

HERITAGE

HE REO MO NGA TAONGA TUKU IHO

VOICES

2025 WINTER
NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC
PLACES
AOTEAROA

42 MORRIS STREET, NAPIER

Begins on
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Erica Toomey (Trustee and Patron) and Dr Tim Bevin (Medical Officer for 40 years and trustee) standing outside Springhill prior to its demolition in 2020.

Photo / Warren Buckland

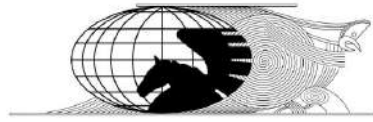


Elizabeth Pishief
HPA President

Hello everyone. Welcome to our newsletter
Heritage Voices/He Reo Mo Nga Taonga Tuku Iho.

Key things to note:

- [AGM and joint Conference with ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
- [Proposed Job Cuts at Ministry for Culture and Heritage](#)
- [The Changes to the RMA](#)



ICOMOS NEW ZEALAND
TE MANA O NGA POUWHENUA O TE AO

HISTORIC
PLACES

AOTEAROA

ICOMOS AND HPA COMBINED CONFERENCE - 9-12 OCTOBER 2025

New Zealand's rich cultural heritage and history has been packaged, presented and interpreted for over 100 years. Much has changed in this time - the audience, the purpose, the technology and method. What has driven these changes? Have the changes been successful?

Stories can be told orally and visually, through architecture and landscapes, through signage, technology, or integrated landscapes. It is often filtered through social context and historical context. Perceptions change over time: interpretation and storytelling from 50 years ago may now feel anachronistic, or culturally insensitive, or "cringe".

We can reflect on particular ways in which our cultural heritage has been presented over time:

- Museums, from the 19th Century to now - the way in which they chose to display artefacts and objects, moving to more integrated storytelling
- The Te Maori exhibition in the US in 1984

- The 1964 school bulletin "Washday at the Pa": the Te Papa website notes "The Washday at the Pa controversy raised a number of important points, the principal one being whether Māori people had the right to say how they were depicted".
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's digital walks and podcasts
- Movies, such as Boy, The Piano, Once Were Warriors, Utu, Whale Rider
- Current methods of interpretation of sites and places, using signboards, digital apps, and other media

However, important questions remain.

- ❖ Who gets to tell the story?
- ❖ Who's the audience?
- ❖ Who decides what the story should be?
- ❖ How does the storyteller know they've got it "right"?
- ❖ Who does the story belong to, so who has the right to tell it?

THE PROGRAMME

Thursday 9 October	12-5pm	Field trips
Friday 10 October	12:30 - 4pm	Conference papers
	5pm	Welcome drinks
Saturday 11 October	9am - 5pm	Conference papers (including small walking field trips)
	7pm	Conference dinner
Sunday 12 October	9am - 3pm	Conference papers

REGISTER AT: <https://events.humanitix.com/https-icomos-org-nz>

42 MORRIS STREET CONTINUED...



Elizabeth Pishief
HPA President

This is the story of a house, the different uses it has had and the many diverse people who lived there. The story of the house reflects many of the social themes that run through New Zealand's history and reveals the considerable changes in attitudes to education, women, children, health and addiction in the century of its existence.

The house at 42 Morris Street in Napier was built during the last years of European settler society which valued hard work, respectability and duty. People had a narrow view of normality within a framework of covetous respect for the wealthy, powerful elite. These values impacted the lives of the vulnerable, disadvantaged, and powerless, most of whom were women and children. Over time, attitudes have changed toward people, including children, who are vulnerable, different, or have unusual lifestyles. How that process evolved is central to the story of the house at 42 Morris Street.

In 1914 Edward Varley Hudson and his wife Grace, nee Roach, had this substantial, two storied house built for them and their six children in the new suburb of Napier South, in Napier. Edward was the first headmaster of the Napier West Primary School (later to be renamed Nelson Park School.)



Photograph taken pre-1900 before land reclamation began from the west of George's Drive in Marewa looking toward the Napier Hill/Mataruahou.
Photo / Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 15. Gifted by Mrs Bear (enhanced by Steve Butler).

The Napier Earthquake in 1931 and the poor record keeping of the local authority means identifying the architect, builder, and owners of the land before 1931 is extremely difficult and often a result is serendipitous. We were lucky that a granddaughter in Australia had a dated photograph of the house taken when the family moved into it, in November 1914, but no further firm evidence about it has been found. We do know that prior to the reclamation beginning in 1900, the land was a swampy tidal lagoon. The Mayor of Napier said at the opening of the school in February 1914 that ten years earlier he had rowed over the area in a boat.



Napier West School Choir Winners of the Challenge Shield Wellington Competition, 1920. *Photo / MTG Hawkes Bay Object nos. m98/36, 98856*

Grace and Edward were an energetic and talented couple. Both were teachers and enthusiastic supporters of theatre and music. Grace was a gifted actress and producer and regularly performed in and organised theatrical events particularly for children and as fund raising for charities and especially for the "war effort." World War I dominated the first years they lived in the house. Likewise, Edward taught singing and conducted choirs. During his time at the school he not only completed his degree in music but organised massed choirs of school children for patriotic occasions and coached the choir of Nelson Park school to win national choir competitions.

