

SHIELDSCO

RMA change a threat to heritage

FROM THE TOP

HPA President James Blackburne

This, my last, President's column for Oculus gives me a chance to get on the soapbox. This is my personal opinion and does not necessarily represent the views of HPA.

The Government intends to introduce the Natural and Built Environments Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill to Parliament in October 2022. The third Bill, the Climate Adaptation Bill, is expected to follow in 2023 and, if the rumours around Wellington are anything to go by, the replacement of the RMA is likely to create a threat to heritage.

The exposure draft of the Natural and Built Environments Bill appeared to be heavily focused on increasing



the number of houses in New Zealand in response to the housing shortage. Some would suggest that there was not actually a shortage of houses, but rather a shortage of ones that were able to be utilised on a long-term basis. A

recent newspaper article indicates that, before Covid, a significant part of the housing stock had been converted to short-term accommodation and let via apps such as AirBnB and Bookabach. Many of these houses have now been converted back to long-term housing/rentals etc and this, coupled with the house building programmes around the country, is starting to see the pendulum swing back towards a greater supply of houses.

Continued on page 6

Council takes lead in town

By Julie Luxton, HP Mid Canterbury chair

Who would have thought a simple letter to Council would have had such a great result?

In 2020, the Ashburton District Council came out in a newspaper article saying that when they redeveloped the town centre they wanted to recognise its heritage.

We very quickly wrote to them telling them about how our committee had 'bounced' around ideas on this subject on several occasions.

Before long, Council's Group Community Services manager Steve Fabish contacted me to set up a meeting.

We were one of three groups/people to write in with ideas. Taking this on board and looking for community buy-in, Steve set up a meeting with a representative of each group/individual, also two elected councillors, himself and a museum representative.

I must admit I was very excited and managed to 'steal the thunder' of the other two community representatives



One of four interpretation panels in Ashburton.

by talking first (ladies first, I believe) about the scope of this group to promote, not only our town's heritage, but our whole district.

It has been an exciting journey as the Mid Canterbury Heritage Working Party was formed. There tends to be some strong ideas, not always on the same page, but I've come to accept it is good to debate.

The first project is complete, see picture at left of one of the four interpretation panels that now tell people about our

town's past as you wander along the green. We have several other projects on the go, although these may take some time to complete.

With council elections happening soon, one of this group's councillors is retiring, but I am confident the other will be re-elected. A heritage empathic ear or two (councillors and staff) is always helpful for heritage advocates such as us.

I never thought that simple letter would have such a good result!

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

explained



FASCES (FASS-eez) from the Latin word *fascis*, meaning "bundle". Fasces is a bound bundle of wooden rods, sometimes including an axe (occasionally two axes) with its blade emerging. The fasces is an Italian symbol that had its origin in the Etruscan civilization and was passed on to ancient Rome, where it symbolized a magistrate's power and jurisdiction. The image has survived in the modern world as a representation of magisterial or collective power, law, and governance. It was the origin of the name of the National Fascist Party in Italy (from which the term fascism is derived).



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@salmondreed.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

HPA EXECUTIVE MAHI



By Denis Pilkington

Website Development:

We are now progressing on development of a new website. In a new development a separate site is also being set up to cover Blue Plaques. You can have a look at progress on this site at HPA site: <https://www.hpa.blueplaques.nz/>
Blue plaques website: <https://www.blueplaques.nz/>

We hope Member Organisations are keeping up with requests for information needed for the website.

Membership Development:

We continue to encourage local heritage organisations to affiliate to HPA. Nigel Gilkison reports on some recent outreach activity in South Canterbury. The positive reaction from the local groups leads us to hope some might eventually join our ranks.

Oamaru & Waimate Heritage Kōrero

Mark Gerrard and Nigel Gilkison, with the support of HPA, HP Mid Canterbury and HP Canterbury recently took part in heritage gatherings in Oamaru and Waimate, arranged to encourage discussion about how local heritage groups can better collaborate.

In these workshops, Nigel and Mark spoke about their own heritage group's experiences and shared insights into some of the campaigns and projects they had been involved with and invited participants to share their experiences also.

Individually, there were some heritage groups (such as the Puketapu Community Trust in Palmerston) doing some fantastic work and it was great to hear about the successes they were having.

However, the lack of connectivity and collaboration between local heritage groups, particularly since the dissolution of the former Historic Places Trust branch committees in 2014, was a common theme to arise. There was an underlying belief that the various heritage groups would be stronger if they could share their heritage experiences, knowledge, and ideas - and learn from the experiences of others.

The Oamaru workshops, chaired by local heritage advocate Helen Stead, attracted around 40 participants to the initial kōrero in May and sparked a follow-up workshop in August.

Nigel talked on the same topic to a meeting of heritage groups in Waimate in July, coordinated by Peter Vendetti of Waimate2gether.

Pre-Covid, Mark and Nigel initiated an informal regional gathering at Ashburton including HPC HPMC, Timaru Civic Trust and the South Canterbury Historical Society. This was deemed a success as the attendees swapped stories and advice and it was agreed to turn this into an annual 'forum' to get together and share knowledge and to discuss common issues.

HPCanterbury, HPMC and the Timaru Civic Trust are committed to continuing to reach out to heritage groups within our districts to work together for better outcomes for heritage. We will continue to run our annual heritage forum, this year extending the invitation to our neighbours in Waimate and Oamaru.

Mark Gerrard is chair of HPCanterbury and HPA executive member Nigel Gilkison is deputy chair of HP Mid Canterbury and chair of Timaru Civic Trust, an HPA Associate member. Both Mark and Nigel are also committee members of HPMid Canterbury.

National Heritage Conference

This major new event has been postponed several times and, sadly, we report this is again the case. However, we look forward to this event taking place some time next year.

