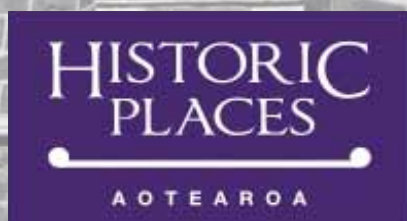


ISSUES



RMA change a threat to heritage

FROM THE TOP

HPA President Elizabeth Pishief

Welcome to the last issue of Oculus for 2022. In my first President's column, I would like to say how important you all are to Historic Places Aotearoa and New Zealand. Without a strong and active community of heritage advocates championing the importance of preserving, enjoying and understanding our unique heritage places, our heritage places will be lost and our connections to the past weakened.

Community-based heritage is essential for the wellbeing of people and groups and contributes to their sense of identity and purpose. I feel enthusiastic and delighted to have this opportunity to lead HPA in promoting heritage and further developing it into a powerful nationwide advocacy group for all our heritage places. I know I can only do that with your support, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet



many of you in the months to come.

We had an informative, well-run conference with ICOMOS New Zealand in Auckland last month with an excellent mix of heritage-loving people and professionals. The theme was Current Challenges to

Historic Heritage in New Zealand: Planning Legislation - RMA Reform (Nationwide) and Enabling Housing Supply Amendment Act (Cities) Seismic Resilience - Consequences of Intervention Neglect, Maintenance and Re-Use - Awareness and Good Practice.

We heartily thank Philip Hartley for the extraordinary amount of time and effort he put into organising the conference. The outcome was a general desire to have more conferences and HPA's executive is already working on ways to have another nationwide conference open to everyone.

I wish everyone a very merry festive season and long and relaxing holidays.



Top award to pā site project

by Matthew Bonnett

A pā site interpretation project showcasing the network of seven historic pā sites in the Waipukurau-Takapau area of Tamatea/Central Hawke's Bay took the supreme award at the inaugural Hawke's Bay Heritage Awards last month.

Ngā Ara Tipuna – a cultural and educational story-telling tour – marries the historic pā sites with technology to share the stories of the people unique to Tamatea/Central Hawke's Bay.

The self-guided driving tour is studded with storyboards, incredible views and on-site access to digital

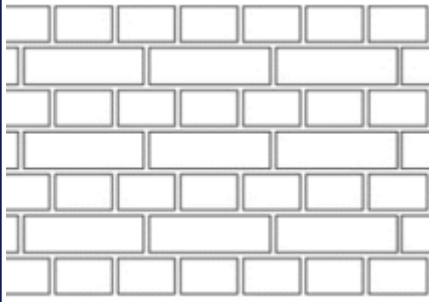
storytelling. This significant cultural heritage project includes the creation of carvings, digital storytelling and displays to engage visitors and locals through sharing stories of the hapu of Ngai Tahu ki Takapau, Ngāi Toroiwaho, Ngai Te Rangitotohu, Ngāti Marau, Ngāi Te Kikiri-o-te-rangi and Ngāti Parakiore and their relationship with the land.

The 2022 Hawke's Bay Heritage Awards were held at the Hastings Assembly Ballroom, in the refurbished Municipal Chambers complex next to Toitoti Hawke's Bay Arts & Events Centre.

The awards – given in eight categories

Continued on p3:

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS *explained*



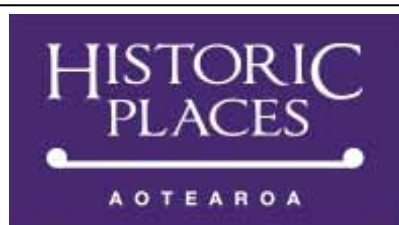
ENGLISH BOND

English bond is one of the oldest forms of brick bonding. It became common in the 1450s and was the standard type of brickwork for British houses until the late 17th century.

English bond brickwork combines alternate courses of stretchers and headers.

This traditional pattern is considered to be one of the strongest bonds and is commonly used for bridges and engineering projects. It requires more facing bricks than other patterns.

JOIN US TODAY



Our executive

The HPA seven-member executive meets monthly via Microsoft Teams. Its members are:

Elizabeth Pishief (president)

elizabeth.pishief@live.com

Mark Gerrard (vice president)

canty@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

James Blackburne

president@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

Helen Craig hellycraig@hotmail.com

Phillip Hartley

Philliph@salmondreed.co.nz

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

Blackburne bows out

Historic Places Aotearoa has a new president.

Hawke's Bay heritage consultant Elizabeth Pishief, who has years of experience in the sector, was voted in by the executive committee following last month's AGM. She is the third member to serve as president. Second president James Blackburne succeeded Anna Crighton in 2014.

Elizabeth says communication is needed between the various community-based heritage organisations.

"This is where most of the heritage work is done in New Zealand. I think HPA has the opportunity to be the umbrella organisation which supports and advocates for communities' heritage locally, regionally and nationally.

"I will be encouraging more historical societies and heritage groups to join HPA so that it is larger and more diverse.

"A stronger community organisation is a more powerful advocate for our precious cultural heritage places, resources and activities."

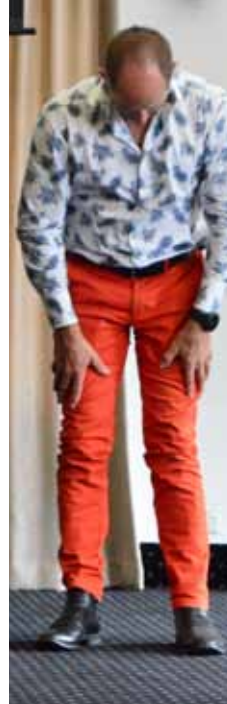
Elizabeth was archaeological representative of Hawke's Bay regional committee of New Zealand Historic Places Trust for many years. She joined Historic Places Hawke's Bay in 2014 and has been on the committee since returning from Auckland in 2015.

"I do quite a lot of historic research and love sharing my findings with other people - HPHawke's Bay provides a wonderful forum for those opportunities.

"I've been working professionally in all aspects of historic heritage management, especially archaeological heritage, as well



Elizabeth Pishief.



James Blackburne.

as built heritage for years."

She has a PhD in Heritage Studies from Victoria University of Wellington in addition to qualifications in English, History and Museum Studies. She has been involved with the several heritage organisations she belongs to including the New Zealand Archaeological Association, Professional Historians Association, ICOMOS New Zealand and Museums Aotearoa.

She is on the Lotteries Environment and Heritage committee and the Trade Aid New Zealand committee.

Outgoing president James Blackburne, who was due to retire by rotation, said he was proud of the meaningful relationships developed over the past few years with Heritage New Zealand, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, ICOMOS and NZ Archaeological Association.

He said it was critical the heritage sector worked together for the advocacy of heritage in this country.

"The regular meetings we have implemented with these organisations will be critical in the coming 12 months and beyond for the protection and advocacy for heritage in Aotearoa."

Looking back on his tenure, James said he was not totally happy with where HPA was at and the role he played in that.

"We are growing but the slow rate has been a frustration. Having to manage governance and operations on a shoestring, while working fulltime has been difficult."

