

# HISTORIC PLACES

MARCH

2018

HAWKE'S BAY

## HB HERITAGE NEWS

### The Architecture of John Scott. Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Here is a chance to look at some of the work of eminent Haumoana architect John Scott. Scott's career spanned over four decades from 1948 to 1991. His work is described as unique, bold and distinctly New Zealand. His work can still be seen in many parts of the country but we are fortunate that there are many examples here in Hawke's Bay. The trip will be led by Susan Lopdell and Rose Mohi and we will be visiting several properties

Please bring a picnic lunch, anything you want to drink, comfortable footwear and a sunhat.

#### The bus departs from;

Taradale outside EIT 8:30 am

Havelock North, Martin Place 9:00am

**Cost:** \$35 per person for HPHB members  
\$45 per person for non members

Any further enquiries to Susan Lopdell 8446698

**Bookings:** Please contact our secretary, Philip Iwin by phone (8700513) or e-mail (philipirwin@xtra.co.nz), or mail the enclosed registration form with your cheque.



Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Payment \$..... for.....seats

**Preferred Pickup Point:** Taradale                      Havelock North

*Please reply with your pickup point ASAP to Coach Tour, 2 Arthur Close, Clive 4102. Alternatively payment can be made by direct credit to HBS Bank 031355 0727668 00 but please phone the Secretary 8700513 so that he can confirm your booking.*

# THE TOMOANA OAKS – HASTINGS’ FORGOTTEN WAR MEMORIAL

Many people will have noticed the line of 15 pin oak trees (*Quercus palustris*) that line the end of Tomoana Road in front of the Lowe Corporation and Heinz Watties plants, and admired their fine display of autumn foliage. Hastings genealogist, Marcia Murtagh, had been told that these were memorial trees by her father who worked at Tomoana and served in the armed forces during World War II. Fellow genealogists, Liz Gunn and Calvin Appleby were so interested when Marcia passed on this information to them in 2009 that the three researchers began looking for confirmation, and more facts about the memorial trees.

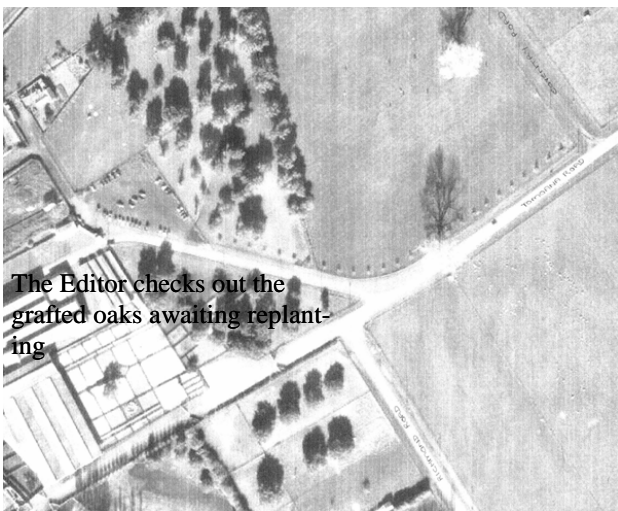
After a painstaking and determined quest, they established that 24 oaks were planted in 1944 by the meatworks owners, Nelsons’ (NZ) Ltd., to provide a “perpetual testimony to the part played in the war by Tomoana employees.”



Marcia Murtagh, Calvin Appleby and Liz Gunn under the trees With a new seedling on the left

The fact that the trees were planted before the end of the war seems to suggest that they commemorate all employees who served rather than only those who were killed and there is probably no significance to the actual number of trees planted.

The testimony of the trees appeared to have been soon forgotten as Calvin



The Editor checks out the grafted oaks awaiting replanting

In this aerial photograph taken in 1947, the row of 24 trees can be seen planted beside Tomoana Road between Coventry Road and the Tomoana Works

Appleby who started at the plant as a tradesman a few years later in the mid nineteen fifties does not recall being told of the memorial significance of the trees at that time.

As well as the memorial trees, it is known that Nelsons’ had an honours board erected at the plant on which the names of the employees who served overseas were recorded. It is also thought that there may have been plaques placed on the trees naming those who did not return. However there is now no trace of any plaques. Nelsons’ also presented engraved watches to their staff who served overseas and some of these are still in the hands of local families of the original recipients. In 1994, when the plant closed, a quantity of records from Tomoana was deposited with the Hawke’s Bay Museum (now the MTG) in Napier. It was thought that the honours board was among the deposited items, but the museum has no record of it.

