

JUNE 2018

OCULUS

Noun: oculus, plural noun : oculi

Meaning: A round or eyelike opening or design, in particular

HISTORIC
PLACES

A O T E A R O A

*The Voice of Heritage
for New Zealand*

Historic Places Aotearoa President:



As we approach the middle of the year, winter has set in, and the Minister for Arts and Culture awaits the birth of her child it is an opportune time to update you all on what we have been up to.

We along with Heritage NZ, ICOMOS NZ and NZ Archaeological Association identified the change in government 2017 and the Prime Minister taking on the Arts and Culture portfolio as a time when the heritage sector needs to work hard on advocating for change in heritage management in New Zealand.

Over the past 12 months the four organisations mentioned, have had regular 6 to 8 weekly teleconferences to discuss heritage issues. We have all found these very beneficial and recently agreed that while we may not always agree, we have minuted that “*To effect joint strategy, the four agencies have agreed to look to work together on matters that look to influence and improve heritage outcomes.*” While to some this would appear to be obvious thing to do, but, this is the first time to my knowledge, that the four organisations have agreed to work so closely together and marks a major turning point in the advocacy for heritage in New Zealand.

Recently we have been approached by staff from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage to provide feedback on how heritage buildings can be better protected in New Zealand. We have had two one on one meetings with MCH and recently were part of a joint meeting with MCH in Christchurch. They have now sent out a questionnaire to gauge greater sector feedback and I would encourage all heritage organisations to spend some time completing it. Once a draft paper has been prepared with have been offered the opportunity to provide additional feedback, which we will certainly doing. I will send out a separate email regarding the questionnaire and the executives thoughts about what we believe can be done to strengthen heritage protection in NZ.

I have recently spent time in Christchurch at the invitation of Historic Places Canterbury and had the opportunity to attend the Canterbury Heritage Awards. This event is the brain child of Anna Crighton and she must be congratulated on growing this biennial event into a huge success. Maybe it is time that New Zealand as a whole celebrated its heritage in a similar way.

The Executive is committed to trying to grow the organisation and is busy working on this. Recently following a visit by members from HP Wellington, Historic Places Whanganui has joined as an Associate Member. We are hopeful that more will join through out the rest of the year.

James Blackburne HPA President

www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

Facebook: HistoricPlacesAotearoa

HPA AGM 2018 @ PALMERSTON NORTH: THE DETAILS

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of Historic Places Aotearoa Inc. is to be held in Palmerston North on Saturday, 13th October.

The venue is Caccia-Birch House, 130 Te Awe Awe St, Palmerston North.

Details of the programme and accommodation recommendations are being worked through at present and will be advised shortly.

We are currently working with the government to organise a Minister to attend and have invited the Hon. Nicky Wager to attend as the spokesperson for the opposition.

We also expect to have Andrew Coleman from Heritage NZ to discuss what HNZ is planning for the coming year and Stefan Corbett from MCH to update us on the work MCH is doing on strengthening heritage protection in NZ.

HPA PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

As a Member Organisation you are covered under the HPA Public Liability insurance Policy. This covers damage that you become liable to pay to other people's property and/or person while conducting your business. This could be hiring out facilities to conduct meetings or seminars, it could be while you are out and about on visits. It will cover anyone within your organisation and anyone else that may attend your events etc. It also covers any legal costs to defend the organisation against Third party damages that may be disputed.

You still need to be negligent to be held liable for damage caused. If a building you hire for a meeting burns down while you are using it and the cause is attributed to a wiring issue then you are not liable, but if one of your members causes it to burn down through negligence i.e. smoking and putting the butt on the floor, then you will be held liable.

“Big L” and “little l” : Two (Different) Landmarks & Lists

There are two Landmarks (& Lists) which differ and it is confusing:

- 1. National Historic Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu.**
This was established under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* and is administered by Heritage New Zealand. Inclusion on this list means the heritage building or site has the highest protection. This list has been set up by legislation.
- 2. Landmarks Whenua Tohunga**
According to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage web site this is a “partnership between Manatū Taonga - Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga which showcases New Zealand’s historically and culturally important places. Until now, there hasn’t been a unified approach to promoting them and encouraging people to visit them.”
This list appears to be an administrative creation.

