

SPILL

Our voice needs to be heard

FROM THE TOP



HPA President
James Blackburne

Where have the first three months of the year gone? It is hard to believe that we are already into April.

With the recent government announcement relating to the RMA reforms, we are starting to gear up our response, well at least starting to get a team together that can tackle the task of reviewing all the material due to be released, coordinate a response on behalf of HPA and then campaign for what we feel needs to be addressed by the reform.

There is a real risk that heritage will be the loser in any changes to the RMA.

Developers and related sectors of the

community consistently bemoan the hand break on their grand plans. You can be assured, they will be a strong voice campaigning to have any heritage protections removed from the new Act.

As a heritage community, we need to ensure our voice is heard and heritage protections are not relaxed, so our heritage can be retained for future generations.

We will be working with ICOMOS NZ and the NZ Archaeological Association to ensure we share ideas and respective submissions to the RMA reforms.

Planning is under way for the conference to be held in Auckland this coming October in conjunction with ICOMOS NZ. As dates are confirmed and details come to hand, we will be sure to let you all know, so that you can start planning accordingly.

More heads needed for revamp

Historic Places Aotearoa has set up a joint lobby group to pro-actively help guide the new RMA reform legislation ... but wants more members.

The initial aim is to make submissions to the Select Committee considering the Exposure Draft of the main bill, set down for May to September 2021.

The lobby group includes HPA members and like-minded organisations and to date includes HPA president James Blackburne, Tim Hogan, Dr Lynne Lochhead, Peter Dhyrberg, Ivan Thomson, Elizabeth Pishief, Nigel Gilkison and Gary Russell.

James Blackburne says a larger joint group is needed to handle the submission workload.

"HPA can support policies the Ministry for Culture and Heritage has been

developing over the past few years and provide its own input with a focus on maintaining and strengthening heritage protection.

"The hope is that these policies will be effective in countering the threats emerging through implementing the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, which could result in large-scale demolition of heritage precincts to intensify urban development in city hearts.

"This will reinforce our image as a credible advocate for heritage protection."

Please contact HPA secretary Denis Pilkington if you can take part.

See page 7 for full story on RMA revamp and what it could mean for heritage.

Many archaeology events planned for week

If you're travelling around the country from late April, be sure to check out what's on during the New Zealand Archaeological Association's fifth New Zealand Archaeology Week, 24 April until 2 May.

By promoting the work of our archaeologists at home and abroad, the week helps increase public awareness and highlight the importance of protecting our archaeological heritage **In Otago Southland**, Dr Peter Petchey and Professor Hallie Buckley will talk about by archaeological investigations they have undertaken at historical cemeteries to locate unrecorded



Drybread Cemetery, Otago.

burials and learn more about the first generations of immigrant settlers.

Their public lecture, entitled *Life and Death in Colonial New Zealand: The Southern Settlers Cemetery*, will be held

Continued on page 3

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS *explained*

BALLOON FRAMING

A system of light timber-frame construction in which uprights or studs extend the full heights of the frame and horizontal structural members are nailed to them. This was a common feature of smaller New Zealand buildings and houses in the 1800s. It was said to have been called balloon construction because the buildings were so light they looked like they would float away.



Wyllie Cottage, Gisborne, is an 1872 example of a building that uses balloon framing.

HPA EXECUTIVE MAHI

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

Our Website:

With the website starting to look a bit old and tired the Executive – led by James Blackburne and Helen Craig are working towards providing a brighter internet face for HPA. It is hoped that the upgrade will also allow HPA Member Organisations that do not currently have their own website to gain a brighter and more comprehensive introduction to their local organisations.

Resource Management Act Reform Legislation:

The Executive is maintaining a close watch on the development of the new legislation. While new legislation provides a great opportunity to strengthen heritage protection, it will likely pose a number of threats to heritage as developers seek to speed up the consenting process. The Executive aims to maintain a proactive stance by being ready as the details of the new acts start to emerge in May. To strengthen our national credibility and to handle the submission workload, we

are in the process of forming a joint lobby committee including a number of members of our Member Organisations together with ICOMOS and NZAA. Anyone keen to join this group should contact James without delay.

AGM and National Heritage Conference:

Our newest members organisation, HP Auckland Tamaki-Makaurau will host this event in October in association with ICOMOS. We hope to build on the successful collaboration in Gisborne in 2019 and to provide an opportunity for HP Auckland Tamaki-Makaurau to raise their heritage profile in Auckland.

