

# NEWS

## Working on many fronts

### FROM THE TOP



*HPA President  
James Blackburn*

As we near the end of our financial year, it's time to look back over the past year and start planning ahead.

As a small organisation, one of our primary foci has been the growth of HPA's membership.

It's pleasing to see more groups joining HPA and I would like to welcome the Auckland Civic Trust as

our latest member.

The draft RMA changes should be in the public realm in the next four to six weeks, at which point the RMA working group will be busy preparing submissions on behalf of you all.

AGM planning is also in full swing and we will be joining with ICOMOS NZ for a joint conference on October 9 and 10 in Auckland. The programme and field trips look exciting.

More details to follow shortly. In the meantime, put it in your calendar and I hope to see you all there, when we'll report back on our activities.

## Budget blow for heritage

by Denis Pilkington, HP Hawke's Bay

A serious setback for owners of earthquake-prone buildings has slipped through in the Budget without arousing any comment in the press.

While probably not mentioned by the Minister of Finance in his presentation, the Budget papers show that with the current priority for social welfare, the funding of Heritage EQUIP (Earthquake Upgrade Incentive Programme) has been discontinued past the 2020/21 fiscal year.

This cut is a major blow to heritage preservation as the fund had been making worthwhile grants towards seismic strengthening of heritage buildings as required by the Building (Earthquake Prone Buildings) Amendment Act, 2016.

Heritage EQUIP was introduced in 2016 by the previous government as a one-off \$10.5M fund, since topped up by the present Government.

After a rather slow start, the

*Continued on page 7*

*The iconic Saint James Theatre.*



## ARCHITECTURAL TERMS *explained*

### TĀHUHU

This is the central ridge beam in a whareniui that runs from the porch through to the back wall of the whare. It's often carved in the porch area and painted with kowhaiwhai patterns on the interior.

It is considered to be the backbone of the whareniui.



*Ceiling of a Maori meeting house, with a carved tāhuhu or ridgepole, and rafters painted in curvy kowhaiwhai patterns. Te Papa, Wellington, New Zealand. Wikimedia Commons*

# HPA EXECUTIVE MAHI

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

### National Policy Statement on Urban Development

“Councils, such as Wellington, continue to struggle with the Government’s direction to change their District Plans to provide for intensified developments (including six storey buildings) within a “walkable catchment” of city centres and any rapid transit stops. Protecting character and heritage in inner suburbs in Wellington is an ongoing concern for HPW.

Currently there’s an important process protection in place for Wellington’s character suburbs such as Thorndon, Mt Victoria, Aro Valley, Mount Cook and Newtown/Berhampore. Resource consent is needed for demolition of pre-1930 buildings in those suburbs. The Wellington City Council proposes eliminating that requirement from half those character suburbs; removing the character design overlay; and raising height limits for new buildings.

The combination of those new provisions will radically change Wellington’s urban form. The wooden houses nestled in the hills around the city will be at risk.

HPW does not believe deregulation of planning rules will result in affordable housing being built by private developers in those suburbs. Experience overseas is that renters are pushed out in favour of (sometimes) empty investment properties. Some inner city suburbs (like Wellington’s Oriental Bay) already have a fifth of all dwellings formally ‘unoccupied’.

The Government’s National Policy

Statement on Urban Development is an untested, hypothetical attempt to reduce the land value of urban environments. HPW would like to see Kainga Ora and councils proactively partner to develop affordable housing in suitable areas where land is currently under-utilised, and where infrastructure can then be prioritised to support such development.

### Resource Management Act Reform Legislation:

HPA has formed a working group to lobby the Government on RMA reform legislation. The group comprises individual members from different regions and the door is open for more members or organisations to join.

The RMA Reform group and members of the HPA Executive Committee received a video briefing from the Ministry for Arts, Culture and Heritage about the RMA reform process.

Cabinet’s December 2020 decision (available on MFE website) sets out guidance for officials. The Select Committee will release an ‘exposure draft’ of the proposed new Natural and Built Environments Act to which the public will be invited to make submissions in July. The process is speedy, given the Government’s intention to have the legislation adopted by the end of 2021.

The Ministerial Oversight Group includes Hon Peeni Henare (Acting Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage). HPA’s planned submission will endorse the importance of the new legislation retaining a heritage objective, and adopting a planning framework that acknowledges the significance of built and other heritage.

