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# WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST



[www.wellingtoncivictrust.org](http://www.wellingtoncivictrust.org)

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

As we come up to the end of the year we can reflect on a great deal of activity by the Trust, with the first months of the year focussed on the Hilton hearings and then the very successful Civic Awards. The Civic Awards really highlighted how many significant projects and enhancements to our City have happened over the past two years. The City is evolving as more people move in to live within the City's central area and it is good to see that the quality of civic and private projects is of such a high standard. The Trust has very much sought ways to ensure that these high standards are maintained and encouraged at the Planning code level so quite a lot of our work is in relation to Wellington City Council's role in these matters. It is impossible for private citizens to keep up with the City Council's policies and approvals so we feel it is important that we take on this role.

Sustainability is an increasing theme for the City, especially in relation to planning for future transportation. One of our goals in the New Year is to provide for public debate about the options for the future of the city. We will also be keeping an eye on how the process develops for the use and design for the Queen's Wharf Outer T. We keep a beady eye on this 'space'.

As Chair I want to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees for their dedication and energy, never failing to step up to attend meetings at the City Council, or prepare submissions. Thank you too to those who joined us on the panels for the Civic Awards.

Finally thank you to all our members for your support and loyalty. Please spread the word, we always need new members.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you,  
Seddon (Chair)

**The Board hopes early in the New Year to decide on a topic for a seminar during 2009.**

**Members are asked to let the Secretary know if there is a topic they would like discussed. The topic should relate to an issue, or issues, affecting this city and which would benefit from a discussion by informed and concerned people with differing viewpoints.**

**After each seminar the Trust produces a report. Previous reports have been valuable resource material for those studying and dealing with city problems.**

### **The Waterfront**

In the July Newsletter we noted that the Council had held a closed workshop on the future of the Outer-T. A second workshop was held in September on the waterfront development and this too was closed to the public and the media. A third similar meeting was held on 24 November. What those meetings were about became clear on 5 December when the Council released a report which it will consider on 11 December proposing major changes to the timing and management of the waterfront project. It proposes that the waterfront company should complete the planning and consent processes for current projects, a process which should be completed in about two years. The Council would then take over implementation of those projects over a ten year period. The Council will be asked to approve the report for public consultation which would take place over the month of February. It is a detailed report and will require careful study.

On 4 December the Council's Strategy and Policy Committee approved for public consultation a district plan variation covering the waterfront. It provides for new and amended policy provisions and a design guide covering the Kumutoto area of the waterfront. What particularly concerns the Board is the provision that if new building applications comply with the revised policies and rules (including height and footprint requirements) applications are unlikely to be notified and the opportunity for the public to object and if necessary appeal to the Environment Court is lost. In a submission to the Committee our Deputy Chair, Di Buchan, noted that on two occasions in recent years the Court had found the case submitted by community organisations stronger than that advanced by Council officers. While welcoming the revision of the rules and the provision of a design guide the Trust recommended retention of the right to object and to appeal. The Trust will continue to argue that case in the public consultation period which will run from 2 February until the end of March next year.

### **National Library Building**

In May this year plans were published for a major redesign of the National Library building in Molesworth Street. The Board wished to be assured that in commissioning a redesign to meet the changing needs of the National Library appropriate consideration was being given to any heritage issues arising from what is a major intervention into a significant public building. The Board is in correspondence with the National Librarian on this matter.

### **National School of Music**

When the Council announced its decision to lease the John Illott Green site to the Victoria and Massey universities for a National School of Music much importance was attached to the provision of a 600-800 seat auditorium which would be managed separately from the school and be available for public performances. In March this year the Mayor advised that an auditorium of that size was no longer feasible and one of 350 to 400 seats had now been agreed with the Universities.

The Board has agreed that this matter is so important in terms of principle that a copy of the paper which we sent to the Mayor and Councillors should also go to all members and others who attended the Trust's 2004 Seminar on "Jack Illott Green". A copy is included with this Newsletter.

### **Resource Consent – 109 Featherston Street**

Resource consent has been sought for a new building on the site of the Gen-i building which, with the Maritime Tower building, occupies a city block bounded by Customhouse Quay, Waring Taylor Street, Featherston Street and Ballance Street. The new structure would have a 19 storey tower on its Featherston Street frontage which, at 79.9ms, would be significantly higher than the permitted limit of 60ms. However, under the District Plan increases beyond that limit can be justified on grounds indicated in the rules. Similarly the proposal does not comply with the site coverage provisions set out in the District Plan. The Board considered that because of these factors the pro-

posal needed to be carefully studied and assessed in terms of its immediate impact on the environment and its wider implications for the capital's cityscape. For those reasons we have submitted an objection to the granting of resource consents.