Membership:

The drive to increase our national coverage through recruiting or setting up more local Member Organisations is continuing. We are in contact with several local groups and individuals in various parts of the country with the aim of getting more local groups affiliated to HPAotearoa.

Talk to us if you want to know more about the benefits of being part of our national organisation.

Consulting on Whanganui heritage strategy this month

Whanganui District Council has resolved to proceed with a heritage strategy for the district, with public consultation on the draft ten-year heritage strategy document expected to start this month.

Council heritage advisor Scott Flutey says the strong response to his heritage survey in late 2020 guided the development of the draft strategy.

He says it's vital to preserve built heritage because it's "a community asset that enhances people's wellbeing

– when we view and appropriately use our built heritage it generates a sense of appreciation and reminds us of the rich stories our district has to tell, strengthening our sense of identity and connection to place.

The strategy defines the council's heritage goals and sets out a framework for facilitating, encouraging and managing successful historic heritage outcomes. It will include an action plan to support owners of potentially earthquake-prone heritage buildings

with carrying out upgrades legally required in coming years and this will help retain Whanganui's historic streetscapes and heritage sites.

"The scope of the document is built heritage and landscapes, archaeological sites and cemeteries. There is room for it to support some aspects of intangible heritage around key Whanganui stories.

"This may include selected Whanganui narratives or histories to share in the public domain, leading to improved signage and interpretation."

NORTHFIELD, on the edge of Methven/Mt Hutt village, was the perfect setting for Historic Places Mid Canterbury's sixth garden tea party. This annual event brings together members and committee while showcasing some of the district's heritage. After the property tour, there was plenty of lively conversation over dainty cakes and tea in bone china cups. Hosts Arlene Baird and James Urquhart, the third owners, purchased Northfield in a state of disrepair in 2013. They have restored the property to the stunning home it is today.

Built in 1914, Northfield is surrounded by four acres of gardens and paddocks. Its arts and crafts architecture features wood-panelled walls of heart rimu, simple leadlight windows and deep rimu skirtings and architraves... and showcases honest craftsmanship.



OCULUS Top archaeologists taking part in events

From page 1: on 27 April. They will also visit Switzers Cemetery and describe how they decide where to excavate, the process of excavation and exhumation of burials, and the challenges they can encounter.

On 29 April, Professor Richard Walter will give a public lecture on New directions in archaeological science in Aotearoa. He will discuss some of the new scientific methodologies that his team at the University of Otago are applying in their studies of Aotearoa archaeology, and some of the new ideas and results emerging.

First event in the **Thames Coromandel**, on 26 April, is a guided walk around the Eureka mining settlement (home to over 100 people in the late 1800s), and mining sites in the Moanataiari and Kuranui valleys.

An evening with presentations and a panel discussion around the shipwreck of the HMS Buffalo in Whitianga will be held on 30 April.

Maritime archaeologists Kurt Bennett and Matthew Gainsford, along with Rebecca Cox, Mercury Bay Museum and Joe Davis, Ngati Hei will present recent findings of the HMS Buffalo Re-examination Project and lead a discussion on the history of the HMS Buffalo including its national and international stories.

On 2 May, local archaeologist Dave Wilton, of The Treasury, will guide a walk around the historic locations of the Parawai Mission Station (established 1837) and Hall's Arboretum (1870s).

Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga (NZHPT) is supporting several events.

In Christchurch, seven to 12 year olds are invited to be an archaeologist for a day at Te Whare Waitutu Kate Sheppard House on 27 and 28 April. The workshops will show young people (and parents) how archaeologists discover how people used to live.

Young people will try their hand at digging, sorting and analysing artefacts from Christchurch over 120 years ago. For group bookings larger than 12,



Albia Battery Goldfield remnants at Terawhiti Station Wellington. HNZPT file photo

please email katesheppardhouse@heritage.org.nz or call 03 341 1360.

In Wellington on 24 April, Victoria University archaeology consultant Dr Bruce McFadgen will lead a 4WD tour of the historic goldfields of Terawhiti Station, Wellington.

The tour is free but attendees are invited to make a contribution to the Terawhiti Goldfields Charitable Trust, set up for conservation work on the goldfield. Those interested can contact David Watt, HNZPT Senior Outreach Advisor, on 027 2466 339, or email dwatt@heritage.org.nz Tour numbers are limited to 35 max.

