

H B HERITAGE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC PLACES HAWKE'S BAY (Inc)

AUGUST 2017

NAPIER CITY COUNCIL UNDERESTIMATES PUBLIC HERITAGE SENTIMENT



The War Memorial Building and Memorial as they once were.

The current controversy on the relocation of the Eternal Flame and the Roll of Honour from what was the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre is an encouraging reminder of the value placed on heritage buildings and objects by the public of Napier.

The war memorial building was designed by Guy Natusch and when it was opened in July 1957 it was the culmination of major community fundraising. The building was funded by a government subsidy, public subscription, a grant from the Napier City Council and another from the City Council Centennial Fund. The government subsidy was provided on the basis of the 1946 postwar stated policy that memorials should have a practical purpose, such as a community centre where people could gather for social, educational, recreational and cultural purposes.

The building was opened by the Minister of Internal Affairs, S W Smith, representing the Prime Minister. Such was the local enthusiasm that it is reported that the event was attended by thousands including many children.

The plan included a site beside the building for the eternal flame and plaques listing 301 names of Napier and Hawke's Bay service people who died during World War II. The flame and the roll of honour were initially sited outside the building.



After the renovation carried out in 1995, the Eternal Flame and the Roll of Honour were both located inside the building and the roll was considerably expanded to about 600 names to include those who died serving during World War I. At that time the name was also altered to Napier War Memorial Conference Centre, to indicate the role of the building at that time.

The building was again closed in 2016 for the current round of redevelopment. This was to be a major renovation initially budgeted on the long term plan at \$4 million, a figure that was subsequently increased to \$5 million to include necessary earthquake strengthening and other items.

In the Napier City Council's press release in November 2016, the architect is quoted as stating, "....the relocation of the war memorial to a more visible and meaningful setting has been particularly satisfying. We wanted the entry plaza to be a vibrant public space that people will enjoy whether stopping or simply walking through. It is framed... on the city side by the spine of the war memorial which is clad in Hinuera stone." The release concludes: "the new war memorial space...will be able to be entered from the Marine Parade as well as the centre foyer. A large window in its new curved wall, overlooking the lawn and gardens, will allow for 24 hour viewing of the memorial from the path behind the floral clock....something that has been welcomed by the Napier and Taradale RSAs."

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Louis Hay's concept drawing of the 1925 Mothers' Rest building in Memorial Square

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However when the general public got to take a first look at the renovated building at the beginning of April 2017 there was no sign of the “vibrant entry plaza”, or the war memorial and the words “war memorial” had also disappeared from the name of the building. We were among the first to publicly voice our concern that the war memorial was missing.

Faced with the prospect of a major cost overrun when the tenders for the job were received, Council was forced to make some cuts. One of these was the decision to resite the war memorial in Memorial Square. This decision was reached at an open council meeting in April last year just as the project was about to start. The decision was not picked up by the press and there was evidently no move to inform the RSA or any other interested party so the public remained unaware of the outcome until the building was opened a year later.

It is sad that our councillors and Mayor, faced with a cost crisis did not pause to think through the heritage aspects of the project and failed to honour their consultation obligations. Even more important, for many families, the plaque on the local war memorial represents the only tangible memorial to a loved family member. For a considerable number of those named, there is no grave site that can be visited either in New Zealand or near the battlefield where they died.

The plan to move the war memorial elements to Memorial Square also involves possible demolition of the Louis Hay designed Mothers' Rest, an important listed heritage building that was built as a World War I memorial. Read about this on the Hawke's Bay page of our Historic Places Aotearoa website at <https://historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/napiers-forgotten-building-text-of-a-commentary-written-by-densi-pilkington-that-was-published-by-the-hawkes-bay-today/>

Originally it was suggested that the current City Council building could be sold for redevelopment, possibly as a hotel. The Council offices could be shifted into the library building and a new library built on the central roadway between Clive

and Memorial Squares. While some dismissed this proposal as a pipe dream it has since become a real prospect following a seismic survey of the council building which found it to be severely earthquake prone and probably beyond repair.

Members of the local branch of the NZ Institute of Architects have pointed out that not only would a building the size of the current library not fit onto the suggested roadway site and would inevitably encroach onto the lawn and garden areas, it would also have a negative impact on the local streetscape. We can also comment that it was the very modern Glenn Innes Community Centre building that was shown pasted onto the images of the proposed site between the Squares. A building in this style would be an uncomfortable and unsympathetic addition to the adjacent buildings including the Fire Station, Provincial Hotel and Methodist Church.