HPA was disappointed to learn MCH’s work on strengthening heritage protection was not yet an agreed component of the RMA reform package, and as such could be passed over and ignored which would be a missed opportunity.

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

HISTORIC  
PLACES  
AOTEAROA

**JOIN US TODAY**  
to advocate for our  
heritage, we need your  
strong voices locally,  
regionally and nationally



*HPA Executive Member Helen Craig, recently met with representatives from HP Hawke’s Bay to share knowledge on heritage initiatives. (From left: HPA president James Blackburne, Elizabeth Pishief, Helen Craig, Barbara Arnott, Gordon Craig, Dorothy Pilkington and Philip Irwin. Photo: Denis Pilkington*

# OCULUS What next for quake-prone churches?

by Cindy Lilburn, HP Manawatu-Horowhenua

A recent Independent Hearings Panel's decision on All Saints Church, Palmerston North could set a precedent for churches in New Zealand.

The Wellington [Anglican] Diocese applied for a resource consent in January 2021 to earthquake-strengthen All Saints Church and remove the front baptistery wall of the building so it could add a wrap-around glass structure along the frontage. The church stated that it would not proceed on the earthquake-strengthening unless they were granted the consent for the new structure.

The panel has refused resource consent for both the earthquake-strengthening and the addition to the church.

The brick, Gothic-styled All Saints Church was built in 1913, designed by Wellington church architect, Frederick de Jersey Clere. The building is a landmark feature on one corner of the Square in Palmerston North and is highly valued by many in the community for its traditional English parish church style inside and out.

There are now only one concrete and two brick Gothic churches left in the city: one, privately owned, has a poor earthquake rating; a further one was demolished last year due to the same issue.

All Saints has been closed for worship since 2013. The church has proposed the addition so it could provide a lobby space with coffee bar for the congregation and community groups.



It would also visually open-up the front of the building so that casual passers-by could feel welcomed inside.

The glass addition was democratically chosen by the congregation in 2016 from several options presented and remains their preferred choice. All Saints states that the addition is necessary to make the church socially relevant and viable for the foreseeable future – otherwise it will become nothing more than a monument.

The Panel has considered these aims against the scale of the changes proposed, the quantity vs. the quality of heritage that would be lost. Its decision is that the proposed demolition of the baptistery will result in significant and irreversible adverse effects on historic heritage. Also the scale, position and design of

the proposed additions will result in adverse effects on the historic heritage and the quality of the streetscape in this part of the city centre. It suggests alternatives could meet the church's aims while having a lesser adverse environmental impact.

The Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua committee probably reflects the mood of the community submissions. While all submissions agreed to the earthquake-strengthening of this popular building, the committee was split as to the need for an addition along the front of the church.

The Diocese has chosen to appeal the decision, which gives the possibility of further discussion.

HPManawatu-Horowhenua will keep you posted.



All Saints flanked by the Cat I listed former Grand Hotel Building on the right and the former PNCC building on the left., a1961.

## New owners for hotel

Civil engineering firm Terra Civil has bought The Grand Hotel building and plans to keep retail spaces on the ground floor, while replacing upstairs offices with luxury apartments.

The new owners of one of Palmerston North's most prominent heritage buildings have grand plans to restore the 115-year-old building. The Grand Hotel, once famous for hosting royalty, was converted into office and retail space after it closed down in 1972. Terra Civil intends returning the building to its roots as top-tier accommodation.

The Grand Hotel was built in 1906 and designed by architect Joseph Clarkson Maddison. It is an excellent example of the Second Empire architectural style.

The roof turret was removed in 1963.



*Albion Press (left) and Printing Museum in World War 2 former defence depot, Upper Hutt.*

# Printing Museum seeks permanent home

By Vivienne Morrell, HPWellington

The Printing Museum is looking for a permanent home and has its eyes on a high-profile central Wellington site.

The museum began life over 30 years ago when a group of enthusiasts and professional printers began collecting items of historical and industrial interest. This was at a time when the era of letterpress, the method of printing by mechanical impression that Johannes Gutenberg had perfected in the 15th century, was coming to an end. Had it not been for their foresight, many of these machines – some of which are now listed items of historical interest – would have been lost forever.

Despite digital domination, there has been a huge revival of interest in letterpress, particularly in the United States and Britain. Letterpress Museums and Book Arts Centres have sprung up in major cities around the world.