To date Marcia, Liz and Calvin have identified nine of the people for whom trees were planted. They would be delighted to receive any information that will help them add more names to the list including names of men who returned.

Over the years some of the original 24 trees have been removed for various reasons or have fallen to the ground during storms. In 1979, five trees were removed to make way for a new slaughterboard building. Several others have been felled to make way for roading projects. In 2017 three more trees toppled during storms, one of which was found to be rotten at the base. Concern is growing that after 73 years the remaining trees could be



The Editor checks out the grafted oaks awaiting replanting

getting near to the end of their natural life.

It was hoped when the research began that the information found would lead to some form of protection for the trees, by listing with Heritage New Zealand and/or in the Hastings District Plan. Currently the trees are recognised by the District Council as “civic treasures” with the history included in the

Council’s Civic Treasures Archive along with other war memorial sites.

However, this recognition does not provide any formal protection and the Council decided to take cuttings from the trees. Of 45 cuttings taken and grafted onto pin oak rootstock six have survived this quite difficult process and are now good-sized trees being cared for at a local plant nursery while awaiting planting, possibly this winter. It is proposed that these trees will be planted in nearby Otene Road to add to the line of English oaks and pin oaks already flourishing there.

It is also proposed to gather up seedlings that are growing around the base of some of the trees and grow these

on ready for later replanting. It can also be noted here that someone has also planted two small seedling oaks—probably of the English variety—in gaps left when the original trees toppled, on the lawn in front of the Heinz-Watties buildings. These have been carefully watered during the summer by local residents.

Following this research Marcia, Liz and Calvin are seeking support for the erection of an interpretive sign board explaining the history and significance of these trees both at the original site and any new site to raise public awareness and enhance the war memorial status of the Tomoana oaks.

### OUR RESEARCH YOUR HOME WORKSHOP

This workshop was held in Napier in October last year to help people who wanted to trace the history of their homes. We received fewer registrations from members than we had hoped for but there was interest from the general public, and a number of home owners arrived on the day after reading a promotional article in *Hawke's Bay Today* that morning.



Panelists Maurice Bartlett, Fleur Lincoln, Jane Simmons, Dorothy Pilkington, Michael Fowler and Alison Dangerfield

In the end the whole group of participants and presenters numbered about thirty.

The workshop format had been promoted by Heritage New Zealand, whose staff members had previously run similar successful seminars in Nelson, and more recently in Wellington. In Napier, Heritage New Zealand was represented by Conservation Architect, Alison Dangerfield. Other contributors were local historian, Michael Fowler, researcher, Dorothy Pilkington, Napier City Council planner, Fleur Lincoln, Napier Research Technical Librarian, Jane Simmons, and historian, Maurice Bartlett who joined the other presenters for the final panel discussion. Our Historic Places Hawke's Bay Chairperson, Barbara Arnott, chaired the workshop proceedings. Dorothy Pilkington opened with case studies, outlining the research she had carried out on Napier's Main Street and the more recent development of Hawke's Bay's first state houses in Akina, Hastings. She described many resources she had used and offered the advice that it is useful to gain an overview of a neighbourhood rather than focusing on a single property.

Michael Fowler talked about a number of the prominent

pre-1930 architects in Hawke's Bay and gave some clues on how to identify their surviving work. Tender documents to be found on the Papers Past website are useful in connecting architects to specific properties.

Fleur Lincoln listed a number of resources held by the Napier City Council and in the MTG Archives. She also alerted attendees at the workshop to the upcoming review of the Napier District Plan, which provides an opportunity to get important heritage properties listed and hence, protected. She concluded with the invitation to call into the Napier City Planning Department to seek more information.

Napier Reference Librarian, Jane Simmons, gave a comprehensive outline of the many electronic, microfilm, paper and book resources held by the library. Unfortunately there was a technical glitch with her Powerpoint presentation but we do have a copy of the file on hand should anyone wish to take a closer look.

Alison Dangerfield presented a well-illustrated and detailed discourse on the many architectural styles in New Zealand, including the interior features that help date a building. She pointed out a number of publications that included plans and accounts of subsequent additions and alterations, which, along with nearby subdivision can often make the era of the original building hard to pick.

The final panel discussion covered a number of topics and questions, indicating a keen interest in the topic by local people. Many thanks to the presenters who provided detailed information on the day.

### WE STILL HAVE A VACANCY ON OUR COMMITTEE

We are still keen to hear from someone with an interest in local history and heritage who might be prepared to serve on our committee. Our main activities are publications, including newsletters and signboards for places of historical significance, website posting and development, submissions to local councils, organising events for members and general heritage advocacy and promotion. We are hoping to hear from someone with skills in all or any of these areas to help to ease the committee's workload. We would also be interested to talk to anyone who might be able to assist in any of these roles from outside the committee.

