



Newsletter

JULY 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The chairman Timothy Hogan giving the 2009 annual report

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the Christchurch Civic Trust, which was held at the Sydenham Heritage Church Colombo St on 6th May, was well attended.

In his annual report the chairman, Timothy Hogan, outlined the work of the Trust over the past 12 months.

With regard to membership he remarked that this had grown by 40% since the last AGM and now sat at about 140 members. However he also commented that as subscriptions had not increased for some time these would be raised for the coming year.

With the long awaited website soon to be active at christchurchcivictrust.org.nz he said that he hoped a new avenue of communication between the Trust and members would be heralded. The chairman went on to emphasise the success of the lunchtime lecture series that has continued at the Fendalton Service Centre, and advised that

it would be repeated over winter at the same venue.

He stressed that nominations for the Civic Trust Awards in October are pending and these needed to be received by the 31 July.

In his remarks about the Christchurch Art Centre the chairman indicated that a decision on the Resource Consents was imminent and he advised that the Trust had spent \$100,000 opposing the Resource Consent applications relating to the proposed Music School at the Arts Centre. To date \$25,000 had been raised from reserves and donations and an interest free loan of \$50,000 had been obtained. However he impressed on members the reality that significant fund raising initiatives would be required and some of these were already in place, with a major charity auction scheduled to be held at the end of July. The chairman added that if the Consents were granted, there was a right of appeal to the Environment Court.

In his reference to heritage and planning the

chairman said that the Trust was hopeful that the Occidental Hotel would be preserved, but voiced concerns about the Christchurch City Council regarding the current state of the Bowker Fountain in Victoria Square.

He stated that the Trust had commented on the updated Canterbury Museum Conservation Plan and was concerned that it had been written with a predetermined redevelopment proposal in place.

The chairman said that the Trust would oppose the Hospital redevelopment proposals because of the effect on Hagley Park. The Trust would prefer the CDHB to develop their holdings along Hagley Avenue.

The Chairman thanked Lyn Wicks, Ted Pryor and Murette Taylor for their contributions to the Board. All had resigned during 2009 and he said the Board would have a social function to thank Murette and Ted.

He then welcomed the new Board members; Jacqui Smith, Penny Orme and Dr Chris Kissling who were elected at the meeting.

In closing he thanked the Board and all members for their contributions over the past year.

Treasures Report

The Treasurer Bruce Alexander began his report by remarking that the Trust had *“weathered the storm, as it has done on previous occasions, when a major development proposal emerges to threaten our heritage and environment”*.

He emphasised that in terms of the Trust's Constitution, if any worthwhile contribution were to be made to the community on issues of public concern, there would have to be money available, and as a voluntary organization with no real regular income we must rely on grants, support and the goodwill of members and friends to achieve this.

The treasurer commented on the advantage that corporate entities or those associated with Resource Consent and Environment Court hearings had in contrast to the limited support available for those who are working in what is deemed to be the public interest.

As with most other aspects of the Trust's activity over the past year the Music School controversy had dominated the finances of the Trust,

necessitating its having to pay for legal advice, planners, and heritage consultants from overseas to present evidence. The Treasurer alluded to the many people other than members who, in supporting the work of the Trust, had made generous donations to meet this demand. He expressed the view that, *“while the task ahead is formidable, I am confident that we will succeed.”*

A special tribute was paid by him to Dame Ann Hercus who has agreed to help mount an extensive fund raising campaign. He mentioned that the trust has also been favoured with an interest free loan of \$50,000 from an anonymous benefactor, as well as having received many generous donations. The Treasurer reflected briefly on the fact that the current financial position was not new and that over the past 45 years the Trust had been in similar situations where large sums of money were required, and the public had always rallied to the cause.

The Treasurer also acknowledged the help given by the Canterbury Foundation which enabled the Trust to host the Annual Awards evening and the \$8000 grant received from the Lotteries Grants Board which has made it possible for the Trust to establish its own web site.

Although subscriptions for the year had totalled \$2530, (\$590 more than 2008) the Treasurer commented that it was not sufficient to meet the rising outgoings of running the Trust, and as did the chairman in his report, recommended that the annual subscriptions be raised. He also recommended that the incoming Board pursue an aggressive attitude in seeking a grant to cover the cost of preparing a regular newsletter.

In closing, the Treasurer stated that although the capital reserve fund had now been depleted, it was hoped that this would be replaced with the forthcoming fund-raising campaign.

