



# Newsletter

October 2008

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## CIVIC TRUST AWARDS 2008



*The Christchurch Civic Trust Awards judges outside 'Holy Smoke' Woolston.  
Left to right Ian Clark, Roger Buck, Joanna Mackenzie, Cory Bedford.*

The Christchurch Civic Trust annual awards, for over 30 years, have acknowledged the efforts of many Christchurch people who have made significant contributions to our local environment. At times we have celebrated excellence of architectural standards or the retention and restoration of local heritage buildings. We have awarded local communities who have worked together to rejuvenate park lands, waterways and walkways.

Cultural events that have fostered community involvement have been awarded, as well as important City Council initiatives that have contributed to a better living environment in areas of the city.

This year, amongst our awards, we have emphasised the theme of sustainability.

In 2007 we acknowledged the significance of community projects that made positive changes locally such as Project Port Lyttelton. We see the urgent need to support groups that are working together, often voluntarily, to create their own better futures. Many of these people work, unacknowledged, with enthusiastic commitments to fulfil local social, economic and environmental needs. So it is that this year we will be commending the vision of the St Albans' 'Transition Town' community, the Strickland Street Community Gardens, Trees for Canterbury and the creators of Riccarton Market, among others.

In future we intend to focus on such endeavours, as the pressures of our times demand more creative initiatives to balance the erosion of communities within the city, our country and the world.

## Chairman's Report



Since the last newsletter went to print, the Trust has made formal submissions to the Council on the Christchurch Tramway extension, the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan and the redevelopment of the former Orion site in Packer Street. We have not made any comment publicly

on the Council's recent \$17m purchase of five city properties. At our most recent meeting, the Board discussed this issue. The Board strongly supports Central City Revitalisation and these properties do have a place in the Council's strategy. It is good to see that the Mayor and Councillors are prepared to back their vision with action. We do share the concerns about the process used in purchasing the sites and the likely financial return.

David Henderson's '*South of Lichfield*' development was a recipient of a Civic Trust Award in 2007 and 4 of the sites fall within that precinct. The Civic Trust also opposed big box retail on the Sydenham School site when that went to a Resource Consent hearing in 2003. We promoted a mixed-use development option.

It now looks like there will be preservation of some of the former Mount Magdala farm buildings in the Aidanfield subdivision. A Trust has been formed, which is in negotiations with the Council and the Developers. The Civic Trust has representation within this Trust.

The Arts Centre has resurrected the idea of the establishment of part of central Christchurch as a World Heritage site. This is tentatively focussed on the Gothic Revival buildings and is being steered by Dr Ian Lochhead. The Civic Trust was one of a number of groups who made submissions in 2005 in a similar vein and we are supporting this latest venture.

Work is continuing on refinement of the Civic Trust Constitution, after changes were not passed at the AGM. It is hoped that a general meeting will be called before the end of the year, to pass a resolution of modified changes.

In October the annual Awards and Heritage Week will happen. I hope you will support these events.

**Tim Hogan**  
**Chairman**

### **PRESENTATION OF CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST AWARDS 2008**

**Members are invited to attend the presentation evening for the  
Christchurch Civic Trust annual awards,  
to be held at 'Our City' – cnr Oxford Tce & Worcester St  
on Tuesday 14 October commencing at 5.30pm**

Funded with the support of Canterbury Community Trust

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## CIVIC TRUST AWARDS 2008

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### **Transition Initiative St Albans**

*“Building local resilience for a time beyond oil”*

**Awarded for the community initiative in encouraging the local means of combating climate change.**

The formal launch of Transition initiative St Albans took place on 17 July 2008 at the St Albans Community Centre. At its core is a neighbourhood community group led by Christoph Hench and Bill Demeter of the St. Albans Residents Association.

Its intention is to identify, bring together and make as much use as possible of the wide range of skills and resources lying within the local community to counter the expected impacts of, in particular, peak oil and climate change. This is part of a movement which is becoming widespread in New Zealand and around the world, which has at its heart increased community resilience and independence through resource localisation – doing as much as we can with what is immediately around us.

An important benefit is that by fostering a sense of community, and encouraging closer interaction between individuals and families a 'sense of belonging' will evolve which adds greatly to peoples quality of life.

