

# STORIES

## Face-to-face meetings reap rewards

### FROM THE TOP

*HPA President James Blackburne*

It's been a busy and interesting few months since I last wrote to you all. For the first time in almost two years, the Executive Team met in person recently to continue working on HPA's Strategic Plan. The meeting focused on the roles of HPA and the membership, where we want to see the organisation in five and 10 years and to work out our key advocacy messages over the next 12 months. The aim is to present the Strategic Plan at the next AGM.

The primary advocacy message is that there is a real need for some form of heritage incentive fund for building owners and in particular those whose buildings need strengthening. The former Heritage Equip Fund saw



many heritage buildings saved and provided huge economic benefits to the communities where work was undertaken.

For the past five years, I have met regularly with Heritage New Zealand, ICOMOS NZ and NZ

Archaeological Association – a valuable networking opportunity. In the past eight months, the NGO leaders have been meeting staff from MCH and DoC, scheduled bimonthly for the coming year. The change in the relationship between NGOs and government departments has been positive.

Meetings this week in Wellington reinforced to me the importance of face-to-face meetings and the extra benefits these meetings create.

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## Matariki points the way

*By Dean Whiting, Kaihautū Heritage NZ  
Pouhere Taonga*

History, in many ways, greets us each day as heritage places, landscapes and traditions retrace the pathways of those before us giving insight and inspiration. But what surrounds us is the vast heritage of Te Moananui a Kiwa (Pacific Ocean) and its many distinct tangata moana, people of the ocean, reflected and unified by a woven universe of stars adorning Ranginui in the night sky above.

This language of stars guided some of the most significant voyages in human history from the homelands of Hawaiki to the last land mass to be settled, Aotearoa.

Te Tahi o Pipiri, the 12th lunar month of the Māori maramataka (calendar), has now begun as we head for the ascension of Matariki marking the start of the Māori New Year.

The best way to locate Matariki in June is to start with a fix on Tautoru, a familiar and bright star cluster also known as Orion's belt, now rising in the east in the pre-dawn night sky.

To its left is another cluster in the shape of an upside-down V, Te Kokotā, also known as the face of Taurus the Bull, then a little further left again and

you will see Matariki in the northeast.

For our early voyaging tipuna, the rising of stars on the horizon were of immense importance to track location and set direction. Waka traditions of



voyages from Rarotonga and Tahiti used a point slightly left of the setting sun in the west to set a course for Aotearoa in the months of October

and November. Importantly, to aid travel at night, the rising of Matariki in the early evening was conveniently positioned directly to the stern of the waka. The navigator would use this procession of rising stars throughout the night to check position and steer course. The understanding of time, position and direction emanated from deep knowledge, the mātauranga of our tipuna, spanning all facets of life and continually added to and transmitted to succeeding generations. This is why Heritage NZPT's Mātauranga Te Awe Kotuku Programme is important in capturing and revitalising this deep knowledge, almost lost in some areas.

Last month, we explored a small but important facet of mātauranga surrounding the kiekie plant through a wananga led by Jim Schuster, HNZPT's traditional Māori arts specialist.

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# Focus on kiekie

From page 1

The wananga focused on harvesting and preparing kiekie leaf fibre ready for repair work on tukutuku panels within Matangireia, the old Māori Affairs Committee Room in Parliament.

Jim showed how to harvest kiekie, strip the leaves to size and boil to produce the white colour. We heard how kiekie is used in other weaving forms such as whariki (floor mats), kete and sails; and how the plant's aerial roots, aka kiekie, are used in hinaki eel traps. Kiekie flowers, tāwhara, can be eaten along with its fruit, ureure (you can look up the meaning in the Māori dictionary) – both delicacies revered in placenames such as Maunga Kiekie in Auckland and Tāwharanui in the north.

Connections go deeper into the Pacific with similar plants referred to there as 'ieie', notably the pandanus plant of the same plant family. The kiekie's mātauranga, like the knowledge of voyaging, follows the rhythms of the maramataka determining the time of harvest and the practice of preparation, creating a pathway to conserve and renew connection of the taonga Matangireia and its traditions.

As we come to celebrate Matariki this year, see it from the perspective of heritage, mātauranga and as a renewed wayfinder for many aspects in our lives. And in October and November, try to get to the eastern coastline of Aotearoa, look to the northeast after the sun sets and you'll see Matariki rising from the ocean and pointing you back to Hawaiki.



HPA's Executive Committee was hosted by HNZPT Central Region director Jamie Jacobs to Turnbull House in Wellington. From left: Nigel Isaacs; Richard Norman, HPW; Phillip Hartley; Gordon and Helen Craig; Jamie Jacobs; and Christopher Templeton. James Blackburne

# HPA EXECUTIVE MAHI

By Denis Pilkington

## Welcome to Remuera Heritage:

We have recently been joined by Remuera Heritage Incorporated as an associate member. This is quite a large and active organisation in Auckland, and we are pleased to have them on board. For more information, go to [www.remueraheritage.org.nz](http://www.remueraheritage.org.nz) or check out their Facebook page.

