

Newsletter

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EVENTS

27 May, 'Test of Faith' film at Embassy Theatre, 12:45 pm.

9 August, Our AGM, St Andrews on the Terrace, 5.15pm.



Basin Reserve Museum Stand (Photo by Vivienne Morrell)

Basin Reserve Museum Stand Saved!

After years of debate, Wellington City Council has agreed to save the Museum Stand at the Basin Reserve and reopen it by 2020. The heritage-listed stand closed to spectators in 2012 after it was found to be just 23 per cent of new building standards. Anything under 34 per cent is considered earthquake-prone. Under the favoured \$7.7 million proposal, the 93 year -old structure will be refurbished and strengthened. The New Zealand Cricket Museum will remain in the building. The money will come from funding already earmarked for developing the Basin Reserve, meaning no rates hike would be needed. The stand's roof is the main area of concern in the event of an earthquake. The Council's upgrade options propose to strengthen the roof structure to 100 percent

of code. Save the Basin co-convenor [Joanna Newman told Stuff](#) that the council was recognising the special place this heritage-listed site has in the hearts of Wellingtonians and people across the country. “Not only are they keeping it, earthquake-strengthening it and restoring its unique heritage features, they are creating a greatly enhanced facility.”



SUPPLIED

An artist impression on what the Sussex St side of the Museum Stand could look like after refurbishment, including a new entrance for the NZ Cricket Museum and reinstated windows.

(Photo by Stuff)

You can see photos of the interior in our newsletter no. 20 (May 2017) – all our newsletters are available on [our website](#).

Wellington City Council 10 Year Draft Plan

Our chairperson Priscilla Williams has put in a submission to the Wellington City Council's 10 Year Draft Plan on HPW's behalf. The plan process helps to determine where the Council will invest its resources over the medium term. HPW is concerned by a proposal to reduce the Built Heritage Incentive Fund (BHIF). This is used by property owners to strengthen and refurbish heritage buildings. We fear that cuts to the Fund would lead to the further loss of the city's heritage fabric and have urged the Council to increase rather than reduce the BHIF. We have also expressed our concern about Special Housing Areas (SHAs) being instituted in places that have high heritage value. This came to the fore during the Erskine College case, where a SHA was placed over the whole site, allowing the property owner to bypass normal resource consenting processes. This led to the disappointing decision to demolish the Category 1 Main Teaching Block. We do not want to see this happen again. Finally, while fully supporting the Council's intention to upgrade the Town Hall and similar cultural amenities in Wellington, we also expressed our desire to see its heritage team strengthened so it is better able to deliver enduring heritage outcomes for the city.

HPW asked to speak to its submission in a Council hearing this week (24 May). Because Priscilla will be away on the day, committee member Ben Schrader will speak on HPW's behalf. Other HPW members have also put in submissions, and some will also speak at the hearing. We will report back on how things went in the next newsletter.

Chapman-Taylor Buildings in Wellington



Chapman-Taylor's former showroom in Molesworth St (photo by Vivienne Morrell)

The recent demolition of a non-heritage listed Chapman-Taylor house in Ngaio prompted us to look at which of his buildings are listed. The Wellington City Council heritage list contains nine houses and one former showroom/workshop designed by James Walter Chapman-Taylor (1878 – 1958). James Chapman-Taylor is one of New Zealand's most important domestic architects of the early to mid-20th century, and Wellington's best known proponent of the Arts and Crafts movement. His career is described in detail in the 2007 book *James Walter Chapman-Taylor, 1878-1958, His Life and Times* by historian Judy Siers. Currently, another Ngaio Chapman-Taylor house, built in 1910, and now known as 'Otari' is for sale. See [this link](#) for some information and photos. This has been beautifully modernised internally. The demolished house was smaller and had not been modernised much; but still had some lovely hand-crafted doors and other features that we hope the owner saved.