Calling for new executive member

Long-standing committee member Nigel Issacs from HP Wellington announced at the AGM his wish to retire from the committee on health grounds. At that stage, he had one year of a two-year term to serve.

The executive committee resolved to appoint a replacement to serve until the next biennial committee election at the 2023 AGM.

We now call for nominations for someone to fill the vacancy.

Committee work involves a monthly video meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm for about 90 minutes. There could be a few hours to spend during the month working on HPA projects which come and go over the year and the occasional face-to-face meeting.

We welcome any nominations which we can consider at the next meeting in January. Please contact the Secretary with nominations or any queries.

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

By Claire Craig, Deputy Chief Executive - Policy, Strategy and Corporate Services

So what does someone with the title Deputy Chief Executive Policy, Strategy and Corporate Services do, apart from kvetch ever so occasionally about having such a long title?

I'm fortunate to have oversight of our Policy, Organisational Development, and Corporate Services teams which means I can be involved with work on legislative change one moment and the development of systems to support the sharing and flow of heritage information the next.

It also lets me collaborate on matters such as the development of succession for a suitably skilled heritage workforce, and how to keep funding everything we do.

Natural and Built Environments Bill

A significant focus in the coming weeks will of course be the much-anticipated draft of the Natural and Built Environments Bill which hit our desks recently, adding to the hustle of another hectic end of year. There's no doubt that it will shake things up. Over the next few weeks, we will be analysing its impacts on heritage and formalising our position on it.

At first glance, it's exciting to see



'cultural landscapes' finally incorporated within the definition of cultural heritage, and careful thought will need to be given to the proposed new approach of "effects management" which has some very promising notes and an extremely pragmatic scope.

We won't be making snap judgments, given the immensity of the task of reforming resource management, but we're keen to play a strong role in formulating answers to the considerable challenges that are undoubtedly part of this.

Designing Strategic Pathways

We are currently preparing a new Statement of Intent for the organisation as well. This document sets our strategic direction for the next four years providing the basis of the reporting we do to government about our activities. Last time we did this, the Covid-19 pandemic was just starting, and we could not have comprehended the change it would bring.

One of the true silver linings of this challenging time, has been the investment in Mātauranga Māori across the cultural sector which has shone a light on the importance of ensuring the survival of this valuable cultural heritage that is unique to Aotearoa. We

are very fortunate to have an extensive organisational history of conserving Māori built heritage and working to list Māori heritage, and this has been enhanced by this new focus which gives us greater ability to enable iwi, hapū and hāpori to develop their own priority projects in this field. The development of the New Zealand history component of the education curriculum has been another significant step in the country's heritage environment, and we welcome planning our work in ways that support the expanding consciousness of the nation's past to be a positive force for its future.

Over the life of this new document, we also get to strengthen and restore Turnbull House, and we can create a strong new future for the Hokitika Government Building as well, which we hope will inspire solutions for New Zealand's seismicity challenges.

I've run out of room to cover the work we are doing to improve our online presence; so, I'll just ask you to keep an eye out in the new year for the inspiring results of that. There's a fair bit on the plate, but I'm hugely grateful for a role that gives me the opportunity to join all of you in actively supporting this exciting time for New Zealand heritage conservation.

Wishing you all - Meri Kirihimete me nga mihi nui o te tau hou; Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Heritage awards a showcase for Hawke's Bay

From page 1:

from 39 entries – are a new regional showcase designed to recognise and celebrate those whose talents and energies preserve Hawke's Bay's heritage landscape.

HPHawke's Bay and Art Deco Trust chair Barbara Arnott, one of the event organisers, said the people who called Te Matau a Māui/Hawke's Bay home in the past had left their mark on the place through their sites of significance, the places they built, the artefacts they left behind and the stories they told.

"Their legacies gift us today our sense of place, our sense of belonging and our sense of identity. They tell the stories of our past and our progress as a region.

"These awards are the opportunity to

recognise the hugely talented people and organisations throughout Hawke's Bay who preserve and conserve this vital heritage for all of us to enjoy and experience," she said.

The judges were:

James Blackburne, a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, HPA founding member and former president and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga board member.

Nigel How, (Ngāti Kahungunu), Registrar of Wairoa Museum, Wairoa Taiwhenua chair, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated board member, and trustee of

Hawke's Bay Museums Trust.

Dr Elizabeth Pishief is a heritage consultant, member of ICOMOS New Zealand, NZ Archaeological Assn, Professional Historians Assn of New Zealand Aotearoa, Museums Aotearoa, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga,

Historic Places Hawke's Bay, and HPA president.

Jana Uhlírova, born in the Czech Republic, where she completed a master's degree in Art History and Museology, immigrated to New Zealand in 2005. Since 2011, Jana has worked as curator and manager at Central Hawke's Bay Museum, Waipawa.



Winners in each category received a handcrafted award commissioned for the awards by Hawke's Bay artist Emma Scott.

Lively heritage discussion an event focus

By Rob Green

Taranaki's first Heritage Month came to fruition during October.

Running from 1 October to 5 November, the month was the culmination of at least two years' efforts by the Taranaki community at large, coordinated and promoted by Heritage Taranaki. The aim was to consider the region's multi-faceted past, how this contributed to its sense of identity, and how this colours the present and planned future.

Taranaki saw some of the earliest occasions where the aspirations of early settlers collided with the aspirations of tangata whenua. The flames lit on this stage soon raged across the North Island with the invasion of the Waikato in 1863 following the earlier conflicts of 1860-61 in Waitara and surrounding areas.

Taranaki Heritage Month began with a pōwhiri at Puke Ariki Museum. Local kaunihera kaumātua welcomed people and launched the month's activities. The public were invited to attend a presentation by local artist, tohunga toi, Rangi Kipa. Rangi had led the team behind the artistic interpretation of the Puketapu story of the whakapapa of Te Ātiawa incorporated into the architecture of the award-winning airport terminal building, Te Hono.

The focal event was a panel discussion held in the Plymouth Hotel.

Taranaki and Parihaka kaumātua Dr Ruakere Hond facilitated a far-reaching discussion around the questions of What is heritage? Whose Heritage? Who decides what counts? And what are the implications of these decisions? The panel included Race relations commissioner, Meng Foon; Deputy CE Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga, Claire Craig; Dean of Taranaki Cathedral, Jay Ruka; artist Brett Graham, CEO Te Ātiawa Iwi, Dion Tuuta; and New Plymouth District Councillor, Amanda Clinton-Gohdes.

The panel was lively and attracted more than 300 people, many of whom – both Māori and Pākehā – were ready to focus on these challenging questions.

The other activities were broadly presented by the communities of North and South Taranaki historical societies and museums including Nigel Ogle's stunning Tawhiti Museum. The local Chinese and Polish communities also

showcased their heritage.

Several field trips to historical and archaeological sites were held including visits to Ohawe Beach where the soldiers' cemetery told the tragic tales of some of our past.

