



The Voice of Heritage

Newsletter

January 2017



What is happening in 2017?

Thursday January 19th — *Committee Meeting 7pm Pioneer Hall, Havelock Street*

Thursday February 2nd — *Peter Cates Grain Store Hearing—more information in newsletter*

Monday February 6th — *Stall at Waitangi on East and Multi Cultural Bite Festival*

Sunday February 19th — *Garden Tea Party and Tour - David and Janet Askin's home, details below*

Dear Members,

As you can see from the above, our committee is already off to a fast paced start in 2017.

As usual, we aim to provide protection by standing up for our heritage's retention. This is balanced with education about our past and why historic buildings are important to us. We also like to enjoy spending time visiting our heritage, learning the stories that weave our past and helped create our communities of today.

Our bus trip up to Hakatere was very successful. We hope you can join us on February 19th for another garden party steeped in heritage and culture, topped by great company, fine china and treats!

Look forward to see you all soon.

Kind regards,

Julie Luxton (Chairperson)

Garden Party on Sunday February 19th at 2pm *At 244 Racecourse Road, Ashburton* *Home of David and Janet Askin*

We know so many of you enjoyed the garden tea party last year, so we have decided to do it again!

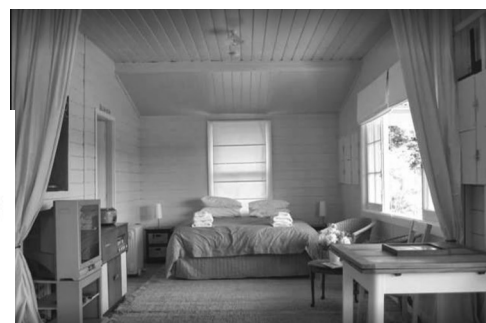
We are very fortunate to have a charming one and a half acre woodland garden belonging to Ashburton Domain curator David Askin and his wife Janet as our venue.

In the garden sits the old Domain Croquet Pavilion, restored and complete with sporting memorabilia.

Dainty cakes, fancy treats and fine bone china are also on the agenda. This is for members only, although you are welcome to bring along a friend.

Small charge of \$5 each to cover costs.

Please RSVP by Thursday February 16 to Marian Martin on 308-8342 or Julie Luxton on 308-3866.

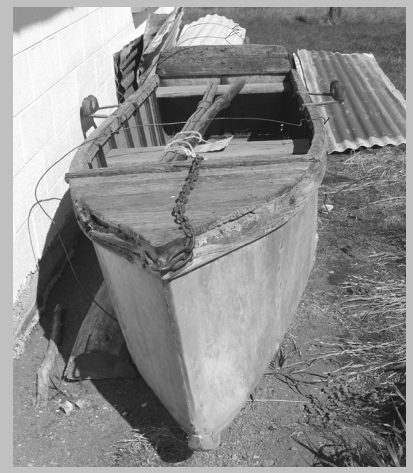


Photographs from Hakatere Bus Trip October 2016

It was a brilliant day all round on the Hakatere Bus Trip. The weather treated us well and a good turnout of supporters thoroughly enjoyed David Howden's stories and interesting information about Hakatere, and also the wider Mount Somers area.



If you haven't been up to Hakatere recently, we suggest you make the trip yourself. You won't get the same information imparted to us, however the DOC information room is very well thought out and the tin boat will now be housed in its new shed!



Art Deco City hosts HPA's AGM

Deputy Chair Nigel Gikison attended the Historic Places Aotearoa AGM last November in Napier as a representative of Historic places Mid Canterbury.

"The event was really well organised and a great opportunity to connect with like-minded people interested in protecting local heritage in the places that they care about. Its great to know that there are other groups of committed individuals who are fighting the battle to save our built heritage, before it is all lost."

I flew up to Napier from Christchurch along with Mark Gerrard (HPMC committee member, but was representing Historic Places Canterbury) on Saturday morning and after dropping off our bags, we were straight into the AGM, which was followed by some speakers who had been arranged to talk on the topic of Heritage preservation, including an excellent address by Jacinda Ardern (Labour MP), who spoke about the perilous state of heritage protection and the need for a formal Heritage Policy Statement to be implemented for the whole of NZ.

Following this, there was a facilitated group discussion and 'brainstorming', along with other Historic Places member organisations about how to improve the effectiveness of the organisation, then we all headed out for a guided walk around Napier's central City, followed by a meal at the local RSA.

"On the Sunday morning, we were all loaded onto a bus and had a guided tour of the wider Napier area and some of its more significant Art Deco architectural gems, before lunch, then back on the plane home. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend and, having not been to Napier before, a new and exciting experience for me."



Hearing to be held early February



A hearing on whether or not consent should be given to demolish the former Peter Cate's Grain store is to be held on Thursday February 2.

As a group we submitted against the demolition of this iconic building which is the last remaining link to our pioneering grain industry.

The building is both listed on the local heritage schedule and with Heritage NZ.

Both our group and HNZ have met with the owners of the building on site to discuss ways forward. Unfortunately it has reached the stage of a hearing.

