



# WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST

Newsletter No. 1 March 2013

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This is the first update *Newsletter* in 2013 for members and supporters of the Wellington Civic Trust. For the archive of earlier Newsletters see <http://www.wellingtoncivictrust.org/newsletters>

Feel free to circulate this further or to copy (with acknowledgement) from it. For more information, or for suggestions as to what you would like the Newsletter to cover, see our website or contact [secretary@wellingtoncivictrust.org](mailto:secretary@wellingtoncivictrust.org)

## The Civic Trust Awards 2013

This is now under way, led by the capable hands of Toni Izzard, Bruce Stokell, Brett Mckay and Blair Badcock. Nominations have been invited for sites and projects in the four categories:

- **Innovative Public Open Space**
- **Enhancement & protection of the built environment (including seismic strengthening)**
- **The new Grant Tilly memorial award for preservation projects**
- **Peoples' Choice – publicly accessible artworks/sculpture/street art**

Nominations close on 19<sup>th</sup> April and judging will take place over the following month. It is intended the Awards ceremony will be on Thursday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> May, subject to venue availability.

This is one of our premium events and we hope to invite as many of you as possible – again, depending on venue availability.

For further information, contact Tiz or Bruce or look at the box on the home page of our website [www.wellingtoncivictrust.org](http://www.wellingtoncivictrust.org)



This is the winning entry for "Art in The City – People's Choice" from the 2011 awards. – The work "Frenzy" by Colin Webster-Watson, is on Wellington's south coast

## The Waterfront

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Wellington Waterfront Ltd ('WWL') invited us and representatives of Waterfront Watch to a meeting "to achieve a better understanding of parties' positions about future developments, and to explore suitable uses for sites 8, 9 and 10" – the North Kumutoto area between the Meridian Building and the Waterloo on Quay Apartments (the converted brick Edwardian warehouse opposite the Hotel Waterloo). At the time, WWL was calling for expressions of interest from developers for proposals and envisages considering these through the first half of this year. Those at the 12<sup>th</sup> December meeting were: Councillors Andy Foster and Iona Pannett (Wellington City Council), Stuart Gardyne (Technical Advisory Group), Toni Izzard and Alan Smith (Wellington Civic Trust), Pauline Swann, Mary Munro and Alana Bowman (Waterfront Watch), Derek McCorkindale and Jane Black (WWL Board) and Ian Pike and Michael Faherty (WWL management).

A summary of the main points made by the Civic Trust is:

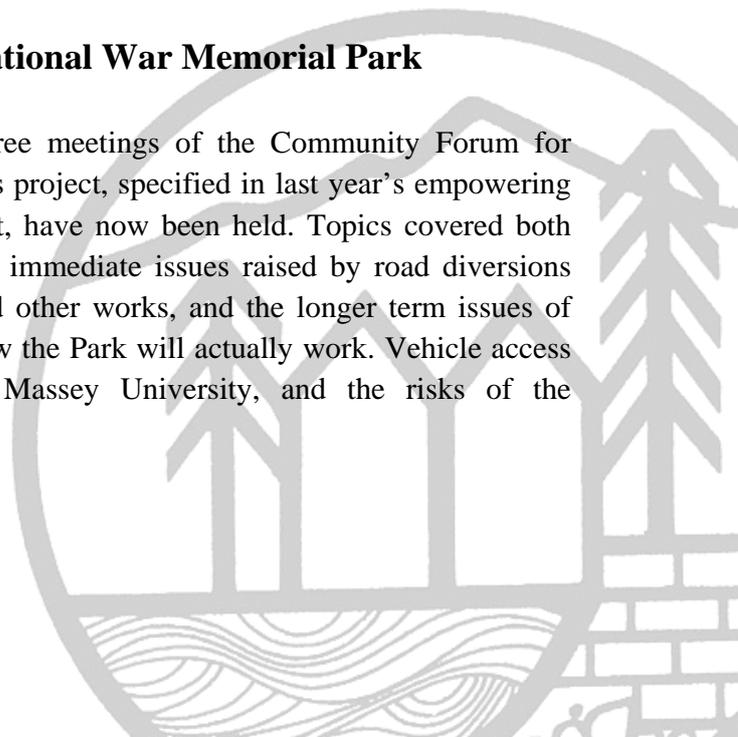
- The city and the waterfront are alive and constantly changing and need to respond to changes e.g. increased inner city living
- There is a natural and healthy scepticism of waterfront development since the development of the TSB Bank Arena and failed retail centre although it was accepted that those developments were prior to the 2001 *Waterfront Framework*
- The Civic Trust remains strongly supportive of, and its position is guided by, the *Waterfront Framework*