## The Lost Heritage of Westshore Beach. Will it Ever Return?

This Article was contributed by Richard Karn, Chairman of the Westshore Residents' and Development Association

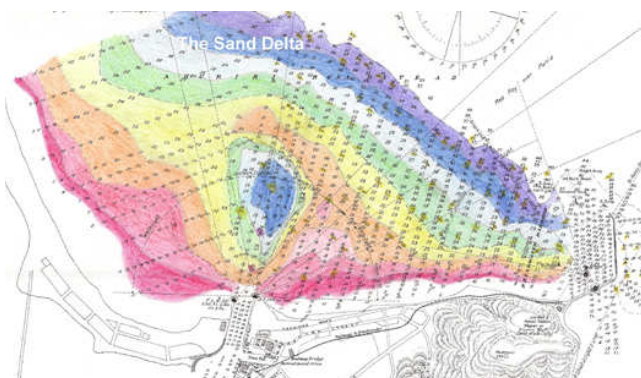
Thousands of years ago, the shore line at Napier was continuous, except for the mouth of the Ngaruroro river at Awatoto, the mouth of the Tukituki river at Haumoana and an opening known to Maori as Keteketerau, near what is now Fanin Street, at Bayview.

Westwards of this coast line was a massive lagoon that covered all of what is essentially the Napier district. The only access this lagoon had to the sea was at Keteketerau. (See below)



During heavy seas the lagoon entrance would block up. This caused flooding around the inland perimeter of the lagoon, which affected the homes and crops of Maori living there. During a period of prolonged flooding from the la-

agoon, a group of maori led by Tu Ahuriri was passing through the area on their way south. He suggested they open up an entrance at Ahuriri, which they did. A wall of water surged through the new opening in the spit, and gouged out a deep and fast-running channel that has never been blocked up by the sea since. This occurred some time between the year Captain Cook passed through the area (1769) and 1824 when the existence of the Ahuriri entrance was first recorded. Captain Cook's records show no evidence of an entrance at Ahuriri in 1769. For the



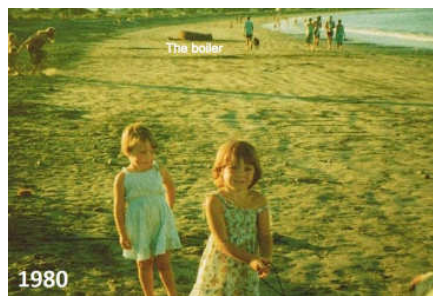
next 100 years, sediment moved with the strong flow, out of the Ahuriri entrance during each ebb tide and gradually formed a large bulge of sand, or ebb tidal delta, up to a

kilometre offshore. The drawing (Bottom left) shows the undersea profile in 1927. The yellow-orange area is the sandy, underwater delta, and the dark region in the middle is the deep channel scoured out by the fast-flowing ebb tide.

During the huge earthquake of 1931, the land and sea bed north of Napier rose by up to 2m. The lagoon behind the Westshore spit emptied out for the last time effectively "draining the swamp". For the next 50 years, the



fine sands that had accumulated in the ebb tidal delta, slowly filled in the deep outlet channel and made their way towards the southern end of Westshore Beach. The beach grew and grew as a flat, sandy beach. This growth is vividly illustrated by the changing level of the sand around the rusty old steel boiler that is at the southern end of the beach. In 1939 the



boiler was quite prominent above the sand (Above). Forty years later in 1980 it was nearly covered in sand (Left). In the last decade it has again become more exposed to the sea as the



sand has gradually eroded away (Left). In October last year, a shallow-draft dredge uplifted sand from the Napier Port's shipping channel, and dumped many loads in the vicinity of the Westshore Surf Club's building. Since then this sand has been making its way on-shore, and has created a bulge in the beach, especially under



the water.

Monthly measurements of the beach profiles and the seabed in this vicinity show the beach has grown from the shoreward movement of this dumped sand. (Photo above)

This bodes well for the restoration of the southern end of the beach as it shows how fine sand dumped 300-500m offshore can make its way onshore. Our hope is that a regular programme of placing dredged sand strategically along the southern end of Westshore beach will reverse the trend of sand depletion. The Coastal Hazard Strategy Joint Committee that is currently working to address issues related to erosion and inundation resulting from anticipated sea level rise over the next century, have also endorsed this method of beach restoration for Westshore.