The Printing Museum operates mainly from a WW2 former defence depot in a valley behind Upper Hutt. Each week,

core members gather in the old army storage shed to manufacture lead type. The type is packaged and sold to printers and institutions in New Zealand, Australia and beyond. This is the only operating foundry of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

The foundry manufactures useful material for letterpress printers and, in so doing, generates the museum's principal income. They also run courses. They would like the museum to be a hands-on experience where everything is in working order and can be used for education and book arts purposes.

One building the group is eyeing as a permanent home is the Category



*Save the GHQ building protest, 11 Nov 2015. Military historian Peter Cooke at right of door.*

2-listed former Defence General Headquarters, on the corner of Taranaki and Buckle streets, owned by NZ Defence Force, which has in the past wanted to demolish it. The building is deemed earthquake-prone.

Historic Places Wellington and other organisations have advocated for its retention. The Edwardian Baroque-style, brick building completed in 1912 is probably the oldest existing military administration building remaining in New Zealand. The building was given a temporary reprieve for the opening of Pukeahu National Memorial Park on 25 April 2015, but as far as HPW is aware, its future is still uncertain.

Vivienne says the Printing Museum could make good use of earthquake-prone buildings to preserve more of Wellington's heritage. "The Museum will be financially independent and sustainable. It just needs a home."

See [theprintingmuseum.org.nz](http://theprintingmuseum.org.nz)

*Could this GHQ building be a new home for the Printing Museum?*



# OCULUS Great interest in Patea power station tour

By Patea Historical Society President Jacq Dwyer

Patea Power Station's remains were a focus for 50 people on the fifth annual Whanganui Summer Programme, hosted by Patea Historical Society in January.

The station was the first Council-owned electrical plant in New Zealand when it opened on 19 April 1902. Other towns had started on privately owned schemes. Kakaramea farmer James Ball offered a 10-year loan of the total £2500 at 4.5%, which was gratefully accepted by the Patea Borough Council. Lighting Patea by electricity was first minuted at a council meeting in July 1882 but the idea didn't gain momentum until November 1899.

The power station is sited north of the town, on a cliff at the end of Powerhouse Road. Water was derived from the Kaikura Stream, and a dam constructed to conserve supply. It was connected to Payne's Flour Mill Dam, behind the Kakaramea Dairy Factory, which the Council bought for extra water storage. The mill was leased to Foxton flax miller Mr Buckthought until the end of 1905, after which it was used to control the flow of water to the hydro. The building's architect was Climie and Fairhall, Hawera; builder, William Aitchison of Patea; electric lighting machinery provider, Turnbull & Jones. Locker & Dickson of Patea began the concrete work and building of the dam over four acres in September 1901. First engineer was internationally renowned Captain Alban J. Roberts, who resigned in 1904 and went on to invent remotely operated robots and machines.

The good fall for the water drove a Brown-Boveri generator and Escher Weiss turbine. Electricity consumers totalled 100 in 1906. The pill-box on the



*On top of the cliff at the site of the Patea Power Station*

cliff side housed the generator plant, and the tower was the surge chamber to allow the water flow to the turbine to be turned off.

Transmission to Patea, a distance of three miles, was by a single-phase, 3000 volt line, with distribution at various places at 110 volt single phase. The station was initially for lighting only from dusk until midnight and in the winter for two hours from 6.30am. Later, the plant ran on Monday afternoons to enable housewives to do ironing. Consumers had the choice of being charged by meters or installed point, with the former being preferred.

In 1918, a 65 horsepower suction gas motor was installed in York Street as part of the town water reticulation scheme. This supplied electricity to operate the pumps but could not be synchronised with the hydro, although the hydropower could be used to operate the pumps. This motor could supply the needs of the town when, for any reason, the hydro was closed down. The concrete building that housed this machine is still standing in York Street.

Disaster struck in November 1920 when the dam walls broke. The attendants' hut, above the powerhouse was swept into the sea along with its two occupants, Mr Mitchell and Mr McDonald, who miraculously survived. The powerhouse and machinery were largely undamaged but the Council built a new powerhouse and installed higher-

powered machinery.

Contractor Charles F Pulley, who had just finished the sea wall at Patea, was hired to demolish the old plant, cut a new terrace about 5m lower on the cliff, construct the new concrete powerhouse and install the new plant. Pulley also built a tunnel on an angle through the cliff for engineers to access the building from the flat paddock above, an improvement from the ladders down the cliff. A cottage for the electrical engineer was also built.