The Hudsons left Napier in June 1926 for Auckland where Edward became headmaster of Remuera Primary School. Before they left Grace produced the play *The Admirable Crichton*, by Sir J.M. Barrie, with the proceeds going to the YMCA. It was performed very successfully in both Napier and Hastings in May 1926 (Hawke's Bay Tribune, 10 May 1926). Auckland gave Edward opportunities to improve his musical connections and influence.

He was President of the Auckland Society of Musicians, President of the New Zealand Chamber of Music and New Zealand Government appointee to the Music Teachers' Registration Board as well as a lecturer at Auckland University College (www.natlib.govt.nz/records/39063610).



42 Morris Street in November/December 1914.
Photo / Elizabeth Craig, granddaughter of Edward and Grace Hudson, Melbourne (enhanced version by Steve Butler on right).

There was a fire at the rear of the house in 1927 but the following year the house was sold to a trust in favour of Blanche, the wife of Dr Waters, a psychiatrist from the United Kingdom. The Waters appear to have decided to return to England after the Napier Earthquake in 1931 and the house was rented out to a variety of people until 1941 when the trustees sold it to the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army needed a new place to re-establish Bethany, their home for children and unmarried mothers, which had been severely damaged in the Earthquake. When they moved into 42 Morris Street they decided to reopen it only as a maternity home for the care of unmarried mothers. Changes had to be made to the house to enable it to serve as a private hospital. The upgrade to the old house included a long wing on one side of the house where there were private rooms for paying guests, alterations for staff accommodation, accommodation for the unmarried women who lived there for three or four months before the birth of their child, the installation of a delivery suite and

more bathrooms, as well as the purchase of up-to-date medical equipment. The renovations were not expensive despite the exorbitant prices that prevailed during the War because of the generosity of the contractor, Wally Atherfold, a staunch Salvationist, who erected the additions as a labour of love.

While the primary purpose of the Salvation Army at Bethany was the care and rehabilitation of unmarried pregnant girls and women, its other role as a private maternity hospital for married mothers would provide an income stream for the organisation. Many people in Napier and the surrounding district were born at 42 Morris Street rather than at the public maternity hospital, McHardy Home. Bethany had single rooms for the married women and their babies in the wing built in 1942. The unmarried mothers slept upstairs in the old house where the matron and other live-in staff also had their bedrooms. The unmarried women used the front lounges and kitchen downstairs in the house during the daytime. Everyone delivered their babies in the delivery suite at the rear of the house, which later became the Springhill kitchen.

Bethany was a conduit for adoptions from its establishment until it closed in 1978. The first Adoption Act was passed in 1881 making New Zealand the first country in the British Empire to enable any kind of legal adoption. In the 1940s institutions like the Salvation Army began to actively promote adoption. The idea behind this was that the mothers could go back to their original lives as if nothing had happened and couples without children could create a family. The Adoption Act 1955 introduced a cruel system of secrecy into adoption practices – court records were sealed, and adoption orders automatically conferred the surname of the adoptive parents onto the child as well as the first name chosen by them. Prior to this the biological mother's consent to an adoption was not valid unless she knew the identity of the adoptive parent. The closed adoption process appears to have been partly designed to protect the child from the stigma of illegitimacy and the adoptive parents from the shame of infertility (New Zealand Law Commission, www.nzlii.org/nz/other/nzlc/pp/PP38/PP38-2). But it has caused considerable heartache and misery to many people over generations – mainly women and children.

Bethany played a significant role in the social

history of Napier and many local families have connections with the place. There was a warm and caring atmosphere and most of the staff were genuinely kind, compassionate, hardworking women, although the occasional staff member was judgemental. As the public maternity hospital was a miserable place and the medical care was archaic in both hospitals, the happy atmosphere at Bethany suited many married women, particularly since the costs were reasonable, although the facilities were primitive.



Photograph of the first and last babies to be born at Bethany. L-R: Alma Plunkett, Margaret Elsie Single née Plunkett, Brigadier Goffin Matron for 20 years, Paul Satchwell (baby) and Mrs Linda Satchwell, Captain Dorothy Nisbet, second in charge at the Hospital. *Photo / Newspaper clipping from Louise Single (enhanced by Steve Butler).*

The old house then became the residential centre for the Hawke's Bay Addiction Centre Trust which was formed in 1976 by two enthusiastic men, Eric Schuler and Greg Allan, who worked in the psychiatric unit at Hastings Hospital and realised that there was a need for a separate centre that dealt with addiction problems. The building was bought with funds generously donated by the Williams Family Trust in memory of Jan Williams who was killed in the Erebus crash and who had been a benefactor of the Trust's. The new residential centre was named 'Springhill' after the farm that provided the funds.

The renovations to Springhill were undertaken by a qualified builder and his assistant, with the total cost coming to only \$6,400. This left money over out of the \$16,000 available to meet other costs. The first plans were amended to provide for a landing and fire escape in the house as well as a private entrance for the flat, which was occupied by the live-in Manager.

The provision of professional care for people with addictions is quite recent in New Zealand, although alcohol has been a problem since the arrival of the first Europeans, with 'drunkenness' being a major social characteristic of the new colony. As early as 1834 a temperance society was formed in the Bay of Islands to promote abstinence.