## What Will a New Government Do For Heritage?

The change of government following the election has given rise to huge public expectations on what this new government might be able to deliver. In terms of heritage protection, party election manifestos contained various references to heritage protection—so what can we expect? The previous National government left us with the Heritage New Zealand Act, in which significant changes were made to the former NZ Historic Places Trust, including the disestablishment of local branch committees which triggered the formation of Historic Places Aotearoa and, of course, our Historic Places Hawke's Bay society. Another significant change was the proposed (and as yet to be activated) Landmarks list of outstanding historic places in New Zealand. The Building (Earthquake Prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 speeded up the requirements for earthquake strengthening and the aim of the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 was to manage the pressures of population growth and urban development against the needs of heritage preservation. How these pressures will be managed under the provisions of the Act is yet to become evident.

The launching of EQUIP (Earthquake Upgrade Incentive Programme) has provided two local heritage building owners with government funding to contribute to the cost of earthquake strengthening.

Another Heritage New Zealand innovation launched last year was Landmarks Whenua Tohunga, which is a new take on the heritage trail concept, so far actioned to highlight historic sites in Northland and Otago.

Of all the parties, in the 2017 election campaign, the current government coalition partners, especially Labour and the Greens, provided the most comprehensive heritage policies in their manifestos.

New Zealand First offered a conservation policy which included the commitment to "protect our historic heritage by amending legislation to clarify the protection of heritage sites, buildings, and objects". We have yet to get a more detailed explanation of what is really proposed.

The Green Party offered the following policy:

Protecting and Preserving Heritage

- Support the creation of a National Policy State-

ment for heritage under the Resource Management Act.

- Support central and local government funding schemes for owners of heritage buildings.
- Establish a well resourced national funding scheme for the earthquake strengthening of heritage buildings.

The first part of this policy is very similar to one offered by Labour. The last point appears to be a continuation of the EQUIP programme established by the previous government.

Labour's manifesto stated that "Knowing and understanding our past and conserving our heritage is a critical part of establishing a strong sense of national identity. It is important that we tell the stories of our nation's history, and that places of significance are preserved for future generations. Investment in protection of our heritage has important economic spin-offs. Special objects and taonga also play an important part in our heritage."

According to the manifesto Labour will:

- Work with local government, heritage organisations and across central government to investigate and develop a National Policy Statement on Heritage Protection under the Resource Management Act.
- Investigate methods to ensure that heritage buildings in private ownership do not fall into neglect or risk demolition due to the expense of new earthquake requirements. This might include tax incentives to restore listed buildings.
- Investigate the feasibility of moving heritage buildings in Crown ownership, to the management of Heritage New Zealand."

These are all positive policies but the intention is to "investigate".



HPA President, James Blackmore with Jacinda Ardern in Napier

A number of you will recall the address given to the Historic Places Aotearoa 2016 AGM in Napier by Jacinda Ardern, who was then the Opposition spokesperson for Heritage.

At that time the demolition of the Category I listed Te Urewera Visitor Centre at Waikaremoana was fresh in people's minds and Miss

Ardern explored some possible policies to avoid recurrence of a similar event. She initially suggested, in some detail, strengthening the links between the Heritage New Zealand List and local District Plans under the Resource Management Act to provide statutory protection to listed buildings.

Her alternative suggestion was to opt for, what she described as the "nuclear option" and finally create a national policy statement on heritage – which, subsequently, was included as part of the policy statement in Labour's election manifesto.

The likelihood of putting Labour's policies as set out in the manifesto into practice should be greatly enhanced by their compatibility with policies proposed by their coali-

-tion partners. Our challenge is to urge and convince the government to advance these heritage policies from the “support”, “develop” and “investigate” stages to actual implementation.

**A NEW HERITAGE FUND IN NAPIER**

The launch of the new Robert McGregor Heritage Fund was announced by Art Deco Trust General Manager, Shane Gorst, in November last year. The purpose of the fund is to enable the Trust and Napier City Council to provide financial assistance to owners of heritage buildings and, in doing so, to continue to support the preservation and restoration of this critical element of the Napier story. Robert McGregor’s contribution to the formation and successful operation of the Art Deco Trust was huge and he was also a longstanding and very active member of the local branch committee of what was then the Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand) and Deputy Chairman of its successor, Historic Places Hawke’s Bay.



Robert McGregor



Shane Gorst

Previously the Napier City Council provided contestable annual funding of \$10,000 for work on heritage buildings. The Council has doubled their contribution to this new fund to \$20,000 per annum and the Art Deco Trust will contribute \$30,000 making a total of \$50,000. Both organisations will provide the funds from income, although there is also provision for donations to the fund, which can be made through the Art Deco Trust.