Since the establishment of **Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu** in 2014, **no** heritage buildings or sites have been added to it. The List is empty.

For a New Zealand heritage building to be put forward for World Heritage Status, it needs to have the highest protection and thus it must be on the Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu list, which according to the HNZ web site “Applications for the Landmarks list are not yet open”.

We understand ICOMOS NZ has been attempting to meet with Minister Barry to facilitate adding heritage buildings and or sites to the Landmark’s List.

PS “Big L” and “little l” are the Landmarks nicknames used by Heritage Professionals and Advocates

CONNECTING WITH THE HERITAGE COMMUNITY

Forming and enhancing valued partnerships through outreach programmes is a very important part of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's work in identifying, promoting and protecting heritage alongside like-minded people and organisations such as Historic Places Aotearoa and its affiliated regional heritage groups.

Three key members of this outreach work are John O'Hare (based in Kerikeri but whose area covers the Far North, Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty and as far south as Gisborne), David Watt (based in Wellington and responsible for the region extending in a line from Taranaki across to Hawke's Bay and down to Nelson and Marlborough) and Rosemary Baird (based in Christchurch and looking after the remainder of the South Island from Kaikoura to Stewart Island from west to east coasts).

The trio work closely alongside their General Managers, Area Managers and colleagues in Kerikeri, Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin to promote Heritage New Zealand's work in the media, publications such as Heritage Quarterly magazine and the electronic newsletter Heritage This Month and through outreach programmes and events.

Rosemary, a university-qualified oral historian, has been at Heritage New Zealand for just over two years and loves the variety of projects she works on.

"There's always something new and interesting – from film shows to exhibitions, heritage tours and PechaKucha events," says Rosemary.

"It's always great to collaborate with all the varied heritage supporters, organisations, and enthusiasts in the areas I cover to put on these events."

Key projects Rosemary is working on in the coming year include developing a rural heritage stall at the Canterbury and Wanaka A&P Shows, film shows with Nga Taonga Sound & Vision, involvement in the upcoming Christchurch Heritage Week and Heritage New Zealand becoming an award sponsor for the Canterbury Heritage Awards in which Historic Places Aotearoa is a key partner.

David Watt is a Heritage New Zealand stalwart, having worked at the organisation for close on 20



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CONNECTING WITH THE HERITAGE COMMUNITY

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years and developed ongoing relationships with many heritage advocates when the former branch committee structure was in place.

The Central Region's focus has been helping new heritage organisations with their strategic direction and promoting connections with Heritage New Zealand's work. Heritage Taranaki has worked closely with the Central Region Office developing a phone app project on the Land Wars in Taranaki.

"We have strengthened our community profile through more regional events to increase appreciation and support for heritage preservation, arranging property visits, including the opening of Antrim House to huge numbers of people to understanding its history and conservation, and to access other landmark properties in our region. A Wellington Heritage Week in association with Historic Places Wellington will be piloted in October," says David.

"We have made significant headway in reforming a heritage organisation in the Wairarapa which has been in recess for a number of years, and another target is the Tararua district to form a refreshed heritage organisation. Similar actions are being taken in Central Hawke's Bay to strengthen advocacy and outreach.

"Our clear message is partnership, showing that strength in achieving our common objectives comes through good stakeholder relations."

John O'Hare is also something of a stalwart, having worked with Heritage New Zealand for 15 years, liaising with media to generate positive coverage as well as telling some of the amazing stories associated with some of our fascinating historic places.

"I love being able to support our work in engaging Kiwis with their history and making it accessible, interesting and fun – whether it's through stories in the media, displays or other means," says John.

There has been a number of Northern Region community outreach initiatives John has been involved in recently. These include working with colleagues to develop a series of A2-sized posters looking at the history of Bank Street in Whangarei.

"The posters generated a lot of interest and conversations, and council and local business owners are developing plans to promote Bank Street as a heritage place."

