

Newsletter

No. 28. May 2019

In this issue:

- Otaki Children's Health Camp Rotunda
- Oriental Bay Band Rotunda to be saved
- Recent Heritage Equip funding round
- HPW submissions
- Wellington City Library building
- Past Events
- Upcoming Events
- "Tel Aviv Bauhaus"

Guest Editor: Vivienne Morrell

JOIN US

To join Historic Places Wellington or learn more about HPW, go to www.historicplaceswellington.org.

CONTACT US

Our email address is
wgtm@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

VISIT our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/historicplaceswellington

EVENTS

22 June, Chevening visit, 11 am

9 June, Annedale Woolshed, 2pm (Heritage Wairarapa event)

Otaki Children's Health Camp Rotunda



Otaki Children's Health Camp Rotunda. Copyright: Heritage New Zealand. Taken By: Jolene Molloy

A trust has been formed to help preserve the Category 1 listed rotunda building at the former Otaki Children's Health Camp. The Friends of the Otaki Rotunda, mainly local volunteers who are passionate about the importance of protecting this architecturally outstanding building, recently met with representatives of Department of Conservation (DoC) and Heritage New Zealand to discuss the current state of the building and the land it sits on. The site is being looked after by DOC under a

care-and-maintenance arrangement while it awaits a report being prepared by Heritage NZ on the heritage values of the site – both land and buildings.

“Our hands are tied at the moment,” said Committee Chair Di Buchan, “We just have to wait until the formalities are completed then we will know the basis on which the trust can undertake the restoration of this very important building.” A possibility in the future is that various artefacts can be on display in a special health camp museum run in conjunction with the rotunda.

“The rotunda is one aspect of staying at the camp that none of the children forget – even those who are now in their nineties. It is an awe inspiring building. The Health Camp was an integral part of the local community for over 80 years. It is important, not just to people who stayed there as children or who worked there, but to the whole Otaki community.”

The rotunda building, originally from King George V Hospital in Rotorua built during World War One, is one of the last surviving buildings of the hexagon shape in the country. The use of the octagonal shape with a lantern roof, and open windows covered only by hessian, maximised the sunlight and air considered at the time to be essential for recuperating patients.

In 1931 Cabinet approved the transfer of two rotunda from King George V Hospital to Otaki. They were dismantled and transported by rail to their new location and re-erected. The camp opened as the Raukawa Camp in 1932 and provided for 50 to 80 primary-school aged children per six-week intake, mainly from the lower half of the North Island.

During World War Two the Wellington Health Board temporarily commandeered the Otaki camp and the rotunda were again utilised as hospital wards. The health camp reopened in December 1944. The rotunda continued to provide accommodation for children until 1963 when the camp was closed for reconstruction, during which time the eastern rotunda was demolished. The remaining rotunda was converted into a recreational building. You can read more about the building here:

www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/4098



Interior of rotunda (photo by Anthony Dreaver)

Oriental Bay Band Rotunda to be saved



Historic Places Wellington is delighted that the Oriental Bay Band Rotunda will be redeveloped. Maurice Clark (who will be well known to our members for showing us through some of the other heritage buildings he has saved) will be leading the work through companies Cheops Holdings and McKee Fehl Construction.

Councillor Nicola Young said Wellingtonians had missed the Band Rotunda: "Maurice Clark has an outstanding track record in restoring heritage buildings, so he's absolutely the right man for this project."

The Band Rotunda building has been a Wellington waterfront landmark since its completion in 1938, but has been closed since 2012. www.stuff.co.nz/business/112882588/developer-steps-up-to-take-on-rejuvenation-of-wellingtons-oriental-bay-band-rotunda (Photo by Vivienne Morrell)

Recent Heritage Equip funding round



Two buildings in the Wellington area received upgrade grants in the latest funding round of the government Heritage Equip fund:

131 Jackson Street, Petone, Lower Hutt (\$100,000). This building is part of the [Jackson Street Historic Area](#).

[Berry Building](#), Cuba Street, Wellington (\$42,472). Built in 1900 as a photographic studio for William Berry; perhaps better known today as the home of the McLeavey art gallery.