### **Trees for Canterbury**

**Awarded for the initiative in contributing to a sustainable environment.**

Tim Jenkins was on student radio in 1990, talking about the importance of trees for the environment. At the end of his talk he invited anyone who was interested in helping to make the planting in Canterbury more possible, to contact him.

The solution was conceived – to create small nurseries that could supply community groups and organisations with the trees they required. The main initial sites of the Trees for Canterbury project were volunteer's back yards (the first nursery sites). Back yard nurseries were set up in various other places around Christchurch and eventually all this was focused on the site in Opawa Road. It has now moved into larger premises at 42 Charlesworth Street.

From the start there was a strong trust (The Green Effect Trust), with people of widely varying experience and expertise to spearhead the cause of Trees for Canterbury. What made the difference between a good idea and a successful accomplished good idea was the commitment of people working at Trees for Canterbury. There are now four full time and two part time staff.

These people have enabled Trees for Canterbury to

grow from a small operation in backyards to the fully operational nursery that it is today. In 1992 Steve Bush was employed full time to undertake the day to day management of the nursery and has continued in this role furthering the aims of the organisation which are Employ, Educate and Regenerate.

One of the interesting features of Trees for Canterbury has been the use of re-cycled materials. This has included old green houses, hessian pretending to be shade cloth and one litre milk cartons just right for the vast bulk of Trees for Canterbury production needs. These allow good healthy, vigorous root growth.

The original idea was for the nursery to survive on the generosity of donations and volunteer labour. Soon it was discovered that a sale of a portion of the plants grown was the most effective and sustainable means of financial support.

The Charlesworth Street nursery now provides services for 60 – 80 clients and also produces in excess of 100,000 native plants annually. On average, 45,000 of these plants are planted and/or donated to the community every year.

### **Strickland St Community Garden**

**Awarded for community initiative.**

In 1999 permission was granted by Christchurch City Council to utilise a vacant Council owned site in Strickland Street, Spreydon.

Initially plots on the site were cultivated and potatoes planted. A shed was erected and much twitch was removed. Issues related to funding and coordinating resources began as well as financial management planning and public relations. There was also a huge amount of physical labour.

Over the past nine years many talented and helpful volunteers have come and gone and in the process have helped the Trust manager and Board move the development of the gardens into new areas. The successful development of the gardens lies in the positive engagement with the local community – which involves looking outward, asking for help, having fun and valuing peoples skills. It is also important that there are standards such as codes of conduct, safety, public relations, aesthetics and to mitigate any adverse effects of recycling activities on neighbours. *(continued next page)*

A full Christchurch City Council decision was made in 2004 to retain the site for use as a community garden. A Resource Consent to change the zoning of a house on the site from residential to community use as a resource centre was gained in 2006 and was followed by the formation of the Strickland Street Community Trust. The Strickland Street gardens is a key project of the Trust and is truly a community facility.

Community participation includes official and unofficial visits and community events. There is also an education programme in place and promotion of the garden and its benefits to the wider community of Christchurch. Currently there are projects under way that involve; new immigrants gardening classes, a Social housing and Gardening project and a Christchurch South Waste Minimisation project.

### **New Residence 14 Carlton Mill Road**

**Designed by Wilson & Hill Architects Ltd**

**Awarded for quality design and urban environmental consideration.**

The owner of this house selected the site because of its Avon river frontage, outlook to Hagley Park, proximity to the city and his love of this part of Christchurch. The architect's brief required that as the house was to be sited on a busy thoroughfare it had to provide a good level of sound insulation as well as privacy from the street.

The house design takes advantage of views to the river maximising its riverside setting. Layout of the house was largely determined by the arrangement of garaging, the views to the river to the south and maximisation of sun on the site.

In the selection of materials careful attention was paid to these being compatible with the natural site backdrop of the Avon River and the large deciduous trees of Hagley Park. Natural stone was used for a dominant wall that runs through the entry, stairwell and living area and incorporates a fireplace.

The trim materials on the exterior of the house are cedar; timber has also been used in the joinery and for flooring on the ground floor.