On 24 and 27 April at 11am, Mary O'Keeffe leads a walk through the **Wellington CBD**, looking at some of the places she and colleagues have worked on as archaeologists, and the stories these places can tell.

Tour starts outside Te Papa and finishes on the waterfront near the railway station. Free entry. Limited to 12 people. Please contact David Watt (details in previous listing) to reserve a seat

On the Kāpiti coast

on 28 April, **consultant archaeologist Kevin Jones (above)** will present his recent archaeology work in Kāpiti, Horowhenua and Manawatū areas as a feature event. Kevin will speak on early

settlements in these areas, horticulture and storage pits, shellfish gathering and radiocarbon ages.

More details can be seen at nzarchaeology.org/news-events/national-archaeology-week-2021 or search 'archaeology week 2021'.

More events are yet to be uploaded. Contact local Historic Places organisations for a full list of events in your area.



*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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Landmark Beacons ripe for restoration

A 114-year-old Napier landmark, comprising two reinforced concrete beacons, is on the radar for restoration.

Historic Places Hawke's Bay (HPHB) is discussing the challenge of restoring The Beacons with Napier City Council and others. And while it's early days, HPHB chair Denis Pilkington hopes something constructive will emerge as "they are an iconic landmark local people do not want to lose".

The beacons are located near the foreshore between Napier and Bay View to the north. Napier Harbour Board erected them in 1907 in what was then part of the inner harbour, to serve as leading lights guiding shipping into the Port of Napier through the channel at the south end of the fully submerged Pania Reef.

Before The Beacons, trees marked the way. The 16 bluegums, *Eucalyptus regnans*, planted in 1878 became known for an unknown reason as the Admiralty Trees. Today, the five trees remaining, which look like a single tree, are visible on the skyline.

Farmer John Giblin planted the original trees on his property, Awanui. A new grove of gums planted in 1989 on the same ridge 200m to the north is visible from the coastline. This was a project of the Ahuriri Rotary Club under the leadership of former vice-president and retired harbourmaster



Concrete disintegrating under pressure from expanding corroding steel.

Captain George Gunn, who was concerned the original trees would die and the tradition would be lost. Giblin's grandson Phillip also took part.

The Beacons were the first light towers in New Zealand to be constructed from reinforced concrete, and were built by the Ferro Concrete Company from Australia. The 14.3m-high seaward beacon was sited on the coastal shingle bank; the 19.8m inland beacon, on a small island in the inner harbour 330m to the west.

Lighting was originally supplied by Matthews incandescent oil burners, serviced by a lighthouse keeper who lived at the nearby Petane Domain. The system was electrified in 1913 using 500w lamps. The higher inland beacon was fitted with a red lamp, seen above the white light on the seaward tower. The overhead power cable between the towers sagged so low it could obstruct yachts sailing on the inner harbour.

The Hawke's Bay earthquake on 3 February 1931 damaged the inland tower leaving it with a lean of 25°. Repairs were carried out by the original builder, the Ferro Concrete Co.

The Beacons were taken out of service in December 1975 although a green neon light remained on the seaward tower until 2006. The Beacons were replaced by a more sophisticated New Zealand-made Vega light on a 15m tower situated nearby. The new light



The Beacons

transmits a single high-intensity beam that changes colour either side of the centre line of the beam.

Remarkably, The Beacons and the Admiralty Trees have survived official attempts to remove them. In 1926, a motion for the trees' removal was tabled at a Napier Harbour Board meeting on the grounds "confusion, danger or calamity" could arise for shipping if the trees were burnt or blown down. The motion was lost. In the 1970s, demolishing The Beacons was proposed as a training exercise for Linton army engineers. Officialdom realised at the last minute that demolition had not been gazetted and The Beacons were saved.



