

DECEMBER 2024



THE
BOARD OF CHRISTCHURCH
CIVIC TRUST
WISHES YOU
A
VERY
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS



FROM THE CHAIR



As the end of the year races towards us at an alarming rate, it's a good time to have a look back over some of the issues that have been occupying the minds and time of the CCT board and

wider membership.

The most recent CCT event of note and one that I think was generally well received by all who attended was the **CCT Awards**. The evening went very well and from what everyone has passed on to me, it was a big success. Thanks to all the award recipients who spoke about their various projects with enthusiasm and passion. Also, a huge thanks to the convener of the **Awards Subcommittee**, Neil Roberts, for his continued hard work and to the CCT board for all their contributions and help on the night. Thanks to Vivien for supplying the wine and beverages. Some photos of the Award winners are further on in the Newsletter.

As well as Awards, all our Subcommittee Conveners and members have been well absorbed in their various issues and I would like to acknowledge their hard work writing submissions, attending Council hearings and meetings and for just keeping their respective ears to the ground to report back to CCT.

A good portion of time and effort has been dedicated to the thorny topic of PC 13 & 14 for the **Heritage, Urban and Resource Management** Subcommittee. It's a very contentious bill that has massive ramifications for the people of Christchurch (and indeed nationally) affecting how we live. This has been discussed at length at Council throughout the year with impassioned submissions from CCT and Combined Residents Association. With so many moving parts to this Bill, councillors themselves are doing their best to find a way to implement policy from central government, with differing decisions and seeking more detail about how they should proceed. It is a great credit to Anne Dingwall who has diligently kept abreast of the proceedings at council, attending densely information-laden sessions, conferring with and supporting various Residents Associations, Combined RA's and reporting back to CCT. The lack of any adoption by the IHP of Council's tree canopy limits for residential developments has concerned Mark Belton, who

too, has been watching closely, the continued machinations around the Christchurch Cathedral. He has kept us up to date with Anglican Synod decisions around the structure and its somewhat stalled future.

Council has still to make final decisions on so many aspects relating to the liveability of life in our city. Anne will be keeping up to date with the latest news.

Thanks to Lindsay Carswell who continues his great work juggling and balancing our finances. I don't know anyone else who could undertake this important function, so for this exacting task the Trust is very grateful.

To Judith Knibb, for faithfully and accurately recording the board's discussions and proceedings at every meeting, then quickly turning out the minutes – a huge thank you.

Hagley Park and Open Spaces, again with Anne at the helm, has had plenty to deal with this year with a great deal of effort going into seeing that Council upholds regulations enshrined in the Hagley Park Management Plan 1997 for the benefit of all the people of Christchurch. Being such a beautiful and attractive city resource right in the heart of Christchurch, the continual pressure by commercial interests wanting to utilise Hagley Park is strong. As a concerned watch group, we find it interesting how Council walks the path between maintaining the integrity and attractiveness of the park, their own edicts within the Park Management Plan and the seemingly irresistible requirement for the flow-on financial benefits for Christchurch generated by private ventures competing for usage of Hagley Park. There are also ongoing decisions around conservation, upkeep of riverways, protection and maintenance of trees. Through forums such as The Hagley Park Reference Group, and Anne Dingwall and Chris Kissling's representation, CCT gains insight into those decisions.

Anne has also been instrumental in getting the Council to erect a sign in the Park of Remembrance, adjacent to the Bridge of Remembrance in Cambridge Tce. Where previously there was no signage, and on such a busy street, she felt it was important to draw the public's attention to this beautiful place. Working

with Council who were very amenable and keen to facilitate this addition, she was responsible for the wording on the sign. (See photos later.)

Membership Services continues to generate interest through the newly established web site and such events as the Karma Keg fundraiser at Moon Under Water, held very recently on the 16th November. It was a rip roaring success. A big thanks to Secretary Sandra Shaw for getting this event established. It's a vital part of CCT's fundraising, and as she points out, "It's the easiest and quickest way to make \$500+ in 2 hours you'll ever get." Thankfully we have thirsty friends. Also, as administrator for the Facebook page, her regular updates are very welcome and informative.

Erin Oakley has been coordinating and, in collaboration with Neil Roberts, compiling our regular Newsletters to keep you all informed. A huge thanks to them.

Chris Kissling has added to his workload by kindly agreeing in the meantime to represent CCT on the **Board of Port Hills Park Trust**, delivering an informative report on their last meeting on October 13th. Many thanks Chris.

McLeans Mansion is still tantalisingly close to full restoration. Robert Watson has been contributing his landscaping design skills to the Mansion's garden and also in his role as member on the McLean's Trust Board.

I'd like to wish all the CCT board a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope the time is relaxing, given the demands of family and travel, so we can restore the batteries and be ready to get back to the good fight next year.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a great New Year, enjoying the time with family and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hamish Gilchrist, Chair.