On the other hand, on a positive note, one possible advantage for this site could be the potential to incorporate the currently empty Mothers' Rest building as a wing of the new library.

In any event the tiled roof of the Mothers' Rest building is in need of seismic strengthening, the cost of which still poses a threat of demolition of the building.

The Napier City Council has the role of guardian of both the War Memorial Conference Centre and the Mothers' Rest Memorial building on behalf of the community. That councillors agreed unanimously to remove the World II memorial elements from the plan for the “conference centre” with the intention of resiting them somewhere in Memorial Square should alert all of us to the fact that, as councillors come and go institutional memory becomes ever shorter and the councillors of the day can all too easily make decisions without due regard to the history and heritage values of these buildings. Against this background it is essential that organisations such as Historic Places Hawke's Bay continue to promote public awareness and appreciation of local heritage and in particular maintain ongoing contact with the staff and elected representatives at the local councils.

COUNCIL PLANNERS TELL US ABOUT THEIR ROLE: THE 2017 HAWKE'S BAY HERITAGE NETWORK MEETING



HPHB Chairperson, Barbara Arnott and Hastings District Council Planner Rowan Wallis at Duart House

The network was set up by HPHB in 2015 to provide an opportunity for local history/heritage groups to share information, establish a conduit for individual groups to publicise events to the wider interest group, and also to coordinate event planning by individual organisations so that date clashes would be avoided.

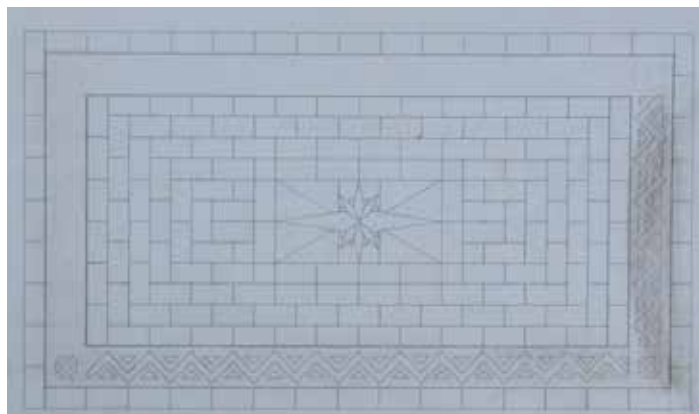


Napier City Council Strategic Planning Lead, Fleur Lincoln

This year's meeting was held at Havelock North's historic Duart House in May. Following updates from the various heritage/history organisations present Council planners in the area outlined their heritage related activities—with contributions from Wairoa and Hastings District Councils and Napier City Council.

The planners placed considerable emphasis on the heritage provisions in the respective District Plans. Hastings District Council Policy Team planner Rowan Wallis described how the council meets the cost of consents for seismic strengthening in heritage areas and are currently considering the possibility of providing grants to assist with seismic strengthening. They also set standards for appropriate colour schemes and building signage in the heritage precincts which have been successful in enhancing the appearance of Art Deco buildings in Hastings in recent years. The design of new buildings is required to be compatible with the heritage values of the CBD in terms of size, proportion, scale and design. Strengthening of Hastings' iconic, and currently closed, Opera House is due to start in August although further investigation is required before similar work can start on the adjacent Municipal Building.

The Hastings District Council have recently completed a review of their plan and reviews are about to start in Wairoa and Napier. Rowan said that while public consultation was a key component of the plan revision process, public apathy created a major challenge to this process. Ultimately there were few changes to the heritage listings in the plan.



The Napier Skating Rink as it once was

Fleur Lincoln from the Napier City Council outlined a number of heritage-related projects that the Council was working on. Possibly the most noticeable to the public eye will be the restoration of Napier's historic former skating rink, that now forms part of a heritage precinct on the Marine Parade. We can soon expect to see the original elaborate designs and colours in the concrete paving panels fully brought back to life.

Fleur also described an innovative proposal is to carry out a global archaeological assessment of the Napier CBD with the aim of pinpointing those areas of archaeological interest that would need to be closely monitored during any future work involving excavation.

Napier City Council currently has some limited funding available for grants to heritage building owners. At present the council is working on a proposal for a more ambitious fund to be set up in partnership with the Art Deco Trust. Art Deco Trust General Manager, Shane Gorst, advises that details of this fund are due to be announced in November.