The Trust ran the buildings and residential aspect of the Springhill Centre while the Hawke's Bay Hospital Board ran the therapy during the daytime under the direction of Mark Flowers with the food being supplied from the Napier Public Hospital (now demolished, but then on Napier Hill). The residents at that time generally came from around the North Island, and they stayed for a minimum of six weeks, but it usually took two and a half treatments before people became sober long term. The residents included gang members, lawyers, doctors, and one very distinguished Māori woman. They all shared bedrooms, which was "a great leveller" (David Ramsden).

For the last 20 years that the house at 42 Morris Street was in use by the Springhill Addiction Centre, proposals for rebuilding were the focus for the trustees. The aging building was no longer fit for purpose and from the mid-1990s did not comply with current fire and safety regulations. Maintenance was an ongoing problem that was never resolved despite attempts to develop regular maintenance schedules. In 1983, for example, a specification for maintenance of the building was prepared and money was allocated for up to ten hours a week of maintenance to be done at a rate of \$5 an hour, if a suitable applicant could be found to do the work. There was a fund of \$10,000 available to provide for maintenance on the building, although \$500 of this had already been allocated to the renovation of the proposed waiting room area (HBACT minutes, 8 December 1983).

But matters drifted and maintenance and the remedial repairs did not get completed regularly and in a timely way. The building slowly deteriorated. The Trust was reliant on grants and donations to balance its budget, and donations were even more essential if there were additional expenses such as installing a sprinkler system or re-roofing the building. Eventually by 2009 the building was in such a state of disrepair that the trustees decided if their fund raising attempts were successful, they would rebuild the facility in several stages with essential maintenance being done on the old house to keep it viable.

The new residential wing was opened in 2014, then in 2016, the trustees decided to split the proposed Stage 2 into two distinct stages: the redevelopment of the therapy wing first, and then the demolition of the old two-storey villa and redevelopment of the Vocational Wing consisting of dining, lounge, and reception areas as the third stage of the project.



Demolition of 42 Morris Street by Simkin Construction. Note men in safety gear because of asbestos in building. *Photo / Warren Buckland, 2020*

The trustees worked extremely hard to get the facility ready for the great occasion of the official opening of the Vocational Wing on 27 September 2023. They managed to overcome an unwelcome and unexpected hitch that occurred when someone perforated the water main while putting up the marquee and the whole back yard was flooded. It was a very happy occasion with many former residents attending as well as the dignitaries, staff and current residents, and the many friends of Springhill.



The trustees with Sir Ashley Bloomfield at the opening 27 September 2023. L-R: Tim Bevin, Kelvin Shaw, Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Jan Tilyard, Erica Toomey, Lesly Mitchell, Annmarie Horn, Paul O'Leary, Bob Norman, Phil Ryan. *Photo / Warren Buckland*

The Vocational Wing was officially declared opened by Sir Ashley Bloomfield, formerly Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health before becoming Director General of Health in 2018 until 2022 when he became one of New Zealand's most recognised men having fronted over 300 press conferences during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The history of the fine house built by Grace and Edward Hudson in 1914 traversed many themes in New Zealand history in the past century from the intense morality of the early 20th century and the patriotism and fervour of the World War between 1914-1918 to the apparent greater liberalism and compassion of the early 21st century. But we must be aware that the people in this story all believed they were doing the right thing, that they were being kind, helping others, and improving their little part of the world.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE SOCIETY HITS FAST-TRACK WIN

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the administrating agency of the Fast-Track Approvals Act, has accepted the Environmental Defence Society's (EDS) contention that it has not been lawfully applying the Act.

The EPA's concession comes after EDS's Barrister Rob Enright wrote to the EPA asserting that the

Fast-Track Approvals Act required the EPA to publicly release all information provided to it without delay. Previously, the EPA only published application information once it was deemed complete and within scope.

As the EPA stated in its reply to EDS: "As you are aware the EPA had taken a position that the Fast

Track Approvals Act 2024 does not require the publication of incomplete applications. Following your correspondence we have reviewed our position, and agree that, on balance, the documents you have listed must be published by the EPA."

"This U-turn by the EPA is a significant win that will provide greater transparency in the implementation of a law that is otherwise stacked against public involvement," said EDS's Chief Operating Officer Shay Schlaepfer.

"The EPA's previous approach meant that it was sitting on application documentation for weeks without the public knowing. That's precious time that interested parties can now use to review a project's technical information.

"This is hugely important given the pace at which applications proceed through the fast-track process and the potentially life-changing impacts of projects on people and the natural environment. Parties need as much time as possible to assess their interest in individual projects and to prepare their cases, including briefing experts and

engaging legal counsel.

"We are pleased that the EPA has accepted our position on this occasion and praise its prompt rectification of the issue.

"We now expect to see application documentation published on the fasttrack.govt.nz website when it is first lodged with the EPA. That should include an application's full Assessment of Environmental Effects. As the EPA accepted in its response to us "[t]he Act does contain a positive duty to act promptly where no time limit has been set and establishes a duty for the EPA to avoid delay as far as reasonably practicable."

"Despite the fast-track law being largely inhospitable to the principles of natural justice, EDS continues to investigate ways in which it can be implemented to best serve the public interest. Where they exist, we will find them," concluded Ms Schlaepfer.

EDS has published a plain-English peer-reviewed guide of the Fast-track Approvals Act which is freely available at www.environmentguide.org.nz.

- Environmental Defence Society

"Arts and Crafts"



The Arts and Crafts movement was a trend in architecture and design that pushed back against the industrial revolution. While earlier trends tried to modernise and standardise good design, this trend celebrated handmade things and tried to inspire more creativity.

