NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY 16 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 by a talk given by Councillor Andy Foster, chair of the Transport and Urban Development Committee, about challenges facing the heritage buildings of Wellington.

Meeting Agenda
1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting*
3. Committee’s Annual Report – Statement of Service Performance
4. Treasurer’s Annual Financial Statement*
5. Election of Committee
6. Appointment of representative to Historic Places Aotearoa AGM
7. 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.

Current Committee members are: David Batchelor; Deborah Cranko; John Daniels; Peter Dowell; Nigel Isaacs; Christina Mackay; Vivienne Morrell; Ben Schrader; Priscilla Williams; Felicity Wong.
Annual Performance Report 2015 -2016

Under our rules the Committee is obligated to report to its membership each year about activities over the past financial year. We are also obligated to report annually to the Charities Services and its new requirements include a report on service performance which basically covers the same area as the Committee report. Following is our Statement of Service Performance which will be submitted to the Charities Services as part of the annual reporting process and which constitutes the Committee report.

Outcomes 2015-2016

Identification, protection and conservation of historic places in the Wellington Region have been promoted for the benefit of those communities. Members, other stakeholders, and the public have in relevant cases been informed, advised and educated of the significance of the Region's historic places. The society has co-operated where appropriate with other national, regional and local organisations with similar aims and objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs 2015-2016</th>
<th>Actual This year</th>
<th>Actual Last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits to historic places and buildings, and lectures for members</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public advocacy for specific historic places through statutory processes, media publicity and other means</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to Historic Places Aotearoa on Bill submissions and national heritage policy matters</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments on Heritage New Zealand listing proposals</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with staff of Wellington City Council and Heritage New Zealand staff on local and regional heritage issues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters to members and others</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website and Facebook page set up (last year) and maintained (this year). Figures are for website from February 2015 as details for financial year cannot be broken out</td>
<td>11,257 views</td>
<td>Created</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two Amazing 1870s Houses


‘The Crescent’, known to many Wellingtonians as the Banana House, is a Category 1 listed building – built in 1876 it is remarkable for its seemingly modern design. Built in concrete and semi-circular in shape, the rooms open from a glazed-in gallery that runs along the front of the house. The photograph above, taken from the street, shows the sweep of the roof punctuated at regular intervals with chimneys.
Its original owner, Dr Alexander Johnston, is said to have designed it and may have got the idea from an English orangery. Dr Johnston as Provincial Surgeon and coroner in Wellington was an important early medical figure associated with Wellington Public Hospital for a lengthy period. The architect Charles Tringham also had some involvement in its construction. Members were given a history of the house by the current owners and then viewed the main rooms of the house.

From there we walked the few hundred metres to the Category 2 listed Italian Ambassador's residence, where the ambassador's spouse Javier was our host. This building dates from 1877 and was designed by well-known architect Thomas Turnbull as his own house. It is a two-storey double bay villa, Italianate in design. Javier was amused by the description of ‘Italianate’ as to him it is simply ‘Victorian’ – but what is meant by the term is exterior detailing that consciously imitates in timber the stone archetypes of the Italian Renaissance (such as the quoins on the corners).

Over the years the house was divided into two flats and rented out, until 1961 when it was purchased by the Italian Government for its ambassador. Thomas Turnbull (1824–1907) was an important architect in mid to late 19th century New Zealand and is responsible for designing many of Wellington’s buildings from this period. After a talk by Javier, seen centre in the photograph to the left, members toured the reception and dining rooms on the ground floor and then looked at the garden.

The photograph of the front of the house shows clearly the various details of its Italianate style.

We are grateful to the owners of both properties for allowing us to visit their private houses.
Heritage Questions for Mayoral Candidates.

On behalf of the committee, a committee member has sent the following message to all candidates standing for the position of Mayor of Wellington.

“We are Historic Places Wellington, a society of local residents who work in cooperation with local authorities for the preservation of historic places in the Wellington region. For the upcoming mayoral election, our members would like to know your position on heritage matters to aid their voting.

Questions:

1. Matters concerning heritage buildings is a heated topic in Wellington's media. What is your position on heritage buildings in Wellington?
2. With the high demand for housing and development in Wellington, what is your position on those developments which risk the demolition of heritage buildings?
3. Do you support strengthening of the Town Hall to a satisfactory level of earthquake prevention and working towards an urgent opening of this important amenity?
4. Do you support maintaining or increasing the Wellington City Council Built Heritage Fund?
5. What is your vision for historic places' role in Wellington's future?
6. We welcome any other comments you may wish to make on this subject.

At this stage we have received three responses – from Andy Foster, Helene Ritchie and Justin Lester. We shall summarise these replies for members when we have heard from all candidates but can say that judging from his full and thoughtful responses, Andy Foster will be an interesting speaker for us at the AGM.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 14 August – Celebration of Fortuna. The Friends of Futuna Charitable Trust are inviting all those people who have supported the Chapel and the Trust over the last 13 years to a celebration of the launch of the book "Futuna - Life of a Building" on Sunday 14th August at 3pm at the Chapel. This promises to be a special occasion with key speakers and musical events. It is by invitation only, so if you would like an invitation please contact futunalianne@vodafone.co.nz.

Tuesday 16 August – talk by Andy Foster. Mayoral Candidate and Chair of the Transport and Urban Development Committee. See Page 1 for details.

Sunday 21 August, at 4pm. Talk by Peter Cooke on the Military History of Mt Cook. This is part of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Winter Series and will take place in The Hall of Memories (beside the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior), Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. All events are on a Sunday at 4pm, and conclude at 4:45pm. No charge. This talk is of particular interest to members because of our advocacy for the former GHQ building, the last of the defence heritage buildings still standing at Pukeahu.

Heritage Weekend 29-30 October Napier. This is being held in conjunction with the AGM of Historic Places Aotearoa and all members are welcome to come. The programme is being arranged by Historic Places Hawkes Bay who have organised some excellent trips in recent years. An outline of the expected programme follows but details of speakers are not yet available. This is a great opportunity to interact with other heritage workers and see some of the highlights of Hawke’s Bay’s wonderful buildings. If you are interested, talk to a member of the committee for details.

Saturday:
11.30 - 12.30 Gather at Art Deco Trust Office/Theatre. Light lunch.
12.30 – 4pm HPA AGM and guest speakers plus workshop. In Art Deco Theatre.
4pm – 5pm Art Deco Walk with ART Deco Guides.
6.30pm Dinner yet to be decided where.

Sunday:
9am Pick up by mini van and visit Historical Sites/Buildings. Napier/Hastings.
12 noon Lunch - Crab Farm Bayview.