



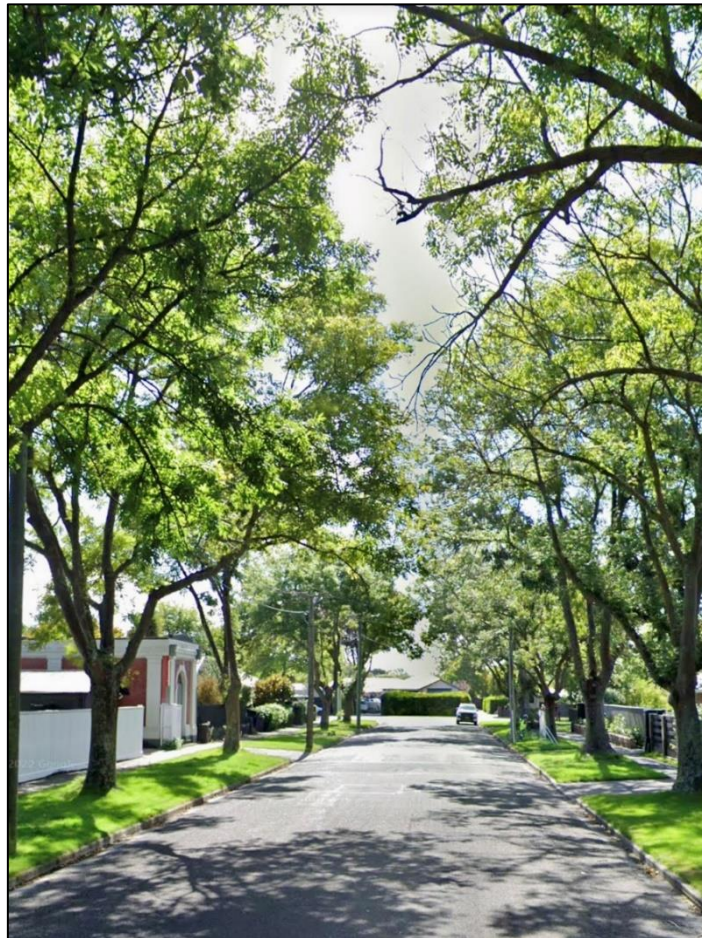
# Newsletter

**MAY 2023**

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## **CHRISTCHURCH URBAN TREES ARE UNDER THREAT**

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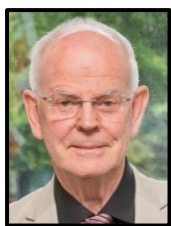


Tree-lined Severn St, St Albans is typical of many across urban Christchurch that have become targets once trees begin to mature.

Christchurch Civic Trust keeps a ready watch, and continues to have concerns regarding the removal of trees in urban areas on both private and public sites. Whilst the invasive intensification of multi-unit housing on large sections makes the threat of the removal of established trees more urgent, those on public land are no less vulnerable.

In his talk on the recent Urban Forest plan at the AGM on 14 June the guest speaker, Christchurch City Arborist Toby Chapman, will no doubt give a perspective on the threats that the city's urban trees face currently and in the future.

## FROM THE CHAIR



I'm sure that for you, as for the Board, 2023 will already have been an 'interesting' year, as it gallops along. This Newsletter aims to provide an update on key recent CCT activities. As part of that process we have decided to include [links](#) to a number of recent submissions we have made; they have also been added to the CCT website, progress on the rejuvenation of which is steadily being made. As you will appreciate, that is a huge task! For those who do not use a computer we will have printed copies of the submissions available at the AGM on June 14.

The Board continues to be heavily involved in the need to respond to many central and local government policies, proposals and public initiatives which, unfortunately, often require our urgent (and divided) attention. The good fortune is that the Trust is widely considered to have a voice worth listening to, although there are important exceptions (note later reference to the Ombudsmen's Office). Although the Chair's signature is on many of the submissions, he is highly indebted to Chris Kissling and Anne Dingwall for their exhaustive work on them.

One has only to go to 'City Pride: Civic Trust', reprinted and extended on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015 (which will need further updating for our 60<sup>th</sup>), to realise the immense span and depth of contribution made by CCT to the development of Christchurch. That (often unheralded) labour depends entirely on membership of the organisation, especially via its Board.

The Constitution (revised in 2009) calls for a Board of no more than 21 and no fewer than 12. We are at that lower end of the scale and would dearly like to increase Board membership by several. The forthcoming AGM (June 14<sup>th</sup>) will provide an opportunity for those interested in nominating a fellow member for election to the Board, or those seeking election and needing a nominator, to come into the spotlight! I can assure you that our monthly meetings at the CWEA, Gloucester St, on the first Tuesday of each month except January, begin on the dot of 4pm (we don't have time to waste), are efficient

and effective and are sometimes over before 5.30pm and seldom beyond 6pm. The Board is a friendly bunch and of course dedicated to doing its best to maintain the proud traditions of CCT working for a better Christchurch.

