

TUTIRA, THE LEGACY OF WILLIAM GUTHRIE SMITH

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2015

A remarkable New Zealander, a remarkable legacy. William Herbert Guthrie Smith died on the 4th July 1940 and is buried at Tutira. He left the 2000 acres that remained of the station in trust to the New Zealand public as an educational and recreational reserve. Spread over 90 hectares in rolling Hawke's Bay hill country and overlooking the picturesque Lake Tutira, is the Guthrie Smith Arboretum. The afternoon's programme will involve a talk by one of the Trustees, visiting the Homestead garden, the 1950 Tutira Church, "the Hangar", providing an interesting backdrop of bush to the homestead, and time to wander over some of the trails.

***Please bring your own picnic lunch and drink. Tea making facilities available.
Good walking footwear needed and participants must be able to walk unassisted.***

THE COACH DEPARTS FROM

Havelock North: Martin Place at 11:30 am

Taradale: Pettigrew Green Arena, Gloucester Street at 12:05 am
Returning by 5:00 pm.

COST: \$35.00 Per person for members of Historic Places Hawke's Bay
\$45 per person for non members (or \$35.00 if you join HPHB on the day).

Further enquiries: Philip Irwin, 8700513 or Susan Lopdell, 8446697
Please reply with your payment by 23 November 2015

PICK-UP POINT

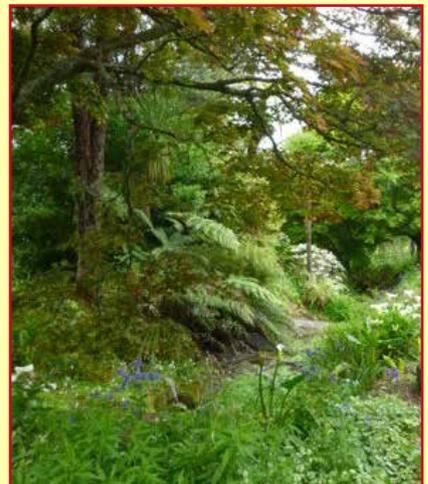
- Havelock North
- Taradale

Name: Phone:

Payment \$..... for..... seats Email:

***Please send you payment and the above particulars to:
The Secretary, Historic Places Hawke's Bay, 2 Arthur Close, CLIVE 4102***

***Alternatively payment can be made by direct credit to HBS Bank 031355 0727668 00
but please phone the Secretary so he can confirm your booking.***