Total membership now stands at 15, members all listed at end of this newsletter.

## National Heritage Conference:

This major event we have been promoting in conjunction with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga has suffered some Covid delays. It is now rescheduled for February 2023. Watch this space. This will be a major event that should be well worth waiting for.

## Heritage Bites:

These papers from the cancelled HPA/ ICOMOS AGM/Conference in Auckland were presented online in weekly sessions starting in February. The papers were well received and if you missed them and want to catch up, you can now find a link to the recordings on our website and also the ICOMOS website. Details of the papers appeared in the March issue of Oculus.

## AGM 2022:

Having missed out on our visit to Auckland last year, we are hoping for better luck this year, again in Auckland. The meeting will probably be held in November.

## A New President for HPA:

James Blackburne will be stepping down at the AGM in November having served the maximum allowable term in the position – eight years.

We are now calling for nominations for his successor. These will be considered at the 2022 AGM.

A job description is available for anyone who is interested.

## MO Chairs' Forum:

This video meeting was first held in December with further meetings on 31 March and 25 May. The aim is to hold meetings quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month with the next meeting due on Wednesday 17 August. Meetings are chaired by Felicity Wong of HP Wellington and provide an opportunity for HPA to get a bit closer to the members.

## ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

### *explained*

### MARAE ĀTEA

courtyard, public forum - open area in front of the whareniui where formal welcomes to visitors take place and issues are debated. The marae ātea is the domain of Tūmataua, the atua of war and people, thus the appropriate place to raise contentious issues.



## 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

### Phillip Hartley

Philliph@salmondred.co.nz

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

### Elizabeth Pishief

elizabeth.pishief@live.com

### Christopher Templeton

opentenor@hotmail.com

### EX-OFFICIO

**Gillian Creighton** (minutes secretary)

**Denis Pilkington** (secretary)

denis.pilkington@gmail.com

**Jo McLean** (treasurer)

accounting@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

# OCULUS Support still for building owners

The Whanganui District Council continues to support heritage building owners in the city through its Heritage Grant Fund.

The criteria for funding has recently been expanded to a wider geographical area and, since Heritage Equip funding stopped, goes beyond just facade enhancements.

Funding is available:

- For projects under \$15k you can potentially be refunded up to 80% of project cost. If over \$15k, you can be refunded up to 50%
- To support future-proofing of buildings, the scheme funds the cost of professional advice which may include seismic assessments and designs, fire engineering, conservation architectural advice.
- Crown and council-owned buildings used by non-government organisations can be considered for funding, as can buildings outside of the town centre where

substantial community benefit can be demonstrated. This makes it easier for community groups to access some funding.

The funding is administered by Council's Heritage Officer with a small panel to decide on the funding applications.



Whanganui's 42 Ridgway Street before and after (below) receiving a grant from the Whanganui Heritage Grant Fund.



## INTRODUCING

**Helen Craig**

*HPA executive committee*



**HELEN CRAIG's** interest in heritage began when she and her husband Gordon moved into their Whanganui home in 2004.

Their Category 2 Wicksteed Street home, built in 1877, has been in the Craig family since 1919.

The couple moved to Whanganui after sailing the Pacific for a year with their two young sons.

Up until 2002, Helen had spent 20 years in corporate insurance in Tauranga, Auckland and Singapore.

Adding yet another string to her bow, Helen then fulfilled a lifetime dream to study art, completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2009, majoring in sculpture.

In 2013, Helen was elected to Whanganui District Council. She currently chairs the Property and Community Services Committee and Town Centre Regeneration Subcommittee.

She's a trustee of the Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust and manages Whanganui Heritage Month, Whanganui Regional Heritage Awards and the Blue Plaques project.

Helen has been influential in championing numerous initiatives to revitalise the town centre, encouraging heritage retention and ensuring arts continue to play a leading role in Whanganui.

She is a member of the Whanganui Chamber of Commerce and Rotary and was elected to the HPA Executive Committee at the 2019 AGM.



Symonds Street public toilets, 1910s. F.G. Radcliffe

# Historic 1910 toilets back in action

By Tracey Hartley,  
senior associate, Salmond Reed Architects

The Grafton Bridge public toilets opened on 28 April 1910 to coincide with the completion of the bridge across Grafton Gully. The new building was designed in an Edwardian Baroque style by Auckland City Council city engineer Walter Ernest Bush. This was the first public toilets in Auckland to include female facilities.

The building is listed Category II with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and scheduled Category B in the Auckland Unitary Plan. It lies in the grounds of the historically and archaeologically significant Grafton Road Cemetery. Development around the building in the form of the busy intersection of Grafton Bridge, Symonds Street and Karangahape

Road, and close proximity to the on-ramp of State Highway 1 has changed the setting from its original predominant pedestrian access to one of constant high-volume traffic.