Backup power from a suction engine used for the town's sewerage system was used while the dam was rebuilt. The dam sides were built higher. Power supply was extended to Kakaramea at this time. Alton and other outlying districts didn't connect to electricity until 1933. In 1923, the plant made a £4 profit.

In 1927, a Ruston Hornby Diesel Electric engine was installed, which could be run in parallel with the hydro or separately when required. Electrical engineer Roy Kinnaird probably lived in the cottage rebuilt after the 1920 wash-out.

By the late 1940s or early 1950s, no-one lived on the job and the cottage was probably demolished.

By July 1952, the hydro generator had burned out and repairs were not recommended. By January 1959, the borough's power enterprise had been sold to South Taranaki Electric Power Board for £15,000. It ceased generating, was stripped of most of its machinery and abandoned to the elements.

The Whanganui tour group then moved into the future... their last stop was to Jim Baker's farm to view the 32 new 'Tilt Energy' windmills.



*Patea Power Station c2010.*

# Whanganui and Hawke's Bay news

By Whanganui District Councillor and Regional Heritage Trustee Helen Craig:



Upokongaru War Memorial Hall

## Heritage funding approved

Whanganui District Council has approved significant funding to support more heritage initiatives:

- \$250,000 in the annual budget to enact its draft Heritage Strategy. More details to come once budgets for each action item have been finalised.
- earthquake strengthening and renovating the empty, dilapidated 1881 Upokongaru War Memorial Hall
- earthquake-strengthening and restoring Whanganui Repertory Theatre (see story top right).

A public meeting at Upokongaru affirmed the community's desire to use the building, especially the school which has no hall of its own.

It's taken a few years of lobbying council to take care of the building. Extra impetus came with a new cycle trail connecting at Upokongaru via a suspension bridge, making the small town on the edges of the Whanganui River more popular as a destination.

The building housed the Maori Land Court for a short time and then in 1952 the RG Talboys-designed façade was added and the hall rededicated as a War Memorial.

## Heritage Trails

Helen was keen to learn more about the green and yellow Heritage Trails still being actively used and added to in Hawke's Bay. This was a national initiative starting from the early 1990s via regional councils. This has fallen away in Whanganui with only a few signs and brochures remaining.

Whanganui's heritage trust is keen to explore reinstating the trails with support from the district's economic development agency. Southland still has active trails and Hamilton-based historian Neil Curgenvin is keen to see a nationwide revival. Hawke's Bay's trails are being added to and maintained with close cooperation between Hastings District Heritage Trails Society and local councils.



*The Whanganui Repertory Theatre – once home to Whanganui's first library set up in 1882 – will receive significant funding from Whanganui District Council over the next 10 years to earthquake-strengthen and restore the building including retaining the adjacent bank. The building is still actively occupied by the Repertory Theatre, which supports the restoration via funding applications to Lotteries etc. Major alterations to the façade were made in 1957.*



## A place for women to rest

Napier and Whanganui both have dedicated women's restrooms of historical significance, but Napier's 1926, Category 1, Women's Rest is earthquake prone and closed, whereas Whanganui's Ladies' Rest is still actively used. It provides public toilets and

offices for the Women's Network Whanganui, a charitable trust offering support for women. The 1930s building has been earthquake strengthened and restored by the Whanganui District Council. It's a good model of council and community cooperation.

Old Town Bridge looking up Victoria Avenue, Whanganui.



Whanganui is to hold its third annual Heritage Month in September with a 'transport' theme.

Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust is managing the festival in close cooperation with local cultural organisations. Up to 40 events are expected to be held.

Trustee Helen Craig says the festival has been

a huge impetus for Whanganui to believe its heritage is worth saving and celebrating and spurs Council and private investors to invest in restoration projects.

The trust is happy to share their event funding and programme methodology with other heritage groups. Ph Helen on 021 1030737.

# OCULUS Reallocating funds possible for unused EQUIP money

From page 1: programme has contributed \$12.95M for 111 projects (of 138 applications) covering 153 buildings. In 2019, individual grants were capped at \$400,000. The programme was administered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

A positive aspect of the programme administration was the development of closer links with various local councils actively promoting protection of earthquake-prone buildings.

The ministry reports that at this stage there is a small pool of unallocated funds plus other money that has been returned from various grants for projects that came in under budget or did not proceed. Normally, the Government would take back this money to use for other purposes.

Hon Peeni Henare, Acting Associate Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage, is responsible for EQUIP. The Ministry is currently preparing an options paper for him on funding for protection of heritage buildings with one of the

options being the reallocation of remaining funds for EQUIP projects.