Member Organisations Chairs' Forum

The most recent of these quarterly video meetings was held last month. The meeting included an exchange of ideas on local activities aimed at promoting interest in heritage which proved useful for the participants. The next meeting is due in November but will probably be superseded by the AGM where we will have the opportunity to meet in person.

Ministry for Culture and Heritage

These regular meetings continue and contribute to a stronger relationship between HPA and MCH. We have reached the stage where we are able to provide some input into the formulation of policies on heritage protection. More information is included in a separate article in this issue.

A Day in the Life... at Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga

By Nic Jackson, Deputy Chief Executive - Operations

Well it's been almost five years that I have been in the then new role of Deputy Chief Executive Operations and the work continues to be varied and rewarding.

I look after our regional and area offices and our wonderful and special properties located throughout New Zealand.

My experience working as a planner in regional offices providing heritage advice and then later in the policy team looking after the New Zealand Heritage List/Rarangi Korero and then as manager has provided excellent grounding for this role.

No day is ever the same. One day I can be presenting a life membership to a long-term volunteer at a property and meeting a fantastic group of conservation and tour guide volunteers, and the next I can be attending a Tohu Whenua steering group meeting or a sensational launch of a new place into the programme with its fascinating story. Or visits to the properties to talk about upcoming maintenance and conservation requirements and perhaps more exciting, the opportunity to discuss the potentials for public engagement.

Digital opportunities allow us to reach even more people as our first ever 'live online tour' of Antrim House for our members showed last month.

Our properties are unique and each has an important part of Aotearoa New Zealand history to impart.

And yes, there are the usual day-to-day dilemmas involving archaeological authorities, alterations to listed heritage and policy queries.

Misconceptions

When talking to people about what I do, I am still astounded by the misconceptions about heritage protection and our role at Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. Many people believe we have the power to prevent or require owners to do certain



Nic Jackson, Deputy Chief Executive - Operations, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

things, failing to recognise the role of district councils and our role of providing advice.

While we do issue archaeological authorities (consents), which allow some sites to be modified or destroyed and the secrets contained in these sites recorded and shared, many more sites are often avoided

through and because of this process.

Our work in this regard doesn't seem to get any less, in fact engagement with others interested in heritage seems to be growing. What continues to impress me is that almost everyone I come into contact with in a private capacity is interested in heritage – they might not use that term but they are interested in where they live or where they are from and what has gone before.

Researching own history

Heritage places are where people live, work, play and come together. Many are interested in whakapapa or genealogy. Family history research is a growing interest it seems with the arrival of affordable and comparable DNA testing. Once you start up a conversation, it never takes long, at least in New Zealand, to find a common connection – be it a place or a person.

I recently began my own 'Ancestry' journey. I am fortunate that both my parents have spent considerable time each researching their family history – even more impressive is that they had to travel overseas to consult church registers as digitisation is a relatively recent arrival. I, on the other hand, can do much research sitting in

front of my computer. I visited various cemeteries throughout the new year to view headstones of my ancestors and it is a powerful link to these people now passed on. Papers Past is a wonder treasure trove to dip in and out of.

Sheppard connection

Recently, we made the discovery that my mother's great grandmother Margaret Mark, from County Antrim, who we knew had moved to New Zealand departing in 1868 aged 20 as a servant, was on the same ship as Kate Sheppard and her family. Kate was a similar age to Margaret and despite being from different sides of the track, as it were – cabin class versus assisted passage, I like to imagine them leaning on a handrail on the ship's deck talking together. Perhaps this meeting inspired Margaret, for all her daughters went on to higher study with Margaret Florence Louisa Olliver being the first woman to attain a MSc from then Canterbury College in 1907. It certainly pays to read through the entire passenger list and to know maiden names. Another coincidence is that they both married a 'Walter'.

This connection to Kate Sheppard is even more poignant for me as I was intimately involved in the purchase and repurposing of her home in Ilam, Christchurch where Kate spent crucial years of the campaign including pasting together the 'monster' petition.

One of my career highlights has been ensuring Te Whare Waiutuutu Kate Sheppard House was protected, conserved and made available to everyone. The transformation from a private residence to a place telling the story of women's suffrage and human rights, while retaining its domestic feel as the home of Kate and Walter Sheppard has been masterfully achieved.

It's never a dull day working at

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, meeting supporters of our heritage and hearing the many stories. Our nation's important history is just too interesting.



Rich history in grand, beguiling homestead

By Ann Galloway, FNZIA

Built in 1882, Mt Vernon Homestead near Waipukurau is a Category 1 historic place. Mt Vernon Station was established by John Harding in 1854 and the present house is the third on the property.

John Harding was a self-made man, a staunch Methodist and Temperance man, who with a former Premier of New Zealand, Sir William Fox, founded the New Zealand Alliance in 1886.

Harding was an admirer of George Washington, the first President of the United States. It is understood that he instructed his architect Ben Smith to design a residence resembling Washington's famous house, Mt Vernon.

Mount Vernon is an elegant and imposing house, incorporating refined classical detailing. The original architectural drawings are still in the house and include details of elaborate cornices, the gracious sweeping staircase and timber joinery. Other notable features include richly-detailed timber panelling in the entry lobby; a rooftop lantern window and flagpole;



South and east facades, c1890s. Previous dwelling is visible through the veranda arch to the right. [Source: Miriam McGregor "Early Stations of Hawke's Bay"]

exterior doors which slide into the wall cavity; a faux marble fireplace in the study; a slate roof and a full basement constructed in concrete. The house exterior was originally solid plaster, with lath-and-plaster interiors.

The house was damaged during the Napier Earthquake on 3 February 1931, to the extent that the exterior plaster and most of the interior linings had to be removed, and the Harding family had to move out. However, the slate roof and remarkable

stair leadlight remained undamaged. The house was temporarily sheathed in corrugated iron, and was re-clad in heart matai weatherboards in 1940.

In 1957, much of the interior was relined with fibrous plaster – although two bedrooms and the formal dining room were left unlined – and the family was able to move back in.