Local historian and former Taranaki Museum director Ron Lambert, the father of Taranaki history, hosted a bus trip. Ron spent 40 years working in the field of local history and was recently awarded the Puke Ariki medal for his services in preserving, researching and documenting Taranaki history.

Local Te Ātiawa kaumātua, Hoani Eriwata, presented Walking in the Footsteps field trip, which he has offered for some years around the dates and events of the first shots of the Taranaki Wars. About 50 people took the opportunity to hear this important local history.

Local cultural institution, Puke Ariki offered several back-room tours and a wonderful presentation on the history tour of our local landmark, the clock tower. The story of its demolition along with the New Plymouth Post Office and then its restoration as a beloved icon of remembrance was a highlight.

The month's activities drew to a close at Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary – Mere Tapu with a church service on



View through the Rangi Hiroa (Peter Buck) Memorial over surrounding Urenui landscape.



November 5 to remember the invasion of Parihaka in 1881.

Taranaki's first Heritage Month was well received by the local community and

people outside the region.

Planning has begun for a 2023 Heritage Month. For more details on the events that occurred and updates on future plans, visit heritagetaranaki.com or Heritage Taranaki's Facebook page.

Heritage Taranaki gratefully acknowledges the support of New Plymouth District Council; South Taranaki District Council; Te Manu Hononga – Sir Paul Reeves Centre; TOI Foundation; Taranaki Electricity Trust; Heritage NZ – Pouhere Taonga; Govett Brewster Art Gallery / Len Lye Centre, Govett Quilliam – The Lawyers, Ngāmotu and Waitara Rotary; Te Korimako o Taranaki; Plymouth International Hotel; Taranaki Daily News.



Rangi Kipa explains the stories told by the carvings and other art at the New Plymouth Airport Terminal.



Conference delegates pass Auckland's War Memorial Museum.

Challenges get good airing

More than 70 attended the joint HPA/ ICOMOS conference in Auckland last month, our largest to date.

The conference theme "Harsh Reality: Current Challenges for Historic Heritage in New Zealand" was focused on central Government's housing intensification directives to district/city councils that have stripped heritage protection from many suburbs in major cities.

Helen McCracken and Amanda Mulligan from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) were first up on Saturday. Helen spoke about the National Adaptation Plan and Government's response to climate change-related risks to the non-renewable resource of cultural sites. The risk assessment identified 43 priority risks; two refer to heritage.

Amanda outlined developing policy to strengthen heritage protection during the current term of Government, which included consultation with HPA and other stakeholders.

No details of the policy put forward for possible inclusion in the RMA reform legislation were outlined, so there was no indication of how much of the proposed policy made it into the NBE Bill now released.

An address by Associate Minister for Culture and Heritage and the Environment Kiri Allan, who did not attend due to travel problems, was read by Polly O'Brien of MCH. She stressed the need for protecting heritage as part of 'the life and soul of a community'. The Minister said built heritage could help the transition to a clean, green, carbon neutral New Zealand, which was a reason why she and her officials were working hard to improve the heritage protection system overall through

the resource management system reform 'which has not been effective or efficient'.

She outlined the objectives of the new legislation (the NBE and Spatial Planning Bills), which included protecting the natural environment but she made no mention of built heritage protection. She said engagement by key heritage advocacy organisations



Amanda Mulligan (left) & Helen McCracken.

such as Historic Places Aotearoa (HPA) and ICOMOS had strongly guided and - most importantly - improved, the reform process.

She looked forward to hearing views on both Bills and was confident we could, together, produce fit for purpose, robust, legislation to serve our heritage and the next generation well.

Three heritage advocacy groups in Auckland presented a paper on various aspects of the RMA and implications for heritage in the reforms relating to urban intensification. The session was introduced by Felicity Wong, Chair of HP Wellington, who presented a reasoned and well-illustrated paper setting out the positives of retaining built heritage.

Eden/Epsom Residential Protection Society member, Robert Speer, talked about current plans to provide for up to 2.3 million new homes in Auckland compared to the 600,00 existing homes and 900,000 allowed for in the Auckland Unitary Plan. This degree of intensification includes the 3 X 3 Medium Density Residential Zone rule allowing the building of up to three houses of three storeys on residential sections, and 90% coverage of the site to within 1.5m of the street frontage, steeper roof lines up to 11m and no parking space requirements.

Continued on page 9

INTRODUCING

Mark Gerrard

HPA vice president



Mark Gerrard

HPA vice president and Historic Places Canterbury chair Mark Gerrard focuses on getting positive results for heritage.

For many years, he commuted to Ashburton to take part in Historic Places Mid Canterbury's bi-monthly committee meetings. He was recently appointed to the Historic Rose Chapel Trust – the Christchurch City Council-owned and protected chapel run by a working trust, which hires it out for weddings and other events.

This year, Mark received a Christchurch City Council Civic Award for services to heritage.

Recently with Nigel Gilkison (Heritage Blue Plaques and HPMC deputy chair), he attended two Oamaru Heritage Hui (facilitated meetings for those interested in heritage) and an informal Regional Heritage Gathering in Timaru.

For several years, he assembled and wrote for Oculus and was web content editor for the original HPA website.

He says HPCanterbury is effective because it has a strong working committee whose members share roles including media duties.

"Without their efforts, my role as chair would lack credibility or be effective.

"As chair of HPC, my roles include Council deputations/public forum submissions, lobbying, media releases and live media interviews." He was recently interviewed on RNZ's Afternoons with Jessie Mulligan programme on the future of the Upper Riccarton War Memorial Library and adaptive re-use of built heritage.

City's ex-Chief Post Office finds new life

It's been a long time coming, but an endangered landmark heritage building is about to be repurposed. Palmerston North City Mayor and member of Historic Places Manawatū-Horowhenua, **Grant Smith** reflects on a topsy-turvy history.

In some ways the plight of Palmerston North's once proud Edwardian Chief Post Office mirrors the trajectory of New Zealand's once pervasive postal services.

In 1871, these plucky pioneering mail services were responsible for giving Palmerston North its double-barrelled identity.

British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston died in 1865 and since 1866 the Manawatū settlement of Palmerston, population 200, had shared this commemorative name with its older North Otago counterpart.

Designated as a Wellington provincial post office, the growing town in the Papaiōea clearing was gazetted as 'Palmerston North' on July 17, 1871, as a way of avoiding any North Island/South Island address confusion.

This extension of inland Manawatū postal services, started in 1870, roughly coincided with two other innovations.

First was the 1872 wooden rail connection with the river port at Foxton, soon replaced by steel rails that had reached Whanganui by 1878, and courtesy of the privately owned Wellington Manawatū Railway Company, linked with Wellington in 1886.

Secondly, there was the arrival in Palmerston North of the telegraph in 1875. This mail/rail/telegraph combo was the Victorian equivalent of broadband and Palmerston North was soon at its hub.

Over the following decades, the borough grew at a steady rate and in 1901, on the cusp of the Edwardian era, the census recorded a population of just over 6500.