Other initiatives have been helping design and produce posters focused on the Northern Wars which were displayed at the Te Waimate A&P Show and at Waitangi at the Waitangi Day Festival; producing an information poster on the listing of Thames' three historic post boxes as a Category 2 historic place as part of 150th anniversary celebrations of the Thames goldfields; and supporting staff in hosting local kohanga reo and kura students in a fun day learning how to use an archaeological stone fish trap near Kerikeri.

Please feel free to contact John (johare@heritage.org.nz, (09) 407 0481), David (dwatt@heritage.org.nz, (04) 494 8322) or Rosemary (rbaird@heritage.org.nz, (03) 363 1882) during working hours.

Jamie Douglas Heritage New Zealand Media Advisor

HERITAGE FOCUS FOR TIMARU'S NEW CBD GROUP



Timaru has recently formed a new CBD Stakeholder Group to guide and help stimulate the development and enhancement of the town's Central Business District, with heritage playing a key role.

A series of stakeholder workshops and one-on-one interviews were conducted by Colin Bass of Business Lab (specialists in community engagement and collaborative strategic planning) and Aoraki Development, the Timaru District's economic development agency, in order to gain an understanding of the current issues at play and identify potential opportunities for improvement of the central business district.

These consultations illustrated that Timaru's existing built heritage was seen as one of the most important and unique assets of the CBD, along with its proximity to Caroline Bay. The resultant strategic plan identified the CBD's predominant Edwardian architectural character as an important and positive identifying attribute, which should be promoted and enhanced in order to attract more people, businesses and activity into the city centre.

The culmination of the consultation process resulted in the formation of a new organisation called the Timaru CBD Society, composed of a dozen stakeholders, ranging from building owners, landlords, retailers and representatives of local interest groups, who have all generously volunteered their time to get the initiative up and running.

Running alongside the Executive Committee, four Working Groups have been set up, with individual focuses – Enhancement, Investment, Experience and Heritage. The Heritage Working Group is chaired by local Urban Designer Nigel Gilkison and is investigating ways of using heritage as a leverage tool to attract more people and businesses into the city centre.

Some of the initial ideas which have been explored by the Heritage Working Group include:

- Promoting the value of our local heritage and its potential economic, social and cultural benefits to Timaru's CBD.
- Sharing knowledge and resources relating to ownership of heritage buildings, including assisting building owners with information about earthquake strengthening and available funding sources

HERITAGE FOCUS FOR TIMARU'S NEW CBD GROUP

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which can assist with meeting the costs associated with building maintenance and seismic strengthening.

- Facilitating the adaptive re-use of currently unoccupied heritage buildings (both temporary and longer term uses) within the town centre. Working with heritage building owners the group hopes to encourage local entrepreneurship and increase street activity by utilising these empty buildings for things like business start-up spaces, small business hub; local craft market, artist studios or gallery/display spaces, as well as encouraging more inner city residential uses in the currently under-utilised upper floors of many of the heritage buildings in the city centre.
- Introducing heritage information plaques, heritage walks, heritage signage and lighting of heritage buildings to distinguish and publicise heritage buildings within the CBD.
- The establishment of a new centrally located 'heritage information centre' to promote the story of Timaru's establishment and its evolution.

The group are also looking at the possibility of establishing Timaru's historic city centre as a defined 'heritage precinct' and are looking at other examples around the country where heritage precinct regeneration has been a catalyst for successful revitalisation of other town centres in places such as Dunedin, Invercargill, Gore and Oamaru.

Nigel Gilkison is an Urban Designer. He is Deputy Chair of Historic Places Mid Canterbury and a member of the Timaru Civic Trust.

Architectural Term *for this issue of Oculus:*



Image of old government house, Auckland

Quoin

One of a series of stones or bricks used to mark the corners of a building, often through a contrast of size, shape, or colour.

Where quoins are used for decoration and not for load-bearing, they may be made from a wider variety of materials beyond brick, stone or concrete, extending to timber, cement render or other stucco.

See Image of old government house, Auckland .

This is a timber building made to look like stone. Note the highlighted quoins to the corners.