The property went on the market in 2017 for the first time since it was built, having been in the Harding family for six generations. While the 'bones' of the house were in remarkable condition, there were problems with leaks in the roof and basement, and the kitchen, laundry and sole bathroom were in need of updating.

Continued page 5



Stair leadlight by Robert Martin, Wellington. Michelle Hepburn



First floor, flooring removed. Showing sawdust and pumice sound deadening, gas pipe for lighting, tops of herringbone struts between the floor joists. Ann Galloway



North façade 2017 (above) and 2020 (below). Ann Galloway



Outdoor living now on north side

From page 4:

Ann Galloway Architect Ltd was engaged to coordinate repairs, and design the updated facilities as well as a new porch and outdoor living to the north (which was originally the 'back' of the house where the kitchens and staff quarters were located).

The first stage of work was to make the house safe from water ingress and from fire. The roof was repaired with a mix of original and recycled slate, stormwater management improved and a sprinkler system installed. Next, the bathroom facilities and other services were updated and a porch and courtyard created, transforming the north-facing 'back' of the house from a service area into an elegant outdoor living area. The kitchen and laundry were also updated.

In the process of this work, the timberwork, the beautiful leadlight windows and exterior cavity-sliding

doors – all features designed by the original architect, Ben Smith – received some restoration and TLC.

While the sprinkler pipework was being installed, other 19th century innovations were discovered beneath the floorboards, including acoustic insulation provided by a thick layer of pumice and sawdust, and pipes which had supplied carbide gas to light fittings in the main ground floor rooms.

Mt Vernon Villa – as it is now known – is a beguiling house and evoked a strong response from everybody involved in the restoration.

The team produced first-class workmanship, intended not only to complement the original building, but enhance the character of the property and ensure that its story continues to be told for another 140 years.

Mt Vernon Villa won New Zealand Institute of Architects' 2021 award in Gisborne Hawkes Bay Category for Best Homestead Architecture.

INTRODUCING

Nigel Isaacs

HPA executive committee



Nigel Isaacs is researching historic New Zealand building by-laws.

NIGEL ISAACS is a board member of Historic Places Wellington and has been an HPA Board member since 2015.

His day job is teaching environmental science and the history of building technology at the Wellington School of Architecture, Victoria University of Wellington.

Before becoming a teaching academic, Nigel worked at BRANZ. His research was focused on how, why and where energy is used in New Zealand buildings. This led to work on the NZ Building Code Clause H1 "Energy Efficiency".

More recently he has been researching the history of New Zealand building controls.

He is interested not only in historic and heritage buildings but also the ways they are built and how this has changed over time. This under-explored part of New Zealand history is helping create new and innovative ways to understand our past.



Call for more brownfield sites to be developed

From page 1:

In Australia, it was found that many people were land-banking property due to the incredible increases in property values. Rather than rent them and suffer potential damage etc, the rapid increases in property values meant it was safer and easier to just sit back, pay a few costs and obtain incredible profits. We would be naive to think that the same was not happening in New Zealand.

I suspect that, with falling house values, higher mortgage rates, lack of tourists and young New Zealanders starting to travel again, we may find the shortage of houses becomes somewhat less important in coming years. But we are still likely to have a replacement Resource Management Act focused on increasing New Zealand's housing stock.

The issue I see is that both major parties are still greatly focused on increasing the housing stock and, apparently, at any cost. The Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021 was a prime example of a government reacting to public pressure



James Blackburne

without any real sense of the long-term implications of their decisions.

Don't get me wrong, the need for housing is immediate and critical. The issue I have is the so-called solution – incredibly heavy-handed to

date and likely to create long-term harm to the built environment of New Zealand.

The solution does not take local communities and their often unique issues into consideration in a meaningful way. What is good for one suburb may not be a good fit for another suburb or city. It is not a matter of "not in my back yard" but rather a matter of how best to develop more housing in a sustainable and meaningful manner in my back yard, and in a way that enhances the environment in which I live.

Also, we need to develop more brownfield sites and areas with poor-quality (eg leaky) housing stock rather than place blanket rules that don't consider heritage values and liveability.

In 2007, Carl Elefante, president of the American Institute of Architects, famously said, "The greenest building is

the one that already exists."

He also said, "Adaptable buildings are often the most sustainable". These quotes apply equally in Aotearoa.

We need to incentivise the conversion, rather than the destruction, of commercial and industrial heritage buildings, sensitively intensify heritage building areas and develop areas without quality built environments.

The quality of the built environment is critical to a community's success. As a country, we need to better understand what constitutes good urban design. The Urban Design Protocol already identifies seven essential design qualities that create quality urban design – the seven Cs, a combination of design processes and outcomes, are Context, Character, Choice, Connections, Creativity, Custodianship and Collaboration.

The major political parties appear to have forgotten this protocol exists and instead seem intent on demolishing vibrant, existing communities to create mass housing estates.

The RMA changes need the heritage sector to band together to lobby extremely hard to ensure heritage is not overlooked in any new legislation.

Early Māori and European history related in new books

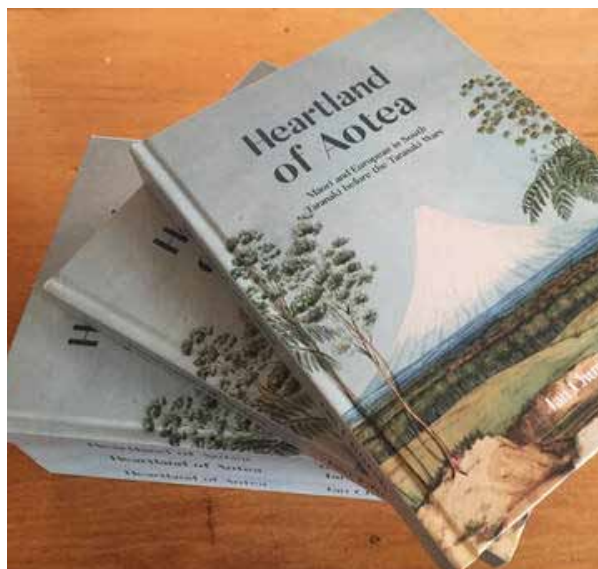
Pātea Historical Society has reprinted **Heartland of Aotea** by the late Ian Church, a historian and teacher at Pātea High School during the 1970s and 80s.

