

AUGUST

HISTORIC
PLACES
HAWKE'S BAY

2018

HB HERITAGE NEWS



AGM of Historic Places Hawke's Bay

Date: Sunday 26 August 2018

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: The Staffroom at Napier Girls High School, Clyde Road, Napier.
Directions will be available on the day.

RSVP For catering purposes please contact the Secretary, Philip Irwin email philipirwin@xtra.co.nz
or phone 06 8700513



We will be hosted by the Principal of Napier Girls High School, Mrs Dawn Ackroyd.

Following the AGM business session there will be a talk on the history of the school followed by a tour of the buildings including the Rita Angus mural.

The programme will conclude with afternoon tea.

This is a great opportunity to visit one of Napier's iconic sites and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

Te Wharehou O Waikaremoana - A Beautiful New Building at Waikaremoana

Te Whare O Waikaremoana, also referred to as Kurawhenua, was built to replace the Te Urewera Visitor Centre at Aniwaiwa. The official opening was celebrated in January 2017 and later in the year Te Whare O Waikaremoana won a major architectural award. Apart from use as the visitor centre the main focus of the building is to house the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority, and the facility is already providing a huge uplift in morale and confidence for the Tuhoe people.

The \$6 million building was designed to meet the



“Living Building Challenge”, is off the grid for energy supply, has zero energy waste, and is built of sustainable materials free of toxins.

The demolition of the John Scott designed Te Urewera Visitor Centre at Aniwaiwa in 2016 was a sad end for a unique building, but with the construction of Te Wharehou O Waikaremoana, another architectural masterpiece has been created on the lakefront near the motor camp. This new building is a must see for visi-

tors to the lake. However, take note that with the visitor centre now a secondary role it is not always open

to the public, so consider making prior arrangements if you wish to participate in the full visitor experience at Waikaremoana.

Currently the previous Aniwaiwa site is closed off waiting for revegetation.



What Is the Government Going To Do About It?

In the last newsletter there was a review of changes to heritage-related legislation enacted, and programmes initiated during the terms of the previous government, along with a synopsis of the heritage -policies covered in last year’s election manifestos of all parties.

It is pleasing to note that the Ministry for Culture and Heritage has been working under the instruction of the Prime Minister in her capacity as Minister for Culture and Heritage to formulate new policies on heritage protection.

Recently the Ministry released a survey seeking input from those involved with heritage protection to assist in formulating government policy. A



draft of this survey had previously been discussed with a group of stakeholders including our umbrella organisation His-

toric Places Aotearoa together with Heritage New Zealand, ICOMOS and the New Zealand Archaeological Association. The survey focuses on existing protection mechanisms such as the Heritage New Zealand List and local authority district plans and how effective and well understood these are and how they could be improved.

Questions included uniformity of listing standards between local authorities, the scope for opportunity to get properties listed on district plans, and the relationship between the Heritage New Zealand List and local district plans.

Responses were also canvassed about other lesser used protection mechanisms such as heritage orders and just how well understood and effective these are and how they might be improved.

There are government policies in place on the management of Crown-owned heritage buildings. However these policies are not mandatory and their application may vary between government departments. The loss of the Category I listed Visitor Centre at Waikaremoana illustrates how policies on protection of crown owned heritage properties can be far from effective. As an interesting aside the transfer of management of some important Crown-owned heritage properties to Heritage New Zealand looks to be a good move.

In the survey comment is sought on the situation that many privately owned heritage buildings have high public value and, when this applies, what financial and/or other incentives should be in place to help private owners of heritage buildings and what are the responsibilities of private property owners. As there are currently comparatively few listings of sites with heritage value to Maori response was sought about what guidance and support local authorities need in identifying and listing these sites. The Ministry plans to discuss the survey results with the stakeholder groups before making a final report to the Minister by the end of next month.

Responses to the survey have been completed and submitted by both Historic Places Aotearoa and Historic Places Hawke's Bay. Anyone wishing to look at a copy of the responses from Historic Places Aotearoa and Historic Places Hawke's Bay should contact the Secretary.

**John Scott Bus Trip
March 2018
By Susan Lopdell**

This was our fourth architectural bus trip following on from the James Chapman Taylor, William Rush and Gummer tours, and once again was very well supported.

John Scott was born on 9th June 1924 at Haumoana, the third of seven children of Kathleen Blake and her husband, Charles Scott. John attended Haumoama Primary School and then St. John's College, where he was head prefect and captain of the 1st XV. After he left school in 1944, John briefly as a shepherd, then volunteered for the Royal New Zealand Air Force, completing his initial flying school training at Taieri before World War II ended.

In 1946 he enrolled at the

School of Architecture, at Auckland University, studying fulltime until 1949 and part time in 1950. However, because he came to regard such a qualification as meaningless, he did not complete his architecture diploma. Initially he worked in Auckland, then moved back to Haumoana, where he brought up

his family of six children.