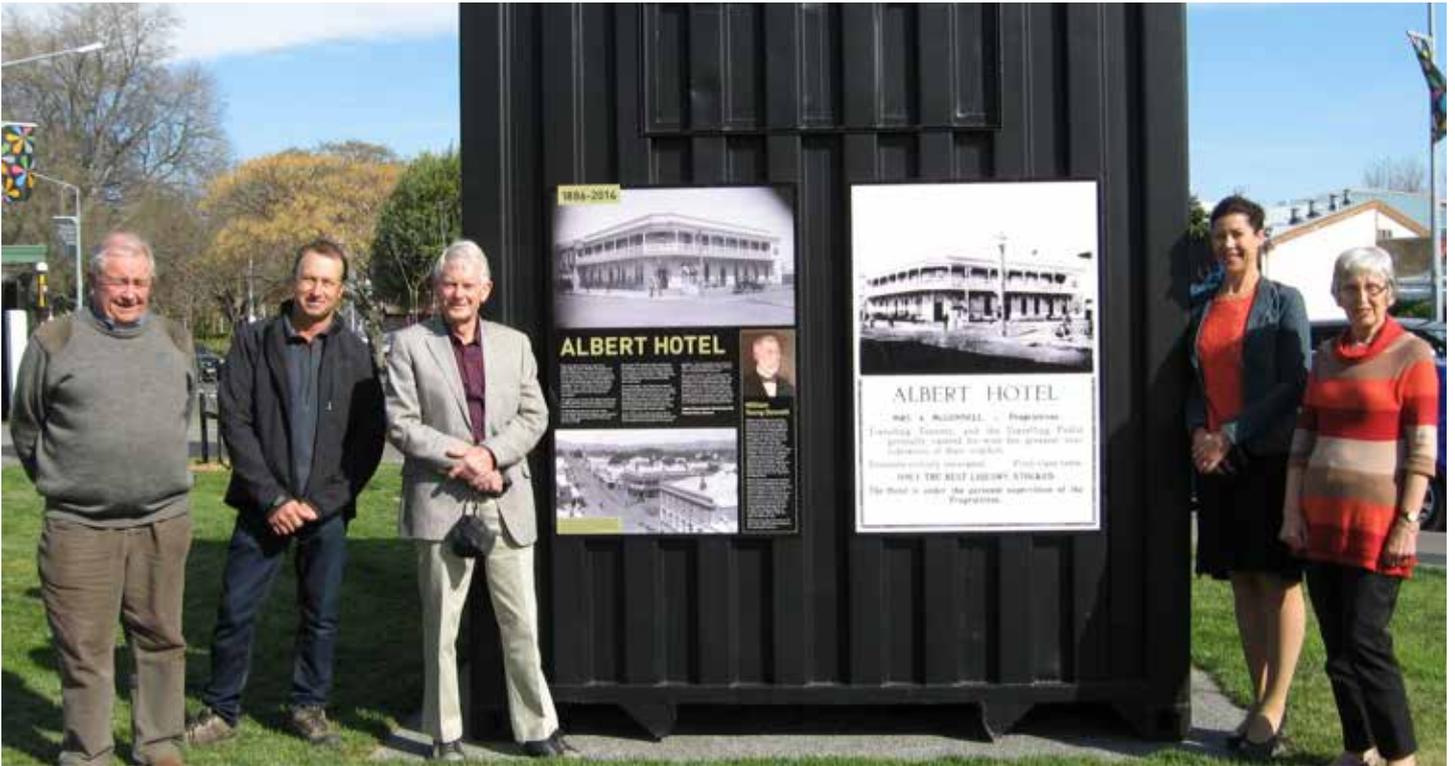


H B HERITAGE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC PLACES HAWKE'S BAY (Inc)

NOVEMBER 2015

REMEMBERING THE ALBERT HOTEL



From left Philip Irwin (secretary, Historic Places Hawke's Bay), Councillor Rod Heaps (Hastings District Council representative on the committee), Denis Pilkington (Chair, Historic Places Hawke's Bay), Rachel Stuart (Parks Planning and Development Manager, Hastings District Council) and Dorothy Pilkington, who wrote the text for the signboard.

Historic Places Hawke's Bay continues to work on interpretation signage of historic sites. The latest project completed is the site of the former Albert Hotel (Heritage New Zealand Category 2 building) on the corner of Heretaunga East St and Karamu Road South, Hastings. The hotel was demolished last year and the site has been converted into an outdoor entertainment area by the Hastings District Council pending future retail development plans.

The Albert Hotel was the oldest inner-city building in Hastings, constructed in 1885 for William Young Dennett, an immigrant from Tasmania who went on to serve as Mayor. It was

fortunate to survive an 1893 Hastings fire and remained a hotel until 1976, when it was converted to a tavern.

As a timber building, the hotel was a landmark in a central business area now dominated by post-earthquake reinforced-concrete buildings of the 1930s. Sadly, it was unoccupied for a long time and became neglected, vandalised, and a health and safety risk.

The committee worked closely with Hastings District Council on the project and the council funded and erected the signage. Photographs for the sign were provided by local historian, Michael Fowler, and the MTG, Napier.

CHANGE AT THE HELM

Barbara Arnott, who recently rejoined the committee, has been elected Chairperson, succeeding Denis Pilkington. Denis is stepping down after having been elected Chairman of the former Branch Committee of NZ Historic Places Trust in 2008 and led the formation of Historic Places Hawke's Bay launched in 2012 following changes to Historic Places Trust legislation. Denis remains on the committee as Deputy Chair.



PEPPER STREET



Hastings



Gisborne

A photograph in an earlier newsletter of the green art deco house in Pepper Street, Hastings, prompted an interesting response from Gisborne where there is a very similar house.

The Gisborne house was built for Sir Robert Kerridge in 1935 at a stage when he was rapidly expanding his chain of cinemas from its beginnings in Gisborne. The house at 75 The Esplanade Gisborne is regarded as one of New Zealand's finest examples of art deco architecture. It is listed as a Category I building on the Heritage New Zealand list. The architects, Burr & Mirfield, were also responsible for other outstanding designs in Gisborne that are on the Heritage NZ list.