Election of Civic Trust Board and Officers

Three new nominations to the Civic Trust were received-Dr Chris Kissling, Penny Orme, and Jacqui Smith. and were elected unopposed. With there being no new nominations for officers of Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer the current officers were re-elected for a further year.



Trust Treasurer Bruce Alexander and Ian Clark at the AGM

Dr Lochhead's Lecture

The guest speaker at this year's AGM Dr Ian Lochhead, spoke enthusiastically about the 19th Century architect Benjamin W. Mountfort. He outlined Mountfort's interest and involvement in Neo Gothic building design style both in Britain and New Zealand. The lecture was well received and the Trust was grateful that Dr Lochhead had agreed to speak.

New Members

The Civic Trust welcomes the following new members: Richard and Jenny Thomson, Jane Wouters and Nick Morley, Dame Ann Hercus, Doris Graebner, Penny Orme, Kevin Simcock, Alison Erikson and Margaret Austin.

Other Reports

Reports of other Trusts, from representatives on the Arts Centre Trust Board, Port Hills Trust Board, Nurses Memorial Trust Board and Sydenham Heritage Trust, were also received

Report from The Arts Centre Trust Board

For most of this past year my time as our representative on the Arts Centre Board has been dominated by the Conservatorium of Music proposal. I have mostly been unable to affect any changes that I have requested or bring about the

necessary public debate that I advocated. I repeatedly asked for the Conservatorium site to be marked out to give the public an opportunity to envisage the size of the footprint of the building. Finally a small model was produced that was not an adequate answer to the public's need or my request for consultation on size, bulk and situation of this proposed edifice.

On a more significant level it has been disappointing to experience the antipathy towards the genuine concerns of the Civic Trust over this building proposal when I expressed these to the Arts Centre Board. I believe I made many positive attempts to seek some constructive debate between our Trusts as well as hoping for more transparency in the Arts Centre's dealings with the public. It has been difficult to witness behaviours that seemed to me to be antagonistic towards the wider public's efforts to have their various views considered. As a Civic Trust representative it was my duty to confer with the Civic Trust and express the alternative views of our Trust. The Civic Trust's Heritage award to the Arts Centre for the conservation work on the Old Art School, was received gratefully, even so. It shows that the Civic Trust continues its long standing respect for the Arts Centre's commitment to heritage conservation, despite the anomaly of the present Music School proposal. There continues to be much to celebrate about the existence of this wonderful Arts Centre precinct, which is why I have been so concerned to see its heritage integrity under threat. I am hopeful that in the coming year I will be able to witness constructive public debate leading to a positive solution to this situation.

Joanna Mackenzie

[Christchurch Civic Trust Representative]

Report from The Sydenham Heritage Trust

Although much has been achieved by the Sydenham Heritage Trust since its inception in 2001 there still remains a considerable amount of restoration work ahead over the next 8 years. Among the essential structural work yet to be achieved is exterior buttress strengthening of the west wall, strengthening of foundations, and seismic strengthening of the North and South stairwells. But the completion of the amenities building at the beginning of 2009 was a major step forward and the Trust has now begun to make the church available for hire.

However it has become apparent that to ensure that there is an effective booking system and a means of communication with future hirers the Trust needs to have a web-site. Preparation has already begun on this and it is hoped that it will become active by the middle of this year.

Although the Trust had restoration of the stained glass windows on the east facade targeted for 2009 a reduction of funds meant that this project had to be suspended, but has now been reactivated as a result of a recent funding grant of \$ 20,000 received from Eureka Trust. This means that this project will be able to be progressed over the next few months.

The sealing of a car park on the western side of the church which the Trust had hoped would be completed in 2009 ran into difficulties. A lack of fulfilment of an understanding in the 2001 sale and purchase agreement, by the former owner of the church, has frustrated progress of this project for a number of years. As it has become problematic legal proceedings may be required before the issue is resolved.

Even though there have been some delays this year the Sydenham Heritage Church is now a more viable facility for both the local community and wider Christchurch than it was a year ago.

Val Heinz

[Christchurch Civic Trust Representative]

Report from The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Trust

Proposed Transfer of Ownership of Nurses' Chapel Site

This week, the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Trust has completed its written submission to the Christchurch City Council in response to the joint Council/Canterbury District Health Board public consultation on the Christchurch Hospital Redevelopment Proposal. The Trust's submission is confined to a single matter, namely its strong support for the proposed transfer of ownership of land including the Nurses' Memorial Chapel from the CDHB to the CCC. (While this Chapel site ownership proposal is not part of the current CDHB application to the CCC to obtain some Hagley Park land in exchange for CDHB land, councillors have been informed that that proposal process provides an opportunity for *progressing CCC ownership of the Chapel site within the*

wider discussions.)

