expand on any heritage story

From page 1

Aotearoa operate and continue to develop.

Also at the conference, Whanganui Mayor Hamish McDouall spoke of the importance of history and heritage to the city and the pride residents have for their heritage assets. Whanganui had become recognised as a 'model' council for heritage, its protection through planning and listing, through investment and undertaking heritage work directly, and through trusts established for particular heritage properties.

HPA President James Blackburne said the weekend was a great success and highlighted the willingness of heritage groups to get together as often as possible.

"The support we are getting from Heritage New Zealand bears testimony to a partnership commitment and we are appreciative of that. We want to work together to ensure New Zealand's heritage is protected and treasured for future generations."



Clockwise from top left: HNZPT chief executive Andrew Coleman with Deborah Cranko; Nigel Isaacs and Marian Hobbs; delegates inside the chapel at Wanganui Collegiate.



# OCULUS Sexton's hut included in latest heritage signage

Historic Places Mid Canterbury has procured the latest batch of new blue heritage plaques to be placed on more heritage buildings in the Mid Canterbury region.

They include plaques for the Sexton's hut at the Ashburton Cemetery (a quaint little Gothic Revival tool shed built in 1895); the Mount Hutt Road Board office (Methven); the 'Brown Pub' (also in Methven) and the former Bank of New South Wales building (now the Speight's Ale House) in Ashburton town centre.

Included in the Mid Canterbury order was the first blue plaque for Historic Places Canterbury – to be placed on the old Duncan's Building in High Street, Christchurch (shown with story below).

A New Zealand Heritage Plaque was also one of the prizes awarded to the old BNZ building in Raetihi, as part of the inaugural Whanganui Heritage Awards, held in October.



**Road Board Office:** Built in 1879 for the Mt Hutt Road Board, this is Methven's oldest surviving building. After the board was disestablished in 1939, the building continued to serve as a community-based facility.



## Heritage NZ recommends Blue Plaque project

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) has given its unconditional support for the New Zealand Heritage Plaque project. In a letter of recommendation dated 20 October 2020, HNZPT chief executive Andrew Coleman acknowledged the willingness of Historic Places Aotearoa to take on the lead responsibility.

He said Blue Plaques were synonymous throughout the world with history and heritage.

"The plaque is the display for short heritage stories on prominent places, telling a little bit of its past," he said.

Numerous attempts to establish and display plaques of history and heritage in New Zealand had resulted in many versions across the country.

Mr Coleman said Historic Places Aotearoa had trialled and perfected Blue Plaques through the efforts of



**Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga chief executive Andrew Coleman.**

Historic Places Mid Canterbury, which established the New Zealand Heritage Plaques Project.

"As well as giving a short history of the building, informing locals and visitors about its particular historical significance,

the New Zealand Heritage Plaque aims to increase the prominence of New Zealand's historic buildings, encouraging increased awareness of local history and supporting the retention of existing heritage assets. They also assist in reinforcing the importance and value of these buildings to the local community and help foster a desire to protect and maintain the unique local history and identity."

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and Historic Places Aotearoa (HPA) have agreed HPA will be the one provider and coordinator of Blue Plaques into the future.

"We encourage all heritage interested owners and councils to explore the validity of a New Zealand Heritage Plaque for their properties. Their stories of heritage will be recognised and valued for the years to come in a unique and internationally recognised way."





# Kōrero brings reflection within community

Historic Places Tairāwhiti's fifth First Meetings Korero attracted close to 100 people in early October – a date chosen to coincide with the arrival of the Endeavour in the Turanganui a Kiwa bay in October 1769.

This year's topic – influenced by the Black Lives Matter movement internationally, and a debate over where to site two new stainless steel Endeavour models locally – focused on drawing out the complexities that exist when we, as a community, attempt to look at how we represent the past in our shared spaces.

The topic chosen was *What is required of us as a community to make meaningful change out of the current 'statue, memorial, naming' debate.*

This year, with funding assistance from Trust Tairāwhiti, Wellington performance director Jade Eriksen was engaged to help craft the event and act as facilitator to encourage more korero.

HPT chairman James Blackburne said the aim was to discuss the challenges around interpreting history in a modern context.

"We made space for response and reflection and our room of relevant quotes and images gave attendees the



Wellington performance director Jade Eriksen (left) facilitated the event.

chance to reflect on the topic themselves.