The British Empire was at its height, and public buildings were designed to reflect the imposing grandeur of the age. When it came to plan Palmerston North's fourth post office, prominent Wellington Town Hall architect Joshua Charlesworth was engaged. Charlesworth designed a two-storey



Palmerston North Post Office. Heritage Manawatū/Safari Group

Italianate style building with a distinctive asymmetrical 243-metre tower and four-faced chiming clock.

Building costs, thanks to lobbying by town mayor and serving MP William Wood, were divided between the borough and Central Government. The MP's wife Nell Wood fronted a campaign to raise the town's share.

Construction by James Trevor & Son - a building company with local connections - began in 1905 on the corner of Main St and The Square formerly occupied by the 1889 wooden Post & Telegraph Office, which had been moved off to one side. In 1989 this Victorian structure was again moved to Palmerston North's Victoria Esplanade where it is now a café.

Its brick and cement-clad replacement was officially opened in February 1906 by Postmaster-General Sir Joseph Ward (who became Prime Minister in August 1906) with Borough mayor Maurice Cohen ceremonially posting its first letter.

Later the same year, on June 3, Nell Wood officially started the tower clock and christened its chimes Kerei Te Panau after a prominent local Rangitāne rangatira. Also known as Mr Grey (a transliteration of his first name), Kerei Te Panau was 101 at the time. Many hundreds attended his tangi two years later, walking behind his coffin to the Terrace End cemetery in a procession more than a quarter mile long.

In 1909, the Post Office, then right alongside the recently nationalised North Island Main Trunk Railway Line, housed the Post Office Savings Bank and an upstairs telephone exchange servicing 575 subscribers.

A symbol of pride in the town's progress, and a focal point for business and community, the landmark was an instant favourite with postcard photographers and was acknowledged as one of New Zealand's foremost Post Office buildings.

Service volumes resulted in further extensions in 1917 and 1937, while it was

designated a Chief Post Office in 1927 - three years before Palmerston North attained city status. However, following the Wairarapa Earthquake of 1942 and the collapse of many chimneys in the region, the clocktower was removed as a precaution.

The Kerei Te Panau chimes were kept in storage before being installed in the Hopwood Clocktower on Te Marae o Hine/ The Square in 1957, where they still ring out today.

In the early 60s the telephone exchange was rehoused in a new building on Church St, and soon after in the late 60s, came the Main St Telecom Tower. As a post office, the building on The Square served until 1988 when New Zealand Post moved to new premises on the corner of Main St and Princess St. Post Bank moved out soon afterwards, and for the next two decades, the former post office kicked up its heels as a restaurant, bar and night-spot - firstly as Eagle Rock, and then as High Flyers. Many city residents still refer to it as the High Flyers building.

In 2009, a connected concrete terrace for alfresco dining was built on the footpath overlooking Te Marae o Hine/ The Square.

In the aftermath of the devastating Canterbury earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, new building safety standards were enacted, and High Flyers was

Continued on page 7

OCULUS Social activator keen to restore Māori Hall

Two more organisations, both from Auckland, have joined HPA.

The Kinder House Society based at Kinder House in Parnell and the Point Chevalier Social Enterprise Trust.

Point Chevalier Social Enterprise (PCSET) was formed in late 2014 and received full charitable trust status in 2019 (CC57177).

The Trust's purpose is to be a social activator, to connect with all ages in a diversity of projects that includes education, creative arts, heritage renewal, urban design, well-being and social progress.

Trustees are Graeme Bennett, Chris Casey and Alex Woodley.

Current projects include the restoration of Māori Hall in Newton where funding is being provided for seismic assessment, a heritage conservation report and ultimately the refurbishment of the building on behalf of the Pacific Island Presbyterian Church allowing Māori Hall to again operate as a hub for church and youth/community activities, continuing on the nearly 115 years of service it has already provided.



The Trust is also currently campaigning to save part of one of Auckland's most iconic landmarks, the history of what is now called Building One, formerly Carrington Hospital/Unitec, is known to most. Built as an

asylum in 1865, it has gathered a dark reputation over the years. But it has been as much a place of healing as of harm, and for the last 27 years as part of Unitec it has served as a seat of learning.

\$50M hotel development to keep PO facade

From page 6

forced to vacate the premises with new owners unwilling to invest in the necessary strengthening work..

By 2015 the seemingly unloved 3596 sq m Category II site at 473-483 Main St was subject to a mortgagee sale. However, its new owner did not take up any of the redevelopment opportunities suggested by Council, which included a resource consent to turn the site into a hotel, conference venue and retail space.

With no tenant occupying the building since 2017, it turned into a haunt for anti-social elements who broke in and accelerated its interior dilapidation and decay, prompting concerns from residents and the business community.

Despite its heritage façade and prominent central city position it looked as though a classic case of 'demolition by neglect' was being played out, and a dangerous building notice was issued for the earthquake-prone structure. Matters came to a head when a portion of it was damaged by fire in October 2021.

Over the decades, Palmerston North has lost a great many distinctive heritage buildings, but there was a widespread determination this time that the former Edwardian Post Office would not be one of them.

After various failed attempts to secure the future of the lynchpin site, a deal was reached with New Zealand property investment company Safari Group just before the 2022 Local Body Elections.

Safari Group is an Auckland headquartered family company that develop throughout New Zealand specialising in hotels and apartments that also values heritage. Its intention is to build a TRYP by Wyndham-branded five-level 86-room hotel with conference room, gym, café, bar, restaurant and provision for retail integrated with the restored Post Office facade. The resource consent and planning process will take around 12 months, with the \$50M development due to be completed in 2025. This is the best possible outcome for The Square's venerable elder resident, providing a great boost to inner city vitality

and Palmerston North's hospitality sector - and once again as a focus for community pride.

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
Kinder House Society
Point Chevalier Social Enterprise Trust
Sth Canterbury Historical Society
Timaru Civic Trust

Collaboration the key in busy year for HPA

by outgoing president James Blackburne

It was great that we have been able to meet in person this year. Zoom and Teams cannot replace face-to-face meetings and all the social interactions that occur when people gather to share time together.

In July 2021, we submitted on the Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development, which did not contain one reference to heritage. When released, the finalised policy did have heritage covered although not as much as we would like.

Also in July, the Government released the Natural and Built Environments Bill - Exposure Draft, which required submissions to be made by 4 August.

We chaired a joint working group including members of our MOs, ICOMOS NZ and New Zealand Archaeological Association, enabling us to share resources, expertise and, importantly, co-ordinated submissions. The group met weekly for four weeks, preparing a 20-page submission presented to the select committee via Zoom. Huge thanks to all involved.

Thanks to ICOMOS NZ and NZAA for collaborating with us on the submission and sharing their own submissions. The bill has the potential to pose a very serious threat to heritage and with the bill released, we must make our collective voices heard to retain our heritage.

Our collective ongoing advocacy for heritage in coming months will be vital. We will need to use every connection we have to push the message to help ensure protection of heritage and the natural environment is properly considered.

MOs and growth

Engaging with potential new members has been an ongoing focus for HPA. It's pleasing to see the number of Member Organisations has grown with two associates, Heritage Taranaki and HP Auckland Tamaki Makaurau, becoming full members and Heritage Remuera and Timaru Civic Trust becoming associates.