On this theme: you will see from the current Board Profile on the website that members' backgrounds vary greatly, although it must be said with a fair preponderance of former teachers. Much of our submission work involves legal knowledge, for which the Board presence of a younger, or older, lawyer, would be absolutely invaluable. We are extremely grateful to member Oscar Alpers for the generous pro bono legal assistance he provides CCT from time to time. Anne Dingwall has had decades of experience dealing with Hagley Park issues, many of which revolve around CCC and government failure to fully recognise the sanctity, as it were, of this heritage public cultural space. I am sure she and Chris Kissling would much value professional legal help on the Board.

With the resignation last year of our extremely long-serving Board executive member Tim Hogan, architect, we are bereft of the expertise which we so much appreciated from him; likewise, if there are any architects or urban designers who could join the Board, that would be of immense value to CCT, and the city.

What is needed to feed a strong Board are strong membership numbers which we are endeavouring to develop; and what can assist the reach of CCT is a good financial basis. Some may be unaware just what huge financial strains CCT has undergone over the years. Following the Save Mona Vale initiatives in the late 60s – an enormous and insufficiently publicly-recognised CCT effort, particularly from Bruce Alexander (made a CCT Honorary Life Member in 2014), there have been: the very costly purchase of Mt Vernon Park in the mid -1980s – the late Murette Taylor (CCT Honorary Life Member 2010), Bruce and many others; the Museum redevelopment legal case in 2005; the Arts Centre legal battle in 2010 costing CCT \$100,000, which included honouring a very large interest-free loan from an extremely generous supporter, to help prevent the massive disruption to the heritage site by the proposed Music School. More recently, the CCT drive

to save and restore McLean's Mansion, now safely in other hands, occupied four years of intense efforts by the McLean's Mansion Charitable Trust principally consisting of CCT Board members, Chair Chris Kissling and Tim Hogan and earlier Trevor Lord, along with fundraising and promotional support from other dedicated CCT Board members. Providing a core of restoration working finance was the very generous \$1.934m CCC Landmark Heritage Grant. Much of all this was, of course, amidst the most intensive period of Covid-19.

All of the above stretched CCT well beyond its reasonable financial boundaries. To the present: much as we would like to donate for cyclone disaster relief whatever we can raise at our forthcoming members' and friends' Karma Keg fundraiser at Moon Under Water, the Board has decided that, for once, we must concentrate on our own finances so that we do have a better basis from which to respond in future situations of need. (Some will recall the two enjoyable and successful previous Kks we had at MuW, both as fundraisers for McLean's Mansion). More on this event is to be found later in the Newsletter.



**Val Heinz 2013** practising artist, who for 19 years till 2007 was a stalwart of the CCT Board. Former Board Chair Peter Dyhrberg (2001 – 2005) spoke movingly on our behalf. Val's contribution to CCT, and the city, is well chronicled in our book 'City Pride: Civic Trust' first published in 2005; Val herself came up with the inspired title of the book! Anne Dingwall spoke on the role Val had played as CCT representative on the Nurses' Memorial Chapel over many years until 2007, at which time Anne took over as our rep, a position from which she herself has recently retired having made a very long and much valued contribution for CCT. (Please note that

this link to Peter's eulogy is from a trustworthy source, CCT)  
[20230425\\_scan](#)

On April 27 Anne Dingwall and I made an oral submission to Mayor and Councillors on the Draft CCC 2022–2023 Annual Plan, a 5 minute presentation amplifying key points made in the original written submission, which is here: [Amended Christchurch Civic Trust submission on CCC Draft Annual Plan 23 24](#)

Likewise, here is a link to the 20 February CCT oral submission CCT made on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill to the Environment Committee (Select Committee) of Parliament which convened in Christchurch at the Civic Offices. The link to the original 4 February submission is also here.

[The Trust's oral presentation to Select Committee on NBE and SP Bills 20 February 2023. Anne, Chris, Ross for CCT](#)

[Submission from Christchurch Civic Trust on NBE Bill](#)

Our concerns about the inability of groups like CCT to find a voice, via the Ombudsman's Office at the upper levels of national discourse, were part of our oral presentation on the two Bills. Chair Eugenie Sage appreciated Chris's offer of an explanatory letter detailing those concerns. This has been circulated to all Government and Opposition members of the Select Committee.

[Doc from Christchurch Civic Trust to Eugenie Sage Chair Env Comm; follow up to ChCh oral presentation 20 January](#)

Chris Kissling's paper delivered at the Geographical Society Conference in November 2022 had already explored this matter as part of a wider discussion of recent Hagley Park developments and issues.