Church published this originally in 1991 as a basic manuscript. Before his death in 2013, he added more content and images and entrusted it to Kelvin Day to edit, and Pātea Historical Society to get it to print.

The result is a brilliant, detailed book about earliest Māori and European contact in the district.

This 400 glossy paged hard cover book is \$45 and can be bought from the society, jacq@dwyer.co.nz

The society has also published Ian Church's **Salutary Punishment**. This tells the story of the 74 men from Pakakohi tribe in the Pātea



area sent to Dunedin as prisoners of the Crown in 1869. The Pakakohi men automatically became guilty of treason because they put tribal allegiance first.

A decade later, 137 Parihaka men received the same prison sentence for ploughing their confiscated land

as a sign of passive resistance to this action.

These were dark days in New Zealand's history, but the telling of these times is more important today than ever.

The book is \$35 and can be bought through jacq@dwyer.co.nz

OCULUS Have RMA reforms cancelled heritage?

By Felicity Wong, HP Wellington

Restoration of old buildings has been thought of as a cultural aesthetic (or even nostalgic) matter. Now it should be one of responding to the crisis of global warming.

The greenest buildings are those that have already been built. In addition to the good social reasons why pre-existing buildings should be preserved, the climate crisis now demands it. Accounting for the embedded carbon in those buildings is crucial for our net zero emissions goal.

Demolishing old materials releases carbon back into the atmosphere and even more carbon is then used to create replacement buildings.

New developments only become carbon neutral decades after being built, if account is taken of making and transporting the steel and cement involved, as well as cladding and other materials.

Preserving at least some special, "heritage" old buildings has until now been a "matter of national importance" under s.6 of the RMA.

Cancelling heritage

Next month, we expect to see the draft Natural and Built Environment Bill and other associated RMA reforms. The extraordinary word we hear is that heritage protection will not feature at all in the Bill. Heritage, it seems, is being "cancelled" from the legislative framework for planning in Aotearoa/New Zealand, apparently in favour of "urban development".



The earlier "exposure draft" of the Bill at least mentioned the concept, even if it fell short of including it in the required components of the proposed new national planning framework.

Last year, HPA and many other heritage groups and individuals made strong submissions focused on rectifying that omission.

We asked for heritage to be a matter which regional and local plans had to consider along with other environmental "bottom lines", which were set out in the Bill.

We thought the Select Committee heard us loud and clear and expected that protection for built heritage would be required to be considered by local government in major planning processes and documents (as it is now). It took years for our built heritage to be recognised with the "national

importance" status under the RMA and now it seems we're on the cusp of seeing it done away with. It will be very bad for our heritage if it is not recognised in the new draft Bill.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga chair Andrew Coleman says there must be a

place for heritage planning in the new legislation to avoid any "us or them construct". He says the call

is for "heritage and environmental protection, heritage and climate change management, and heritage and sustainability".

It's not an either/or where we develop or retain heritage. The most modern jurisdictions recognise the role of heritage protection as central to responding to climate change by repurposing and re-using quality building materials. High-rise buildings are often designed with a shorter lifespan and are the worst from a

sustainability point of view, given the energy demands of lifts and maintenance.

Role of old buildings

Recognising the role old buildings play in whole-of-life carbon accounting will be critical to achieving a sustainable, decarbonised future.

Those buildings were built with much lower footprints and in most cases have much longer lifespans than the meagre 50 year life expected of modern buildings conceived in a whack it up, pull it down age of modern building consumption.

Properly valuing our heritage is needed in a really modern, future focused society. The RMA reforms need to take us forward to a more sustainable future, not backwards to a less sustainable present.

Insulating and reimagining old buildings will be a much lower energy solution.

As Andrew Coleman says, "the inclusion of Mataranga Māori is encouraging", but it needs to be "nested well alongside the rest of the country's extraordinary cultural heritage".

We thought the Select Committee heard us loud and clear and expected that protection for built heritage would be required to be considered by local government in major planning processes and documents (as it is now).

Heritage, it seems is being "cancelled" from the legislative framework for planning in Aotearoa/New Zealand, apparently in favour of "urban development".

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

HPA's Member Organisations

Historic Places Auckland
– Tamaki Makaurau
Heritage 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

Looking into heritage-making in Aotearoa cities



By Carolyn Hill | Heritage Architect | Lifescapes

What do young environmental planners value from the past in Aotearoa's urban environments?

This is a question I am currently exploring in my PhD research at the University of Waikato.

Focused on conversations in the city of Kirikiriroa Hamilton, the research examines how the concept of "heritage" is perceived and prioritised by young adults (18 – 25 years old) studying environmental planning. This cohort will be the future leaders in the planning field in Aotearoa. Their views and values relating to urban heritage is critical to understand as our cities grapple with multiple and competing pressures, from housing and infrastructure needs to cultural diversity and climate change adaptation. The study's purpose is to enable this age group's views to show future directions relating to heritage identification and management in the context of increasingly contested urban space.

The study's first avenue of inquiry involved semi-structured interviews with heritage professionals working across a range of public sector/non-governmental organisations, including the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry for the Environment, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, Historic Places Aotearoa, ICOMOS New Zealand and city councils across the country. These interviews have provided important insights into existing heritage policy in Aotearoa cities.

Participants shared their views on questions such as: How "heritage" in urban centres is currently identified and managed; how urban heritage concerns are managed alongside

other urban issues; unseen/unknown/under-represented heritage; and future directions for urban heritage policy and practice.