The CCC proposes that it may be of benefit now for the ownership of the Chapel site to rest with the CCC, given the latter's previous intent to preserve the Nurses' Chapel, the current protection order and existing CCC lease and maintenance arrangements. (The Chapel and the land it occupies is owned by the CDHB. However, the latter has no involvement in the maintenance or administration of the Chapel, which it leases to the CCC. The Chapel is subleased to the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Trust, which is responsible for its administration. The Friends of the Chapel care for the building on a day to day basis, arrange bookings {eg. weddings}, maintain a small museum within the Chapel, and keep this open to the public through a system of volunteers. The land surrounding the Chapel is the responsibility of the CCC and is maintained by staff from the Botanic Gardens.)

When the Canterbury Area Health Board proposed in 1989 to demolish the Chapel as part of the hospital's redevelopment, the CCC resolved not only to support the retention and restoration of the Chapel but for the Chapel site to be vested in the CCC as a historic reserve as part of Hagley Park. While a protection order for the Chapel was issued by the Minister of Conservation, the matter of CCC ownership of the Chapel and its site has remained outstanding. No conservation plan has been prepared.

ANZAC Service

The Very Reverend Michael Brown, Former Dean of Wellington, Rtd Senior Army Chaplain, led this annual service in the Chapel. Major Brendan Wood, Chief Instructor Joint Health Services, Burnham Military Camp was the speaker. The Health Support Group of the Canterbury Regiment and Army Cadets was in attendance.

Request for Chapel Supervisors

If you or anyone you know might like to join the Supervisors, a group of Friends of the Chapel, to assist in the Chapel on the 3rd and 4th Monday of each month, please contact: Fay Sim Tel: 372 9272.

Anne Dingwall

[Christchurch Civic Trust representative]

Representative Report from the Port Hills Park Trust

The year under review has been one in which conservation of and enhancements to Mount Vernon Park, its plantings, tracks and other visitor amenities have continued, all at a fraction of the cost that would have been incurred if the park was in Council ownership. Further progress has been made with the proposal for acquisition of the Cashmere Valley forest presently owned by McVicar Timber Ltd.

Projects that have progressed over the last year include;

Fencing

The replacement of the fencing on the boundary with our neighbour on the south side of Mt Vernon was completed.

Memorial

On Saturday the 6th March, as reported in the May newsletter, the ceremony was held to dedicate the Memorial Rock and Plaque. The occasion was one to celebrate 25 years of the ownership of the Mt Vernon Park as a recreational amenity for the citizens of Christchurch.

Other Issues.

City Council Funding

Late last year the Christchurch City Council's Metropolitan Funding Committee declined to grant the Trust, on the grounds of insufficient information. We had provided almost exactly the same information in previous years and had consistently received grants for the operation and maintenance of Mt Vernon Park. The loss of a City Council grant is a severe blow. We have had to prune the budgeted expenditure for the current year back to the bare essentials and divert volunteer effort into pursuing other avenues for funding

Registration with the Charities Commission

We were duly registered and have lodged our first annual return.

Cashmere Forest Park

The Campaign team has recently prepared a draft forest management plan and draft recreation management plan for the park. Further work was undertaken towards preparation of draft planning

assessments, which will be required for City Plan changes.

The major step forward has been the Christchurch City Council's approval on 30 June 2009 of its Long Term Council Community Plan committing \$3M from its parks reserves as a contribution to the purchase of the Cashmere Forest Park, conditional on the Trust Board securing the balance of the funding required to purchase the park within 5 years. Maintaining a 235.2ha farm park for the people of Christchurch is a continuing task of many dimensions. Many of these are carried out by a dedicated group of volunteers that enables, in particular, many walkers, mountain bikers, rock climbers and others to take up the opportunity for regular recreation within the park's remarkable environment.

Finally, thanks are due to the Management Committee, the Supporters Group and Angela Bishop of CCC who ably provides the Board's secretarial services.

Lindsay Carswell

[Christchurch Civic Trust Representative]

Representative Report from the Membership Subcommittee to the Christchurch Civic Trust

This subcommittee has held five well attended meetings from August 15th 2009 to April 17th 2010.