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS EXPLAINED

Though the trend was present in architecture, it can be found in many other art forms of the time as well.

In New Zealand, architects like James Chapman-Taylor adapted the English Arts and Crafts style to suit local conditions, incorporating features like hand-adzed timbers, hand-forged latches, and built-in furniture.

These homes often feature asymmetrical designs, steep roofs, multi-pane casement windows, and a focus on natural materials.

Remuera Arts and Crafts House *Photo / Patrick Reynolds in Architecture Now*

ICOMOS AOTEAROA PRESIDENT



Stacy Vallis
ICOMOS Aotearoa President

The Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) took place in Seoul between 16th - 18th April 2025. I had the pleasure of attending at the invitation of ICOMOS Korea, Korea Heritage Service, and UNESCO WHIPIC. The thematic focus of the meetings was "Challenges and Collaborative Responses for Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region" and the event also marked the 60th anniversary of ICOMOS since establishment in 1965. Over two jam-packed days, representatives from approximately twenty ICOMOS National Committees participated in a stimulating program with presentations addressing priorities such as "World Heritage Impact Assessment - Systems and Case Studies"; "Heritage Management, Archaeology, Community Consultation, and Sustainable Development"; "World Heritage Interpretation - Principles and Case Studies"; "Cultural Tourism, Fortification and Military Heritage, and Indigenous Heritage"; "Climate Change and Disaster Response"; "Defining the Asia-Pacific Flavour of Heritage, Training & Documentation".



L-R: Takeyuki Okubo, Tina Paterno, Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy, Cheek Fadriquela, Alex Yen, Stacy Vallis, Panel Discussion: Climate Change and Disaster Response, ICOMOS Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, Seoul, April 2025. Photo / Elizabeth Edwards

I was invited to share examples of activities undertaken by ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand focused on climate action and disaster response. My presentation highlighted the close collaboration across our national heritage organisations Historic Places Aotearoa, the New Zealand Archaeological Association, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, noting our shared advocacy efforts including policy submissions on legislative changes, along with ICOMOS' engagement with the International Climate Action Working Group, and support for ongoing professional development for members including emerging professionals and practitioners.

I participated in the panel discussion on "Climate Change and Disaster Response" with Takeyuki Okubo (ICOMOS Japan), Tina Paterno (ICOMOS Philippines), Cheek Fadriquela (ICOMOS Philippines), Alex Yen (Chinese Taipei), and moderated by Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Australia ICOMOS, ICOMOS Regional Vice President), where a key topic focused on enhancing public awareness and engagement with the role played by cultural heritage in addressing environmental challenges.

The event concluded with a seminar on Heritage Interpretation organised by the ICOMOS Committee on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites.

We are looking forward to several exciting international events taking place in the Asia-Pacific region, including the ICOMOS Annual General Assembly in Lumbini, Nepal (11th - 19th October 2025) followed by the ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly in Sarawak, Malaysia (17th - 24th October 2026). Please feel free to reach out to ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand if you would like to learn more!

In the meantime, we are excited to welcome our national heritage community to the joint ICOMOS-HPA Conference between 9th - 12th October in Napier this year, on the theme of "Tell Me a Story - Interpreting Our Heritage"!

COMMENT ON RMA CHANGES



Felicity Wong
Historic Places Wellington

Some radical proposals are being advanced by the Government about the RMA. Prominence is being given to the importance of private property rights, and less to the social value of heritage.

Of major concern is the Government's announcement in March that they will remove s.6(f) from the RMA. That section elevates the protection of heritage from inappropriate subdivision or use, to being a matter of "national importance". Removing heritage from the planning system could be bad news eliminating the system of requiring resource consent as a means of protecting heritage from demolition and obliteration.

For information about the intention to remove heritage from the planning system, and cover it instead in the HNZPT Act, see the expert advisory group (EAG) report, 110-119 & 521: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-03/EAG%20Report%20--%20Blueprint%20for%20RM%20Reform.pdf>

The RMA is to be replaced by two pieces of legislation: a planning act and an environment act. It had become an unwieldy behemoth (that only AI could read). The Government aims to introduce the new legislation before the end of the year and pass it before the next election.

Will there be some consoling benefit in having all heritage matters dealt with in the HNZPT Act, rather than the RMA? Possibly if HNZPT was sufficiently resourced to deal with the extra responsibility and workload. The media report it has lost funding in this year's budget so extra resourcing for planning and compliance staff across the nation may be a faint hope. In the meantime the Government is calling for feedback on three "packages" of "updated national direction" relating to freshwater, infrastructure development and the primary sector.

A request for feedback on a fourth package relating to housing will follow soon. "Package 4" will be called "Going for Housing Growth" and it will ask for feedback on "how the proposals in the first pillar of the Going for Housing Growth programme could fit

into the new resource management system". "Pillar 1" aims to "free up land for development and remove unnecessary planning barriers" (heritage protection?). The consultation starts in early June and will be done jointly by the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development and MfE. Please give your feedback in June, and next year join with ICOMOS and others in making submissions to the select committee on RMA reform.