A special feature in the house is a paved roof garden that provides a private outdoor living area at first floor level, that offers views down onto the river. This combined with the paved courtyards at the front and the rear of the house gives the owner a variety of outdoor living areas.

### **225 High Street**

**Awarded for the significant restoration and seismic upgrade of a heritage building.**

This has been a true work of passion for the owners who have gained a reputation for restoring central city character buildings.

Situated near the corner of Manchester and Lichfield Streets, this three-storey building was built in 1883. It has been restored to offer individual offices on the first and second floors and ground floor commercial premises in the central city, whilst retaining the heritage character it has. The facade has been lovingly restored to highlight the special character of the sandstone and detailing.

The building was damaged by fire in 1988 and the top floors remained vacant. The current owners purchased the property in 2006 and commenced restoration in January 2007.

### **31 Dundas Street**

**Awarded for the significant restoration of an early twentieth century brick building in a challenging urban street scape.**

Situated in the south end of the central city between Colombo and Manchester Streets much of this large two-storey red brick building dates from 1901.

Originally constructed for M. O'Brien & Co Ltd boot manufacturers it was purchased by Wraggs Apparel in the 1970s. Recently the painted cream brick exterior was sandblasted to expose the original red brick cladding.

The building features large timber framed windows, and interior upgraded facilities that include revitalised entrance staircases. The timber flooring has been replaced by 1.5 km of recycled and refinished rimu to retain its original character. Significant rewiring plumbing and mechanical work has been undertaken to modernise the office to contemporary requirements whilst accentuating the character of the building.

The owners, together with their consultants, are to be congratulated for the high standard of restoration.

### **Radio New Zealand House**

**Awarded for aiding central city revitalisation**

This inspired top floor apartment addition highlights a unique way of combining residential use with a commercial building in the central city.

Situated at the corner of Durham Street and Chester Street West, Radio New Zealand House was designed in the 1970s by Warren & Mahoney.

The present owners have added a new top floor to form a penthouse apartment with a separate lift to the rear of the building. This apartment has been designed by Thom Craig in a modern aesthetic whilst acknowledging the design below. A large west facing balcony can be seen from Cranmer Square and the South elevation of the apartment is apparent from Chester Street West. Provision has been made for a second apartment to be added to the east in the future.

The owners are to be congratulated for inspiring Christchurch to meet the needs of central city revitalisation through innovative ways, and increasing residential use within the four avenues.

### **Airdmhor Montessori Educational Care Centre**

**Awarded for initiative and retaining a period house.**

The Civic Trust has pleasure in awarding Elaine Low for her initiative, enterprise and commitment in retaining and restoring the 1902 Edwardian homestead at 74 Halswell Road, creating a unique environment for the Montessori Educational Care Centre.

We also commend the high quality of the interior refurbishment, which has incorporated original crafted features of plasterwork, inbuilt furniture, stained glass windows and carved wooden bannisters. The children's playground area also retains original outhouses. These features provide character as well as being a valuable reminder of a century of history of this area and the original Duncan family property.

A carpark off the busy main road has been built to retain old trees, while the low front gate at the handsome front door entrance welcomes children and parents. Airdmhor has made excellent use of the land and heritage buildings, while also serving local educational needs and attracting people from the wider community.

### **Holysmoke Smokehouse**

**Awarded for initiative and enterprise.**

The Christchurch Civic Trust has pleasure in awarding Henk Tabak for his initiative, enterprise and commitment in bringing about the restoration, earthquake strengthening and complementary extension of a unique brick heritage building, at 650 Ferry Road. We also commend the quality and coherence of the architect, David Brocherie's design for the addition and spacious interior.

Henk sourced authentic sized rimu flooring boards originating from Bethany hospital and rimu sarking which has been used on the ceiling. Natural lighting plays on the exposed bricks which are a tribute to the history they bear, while the red outhouses with their generous, tin, attracting local clientèle as well as bringing patrons from across the city.

His ethos of having only free range produce on site is in keeping with his effort to celebrate an authentic heritage asset. He has re-established this building that was once a local store, later a coal merchant, more recently an antique shop and now a well acclaimed restaurant, as a significant Woolston landmark.