HERITAGE CONFERENCE NAPIER

Jocelyn Sleigh, Christchurch Civic Trust board member attended and provided this report.

Historic Places Aotearoa and Historic Places Hawke's Bay ran a Community Heritage Conference in Napier on November 8-10th, run by Barbara Arnott, ex Mayor of Napier and her committee. It was especially for Community Heritage groups and individuals. It was a great introduction to how small communities or individual people are contributing to keep their heritage alive in countless different ways.

Day One programme included an Art Deco guided walk, and a meet, greet and mingle.

Day Two had keynote speaker Dame Anne Salmond, and amongst many other activities, David Clendon spoke on the Clendon Papers, about 150 years of family history in the Hokianga.

Eight Heritage awards were given, including one to the restoration for the Eskdale church by a group of volunteers following Cyclone Gabrielle.

A very moving lecture was given by Richard Shaw, Professor of Politics at Massey University on Genealogy about his great grandfather coming to Taranaki and fighting in the British Army at Parihaka. He has written two books; The Forgotten Coast and The Unsettled.

The Art Deco Trust has 120 members showing visitors around the Art Deco buildings every day of the year.

It was a marvellous conference, with the chance of meeting people with similar interests from all over the country.



PARK OF REMEMBRANCE SIGN

Long recognised by the Council as the Park of Remembrance, scheduled as the Heritage Setting for the Bridge of Remembrance and protected in the Christchurch District Plan, this park, nevertheless, had never been identified by a sign within. This year, Anne Dingwall (Christchurch Civic Trust Board member) made a personal request of the Mayor and Councillors for such a sign.

The younger of Anne's two Christchurch great-uncles, brothers killed in action in the First World War, was killed near Le Quesnoy, France in 1918 on the same day as Sgt Henry James Nicholas VC, whose statue stands in the Park of Remembrance.

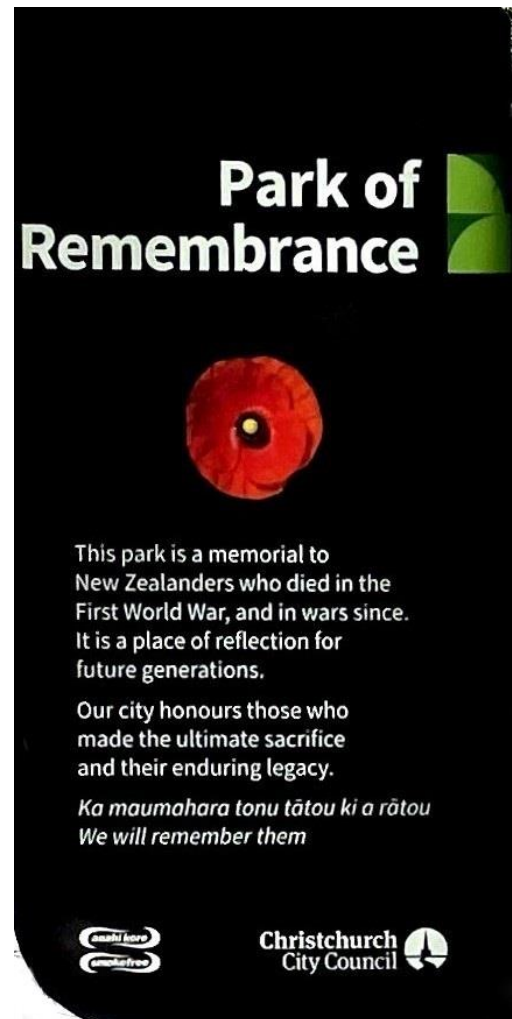
Anne was honoured to be consulted by the Council regarding the location, interpretation and image for the proposed sign.

The Park of Remembrance sign is visible from Cambridge Terrace. As one then steps onto the path leading to the statue of Sgt Nicholas VC and sights the red poppy on the sign's reverse side, one can ponder the interpretation (suggested by Anne), which links the past, present and future and concludes:

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou

We will remember them

Anne is indebted to the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff, who strove to ensure the commissioning and installation of this permanent Park of Remembrance sign ahead of Armistice Day and the Centenary of the Bridge of Remembrance 2024.



Park of Remembrance sign

CITY AND PENINSULA BOOK

The City & Peninsula book has been updated! The last update happened in 2011, but was already out of date due to the February earthquake.

The author, John Wilson, has kindly gone through all the photographs and listed the current status of each.

Christchurch Civic Trust was fortunate to receive a grant from the Heritage Grant Fund, Christchurch City Council, which has covered the considerable cost of the reprint.

Thus the book will remain relevant for years to come

HOLY WATER ?

Drip, drip, drip. Yet again heavy rain finds its way from a flat section of roof in an historically listed Church in Cashmere, to sprinkle the head of an important visiting cleric whilst delivering his sermon of encouragement to the congregation.