### **Wellington Civic Trust Awards 2008**

Wellington has evolved considerably over the last three years, and the Civic Trust Awards are uniquely placed to showcase a new level of sophisticated and quality contributions to our city. The Awards were announced at Te Papa on September 18 at a presentation ceremony. Environmentally focused building development's, eye catching street art, community based heritage restorations, world class urban design and thoughtful environmental projects were among the 40 nominations received from the public and adjudicated by specialist judging panels.

Meridian's new Kumutoto development by Studio Pacific Architecture received the building category award. The judges noted the new precedents set by this waterfront building for its use of materials, energy efficiency and harmonious harbourscape design

A little alley way covered in paintings, graffiti and stencils between the Leftbank on Cuba Street and Ghuznee Street took out the street art award. Documented at [www.leftbank.co.nz](http://www.leftbank.co.nz) the website is part of the street art project that documents the ongoing changes to the artworks and gives an insight into the creative street artists.

The members of the Saint Barnabas Church in Roseneath were very happy to receive the heritage restoration award. The Vicar spoke about the commitment of volunteers and how the project had really brought a community together. The W.C.C. was the proud recipient of the environmental project award for their recent landscaping work at the Te Kopahau reserve situated at the Red Rocks Quarry site by Owhiro Bay. The landscaping and reuse of the existing building was thoughtful and integrated well into the landscape.

A new category administered through a public vote, the peoples choice award for favorite sculpture, was won by an ecstatic Max Patte for Solace in the Wind. Although he wasn't there in person, his excitement was reflected by Weta's Richard Taylor, who read out a letter from Max to the audience. "Wow, wow wow", he said "Gaining the public vote is the best accolade for this work!". It was a close vote however and it is fantastic that the Wellington has placed 13 new sculpture works around the city since 2005.

Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon announced the Supreme Award – the best of the best – which was for Waitangi Park, designed by Wraight Athfield for Wellington Waterfront Ltd. Waitangi Park stood out from other nominees because of its immense contribution to the city at not only local, but also national and international levels. The Deputy Mayor congratulated the Civic Trust on its initiative and specially thanked founding sponsors Oroya and Pat Day.

Civic Trust Chairman Seddon Bennington thanked all those involved with each project nominated. "You have helped raise the bar for design excellence in Wellington" he said.

*To view photo's from the Civic Trust Awards visit [www.wellingtoncivictrust.org](http://www.wellingtoncivictrust.org)*

*A Civic Trust Award plaque can also be found on the Cable Street side of Waitangi Park at the north end of the railway sleeper/gravel pathway.*


### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED JANUARY/FEBRUARY***

**The Trust is planning a public display of this year's WCT AWARDS indoors on the Wellington waterfront for three weeks from late January to mid February and needs some helpers to be in attendance at the venue for 2 or 3-hour blocks of time. If you are interested in helping, we would love to hear from you:**

**Sharmian Firth: 021-631940**

**Email: [books@dunmore.co.nz](mailto:books@dunmore.co.nz)**

**Di Buchan: 04-3840116 / 0276-830213**

<b>The Wellington Civic Trust.</b>			
Chair:	Seddon Bennington		
Deputy:	Di Buchan		
Secretary:	Alan Smith		
Treasurer:	Simon Brodie		
Membership Secretary:	Callum Strong		
<b>SUB-COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES 2008/9</b>			
<b>Civic Trust Awards</b>		<b>Traffic and Transport</b>	
Di Buchan(chair)	Peter Baillie	Chris Watson (chair)	Gerry Coates
Michael Dudding	Callum Strong	Alan Smith	Diana Shand
David Pucher			
<b>Capital Centre</b>		<b>Website</b>	
Peter Brooks (Chair)	Alan Smith	Callum Strong	
Duncan Joiner	Blair Badcock		
Di Buchan			
<b>District Plan Changes and Resource Consents</b>		<b>Newsletter</b>	
Tony Town (Chair)	David Pucher	David Pucher	
<b>Waterfront</b>			
Seddon Beddington (Chair)	Peter Brooks		
David Pucher	Callum Strong		
Sharmian Firth	Di Buchan		
<b>Publicity and membership</b>			
Seddon Bennington	Sharmian Firth		
Callum Strong	Bernie Napp		