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## **COMMENDATIONS 2008**

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### **McGregor's Shoe Repair Shop**

**This commendation is for retaining a heritage building.**

The Christchurch Civic Trust has pleasure in awarding Adam McGregor a commendation for retaining and extending the use of his father's shoe repair premises in a small but significant heritage building, at 27 Lincoln Road.

In 1889 the land was bought for 25 pounds from the local farmer, George Thomas. As it fronted the road the intention was to establish a business on the site. The original shoe repair store was built with an attached living quarter to the side. In 1915 the shop was remodelled and a larger villa was built behind the shop. In the 1930s the owner was also the local Spreydon Postmaster, with the premises serving as the post office. Eddie Beech brought the shop in 1938. Twenty years later Adam's father, Derek, bought the business and moved onto the site. Adam took over the business in 2000, still working at his shoe business in the back workroom.

However, he has extended the use of the old building at the front, featuring the old brick wall and wall boards in an interior upgrade that gives character to his new coffee bar. He is aware of the interest in the old building and the part it has played in the history of the local community.



# CIVIC TRUST AWARDS 2008



## **Trees for Canterbury Nursery**

*Awarded for the initiative in contributing to a sustainable environment.*



## **New Brighton Plunket Rooms**

*This award is a tribute to the former New Brighton Borough Council and its architect.*



## **The Strickland St Community Garden**

*Awarded for community initiative*



## **14 Carlton Mill Rd.**

*Awarded for quality design and urban environmental consideration.*



## **255 High Street**

*Awarded for the significant restoration and seismic upgrade of a heritage building*



## **31 Dundas Street**

*Awarded for the significant restoration of a large early twentieth century brick building in a challenging urban streetscape*



## **Airdmhor Montessori Educational Care Centre**

*Awarded for initiative and retaining a period house.*





**Radio New Zealand House Penthouse**  
*Awarded for aiding central city revitalisation*



**Holy Smoke Smokehouse 650 Ferry Rd Woolston**  
*Awarded for initiative and enterprise*

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## CIVIC TRUST COMMENDATIONS



**McGregors Shoe Repair Shop, 27 Lincoln Rd**  
*This commendation is for retaining a heritage Building*



**Edwardian Villa 388 Oxford Terrace**  
*This award is for the ongoing care and attention of an important early dwelling*



**Riccarton Rotary Sunday Market**  
*This commendation is for the ongoing contribution of this weekly market to the community.*



**Worker's Cottage 386 Oxford Terrace**  
*This commendation is given in recognition of the retention and maintenance of this heritage dwelling.*

**Riverview Lodge 361 Cambridge Terrace**

*This commendation is given for restoration of a heritage house.(right)*



## COMMENDATIONS 2008

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### **Riccarton Rotary Sunday Market**

***This commendation is for the ongoing contribution of this weekly market to the community.***

The Riccarton Rotary Sunday market began in 1989 in the Riccarton Mall car park, as a car boot sale of goods that Rotarians, had collected or donated. It soon outgrew the site and was moved to the Bush Inn car park, then the grounds of Riccarton High School in 1993-94. It soon grew to 180 stalls with a market manager appointed. The next move was to the University of Canterbury car park, but when applications for a resource consent failed it moved back to Riccarton High School. Finally in 1995, it moved to Riccarton Race Course, where it has been ever since.

Up to 300 vendors occupy the market, selling a wide variety of goods – especially fresh fruit vegetables plants, trees and food. Patronage averages 6,000 each Sunday with up to 10,000 attending the Christmas market.

Facilities at the site have been improved particularly regarding reading, seating and landscaping. In 2000 the Riccarton Rotary Charitable Trust was formed to manage the finances of what has become the largest outdoor market in New Zealand. The success of the Market has been such that, to date, The Riccarton Rotary Club has been able to donate \$1.5 million from Market profits to the community.