Fleur confirmed that listing on the District Plan was necessary to provide statutory protection for a building or site as no such protection was available from inclusion on the Heritage New Zealand List. Heritage buildings not listed on the District Plan are described as "Advocacy Areas". (It is the Editor's understanding that nationally there are probably more sites listed on district plans than are on the Heritage New Zealand List. The two listing systems do not necessarily overlap so there is no guarantee that a building listed by Heritage New Zealand will appear on a district plan.)

A written presentation from Hinetākoha Viriaere of the Wairoa District Council included the reminder that the Wairoa District only has a very small population of around 8,000. Their first generation plan under the present legislation became operative in 2005 with the Council resolving to review the plan in 2015, focusing on correcting inconsistencies in the location and mapping of wāhi tapu in the original District Plan and determining if and what new items should be added. There are currently a lot more heritage listings in the District Plan compared to the New Zealand Heritage List on which the Mohaka Viaduct is the only Category I item. (Editor's Note: The former Category I Te Urewera Visitor Centre at Aniwhaniwa, Waikaremoana, demolished by DOC last year was not listed in the District Plan.) Thus, the benefits of protecting heritage via

a district plan listing will be emphasized during the district plan review.

It was clear from the comments by the three planners that a district plan review provides an excellent, but rare, opportunity to enhance the protection of heritage sites by getting them listed on the Plan. Conversely heritage advocates need to be vigilant in spotting any applications to remove at risk buildings from the plan, as a possible precursor to demolition, during the plan review process.

Overall the meeting proved most useful in strengthening relationships with local councils as a key part of the heritage advocacy process.

SIR JAMES CARROLL WALKWAY

- FROM GAIL MENZIES IN WAIROA -

This short walk is situated on the northern bank of Wairoa River, the start point being opposite Vista Motor Lodge, next to Wairoa Bridge on River Parade. Along the walkway one can see the remains of wharves on both sides of the river. They serve as reminders of the time when Wairoa was a river port. Wool, flax fibre, meat and dairy products were the main exports of the area and each trader had its own wharf or jetty.

A new signboard has been erected at Memorial Park, just along from the start of the track showing information and photos from Wairoa Museum about the history of this area.

Sir JAMES CARROLL, OBE – Statesman (1853 – 1926)

James, the sixth of eight children born to Joseph and Tapuke, was born on 20th August 1853 adjacent to a cabbage tree on the banks of Wairoa River that was near the site of the old family home. An iron railing still protects the tree, half way along the walkway. In 1871 he joined the Waikaremoana expedition against Te Kooti and was awarded the New Zealand medal. Later his abilities caught the attention of Sir Donald McLean and so began his parliamentary career. James Carroll was later knighted and served as Minister of Native Affairs, and, on two occasions, as acting Prime Minister.

Interests outside Parliament were many – particularly racing for which he kept his own stables. Sir James will also be remembered for bringing trout, deer and opossums into the area. He also assisted in getting a railway to the East Coast.

MEMORIAL PARK

In 1957 the Returned Services' Association (RSA) suggested a War Memorial Park for Wairoa with gates listing the names of the 107 local service people killed in WWII. Trees were planted and a memorial wall built at the site. The Park was officially opened in 1960. This land was previously part of the Hunter-Brown estate.

FLAX MILL AND WHARF

NZ flax or harakeke played an important role in our early history, traditionally being used for clothing, mats and equipment, as well as rope and twine. The quality of rope made here was recognised internationally and resulted in a thriving flax processing industry.



The wharf was built about 1919 by NZ Shipping Company, as well as a large two-storied building for handling wool and flax. Processing was carried out here and large areas of drying flax could often be seen around the mill. It was then baled and shipped from the wharf. The wharf closed in 1931 due to Hawke's Bay earthquake damage and the slowing down of the flax trade.

Jute woolpacks, ropes, flax cordage (baler twine for hay), floor coverings, underfelt, fibrous plaster continued for the war years and immediately after, but synthetic fibres saw the end and in 1980 the last local flax mill closed.

WAIROA FREEZING WORKS

Wairoa Co-operative Freezing Company first opened in 1917. In 1924, aided by new technologies, the first shipment of frozen meat left Wairoa on the new railway line. Disaster struck in 1931 when the Hawke's Bay earthquake and a subsequent fire completely gutted the buildings. The community rallied together to ensure the re-establishment of the works and in 1935 Swift NZ Company commenced processing in the current facility. Waitaki Refrigeration Co. Ltd purchased the plant in 1978 and upgraded facilities. AFFCO took ownership in 1990 and whilst the works are still trading today as AFFCO, they are 100% owned by Talleys. "The Works" have been an important part of the economic development of Wairoa district, employing up to 700 workers at the height of each season.