The Executive will continue to network with external groups and look to grow the organisation. We see this as critical to HPA's existence and to building a strong independent voice for heritage.

Please use your networks to advocate for people and groups to join HPA.

Communications

With the financial assistance of HNZPT and the hard work of Sheridan Gundry



James Blackburne in conversation.

and Denis Pilkington, we have published another four professional newsletters over the past year, documenting the work of the executive and our member groups.

A huge thanks to Denis for his efforts in helping Sheridan track down articles for the newsletters. Without his work the costs for each newsletter would be substantially more.

Thanks to all who contributed in the past year. Sharing your work through the newsletter is important and we encourage you to continue to do so.

Thank you to HNZPT for its continued support of the work we do in supporting HPA and for the \$6k in funding for the coming year enabling us to publish.

We continue to share Oculus with people and organisations outside of HPA's database including HNZPT, MCH, Ministers and opposition party heritage spokespeople. We share with prospective members to entice them to join.

Palmerston North City Mayor recently requested he be added to the database.

We welcome feedback and whether there are others who would benefit from receiving it. Please share it.

The Executive has been looking to change the publication's name but has found nothing suitable yet. We welcome ideas from the membership on this.

As the conference and in-person AGM were cancelled last year, we worked with ICOMOS and had the conference speakers present over six lunchtime talks. This was successful with a range of people from around the country logging in to listen. We wish to look at doing this again.

We will also continue with the productive, quarterly Chairs catch-up led by Felicity Wallace. We will sort out a few technology issues before the next meeting. If you have not managed to join one, I encourage you to do so, even if only for a short time.

Heritage NZ and networking

HNZPT, ICOMOS NZ, NZ Archaeological Association and HPA meet every six to eight weeks. Usually via teleconference

but in the past year we met in Wellington.

In 2021, we met Bernadette Cavanagh and senior staff from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. This meeting proved productive and resulted in regular meetings between HPA, ICOMOS, NZAA and heritage teams from DOC and MCH.

Our Chatham House Rules enables open discussions. We have been able to advocate for heritage from the heritage sector, which in the past has not really been possible as MCH always appeared to keep itself at arm's length from the sector.

As a collective we have discussed such topics such as: heritage and climate change and natural hazards; funding for the sector - both for owners (eg Equip) and organisational support; the need for more resources and guidance; RM reform.

It is pleasing to hear MCH has been making good (albeit slow) progress with the revised Policy for Government Departments' Management of Historic Heritage. The delays have not been at the MCH end and they have been working hard to get the policy through. We are advised it is likely to be released soon.

A national conference

A National Heritage Conference has been talked about since before Covid.

We need to bring the wider heritage sector together to celebrate our heritage. MCH and Heritage New Zealand support this in principle. The issue post-Covid is the real lack of money in the economy, especially within government. Frankly, I'm unsure how we are going to get around this real problem, which is unlikely to go away in a hurry.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to meeting secretary Gillian Creighton and treasurer Jo McLean. Without their time and support, it would be very difficult to function. Your efforts are appreciated. A huge thanks to Denis Pilkington for his work for the executive and HPA. He is relentless in keeping the wheels rolling.

Lastly, a big thanks to the Executive. It is hard at times, as we find we are acting in both a governance and operational role, and leading busy lives. It can be frustrating at times, but your support is most definitely appreciated.

This is my last report as HPA president. I will remain on the Executive for at least a year to support Elizabeth Pishief.

OCULUS Wintergarden visit a conference highlight

From page 5: While there are some provisions to protect character homes from this development the protection is likely to be weak. He also offered expert advice on how to make submissions.

Civic Trust Auckland chair Allan Matson described current policies as a process to 'awfulise' the city. Continuing the theme of loss through intensification, he drew attention to the likely future threat to heritage areas from light rail corridors. He said protection of character areas under 'qualifying matters' would be totally inadequate.

Alex Dempsey outlined the work of the Auckland Character Coalition, a strong heritage advocacy society active for the past 10 years – making submissions on heritage protection, keeping heritage on Council's agenda and refusing to be ignored.

Two papers were presented on balancing structural intervention to maintain seismic resistance in buildings. Tiago Almeida provided the engineer's viewpoint, describing the earthquake scoring system used to identify the strength of various building materials and parts of a building structure compared to the New Building Standard.

He said the engineer's aim in seismic strengthening must be to minimise intervention to retain the character of the building and to leave no evidence of the engineer's involvement.

Achieving the best outcome requires careful information gathering and will include inevitable surprises.

Tracey Hartley, building conservation surveyor from Salmond Reed Architects Auckland, presented case studies on restoring seismic resilience: making good damage from water leakage including that caused by previous work on the buildings; also, work following previous earthquake damage; and work related to redevelopment of a building.

A current project is strengthening two, near century-old, wintergarden glass houses in Auckland Domain. The results of extensive reglazing, strengthening the roof structure and a lot of deferred maintenance were spectacular, with the tropical glasshouse still in progress and the temperate glasshouse now complete and in full bloom.

Carolyn Hill delivered a pre-dinner presentation based on a doctoral dissertation to examine how the concept of heritage is perceived and prioritised by young people (18-25 age) studying environmental planning.

Sunday morning began with the HPA AGM at Kinder House, after which the final session was held at Parnell Hotel & Conference Centre. Neglect, maintenance, use and re-use of built heritage was the theme.

Nigel Isaacs, Paola Boarin and Renata Jadresin Milic of the Universities of Wellington, Auckland and Unitec respectively, outlined various heritage options offered in the architecture courses at each institution. They reported student demand for some of

these options is falling; some are well subscribed.

The focus then was on the need for using and re-using buildings to ensure good maintenance, avoid demolition, and promote waste minimisation. Phillip Hartley's talk highlighted maintenance problems in a wide range of buildings. He emphasised the need for building owners to have much greater awareness of the need for a regular and documented maintenance programme, which will, thereby, contribute to sustainability and addressing climate change.

Pamela Dziwulska further expanded the maintenance theme including using appropriate design and materials in construction and use of recyclable material (such as lead) and environmentally friendly materials (such as lime mortar) to contribute to maximising lifespan and sustainability of a building.

Last stop was Stanley Bay to visit a 1950s house designed by and for Bruce Rotherham, of Group Architects – a very different home from the general run of 1950s suburban dwellings.

Owners Dr Julia Gatley and Jeremy Rotherham outlined the history of the house and allowed attendees free rein.

Despite additions and alterations over the years, the original fabric of the house has been maintained, including a glass curtain wall in the living area and a very child-unfriendly mezzanine area (steep spiral staircase, no balustrade on the mezzanine, and a trapdoor opening to the exterior at floor level in the wall).

Thanks to HPAuckland Tamaki Makaurau for organising this event.

Most of the papers presented are available in the HPA SharePoint system.



Allan Matson



Tiago Almeida



Tracey Hartley notes features at Auckland Domain's wintergarden glass houses.