The nine Chapman-Taylor houses listed by the Council are:

- 'Otari' Makererua St, Ngaio, 1910
- 'Moorsun' Cockayne Rd, Khandallah, 1936
- 'House' Simla Cres, Khandallah, 1939
- 'House' Abbot St, Ngaio, 1940-41
- 'House' Torwood Rd, Khandallah, 1941
- 'House' Ludlam St, Seatoun, 1918
- 'House' Burnell Ave, Thorndon, 1910 (also listed by Heritage New Zealand)
- 'Beere House', Tinakori Rd, Thorndon, 1908 (also listed by Heritage New Zealand)
- 'Paterangi', Messines Rd, Karori, 1939

Chapman-Taylor's former showroom and workshop is located at 113 Molesworth Street and while listed by the Council, it is only a 'proposed listing' by Heritage New Zealand. It was one of the deficient registrations that has not yet made it back onto the List, but is deserving of Category 1 status. Not only was it a showroom and workshop but the family lived in the top floor during World War One. The plans are dated 1911 and the work was completed the following year, at an estimated cost of £780. The building of "Home Crafts", as he called it, was a major career decision, for not only did Chapman-Taylor attract a fashionable clientele but he now had a smart new showroom to exhibit his furniture. Many of his specifications in this period referred clients to view the building's style and detail. See this [heritage list link](#) for more information.



Chapman-Taylor designed House at 22 Burnell Ave, Thorndon (photo by Vivienne Morrell)

Places at Risk

Oriental Bay Band Rotunda

A [recent report revealed](#) that the Oriental Bay Band Rotunda is in such a state of disrepair that it might be a 'lost cause.' The building closed indefinitely in 2012 because it had become too unsafe to occupy. It now needs extensive remedial work due to the deterioration of the concrete slab between its two levels. The Wellington City Council owns the rotunda, but has not allocated funding to fix it. It's therefore seeking expressions of interest from the private sector to develop it 'for the love of Wellington', as Councillor Nicola Young nobly put it.

The existing rotunda is the second on the site. In 1919 a wooden rotunda was moved from outside the Town Hall and placed there. This gave way to a new reinforced concrete rotunda in 1936 which included changing rooms for beach goers and a performance space above. It was used regularly for musical performances for the first few decades but by the 1970s these had largely ceased. In 1984 another story was added to the building and this became a restaurant. The changing rooms were converted into a community meeting room and gallery.



The Oriental Bay Band Rotunda (photo by Cameron Burnell/Stuff)

HPW hopes a developer will rise to the challenge and fix the rotunda. As the Council's heritage [entry on the structure](#) put it: 'The Band Rotunda is an integral part of the Oriental Bay seawall and a prominent landmark, occupying a dramatic site in the centre of the sweep of Oriental Bay and located on a magnificent promenade.' Its demolition would certainly profoundly change the shape and feel of the Bay.

Former Karori Teachers' College (Karori Campus)

The fate of the former Karori Teachers' College buildings remain very uncertain. Ryman Healthcare held public open days at the site a fortnight ago. Some HPW members went along and talked to Ryman representatives. There are mixed reports about how committed Ryman is to keeping any of the buildings on the site. Some suggest it wants to demolish the whole campus and start again while others indicate that it is prepared to retain parts of it. Last week the City Council issued a [demolition compliance certificate](#) for the site. While the Council and Heritage New Zealand are continuing talks with Ryman to encourage it to save some of the buildings, there is now nothing stopping the Company from taking a wrecking ball to the whole campus. We can only hope that Ryman will agree to some form of compromise so that this doesn't happen.

Upcoming Events

Heritage Film

At the end of May the Embassy theatre will host the [Resene Architecture and Design Film Festival](#) (see for the programme.) During the Festival the film called 'Test of Faith' about St Mary of the Angel's earthquake strengthening and refurbishment is being shown. One of the times is **Sunday 27 May at 12:45pm**. If you are interested, we would like to invite members to attend that session and for those who would like to meet for a coffee, chat, socialise to meet upstairs at the Embassy at 11:50am. You will need to purchase your [own tickets](#).

Our AGM

Our 2018 AGM will be held on Thursday 9 August, between 5.15 - 7.00pm, at St Andrews on the Terrace. The speaker will be Barbara Mulligan and the title of her talk is: "Karori Cemetery and the 1918 flu epidemic". This year is the centenary of the event. As the [NZ History entry](#) on the epidemic notes: "In two months New Zealand lost about half as many people to influenza as it had in the whole of the First World War. No event has killed so many New Zealanders in such a short time." Despite its enormous impact on New Zealand society, the centenary of the epidemic has not generated a lot of publicity. Barbara's talk promises to help correct this lack of recognition.

2018 Heritage Week

Following the great success of the inaugural Wellington Heritage Week last October, HPW Committee member David Batchelor and the Wellington Heritage Week Trust are organising a second event for 22-28 October 2018. This year HPW is not a co-sponsor of the Week, but we encourage HPW members to attend events. Initial information is available at the [Trust's website](#). This will be updated over the coming weeks.