The biggest single grant, and the first, of \$1.5M was to the St James Theatre in Auckland back in 2016. Sadly, this project has not proceeded and it remains to be seen if it ever will and if not, whether that large grant might be available for reallocation.

Meanwhile, we are aware the 2016 Building Amendment Act set time limits for seismic strengthening of earthquake-prone buildings. The time limit for priority buildings in areas of high seismic risk is seven and a half years. Time is running out for this first group and when it does run out, demolition may be the only option where funding is not available.

HPA is deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of the Heritage EQUIP Programme, especially in smaller centres where the cost of seismic strengthening is high in comparison to the value of heritage buildings and the rental income they can generate. Clearly, we are left with a major challenge to somehow find incentive and assistance to heritage building owners faced with the statutory requirement for seismic strengthening of their buildings.

President James Blackburne said that while HPA was advised the EQUIP fund would have a limited life span, he was hugely disappointed to see the



St James Theatre, Auckland.

government discontinue the scheme.

"While it didn't provide a huge amount of funding to owners, the scheme has been a catalyst for many owners to get their buildings strengthened.

"With the changes to the Building Act and upcoming additional changes to relevant engineering codes, it's just as important now to assist owners with strengthening as it was when the scheme was set up.

"It was one of the few incentives that specifically targeted heritage redevelopment in this country."

HPA was to contact the Minister and discuss the need for some form of heritage assistance scheme to be continued.



Past recipients of Heritage EQUIP funding – Snackisfaction building, Gisborne, and Marshall Building, Oamaru.

## Investment in Whanganui heritage pays off

In the past few years, Heritage EQUIP has approved funding for around 20 projects in Whanganui for earthquake strengthening engineering plans and actual earthquake strengthening work for privately owned earthquake-prone heritage buildings.

The applications have been spearheaded and supported by Whanganui District Council's Heritage

Officer Scott Flutey. The Council tasked Scott to provide support to building owners for these applications while also drafting its first Heritage Strategy.

Whanganui councillor Helen Craig said Council saw this as one of the most strategic moves to gain external funding for some of the 100 plus privately owned commercial heritage buildings in the CBD.

"That investment has paid off. Unfortunately, the scheme has been discontinued. We'll be lobbying Government to reinstate the fund as it's effective in not only earthquake-strengthening heritage buildings, but also encouraging full renovation and conversion to apartments – thereby preserving our heritage and providing much needed accommodation."



The first of the initial run of interpretation panels. Christchurch City Council.

Christchurch City Council in partnership with Ngai Tahu has completed the development of a plan for cultural markers, interpretation panels and other initiatives to be installed in the CBD. City Council Visitor Experience Team Leader **Lynda Burns** outlines the process of developing and implementing the plan.

## Finding the cultural way in Christchurch

Christchurch City Council will over the next three months start installing the first tranche of interpretation panels and cultural markers around the city.

The first cultural marker will be a trial to see how the design stands up to public exposure, such as vandalism.

While a three-year plan for the location of cultural markers and interpretation panels has been devised, funding has not yet been secured for the whole programme.

The council has been working with Ngai Tahu over the past three years.

A way-finding plan developed by the Council for post-earthquake Christchurch included pedestrian use of the city.

Tohu whenua/cultural markers were seen as a tool to show the public how Ngai Tahu had been deeply involved in the design of many of the city's Anchor Projects including Te Ōmeka - Justice Precinct, Te Pae - Convention Centre, Turanga - Central Library and Te Papa Ōtākaro- Avon River Precinct.

A project team was established including a representative from the council's heritage team, an interpretation specialist from its Parks Unit and a cultural designer from Matapopore Charitable Trust.

The latter was set up to represent Ngai Tūāhuriri in the city's rejuvenation projects.

Six cultural markers will be installed at key locations, supported by an

audio tour and interpretation panels interpreting the architectural, historic and artistic features close by.

The prototype will be installed this winter 2021 beside the Ōtākaro- Avon River.

The project also considered the wider history of the central city. A series of about 30 interpretation panels will be developed over the next three years. A small set have been installed along Victoria Street.

When planning what stories to develop, the project team considered where visitors go, key values of the mana whenua Ngai Tūāhuriri, tangible evidence of the city's history as identified in the District Plan, sites of significance and key themes.