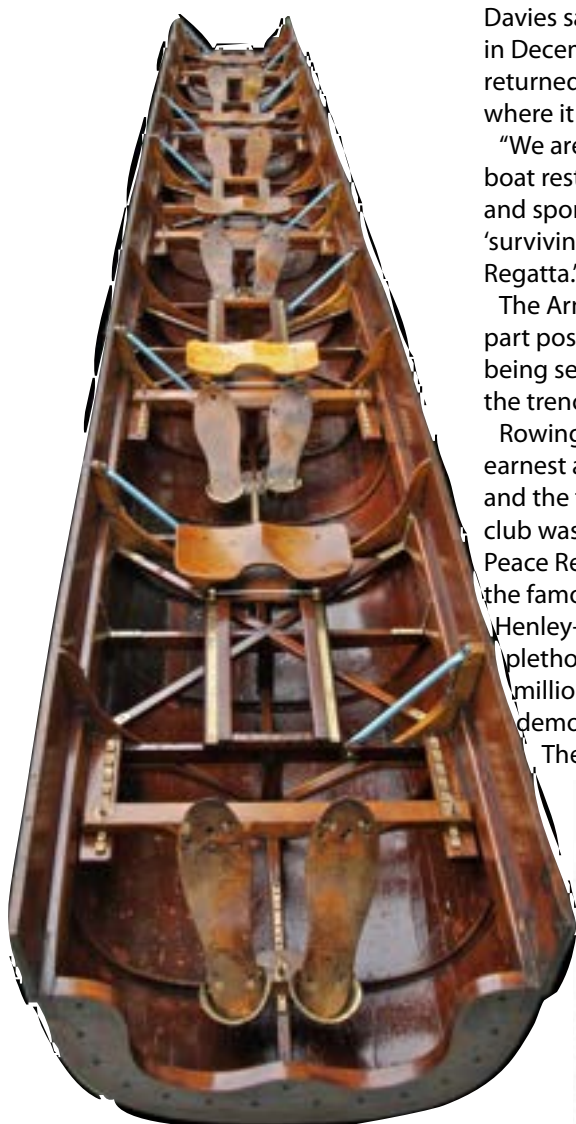
OCULUS Historic Army Eight back in full racing trim

A 20 metre, eight-oared timber rowing boat built in three sections more than a century ago has been restored and returned to its owners, the National Army Museum Te Mata Toa in Waiouru.

The boat, universally known as the Army Eight, represents the peak of the boat builder's art and one of the great chapters in New Zealand and Whanganui sporting history.

Work to restore the boat to its full racing trim began in 2012 with Detlef Klein and Aaron Roberts of Manawatū Museum Services at the helm. The boat's three-section construction aided the process as the conservators straightened, glued and clamped each part of the timber hull before repairing or replacing each individual timber or metal component.

The conservation process was not designed to return the craft to its original, as-new state. Its accumulated dents, scratches and repairs help tell its story.



Restored mid-section.



Aaron Roberts of Manawatū Museum Services regluing broken elements.

The Army Eight is built from Australian red cedar *Toona ciliata australis*, once common in New South Wales and Queensland coastal forests.

The boat was displayed at Whanganui Museum in between work and before it was finished.

National Army Museum collections and exhibitions manager Windsor Davies said the project was completed in December 2020 and the boat returned to the museum in March 2021 where it is currently in storage.

"We are extremely pleased to have the boat restored as it has a unique military and sporting history, and is the only 'surviving' boat from the 1919 Peace Regatta."

The Army Eight played an important part post-World War I; competitive sport being seen as ideal relief from war in the trenches.

Rowing contests had begun in earnest among allied armies in 1917 and the following year a New Zealand club was formed at Codford. The Peace Regatta of 1919, which revived the famous annual rowing races at Henley-on-Thames, was among a plethora of sporting events to occupy millions of allied troops awaiting demobilisation.

The NZEF commissioned a new

eight-oar shell from Sims & Son at Putney on the Thames River and Whanganui rowers at Codford – Bill Coombes, George Wilson and Clarrie Healey – were among the crew.

Despite orders the boat should be sold, the Army Eight embarked for home on the troop ship SS Tainui and arrived at Wellington with members of its original crew on September 20, 1919. The Army decided the best home for the vessel would be the Whanganui's Union Boat Club, where it arrived in 1920.

In 1925, the boat was back overseas when a New Zealand representative crew, stroked by Healey, won the New South Wales Championship and the Challenge Eights at Riverview. In 1934, it returned to Australia to represent New Zealand at the Henley-on-Yarra Regatta and Sydney Regatta and was back again for the 1938 Empire Games on the Paramatta River near Sydney where the New Zealand crew won bronze.