The Hastings house was built a year after Kerridges' home for Percy Atkins, a prominent jockey, who rode for racehorse owner Sir Robert Kerridge. Mr Atkins had been most impressed with the Kerridge house and asked well-known Hastings architect, Albert Garnett, to design something similar. The end result was an almost identical mirror image and included a very high standard of art deco decoration inside and out—including the green exterior finish still in good order today. Unlike its Gisborne counterpart the house at 809 Pepper Street is not on either the Heritage NZ List or the Hastings District Plan.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2014/15 YEAR

MEMBERSHIP: The number of members increased marginally from last year to 108 including 35 family memberships.

NEWSLETTERS: We circulated two newsletters and a bus trip flyer during the year which publicised upcoming events and other news about historic places. We thank the Art Deco Trust for continuing to provide printing services at a very low cost. Past newsletters can be viewed on the Historic Places Aotearoa website where we have also posted a story with information kindly provided by Michael Wenley, about the iconic Maraekakaho wool shed.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS: A sign depicting the history of Duart House in Havelock North was a joint venture with the Duart House Society, and was funded and erected by the Hastings District Council. The sign, placed in the Duart House carpark was unveiled by the Mayor, Lawrence Yule at a good gathering of members of both societies, neighbours and family members of former owners of Duart House in May.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES: There was a very well supported bus trip from Omahu up the Taihape Road led by Pat Parsons in November, including visits to two historic homesteads, a church and various other historic sites. We ran a repeat trip to Waimarama in May led by Robert MacDonald and Pat Parsons. A visit to the marae, including lunch, provided fascinating additional information on the story of the area. The 2014 AGM included a look at renovations to St Matthew's Anglican Church in Hastings, much enjoyed by the large group that attended.

HERITAGE ADVOCACY: As an interested party to the appeal over the Lotus Marine Parade apartment block development adjacent to the former Soldiers' Club building on the Marine Parade, Napier, we participated in further mediation on the project. Our interest related to demolition of a later addition to the building and proposals to restore several original features of the building as part of the development. Mediation was successful with a revised plan for the apartment block with reduced height agreed to, and conditions we sought to have met relating to making good partial demolition of the Soldiers' Club building and proposed restoration work have been accepted.

We made a joint submission with the Art Deco Trust at a hearing before a commissioner on the redevelopment of the Napier Hospital site. As a result, it seems likely that the developers may incorporate interpretive signage on the history of the site, but our request for a space for tourist buses and other vehicles at a lookout point over the inner harbour was not successful.



ROSE MOHI - IN SEARCH OF SCATTERED TREASURES

At Pakowhai, in a location somewhere between the Ngaruroro River and the urupa/cemetery, and probably sited across what is now Farndon Road, once stood the great Maori pa of Pakowhai.

Chief Karaitiana Takamoana, MHR, was an enlightened and forward-thinking man who guided his people to a new prosperity. Under his leadership a model 19th century kainga/village and pa was built on a pa site of ancient times. No longer did they lie on the ground but had raised beds for sleeping, and wooden two-storied houses with sanitation.

“A Maori hotel was opened at Karaitiana’s Pakowhai pa, which, it was said, already had buildings that would not be out of place in Queen Street, Auckland.”

The Story of Napier 1874-1974

(Footprints Along the Shore) By Dr. M.D.N. Campbell

The magnificent whareniui/meeting house called Heretaunga Haukunui Aroaro, measuring 46 metres in length, was built at Pakowhai. From the Iirakau School of Carving, Karaitiana employed Ngati Porou master carvers to prepare new adornments for the Heretaunga whareniui. Experts such as Hoani Taahu and Hone Ngatoto worked to prepare the carved slabs. The totara trees, likely to have been obtained from the Ruahine/Manawatu regions, provided perfect wood for such an endeavour as the largest were 5 metres tall and commonly 1.5 metres in width, with a depth of 10 + cm.

Unfortunately, Karaitiana died in 1879 before completion of this magnificent whareniui. Present at the tangi of Karaitiana was Dr Thomas Hocken, of library and collection fame, who happened to be in Hawke’s Bay. Nearly a decade later Dr Hocken was involved with preparation for the first New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition held in Dunedin from November 1889 to April 1890. Dr Hocken requested of Augustus Hamilton, then a school teacher at Petane, secretary of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Society and a keen collector of Maori artefacts, to procure many of the carvings for exhibiting in Dunedin. After the exhibition closed Hocken bought 61 of the carvings and in 1901 bequeathed them to the Otago Museum.