His first contracts as a sole architect were for private houses. The Savage house and the Falls house, designed and built in Havelock North in 1952-53, were important as John began to find his own style, inspired by traditional New Zealand structures such as the whare and the woolshed. He worked closely with the Catholic Church, designing numerous churches and school buildings, with the Futuna Chapel in Karori (1958-61) the jewel of his career. The chapel building is regarded as a masterpiece of huge significance, it combines the features of a church in the European tradition with many of the structural elements of the Maori meeting house, such as the centre pole, rib-like rafters and low eaves. Other notable commissions were the Maori Battalion Memorial Centre in Palmerston North (1954-64), St. Canice's Church, Westport (1976), Waitangi Visitor Centre (1975-76), and the recently demolished Urewera National Park headquarters at Aniwanuiwa (1974-76).

John's designs consistently display his commitment to the use of simple geometric shapes, notably pavilions with square plans, each capped with a pyramidal roof. Individual pavilions within complexes would be staggered in relation to each other, with corners dissolved to allow diagonal circulation internally while also creating private outdoor spaces, often sheltered from the prevailing winds. Characteristic features of John Scott commissions were the window seat/day bed, use of recycled telegraph poles, concrete block construction, timber rafters, roof and window flashings, exposed basins in bathrooms, skinny windows and window flaps and no eaves or barge boards. His rules to solve design problems were about



The Martin House at Bridge Pa

appropriate proportions, simplicity, honesty to materials-structure, the bones of the building as a design feature, and at the heart of the

concept "That we need less room than we think"

Our bus trip only scratched the surface of John's work, with John Scott having designed or partly designed around 300 commissions. Each of the properties we visited highlighted his designs and it was very special to hear personal recollections about his buildings and the man himself. The

Hastings

Bridge Club (1976-77), Haumoana Playcentre (constructed in 1966 and renovated at a later date), Haumoana Pavilion and Memorial Arch - we stopped and wandered around the outside each of these buildings.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Havelock North (1959-1960) was designed and built concurrently with the Futuna Chapel.



Lunch at Our Lady of Lourdes

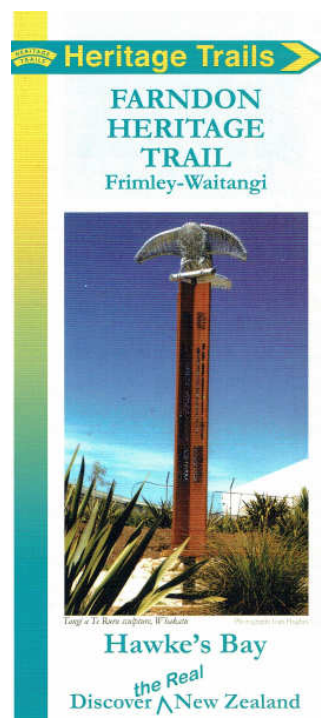
Inside this beautiful church the entry and top-lit altar are at opposite ends of a diagonal axis that forms the main aisle, and on which the ridge pole also lies. John also designed the presbytery, which consists of a cluster of square pavilions. We had our lunch here in the church hall before driving to Valentine Road, Bridge Pa, to visit the Martin house and pottery. Bruce told us the history of his home, built in the 1970s which is divided into two sides, four sections with peaked roofs—concrete block construction with chipboard ceilings, exposed beams and double-hung windows. We were also able to roam around his large garden and inside the pottery.

Onwards to view St. Mary's Church, Greenmeadows, with the curving, windowless rough plastered wall facing Osier Road being the character-defining element here. Our last property was the Arrowsmith house which had recently sold at auction and I had been told there were very similar design features to those of Ema Scott's home in Haumoana. Lorraine took us on a very personal journey of this much-loved John Scott designed home, and there were all his design features with the stone fireplace a highlight.

Historic Places Hawke's Bay would like to acknowledge the homeowners and Catholic parishes for their generosity in hosting a large group on a weekend and those who chose to join us on what was a very enjoyable outing.

New Heritage Trail Number Fifteen-Or So

The recent launch of the Farndon Heritage Trail provides another new opportunity to explore more historic sites in Hawke's Bay. The Farndon Trail takes in sites starting from Hastings Girls' High School, along Pakowhai Road with a diversion through the Whakatu area and back on to Farndon Road to Clive, finishing at Waitangi Regional Park. Trail brochures are available free from any iSITE.



Following on a tour of the trail sites under the expert guidance of Megan Williams, the Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Kelvin Davis officially launched the Farndon Heritage Trail at a gathering held at the Clive Rugby Clubrooms. Of Ngapuhi descent, and a born-and-bred Northlander, Mr Davis reminded the gathering that he also has

close whakapapa links to Ruahapia, here in Hawke's Bay.

The Farndon Trail brings the total number of heritage trails in Hawke's Bay to at least 15, keeping in mind that some areas are covered by more than one trail. This number is likely to grow as the local committee under Megan's leadership continues work on new trails and on the updating of some of the existing trails.

The heritage trails concept originated in Taranaki where the first trail, from Stratford, through Whangamomona, to Taumarunui, opened in 1990 (now promoted as the Forgotten Highway). From there the concept rapidly spread, with local Heritage Trail working parties being quickly set up in Gisborne followed by Hawke's Bay. Initially the Heritage Trail move-

ment was overseen by a national Heritage Trails Foundation, based in Taranaki. Trails were originally funded by one-off subscriptions from the regional councils that had been set as under the major local body reorganization of 1989 as part of their tourism role. The Heritage Trails Foundation provided detailed policy and guidance on setting up trails, including signage format and colours, and the style and presentation of brochures.