- The redevelopment of the Wellington Waterfront, once a leader, may be languishing in comparison as waterfront redevelopments in other places such as Melbourne and Auckland move ahead
- There is a need to look at the waterfront as a whole; the wider context such as links to the port, links to the sea, views from the harbour back toward the city all need to be considered
- General haste and lack of public involvement may compromise the outcome

Our long-standing position *supports the notion of buildings on sites 9 and 10 as buildings attract people to the area and add activity and vitality*. The quality of the buildings is essential. The scope for green roof buildings; public uses generally and building roofs that are publicly accessible; "cycle-centric" use; recreational or sports facilities on the ground floor of the buildings; a winter-garden; use of the heritage Wellington Maritime Police (ex-Eastbourne Ferry) building; were all traversed, along with the importance of the need for quality open space. As we stated in our 2012 comments on the *Design Brief* for Kumutoto North, we emphasized that there is no need to cram the maximum building bulk into each of the spaces.

## National War Memorial Park

Three meetings of the Community Forum for this project, specified in last year's empowering Act, have now been held. Topics covered both the immediate issues raised by road diversions and other works, and the longer term issues of how the Park will actually work. Vehicle access to Massey University, and the risks of the





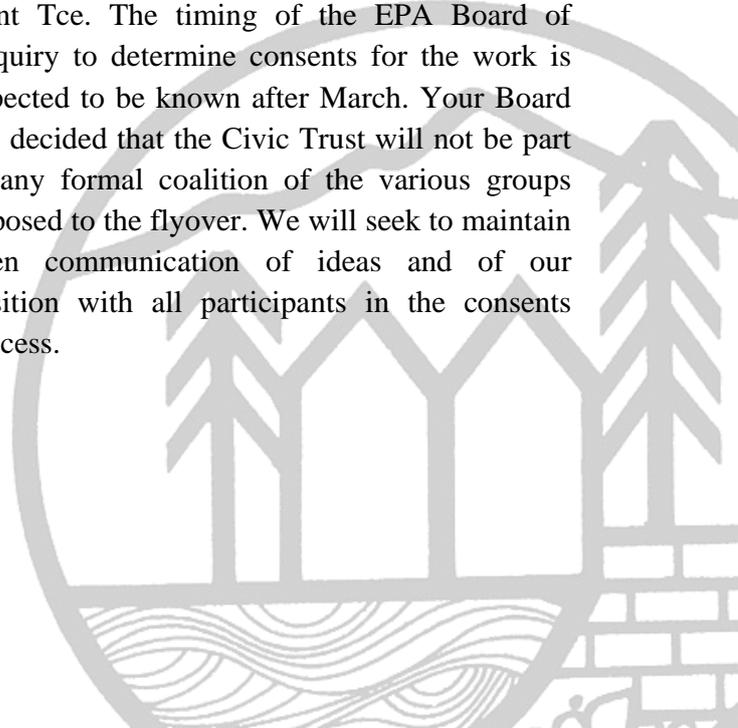
Work begins on the war memorial park. Note the brick item next to the large yellow box structure on the right hand side of the picture. Can you guess what it is? Let us know. More to come in the next newsletter

related one-way road (east>west) between Tasman and Taranaki Sts becoming a “rat-run” through the Park remains a point of some contention.

### **The Basin Bridge**

The Wellington City Council’s review comparing the NZTA’s intended Option A flyover, the Architectural Centre’s Option X tunnel, and the Reid Architects’ Option RR enhanced roundabout, reported on 1 March that the WCC preferred the Option A Flyover (now

called the *Basin Bridge* by NZTA). Each of the 3 options retained the present SH1 route to the Airport through Te Aro along Vivian St and Kent Tce. The timing of the EPA Board of Enquiry to determine consents for the work is expected to be known after March. Your Board has decided that the Civic Trust will not be part of any formal coalition of the various groups opposed to the flyover. We will seek to maintain open communication of ideas and of our position with all participants in the consents process.