Rose with a Heretaunga carving at Berkley, California

The curator (ethnologist) and from 1937, director, of Otago Museum was Henry Devenish Skinner. Although he was an eminent scholar and researcher into Maori and Polynesian material and Maori items were his first priority in building the museum’s collections, part of his policy was to swap items that he regarded as “duplicates” with other museums to broaden Otago Museum’s collections of material from the Pacific and Middle East. Many of the Heretaunga carvings were swapped with museums around the world in the 1920s and 30s.

During my childhood, my mother Elisabeth Karaitiana, told me tragic stories of lost land, lost artefacts, lost treasures and carvings. Having researched for 10 years I have visited Otago, Te Papa, Whanganui and Auckland Museums in New Zealand and the Melbourne Museum and other museums in Australia to view these carvings.

Eager to see more, this year I visited further establishments in Berkeley (San Francisco), the Smithsonian (Washington DC), and the American Museum of Natural History (New York), and Peabody (Salem and Harvard). It was an enormous pleasure to see, feel and touch them. All but one sit in storage. These carving represent the men and woman, legends and history that my Great Great Grandfather, Karaitiana Takamoana, wished to acknowledge.

Today, floods and other calamities have removed most traces of the kainga/pa of Pakowhai—very little remains other than the graves of Karaitiana and whanau. The Heretaunga whareniui is said to be the “most scattered house in the world” - with some of the other carvings that I have yet to see in the British Isles, Europe, and the Pacific area.

Rose Mohi

CORRECTION

Our apologies for an incorrect caption in our last issue.

The picture shows (from left) Louise Ross, Alison Kitchin, Cynthia Bowers, and Mason Chambers



A BUILDING AT RISK

- FROM GAIL MENZIES IN WAIROA



Concept sketch for the building, by John Scott, 1974.

At one with the bush

The former Te Urewera National Park Visitor Centre at Aniwhaniwa was designed by renowned Maori architect, the late John Scott, and completed in 1974 to be the visitor gateway to New Zealand's fourth largest national park

Scott's modernist-influenced concrete and timber design has become celebrated for its innovative and sensitive response to the building's unique physical, historical and cultural location. Dean Whiting of Heritage NZ reports that Scott's clever design allowed the meaning of the forest to be absorbed by visitors and it conveyed the philosophy, traditions, mana and wairua of Te wao nui a Tane – the great forest of Tane – and the people Te Urewera and Waikaremoana. In its marae-based form, the building features many elements of Māori architecture that combine to acknowledge that all who are not tangata whenua are manuhiri (visitors) to this place.

The Visitor Centre was also placed in the national limelight for its association with renowned artist Colin McCahon's Urewera Mural, which was commissioned for the building and controversially stolen from there in 1997 as a political protest.

Unfortunately the building was allowed to deteriorate in its bushland setting and it was closed in 2007 with DOC operating the visitor centre from temporary premises across the road.

It has a Category 1 registration from Heritage New Zealand but, while this listing provides status it does not provide any real protection against demolition. Protection would be provided by listing on the Wairoa District Plan. Unfortunately this has not yet taken place but it is hoped that listing will be

taken up during the proposed revision of the District Plan in the foreseeable future.

John Scott's son Jacob, also an architect, said a thorough report was completed last year by the NZ Institute of Architects with costings for maintenance and repair. There is water damage in four corners of the building that would cost around \$500,000 to repair. This is in contrast to a DOC repair bill estimate of \$1.6m including refurbishment, dated September 2012.

Artefacts and taonga from the former visitor centre have been in atmosphere controlled storage since August 2012; others items are out on loan.

A newspaper article dated 28 April 2015 reports that Heritage NZ remained hopeful that a group or organisation may be found to ensure the former visitor centre is restored to its original glory and reused. In the meantime, plans have been announced that a completely new visitor centre will be built, facing the lake, located on the left on the driveway into Home Bay where Lake Waikaremoana Holiday Park is sited. The opening for this is set for March 2016.

With DOC abandoning the building and moving the visitor centre to new premises the NZ Institute of Architects along with Heritage New Zealand and others have been actively campaigning to save the building and it is hoped that a sympathetic new owner can be found who can provide a new use for the building which would secure its future as an outstanding architectural icon within the National Park.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz email. hb@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

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