"We want to help provide a greater understanding of the complexities of the issues related to first meetings, issues that are still felt strongly in the community today."

Historic Places Tairāwhiti is itself using the topic as a starting point for inquiry into *What is required of us, as Historic Places Tairāwhiti, to make meaningful change within our community?*

Photographs by Keepa Digital.



Attendees break into noisy korero after deliveries from the first of two speakers. At front, HPT chairman James Blackburne (front left) and deputy chair, Tairāwhiti Museum director Eloise Wallace talk about questions raised in response to the speakers.

## Inaugural heritage awards a first for Whanganui month

Regional Heritage awards introduced for the first time to the Whanganui Heritage Month programme have proven to be a special outcome on the 2020 heritage calendar.

"We are delighted we have achieved this following the example of the excellent programme of awards that has been in place in Christchurch for several years," says Helen Craig, Whanganui District Councillor and member of the Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust.

"We were fortunate to get as judges Dame Anna Crighton from Christchurch who initiated the awards in that city, James Blackburne, Gisborne architect and Historic Places Aotearoa president, and Andrew Coleman, Chief Executive of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT). We are very pleased with the outcome and presentation of these awards."

Two prominent heritage listed places across the Whanganui region, in the Ruapehu and Rangitikei Districts, were recipients of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga-sponsored awards.



Westoe homestead, Marton – category winner for a saved and restored residential building.

Anthea Hatfield and Bernice Frost received a plaque for conservation work on the former BNZ building in Raetihi, and funding support from the National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund for the extensive work they are progressing.

Gail Lourie, who has been the owner of the Category 1 Westoe homestead, built in Marton in 1874, was a category winner for a residential building saved and restored. Gail has undertaken

extensive heritage work on this property also with funding support. Westoe has just been sold to a couple returning to New Zealand who intend to continue restoring and preserving one of Rangitikei's special heritage homesteads.

There were many other awards including a Māori Realm Award, won by the Pākaitore Historic Reserve Board for work done on the Whanganui Māori War Memorial. (See page 7)



The Drews Avenue group of buildings in Whanganui that received funding.

## Multiple building application a success

The success of council-led multiple building applications for Heritage EQUIP funding was outlined at the Historic Places Aotearoa conference by Whanganui District Council heritage adviser Scott Flutey.



Whanganui District Council heritage adviser Scott Flutey.

Scott discussed the council's engagement with and between local heritage building owners and Heritage EQUIP to obtain seismic funding assistance in the form of a multiple building application.

"This successful application submitted in March 2020 enabled access to engineering assessment and design work that would not have been open to some heritage building owners as they did not have heritage recognition on the list at national level.

"The group application seems to be one model that is helpful for earthquake-prone building owners in provincial areas of New Zealand."

Eight buildings in Whanganui's town centre were included with the 1900 Cosmopolitan Club leading the

application to Heritage EQUIP. One of the buildings needs to be registered with Heritage New Zealand. The owners of the eight buildings received \$154K for the structural advice and costed concept design. This will provide the guiding material to get the buildings strengthened down the track.

"The thought process behind having councils lead and lodge the applications is that the council staff compiling the application can vet and verify the heritage significance of the participating buildings. Economy of scale for provincial towns and for engineers is also an important benefit."

Feilding was an earlier example of building owners and territorial authorities coming together to find new approaches to seismic issues, he said.

As part of his address, Scott Flutey, of Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Māmoē, also suggested reframing the concept

of Māori heritage as Māori lenses, approaches and perspectives towards and around heritage issues.

He was pleased to see the number of young people attending (about six or seven), and noted that while young people were interested in heritage, few work opportunities, internships and voluntary roles were being offered to them.



*The Voice of Heritage for New Zealand*

### Our executive

The HPA seven-member executive meets monthly via Microsoft Teams. Its members are:

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The 1902 Post Office on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Ridgway Street.