It continued to be the Union Club's flagship in a succession of New Zealand championships, until its triumphant retirement after winning the eights race at the 1961 New Zealand Rowing Champs, more than 40 years after it was built.



NZEF Rep Crew 1917-18 at Putney with Clarrie Healey (second from right).

Do you have what it takes to be our new treasurer?

HPA is seeking a new treasurer to join the executive team when current, long-serving treasurer Chelle Gandell steps down in October.

The job involves monthly and annual reporting to the executive committee along with annual reporting to the Charities Commission

and the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

The role involves some invoicing and account-paying. Although the number of transactions remains quite small, there may be larger projects from time to time. HPA is not GST-registered.

The treasurer currently presents

financial reports to monthly executive committee meetings via video.

If this sounds like you, please contact the Secretary, Denis Pilkington, e-mail denis.pilkington@gmail.com

If you have any questions about the role itself please contact Chelle, e-mail elspeth@xtra.co.nz.

Book proves a treasure trove for architects

The numerous books on New Zealand architects published to date tend to focus on a particular person or practice. They seldom provide an overview or an independent examination of the architect within their times or their personality.

A new book by Geoff Mew and Adrian Humphris is not just a book about architecture. It's a book about architects and their buildings.

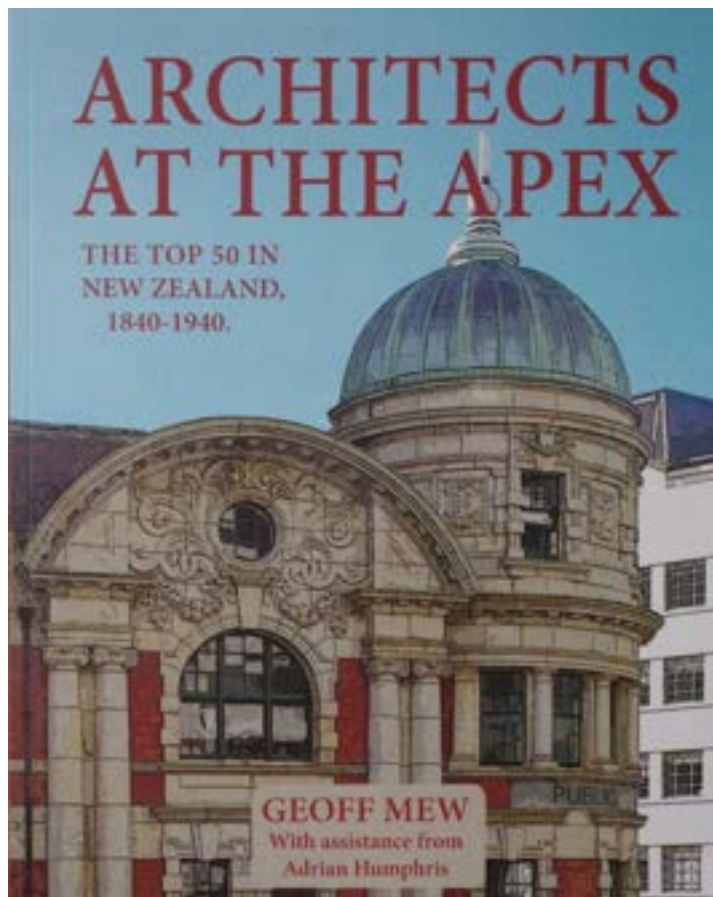
Architects at the Apex – the top 50 in New Zealand 1840-1940 follows the pair's two previous books – *Raupo to Deco: Wellington styles and Architects 1840-1940*, 2014; and *Ring around the city: Wellington's new suburbs, 1900-1930*, 2009.

Architects at the Apex is a treasure trove to those interested in understanding the architectural and building development of New Zealand. There is some limited overlap, but then the architect who succeeds in Wellington is likely to be nationally significant.

The process of selecting the top 50 architects will undoubtedly be controversial, but then architecture has always courted controversy. Yesterday's "concrete monstrosities" are today's heritage, evoking memories (not always good) of the times in which they were created.

The "rules" used in this book to include an architect or their practice required a major contribution to New Zealand's built heritage, extensive practice, innovative approach to design, and persons of standing and/or international recognition. These guidelines have been applied with careful thought and generosity.

The vignettes see architects as



BOOK REVIEW

by Nigel Isaacs, Historic Places Wellington

humans – encompassing the frailties, foibles and strengths of their times and their personalities.