Berry Photographers Building (Photo by Vivienne Morrell)

Recent HPW submissions

This month we made a submission to the Wellington City Council on its Planning for Growth Strategy. HPW's main concern was to ensure that the Planning for Growth process

has no bias toward reducing the existing protections for Wellington's character areas. Reducing existing protection is a component of two of their four "Scenarios". HPW specifically supported the existing provisions, in particular Rule 5.3.6 which requires resource consent for demolition of pre-1930 structures in character areas. These areas help "define" the image of Wellington and also help show our history. We noted that the Boffa Miskell stocktake reported that about 80% of the character area housing is pre-1930s housing.

Our chair, Felicity Wong, also made an oral submission to Hutt City Council supporting Plan Change 52, which was to align their District Plan with Heritage NZ listings.

If you would like to read more about the committee's advocacy work, you can find all our submissions on the website: <https://historicplaceswellington.org/advocacy/>

Wellington City Library building

Most of you will be aware that the Wellington City Library building has closed due to seismic concerns. Recently, Mayor Justin Lester said that demolition could be an option if strengthening was too costly. A journalist asked us for our opinion. Our deputy chair Ben Schrader responded: "HPW doesn't have a formal position on the Wellington Central Library, mainly because it hasn't been officially listed as a heritage building by the WCC or Heritage NZ. We do acknowledge that it has heritage values and would be a strong candidate for listing sometime in the future. These values include:

- it being a very good example of postmodern architecture in Wellington;
- its association with Ian Athfield – Wellington's most prominent architect of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and
- its cultural and social associations with the people of Wellington over nearly 30 years.

We would be sad to see the building demolished due to these attributes, but also acknowledge the difficulties and costs of strengthening the building."

We are aware that Associate Professor Julia Gatley of Auckland University has written to the mayor and councillors expressing her dismay that demolition may be considered. This is a short extract from her letter: "The library building, designed and built from 1988 to 1991, is clever in many ways. It combines a monumental street frontage onto Victoria Street and a transparent face to the square. Permeability – connection between streets and the square – was a fundamental consideration, with walkways on either side of the building as well as a journey through its centre. What better way to encourage people to enter a library, than to provide this journey and to punctuate it with a wonderful café that soon became a Wellington staple? The colonnade of nikau palms that flanks the building's northern ramped pathway into the square has given the city its most iconic image over the last 30 years."

Indeed, the WCC celebrates the building's architecture on the library's website: www.wcl.govt.nz/about/branches/central/architecture.html

Past Events



We had two visits to the carillon on **Sundays 17 and 24 March at 1:30pm** (prior to a carillon recital at 2:30). The visits were strictly limited to 9 people per visit due to the narrow spaces and were fully booked. National Carillonist Timothy Hurd gave us a talk and then led us up the carillon to see the six largest bells and the room with the keyboard and a practice keyboard (plus stunning views of Wellington).

The carillon is part of the National War Memorial (a Category 1 complex). "The National War Memorial of New Zealand, consisting of a Carillon constructed in 1932, and a Hall of Memories completed 32 years later, is a solemn tribute to, and a commemoration of, the contribution of all those New Zealanders who have served and died in war." ([Heritage NZ List entry](#)).

Carillonist Timothy Hurd in front of the keyboard (Photo by Vivienne Morrell)

Recently, the carillon tower and Hall of Memories were earthquake strengthened and cleaned as part of the construction of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

Upcoming Events

Visit to Chevening for members – Saturday 22 June at 11am. 90 Salamanca Road, Kelburn. Please meet in front of the building. You are welcome to bring a friend. Note there is no lift. Please **RSVP by 11 June** to wgtn@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz.