The Environment Select Committee is also due to report by 17 June on the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill. The Bill creates the ability for local councils to use the fast track process to de-list Council scheduled heritage buildings and sites. There are no appeal rights under such fast track de-listings. Although the explanatory note to the Bill suggested it provided for both listing as well as de-listing (a balanced approach), the Bill provided only for fast track de-listing. Historic Places Wellington joined with submitter Barbara Rouse to encourage the select committee to remedy that omission. Also see HNZPT's very good submission: https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCENV_EVI_5ace3573-9083-49e3-e704-08dd18052784_ENV77273/52fa3f18c26f09c9e54580ba116b892b800262e3

The new de-listing process arose from the desire to demolish the Gordon Wilson Flats, a 10 story building on The Terrace owned by Victoria University. GWF is a HNZPT category 1 building also scheduled on the Wellington District Plan. Some years ago the Council lost a court case over its demolition. VUW tried to get it de-listed in the recent review of the Wellington District Plan, but failed to turn up to the Independent Hearings Panel which had before it expert evidence from Bill McKay of Auckland University. Last year Wellington Mayor Tory Whanau and Labour councillor Ben McNulty petitioned Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for RMA Reform asking for this power to remove such inconvenient heritage from our district plan. It's strange that "progressive" politicians would like to see high density public housing demolished rather than renovated. For background info see: <https://architecture.org.nz/centre-advocacy/gordon-wilson-flats/> ; <https://wellington.scoop.co.nz/?p=160266>

CZECH GLOBETROTTER BOHUMIL POSPISIL IN NEW ZEALAND

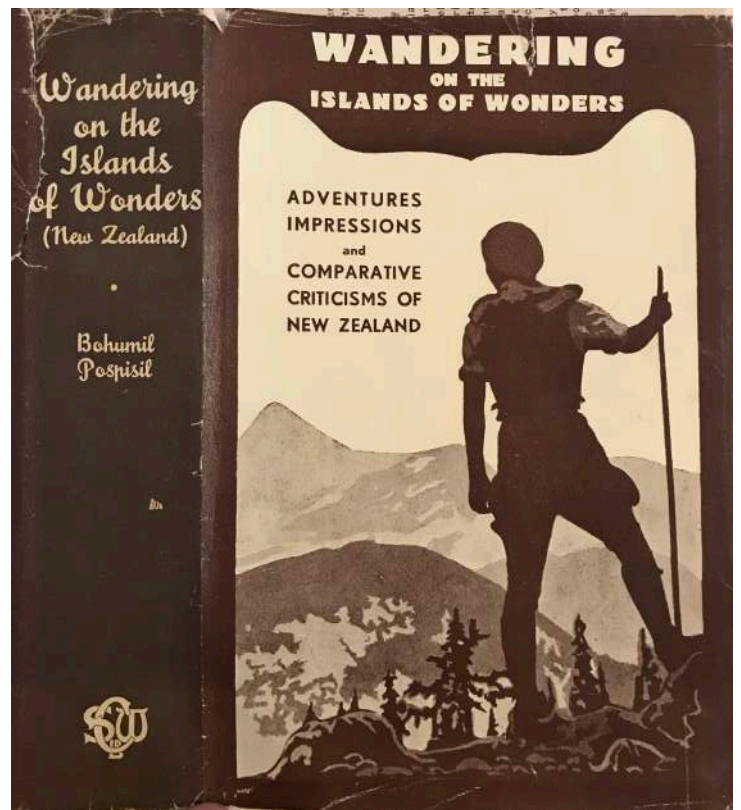


Left: Bohumil Pospisil Photo / Supplied.

Right: Dr. Martin Nekola opening Pospisil exhibition in Taiwan Photo / Supplied.

Martin Nekola

Half-forgotten Czech globetrotter and adventurer Bohumil Pospisil (1902-1974) visited some fifty countries during his five-year expedition in the late 1920s, with his unbelievable adventures resembling a fascinating novel. He covered over 160,000 kilometres in total, met countless important personalities, and his notes and observations filled dozens of notebooks. During the world trip, he also took thousands of photographs, depicting natural beauty, cultural monuments, traditions, ceremonies, celebrations, conflicts, and everyday life. Pospisil's last stop was New Zealand where he spent almost a year and married a local woman. The couple returned to Prague in the summer of 1931, where he made a living as a freelance journalist, but three years later, he moved to New Zealand and never returned to Czechoslovakia. In 1936, he also published a well-received book "Wandering on the Islands of Wonders" about his new home. Bohumil Pospisil passed away in Auckland in the age of 72.



The book Pospisil published in 1936.
Photo / Supplied.

Some of Pospisil's photos. Photo / Supplied.



Pospisil's personal archives, considered lost for decades, were donated by his descendants to Dr. Martin Nekola, a well-known Prague based historian who has researched Czech communities for many years. Nekola has published thirty books and hundreds of articles, and runs a project called the

Czechoslovak Talks (www.czechoslovaktalks.com/en; Instagram: "czechoslovak_talks").

Based on the precious material, Dr. Nekola set out on a mission to get the name of Bohumil Pospisil back into public consciousness. He published a number of articles and recently also a book in Czech, organised lectures and photo exhibits at various libraries, galleries and museums all over the Czech Republic, at the Czech Senate, as well as the National Museum of Taiwan.

For February and March 2026, Dr. Nekola plans a trip to New Zealand during which he wants to present and commemorate Pospisil's incredible life story and rare photographs through the series of lectures for both the students and the public.

