

## CHANGES TO THE HISTORIC PLACES ACT

The Heritage New Zealand Bill, at present in the process of being adopted, replaces the present Historic Places Act 1993. The Bill changes the name of the Historic Places Trust to Heritage New Zealand and reinforces the status of Heritage New Zealand as a Crown Entity. The composition of the Board is altered to reflect this status, with no members to be elected by the membership, and changes are made to some of the present powers of the Trust.

Importantly for local heritage, the Trust's branch committees have been disestablished, although the Trust intends to retain its paying membership. The announcement on radio of the disestablishment of branch committees was greeted with consternation by branch committees as they had had no warning of it. Following a national meeting of branch chairs in Wellington in mid 2010 there was a proposal giving local branch committees the opportunity to reform as autonomous local societies which could affiliate to a new national umbrella organisation, Historic Places Aotearoa. Under this arrangement the Trust agreed to release locally generated funds back to the new societies and the Minister promised a government re-establishment grant to each society once the legislation was passed. The passage of the Bill has been very slow, but the Select Committee has now considered the submissions and has reported back to Parliament, and so the bill will now be read a second and third time before being enacted.

A number of branch committees, including Hawke's Bay, have gone with the Historic Places Aotearoa proposal; others have been amalgamated with other local historic or similar societies, some have set up as independent local societies or trusts and a number are maintaining the status quo pending the passage of the legislation and continuing to receive NZHPT funding.

NZHPT is unusual for a Government organisation in continuing to have a public membership. In return for their subscription members receive a quarterly magazine as well as a number of concessions when visiting historic places overseas, particularly in the UK. Historic Places Aotearoa is working to identify benefits which we can offer members, but in the meantime the new local committees face the challenge of establishing a new membership without being able to offer a magazine of similar quality and the overseas concessions. In addition, the branch committees used to receive a reasonably generous annual administration grant from the Trust plus some additional contestable funding to cover specific projects such as publications or the production and erection of interpretive sign boards at historic places. These operating grants will not continue.

Our local heritage society, Historic Places Hawke's Bay, was launched in November last year having operated since its formation in 1957 as the Hawke's Bay Branch of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT). NZHPT was originally formed in 1955, initially as a very small organisation relying heavily on local branch committees of volunteers to do the local spade work in researching buildings for registration (ie protection), local heritage advocacy and other local activities. Under this model there was a very close working relationship between the Trust and its local branches. As the legislation governing the Trust has changed over the years, the relationship between the Trust and the local branches has also changed, with the branch committees unable to speak publicly about heritage issues and often unaware of NZHPT activities in the area.

Having established Historic Places Hawke's Bay, the local committee is in the process of formalising its aims and objectives, facing the challenge of building membership, identifying what it can offer in return, and re-establishing its identity and credibility under a new name. (Members of the NZ Historic Places Trust / Heritage New Zealand will not become members of Historic Places Hawke's Bay unless they join the new organisation.)

We not only need members, but we would also welcome additions to the committee. If you are interested in joining Historic

Places Hawke's Bay or being involved with the development of what we hope will be Hawke's Bay's regional heritage umbrella organisation covering the area from Wairoa to Central Hawke's Bay, please visit the Historic Places Aotearoa web site or contact the Secretary, Philip Irwin, on 870 0513.

Denis Pilkington  
CHAIR

## HERITAGE UPDATE

The Christchurch Earthquakes are impacting on heritage all over New Zealand, and particularly in areas which experience earthquakes. Hawke's Bay, being the site of New Zealand's most devastating quake, in terms of lives lost, is no exception, although buildings here have either survived the Richter 7.8 shake of 1931 or been built since then.

### NAPIER

The focus of activity is in the south-east corner of the Central Business District, where three buildings which survived the 1931 earthquake are now deemed to be earthquake risks. Of the three, only the Post Office building is registered by the NZ Historic Places Trust and is within the Art Deco Quarter.