The next step in the Resource Management revision process has just taken place with the release of the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill. Submissions for both bills close on 30 January. We now have the challenging task of calling the HPA, ICOMOS and NZAA working party together again to formulate our submissions over the holiday festive season and holiday period.

Quick review of Natural and Built Environment Bill...

by Elizabeth Pishief

The Resource Management Reform has progressed rapidly with the introduction on 15 November of the two draft documents: The Natural and Built Environment (NBE) Bill and the Spatial Planning (SP) Bill. The NBE Bill repeals and replaces the Resource Management Act 1991, working in tandem with the Spatial Planning Bill. The SP Bill provides for the development and implementation of long-term, strategic spatial planning across New Zealand by developing regional spatial strategies. The new resource management system created by these Bills is designed to achieve five objectives:

- protect and, where necessary, restore the natural environment, including its capacity to provide for the well-being of present and future generations;
- better enable development within environmental biophysical limits including a significant improvement in housing supply, affordability and choice, and timely provision of appropriate infrastructure, including social infrastructure;
- give effect to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi and provide greater recognition of te ao Māori, including mātauranga Māori;
- better prepare for adapting to climate change and risks from natural hazards, and better mitigate emissions contributing to climate change;
- improve system efficiency and effectiveness and reduce complexity, while retaining local democratic input.

The purpose of the NBE Bill which

updates the RMA's focus on sustainable management is to:

- enable the use, development, and protection of the environment in a way that:
 - supports the well-being of present generations without compromising the well-being of future generations; and
 - promotes outcomes for the benefit of the environment; and
 - complies with environmental limits and their associated targets;
 - manages adverse effects; and
- recognises and upholds te Oranga o te Taiao.

The purpose is an intergenerational environmental test for all New Zealanders. It draws on te Oranga o te Taiao, a te ao Māori concept that speaks to the health of the natural environment, the essential relationship between the health of the natural environment and its capacity to sustain life, and the interconnectedness of all parts of the environment. The NBE Bill shifts the focus of the current resource management system from managing adverse effects to promoting positive outcomes. Principles will provide further assistance on how decisions to achieve outcomes should be made.

A National Planning Framework (NPF) will provide directions on the integrated management of the environment in relation to matters of national significance and matters requiring national or sub-national consistency. The NPF will be rolled out in stages to support timely implementation of the future system. The current numerous planning documents will be consolidated into a single Natural

and Built Environment Plan for each region. These will have similar functions to those performed by regional policy statements, and district and regional plans under the current system. The NBE plan development process will assist early collaboration, including the ability for parties to register to engage.

Historic Heritage is renamed Cultural Heritage and includes cultural landscapes. Cultural heritage:

(a) means those aspects of the environment that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures that possess any of the following qualities: — archaeological; architectural; cultural; historic; scientific; technological; and

(b) includes—historic sites, structures, places, and areas; archaeological sites; sites of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu and wāhi tūpuna; and the surroundings associated with sites referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (iii); and cultural landscapes.

The concept of cultural landscapes is not defined.

Another new concept is 'well-being', which is defined as the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of people and communities, and includes their health and safety.

Historic Places Aotearoa will be working with ICOMOS New Zealand and the New Zealand Archaeological Association to prepare a joint submission on these two new bills. We will prepare our own submission and encourage other HPA members and individuals to also submit on the bill by the close-off date of 30 January 2023.

...and the Spatial Planning Bill

by Lynne Lochhead

The Spatial Planning Bill, released with the Natural and Built Environment Bill is one of a suite of three enactments intended to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA). As such, it needs to be read together with the NBE and is intended to work in tandem with it. The third Bill, the Climate Adaptation Bill, is yet to be released.

The Bill introduces a mandatory formal framework for strategic spatial planning which will set out the vision, objectives, strategic direction and priority actions for each region for at least 30 years. It is a response to several of the weaknesses identified in the current system; lack of co-ordination between central and local government including poor alignment between district plans and

infrastructure planning by the agencies concerned, as well as lack of focus on the long term and too much ad hoc development. The aim is to ensure that the big issues and opportunities facing a region are identified, a strategy developed to respond to them and plans adopted to implement the strategy.

The Regional Spatial **Continued next page**

Regional focus a positive in Spatial Planning Bill

From page 10

Strategy (RSS) will be developed by regional planning committees, (also responsible for plans under the NBE) but with the addition of a central government representative. The process is required to support “quality decision-making” based on “robust and reliable evidence” and must be designed to encourage participation by “the public and interested parties”. The Bill has avoided prescribing a process to allow committees to develop their own processes. How this may work in practice will be critical to the success of the plans but will surely require more flexible and innovative approaches than the sort of participation we have been used to under the RMA.

It is encouraging that the Bill requires the RSS not only to set the strategic direction for use and development but also for protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment. Among the key matters an RSS may provide strategic direction on are areas



Lynne Lochhead

of cultural heritage and areas of significance to Māori. It is to be hoped that this provision will help to avoid the sort of scenario which has often occurred in the past where infrastructure or development works have taken place without regard to their potential impact on areas of cultural significance.

The committee must have regard to cumulative effects, significant or irreversible adverse effects and mātauranga Māori. However, committees must disregard effects on scenic views from private properties (a clear attack on nimbyism) or from land transport assets that are not stopping places. The latter part of the clause is curious given that these are clearly public views and scenery is one of our tourism selling points.

This seems an unnecessarily restrictive requirement that will almost certainly lead to repetition of the sort of insensitive infrastructure decisions which resulted in, for example, placement of power pylons

on the volcanic plateau between State Highway One and the view of the mountains and may adversely affect the protection of cultural landscapes.

This legislation is a key component in achieving a better integrated planning system, with the RSS being required to comply with the national planning framework, while the lower level NBE plans, must be consistent with the RSS. The RSS must be reviewed at nine-yearly intervals though review may occur sooner if a need arises, for example, through a change in the national policy framework.



Talk to us if you want to know more about the benefits of being part of our national organisation.

Thousand turn out for Whanganui events

Whanganui held its third Heritage Month in a busy October 2022. Highlights of the 42 events included a parade of vehicles and horses through the town centre and a heritage riverboat festival.

Thousands turned out to view both events, held for the first time, which cemented the value of heritage to the community and visitors.

A vintage collectable fair and vehicle park-ups – new additions to the programme – were also popular.

Heritage Month manager and Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust chair Helen Craig said all the events had a wide appeal to the general public. “They take heritage to the people, rather than appealing to a narrower ‘already interested’ demographic.”



Women's Rest integral to Memorial Square

By Elizabeth Pishief

The Women's Rest in Memorial Square, Napier has been closed for several years following a damning engineering report which identified it as an earthquake risk.

This building is a cherished place to the people of Napier and nationally significant; it is listed with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as a Category 1 historic place. The Cenotaph is the other historic place within the Square (listed as Category 2).

The Art Deco Trust is working with Napier City Council and the wider community, especially women's groups such as the National Council of Women and Women's Institutes to find a new use for the building and raise funds to undertake earthquake strengthening and conservation work.

