



Welcome to the September edition of the Wellington Civic Trust newsletter. We're committed to keeping you informed on a range of issues affecting the city. We encourage you to share this update with your friends and family.

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted on the Trust's website www.wellingtoncivictrust.org

Submissions

The Trust has presented submissions on two proposed developments to Wellington City Council over the past month.

Site 9, Wellington waterfront

In principle, the trust is not opposed to the development of this important site. However, we have worked hard to ensure Wellingtonians can continue to enjoy our open spaces, especially as the inner-city population density increases and the need for balance becomes ever more important. We opposed the building proposed for Site 9 on the basis that its dimensions would severely affect sight lines to the harbour from the city. They also exceeded the recommendations of the 2012 Environment Court ruling.

Shelly Bay

The proposed Shelly Bay development appears to be in isolation from any overall development plan for Miramar Peninsular. The effect of a sizeable housing development would surely place additional stress on access and services that in our opinion have not been adequately addressed. We are also concerned about the process used to gain consent and believe that using the Special Housing Area legislation was not appropriate in this instance.

The Trust presented our submissions in person for each development during the council hearings, and we await the outcomes of the review process. A radio interview with Tim Fookes also provided the opportunity to reinforce our position on the Site 9 development and is available [here](#).

Wellington City Heritage Week

The Trust is working with Historic Places Wellington to support their Wellington City Heritage Week from 23-29 October. The initiative celebrates Wellington's people, places, and stories through tours, exhibitions, open properties, films, and city discussions. Over 20 events are being held through the week with many being free or koha entry and suitable for all interests and ages.

See more events and information at www.wellingtoncityheritageweek.co.nz. Some events require booking and cost.

Civic Trust Awards

The Trust is planning its bi-annual award programme for 2017. The awards recognise projects which enhance the city and contribute to making Wellington even better as a place to work and live. There are three categories:

- Projects that enhance or protect Wellington's essential character
- Projects that preserve character buildings – the Grant Tilly Memorial Award



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- The ever-popular peoples' choice award – for public art that attracts attention and encourages opinion and even controversy

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on the evening of 25th October.

We will let you know more details of the awards in the coming weeks, but we encourage you to start listing your preferences.

Frank Kitts Park battle continues

The Trust is supporting the appeals of Waterfront Watch and Michael Gibson to the WCC consent for the re- development of Frank Kitts Park. The appeal is to be heard in the Environment Court early next year.

Following an unsuccessful mediation, the Environment Court has asked the parties to agree on a series of dates leading up to the actual hearing. The Trust does not intend to engage legal support or witnesses, however we will seek to make a statement at the hearing, as we did at the council hearing.

Frank Kitts Park is an unsuitable location for a Chinese Garden. The proposed development would fragment the space and significantly alter the character and quality of a critical section of Wellington's waterfront. The waterfront has limited open space, especially space that is predominantly planted rather than covered in structures and paved surfaces. These types of spaces are popular for visitors.

We are calling for the Park to be retained in its current form as an uncluttered oasis of green space.

Transport

The Civic Trust aims to make Wellington a great place to live and work. Supporting transport options that enhance the city and health is an integral part of that.

Get Welly Moving's (LGWM) long list of scenarios and subsequent workshops over recent months has heightened interest in what makes a liveable walkable city with good urban form. According to a survey by LGWM, Wellingtonians are concerned that the city's transport system is getting in the way of the city's livability.

"Everyone agreed there is limited space in the CBD – with no space for more cars - one of our most important assessment criteria is how to reduce dependence on cars," says Barry Mein.

Barry Mein indicated that their draft list contained as many as 100 early simple improvements that could quickly be made to Wellington roads, but cautioned that the list needs to be reviewed to ensure that any future major works were not obstructed by any of these early interventions.



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Congestion-free Wellington

The new umbrella group Congestion-free Wellington organised the public meeting last month to canvass the issues further. Dr. Tregonning made a presentation on how light rail could "transform" Wellington.

"It's congestion free, it's climate and pollution friendly, and it's fast. If Wellington matches other systems a trip from the CBD to Miramar will take 20 minutes."