BON VOYAGE EMMA

We are sorry to lose Emma Keong from our committee as she departs for a two year OE. Emma has been on the committee since early 2015. One of her regular duties was to layout our newsletters and flyers for the membership.

Emma's departure reminds us that we are still on the lookout for suitably qualified people to fill vacancies on our committee and to contribute to the work of our society. We would love to hear from you if you think you can help.

OUR TRIP TO PORANGAHAU



Our last outing was to the Porangahau area at the end of April. The weather forecast was not great but in the end the weather was much kinder than expected. Thirty six members and friends made the journey. First stop was at the world's longest place name where we were given the background by Ahuriri Houkamau. We moved on to the Mclean property at Whangaehu renowned for its lovely views and extensive pre-European historical sites on the property. We also caught up with the McLean family history.

We lunched at the Porangahau Hotel, an historic building which is currently experiencing an upturn in visitor numbers. Ahuriri Houkamau also welcomed us at the Rongomaraeroa Marae and we were shown around the property which is notable for its many carvings.

Our last stop was at Chapelwick the original Porangahau homestead of the Hunter family. While no longer part of the farm, the house is maintained in beautiful condition and remains a heritage masterpiece set in sweeping lawns and gardens.

While not as well attended as some of our previous trips it proved to be a good day out for those who made the journey. Where should we go to next?

The Editor Had His Say

In the last issue the Editor suggested, perhaps provocatively, that retro design might be a better alternative to some of the uninspiring buildings that have replaced demolished heritage buildings in Napier over the years. There was a response from Guy Natusch as follows;

The Secretary

Dear Mr Irwin

Newsletter -April 2017- very good. I refer to "The Editor Has His Say". May I suggest that our Editor study the evolution of architectural styles, particularly Bannister Fletcher. It is no solution to replace or buildings in the Art Deco style or to reproduce styles of the past – Hitler and Stalin tried and failed, but they succeeded in killing off or supressing the best in the architectural field.....

Question: Should the 1956 War Memorial Building or the Wool Exchange have been designed in the Art Deco style? Both have been praised for their architectural and historical significance but too late to save them!

Architecture is the mirror of society reflecting both good and bad. We should respect the past but embrace the future.

Good Luck with your debate.

GUY NATUSCH FNZIA (RETIRED)

Thank you Guy for your input and it interesting to note that your views are supported by the Hastings CBD Architectural Heritage Design Guide which also deprecates the use of retro styling for new buildings in heritage areas.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN WELLINGTON IN OCTOBER...

You might like to take in Wellington's Pilot City Heritage Week which starts on Labour day. There will be walking tours, films, and open properties. Highlights include tours of Antrim House, St Gerard's Monastery, and Government House. The Week is being run jointly by Wellington City Council, Historic Places Wellington and Heritage NZ.

For more information check out the Historic Places Wellington page on our website. See <https://historicplaceswellington.org/upcoming-events/>

TAMATEA (CHB) NEWS

FROM: SALLY BUTLER

Remember the Waipawa Empire Hotel?

Recently there has been debate in Waipawa over the future of a very large oak tree that has been dropping leaves and acorns on the bowling green and consequently some people would like to see it gone. Others who want to see the tree retained point out that it is probably a survivor of the gardens surrounding the Empire Hotel, which was built on the main street of Waipawa around 1888. This very grand two storey wooden building was situated on the south side of the BNZ building (that now houses the Settlers' Museum). Up to 150 guests could be accommodated, there were two dining rooms and many other facilities for the guests. The garden behind the hotel extended for 16 acres across the railway line and included a tennis court and bowling green.

This iconic Waipawa landmark burnt to the ground on Easter Sunday 1961. We hope the oak tree can live on to provide a memory of the hotel and its renowned garden. Volunteers have offered to keep the dropping leaves and acorns under control.



Remnant of Waipawa's Empire Hotel Gardens?

Tamatea –Heritage Trails to Highlight the Centuries-Long History of Maori Occupation in Central Hawke's Bay

Central Hawke's Bay District Council are to vote on allocating Ward funds to provide concept planning for a Tamatea Trails concept in Central Hawke's Bay, the aim being to bring the story of Maori presence in Tamatea (Central Hawke's Bay) to the forefront.