Many were adventurers not content to remain fixed in one architectural style or palette of construction materials.

They designed not only for the site, dealing with topography and geology, but also for road noise, neighbours and the wider community.

They may have taken advantage of existing native or exotic plantings, or created the opportunity for new landscaping, which could take decades to achieve maturity. They were not limited to just one type of building, but included houses, apartments, shops, offices, freezing works, hotels, churches,

theatres, exhibitions, memorials, clubs, universities, schools and even a blast furnace – the list just goes on.

These architects brought imagination to the streetscapes of New Zealand, and to the country houses from which much of the nation's wealth flowed. Many incorporated the latest in international thinking, not just design fads but ideas which created more usable and comfortable buildings.

Their skills not only served their clients, but many had roles in civic society, in their own professional and recreational institutions, with some even performing on the stage. They contributed to the creation of improved and safer buildings through their practices, participation in standards committees and their own publications.

Architects at the Apex is well illustrated, but it is not a

picture book. The images complement the text, and the text complements the images. These are sourced from the most modern digital photography, roll film, film plates, watercolours, plans and porcelain models to an invigorating variety of sketches.

Mew and Humphris's works provide invaluable resources to the professions yet they have received little support from architecture or construction funders.

This up-to-date reference text, which will remain a valuable source of knowledge on any bookshelf, benefited from a grant from Historic Places Wellington.

Architects at the Apex is available from Geoff Mew, 2/77 Kairimu Street, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019. Email: geoffmew@xtra.co.nz
Please give mailing address with order.
Cost \$59.95 plus \$6 postage.

Many express need to retain city's character

by Felicity Wong, HP Wellington

Character was the main feature respondents were afraid of losing after being consulted on Wellington's Draft Spatial Plan (DSP) late last year. Many people believed Wellington's character is what makes the city special and felt the proposed changes in the plan risk changing city's historic character forever. An excellent report analysing nearly 3000 public submissions is on the council's Planning for Growth website.

The DSP, to be finalised in late June, will become a "policy" document that feeds into Wellington city's Draft District Plan in around November. That kicks off more consultation. HPWellington hopes the heritage baby won't be thrown out with the amenity bath water.

Local MPs suggest 'creative' responses are needed to the Government's directive to Wellington Council to 'upzone' areas of high amenity values (public transport, libraries, education and health services). The directive to intensify is found in the Government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020, which overrides local democracy and the Council's traditional ability to determine its own urban form through planning and zoning rules.

While 86% of people live in urban areas, infrastructure improvement has failed to keep up with population growth. That's been compounded by sharply increased house price inflation.

HPW welcomes suggestions from Wellington's Chief Planner Liam Hodgetts that a

neighbourhood planning framework be piloted in high heritage areas and be focused on where to put the extra intensification. Residents of historic inner city suburb Mount Victoria have established a community planning group to respond. Heritage New Zealand proposed various measures to maintain Wellington's heritage and HPWellington looks forward to these being adopted.

Another threat to Wellington's heritage and character comes from Mass Rapid Transit cutting a swathe through Newtown and Behampore, with its accompanying six-storey building zoning within its walkable catchment.

Similarly, much of Johnsonville, Khandallah and Ngaio is also to be "upzoned".

RMA to be replaced by three new Acts

by Dr Lynne Lochhead HPCanterbury

The Government announced a major reform of the resource management system in February. This was based on the report of an expert panel, New Directions for Resource Management in New Zealand, published in July 2020.

Despite being based on the principle of sustainability, the current Act is widely recognised as failing to adequately manage the natural environment, with key environmental indicators getting worse every year.

The Act has lacked responsiveness to major issues such as global warming and has poorly managed the issues arising from urban growth. The Act has been amended many times so that it has become increasingly complex with uncertainty, cost and delay caused by its processes. It has also failed to live up to its promise to involve Māori in decision-making.

For these reasons, the RMA will be replaced by the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA); the Strategic Planning Act (SPA); and the Climate Change Adaptation Act (CAA).

The NBA will focus on identifying and promoting positive outcomes rather than on mitigating adverse effects. A series of biophysical limits will be set and those exercising functions and powers under the Act will be required to give effect to Treaty principles.

Under the proposals, more than 100 existing RMA plans will be consolidated into about 14 combined plans. The Government and relevant local governments will develop these plans.