The facilities originally offered four toilets and two wash hand basins for women, and six urinals and two wash hand basins for the men. The entrance to the women's toilets was via the tram shelter. This was relocated to the south elevation in 1922, and a curved entrance wall was constructed to match the men's entrance.

In the 1940s, the women's facilities were removed. The internal layout was altered to include an attendant's booth and the central wall partially demolished to open the floor

plan making it a men's-only facility. The street was widened in 1928, which resulted in the replacement of the original curved corrugated iron canopy (supported on three ornate cast iron columns) with a large timber verandah. Many interior changes were made with major refits in the 1970s and 1990s, with women's facilities

Continued on next page



Symonds Street public toilets and tram shelter with interior view above, April 2022

# OCULUS Exterior lighting brightens dark corner

From page 4

reinstated. In 2000, interior features were covered with modern wall and floor tiling and a false tongue and groove imitation boarding over the original ceiling. The building was re-roofed and the 1928 timber verandah replaced with a modern curved metal canopy more sympathetic to the original design.

The former tram shelter seating was removed some time between 1986 and 2007 (most likely during 2000 renovations). A large mural depicting a tree backdrop was painted across the recessed wall during 2011.

## Seismic Resilience

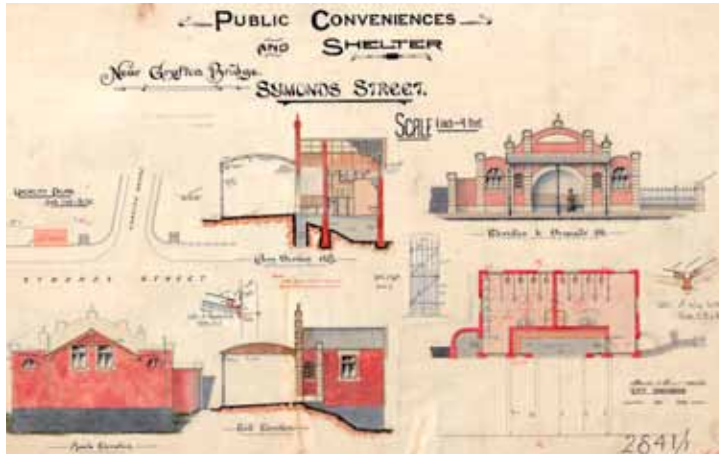
In 2015, a Detailed Seismic Assessment of the identified structural vulnerabilities rendered it less than 34% of the New Building Standard. This meant it was deemed earthquake-prone under the Auckland Council Dangerous, Insanitary and Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy, requiring stabilisation within 35 years of assessment. Auckland Council Community Facilities appointed Salmond Reed Architects to coordinate the repair and seismic upgrade of the building with EQStruc Ltd, structural engineers, to bring the building up to a minimum of 67% NBS.

## Restoration Project

Historic research of the building was comprehensive, including reference to original coloured drawings. The scope of the seismic upgrade and repair was expanded to incorporate a faithful restoration of the interiors and a modern re-fit.

The project was tendered in early 2020, and the cost of the seismic works was only 10% of the whole project with the main costs

attributable to the repairs and renewals of services. With the first Covid-19 lockdown announced during the tender period, the project went on hold for a year. The project was resurrected in early 2021; site work started May 2021.



Original plans for the public conveniences and shelter on Symonds Street c1909. Auckland Council Archives ACC 015/2481

## External Repairs

This small, but complex architecturally significant building had suffered years of repeated vandalism and various, notably internal, upgrades had eroded its architectural heritage significance. The building was in poor condition externally and internally. It suffered repeated graffiti attacks, misuse and vandalism, and damaged brickwork caused by encroaching, uncontrolled tree growth, debris from which regularly blocked the roof coverings and rainwater gutters.

Rats and possums had to be evicted from the basically sound roof structure before repairs could be undertaken.

The deteriorated roof coverings were replaced with a new traditional profile corrugated roof incorporating new wider internal gutters for easier maintenance and to reduce the risk of internal water damage.

Strengthening of the roof structure and the parapet wall involved installing 'L' shaped steel frames fixed to the back of the parapet on the piers and to the roof structure, so they could be partly



Discrete steel framework to back of strengthened parapet after completion of the works

concealed within the roof space. All roof timbers were fixed to each other with new brackets and to the brick walls with stainless-steel rods to form a strong diaphragm. Ball finials were drilled and fixed with stainless steel rods; the shelter arch strengthened with fibreglass and rods.