## The Harcourts / T&G Building

The Commissioners' decision on 25<sup>th</sup> February to decline the owner's application to demolish this Grade 1 listed building matches our position at the hearings. An appeal to the Environment Court has been lodged by the building owner. The Civic Trust intends to support the NZHPT as it proceeds to be a Section #274 party to the appeal.

(Convenor) with Craig Palmer, Chris Cochran, Win Clark, Duncan Joiner and Chris Watson focused its findings into our submission to the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) consultation on *Building Seismic Performance*. We took the policy-based line that the sort of Wellington we aspire to needs: early actions and incentives to assess all at-risk buildings, to prioritise unreinforced masonry structures, to support a national publicly-accessible register, and to ensure that the relevant professional skills are in place in both quality and quantity for such a huge nation-wide task. This includes the sufficiency of skilled advice for strengthening heritage buildings, and we are urging that this is well provided for in the Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Bill which will reform the present Historic Places Trust.



T&G Building: "Heritage today – gone tomorrow"

## Public Transport

First indications are that proposed bus route changes in the *Wellington City Bus Review* are much less positive than those first offered for consultation. Both this and the *Public Transport Spine Review* seem to falling back from the sort of seamless Metlink concept (easy interchange of fares, vehicles and stops) for travel to and through the CBD which would incentivise public transport use. More details are expected after Easter.

## The Town Belt

Trustees Craig Palmer, Jim McMahon and Alan Smith presented our oral submission on the management plan to the WCC sub-committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. It was very well received by Councillors, and the Trust was complimented on the standard of the submission.

## Resource Management Act Reforms

Our submission to the Select Committee considering the first of the RMA reform Bills was drafted by Brett McKay and went in on 28<sup>th</sup>

## Earthquakes

The sub-committee of Bill Robertson

February. Yet again, important RMA legislation has been introduced close to Christmas, making it hard to respond adequately to the complex details proposed. This behaviour is repeated with the next “Discussion Document” released in late February inviting comment on “improving our resource management system” by Easter. Despite the cynicism invoked, we believe members expect that our Civic Trust purpose requires us to make informed input, and we will continue to do so, posting these on our website when cleared by the parliamentary process. A longstanding strength of the New Zealand planning system is the right of local areas to determine the form of their own communities, but a move towards more centralised, master planning solutions is now intended for reasons of economic efficiency.

### **Regional Governance**

The saga continues, and at this stage it seems clear that the existing local and regional

authority structures will continue through the October 2013 local elections cycle.

### **Looking ahead**

The Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March will be held around mid-May, date to be confirmed with our invited guest speaker. Early next month we will be inviting you to renew your memberships (the subscription rates stay the same), conscious that these days there are many new “public issues” groups competing for attention through e-mail based supporters lists. We are sure that our track record in Wellington since 1981 and our wide-ranging way of looking at Wellington’s distinctive urban character, are worth supporting with your continued membership engagement. We invite and welcome nominations to stand for election as Trustee for the 2013/4 year and you can be assured that your energies and insights will be welcomed by our very capable and diverse Board of Trustees.

## **WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST – BOARD TRUSTEES 2012/13**

<u>Chairman:</u>	Alan Smith
<u>Deputy Chair:</u>	Toni Izzard
<u>Treasurer:</u>	David Tai (and Membership Secretary)
<u>Secretary:</u>	still a vacancy; meanwhile, secretarial duties are shared between Blair Badcock and Dorothy Thompson.
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Bruce Stokell
<u>Other Trustees</u>	Blair Badcock, Bill Robertson, Chris Watson, Craig Palmer, Liz Mellish, Mike Mellor, Jonathan Suggate, Gerald Blunt, Duncan Joiner, Brett Mckay, Murray Thessman, and Jim McMahan.

This *Newsletter* compiled by Alan Smith and formatted by Bruce Stokell and Jonathan Suggate, 24 March 2013. Further details from [secretary@wellingtoncivictrust.org](mailto:secretary@wellingtoncivictrust.org) or ph. 027-285-6304