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### **Riverview Lodge Cambridge Terrace**

***This Commendation is given for restoration of a heritage house***

Designed by an English architect Riverview Lodge 361 Cambridge Terrace, is thought to have been built in 1903 for Henry Leader, a Richmond baker. On his death that same year it was sold to Arthur Lane and remained in the Lane family until 1912. William Henry Atkinson then owned the property until 1916, when it was sold to Frank Eugene Hyman (1868–1936), Manager of the Lyttelton Times Company and his wife Kate Ellen Hyman. After Hyman's death his widow lived there for a short time before selling it to John and Louisa Stockdale. Following her husband's death in 1940 Mrs Stockdale became the sole owner and remained living at 361 Cambridge Terrace until her death in 1970. Over time, particularly in Mrs Stockdale's declining years, Riverview gradually fell into disrepair and became quite dilapidated.

In recent decades, however, several residents

especially Ernst Wipperfuerth and the present owners Mark and Andrea van Dooren, have carried out major restoration, and the house as it is today is a tribute to their sterling efforts.

This stately residence, which is currently bed and breakfast accommodation, still has most of its original features. It reflects the grace and style of the Edwardian period and has fine appointments, including carved Kauri and Rimu fireplaces and stairs.

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### **New Brighton Centennial Plunket Rooms**

***This award is a tribute to the former New Brighton Borough Council and its architect Paul Pascoe.***

Tenders were called by the then New Brighton Borough Council in 1940, for the construction of this building as a centennial project to a design by Paul Pascoe (1908 -1976). It is exactly square, of brick construction, with a roof of low pitch and a partly enclosed veranda with a ramp for prams. The interior partitions were made flexible increasing the uses of the building which contains a kitchen, toilet, a waiting room, a committee room and a nurses consulting room.

Community Plunket rooms such as this were not only used for consultation but also available as a gathering place for women of the district.

Pascoe's flexible design enabled the building to serve a variety of functions. It stands today as a tribute to Paul Pascoe and a memorial to one of Christchurch's great architects.



## **Residence 388 Oxford Terrace**

**This commendation is for the ongoing care and attention of an important early dwelling.**

The Christchurch Civic Trust has pleasure in commending the current owner of this residence. This Edwardian Villa was formerly owned by Ron Neale and his wife Neta, founder of the Canterbury Children's Theatre. Under their care and the other previous owners, the home was kept in pristine condition and this care has been continued by the present owner Kura Jane Geere-Watson. The house is an important feature of the history of the Avon Loop.

## **Worker's Cottage 386 Oxford Terrace**

**This commendation is given in recognition of the retention and maintenance of this heritage dwelling.**

This small workers cottage was the first house to be built in the Avon Loop, around 1860 and appears on Lambert & Strout's 1877 map of Christchurch. It was originally just two rooms, with two added to the rear in the 1870s. The lean-to initially was a kitchen and later a bathroom, washhouse and toilet. Although the roof has been slightly modified the original shingle cladding has survived beneath the current corrugated steel covering.

The cottage was occupied from 1905 to 1983 by James Clothier and his family. James Clothier (1859 – 1951), a cooper, was born in Essex England and came to live in New Zealand in 1878. He initially settled in Dunedin but on moving to Christchurch with his wife Jane (1860-1923), purchased the cottage at 386 Oxford Terrace, where he operated his cooperage business from a shed at the back of the property, hand crafting oak barrels, assisted by his son. James Clothier remained active into old age and is said to have been agile enough to be able to paint his roof when he was over 90. His son Arthur James Clothier (1903 -1983), also a cooper who turned to carpentry, took over the house after his father's death in 1951. A number of early alterations to the cottage were carried out at this time. In recent years the cottage has been lovingly maintained by Robin Duff.

## **Awarded for initiative and enterprise.**

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His ethos of having only free range produce on site is in keeping with his effort to celebrate an authentic heritage asset. He has re-established this building that was once a local store, later a coal merchant, more recently an antique shop and now a well acclaimed restaurant, as a significant Woolston landmark.

## REPORTS BY TRUST REPRESENTATIVES

As many members will be aware the Civic Trust has representation on five affiliated Trusts. The following are recent annual reports by representatives:- Joanna Mackenzie [The Arts Centre Trust Board], Anne Dingwall [The Nurses Memorial Trust], Val Heinz [Sydenham Heritage Trust], Lindsay Carswell [Port Hills Park Trust Board], and Ian Clark [Christchurch Heritage Trust].