Demolition has just been completed of the former Caledonian Hotel (above, when new), Napier's first ferro-concrete building, built in 1907. It was subsequently known as the Holiday Hotel, then the Commercial Hotel, until the early 1950s when it was converted to offices and became the Commercial Building. In the 1990s the upper floors were converted into apartments. It was a major landmark in the city and will be missed. The demolition process revealed serious structural deficiencies, including floor slabs with no visible means of support, and the building had to be temporarily strengthened during the demolition to prevent its collapse. It will be replaced by a one-and-a-half storeyed retail building. The demolition has revealed the north wall of the building housing the Kilim Café.



This must surely be the oldest building in Napier's business district. Before it was given a Spanish-style facade, around 2000, it was a simple wooden building without a veranda, which clearly escaped the post-earthquake fires, probably because it was shielded by the massive concrete hotel. Its north wall disappeared from view in 1907 when the hotel was built and was over-flashed to prevent

rain seeping down between the two buildings. It has now been revealed, its unpainted wooden weatherboards shrunken and warped with age.



Opposite, the reinforced concrete Williams Building of 1911 (above) will soon be demolished. It is the only building in Napier still with the cast-iron posts which supported the verandas in pre-quake times. During the post-earthquake reconstruction, all buildings were required to have verandas supported from above. It will be replaced by a single storeyed retail block. Both of these two buildings are outside Napier's Art Deco Quarter and were not registered by the NZ Historic Places Trust.



In the same area, the former Post Office (above, when new) is to be strengthened and adapted for retail and office use, creating more shops in Hastings and Dickens Streets. Its survival is a great relief as it is a landmark and has an interesting history. It's said that if there had been one bucket of water in the building after the earthquake, the fire which started there could have been put out. Built just before the earthquake, in 1930, it replaced an earlier Post Office at the corner of Browning Street and Shakespeare Road. The Post Office was the first business to relocate south from the north end of Hastings Street, which had once been Napier's main shopping street but by the 1920s was being superseded by Emerson Street. The earthquake provided the opportunity for three other businesses to move to Emerson Street – the Bank of New Zealand, Hannah's Shoe Store and Lockyer's Radio Shop.



Opposite the Post Office, the new Farmers Department Store (see last column) opened in June. It incorporates the facades of the Callinicos Building and the former Odeon Cinema, originally named the Plaza. The zigzag frieze on the new building replicates the frieze on the Marine Parade end of the cinema, and the impressive leadlight window from the rear of the Callinicos Milk-bar is a stunning feature of the Hastings Street show windows. The former Farmers store, originally Blythes Department Store, occupied two connected buildings facing Emerson Street and Hastings Street. After the demise of Blythes, the department store expanded into the McGruer's Building, originally a smaller department store. These three buildings are all being strengthened and converted into smaller shops.



Close by, Paxie's Building of 1932 (above) is being redeveloped. The original Spanish Mission facade has just been restored, and new shops are being constructed through to the Marine Parade, some of them facing a walkway that will link Hastings Street and the Marine Parade and be known as Paxie's Lane.



In Dalton Street, the Art Deco facade of the Chisholm Building (above) has been hidden for many years by a massive awning and cladding. It has just been strengthened and restored. And the strengthening of several other smaller buildings is either being carried out or planned.

There are other heritage happenings in Napier:

To prevent the flooding in the CBD, an intermittent problem in recent years after the periods of intense rainfall which seem to be happening more frequently than in the past, a massive new drain, 2 metres in diameter, has been laid across the Marine Parade. It will be extended in two further stages along Hastings Street and the length of Tennyson Street. It has involved digging a six-metre-deep trench across the Marine Parade gardens and temporarily removing a length of the 1890 sea wall. This stage has only just been completed. The sections which were removed have been replaced and the joints where it was cut through are hardly visible. A viewing hole has been created so that the stonework base of the concrete wall can be seen. Although the wall now appears to be only a metre high, it is actually much higher than that, because it was originally a retaining wall, supporting the roadway and about three metres high on the seaward side. At intervals, steps led down to the beach, the level of which grad-



ually built up after its construction because of building up of shingle during heavy seas.



In the north-east corner of the Art Deco Quarter, the extensions to the Museum (renamed MTG Hawke's Bay) have just been completed and will open to the public in late



September, when the collections have been moved back in and 14 new exhibitions have been mounted. Of particular interest is the restoration of the original entrance which was converted to a loading dock in 1977 when the Century Theatre was built. It will now provide a separate entrance to the enlarged Archives Department of the Museum.