Exterior decorative mouldings were replastered in lime mortar by a specialist plasterer. Using old photographs and evidence of older colours found on site, exterior

joinery was painted in a 1910-appropriate colour scheme. New cast iron downpipes were installed to the main roof and canopy and the brickwork cleaned and repointed. A seat was constructed following the original drawing in the shelter and exterior façade lighting added to enhance the building's presence at night in this dark corner, on the edge of the cemetery. A new interpretation board was installed in the adjacent garden explaining the history of the building and its changes.

## Discoveries

Various surprise discoveries reinforced some of Salmond Reed's early proposed refurbishment detailing, such as the new polished coloured concrete floor, reflecting samples of the original Arkalite flooring found during works.

Uncovering some 1940s wall tiles and dado underneath modern tiling provided a chance to incorporate some historic tiling into the new scheme. This was achieved by painstaking removal of tiling screed from the face of the tiles and conserving sections to put on display. Reintroducing a dado rail to match the uncovered ceramic one, and providing an historically sympathetic paint scheme helped regain internal architectural significance, and better align the interior with the exterior's aesthetic.

All interior fixtures and fittings were designed to be robust, simple and clearly modern using stainless steel and laminates, contrasting with the restored historic fabric.

The project took 11 months to complete and the contractors had to navigate their programme through two lockdowns and a long period of uncertainties and interruptions. The building was difficult to work in, as it is so restrictive in space, and required much cooperation from many specialist trades involved in the project.

The historic architectural character of this special building has been regained and the facility is now in better condition than it has been for many years. It is only hoped that the future users of the building treat it with much better respect than they have in the past.

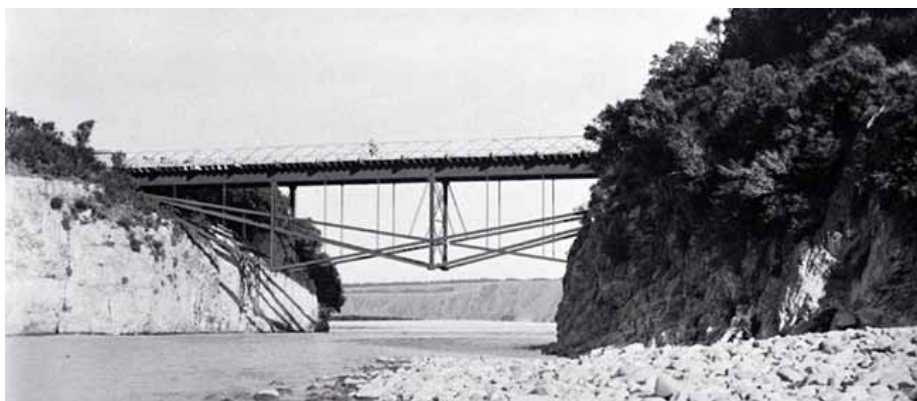
# Classic Rakaia Gorge bridge now restored

by Chessa Stevens, WSP Principal Conservation Architect & National Built Heritage Lead; ICOMOS NZ Co-Secretary

Rakaia Gorge No.1 Bridge was built in 1882 under the supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD). Its unique design historically led some to believe it was conceived overseas – most likely in the United States, where 1850s experiments in bridge engineering led to the development of several new truss designs.

The Rakaia bridge's design draws particularly on the works of Wendel Bollman and Albert Fink, both of whom worked on the ground-breaking Baltimore and Ohio Railway. Although the designer is uncertain, research proves the design was the work of New Zealand's PWD.

Severe winds in 1889 resulted in damage to the bridge truss. The PWD determined extra bracing was required but its installation was delayed. Subsequent maintenance was often deferred, because the Ashburton and Selwyn county councils disagreed over which authority was responsible for the bridge. Maintenance work was sporadic and generally undocumented. This continued until the route was designated a State Highway and the bridge passed into the control of Transit



Rakaia Gorge No. 1 Bridge, c1930s. Christchurch City Libraries Photo CD 11, IMG0006

New Zealand (now the New Zealand Transport Agency). The effects of the harsh environmental conditions, and a considerable increase in the weight and number of vehicles crossing the bridge, exacerbated the problems

As the Transport Agency's Canterbury Structures Management Consultant, WSP (formerly Opus) monitored the bridge's condition for many years. By 2016, some isolated temporary strengthening of the deck had been undertaken; the loading capacity of the bridge had been limited, and the carriageway restricted to a width of 3.5m using timber kerbs. Timber-drilling investigations showed the double-layered decking planks had deteriorated to the extent it was

no longer practical or sufficient to remediate the decay without further compromising on the live load capacity. Further, the instability of the surrounding rock outcrop, bracing failures and other problems meant the bridge was seismically vulnerable.

It was decided to strengthen the superstructure and replace the bridge deck – requiring the timber balustrades to be removed, at least temporarily. Given their poor condition, and their non-compliance with current bridge safety standards, it was assumed the balustrades would also be replaced.