# Impact of quake-proofing still priority

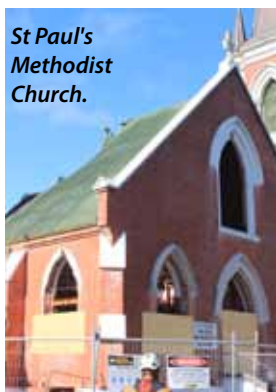
by *Cindy Lilburn*

Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua's priority remains the potential impact of earthquake strengthening requirements on local heritage buildings. Over March to May 2020 the Gothic style St Pauls Methodist Church in Palmerston North was demolished because it was earthquake-prone and there was insufficient finance for its preservation. Our society provided \$1000 to ensure that the historic stained glass windows at least in the church could be removed and passed to the local museum.

All Saints Anglican Church in Palmerston North must also carry out earthquake strengthening. This is a landmark Gothic style church on the corner of the Square in the city. Proposals for its strengthening include removal of the lower half of the front facade for a modern wrap-around glass extension. Although we made a submission to its resource consent, our committee was split equally between keeping the facade untouched, or supporting the church's desire for this extension / break-out space which they claim will make the church socially viable.

More positively, the town of Feilding is noted for the Edwardian buildings in its town centre. We have campaigned

**St Paul's Methodist Church.**



over several years to have shop-owners coordinate their efforts, hire engineers and carry out upgrades in common. We are pleased to note two of the more



*The window above was one of four to be removed from the 1911 St Paul's Methodist Church, Palmerston North and gifted to Te Manawa. The team from Manawatu Museum Services from left are Aaron Roberts, John Yiannoutsos and Marco Buerger Above right: Window from 1963, made by Goddard & Gibbs, London and designed by lead designer, A E Buss. Below: The older style window dates to 1935.*

*Historic Feilding town centre.*



sceptical owners will work together and have taken up EQUIP funding to strengthen their heritage buildings.

HPManawatu-Horowhenua has purchased a portable display panel and produced an exhibition on the former World War 2 conscientious objectors camp near Shannon.

The aim is to have this travel locally, with new exhibitions on local heritage added in the future.



*Before and after of proposed changes to All Saints, Palmerston North.*



# OCULUS Teamwork behind Māori realm award

The partial deconstruction, reassembly and conservation of the nine-metre Māori War Memorial in Moutoa Gardens won the 2020 Māori Realm award at the Whanganui Heritage Awards last month.

The team behind the restoration for the Paikatore Historic Reserves Board included project leader and conservator Detlef Klein of Manawatu Museum Services; structural engineer, Opus; and main contractor, Goldfield Stone, of Lyttleton.

Detlef Klein told *Oculus* the project was almost 10 years in the making from the first inspection in 2003, the 2009 Conservation Plan and completion in August 2015.

"It was a really cool project. Everything went exactly as planned.

"Mark Whyte of Goldfield Stone was the chosen contractor for the project. Stone conservator Marco Buerger was their representative in Whanganui during the project. Marco, who has a Masters degree from Cologne University in stone conservation, now lives in Whanganui.

"Goldfield was responsible for a lot of work in Christchurch after the earthquakes, including the Bridge of Remembrance."

The project was funded by the NZ Lottery Grants Board and the Paikatore Historic Reserves Board.

Commissioned by Māori for Māori, the 1925-built memorial was dedicated to Māori who lost their lives in World War 1. The statue on top is of Herewini Whakarua, a soldier from Waitotara, a small town near Whanganui.

"The memorial was deconstructed then painstakingly reconstructed using the original stones to preserve its visual integrity and incorporating comprehensive seismic strengthening."

Deterioration in its structure, including vertical cracks on the upper third, were first recorded in 2003.



*The statue of Herewini Whakarua.*  
Marco Buerger

By 2013, this had increased significantly and in March 2013 the statue was temporarily removed.

The project team reviewed the 2009 Conservation Plan after the Christchurch earthquakes (2010-2012) and decided on a more radical approach to the seismic strengthening.

In line with the new plan, the obelisk was dismantled from October 2014 with all stones numbered, stored on site and then accurately reassembled together with structural strengthening and new ring foundation.

Moutoa Gardens, named to commemorate the Battle of Moutoa, is an important riverside

landmark in Whanganui. Before its use as a public park, it was a down-river sanctuary for Māori.

It was a place to stay when in town and a marketplace to trade goods. In older times it was the site of a marae kāinga known as Paikatore commonly used as a seasonal fishing village for Whanganui hapū coming from inland areas to harvest the bounty of the sea.