Professional participants were also asked to consider what key question they would ask young adults related to urban heritage. Their responses were insightful. Participants suggested questions around what is heritage and how is it defined; the importance of stories and storytelling; how young people see themselves and their own heritage in urban places; what is the value or significance of "old stuff"; how is that determined and who is it for; and how can heritage co-exist with other urban issues (climate change adaptation/housing/transport etc).

A question raised by one participant that particularly struck me was, "what's your place in the city, where do you go that fills your heart or brings you joy?"

It has been a privilege to carry these questions with me as I progressed into the study's second line of inquiry, being mobile interviews with young adults studying/practising in environmental planning in Kirikiriroa Hamilton.

While the underlying format of this research method follows a semi-structured interview format, they have been carried out as walking conversations through the urban realm. Each interview began in the centre of Kirikiriroa, close to the city's new regional theatre and within its oldest commercial district of Victoria Street. The route proceeded north, passing the historic Garden Place (created in the 1930s when Kirikiriroa's original hill was cut away) before crossing Waikato Te Awa into the historic inner-city suburb

of Claudelands. We have then followed River Road up the eastern side of the river to Miropiko Pā before circling back again.

The urban landscape itself has had a notable agency in this research approach. Rather than being a simple question/answer-type duologue, the interviews have emerged as three-way conversations between interviewer, participant and place, with the city environment carving circuitous paths through participants' memories, associations and observations.

While these interviews are yet to be analysed, the centrality of place experience in shaping people's perceptions and values is highlighted as a critical theme. This will be explored further in focus group sessions with participants, to be undertaken in November alongside targeted questions relating to future priorities and policy directions.

I will present a first paper from this research at the SAHANZ and UHPH joint conference in November. The paper explores the purpose and meaning of heritage in a period of significant urban contestation, tracing the history of heritage-making in Aotearoa's cities and analysing tensions between contemporary urban planning directions and historic places conservation.

The conference is being held in Tāmaki Makaurau this year, and its particular focus on the intersect between architectural history and urban planning concerns may be of interest to many in this field. I hope to see you there. www.lifescapes.co.nz



Wellington Heritage Fortnight
24 October – 6 November 2022

Programme available soon at
wellingtonheritageweek.co.nz

**EXPERIENCE WELLINGTON'S
PEOPLE, PLACES & STORIES**
Organised by Wellington Heritage Festival Trust

Team approach to protecting cultural heritage

Introducing Te Pae Kaupapa – Tukunga Ihotanga Heritage Policy at Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

By Kirsty de Jong, senior policy adviser MTMCH

Manatū Taonga is the Government's principal adviser on the cultural sector. Te Pae Kaupapa – Tukunga Ihotanga, the Ministry's Heritage Policy team, advises Ministers on legislation and policy related to the heritage sector and on opportunities for its development. The Ministers our team work with are Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Associate Minister, Hon Kiri Allan.

Over the last few years, our work has focused on strengthening heritage protection, supporting the Government's reform of the resource management system and the sector's recovery from COVID-19.

What this looks like on a day-to-day basis is a mix of working on long-term sector reform projects; writing quick turnaround pieces of advice; administering pieces of legislation and ensuring they're fit for purpose; attending Ministers' meetings; seeking sector input to feed back to Ministers; gathering evidence about what works to achieve positive outcomes for cultural heritage and collaborating with many other agencies to include cultural heritage in the work they do.

As a team of policy, heritage, archaeology, legal, and research professionals, we bring a wide range of skills and experience to this mahi.

As part of our strengthening heritage protection work we have revised the 2004 Policy for Government Departments' Management of Historic Heritage. The policy aims to improve outcomes for heritage by providing government agencies with best practice heritage management requirements for each stage of the property management cycle. The revised policy will be considered by Cabinet later this year. We are currently developing a programme to support government agencies to implement the revised policy.

Resource management system reform involves replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 (which governs how we manage and use our natural and physical resources), with three new pieces of legislation to better protect the environment; recognise Te Oranga o te Taio and Te Tiriti o Waitangi to a



Back row from left: Carmen Payne, principal policy advisor; Sophia Newton, policy advisor; Kirsty de Jong, senior policy advisor; Jonathan Easthope, principal policy advisor; Iain Shaw, senior policy advisor. Middle: Elaina Lauaki-Vea, senior policy advisor on secondment as Private Secretary to Minister Sepuloni; Mata Moke, executive assistant to Arts and Heritage Policy Managers; Hannah Mettner, policy advisor. Front: Asena Pouli, policy advisor; Polly O'Brien, manager; Keryn Lavery, senior policy advisor; Amanda Mulligan, senior policy advisor.

...we encourage the heritage sector to continue to engage and submit their views.

greater extent; improve climate change adaption and overall system efficiency.

Statutory heritage protection has been part of New Zealand's resource management system for a long time and our role during the reform process has been advising the Ministry for the Environment and our Ministers on the implications for cultural heritage protection in the new system.

There will be an opportunity for the sector to comment on the proposed Natural and Built Environments Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill when the Environment Select Committee conducts their enquiry into the bills in October and we encourage the heritage sector to continue to engage and submit their views.

As part of the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Package, our team has been involved in the policy development for initiatives such as the Museums Hardship Fund for museums to continue protecting and providing access to collections; the Mātauranga Māori Te Awe Kotuku programme, which invests in projects that safeguard mātauranga Māori; and the Pasifika Festivals initiative.

We're a team dedicated to all dimensions of cultural heritage protection...

It has been a real privilege for the team to have contributed to some landmark events for the country this year too, including the establishment of the new Matariki Public Holiday; facilitating the largest ever repatriation of Mori ancestral remains from around the world; and working with mana whenua, Pasifika leaders, Wellington City Council and Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington toward the building of a Fale Malae in Frank Kitts Park in Wellington, a 'Beehive' in the making for Pacific nations.

