NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY 18 AUGUST, AT 5.45 PM (Refreshments from 5.15 pm)
AT ST ANDREWS ON THE TERRACE,
WELLINGTON CITY

The entrance is to the right of the church. Take the lift or stairs to the first floor

The meeting will be followed with a talk by Nigel Isaacs on three Museums of Buildings (open-air museums) he visited recently in the UK and USA. Nigel's talk will explore some of the many different buildings in these museums and how they relate to New Zealand. For more information on Nigel’s talk, see page 4 and accompanying photo, one of many he will use in illustrating what promises to be a lively account.

Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting*
3. Committee’s report (see Page 2 of this newsletter)
4. Treasurer’s report and financial statement*
5. Election of Committee
6. Proposed alterations to Rules of Historic Places Wellington*
7. Appointment of representatives to Historic Places Aotearoa Annual Meeting
8. Future directions
9. General business

* These papers are circulated separately to members with this email.

We encourage members to bring to the meeting this newsletter and any other papers that will assist you for full participation in the discussion. Item 8 is an opportunity for members to exchange views on future directions for the Society.

Current Committee members are: Deborah Cranko, John Daniels, Peter Dowell, Nigel Isaacs, Vivienne Morrell, Priscilla Williams. Additional committee members are sorely needed.
The Society held seven events during the year for members to learn more about historic places in the Wellington region. During the winter there was a talk on architectural photography, a workshop on photographing historic buildings, a talk on Wellington archaeology and one on New Zealand colonial furniture. In February historian Michael Kelly led a walk along the waterfront to look at the old wharf buildings and other notable landmarks. In March the society hosted a walk in Petone to see the first state houses built in New Zealand. A visit to Paekakariki in May, led by Kapiti historian Anthony Dreaver, toured historic buildings in the town, the Marines Memorial and Emerald Glen homestead.

Four newsletters were issued at quarterly intervals. These publicised the above events and also events being held by other organisations that related to Wellington heritage. The newsletters also contained other news stories and commentaries about historic places in the Wellington region, illustrating these when possible by photographs.

HPW also established a website and Facebook page during the year in order to provide a more direct digital presence. These contain news events of relevance; on the website also is an expanding photographic library of historic places in the Wellington region.

Within the advocacy area, the long-standing saga of the Harcourts Building came to a satisfactory end when the Environment Court once again declined consent for demolition and the owner decided not to continue to pursue this issue through the Courts. We have continued to support the retention of the former Marines hall in Titahi Bay, first by supporting an application by the City Council for Lottery funding for the building, and second by making a submission to the Council’s public consultation process. We are awaiting the outcome of both processes. We have identified the former GHQ building, near the new Pukeahu Park, as another important heritage building under threat of demolition and have advocated for its retention and restoration including through letters to Ministers and to the media. Committee members have visited Erskine College in Island Bay in order to familiarise themselves with the complex issues involved in this heritage site. We have written to Ministers expressing our concern about the lack of action on Turnbull House closed since 2012 because of earthquake risk.

We have assisted Historic Places Aotearoa in the formulation of national policy, including commenting on the draft set of policies developed by Heritage New Zealand. The society also provided input into two submissions relating to the Building Act – one to the Parliamentary Select Committee on earthquake-prone heritage buildings and the other to the Government consultation process on Emergency Management Powers.

We gave two grants of $500 each to the “Save the Basin” Organisation and to the Architectural Centre to assist with legal costs for defending the appeal relating to the proposed flyover by the Basin Reserve.

Heritage New Zealand sends to our society their draft registration proposals for all heritage places within the Wellington region. We consider all these and during the year have provided comments on two – the Freyberg Pool and the Executive Wing of Parliament (the Beehive).

Following negotiations with HPA and agreement at our last AGM, our Rules were changed in order to make HPW a fully independent society. As from 1 January 2015 the society took over full responsibility for its membership work. These changes were listed with the Charities Services and the Companies Office.
**Public Trust Building**

Members will have been watching with interest the work on the Public Trust Building to strengthen it seismically and restore it to its former glory. This photo is a sneak preview of the current state of the large ground floor room which is to be rented by international chef Jamie Oliver. We hope that the restaurant will appreciate the distinctive architectural features of this space. Upper floors will be rented by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage who will be appropriate tenants for one of Wellington’s best loved heritage buildings. Many members will recall our March 2014 tour of this building prior to restoration and courtesy of owners Maurice and Kaye Clark. Some more current photos are on our website.

**New Heritage**

The Executive Wing of the Beehive has been listed on the Heritage New Zealand Register as a Category 1 building. This decision and the recent one to list the Fryberg Pool also as Category 1 is a useful reminder that significant heritage buildings do not necessarily have to be old. Conversely the fact that a building is old does not in itself imply it is worth saving as many values and attributes are taken into account when deciding heritage listings.

**Happy 150th Birthday Wellington**

The weekend of 25/26 July, celebrating 150 years of Wellington as the capital city, was a significant success with thousands of people turning out to see their favourite buildings or cultural events. It was a great opportunity to see some of the city’s best heritage buildings including ones not normally open to the public. One of the most significant was Premier House which had not had a public opening since 1990. No photos allowed there but here is one of the huge new attic space in the Museum of Wellington (formerly the Wellington Museum of City and Sea) which was also on display at the weekend and should be open soon.

If you missed the exhibition showing at the weekend at the Holocaust Centre in Webb St about Jewish refugee architects in Wellington and their work, this is expected to be showing soon at another venue.
And finally we cannot resist showing two photos of the delightful light and sound show that was running concurrently at Old St Pauls. It was a wonderful tribute to one of our most important heritage buildings and to those who have helped to save it.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Talk by Nigel Isaacs on Museums of Buildings**
From February to June this year, Nigel Isaacs (HPW committee member and Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture, Victoria University of Wellington) was on sabbatical at The Bartlett School of Architecture, London. His travels in England and eastern USA took him to three outdoor museums, each with a wide range of local buildings:

* Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Sussex, England ([www.wealldown.co.uk](http://www.wealldown.co.uk))
* Shelburne Museum, Vermont, USA ([www.shelburnemuseum.org](http://www.shelburnemuseum.org)) Photo (right) of its lighthouse
* Hancock Shaker Village, Massachusetts, USA ([www.hancockshakervillage.org](http://www.hancockshakervillage.org))

These open-air museums are becoming increasingly popular and are a means of saving old and unusual buildings which may not otherwise be viable to keep. Nigel is sure to have some interesting ideas about their relevance in the New Zealand context.

**City Talks on Architecture**
The City Gallery has been running a series of talks on buildings in partnership with the NZ Institute of Architects Wellington Branch and in conjunction with its exhibition “Demented Architecture”. The next talk on 24 August will feature the Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao. For information go to [http://citygallery.org.nz](http://citygallery.org.nz)

**Heritage Month Launch**
September is Heritage Month for the Wellington region. The launch will be on Sunday 30th August at 2.30pm at Pataka Museum, Porirua. The exhibition “We Built This City – Porirua 50 Years Young” will be available for viewing. Further information about Heritage Month activities will be on [www.wrhpc.org.nz](http://www.wrhpc.org.nz)

**“Raupo to Deco” talk**
This book is a “must have” for anyone interested in the architectural background to Wellington buildings. The NZ Institute of Architects is arranging for a talk by the authors, Geoff Mew and Adrian Humphris on 4 September; details of this will be available by the time of our AGM.