[Green Space Environment the Ombudsman and a Matter of Standing in defence of Hagley Park](#)

Currently CCT submissions on the Intensification of Housing (Christchurch District Plan Change 14) and Heritage (Plan Change 13) are being prepared to go to the Independent Hearings Panel to be convened by CCC later in the year. We will keep you informed on this important front which, as a householder, you will have received a



pamphlet on from CCC some time ago. Perhaps you'll have felt sufficiently energised to make a submission by the May 3 deadline – if so, possibly even as a member of your local Residents' Association, well done! The quality of Christchurch urban and suburban living is very much at stake, including aspects of climate change, heritage, threatened tree canopy cover (loss of which is already a sorry story in this city), loss of sunlight, privacy – with the acknowledgement that the spread of the city must be halted while meeting the needs of an increasing population, of course.

Speaking of trees, our 2023 AGM Guest Speaker is to be City Arborist, Toby Chapman. His topic will be The Urban Forest Plan and related issues. Toby will be keen to answer attendees' questions. Note the advertisement for the AGM elsewhere in the Newsletter..

On this theme, here is the link to the submission which was recently made by CCT on the CCC Urban Forest Plan. We are extremely grateful to Board member Mark Belton, a professional forest ecologist of great experience, for his excellent work on the submission.

[Christchurch Civic Trust CHCH URBAN FOREST PLAN submission M Belton](#)

On the wider front: CCT recently became an Associate Member of Historic Places Aotearoa (HPA). HPA is the parent body of a number of regional heritage-focused organisations. It was formed as a reaction to the elimination of local HPT committees by the National Government in 2010. HPA and its satellite local bodies such as Historic Places Canterbury (HPC) can speak their mind without fear or favour and often do! In a recent issue of HPA's Newsletter 'Oculus' I noticed that CCT was not an Associate Member, unlike Civic Trust Auckland and Timaru Civic Trust, which are. That oversight has been rectified; the current Oculus introduces CCT to HPA nationwide, p5. Here is the access to the current issue: [HPA Oculus march2023low res](#)

(Note that the caption accompanying Hamish Gilchrist's wonderful MM photo should have said 'Open Days' – there were actually three very busy days over Labour Weekend 2019.)

You will see the advertisement for 'City and Peninsula' on p 2: the booksellers listed have been kept very busy by Board members

Sandra Shaw and Hamish Gilchrist (Sandra convenes the Membership Services Subcommittee), who have bumped up the financial year's sales enormously!

**NEW MEMBERS:** we are very pleased to welcome three new CCT members:

**Ian Badger**  
**Peter Blackburn**  
**Mike Beard**

Dr Beard has very kindly offered CCT online access to the contents of his recent book

**GLOBAL HEATING AND THE ASIAN CONTINENT A POTENTIAL CATASTROPHE?**

[115445 Global heating](#)

If you download the contents could you please email Mike [mbeard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mbeard@xtra.co.nz) so that he can follow how it is being received? If you forward it to friends, please request them in turn to inform Mike.

Given the rather tepid nature of the term 'climate change', we have adopted Mike's much more urgent 'global heating', which you may have noticed in some of the submission documents. Thanks Mike!

**Ross Gray**

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## **PROGRESS ON CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL RESTORATION**

It was a momentous day, on Tuesday 21st March 2023, as it was the first time since the devastating February 22nd 2011 earthquake, that multiple people were allowed inside the cathedral.

Community leaders, project staff, councillors and the odd M.P. gathered inside, and it was described as a huge milestone. It's been over a decade since the Canterbury earthquakes caused extensive damage to the building.

The project director, Keith Paterson said the cathedral's interior was looking a lot like its former self but with massive structural support. He noted that there had been one year of planning and preparing before any work

could begin and three years of on-site construction. Mr Paterson also noted that the restoration now moves into the second phase, which is the strengthening and reinstatement of the main building and tower.

“Four years in, and four years to go” - very encouraging words indeed. The cathedral is at the heart of our city and it will be a great day when the restoration is complete.

**Sandra Shaw**

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## OPEN CHRISTCHURCH FESTIVAL 6TH & 7TH MAY 2023

This will be the 3rd year that I have attended this event. Run by Te Pūtahi Centre for Architecture, the aim is to join with others to celebrate the architecture of Ōtautahi/Christchurch, to discover new spaces or get up close to buildings you know and love. The festival is based on a simple proposition - good design improves people's lives. By making good design & architecture accessible, Open Christchurch encourages people to explore their local environment, to foster a greater sense of belonging and connection.

This year there are 52 open buildings, 4 guided walks and a range of special activities - from expert talks, tours and workshops. I have attended many of the talks and tours and am always amazed at the depth of knowledge and passion that the speakers have on their subjects. Just two examples of highlights from previous years for me have been: Christ Church Cathedral - behind the fence tour, and the engineering tour of Tūranga (the new library). This weekend is an opportunity to see parts of buildings that you don't normally have access to. I encourage everyone to take a look at the website, and make a plan for the weekend. See you there.