We're a team dedicated to all dimensions of cultural heritage protection and are consistently on the lookout for opportunities to support the sector via new initiatives or leveraging those that already exist.

We meet every two months with the Department of Conservation and the chairs of Historic Places Aotearoa, ICOMOS New Zealand and the New Zealand Archaeological Association. Their

insights always improve our work and engagement like this is an important part of the policy development process.

Our shared contribution is what makes the cultural sector thrive and when the culture is thriving, the people are well. Ki te puāwai te ahurea, Ka ora te iwi.



Time to learn from Taranaki's collective past

Taranaki is invited to turn its sights back to its past during a special month of heritage events in October.

Chairman of the Heritage Taranaki organising committee Rob Green says they plan a busy month of walks, talks, exhibitions and a special debate to remind the district's residents of their rich and colourful past

A panel of leading experts in the heritage field has been invited to take part in the debate and to help with some of the visits to heritage sites and on heritage walks

Following the disappointment of the Covid-cancelled heritage month in October last year, Rob said it was pleasing to see the event come to fruition after such a long time planning.

"This will be the first of what we hope will become an annual event in the region," Rob said.

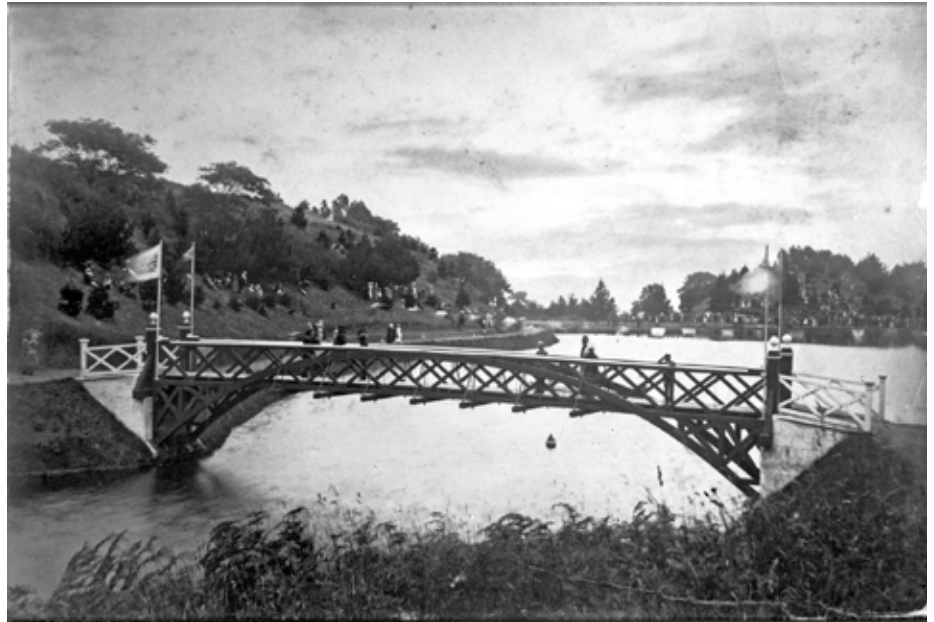
Events begin on Saturday 1 October with a pōwhiri at Puke Ariki Museum followed by the fascinating explanation of the kōrero around the Te Ātiawa whakapapa woven into the architecture at the award-winning New Plymouth Airport Terminal.

"We look forward to a lively and enlightening panel discussion of 6 October when our invited panel of well-informed guests will discuss the wider definition of heritage.

"What we choose to select and honour as heritage is something that is laden with many layers of meaning and values. The selection says something of our cultural lens. It, perhaps not so subtly, reflects ideas of who we believe we are and even more strongly suggests who we aspire to be.

"We will reflect on the process by which heritage is selected. Who makes these decisions?

"Importantly, we need to look to events of our past and how we



acknowledge these events, raise public consciousness and work together for our future."

On Friday 21 October, Professor of Politics at Massey University Richard Shaw traces his lineage back to farms on the Taranaki Coast around Pungarehu, detailed in his fascinating book, *The Forgotten Coast*. He will share his journey at Coastal Taranaki School at Okato, following a traditional Lamb and Calf Day.

Rob Green said the local museums – Puke Ariki, Aotea Utanganui and Tawhiti – will showcase their best as part of this inaugural month.

"We are a region rich in heritage and it is important for our residents and prospective visitors to experience this richness and diversity. In addition, walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, experienced individuals and professionals will share their knowledge through archaeological, historical and architectural site visits.

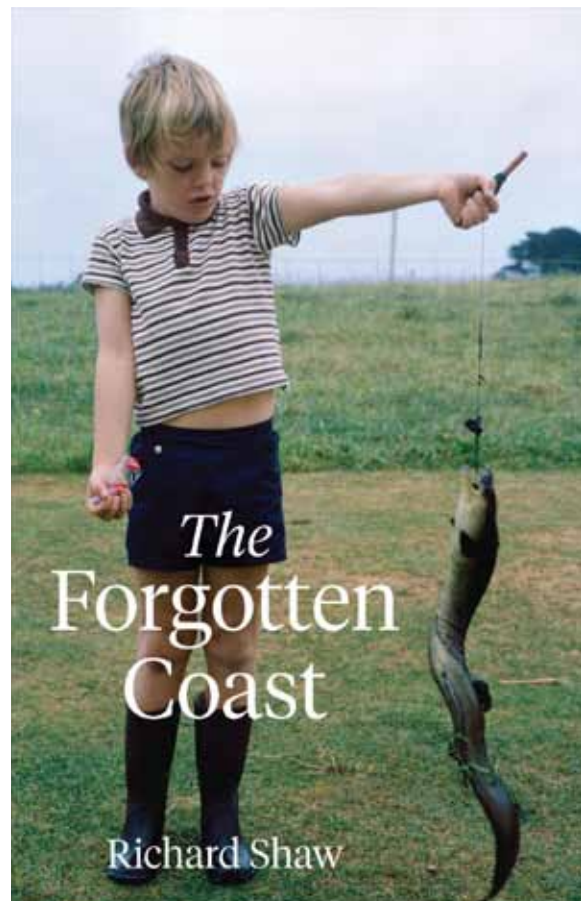
"As we eagerly anticipate this forthcoming month of events, we hope to inspire and enlighten folk of the importance of events, history and heritage as a means of learning from our collective past."