They were tabled at the Annual General Meeting on 8 May and are published in this issue of the Newsletter for the benefit of those members who were unable to attend.

### **The Arts Centre Trust Board**

The role of a member of the Civic Trust on the Art Centre Trust Board was clarified recently. It was stressed that members are nominated and do not represent the Christchurch Civic Trust and must seek permission of the Arts Centre Trust Board before discussing issues of interest to the Civic Trust.

During the past year there has been a positive exchange between the two boards, especially concerning the Arts Centre's building development plans. The Arts Centre management presented plans for review at a Civic Trust Board meeting. The Civic Trust's recommendations arising from that review were taken into consideration, in particular for the design of the new Registry building. The concerns of the Civic Trust have been conveyed during Arts Centre Board meetings and there has been regular participation in meetings between the Arts Centre Board and ICON which have facilitated a useful discussion of Arts Centre business.

### **Nurses Memorial Chapel Trust Board**

The only dedicated chapel of its kind in New Zealand and possibly the world, the Nurses' Memorial Trust Chapel was erected as a memorial both to the Nurses from Christchurch Hospital, who died in 1915 when their World War I transport ship, the *Marquette*, was torpedoed, and the nurses who died in the 1918 influenza epidemic.

The stained glass windows in the chapel are of particular significance. The 2003 addition by Stephen Belanger – Taylor, in memory of all New Zealand Army nurses who served their country in war and those who lost their lives in the course of duty in both World Wars, depicts the *Marquette*, World War I and II nurses uniforms, and nursing medals. The most recent window by Graham Stewart unveiled in a commemorative service in September 2007, 'Nurses Kneeling in Hagley Park', remembers nursing training days at Christchurch Hospital. It has been much admired especially by those nurses with strong memories of daffodils in the park.

Planning is under way for the launch of *ANZAC Nurses World War I*. Author Peter Rees has been commissioned to write this history, which will include the *Marquette* tragedy.

The chapel has continued to be used as an interdenominational place of worship by hospital staff,

patients, their families and friends since its opening with a Christmas Day service in 1927. Nowadays weddings, baptisms and Anzac Day services also are conducted in the chapel, as well as floral displays and other events. The chapel on Riccarton Avenue is open daily to the public except Sundays.

### **Sydenham Heritage Trust**

Restoration of the church continues. Situated at the corner of Colombo and Brougham Streets, the grey stone building is a Sydenham landmark.

Work completed by the Sydenham Heritage Trust since its inauguration in 2002 includes major repairs and seismic strengthening of the roof, some conservation of exterior stonework and restoration of stained glass in the vestibule.

The formerly shabby interior has been transformed by ceiling replacement, re-plastering and painting. It is now fit for use but this cannot occur until an amenities block is built. This addition is vital for the ongoing future community life of the building and will include kitchen facilities and toilets. It is scheduled for completion by February 2009. This means that the church will then be suitable for a wide range of events that could include exhibitions, meetings, auctions, religious services and concerts.

Although the amenities block is currently the major project for the Trust this year there, still remains much to be done both the interior and exterior of the church. This includes refurbishment of vestry rooms, restoration of leaded windows, a car park and landscaping.

All the work so far has been made possible by a number of grants and donations, for which the Trust is grateful.

### **Port Hills Park Trust Board**

The Port Hills Park Trust Board was set up in 1985 by the Christchurch Civic Trust, which through a sub-committee of the Trust called the Port Hills Appeal Committee, raised the necessary finance to purchase the 25.2 hectares that is now Mt Vernon, Oscar Alpers, a Community Board member is currently the Port Hills Trust Chairman. The day to day management of the park is taken care of by a very talented management committee, which is chaired by Howard Keen and meets monthly. Many tasks, such as control of plant pests, care of the park tracks, and planning and implementing of new planting are undertaken by a voluntary group of people. Specialist work such as fencing is done by contractors.

The past year has been one in which the conservation of and enhancements to Mt Vernon Park, its plantings, tracks and other visitor amenities have continued.