<https://openchch.nz/>

**Erin Oakley**

## AWARDS 2023

**The Christchurch Civic Trust is seeking nomination for consideration in its annual awards. Nominations should be sent to the**

**[secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz](mailto:secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz)**

**by 31 July 2023.**

### Qualification for consideration of an Award.

Projects considered will cover schemes of variable scale, comprising either individual or composite elements. There will be no age limit set over potential award projects. Due account will be taken of the individual or collective merits of the project and other relevant factors. There will be latitude to permit a “carry over” from one year to the next of long-listed projects not selected for collective merits of the project and other relevant factors. To win an award in a given year, unless there are firm grounds for exclusion.

### Selection Categories

Selection for an Award is made in the following 4 categories:

**A) A project that has made a material and beneficial change to the city environment, involving either development on a new site or redevelopment of an existing site/structure.**

In evaluating a project in this category, adjudicators will be looking for the extent to which the project enhances the local environment, uniqueness and quality of design, quality of construction and the initiative and enterprise in bringing the project to completion.

# KARMA KEG

## *CCT fundraiser*

*Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May,*

*3 - 5pm*



**154 Somerfield St**

***Great chance to chat and support CCT in a relaxed environment***

***Come thirsty, and bring your friends!***

How does Karma Keg work?

\* EVERY single cent from the sale of a delicious easy drinking Three Boys 20L keg goes to your cause. We recommend a pint price of \$10-\$12 but people can pay as much as they want above this amount.

\* Supporters can make donations even if they do not drink the Karma beer; just ask to "top up" your purchase with a karma keg koha.

Facebook link

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1402923347194977/>

**B)** A project that has restored, upgraded or protected a site, building or group of or conservation value.

In evaluating a project in this category, adjudicators will be looking for: the overall quality of heritage restoration, the relevance of compatibility between new use and the site or building and the initiative and enterprise in bringing the project to completion.

**C)** Engineering, environmental, transport and other key infrastructure projects that enhance city functions in an efficient, cost-effective, safe and environmentally-friendly way.

In evaluating a project in this category, adjudicators will be looking for the magnitude and complexity of the problem to be redressed, the uniqueness of the project design and manner of implementation, the general scale of public benefit achieved, the overall quality and coherence of design and other relevant factors specific to the site and/or locality concerned.

**D)** Special events and programmes that either serve to raise the community's awareness and appreciation of its heritage assets and/or promote a sustainable environment and the enjoyment of the city's physical attributes.

In evaluating a project in this category, adjudicators will be looking for: the level of innovation, initiative and enterprise involved in planning and executing the project; the degree of subsequent public involvement and participation; and other relevant factors specific to the event or programme concerned.

### **Award Classification**

#### **Supreme Awards**

For projects of distinction;

#### **Awards**

For projects of outstanding merit

#### **Commendations**

For projects that display a high level of initiative and enterprise.

Further information can be found on the Civic Trust website under Awards

## **THE CITIZENS' WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION**

On the overcast morning of 17 February, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal laid a wreath and unveiled a bronze plaque on the new site of the Citizens' War Memorial in Cathedral Square. Commemorating the rededication of the Memorial by clergy on that day, the plaque inscription reads:

Citizens' War Memorial  
Originally dedicated on 9 June 1937  
Damaged by the Canterbury Earthquakes  
Rededicated in the presence of  
HRH The Princess Royal  
on 17 February 2023

This public service took place following the Memorial's deconstruction and removal from its original 1937 site on Cathedral land for the purpose of off-site restoration and subsequent relocation on Council land in Cathedral Square.

In the early morning hours of Anzac Day, 25 April, chilly but with the promise of a glorious autumn day, the restored and relocated Citizens' War Memorial was once again the setting for the traditional Dawn Service - the first since the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes.

The array of colourful wreaths and mass of red poppies resting on the gleaming white stonework, fashioned by the dedicated team of restoration stonemasons, was a glorious sight to behold on Anzac Day. As Christchurch Mayor Phil Mauer remarked to the crowd: "We have come home."

**Anne Dingwall**



**The Citizens War Memorial**

All members and friends are  
cordially invited to attend our

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

On Wednesday 14 June  
at  
**The WEA Centre**

52 Gloucester St

Light refreshments commence at  
5.30 pm

**Followed by the AGM at 6pm**

The guest presentation is by Toby Chapman,  
Christchurch City Council City Arborist,  
on the recent consulted Urban Forest Plan.

*‘The Plan provides a number of objectives and actions for  
Christchurch and Banks Peninsula to increase the size of  
our urban forest while ensuring it is healthy and resilient’.*

Please mark 14<sup>th</sup> June on your calendar