WSP engineers began designing the strengthening and deck replacement in 2016. With documentation almost complete, the design team approached WSP archaeologists to prepare an application for an Archaeological Authority for the works, required under the Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Act due to the bridge's construction date.

At that time, the proposal was to remove the entire deck, including the balustrades above and the transoms below, and replace everything. The new transoms would be steel, the deck would be an engineered plywood system. The balustrades would be metal; crash rails would be added.

Recognising the bridge's heritage status and Category 1 listing, requiring HNZPT's architectural advisors, the archaeologists asked whether the design team had sought the advice of a conservation architect or equivalent heritage consultant. It was at this point that I was brought to the table.

It was immediately apparent the proposed design did not conform with best practice heritage conservation. Beyond the truss, the heritage significance of the existing fabric had not been assessed or considered. An initial evaluation of the significance



The Rakaia Gorge No.1 Bridge at completion of the project.

# OCULUS Good practice helps retain heritage

From page 6

of fabric and a high-level assessment of effects on each of the bridge components was undertaken to show where the proposed design would result in negative effects on heritage.

The fundamental changes the proposal would make to the original design, and the wholesale removal of all historic timber fabric proposed, would have a significant adverse effect on the heritage values of the bridge. Without further investigation and option testing, this couldn't be justified on the grounds of engineering safety.

As a result, the design work, consents, and forthcoming construction programme were put on hold. A Conservation Management Plan was commissioned. Conservation Management Plans explain why a place is significant, what that significance is, and how to manage the place accordingly. Conservation Management Plans – a fundamental part of good conservation practice – are vital for the informed and appropriate treatment, and ongoing maintenance, of a historic structure.

With a complete draft of the Conservation Management Plan prepared, the design team (including me, Transport Agency Principal Heritage Specialist Ann Neill, and HNZPT representatives) met again to see how the plan's policies could inform changes that would avoid or minimise the negative impacts on the bridge's heritage significance.

The original hardwood transoms – a highly visual element of the bridge – and deck planks were significantly decayed. The engineers' original proposal to replace the timbers with new steel transoms at wider spacings was seen as necessary to reduce the

overall weight of the deck and thereby improve the bridge's resilience. To maintain the aesthetic of the original design, timber salvaged from original transoms was spliced to the ends. The new steel transoms were dated to record the introduction of new fabric.

The concrete parapets at the bridge ends were in poor condition with cracks, moss, flaking paint and graffiti carved into the rendered finish. The parapets were stripped of paint and defective render, repaired, re-rendered and re-painted white. Areas of graffiti deemed to be of heritage value – some of which was dated – were retained as part of the refurbishment and the new render was placed around and finished to match. As well as conservation-related benefits, the restoration and painting improved the parapets' visibility and safety of the road user.

Rather than replacing the balustrades with new metal barriers as proposed, the balustrades were taken apart in numbered sections and reconstructed using as many of the historic components as their condition permitted. Where this was not possible, new hardwood was used, with joints detailed to match the original as closely as possible. The new material was date stamped to indicate the introduction of modern fabric. Historic straps and

fixings were cleaned, repainted and reinstated; and new straps and fixings were made to match where required.

The original longitudinal timber decking which remained underneath a modern layer of timber and seal was removed due to advanced decay and replaced with NiuDeck. This significantly reduced the deck's weight, reducing stress on the superstructure

below, and resolved water drainage issues which had negatively affected the structure.

Salvaged timber decking was donated to an adjacent landowner for construction of signage and furniture along a walking track from which the bridge is visible.

Balancing the heritage, engineering and safety performance requirements at the Rakaia Gorge No.1 Bridge did

not come without compromise. It was not possible to avoid all negative effects on the bridge's heritage values, nor was it possible to achieve a design that was compliant with the Transport Agency's standards for new bridges. However, understanding the significance of the bridge and its fabric, and the appropriate levels of intervention based on this significance, was critical to the development of a balanced solution. This was recognised by Structural Engineering Society New Zealand, which gave the project the Award for Structural Heritage in 2021.



Original transoms and deck planks find new life in hardwood benches, gifted to the Taniwha Track, and walking track signs (below).



The damaged balustrade prior to repair.



The repaired balustrade.

# Carnegie Library could remain as cultural centre

Various proposals to strengthen and redevelop Dannevirke's Carnegie Library building have so far come to nothing. But the building could still be brought back to life with a viable redevelopment proposal.

As a "priority earthquake-prone building", a statutory 7½ year deadline for redevelopment or demolition was triggered only recently.

Dannevirke's first public library was operated by member subscription, limiting its use to those in the community with cash to spare for a library fee. In 1869, the Government passed the New Zealand Public Libraries Act in which local councils would take over public libraries and provide finance by a small, dedicated rate. Few councils acted on this, because most considered providing a suitable building would be too expensive.