The Constitution of the Port Hills Park Trust allows for further acquisition of Port Hills land. The Trust has taken a leading role in the planning and financing of a nearby area of land to become a recreational forest park. This is still very much at an initial stage but the

tracks and other visitor amenities have continued. The Constitution of the Port Hills Park Trust allows for further acquisition of Port Hills land. The Trust has taken a leading role in the planning and financing of a nearby area of land to become a recreational forest park. This is still very much at an initial stage but the campaign team (Cashmere Forest Park Campaign Team) has continued to develop a plan for the park. Among the other projects that have progressed over the past year include;

Over the past year the Board has continued to participate in a joint investigation with Lincoln College, the Christchurch City Council and Summit Road Society into the condition of grassland on the Port Hills and within the park, with a view to improved management. Originally to be a three-year study this has become more drawn out than expected and the ongoing maintenance of a 235.2ha farm park for the people of Christchurch is a continuing task of many dimensions. Many of these projects are carried out by a dedicated group of volunteers that enables many walkers, mountain bikers, rock climbers and others to take up the opportunity for regular recreation within the park's remarkable environment

The Trust is also pleased that Christchurch City Council's Metropolitan Funding Committee has maintained its annual grant of \$25,000, out of the community grants fund, for the ongoing management and development of Mount Vernon Park.

**Commemorative Plaque**

A memorial rock plaque is to be unveiled early in 2009 at the entrance to the park, to acknowledge the vision of a small group of people who, with the support of the Christchurch Civic Trust began the lengthy process of purchasing 236 ha of port hills land in December 1983 for recreation.

The plaque will also acknowledge the support for

funding the project from both private and corporate donations and the wider public without which purchase of Mt Vernon Park would not have been a reality.

**Christchurch Heritage Trust**

The Heritage Trust has had some experience in protecting and preserving heritage buildings, such as the former Excelsior Hotel in Manchester Street and the Star and Lyttelton Times building in Cathedral Square. There are a number of problems that have to be faced when involved with such projects.

One major problem is finding an economic use for the building. Such buildings must not be left to become just a white elephant. They need to have a vibrant and lively use which the Trust has been able to achieve with backpackers accommodation, cafes, restaurants and bars.

But of course other buildings could attract alternative uses of which there are many, for example, flats and apartments.

Another problem is the need for earthquake strengthening to meet the requirements of the Building Act. This can be very expensive, although with the use of modern technology it is hoped that the cost can be reduced.

One way of lowering the cost is for a group of owners to combine and this is what is envisaged with Smith's Bookshop in Manchester St, a property recently purchased by The Christchurch Heritage Trust. The Trust hopes to work in with other adjoining owners to enable costs to be reduced and a very acceptable end result to be achieved, including the upgrade of frontages. The Trust also hopes that this process can be repeated elsewhere.

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**CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST MEMBERSHIP**

P.O..Box 1927, Christchurch 8140

Name.....

Address.....

Contact Nos:

Tel.....Email.....-.....@.....

Occupation.....

Skills which may be of value to the Civic Trust:—

## THE CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST EVENTS CALENDAR

October	7	Trust Board Meeting
October	14	Civic Trust Awards - 5-30pm Our City
October	20	Heritage Week Lecture – 12-30pm Civic Offices
November	4	Trust Board Meeting
December	2	Trust Board Meeting

### 2009

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February	3	Trust Board Meeting
February	13	Lecture – 12.30pm South Christchurch Library
March	3	Trust Board Meeting
March	13	Lecture 12.30pm South Christchurch Library

### The Trust Board 2008

**Chairman:** Tim Hogan

**Deputy Chairman:** Ted Pryor

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

Cory Bedford, Ian Clark, Anne Dingwall, Ronald Fussell, Joanna Mackenzie,  
Neil Roberts, Marete Taylor, David Thornley, Prue Wignall

Contacts: The Secretary 389 4819

The Chairman: 366 3322

The Christchurch Civic Trust P.O.Box 1927 Christchurch 8140

## CIVIC TRUST HERITAGE WEEK LECTURE

**Why Preserve the Ugly & the Banal in Architecture?**

Monday 20 October ~ 12.30-1.30pm

**Christchurch City Council Chamber**

**Civic Offices Tuam St**

Dr Jessica Halliday will discuss the virtues of retaining post-war architecture, even if at first glance it looks ordinary or unsightly