No doubt you will read more about this in the local newspapers early in February.!

Waitangi on East and Multi Cultural Bit

Come and visit us on this fun and very busy day on Ashburton's East Street, Waitangi Day, February 6.

Last year we created a new display showcasing features on historic buildings and people tried to guess which building they were featured on. It was a lots of fun which also educating locals about their heritage.

We will also have our Lost Ashburton photograph boards on display which prompt lots of memories and often new information.

To raise some funds we will be selling very yummy piklets summered in jam and cream ! So do call in and say hello.



Our recently elected committee consists of:

Chairperson: Julie Luxton—phone 308-3866 or email [jules\(dot\)glassart\(at\)xtra\(dot\)co\(dot\)nz](mailto:jules(dot)glassart(at)xtra(dot)co(dot)nz)

Deputy Chairperson: Nigel Gilkison—phone 0212107374 or email [email\(at\)universalform\(dot\)co\(dot\)nz](mailto:email(at)universalform(dot)co(dot)nz)

Secretary: Marian Martin—phone 308-8342 or email [mart\(dot\)ash\(at\)xtra\(dot\)co\(dot\)nz](mailto:mart(dot)ash(at)xtra(dot)co(dot)nz)

Treasurer: Maxine Watson

Committee members— Rosemary Hemsworth, Mark Gerard, Diane Scott

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any heritage concerns, queries or wish to become more involved.

Committee Member Profile

Nigel Gilkison—Deputy Chairperson

Nigel is an Urban Design and Architectural Consultant who now operates his own consultancy business out of Timaru. He was born and grew up in Winchester, South Canterbury and has been a member of the HPMC Committee since returning from the UK in late 2014.

Nigel has over 20 years' experience in the fields of Architecture and Urban Design, including 15 years' experience based in the UK. 13 years of this time in the UK was spent working as an Associate with Adam Architecture & Urbanism (formerly Robert Adam Architects), working under the tutelage of Professor Robert Adam. Robert Adam is well known in the UK and internationally as a major figure in the fields of traditional and classical architecture, as a pioneer of contextual urban design and he is a prolific author on the theory and practice of traditional architecture and urbanism.

Nigel has extensive experience in designing large scale, mixed used developments and masterplans with particular emphasis on incorporating and retaining heritage. Some of these projects include a competition winning design for new mixed use residential development in Glasgow's historic West End; a masterplan for the redevelopment of the Oval Cricket Ground in London; new mixed used masterplans for Aldershot Urban Extension (ex-Ministry of Defence land - home of the British Army) and Leith Docks (Edinburgh's historic dockland); masterplan for the redevelopment of John O'Groats; and a new residential development located within the UNESCO World Heritage Site, in the centre of Bath.

Upon returning to NZ in 2014, Nigel worked as an Urban Design Specialist for Auckland Council, which involved providing expert urban design advice and input into major Resource Consent applications within the Auckland region.

SO WHAT IS URBAN DESIGN?

Urban Design is a relatively new field of study, closely aligned with town planning, architecture and landscape architecture. It doesn't just relate to cities, but to every kind of grouped settlement, from the smallest rural hamlet to the biggest megacity.

Urban Design differs from architecture in that it takes a wider perspective and a more contextual approach and focusses on designing urban environments - the spaces between the buildings - the 'public realm' of streets, squares, parks, etc. But this is only one side of the story - the most important ingredient in urban settlements, is the people. Without people there is no point - People are a settlement's *raison d'être*.

Renowned British Architect and Urbanist, Sir Terry Farrell draws a parallel between the role of an urban designer and that of a gardener tending his plants. The garden can be left to its own devices and will grow reasonably well on its own, but with thoughtful planning, the added support of a stake here and there, regular watering, pruning and tending to the weeds, it will grow even better and be more productive. So you can have cities without urban designers, but careful thought and planning can make them better, more efficient, more environmentally sustainable and more productive.

My interest in urban design developed out of my interest for architecture, but also from my general interest in the fields of evolutionary theory, history, anthropology, social organization and cultural identity.

I am interested in the way in which urban design considers all aspects of human interaction (social, political, cultural, economic and environmental), providing a physical environment for human habitation which enables all of these interactions to take place, and allows us to share skills and knowledge efficiently.

Urbanism forces us to think about the relationship of spaces, movement and buildings together as a unified, well organized entity - like an ecosystem in nature, connected to all things it touches. How we design this entity greatly affects the quality of life of the communities that inhabit it, ensuring that the many complex operations of the city and its inhabitants function efficiently, but also, importantly, its about creating places which inspire pride and delight.

It's also about telling a story, the narrative about how that place evolved its own unique identity and character over time. I am very interested in an 'historically sensitive' approach to urban design, which seeks to retain an identifiable link with the city's past by selectively incorporating tangible evidence of the city's evolutionary progression. As Aldo Rossi says, 'A city remembers through its buildings'.

The buildings in our cities connect us with and tell the story of our cities past, where it came from and how it evolved. Like artefacts from our childhood, they serve as tangible reminders of who we are and where we came from. They define our collective identity and reinforce our sense of ownership of the city.