Living Streets Aotearoa spokesperson Paula Warren said Wellington needed to make sure it didn't become the next Auckland.

"Roads and carparking in central Auckland are 50% of the land. That's a huge, important resource. A good transport provider won't force anyone to use any particular mode, but will facilitate the different options for those who want them."

Congestion Free Wellington spokesperson Michael Barnett said they were concerned too much of the transport budget was being sunk into roads.

"If we develop a transport system that provides realistic alternatives to the private car, these vehicle-dependent businesses will be among the biggest beneficiaries."

*Content from Congestion-free Wellington newsletter, stuff.co.nz and NZ Herald reports.

What the political parties are saying about Wellington transport

Transport, particularly in Auckland and Wellington, has featured prominently in the General Election campaign.

Greens - <https://www.greens.org.nz/sites/default/files/policy-pdfs/Wgtn%20transport%20policy%20paper%20FINAL.pdf>

Labour - <http://www.labour.org.nz/transport>

National - <https://www.national.org.nz/267-million-investment-in-commuter-rail>

NZ First - <http://www.nzfirst.org.nz/transport>

For a summary of NZ-wide transport policies, we encourage you to visit:

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/election/2017/08/who-should-i-vote-for-transport-policy-at-a-glance.html>

WCC cycling consultation

Wellington City Council is still consulting on cycling projects, with a new option now available - see <http://transportprojects.org.nz/>



GWRC fares consultation public meetings

Greater Wellington Regional Council is holding a series of public meetings on its fares proposal over the next couple of weeks - see <http://www.gw.govt.nz/better-metlink-fares-consultation/> . Civic Board members Paul Bruce and Yon Yi plan to attend a workshop on 25th September.

Trolleybus overhead to go from 1st November

Wellington Cable Car Ltd (owned by Wellington City Council) has let a contract to dismantle the trolleybus overhead, at Greater Wellington Regional Council's expense, following the decision to abandon the system with effect from 1 November. Russell Tregonning, speaking at the public meeting on behalf of *OraTaiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Network*, described the abandonment as "health and climate vandalism". NZ First and the Green Party have indicated that they would attempt to delay the removal of the overhead if elected to Government.

Spotlight on our neighbour Nelson

The Nelson School of Music is the Nelson region's only professional performance venue suitable for classical music and acoustic music genres and has a long history of presenting professional performing arts to the Nelson regional community.



The Nelson School of Music was formed in 1894 and the Auditorium was opened in 1901

Established in 1894, the school has been the centre of music performance in the Nelson region for over a century with its Auditorium, opened in 1901, acclaimed as one of the finest in the Southern Hemisphere to perform chamber music. It was closed in December 2013 following an earthquake risk assessment. Since then, the Trust Board has finalised the redevelopment design and project cost, gained resource consent and commenced the earthquake strengthening and new build.

The redevelopment project not only addresses issues of earthquake strengthening for the Category 1 Heritage auditorium, but also includes new build of a connected Recital Theatre, which also acts as orchestral/choral green room/rehearsal space, a modern foyer and ticketing area as well as other rooms and technical infrastructure commensurate with a modern professional performing arts venue.



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Whilst the Nelson School of Music delivers education outcomes as well as performing arts outcomes, the principal design directive of the redevelopment has been to strengthen and enhance the facility for use as a performing arts venue.



Architect's drawing of the new foyer located between the existing Auditorium and Kidson House

The final two stages of the redevelopment are to restore the heritage Cawthron organ and to replace the heritage features on the exterior of the auditorium which were removed for earthquake reasons in the 1960's. The full project, including replacement of the heritage features and restoration of the organ, is scheduled for completion in early 2018.

The Trust Board

Thank you for your ongoing support for the Trust and its activities. Your Board members include:

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Clive Anstey
Bronwyn Brown
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If you'd like to update your details, be removed from the Trust's mailing list, provide comment, feedback or indicate your interest in working with the Board – contact us on secretary@wellingtoncivictrust.org or contact Jim McMahon on 027 292 4649.