In Byron Street, the former Borough Council Chambers of 1884, moved from its original site to make way for the Museum expansion, will soon become a Community Arts Centre. Historic Places Hawke's Bay has written a letter of support for the fund-raising appeal. This building, designed by Robert Lamb and built in 1884,



was remodelled in 1950 when Napier became a city. After its replacement by the current City Council building in the early 1960s, it filled a number of roles, its most recent one being an Education Centre for the Museum. Perhaps one day its Victorian exterior can be restored.

*These notes are adapted from a report in 'Newest City News', the magazine of the Art Deco Trust.*

**CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY**

*Sally Butler reports on earthquake risks to heritage buildings in Central Hawke's Bay.*

Central Hawke's Bay is fortunate in that few of their heritage buildings are considered to be earthquake risks, with the majority being of wooden construction.

Of the local churches, only St Mary's in Waipukurau, is of brick construction. St Peter's, Waipawa, despite the appearance of stonework, is in fact wooden, with a decorative plaster finish.

Building owners in the towns of Waipawa and Waipukurau are having their buildings assessed, and a number will require strengthening. Some may be demolished if the costs are too high.

One building at risk is the 1925 shop (at right) designed by Louis Hay for Waipukurau saddler Alex Blom, which is currently owned by Winloves 100% Electrical. The ground floor has been modified to suit modern retailing, but the upstairs apartment retains the characteristic decorative touches favoured by Hay, in the fireplaces and mantels, and stained glass window details.



*In future we hope to bring you heritage news from all over Hawke's Bay. We are currently looking for people in Hastings and Wairoa who can supply this information.*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Historic Places Hawke's Bay, Postal address - 2 Arthur Close, Clive 4102**

**[www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/category/regions/hawkes-bay/](http://www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/category/regions/hawkes-bay/)**

HOME PHONE			HOME PHONE		
Denis Pilkington (Chair)	Napier	835 6525	Susan Lopdell	Taradale	844 6697
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Sue Dick	Napier	835 0822	Cr Mark Herbert		
Mike King	Napier	842 0221	(Napier City Council)	Napier	835 7951

**H B HERITAGE NEWS**

**NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC PLACES HAWKE'S BAY (Inc)**

**AUGUST 2013**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



All members are invited to the first Annual General Meeting of Historic Places Hawke's Bay.

Prospective members may also join at the meeting.

**SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER AT 2PM**

to be held at  
**STONEYCROFT**  
**THE HAWKE'S BAY DIGITAL ARCHIVE**

OMAHU ROAD (at the corner of the HB Expressway),  
HASTINGS

James Morgan will describe the function of the Archive



**LAST BUS TOUR**

On a wet day in Autumn a full bus of keen explorers caught the mighty Nimon bus and ignoring the weather we proceeded along the Waimarama Rd to Waimarama beach, on the last bus tour organised by the Branch Committee of NZHPT. Local kaumatua Robert McDonald joined us in Havelock North. Along the road to the beach we heard of the history and landmarks associated with the Tukituki River, Te Mata Peak and Kahuranaki. Rose Mohi assisted when Robert needed a vocal break, with incidental comments and whanau stories.

After a brief walk along the foreshore, we drove past Waimarama School, and Church, and Marae Tupunga. Lunch was at Jarks - a splendid feast.

The highlight of the trip, through 7 gates, was the site of the Hakikino Pa, within a working farm, owned by tangata whenua. Robert talked of the history, the battles and the people who had lived there. Feeding the eels was the best entertainment for the 3 young Belcher boys. The muddy road, and rain joined together to provide further fun, as the bus got stuck - everyone gave advice and helped to push. Eventually we journeyed home with additional commentary from David Belcher, who talked of his farming days and life at Waimarama. A happy informative day for all.

Rose Mohi



The ancestor, Tumapuhia-a-Rangi, forms part of the gateway/entrance to the marae at Hakikino Pa.

Feeding eels from the viewing platform at Hakikino Pa.