He is currently looking for possible venues. He would like to use this opportunity and ask all members of Historic Places Aotearoa for cooperation. If you were interested in hosting Dr. Nekola's program on Bohumil Pospisil next Spring, kindly contact him at: marnekola@gmail.com

This is a truly unique project demonstrating deep Czech-New Zealand connections and shared history! To support it, Dr. Nekola has also recently launched a crowdfunding campaign:

www.gofundme.com/f/story-of-czechnew-zealand-globetrotter-bohumil-pospisil

OUR HEALTH JOURNEYS: A NEW DIGITAL MUSEUM



Dale Bailey
Medical Museum Trust

Across New Zealand there are over 600 museums, most of which are seriously underfunded to realise their potential. These places have been with local pride and an amazing amount of energy and goodwill. Many of the smaller places in the Museum firmament have only the smallest of digital footprints, if at all. This is a sad fact. Whatever we do now in our modern world it is first shaped by the digital front window. We choose what café to visit, what movie to see, what bargains

we want through a quick google or social media search. We find our soulmates, friends and colleagues through digital interaction. Our attention is in so much demand and its through the digital that we filter our choices.

The Medical Museum Trust has over the last couple of years created a new digital museum that seeks to shine a light on New Zealand's unique medical and public health heritage. Rather than build a bricks and mortar museum we have focused on creating a digital museum. It's called Our Health Journeys, and seeks to tell stories from across the country in partnership with museums and historic places. We want to shine a light on the objects, photographs

and stories in all of New Zealand's regions. It's about our ongoing quest for better health and care. Our purpose:

'Through partnerships and collaboration, we provide a collective memory of authentic medical heritage and health developments in Aotearoa NZ and Pasifika, making links to the present and future'

We have been working to tell some very interesting stories about our cardiac innovations, the incredible New Zealand contribution to plastic surgery, personal journeys in health, and the experience of New Zealand in the pandemic. We have piloted a project where students from an Auckland high school research and publish stories. We have stories of achievement, commitment and perseverance.

We cast a wide net with stories that engage. Alongside our website we invest significantly in our social media (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn).

Our focus is very much on four key audiences, young people, health professionals, museum and heritage communities, and the general public interested in heritage. In our minds the young people are a really critical audience. We need to increase interest in the health sector, open eyes to career prospects and celebrate the achievements of those who pursue their career in health. The rising tide of distrust in authority and expertise, critiquing of medical science and concerns about the efficacy of treatments place urgency on our work.

We have had some very positive feedback. We would love to partner with any members of the Historic Places community. If you have something we can feature we would love to hear from you.

Visit the Our Health Museum Site at:
<https://www.ourhealthmuseum.org.nz/>.

CARGILL'S CASTLE STABILISATION: "A SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE PRESERVATION MILESTONE"



Photo / Cargill's Castle Trust

Selar Henderson

The Cargill's Castle Trust is proud to announce that stabilisation of the historic Cargill's Castle ruins is now underway, marking a long-awaited milestone in the decades-long effort to secure and protect one of Dunedin's most treasured heritage sites.

This achievement is the result of years of dedication by current and previous board members who have worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the Castle. Through fundraising initiatives, such as Heritage Homes Tours and public donations, the Trust has rallied community support, bringing this critical conservation phase to life.

"We've reached a significant milestone in our mission to safeguard Cargill's Castle," said Steven de Graaf, President of the Trust. "This work ensures the long-term security of the ruins, preserving their legacy for future generations."



ABOVE: Cargill's Castle in 1878. The image shows the advanced technology of Portland Cement used in its construction. *Photo / Cargill's Castle Trust*

The stabilisation of the Castle is made possible through the generous contributions of NZ Lotteries, the Dunedin Heritage Fund, the Community Trust of Otago, and the Stout Trust. Their support has played a pivotal role in advancing this crucial phase, reinforcing a shared commitment to protecting Dunedin's built and cultural heritage.

With stabilisation now in progress, the Trust continues its mission to protect and celebrate one of Dunedin's most evocative landmarks.

For more information, visit <https://cargillscastle.nz/> or contact Steven de Graaf on 027 519 9227.

TIWAI POINT



Dr. Chris Jennings

Over several field seasons in 1968, an archaeological excavation was undertaken at Tiwai Point to recover evidence from an early Māori settlement site that focused on the production of stone adzes. This project was one of the earliest archaeological recovery projects in New Zealand, as the site was to be affected by the construction of the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter. Legislation for the protection of archaeological sites was still

Dr Chris Jennings (now at Origin Heritage) reviewing artefacts from the Tiwai Collection. Photo / Lydia Anderson, University of Otago

undeveloped in the late 1960s, however, the Southland Museum and the Otago Anthropological Society initiated the excavations to prevent the loss of significant archaeological information. Some eleven tonnes of material were recovered from the excavations, and while some studies have been undertaken on material from the archaeological assemblage, it has only ever

been partially catalogued.

Earlier this year, the archaeological material was brought from storage in Southland to Dunedin to be reviewed and inventoried by archaeological researchers.

The project was developed and led by Te Rūnaka o Awarua, with support from Te Kupeka Tiaki Taoka Southern Regional Collections Trust, Rio Tinto and Otago Museum and the University of Otago. Rio Tinto, owners of NZ Aluminium Smelter (NZAS) and the site where the Tiwai Archaeological collection was first excavated, is funding the first stage of analysis and research work.