Andrew Carnegie, a Scot who emigrated to the United States and made his fortune in the steel industry, established a grant scheme to provide finance for library buildings and enable free access for all to literature and knowledge. However, some – particularly in the US – were reluctant to take up a Carnegie grant as they felt the money was tainted because he treated his workforce poorly. The most significant barrier to making an application was the stipulation the library should provide services free. Most local authorities were wary of making this commitment.

Nevertheless, between 1879 and 1917, when the scheme was discontinued, Carnegie grants financed the building of 2509 libraries worldwide, with the most in USA, Canada, United Kingdom and – in fourth – New Zealand.

Dannevirke Carnegie Library was one of the 18 public libraries built in New Zealand. Dunedin gained the first grant in 1902, when Dannevirke Borough Council was considering applying to the Carnegie Foundation but some councillors were against it. The application went ahead in 1905 and the grant was approved with conditions: the site had to be debt-free, the library service must be free, and council must invoke a dedicated library rate covered by the 1869 Public Libraries Act.

Local architect Sholto Lamb designed the building, and the plans were approved by Carnegie's secretary in the US. A notable feature of the design was



With the right vision, funding and people, Dannevirke's Carnegie Library building could remain.

a central heating system, which earned Dannevirke the accolade of being the first municipal public library in New Zealand with this modern amenity.

The Dannevirke Carnegie Library opened in 1908, after deliberations by the financially cautious council had again delayed progress. Dannevirke's local authority, along with some others in New Zealand, put their own interpretation on what constituted a "free" service. A free reading room was provided in the building but, quite contrary to Carnegie's intention, there was a charge for borrowing books. The building was used as the town's public library until 1984 when a new library was built. Since then, the building has had various community uses.

It has been suggested that building architecturally designed Carnegie libraries in New Zealand was instrumental in early 20th century library design, and establishing public libraries as an important part of New Zealand's social and cultural heritage.

Twelve of New Zealand's 18 Carnegie libraries remain but only Marton and Balclutha's still operate as libraries.

The Hastings Carnegie library was first to go, destroyed in the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake. The Greymouth Library was destroyed in a fire in 1947. Four others were demolished. Most of the remaining Carnegie Library buildings remain in community use including the Gore Library building, now an art gallery; the Onehunga building, housing Carnegie's Restaurant; and

Thames, housing a theatre. Each has been fully restored and provides a prominent local heritage landmark.

Dannevirke's library could continue as a community centre, with galleries

and an auditorium. But any proposal would need seismic strengthening of the brick walls. Successive quakes since the 1930s has seen further structural cracks.

Tararua District Council is reluctant to meet redevelopment

costs, due to other major financial commitments. Funding is available for this type of project but significant local fundraising would be required. Complex application procedures are time-consuming for council staff and difficult for voluntary organisations possibly without the necessary time and skills to tackle the voluminous paperwork required. Retaining the facade could be the fall-back position.

The Dannevirke Carnegie Library is on the Heritage New Zealand list and the Tararua District Plan, rated in both as Category II. Historic Places Hawke's Bay, and HNZPT are keen to see the building retained as a prime element of Dannevirke's heritage.

A local incorporated society worked with the council over the past four years to give the building a future but their efforts were derailed by the intervention of Covid. Maybe the group can be revived or is there a developer with the vision, skills and finance to retain this rare and important heritage site and potential community cultural facility in southern Hawke's Bay?







Alone on Hereford Street after the earthquakes.



At the media stand-up when Christchurch Heritage Trust bought the building for a dollar. Dame Anna Crighton (centre) speaks to gathered media, June 2015.



The big lift over the overhead tram lines.



In its new position in Manchester St, Shand's opened as Paddy McNaughton's Old Ale House in December 2021. Christchurch Heritage Trust is also restoring the Trinity Church next door but that is a story for another issue.

## Raising toast to wooden taonga

Christchurch's oldest wooden commercial building in the central business district has been reincarnated as Christchurch's smallest Irish Pub.

Shand's – built in 1860 on land owned by farmer John Shand – is one of the few surviving buildings from the early period of colonisation.

Listed as Group 2 on the Christchurch District Plan and Category 1 by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the building originally housed professional offices until its conversion to shops in 1977, when it was named Shand's Emporium. This use continued until 1993.

It suffered a moderate amount of damage as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010-11 but the neighbouring buildings did not fare so well.

Following the quakes, the Olympia Building and former New Zealand Trust and Loan Building to its west and Gough House at 90 Hereford Street to its east were demolished, along with all other buildings on the south side of that Hereford Street block.

Shand's was saved as a result of protracted efforts by heritage interest groups and private individuals to find a suitable new home for the building.

Its retention through relocation and careful restoration and partial reconstruction by Christchurch Heritage Trust have meant that this modest colonial building continues to survive as the oldest surviving

timber commercial building within the Christchurch CBD.

Christchurch Heritage Trust bought the building in 2015 for a dollar.