The SPA will require central and

local government, and Māori to work together to develop long-term regional spatial strategies identifying areas suitable for development, needing protection or new infrastructure.

Central government will have a stronger role in planning with use of targets, including environmental limits and national policy standards.

The NBA will require councils to produce a plan that reflects national policy directions and regional spatial plans. While this will create greater consistency throughout NZ, it may come at the expense of community diversity.

The National Policy Statement on Urban Density already illustrates the way a policy statement directed at a particular issue may have potentially detrimental

consequences for other values of importance to the community such as heritage. It's worth heeding lessons from Christchurch earthquakes, where central government conservatism overrode local desire to rebuild a greener city. Although the change in direction proposed under these reforms should produce real benefits, they may have unanticipated consequences.

What does this mean for heritage?

The review panel recommended that current matters of national importance be replaced by positive outcomes specified for those matters. The indicative draft in the review document lists protection of significant heritage as an outcome. This tightens the focus from 'heritage' to 'significant heritage'

but what the semantic change from 'matter of national importance' to 'positive outcome' might mean in practice is difficult to anticipate.

Encouragingly, the Review Panel recognised the importance of heritage and recommended the Ministry for Culture and Heritage continue its Strengthening Heritage Protection project. This would include investigating potential provisions for national direction on heritage, reviewing heritage order provisions, exploring options for dealing with demolition by neglect and investigating the interface between the NBA and HNZPT Act.

All this seems positive.

The review identifies modification to a heritage building as an example of a minor issue that could be resolved through a simplified process. Heritage groups would welcome cost savings as long as appeal rights are retained. Of more concern is the proposal that 'highly subjective' matters such as 'amenity values' and 'social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions' associated with aspects of the environment are to be replaced by mandatory national directions from the Minister for the Environment specifying the features and characteristics that 'contribute to quality built environments'.

One can only hope the drafting process will allow for robust debate about what those characteristics and features are and that it will include recognition that protection of a range of 'character areas' illustrating the historic development of our cities is not just about 'protection of the status quo'.

RMA
revamp



The Gordon Wilson Flats

Flats gain top heritage listing

The run-down Gordon Wilson Flats and McLean Flats in Wellington now boast Category 1 status on Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's heritage list. But while this listing will not increase protection for the flats, it does provide further recognition of the flats' significance.

The flats, which have been empty since 2012, already have heritage status from Wellington City Council.

Built between 1957 and 1959, the flats have been the centre of debate with owner University of Victoria hoping to demolish them to build a gateway to the institution.

HNZPT conferred Category 1 status on the flats in February, together with Wellington Central Library and the Wellington Trades Hall.

The Gordon Wilson Flats remain the only example of 1950s high-rise state housing in New Zealand. As examples of the state exploring different models of housing density, both blocks of flats make interesting contributions to current debates about provision of housing and urban spatial planning in New Zealand.

While some have called the flats 'a crumbling pile of sub-standard concrete', historian and HPW vice-chairman Dr Ben Schrader says we need to move past the idea that the heritage values of a building should be determined by their architecture; whether we think they're beautiful or ugly.

He said the Category 1 listing of the Gordon Wilson and McLean Flats was

due as much to their social and cultural values as to their architectural ones.

"Above everything else, the Gordon Wilson Flats was a beacon of how New Zealand cities might develop in a sustainable fashion. It was a building before its time. That it is the only one of its type left in the country increases its cultural importance.



Dr Ben Schrader

"Sure the building is in a neglected state, but I understand it is not unredeemable. If the university does not appreciate its worth then

it should sell to someone who does. Ideally this would be the government, which could return it to residential use. Here is a structure that with some tender love and care could once again provide much-needed homes and be a beacon for sustainability."

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.

Victoria University of Wellington bought the Gordon Wilson Flats in 2014 and 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.

A spokesperson for the university said it would consider HNZPT's Category 1 status for the Gordon Wilson Flats in its planning for the site.



INTRODUCING

Nigel Gilkison

HPA Blue Plaque Coordinator

Nigel Gilkison holds Canterbury close to his heart. The architectural and urban design consultant with more than 25 years' national and international experience was born and grew up in South Canterbury and attended Temuka High School. He studied architecture at Auckland University and completed a post-graduate Masters in Urban Design at UK's Portsmouth University.