The aims of the project are to help gain an understanding of the earliest Māori activity in Foveaux Strait, to develop a long-term plan for the future ownership and storage of the Tiwai collection, and how it will be curated and displayed.

The initial stage of the project has been reported on by a range of media outlets, including:

- Seven Sharp: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp/clips/tiwai-s-ancient-taonga>
- The University of Otago" <https://www.otago.ac.nz/news/newsroom/working-with-tiwai-point-artifacts-incredible-opportunity>

HPA MAHI



Law Changes Review Keeping societies up to date

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (2022 Act) came fully into force on 5 October 2023. To remain registered as an incorporated society you will need to reregister by 5 April 2026. There's less than 11 months left for societies to reregister under the 2022 Act. As part of the reregistration process, a society needs to hold a general meeting to agree with its members to reregister and approve changes to the constitution to bring it in line with the 2022 Act.

Your society's next annual general meeting (AGM) is the perfect opportunity to do this. However, if you have already had your AGM this year, you may need to hold a special general meeting.

Part of the re-registration process involves drafting a new constitution for your society which can be done using a template from the Companies Office. The template includes new sections on dispute resolution and obtaining written consent from new members. The HPA Executive Committee has recently drawn up a new constitution which has been circulated to all member organisations. Apart

from the above new sections the new constitution basically represents the status quo with few changes to the previous Rules. As part of the re-registration process the new constitution will need to be approved by HPA member organisations at the AGM in Napier in October. In the meantime, any queries can be directed the HPA secretary. info@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

October Conference Papers: There has been a good response from people to present papers at the conference and most slots are filled although there maybe still a couple of slots available for ten minute presentations. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary at the above email to confirm that space in the programme is still available.

Register for the conference at: <https://events.humanitix.com/https-icomos-org-nz>

New HP Auckland Website: Historic Places Auckland Tamaki Makaurau now has their own website (accessible from the HPA site)

<https://www.historicplacesauckland.org/>

HIGH COURT DECISION ON EPSOM CHARACTER HOUSE



Sally Hughes Character Coalition

Character Coalition has received the High Court's decision on its appeal against the demolition of a character house at 22 Crescent Rd in Epsom Auckland. Unfortunately it is not the result we wanted. The Court has declined the appeal so the house can now be demolished.

Much of the decision is a technical detailed planning/legal discussion about the interpretation of the Unitary Plan provisions. However it does contain some findings that are useful for those of us trying to protect special character in Auckland. One of the main concerns was the precedent effect this decision would have had on future applications for demolitions in Special Character Areas (SCAs). Council had already said it was receiving applications to demolish houses in SCAs which cited the Environment Court decision as a precedent in support of the demolition.

In his decision the Judge didn't find that the Environment Court erred in law by not taking into account the precedent effect, but he did make it clear that this Environment Court decision should not be taken as a precedent. He said that :

"The effect of the decision is not to licence demolition in any case where a proposed replacement building makes a positive contribution to streetscape character. That fails to take into account the very specific considerations

Illustration painting of 22 Crescent Road, by William Boyd. Photo / Supplied.

which underpinned the EC's decision....." and ".....in the areas where the evidence of built form was more predominant, including Empire Road and Gardner Road, matters relating to the contribution of the building to the character of the area may weigh more heavily against the proposed demolition and encourage a different response."

He also said that: "Even an architecturally outstanding new building may not justify demolition of an existing building which makes a significant contribution to the special character values of an area. A well designed new building that would be appropriate in one special character area might be inappropriate in another due to different identified character values. Even a building of modest individual architectural merit may warrant retention due to a critical contribution to an important group of buildings."

So while this particular building has not been saved something has been achieved , as there is much more chance of getting Council to decline future applications to demolish houses in SCAs than if the Environment Court decision stood unchallenged as a wider precedent allowing demolition. Character Coalition is grateful for the support it received from Historic Places Auckland, as well as other donors, to pay the costs of this appeal. Without this support, the appeal could not have gone ahead.

GORDON WILSON FLATS - OPINION

Photo / Mark Mitchell NZ HERALD



HISTORIC PLACES AOTEAROA

Historic Places Aotearoa advocates strongly for the retention of heritage places for their intrinsic qualities, as well as the physical qualities that provide a sense of place and contribute to local and individual identity. As kaitiaki of our historic heritage we also advocate for the retention of our historic places because we treasure our built and natural environment, and the most sustainable building is one that already exists.

Over the past few years there have been numerous articles in newspapers related to the Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington.

Recently the government has announced that they will be passing special legislation to remove the Wellington Council Heritage scheduling for the building, which will pave the way for Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) to demolish the Flats. This is concerning because it may lead to other councils applying for special legislation to remove places of importance to their communities, e.g., Hutt City Council which intended to demolish the historic Petone Wharf, before reconsidering that plan following considerable public protest. The Hon. Chris Bishop told a delegation of HPA members that he was one of the people who protested against the demolition of the Petone Wharf.

The University and the Government give two key

reasons for demolishing the Gordon Wilson Flats. First, that they are an earthquake risk, and secondly that they contain asbestos.

First, the building is an earthquake risk, but at the lower end of the risk scale; the 2010 structural report that we have seen suggests that the Gordon Wilson Flats are rated at around 58% of New Building Standard. An earthquake risk building is one that is between 34% and 66% of New Building Standard. Currently the Government is reviewing Earthquake-prone building and seismic risk management to ensure seismic risk in existing buildings is being managed effectively and in a workable, proportionate way.

