



Newsletter

March 2012

MILLENNIUM MURAL SAVED



Millennium Mural in the former Christchurch Convention Centre

Even though demolition and loss in the city is happening on a daily basis it is good to know that at least some of the cities treasures have been saved. The Millennium Mural in the Christchurch Convention centre, currently in the course of demolition, is one of them. However, late last year the situation was quite different. A lack of awareness on the part of the Christchurch City Council as to the mural's significance saw it destined for possible destruction. The Civic Trust was concerned at the apparent resignation that the mural would likely be lost, and began to lobby with assistance from the Press. The outcome was that the Council was motivated to form a strategy for the mural's deinstallation and storage. The twelve year old Millennium Mural entitled by the artist, Philip Trusttum, "Passport to the New Millennium", is as important piece of contemporary public art. It was one of three Millennium projects completed that also included 'Chalice' and the 'Millennium Tapestry', initiated and coordinated

by Art 2000 and the advisory group of Turning Point 2000.

The mural which is 81.180 metres long, 2.440 metres high and comprises 140 panels took the artist Philip Trusttum 6 months to paint, and cost \$250,000 .

When it was installed on the west wall of the Convention Centre in late 1999, much money still had to be raised to pay for it, even though a substantial Grant was made from the Millennium Fund. The Christchurch City Council contributed \$50,000.

A fundraising campaign was launched and coordinated by the Centre of Contemporary Art to raise the balance and many members of the public made donations to contribute to its purchase. As the composition of the mural is flexible, a new home should readily be found in a new civic building.

The rescue has also hastened plans to remove the 1972 mural 'Rainbow Pieces' by the artist Pat Hanly, from the Christchurch Town Hall.

Chairman's Report



Since our AGM in September the Civic Trust board has held three meetings and a very successful, well attended Awards evening.

Of prime concern for the Trust over the past few months has been the slow loss of more heritage buildings. This was highlighted on 7 November with a public rally organised by board member Ross Gray. The rally was well attended as many members will know and was also the occasion to launch a public petition to the Chief Executive Officer of CERA which has since has been activated and circulated on-line and in the Press. To date more than 1000 signatures in support have been gathered. As a followup to this, a public forum consisting of a panel of very knowledgeable speakers will be held on 19 March.

Early last year the group ICONIC which includes representatives of the Civic Trust, identified 40 'must save' listed buildings to maintain the heritage integrity of the city. Of that number only 15 remain and the fate of many of these is still in the balance and it is feared that in the months ahead many more will go. Under immediate threat is: the Christ Church cathedral, the former Central Post Office in the Square, 'Our City' in Worcester St, the Majestic Theatre Manchester St, the Christchurch the Town Hall, the former Christchurch Railway Station and the Armson woolstore on Moorhouse Avenue. Also of real concern are McLean's Mansion and the seven Samuel Hurst Seager cottages on Clifton Spur Sumner.

However despite the ongoing destruction there are some listed masonry buildings such as; the Curator's House and the Robert McDougall Art gallery in the Botanic Gardens that although having sustained some damage, will survive.

The issue of the Hagley Park and Christchurch Hospital Board land exchange, which the Civic Trust board challenged in 2010 has recently taken a new turn. Because of the past year's

events Christchurch City Council has initiated a move to use the Cera Act to try and speed up the land swap process.

The Civic Trust Board feels strongly that this is an inappropriate use of the legislation that could present a precedent and lead to further encroachment. As yet the City Council have not received a decision from CERA, but the Trust is preparing for the worst. Shortly a small group of Board members will progress the idea of forming a 'Guardians of the Botanic Gardens Group' in line with what was agreed in the Botanic Gardens Management Act.

On a more positive note the reprint of the 2007 book 'City and Peninsula' was made available in December and can be purchased either on-line or by post.

A total of 2600 were printed and so far sales are encouraging.

It is planned to relaunch the book in conjunction with the public forum and discussion 'Saving Heritage' on 19 March and I would encourage as many members as possible to attend.

Neil Roberts

Chairman

Autumn Lecture Series

A new series of three lunchtime lectures, entitled 'Our Way Forward', will begin this month. The lectures will be held in the third week of each month. The speakers will be Miles Refo co-owner of 'Otahuna' homestead, Tai Tapu, eminent Canterbury architect Sir Mile Warren and architect Chris Wilson. Each speaker will reflect on the rebuild and future of Christchurch and the way forward from a different perspective.

Lecture I given by Miles Refo will be held on 21 March 12.30 - 1-30 pm in the board room at the South City Library Beckenham.

Please diary.

New Members

The Civic Trust welcomes the following new members: C.P. & P.E. McGregor.

Changes of Address It is possible that a number of members may have changed address in recent months. Any who have, we would ask to advise the secretary by either phoning 366 3322 or email: secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz

SAVING HERITAGE

Public Forum and Panel Discussion

Chaired by: Dr Ian Lochhead

Speakers

- Michael King** Structural Engineer [Miyamoto Cardno]
Clare Kelly Architect
Lisle Hood Heritage building owner
Anna Crighton Canterbury Heritage Buildings Fund Chair
Eugenie Sage Member of Parliament

To be held on

Monday March 19th 7.30pm

At

Cashmere Presbyterian Church Hall

2 MacMillan Ave Cashmere

This event has been organised by :ICONIC, Canterbury Historic Houses Conservation Trust, ICON,
Christchurch Civic Trust and Akaroa Civic Trust

Reprint now available

City and Peninsula

The Historic Places of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

Authored by noted heritage historian John Wilson and published collaboratively by the Christchurch Civic Trust and Akaroa Civic Trust, this book provides an excellent introduction to both the rural and urban heritage assets of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

200pp with over 290 full colour illustrations

Order from The Christchurch Civic Trust

PO Box 1927 Christchurch

or email: secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz

Purchase price is \$50 + \$10 postage and packaging)

THE CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST EVENTS CALENDAR

March	19	Heritage Public forum and Panel discussion
	21	Autumn Lecture series – Lecture I [Speaker Miles Refo]
April	03	Trust Board Meeting
	18	Autumn Lecture series – Lecture II [Speaker Sir Miles Warren]
May	01	Trust Board Meeting
	16	Autumn Lecture series – Lecture III [Speaker Chris Wilson]

The Trust Board

Chairman: Neil Roberts

Secretary: Tim Hogan **Treasurer:** Lindsay Carswell

Bruce Alexander, Vivien Bishop, Valarie Campbell, Ian Clark, Anne Dingwall, Ross Gray, Rosanne Harwarden, Chris Kissling, Joanna Mackenzie, Penny Orme, Jacqui Smith, David Thornley & Prue Wignall..

Contacts: The Secretary, 366 3322

The Chairman, 3771435

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