The irony is not lost on the faithful few in attendance. The elemental timing is exquisite. The need to rectify the embarrassment is signalled. But the burden falls to a regular congregation struggling to revive itself, having been halved by recent theological divides that split it asunder.

The more affluent times are history. Why bother ? Because the message of Christian hope needs spreading in this world of disruption and civic despair. The House of prayer needs a raincoat.



Ageing roof section of St Augustine's church

To make a one-off donation to help water proof the roof of St Augustine's Church, Cashmere, please use the following information and you are most welcome to visit in person and/or view their website at <https://www.staugustines.org.nz/>

Direct Bank Payments

Account Name: Parish Of Cashmere

Account Number: 06-0801-0052951-00

Particulars: Your first and last name and contact details for issuance of a tax receipt. *Charities Commission Registration Number is CC52510*



CATHEDRAL RESTORATION

It is ominous and deeply disappointing that recovery of the Cathedral has stopped, and the project indefinitely mothballed.



Cathedral wrapped for an uncertain future

The decision to stop was due to excessive costs, looming budget shortfalls, failure to raise sufficient funding, and Government and key benefactors declining to contribute additional funding.



2024 CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST AWARDS

The 47th annual Christchurch Civic Trust Awards were held on 9 October.

RECIPIENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES WHO RECEIVED AWARDS



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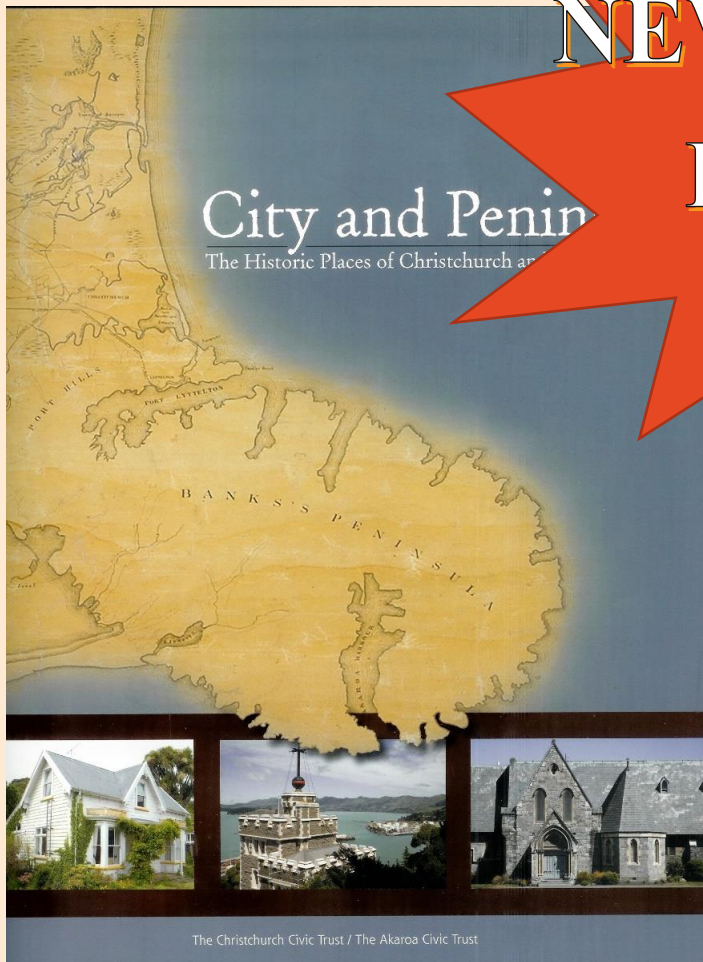
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Those accepting awards from Hamish Gilchrist (chair) were: (1) **John and Vickie Hearnshaw (Supreme Award)** for 37 Kirkwood Ave (2) **Sam Rolfe** for restoration of 159 Oxford Tce (3) **Ben Calvin** talking about restoration of 41 Ranfurly St (4) **Nick Harwood, Simon Mortlock and Louise Eades** for restoration of Governors Bay Jetty (5) **Alistair Pearson** for Lincoln University's campus renewal and redevelopment (6) **Ernst Frei** for the Bushland Park urban housing development, Cashmere Rd.



CITY AND PENINSULA

**NEW REVISED
EDITION**



200pp with over 290 full colour illustrations

Available from Christchurch Civic Trust

Orders to: PO Box 2632 Christchurch or: secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz

for **\$42.00** plus **\$ 10 postage and packaging** with **\$4.80** extra for Rural Delivery.

Copies are also available at the following book shops:

Scorpio Books, City

Smith's Bookshop, The Tannery

Leslie's Bookshop, Lyttelton

University Bookshop, University of Canterbury

Piccadilly Bookshop, Avonhead Mall

Arts Centre Gift shop Christchurch Arts Centre