Secondly, numerous buildings in New Zealand contain asbestos, and many are heritage listed and/or scheduled and in varying degrees of soundness – but heritage value is not tied up with the condition of a place, or necessarily the building materials used. The asbestos in the Gordon Wilson Flats will have to be removed before any work on the building can be undertaken whether the building is to be demolished or repurposed. It is a spurious argument to use the presence of asbestos to argue for the demolition of a building.

More significant than asbestos in the building, is the long term neglect of the building. The Gordon Wilson Flats is the perfect example of 'demolition by neglect'. Demolition by neglect results from lack of regular maintenance.

This is a national issue, broader than heritage alone, which has not been addressed by successive governments, or local authorities, but is the result of poor decision making, short term expediency and an absence of appreciation for the efforts of people in the past. As kaitiaki of our built and natural environment for the people of the future, we should not only be repurposing buildings, but regularly maintaining them.

The Gordon Wilson Flats and the associated McLean Flats are Category 1 buildings on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga list. Many factors are considered before a place is identified as having heritage value. Places undergo very detailed and careful evaluations before being added to The List. There is a limited number of Category One buildings, which are nationally important and should not be demolished. HNZPT notes in the Listing that:

The McLean Flats and Gordon Wilson Flats, List No. 9783, on The Terrace in Wellington, were built in 1943-44 and 1957-59 respectively to provide state rental housing in central Wellington. This pair of buildings has outstanding historical significance because of their association with the state housing

programme that was initiated by the first Labour government in 1935 and then continued under subsequent administrations. They are an expression of the culture of central government provision of social welfare as it evolved through the twentieth century. The Gordon Wilson Flats is the country's sole remaining example of 1950s high-rise state housing and is therefore uniquely placed to demonstrate that chapter of New Zealand's response to the need for housing.

Perhaps the most important reason for retaining and reusing the Gordon Wilson Flats is that it is the most sustainable option. Demolishing a building damages the environment and should not be underestimated. About 37% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the building sector and a large part of that is from demolition. Victoria University of Wellington has specific courses related to sustainability and recently constructed one of the world's most advanced 'Living Buildings'. It is ironic that the University, which obviously values sustainability and cares for the environment, is promoting the demolition of an apartment building to replace it with another accommodation building.

AUCKLAND HERITAGE AWARDS

The upcoming Auckland Heritage Awards 2025 promises to be a significant celebration of the city's rich cultural and historical legacy. Scheduled to take place in the heart of Auckland, this prestigious event will honor individuals, organisations, and projects that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and promotion of Auckland's heritage. With a focus on community engagement and sustainability, the awards aim to inspire further efforts in heritage conservation. Attendees can look forward to an evening filled with inspiring stories, networking opportunities, and recognition of the vital role that heritage plays in shaping the identity of Auckland. As the city gears up for this momentous occasion, anticipation builds for the

chance to celebrate the dedication and passion of those committed to safeguarding Auckland's historical treasures.

Deadlines for nominations close on July 12, 2025. Email: historicplacesauckland@gmail.com

The categories include: Auckland Heritage Protection Hero, Best Heritage renovated/restored Public Building or property Site, Best Heritage renovated/restored Domestic Building, Best Heritage restored/renovated Private Commercial Building, Best Heritage Tourism attraction, Best Heritage/History & Cultural Education programme.

<https://www.historicplacesauckland.org/post/auckland-heritage-awards-categories-2025>

ICOMOS + HPA JOINT CONFERENCE – 9-12 OCTOBER 2025 – NAPIER
REGISTER AT: <https://events.humanitix.com/https-icomos-org-nz>

PHANZA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2025

PHANZA

Professional Historians'
Association of New
Zealand/Aotearoa



NEIL CHASE
FILM

“DIVERSE FORMS OF HISTORICAL NARRATION”

Humans are natural storytellers, and many of the stories we tell are about the past. Oral history, written history, site-based history, and digital history have a common interest in understanding change and continuity over time, but they share their stories in distinct ways. Each approach comes with its own potentials and constraints.

This PHANZA event invites those interested in how history is told, written, and seen to come together for a day of conversation about diverse forms and formats of engaging the past.

19 July 2025

(registration from 9:00am)

In person and online options

Register [here](#)

In person location: St. Andrews
on the Terrace (30 The Terrace,
Wellington 6011)

TICKET PRICING:

- Registration includes lunch and light morning/afternoon teas
- Member \$90
- Non-Member \$110
- Student/Unwaged \$55
- Remote \$60
- Student/Unwaged Remote: \$40

HERITAGE

HE REO MO NGA TAONGA TUKU IHO

VOICES

2025 AUTUMN
NEWSLETTER

HISTORIC
PLACES
AOTEAROA

CONTACT:

GENERAL: info@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

WEBSITE: <http://www.historicplacesaotearoa.nz/>

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HP Manawatū-Horowhenua

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Character Coalition, Auckland

Christchurch Civic Trust

Civic Trust Auckland

Remuera Heritage Inc

Patea Historical Society

Heritage Wairarapa

Kinder House Society

Pt Chevalier Social Enterprise Trust

South Canterbury Historical Society

Timaru Civic Trust