Taranaki's Heritage Month is outlined in an attractive and colourful brochure which portrays the events, dates and times and venues.

Please visit the Heritage Taranaki website heritagetaranaki.com and look for the Heritage Month 2022 link in the menu.

View or download the entire programme there.

Visit the Heritage Taranaki Facebook page for regular updates during the month as there may be some changes or additions to the programme.



Richard Shaw unpacks a generations-old family story he was never told: that his ancestors once farmed land in Taranaki which had been confiscated from its owners and sold to his great-grandfather, who had been with the Armed Constabulary when it invaded Parihaka in 1881.

Transport theme for Whanganui Heritage Month



Forty two events will be held as part of Whanganui's Heritage Month in October, focusing on transport.

Event Creator Helen Craig and a core group of event holders helped steer the event including the Sarjeant, Alexander Library, Museum, Mainstreet, Council, Bushy Park Homestead and Founders Society.

Event Coordinator Ann Petherick has introduced two new key events – the Riverboat Festival (8 Oct) and Heritage Parade (22 Oct). Platinum Sponsor Dale Pullen of Bushy Park Homestead Dale Pullen is looking forward to taking part in the parade with his Vintage 1947 Citroen Traction Avant Light 15 car.

The transport theme for this year's Whanganui Heritage Month, is jam-packed with action and fun events. "There's so much heritage in this town, that a month-long festival was needed to showcase it all" says event creator Helen Craig. "Whanganui was settled by Māori over 800 years ago and early European settlement established in the 1840s.

The Whanganui River was referred by some as the Rhine of the Pacific, providing easy access to the heart of the North Island.

"The Riverboat and transport history is epic", says coordinator Ann Petherick. "From a Category 1 Airport Control Tower, to the internationally unique Durie Hill Elevator, riverboats, buses and trams, it's all here and easily experienced. We have a rich cultural history, a high concentration of intact heritage buildings and numerous marae on the banks of the Whanganui River creating a wondrous road journey ending in Jerusalem. Whanganui reeks heritage"

Whanganui is home to the Waimarie – the only coal-powered paddle steamer in the southern hemisphere. Mable



Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust Chairman, Helen Craig and Event Coordinator, Ann Petherick promoting Whanganui Heritage Month

the Tram, beautifully restored and reminiscent of a once busy tram service provides short rides along the banks of the river. The Durie Hill Elevator takes passengers up through the heart of the hill to expansive views of the city and sea.

In addition Whanganui is the world's newest UNESCO City of Design due to its long history of Māori art and design on display at the Whanganui Regional Museum and pedigree of architecture, design and fine arts established in the early 1900s and embodied in the Sarjeant Art Gallery, currently under extensive restoration and expansion. Special feature events include the official pōwhiri opening on Saturday 8 October at the Whanganui Regional Museum, followed by a festive heritage market along the riverbank. Bands, boats, food, and craft will be a real highlight. We are expecting steamboats from around the North Island to ply the waterways including NZ Maritime Museum's SS Puke, and many

heritage vessels at a River Festival & Regatta. The largest River Event in over 70 years. Over Labour Weekend, a transport themed parade will be held, followed by a vehicle display on the Sunday. Other popular events include High Tea at the historic Bushy Park Homestead and walk the native bush tracks to the oldest and one of the tallest rata in the world, Rātānui. Boyds Auto Barn will be open and a two heritage antique fairs over Labour weekend will be huge attractions. There is something for every interest and the whole family. Whanganui Heritage Month is essentially about packing October full of heritage themed events, that give the visitor an in-depth heritage experience.

Full event information at whanganuiheritagetrust.org.nz
Or contact Helen Craig, 021 1030737
Ann Petherick: 027 3477533

Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust members Richard Bourne and Ann McNamara at the Whanganui Home Show.



Tairāwhiti heritage group changes name

It's official. Gisborne's Historic Places Tairāwhiti has a new name, Heritage Tairāwhiti.

The proposed new name, which the committee and many members see as more appropriate to the organisation's work and focus, was ratified by members at the group's AGM in August.

The name Historic Places Tairāwhiti has caused continual confusion with the former Historic Places Trust and its branch committees, abolished with the enactment of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

The committee expects this name change will put an end to the confusion and help forge a new, more encompassing heritage path within the region.



Ten teams of eight battled it out at the inaugural Historic Places Tairāwhiti Great History Quiz and Auction Night. The winning team is seated front right (below).




Hawke's Bay
HERITAGE AWARDS
2022

November date for Hawke's Bay Heritage Awards

Close to 40 entries have been received for the inaugural Hawke's Bay Heritage Awards – a new programme designed to recognise and celebrate those whose talents and energies preserve the region's cultural heritage.

The 39 entries received cover all eight categories and a wide area from Wairoa to Central Hawke's Bay.

The Heritage Awards will be presented at a gala ceremony at The Assembly Hall, Municipal Building, Hastings on Wednesday, 9 November 2022.

The Heritage Awards was established by the region's five councils and the Art Deco Trust, with support from

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, Historic Places Aotearoa, Historic Places Hawke's Bay, New Zealand Media and Entertainment, and Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.

To be held every two years, the awards recognise excellence in heritage and history conservation, heritage tourism and heritage storytelling, and will promote the values of world-class heritage retention and conservation to the wider community.

Art Deco Trust has been the main organiser with HP Hawke's Bay providing substantial financial and other support.