The team was fortunate to have a contextual historic overview written by historian John Wilson to guide decision-making, as well as a weighty cultural narrative developed by Dr Te Maire Tau, Ngai Tūāhuriri's upoko and Director of the Canterbury University Ngai Tahu Research Centre.

Discussion with stakeholders was invaluable in helping identify the stories particularly relevant to Christchurch.

ChristchurchNZ, the region's tourism organisation, will work with the city council to develop audio interpretation points, as funding allows.

It is hoped this project will offer a stepping stone for NGOs and

commercial tour interests to enrich the experience of residents and visitors through a suite of story-telling opportunities.



*The Voice of Heritage  
for New Zealand*

### Our executive

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

**James Blackburne (president)**  
president@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

**Helen Craig**  
hellycraig@hotmail.com

**Mark Gerrard**  
canty@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

**Nigel Isaacs**  
nigel.isaacs@vuw.ac.nz

**Denis Pilkington**  
denis.pilkington@gmail.com

**Christopher Templeton**  
opentenor@hotmail.com

**Felicity Wong**  
felicity\_wong@icloud.com

#### EX-OFFICIO

**Chelle Gandell** (treasurer)  
accounting@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz





Civic Trust Auckland members at Portage Walk, 2017 and (right) at Save Our Harbour protest, 2015.

## INTRODUCING Civic Trust Auckland – a new HPA member organisation

*To advocate for our heritage here in Aotearoa New Zealand, we need to represent a broad base of people and organisations concerned about heritage across the country. This month, we welcome Civic Trust Auckland into the HPA fold. Thanks to Civic Trust secretary Audrey van Ryn for providing this profile.*

Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) was founded in 1968 by citizens concerned about environmental and heritage issues. Its aims include protecting natural landforms and biodiversity, preserving heritage and encouraging good planning.

The trust's early work included the restoration of the historic 1870s Scott Homestead at Mahurangi East, and the saving and restoring of an 1850s timber dwelling still located on its original site in the city centre.

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, CTA's regular activities have included a series of winter lectures and participation in the annual Auckland Heritage Festival.

A collaboration with Auckland Council in March 2013 saw CTA bring Queensland government architect Malcolm Middleton to talk about heritage protection at a Council Auckland Conversations events. Using Malcolm's Brisbane Open House concept, CTA began to host winter lectures in a range of buildings of architectural interest

not usually open to the public. In its second collaboration with Auckland Conversations, in March 2015, Civic Trust brought out Washington's Donovan Rypkema, an expert in the economics of heritage preservation. It shared him with the Wellington and Christchurch Civic Trusts (with whom CTA has loose affiliations), and he discussed seismic strengthening issues for heritage preservation with these two groups.

In 2017, CTA organised a debate in the Auckland Heritage Festival on the topic "There is adequate protection for heritage." Other festival events have included historic walks in collaboration with Walk Auckland, hosting a reading in period costume of *Incendiary 1901*, a play about a tragic fire in the Grand Hotel in Princes Street, and two open days at Scott Homestead, which is not generally accessible to the public.

CTA is included on Auckland Council's list of regional stakeholders and submits on many Auckland Council plans and occasionally on resource

consent applications. It responds to government consultations relevant to its aims. In 2018, it contributed to the Ministry for Culture & Heritage's draft report on "strengthening protections for heritage buildings, and in March 2021 submitted on the Climate Change Commission's draft advice to the Government.

CTA is often called on to support other Auckland groups, which can entail advising members of petitions for signing, attending protests, public meetings or hearings, writing to Council to support another group's cause, or advertising group activities. Civic Trust joined as a party to several Environment Court cases involving historic buildings. Members supported the Love Your Mountain Day annual event over many years, when Maungawhau/Mt Eden was designated car-free for a day, until vehicles were finally banned from this and other maunga in Auckland.

In August 2018, to celebrate 50 years of the trust's activities, 50 native trees were planted in Harbutt Reserve, part of a new cycle/walkway linking green spaces from Mt Albert to Avondale.

The trust's current concerns include climate change, the ongoing loss of trees and open space across Auckland, the increasing threat to character and heritage in the context of the NPS on Urban Development proposing further intensification, and the forthcoming replacement of the Resource Management Act with three acts separately addressing climate change, development and the environment.

More info at [civictrustauckland.org.nz](http://civictrustauckland.org.nz)



Civic Trust Auckland members planting 50 trees to celebrate 50 years of the trust's activities, 2018.