After World War 1 (and amid the Influenza pandemic), there was a great outpouring of public grief and pride throughout New Zealand with calls to build monuments and memorials. But many ambivalent feelings about the War and the sacrifices people had made prevailed. At the Cenotaph's unveiling in 1924, a newspaper reporter identified some of these feelings as bitterness, sorrow, pride, the joy of winning, and finally, the reverence for sacrifices



Memorial Square soon after opening c.1926 showing the cenotaph and the Women's Rest in the specially designed Memorial Square. Photographer Sydney Charles Smith. Source: Art Deco Trust

made. The outpourings of emotion were expressed in the enormous amounts of money donated towards memorials. Considerable controversy surrounded what sort of memorial should be built.

In 1923, Councillor Bryant said although people were divided between monumental and utilitarian proposals, he thought the two ideas should be blended. The idea of a Mother's Rest was raised and further developed when the Plunket Society asked for rooms to be incorporated into the new building.

In February 1924, Mayor Andrews announced Napier's war memorial would be both the Cenotaph (emotive memorial) and the Women's Rest (utilitarian). The two together are Napier's war memorial and it would be appropriate to list them as a historic area surrounded by a specially laid-out garden designed to link them.

The improvements to Memorial Square, vacant since Napier Main School vacated it in 1916, began in August 1923 when Mr Corner the city gardener had the stone edging and planting done.

Mr Clapcott the Borough Engineer designed the square but not finished until the Cenotaph and the Women's Rest were built.

The Cenotaph was designed by the architect D.A. Frame and built during 1924. It was unveiled on 9 November 1924 before a large crowd. The Mayor said the choice of the site in northern Clive Square was appropriate because when the old school had stood across the road it was on this plot of ground that:

... many of the children who later served the colours had learned their first lessons in patriotism and in discipline. Later, again, they had received instruction in military drill on the same spot, while finally it was here that the troops assembled in Napier before their departure for the war zones overseas.

The memorial's other integral part was the Women's Rest. The competition was won by J.A. Louis Hay, who designed a Women's Rest in his Prairie style, a domestic style, presumably considered appropriate for a building for the use of women and children.

The Governor General laid the foundation stone on 24 October 1925. The building was officially opened on 25 April 1926, following the annual memorial service held in the Municipal Theatre across the road. On the same day, the square was officially renamed Memorial Square.

The earthquake on 3 February 1931 destroyed most of Napier's notable buildings and the fires that followed contributed to the disaster.

Continued p13



Women's Rest after the Hawke's Bay earthquake on 3 February 1931 from the Tennyson Street side of Memorial Square. The building was badly damaged by the earthquake. Photographer probably Frank L. Moodie, architect. Source: MTG Hawke's Bay objects nos. m90/31, 7256 m, 6620

Hay design core of Tin Town after 1931 quake

From p12: The Women's Rest building was damaged but became the core of the temporary shops (Tin Town) built rapidly after the disaster. After the earthquake, a moratorium was placed on rebuilding any new business premises while a rational plan for the central business district was prepared. The Government provided a loan of £10,000 to build 32 temporary business premises in Clive Square, and 22 professional offices in Memorial Square. These were built of wooden frames covered with corrugated iron by Fletcher Construction and popularly called Tin Town. The temporary shopping centre opened on 16 March 1931. The relatively undamaged Women's Rest was incorporated in the Memorial Square shop complex and the Cenotaph was surrounded by it.

In 1933, at the request of the Commissioners running Napier, the Borough Engineer, Mr Climie, examined the Women's Rest and concluded it could be reinstated and restored to its appearance before the earthquake. By July, the borough's administrative functions were restored and the commissioners had left town. Mr Climie wrote to the Town Clerk explaining four options had been investigated, and they had conferred with Louis Hay, architect for the original design.

Another report a year later concluded the walls were 'pretty extensively damaged.' It was planned to make the building light and flexible while not losing the general original form.

An existing description of the work to be undertaken in the 'reconditioning' of the Women's Rest indicates it was



Tin Town showing McGlashan's Auctioneers; St Patrick's Church, Trinity Methodist Church and trees on perimeters of Clive and Memorial Squares. Photographer A.B. Hurst. Source: MTG Hawke's Bay Object nos. m2003/6/44, 3278 f, 77006

considerably more radical than has been acknowledged and that the addition to the foundation stone which says 'Destroyed by earthquake 1931; rebuilt 1934' may be accurate. The building was not destroyed by the earthquake because it was the core of Tin Town. But in 1934, it was substantially rebuilt from the brick walls up to ensure it met newly developed earthquake standards.

In 1955, an application was made to the Minister of Lands to extend the lease to enable additions to Women's Rest for the benefit of the Merchant Navy Club, which occupied the building. Permission was finally granted in 1958. Further changes were made to the building as part of the commemorations of the 1993 Women's Suffrage Centennial.

The Women's Rest is a key component of the city's World War I

commemorative park: Memorial Square. It has historical and social significance as a tribute to those involved in the World War I.

This building provided important social facilities, first to mothers and other women as a place of rest in the centre of town; as part of Tin Town after the 1931 earthquake; and later as the centre for the Merchant Navy Club and St John's Ambulance Association. It served for many years as a ballet studio, and it remained a community centre housing the Citizens' Advice Bureau, until it was closed because of concerns about its earthquake strength.

The Art Deco Trust now has an MOU with Napier Council to lead the conservation work with the community and reuse the Women's Rest in ways that promote its social, cultural, historical, technological and commemorative significance.



The Mothers' Rest in 2018. Source: Elizabeth Pishief 21 November 2018

Mining history at Wellington Goldfields

by Denis Pilkington

Most of us can name Otago, the West Coast of the South Island, Thames/ Coromandel and Waihi as goldmining centres in 19th century New Zealand. Less well-known is the story of mining the gold in Wellington's hills that continued sporadically for several decades from the early 1850s.

Māori first alerted colonial settlers to the presence of alluvial gold in Wellington's hills. In 1852, news there was gold in Waiariki Stream quickly generated a flurry of activity in the locality. Later, the main mining operations moved from this stream, which flows out near Tongue Point on Wellington's west coast to further north near Cape Terawhiti. Some activity occurred for a short time from 1857 in the headwaters of the Kaiwharawhara Stream in what is now the Zealandia Wildlife Reserve.

Ultimately, nine mines were in the Waiariki area, all on James McMenemy's Terawhiti Station. Mining companies often had optimistic names like, Perseverance, Hit or Miss, Never Despair, The Hardworking Company and Lucky hit.

From the time of the first discovery, alluvial gold recovery in the Waiariki Stream continued for some years, along with further prospecting to try to find the source of the gold. In 1869, quartz mining started on the slopes of the high hill called Mount Misery above the Waiariki Stream. Today, this site is near the roadway on the Terawhiti Station that winds through the hills from South Makara to Oterongo (now Oteranga) Bay on the coast. Disappointed miners soon found the reefs could be followed for a short distance only to disappear.



Michael Grace with David Watt from Heritage NZ and Bruce McFadgen at the Terawhiti Homestead while leading a tour of the goldfields for Heritage NZ members as a fundraiser for Wellington Goldfields Heritage Society.