Names given to the geographical features of the area by the tangata whenua will be incorporated in streetscape design, signage, and the arts, and a trail through Tamatea will follow a route including pa sites, the already well-known longest place name, views of significance and much more.

This work in progress should provide a a district-wide benefit in recognising the significant pre-European-settler cultural story of the area, and is also expected to provide tourism benefits.



Waipawa's Empire Hotel looking north with the BNZ next door

DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE?

Most people are at least a little curious about who has owned their home before them – but do you know where to look to find out more?

To help you put the pieces of the jigsaw together, Historic Places Hawke's Bay is planning a half day seminar on Saturday morning 7 October at the East Pier Hotel in Ahuriri.

This event is being run in conjunction with Heritage New Zealand who will be providing two speakers to guide you through some of the information sources that you could use to fill in the story of your house. There will also be speakers from local archival institutions. One session will

be an outline of some case studies.

This is a programme that has already been run successfully in Wellington and in a number of other centres around the country.

Make a diary note now and look out for further information that we will send out closer to the event. If you wish to register your interest in this event in advance, contact the Secretary, hb@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz or phone 8700513.



An Opportunity to Visit the new Blyth Performing Arts Centre at Iona College

AGM of Historic Places Hawke's Bay

- Date:** Sunday 27 August 2017
- Time:** 2:00 pm
- Venue:** The Blyth Performing Arts Centre at Iona College
- Transport:** Please make your own transport arrangements to get to the College at 42 Lucknow Road, Havelock North.
- RSVP:** For catering purposes please contact the Secretary
hb@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz or phone 06 8700513

The business of the AGM is likely to be quite brief so this is your opportunity to visit a major new Hawke's Bay landmark and also look around the new Information Resource Centre. The programme will include a talk on the development of the site from Pauline Campbell, Member of the Iona College Council and Chair of the Building Committee. The principal, Shannon Warren, will also be in attendance to show us around.

All welcome. We look forward to seeing you on the day.



LANDMARKS DEFINES PRESENT DAY HASTINGS



From this...



To this...

A number of our members attended the talk by Hastings District Council’s, Colin Hosford, and former Deputy Mayor, Cynthia Bowers, on the story of Landmarks at the Hastings Library in May. It was certainly interesting to catch up with the two decades of progress of this organisation in Hastings

While Hastings had enjoyed good times as the fruit bowl of NZ in the 50s & 60s subsequent events such as meat works & Morrison Industries closures had hit the town hard. By the 1990s Hastings was becoming quite run down.

Mayor, Jeremy Dwyer, decided to reverse the trend. He initiated a number of public forums in the 1990s and visited the Californian city of Santa Barbara, where he was inspired by how the community had overcome economic depression to become USA’s most tourist-friendly city, based round the attraction of the large number of Spanish Mission style buildings. Out of all of this Landmarks was formed in 1998 and adopted by the Council in 2000 with the following aims;

- To increase the community’s self-image and sense of pride and identity
- To develop a cohesive, quality, long term, planned commitment
- To base the plan on existing strengths and the identification of four key elements – history, landscape & beautification, art in public places and architecture
- To make people want to be in Hastings

Hastings of today certainly reflects the successful outcome of these aims and of particular interest to our organization is the progress in protecting and enhancing the heritage architecture of the city. Guidelines have been set to assist owners of heritage buildings with planning of maintenance or possible alterations all aimed at maintaining and enhancing the original character of the building. There are also guidelines for signage on commercial buildings that cover appropriate font styles and colours that are sympathetic to the building style.

Requirements for the design of new buildings in heritage areas are well defined. Apart from not attempting to replicate historic building styles there are requirements for compatibility with neighbouring buildings in terms of size, scale and height, enhancement of the site, finishes and colour schemes and avoidance of overshadowing adjacent buildings. These guidelines and requirements are all set out on the publication, Hastings CBD Architectural Heritage Design Guide, October 2012 which is recommended reading for anyone keen to learn more about the architectural styles of Hastings and how these can be maintained and enhanced into the future. The current high standard of most of the Hastings heritage buildings should not be taken for granted and the District Council are to be congratulated for their guidance in what has been achieved in the CBD through the Landmarks programme.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Philip Irwin (Secretary)	Clive	870 0513	Cr Rod Heaps	(Hastings District Council)	875 0455
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