He worked for several architecture and urban design practices in Christchurch, Wellington, Hong Kong and the UK including Adam Architecture & Urbanism, where he was an Associate and senior leader of the masterplanning team for more than 12 years. He returned home to South Canterbury in 2016 and set up his own Urban Design & Architecture consultancy.

As an urban designer, he understands the importance of placing people at the heart of the design process when designing successful communities. He has a strong understanding of historical architecture and town planning and appreciates the social, cultural and economic value heritage brings to our urban environments.

The driver behind the Blue Plaques project, Nigel chairs the Timaru CBD Group and Timaru Civi Trust and is deputy chair of HPMid Canterbury and the Timaru City Hub Strategy Group. HPMC has recently placed Blue Plaques on Mt Hutt Rd Board Office, Methven's Brown Pub, and the former Bank of NSW (Speight's Ale House) in Ashburton. Another five plaques are planned for late 2021.



Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga managers from around the country were thankful for the use of HPTairāwhiti's Centre for Heritage – the 1934 former Plunket Building – as a resting and meeting place during their two days in the region. Organised by NZHPT Director Regional Services Pam Bain, the group visited Māori heritage sites and enjoyed hearing about Ngati Oneone history from historian and artist Nick Tupara. Māori Built Heritage Adviser Jim Schuster, standing, provides a karakia at the end of their session. Nick Tupara will this month lead a tour of sites of significance to Ngati Oneone with 50 HPTairāwhiti members and friends.

Māori representation focus of Whare Kōrero session

The first of what promises to be an enlightening winter discussion series will take place in late May within HPTairāwhiti's Centre for Heritage.

Historian Jane Luiten will open what has been dubbed HPT's Whare Kōrero series on topics of local heritage interest. She will start with a short presentation on the historical context of Māori representation in local government.

A facilitated discussion will ensue with the aim of providing a safe space within which to explore issues that continue to reverberate in the community today.

Jane Luiten, an HPT committee member and independent researcher, reported on local government issues in the Waitangi Tribunal's East Coast

District Inquiry in 2009 and the Te Rohe Pōtae (King Country) District Inquiry in 2011.

"Both projects revealed not just the ill-fit of local government models from Britain with communal Māori land tenure but also the crucial role local government has played in colonisation generally," Jane said.

"Understanding how local government developed, including where Māori were supposed to fit into the scheme of things, is a starting point to seeing New Zealand's colonial history more clearly."

Fellow committee member Sheridan Gundry said the Whare Kōrero series developed out of last year's First Meetings Kōrero (FMK) event in

which HPT, its speakers and audience considered the question, *What is required of us as a community to make meaningful change out of the current 'statue, memorial, naming' debate?*

"The committee has taken this challenge to heart by embarking on community conversations within the intimate Centre for Heritage.

"We see this as the first in a series leading up to the 2021 FMK in early October with associated topics leading into this year's theme. FMK is held on a Sunday close to the arrival date of Lieutenant James Cook, Tahitian navigator Tupaia and the Endeavour crew."

The first Whare Kōrero will be held on 23 May at 2pm followed by a cuppa.

Whanganui in bid to be UNESCO Creative City of Design

Whanganui is seeking to become New Zealand's only UNESCO Creative City of Design. If successful, it will join 38 other cities around the world including Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Dubai and Helsinki.

Whanganui District Council's economic development agency Whanganui & Partners will make the application in May.

Emma Bugden, Strategic Lead for Creative Industries and Arts, said Māori heritage and co-design partnerships were essential

elements in Whanganui's bid. She said Whanganui was placing culture and the creative industries at the heart of its economic development

plans and wanted to collaborate internationally with similar-minded cities.

"We've been a creative city for over 800 years. We've had makers who make functional objects beautiful. Our strength is in heritage: our beautiful buildings that we've hung on

to; in arts and crafts, and in high-value niche manufacturing."

The UNESCO project aims to boost economic opportunities for the creative industries by promoting heritage, connecting local makers and producers with new markets, and encouraging entrepreneurship and cultural tourism.

The design city designation is expected to bring obvious benefits such as global identification and a branding point of difference.

The city's application will be considered by the National Commission for UNESCO in June. If endorsed, the bid will go to UNESCO's international Creative City body and must be accepted by other Cities of Design before it can be approved.



UNESCO commissioners view the Sarjeant Gallery building site.