For 80 days in 1995, Whanganui iwi members occupied Paikatore to draw attention to their Treaty of Waitangi claim for the Whanganui River, the exercise of their tino rangatiratanga (self-determination) and the right to

make decisions over issues affecting them.

A prize-winning documentary by Double Farley, entitled *Set in Stone*, tells the story. Detlef Klein said Double Farley approached the client late in the project, offering to make the documentary for free.

*Set in Stone* won an award at the 2017 DocEdge Film Festival in Wellington. The documentary can be viewed at [www.setinstone.nz](http://www.setinstone.nz)



*The team on site (from left): Aaron Te Rangiao, Sonny and Rob, all of Goldfield Stone; Detlef Klein, Manawatu Museum Services; Goldfield director Mark Whyte, Sonny and stone and site conservator Marco Buerger.*

# OCULUS Abandoned flats recommended for top heritage listing

The run-down Gordon Wilson Flats and McLean Flats in Wellington have been recommended for Category 1 heritage listing.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) has

recommended the apartment blocks for the status. The Gordon Wilson Flats already have heritage recognition on Wellington City Council's district plan.

The flats, built between 1957 and 1959, were vacated in the early 2010s, after being identified as potentially earthquake-prone, and in need of remedial work. They are now in a state



of disrepair.

The notification period on the proposed List entry for the 18-unit McLean Flats and 86-unit Gordon Wilson Flats has closed. HNZPT has prepared responses to the

submissions and its board will consider the submissions to decide whether or not to confirm the proposed List entry at its next available meeting.

In its report, HNZPT says both buildings have outstanding historical significance due to their association with the state housing programme initiated by the first Labour

government in 1935.

It outlines the architectural values, 'representative of the embedding of modernist architecture, as a characteristic approach in New Zealand's mid-20th century public architecture, and together reflect the evolution in style before and after World War 2'.

Victoria University of Wellington bought the Gordon Wilson Flats in 2014, the McLean Flats in 2019.

The university applied to redevelop the McLean Flats in June 2018. Work is yet to start. In July 2020, the university indicated further plans to demolish the Gordon Wilson Flats, and turn the space into a teaching/research facility, and entrance plaza for the Kelburn Campus.

HNZPT central region director Dr Jamie Jacobs said a refurbished and strengthened Gordon Wilson Flats could continue to be used for accommodation.

## Views aired on capital's Draft Spatial Plan

Oral hearings on Wellington's Draft Spatial Plan started in November with Sustainable Cities and Historic Places Wellington (HPW) taking the lead.

Wellington's plan is the first to begin implementing the Government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) which took effect in August. As well as removing any restraints on housing development (eg, carpark or site coverage rules), councils like Wellington must change their District Plan to enable higher buildings ("upzoning") and otherwise encourage housing intensification.

The model is the widespread upzoning under Auckland's Unitary Plan.

HPW chair Felicity Wong says the Government's goal is to get affordable housing and break through the perceived problem that residents and ratepayers tend to prefer retaining existing amenity values such as sunlight ... and heritage areas.

"In Wellington, this is causing a good deal of controversy directed at the council. The council would not need to upzone heritage suburbs like Mt Victoria and Thorndon if it acknowledged the heritage values of those areas.

"It could use the provisions in the NPS-UD whereby matters of national significance (such as heritage) are identified as matters "qualifying" for



exemption from the intensification requirement," she said.

HPW also noted there was a discretion about the scope of the city's central limit.

Instead of further expanding the city limits into heritage suburbs, it needs to concentrate intensification. The implication of "right-sizing" would be to create new city neighbourhoods where intensification can take place in suitable areas. That is Heritage NZ's proposal which would reduce the negative impact of upzoning on Wellington's heritage areas.

Both Heritage NZ and HPW call for the evidence and assessments, which the council has already conducted about heritage values, to be better used in its further decision making.

"There is little debate about the desirability of general intensification for housing supply and environmental/climate reasons. Wellington residents value the city's identity.

"Native timber houses nestled in the city hillsides and visible from the city centre are an important aspect of the city's brand."

HPW and many Wellington communities are ready to work with council to get a better outcome that enables space for new housing.

"There's less enthusiasm for trading away heritage and identity merely for property price/investor gain, or allowing landlords to get off the hook of new rental standards by merely demolishing old native timber houses in heritage areas."