Megan Williams, who was then a Regional and Hastings District Councilor, describes how she “became hooked by the Heritage Trails concept” and quickly set up a local committee in Hastings.



*Long Time Heritage Trails
Chairman, Megan Williams*

Some of her council colleagues were instrumental in setting up similar committees in Napier and Central Hawke’s Bay. Unfortunately the funding of the National Heritage Trails eventually ran out and the organization fell into recess. Although, nationally, there are still a good number of heritage trails scattered round New Zealand, many have disappeared over the years. In Hawke’s Bay, however, the many trails that were developed from the 1990s on are still all in print and readily available.

Megan still heads the local committee in Hastings, and this committee has also taken over the neighbouring trails that were established in Napier and Central Hawke’s Bay. This latest Farndon trail was funded with assistance from the Hastings District and Hawke’s Bay Regional Councils although funding is now provided solely on a contestable basis.

In a case of “what goes around comes around,” in its last term the previous government set up Landmarks Whenua Tohunga, a partnership between Manatū Taonga - Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga with the aim of showcasing New Zealand’s historically and culturally important places. So far, under this new initiative, Landmarks Trails have been established in the Bay of Islands and Otago. Further development of the Landmarks concept now appears to be in the hands of Heritage New Zealand and it remains unclear as to what the future relationship will be with the existing Heritage Trails in the various parts of the

country.

Continuing Support for the Hawke’s Bay Heritage Network

In 2015 Historic Places Hawke’s Bay instigated an initiative to establish the Hawke’s Bay Heritage Network designed to facilitate liaison between the various organisations in Hawke’s Bay with an interest in heritage/history. The fourth annual meeting of the Heritage Network was held in Havelock North in May, attracting over 30 participants from the various organisations, including representatives from local councils.

The main theme of this meeting was to promote awareness of district plan revisions that are coming up in Wairoa District, Napier City, and Central Hawke’s Bay District. Elizabeth Pishief spoke to a Powerpoint presentation, reminding everybody of the importance of the listing of sites and buildings in the local district plan in order to provide statutory protection under the Resource Management Act. District plan revisions take place only every few years, and it is at these times that there is a major opportunity to get important local sites listed and protected. Elizabeth pointed out that identification of prospective new listings can be gleaned from the Heritage New Zealand List, but the emphasis of the List tends to be on sites of national significance and, in the case of Napier, there is an emphasis on sites of the Art Deco era. However, the Heritage New Zealand List provides status and information, but in fact does not provide protection, so that it is important that all listings of local sites on the Heritage New Zealand List are replicated on the relevant district plan. District plans also provide an opportunity to include sites that are significant locally, might not have sufficient national significance to make it on to the Heritage New Zealand List.

Elizabeth and her Research Sub Committee of HPHB have begun compiling a spreadsheet of Napier sites that they have assessed as deserving of nomination for listing on the Napier District Plan. Apart from historic houses and other important buildings the list has diversified to include nominations of other structures such as the McLean Park Cairn, the Thompson Road Water Tower, the nearby Sturm’s Gully gates that came from the Napier Park Racecourse (now Anderson Park), the Beacons and even the remaining humble cast iron manhole covers manufactured by the once nationally prominent Napier engineering company of James J Niven & Co. Elizabeth encouraged those present to put forward other sites they would like to see listed and

protected. The next task, after compiling the list for nomination, will be to uncover the full details of each site in order to provide authoritative nominations.

Following on from Elizabeth's presentation, Planner, Helen O' Shaughnessy outlined the review of the Central Hawke's Bay District Plan, which is moving ahead quickly and should be available for public input by October this year.

Archivist, Chris Johnson, spoke briefly, and sounded a warning that lack of institutional memory in local government can hamper sound decision making. He also outlined work currently being undertaken at the Hastings District Council on compiling an information register of historical material, including aerial photos held by the Council.

Representatives from Central Hawke's Bay's Set-

the Duart House Society.

We were reminded that this year, Historic Places Hawke's Bay has dropped the ball on coordinating a timetable of planned events of all the contributing organisations for the 12-month period, a suggestion that was hailed as a very positive initiative back in 2015 when the Network was established. This year some events have clashed, to the disappointment of those who would have liked to go to more than one of the options on offer! Chair, Barbara Arnott, readily conceded that we deserve a grading of "Could do better", and that will be the aim in 2019.

To wind up the meeting, Barbara thanked everyone for their information and support, recognising the importance of the three councils present. She hoped that over the coming years the provi-



Some of the members of the Hawke's Bay Heritage Network

tion of listings for heritage buildings and sites to councils will become our bread and butter, something heritage people do as the issues become evident in our communities and organisations. "Our relationship with the local councils is critical

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If you are interested in obtaining a copy of Elizabeth's presentation, please contact the Editor, Denis Pilkington.

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