Heritage building owners can apply for a grant for minor restoration or painting of the building, with a maximum of \$10,000 being available for any one project. To qualify a building must have a Category I or II listing with Heritage New Zealand and/or be an Art Deco building situated in the Napier City Centre Historic Area. This seems to indicate that pre Art Deco buildings are also eligible provided that they are listed with Heritage New Zealand.

There are two funding rounds each year, and the first of these closed in mid January. Applications are initially considered by the Heritage Working Group which includes our Chairperson, Barbara Arnott. Their recommendations are then finalised by a smaller group representing the Art Deco Trust and the City Council. In this first round three applications were received and two approved.

The formation of the Robert McGregor Heritage Fund and increased funding from the City Council have resulted in a significant boost in the financial assistance available for owners of heritage buildings in Napier.

On another Art Deco Trust matter, it was sad to see the Trust disestablish the role of Heritage Officer following the resignation of the last incumbent, Michael Fowler. Heritage needs a champion and a well-informed public. It is currently planned that the Heritage Working Group will assist the General Manager, Shane Gorst in fulfilling these roles.

**Diary Notes**

May 16<sup>th</sup>: A meeting of the Hawke’s Bay Heritage Network where we will get an update on the activities of the various groups in Hawke’s Bay. Please contact us if you want a reminder about this meeting closer to the event.

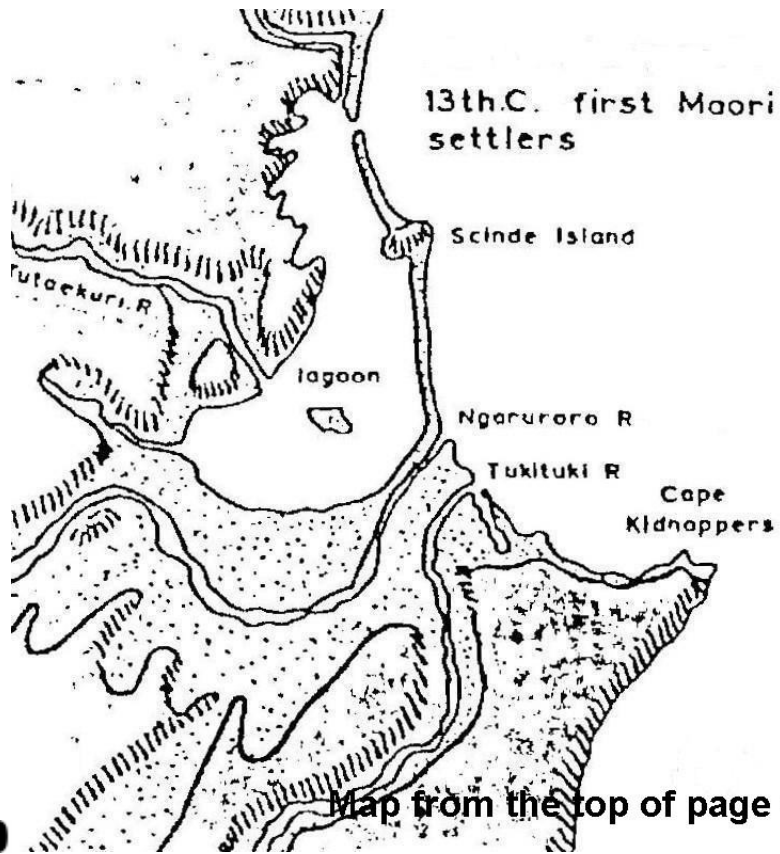
Weekend of 6-7 July: Laura Vodanovich will be leading a trip to Gisborne to look at a Lalique exhibition and other places of interest.

August 26<sup>th</sup>: Our AGM which will include a showing of some old films. The venue has yet to be confirmed.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Historic Places Hawkes Bay Inc , Postal Address 2 Arthur Close Clive 4102  
[www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz](http://www.historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz) e-mail hb@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

	Phone	Home Phone		Home
Barbara Arnott (Chair)	Napier	8355950	Mike King	Napier 8420221
Susan Lopdell (Deputy Chair)	Taradale	8446697	Rose Mohi	Havelock North 8779474
Philip Irwin (Secretary)	Clive	8700513	Denis Pilkington	Napier 8356525
Elizabeth Pishief	Napier	8354044	Cr Annette Brosnan (NCC)	027 3379303
Cr Ian Sharp (CHB District Council)		06 8588877		



Map from the top of page 4