There is no doubt that the proposal for establishing a Music School at the Arts Centre which was presented to the Civic Trust just a year ago has absorbed much of our time and energy. It has also been a huge opportunity for the Civic Trust to lift its public image. While it respects the views of the small number of members who support the Music School, there is a huge groundswell of public opinion against the proposal.

The Civic Trust as a whole should use this opportunity to recruit new members and solicit donations for their work in protecting the Arts Centre's valuable heritage. We would be grateful if all members could just talk about our work and circulate our newsletters.

Funding has curtailed our advertising.

Membership stands at 137.

The lunchtime lecture series has helped to bridge the gap between the Civic Trust Board and members and has broadened our focus.

The *Whats Happening* series of June, July, August 2009 featured Gordon Ogilvie talking on the Port Hills, James Caygill talking on Town Planning and Captain John Cleaver talking on Lyttelton.

The *Going, Going Gone* series of February, March, April 2010 featured Neil Roberts 'The Lost Art of Christchurch', John Wilson 'Lost Heritage in Christchurch' and Malcolm Duff from the Historic Places Trust.

On behalf of the Civic Trust Board I would like to express our appreciation to these speakers. I would also like to thank the members, our workers, who helped to make the series run smoothly.

The new membership brochure was printed in September, cost \$225 plus GST for 200. I would recommend a further updated printing be proceeded with.

The more frequent and informative newsletters have been a real help for our public relations and better membership communication. Many thanks to the newsletter team.

The next lecture series: *Questions and Answers for the Civic Trust* will start June 18th at Fendalton Service Centre Board room 12.30am,

Marette Taylor
[Convenor]

Winter Lecture Series **Lecture I - 18 June**

The first in the Winter Lecture series which has the title of 'Questions and Answers for the Civic Trust' will be given by Margot Perpick who will speak on resource planning and more effective outcomes.

Margot Perpick is a Christchurch barrister of Wynn Williams and Co and a specialist in environmental and resource management law, who was counsel to one of the groups opposing the the music school proposal at the recent Consent hearing.

The speakers for lectures II and III are yet to be confirmed but will be advised.

Home Brewers

Our Civic Trust fundraisers are putting together a number of hampers for the end of July. Home made jams, jellies, pickles and sauces are especially welcome. Other suitable donated items are also sought.

If you can help contact: Ilena 942 3277 or Marette at 332 2797

Canterbury Historic Houses Conservation Trust Meeting

The Canterbury Historic Houses Trust is hosting a special non political meeting of Christchurch heritage advocates. The open meeting will canvass views on heritage concerns and issues with the objective of raising these with candidates for the upcoming local body election.

The meeting will be held at **5.30pm on the 1st of July** at the Sydenham Heritage Church cnr Brougham and Colombo St.

Civic Trust Web-Site

The Civic Trust web-site, designed and developed by board member David Thornley in collaboration with Avatar Ltd, is now live and members are encouraged to visit the site often as it will be updated on a regular basis. The site address is

www.christchurchcivictrust.org.nz

Christchurch Heritage Awards

The recently formed Christchurch Heritage Awards Charitable Trust has inaugurated a set of new annual heritage awards. This Trust's mission is; *'to promote and celebrate heritage retention, conservation and education by recognising excellence through a quality innovative awards programme and ceremony'* The 2010 CHACT awards, which will be in 6 categories will be presented at a ceremony during Heritage Week.

THE CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST EVENTS CALENDAR

June	18	Winter Lecture series – Lecture I [Speaker Margot Perpick]
July	06	Trust Board Meeting
	16	Winter Lecture series – Lecture II
August	03	Trust Board Meeting
	20	Winter Lecture series – Lecture III

The Trust Board

Chairman: Tim Hogan

Secretary: Lindsay Carswell **Treasurer:** Bruce Alexander

Cory Bedford, Ian Clark, Anne Dingwall, Ronald Fussell, Chris Kissling,
Joanna Mackenzie, Penny Orme, Neil Roberts, Jacqui Smith, David Thornley, Prue Wignall.

Contacts: The Secretary 389 4819

The Chairman 366 3322

The Christchurch Civic Trust P.O.Box 1927 Christchurch 8041

www.christchurchcivictrust.com.nz

CIVIC TRUST AWARDS 2010

REMINDER

Members are invited to nominate recent outstanding heritage and environmental projects to be considered for an award by the Civic Trust

Nominations close on 31 July 2010

Please address your nominations to:

Civic Trust Awards 2010
P.O.Box 1927 Christchurch 8140

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Christchurch Civic Trust