In the last newsletter we featured the generous gift of Chevening by Susan Price to Heritage New Zealand. Chevening is an elegant 1929 apartment building in Kelburn, which has a Category 2 heritage listing. Each of the four floors contains one flat. The stripped classical building was designed by Llewellyn Williams, who also designed the De-Luxe (later Embassy) Theatre in Courtenay Place.

In 2011 the flats were strengthened to 100 percent of the building code under the direction of conservation architect Lianne Cox and engineer Matthew Lander. The building was also restored to a 1920s and 30s period style. Much of the furniture in the building Susan and her parents found in Wellington's second-hand shops. You can read more about the building here:

www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1347

Heritage Wairarapa event to which our members are invited:

Annedale Station Woolshed; 1543 Annedale Road, Tinui; Sunday, 9 June 2019 - 2pm



Woolshed at Annedale Station, Tinui
Wairarapa Archive Reference 05-39/P-N-4-1

By kind agreement of the owners, Heritage Wairarapa Nō Onamata Mō Anamata has arranged a visit to the Category 1 Annedale Station Woolshed for Sunday, 9 June 2019 at 2pm. Entry by koha.

Originally part of Brancepeth, Annedale was named after William Beetham's sister Anne who married Thomas Williams. The woolshed dates from the mid-1880s and was a pivotal part of the station's operations. This substantial building is of both great architectural and social merit. Designed for 18 blade shearers, it is constructed of timber and retains the impressive roof ventilators.

To get there, take the Te Ore Ore Road at the northern end of Masterton to Tinui. Then drive about 16 km along Manawa Road to the Annedale Road intersection. The woolshed is a further 1.5 km on Annedale Road from there and it will be signposted on the day. Then, to cap off a great day's outing, bring a picnic to enjoy back in historic Tinui, or stop off at the Tinui Café and Bar! Please make your own transport arrangements and to give them an indication of numbers, RSVP to heritagewairarapa@gmail.com

"Tel Aviv Bauhaus"

2019 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bauhaus in Germany. It was a German art school that operated from 1919 to 1933 that combined crafts and fine arts, and was famous for the approach to design that it publicised and taught. The Bauhaus was founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar, moved to Dessau and finally to Berlin where it was closed by the Nazis in 1933. In the [Resene Architecture and Design Film Festival](#) a film called *Bauhaus Spirit* is showing twice – on 30 May at 6:40pm and 1 June at 8:35pm – at the Embassy Theatre.

There are Bauhaus Museums in Berlin, Weimar and Dessau – and in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 2004 Tel Aviv was added to the list of world heritage sites by the UN due to its abundance of Bauhaus architecture. The Tel Aviv Bauhaus Museum is a private museum housed in a 1934 International

Style building. Jewish immigrants from Europe before and after WWII brought with them the leading style of the times – Modernism.

Felicity Wong recently enjoyed the Bauhaus Museum's self-guided walking tour exploring Tel Aviv's modernist "white city". The typical five elements of Tel Aviv's modernist apartment buildings are: roof garden, ribbon windows, open floor plan, envelope, and pilotis (supports such as columns, pillars, or stilts that lift a building above ground). Here are some examples.



Some future events:

- Our AGM will be in August (more information to come)
- Wellington Region Heritage Promotion Council heritage month: October
- Historic Places Aotearoa conference and AGM in Gisborne: 11 to 13 October
- Wellington Heritage Week starts 28 October
- The Australian Garden History Society has notified us that this year's conference will be held at Te Papa, Wellington from 25 to 27 October (information here: <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/register/>). Holding it in NZ is acknowledging the 250th anniversary of the voyage of James Cook's *Endeavour* and the first European landing in Aotearoa/New Zealand in October 1769.

Facebook – if any members are regulars on Facebook and would like to help manage HPW's page (with occasional posts or just to be a back-up when Vivienne is away) please email us.