Because the land was heavily faulted, fragmentation had resulted. Mining and prospecting on this site ended after three years.

Mining took place in the Kaiwharawhara Stream, Karori from 1869 to 1873, during which time six mines were set up. However, this coincided with plans to urgently upgrade Wellington's water supply and the mining site was seen as ideal for creating a reservoir by damming the stream. The reservoir proposal was empowered by an Act of Parliament, so mining had to cease. To develop the reservoir, three of the six mine sites were flooded and two others further up the valley were unable to continue operations in the water supply reserve. The reservoir included a 400m tunnel on the east side of the valley to carry water pipes to a pumping station at the head of the Aro Valley, which created some interest from the mining community. Remnants of the mines can still be seen in the Zealandia Wildlife Reserve, together with one tunnel in the valley below the reserve.

At Terawhiti in the 1880s, quartz mining moved north from Mount Misery on to Albion Hill above Black Gully running north from Oterongo Bay. In all, 25 mines were set up including the optimistically named Bonanza, Golden Crown, Wealth of Nations, Golden Hill and Try Again. The appropriately named Phoenix Mine was developed at this time on the site of a previous 1869 mine on Mount Misery.

Numerous tunnels were driven to try to intersect the fragmented quartz reefs from different angles and levels on the hillsides. Having mined the gold bearing quartz, there was then the challenge of extracting the gold from the ore. The extraction process involved very fine crushing of the quartz followed by mechanical and chemical recovery of the gold. Initially, ore was transported from the mine site by packhorse, then shipped out to be crushed elsewhere as the locally based mining companies were undercapitalized and could not afford to purchase and install this type of equipment in such a remote location.

Two companies did install their own crushing equipment on the mining site. In 1881 at the Phoenix Mine, an Ashcroft patent quartz crusher was installed. The crusher was a development by George Ashcroft of Petone from the Berdan design. It comprised a 1.8m diameter bowl with two 360kg iron balls, which were propelled around the bowl by a rotating mechanism to crush the ore in a wet process where the water carried the slurry of crushed fines into two separating troughs. Here, heavier gold could settle and lighter material be conveyed into a mercury amalgam system to capture the remaining gold.

Continued next page



The horizontal steam engine and flywheel at the Albion Battery.

Terawhiti Station rings the changes

Terawhiti Station was first farmed as a sheep run in the 1840s. Its original farmer William Barnard Rhodes had started grazing some shorthorn cattle on the land when he sold the property in 1853 to James McMenamen.

In 2022, the station is still owned by the sixth generation of his descendants. James and Hannah McMenamen's fourth child Roseanna or Tot married William Fox Wheeler. Their second son, William Stanley Wheeler, eventually became involved in the station's future with the Wheeler name remaining for several generations.

Today, the property covers about 5000ha of steep hill country rising to heights up to around 500m. Early station development – and mining operations – led to the clearing of dense bush cover over some years. The original homestead, now rented, remains near the shoreline on the south side of the Waiariki Stream.

As well as the 19th century flurry of mining

operations, significant developments occurred on the Terawhiti land in the 20th century.

In 1965, a cable was laid across Cook Strait, to carry electric power generated in the southern lakes to the North Island. This cable comes ashore at Oterongo Bay (also known as Cable Bay) on the Terawhiti Station. When laid, this was the world's largest and longest submarine power cable. The cable has a capacity of up to 600 megawatts operating at 500,000 volts DC, and runs for 610km from Benmore to Haywards in the Hutt Valley, where the electricity is converted back to AC.

In the 21st century, Terawhiti became home to Meridian's West Wind Windfarm. Completed in 2009, this was then New Zealand's largest windfarm. The 62 windmills are 68m high with 82m blade diameters. Each produces 2.3MW (about 3000HP). Together, the field produces 142MW, enough to supply 73,000 homes, equivalent to Wellington City. Meridian has

provided many public tracks for walkers and cyclists through the windfarm, a popular Wellington tourism destination.

Terawhiti Station has always been challenging terrain – marginal country for economic farming.

With the focus for grazing now on the easier sections of the property, the steep faces and gullies are reverting to scrub and bush. Following extensive predator trapping in recent years, one of these regenerating bush areas became the home of 13 North Island brown kiwi in November 2022. These are the first of 250 kiwi to be released in various parts of the property by Capital Kiwi Project organisation.

Footnote: Te ra-whiti (The rising sun) is the term Maori used when referring to the East Coast of the North Island. It is thought that the name was applied to this area through miscommunication between the two cultures in a query about the name of the location.

Phoenix mine rose but soon abandoned

From p10: Amalgam was heated to boil off the mercury leaving the gold.

A dam was built in the stream above the crusher and, it is assumed, powered by a water wheel. It must have been a massive effort for men and horses to get such a heavy machine into place in a steep gully below the mine.

After all this toil, and despite its optimistic name, gold recovery at the Phoenix proved uneconomic, and the mine was abandoned by 1882. The crusher still lies in the creek bed today, where it must have toppled following rotting of its wooden mounting stand.

More ambitious was installing in 1883 a stamper battery powered by steam from a wood-fired boiler on the flat below the Albion Mine. The mine itself was sited near the hilltop above Black Gully and an elaborate mechanical tramway was built to carry ore downhill to 10 vertical stampers working in two stamper boxes in the valley below. The equipment was housed in a tall building and a house was also built

nearby for the mine manager. It would have been a mammoth job moving this heavy equipment overland to the site after being shipped in to Oterongo Bay.

Ore was shovelled into the stamper boxes where it was wet crushed through a very fine perforated plate. Finer crushing was then carried out in two Berdan-type rotating bowls each about 1.2m in diameter with stationary anvils. The wet slurry of crushed ore was passed over woollen blankets to catch the gold particles followed by further separation in slatted troughs.

Finally, the slurry was run over mercury-coated copper plates where any residual gold amalgamated with the mercury. Amalgam was collected and heated to a high temperature to boil off the mercury. The Albion company was wound up in 1886, by which time most of the neighbouring operations has also failed.

Apart from the difficulty in working fragmented quartz reefs, the actual yield of gold from the quartz was

poor. From 330 tons of ore crushed from the Albion and neighbouring Golden Crown Mines, the yield was an uneconomic total of 10¼ oz of gold. This was partly aggravated by the difficulty in recovering the total gold content from the crushed ore.

Around 1890, the cyanide process was established in the Waihi area, which significantly increased the yield of gold recovered from ore. A considerable amount of gold was recovered at Waihi by reprocessing the previous mine tailings. By then, though, mining in the Wellington area had largely ceased.

At the Albion site, although the two buildings are gone, all the components of the stamper battery are still strewn round the site. Some years ago, Michael Grace, a descendant of James McMenamen and a current Terawhiti Station director, formed the Wellington Goldfields Heritage Society to restore the battery. Sufficient funds have been raised to start the project, which has exciting heritage tourism potential.



Exploring the Phoenix Mine tunnel. Photo: Bill Ryder



Berdans at Albion Battery. Photo: Vivienne Morrell