The first step was to relocate the Shands building to its new site beside the Trinity Congregational Church, Christchurch's oldest CBD stone church.

This involved a high-profile, night-time shift along the city streets from High Street to Manchester Street, including lifting the structure over the city's tram lines.

The building was temporarily located to the rear of the site, before being relocated to its final resting place once the foundations were completed.

The building was then completely stripped out from subfloor to roof, strengthened and restored. As much as possible of the original timberwork and joinery was retained.

A new precast building was constructed to the rear of Shands, including toilets and space for commercial kitchen.

Full credit and kudos for the building's restoration goes to the trust chaired by Dame Anna Crighton.

Following its move to Manchester Street, the building opened as Paddy McNaughton's Old Ale House in December 2021.

The heritage trust also bought the neighbouring Trinity Congregational Church.

Its plans for this building will be the subject of a future issue of Oculus.

## Heritage protection a priority

From page 1

While MCH and Heritage NZ did not receive any real new money in Budget 2022 to help built and archaeological heritage, they did receive extra funding to allow business to continue as normal.

DoC, however, received around \$13M over four years for heritage buildings and sites under their care including Tohu Whenua sites.

The next round of RMA reform documents is expected to be released soon. If the rumours in Wellington are correct, the heritage fraternity will have a lot of work to do to advocate for heritage.

I am deeply concerned heritage protection may be lost in the proposed replacement of the RMA. We may also see all existing heritage buildings needing to be reassessed.

While these rumours didn't come from my meetings with government staff and may not be reliable, I expect we will have a lot of work to do to advocate for heritage protection in the next six months, as we compete with the need for more housing. Let's hope it is just rumours.

On a good note, it was heartening to hear of the outcome of a meeting between ICOMOS NZ and Minister Allan on DoC's World Heritage workstream. I am hopeful we might see some movement this year towards putting one of our key heritage sites forward to UNESCO for World Heritage status.

Enjoy the new Matariki holiday.

### HPA's Member Organisations

Historic Places Auckland  
– Tamaki Makaurau  
HP Tairāwhiti  
HP Hawke's Bay  
Heritage Taranaki Inc  
Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust  
HP Manawatu-Horowhenua  
HP Wellington  
HP Canterbury  
HP Mid Canterbury

### Associate Members

Civic Trust Auckland  
Remuera Heritage Inc  
Patea Historical Society  
Heritage Wairarapa  
Sth Canterbury Historical Society  
Timaru Civic Trust

## Blue Plaques reach Auckland

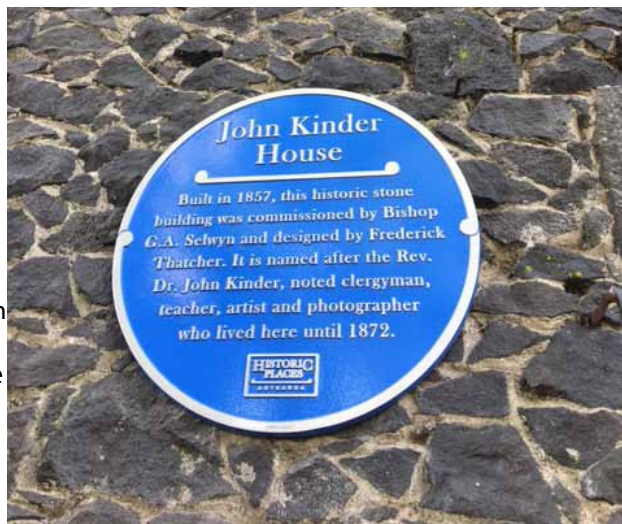
Auckland finally has its first Blue Plaque installed and due to be unveiled early next month on Kinder House in Parnell.

This is one of only three Blue Plaques in place on heritage buildings in the North Island, the bulk being in place in the South Island.

The Kinder House plaque will be unveiled in a ceremony on 3 July 2022.

The current 23 plaques are:

- 1 . Ashburton Railway Footbridge, 2017
- 2 . Pioneer Hall, Havelock St, 2018
- 3 . Church of the Holy Name, Sealy St, 2019
- 4 . Mill House (Ashfords), West St, Ashburton, 2019
- 5 . Federated Farmers Building, West Street, 2019
- 6 . Stone Cottage, Hakatere Station, 2019
- 7 . Ashburton Courthouse, Baring Square West, 2019
- 8 . Doctor's House, Kurow (Jan 2020)
- 9 . Land Service building, George St, Timaru, 2020
- 10 . Sacred Heart Basilica, Craigie Avenue, Timaru, 2020
- 11 . Sexton Building, Ashburton Cemetery, 2020
- 12 . The Mt Hutt Road Board Office, Methven, 2021
- 13 . Former Bank of NSW (Speights Ale House), Burnett Street, 2021
- 14 . Canterbury Hotel (Brown Pub), Methven, 2021
- 15 . Duncans Building, High St, Christchurch, 2021
- 16 . Chalmers Church, Sophia St, Timaru, 2021
- 17 . St Mary's Church, Timaru (to be installed, 2022)
- 18 . Customhouse, Timaru, (to be installed, 2022)
- 19 . BNZ Raetihi, Waimarino, 2021
- 20 . Timaru Boys High School Memorial Library, Timaru, 2021
- 21 . Kinder House, Parnell, Auckland, 2022
- 22 . Randell Cottage, Wellington, 2022
- 23 . Kate Sheppard House, Christchurch (to be installed 2022)



## Transport theme for heritage month

Make sure you put Whanganui in your October travel plans this year.