History quiz raises funds for building

More than \$7000 was raised towards restoring the 1934 Fred Forge-designed Plunket Building at Historic Places Tairāwhiti's first history quiz and auction fundraiser in August.

The quiz comprised a good mix of questions – both visual and aural – relating to Tairāwhiti, national and international history. One round focused on photographs of items from the collection of Tairāwhiti Museum.

Co-organiser Stefan Pishief initiated the quiz as a fun way to raise awareness of the district's heritage while raising money towards the restoration of the former Plunket Building, now Heritage Tairāwhiti's Centre for Heritage.

Generously donated items including books, accommodation, artwork, wine tastings and massage were auctioned half way through the evening.



First prize winners with the inaugural cup. From left are Zandria Taare, Nolian Andrew, Jane Luiten, Dave Andrew, Dell Buscke, Sharon Cornwall, Coralie Campbell-Whitehead and (front) Tyson Kingi.

Will the great plasterboard crisis end in court?

By Nigel Isaacs, HPA executive member and senior lecturer at the Wellington School of Architecture at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington

It might not be entirely fair, but we could blame the French for the great plasterboard crisis of 2022.

Louis XIV of France, following the destruction brought by the 1666 Great Fire of London, decreed timber frames of houses had to be covered with nailed boards and plaster, “both inside and out, in such a way that they are able to withstand fire”.

Enter gypsum plaster – or to give it its chemical name, hydrated calcium sulphate. With two molecules of water for each molecule of gypsum, it does a good job of resisting fire. Gypsum is often called ‘Plaster of Paris’ after the large deposits found at Montmartre in the French capital.

As well as fire protection, gypsum plaster provided a smooth, clean, paintable surface. Compared with timber sarking, it was reasonably airtight and kept out vermin, although it didn’t provide any structural benefit.

What was there not to like? The problem was the time for construction. The gypsum plaster coat was applied wet, so it took time to harden. This slowed the building process.

A solution eventually emerged in the form of fibrous plaster sheets that could be prefabricated and hardened off-site. They were made by adding animal hair or plant fibre to the gypsum to resist cracking.

The first hint of a rival to fibrous plaster appeared in 1883, when Augustine Sackett of New York patented a three-pile roofing paper - a continuous sandwich of paper, felt and paper cemented together, then cut to size. Sackett’s first plasterboard appeared in 1894. Improved by other inventors around the world, by 1920 modern plasterboard had arrived.

After the sarking years

Until the 1930s, most New Zealand councils allowed an interior wall lining of sarking (thin timber boards) covered with hessian-scrim to which wallpaper was attached. It had a trifecta of failure: it was unsanitary, unhygienic and highly flammable.

Fibrous plaster and the new plasterboard offered a real improvement. Imported wallboards were available and, by the 1920s, local production was being encouraged.

It was out of this milieu that Gib board would rise. In 1925, a new New Zealand company, Builders’ Composite Materials Limited, promoted its patented Vidite plaster wallboard as being water-proof, damp-proof, borer-proof, fire-resisting and good for nailing. This company only lasted two years before its plant was taken over by NZ Wallboards Ltd, the direct ancestor of Winstone Wallboards.

In 1932, the name became Gibraltar Board with the slogan “As Solid as the Rock of Gibraltar”. The company made wide use of ads promoting Gibraltar Board’s strength and fire resistance.

New benefits were advertised in 1938, including insulation against heat and cold, noise exclusion, and, where used to line walls and ceilings, providing bracing “three times stronger than weatherboards”. Since then, the product has continued to evolve.

Rewriting the rule book

At about the same time Gib board started rolling out the factory door, the country’s first national building bylaws were being developed.

Over subsequent decades, these bylaws went through various iterations – and became increasingly complex. They were largely prescriptive ‘do it this way’ rules, adjusted to suit local conditions and councils.

The introduction of the New Zealand Building Code in 1992 marked a significant departure. Instead of ‘do it this way’, the code says ‘achieve this performance’, requiring evidence the as-designed building will meet the national minimum performance requirements.

Where proof of performance is required by the building code, evidence must be provided – based on the properties of the actual materials and techniques – before building consent is issued. Under the code, plasterboard may be specified for its structural, fire resistance, water resistance and/or sound control performance compliance, each of which may require test evidence of its suitable performance. It may also have non-regulation roles, such as providing a low-maintenance surface suitable for painting or wallpapering. Once consent is issued, where a specific product, material or method is specified then it must be used – product substitution is generally not permitted, unless it can be shown to be appropriate through test results

or other evidence. MBIE has now published guidance on plasterboard product substitution.

Managing risk

Although today’s focus is on the use of one plasterboard product in short supply, the reality is the same situation could arise for any product used in a design to achieve building code compliance.

Louis XIV saw gypsum as a solution to a problem as a way to manage the risk of fire. But experience with the building code has made many involved in design and construction averse to any risk. The question remains whether the rules are still appropriately managing risk and still fit for purpose.

You might ask, why not just change the building design to avoid the use of a product in short supply? For example, if the specified plasterboard isn’t available, the structural bracing role can be replaced by plywood or other sheet material, as happens in other countries. This may result in extra material cost but can easily be carried out during the design process.

But it’s not so simple to make a change when the design is consented, or under construction. In the absence of products deemed to be equivalent, this may require redesign and re-consenting – both of which will have significant time and financial costs.

Unapproved substitution can lead to the building being refused a Code Compliance Certificate with consequential future legal problems for the owner (and potential purchaser) when the property is to be sold.

Is legal action the future?

The building code may be thought of as the ‘fence at the top of cliff’ with the legal system the ‘ambulance at the bottom’. This approach places great importance on the actions of the designer, builder and product supplier to ensure all requirements are implemented. It also reduces freedom to substitute products specified for compliance with the code – and is why any substitution under it requires clear management of liability.

It will not be acceptable to future house purchasers to discover that due to a hurried substitution, even if “approved”, their building either does not comply or is failing due to some unforeseen omission.