Transport is the theme for Whanganui Heritage Month 2022 scheduled for Saturday 8 October to Sunday 30 October. The varied programme has 35 events to date.



The Heritage Month line-up includes Whanganui's first heritage parade and park-up including horse-drawn carriages, cycles and vintage cars.

The full programme will be available to view from early August at

[whanganuiheritagetrust.org.nz](http://whanganuiheritagetrust.org.nz)

### KEY DATES & TIMES 2022

#### Opening Festivities:

Saturday 8 October, Whanganui Regional Museum Powhiri 10am & riverside heritage market, bands & boats from 11am

#### Labour Weekend:

Heritage Vehicle Parade: Saturday 22 October, Victoria Avenue from 1pm

Heritage Vehicle Display: Sunday 23, 10am-4pm



In Māori tradition, the Aotea canoe made landfall at Aotea Harbour in Waikato. The crew travelled south overland and established themselves at Pātea. The event is commemorated in this memorial erected in Pātea in 1933, 'in remembrance of Turi and Rongorongo [his wife], their family and fellow voyagers'.

## Taranaki heritage month back on agenda

by Rob Green & Robert Young, *Heritage Taranaki*

It will be second time lucky for Heritage Taranaki when it hosts its inaugural Heritage Month in October this year. Events planned for 2021 were cancelled due to Covid.

Working in collaboration with iwi and hapū, museums, historical societies and other such community groups, Heritage Taranaki has organised a month-long programme of activities to reflect upon and facilitate the sharing of community understanding of the province's complex and interesting past.

Activities begin with a pōwhiri on Saturday 1 October at Puke Ariki, kindly hosted by the local Te Kaunihera committee.

A new mural will be unveiled on the wall of Puke Ariki followed by fellowship and kai. Buses will then transport people to New Plymouth Airport to hear the explanation of the Ngā Hinga Whakairo- the artwork embedded in the interior architecture of this award-winning terminal.

On the evening of 6 October, a panel discussion will focus on the broader definition of heritage; what is heritage, who has ownership over it, what are the consequences of decisions made, who do we entrust to make these decisions and how do these decisions resonate from our past into our present?

The panel of experts comprises Race Relations Conciliator Meng Foon, Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga CE Andrew Coleman, Brett Graham, a recent artist in residence at the Govett Brewster Gallery (Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, Tainui); Jay Ruka, Manuhautū of Taranaki Cathedral; Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, MP Te Paati Māori, Ngāti Ruanui.

The discussion will invite audience participation.

Organising committee chair Rob Green believes an honest gaze to face the past is well due.

"The stories we tell ourselves of our heritage will naturally be different according to our perspective, our 'lens'.

"We need to challenge ourselves to better understand how our identity is reflected and reinforced through the monuments and heritage chosen to be honoured and celebrated."

The month will include engagements with all Taranaki museums; Puke Ariki, Aotea Utanganui (Museum of South Taranaki) and Nigel Ogle's renowned Tawhiti Museum along with historical societies and other such organisations across the province.

Several field trips are planned in North and South Taranaki, led by local archaeologist and historian Ivan Bruce and historian Ron Lambert.

The programme will conclude on 5

November as events surrounding the invasion of Parihaka on 5 November 1881 are recalled.

The 28 October 1835 is the day of the Declaration of Independence, identified as the national day on which to commemorate the New Zealand Wars, Te Pūtake o te Riri. This year, the event will be held at Orākau and a group will travel to support the occasion.

The Government has decided that New Zealand's history will now be taught in the school curriculum. While this decision has been widely welcomed, it remains unclear how different groups will support or become involved.

Rob Green said Heritage Taranaki members looked forward to focusing on a wider consciousness of the region's past and raising the profile of our Taranaki heritage.

"Heritage Taranaki hopes, at month's end, people will feel that they have a better grasp on local heritage and a thirst for more.

"Our aspiration is that the Taranaki Heritage Month becomes an annual fixture for our province."

The programme is currently being finalised and will soon be published on Heritage Taranaki's website and Facebook page.

Please visit Heritage Taranaki's Facebook page for event details closer to October.

Visit [historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz](http://historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz)