



HISTORIC PLACES WELLINGTON INC
PO BOX 12426 THORNDON WELLINGTON 6144

NEWSLETTER

No. 45. August 2023

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

CONTACT US

Our email address is
wgtn@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

VISIT our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/historicplaceswellington

EVENTS

12 August 2023 – two churches visit

27 August – HPW AGM & speaker Laura Dunham

23 September – Eva Forster-Garbutt talk on NZ domestic interiors, 1840 – 1914

HPW AGM – NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST, AT 2:00 PM

St Peter's Church Garden Room, 211 Willis St, Wellington

(Access from Ghuznee St)

Following the business part of the meeting, we will hear the following talk:

Building Dialogues in the Limelight: Architectural Narratives in Wellington Magic Lantern Lectures – Laura Dunham

Schoolrooms, churches, halls, libraries, theatres, and the town hall.... Public dialogue about architecture in Wellington has been well-served by a network of venues across the city, thanks to the work of enthusiastic speakers, groups, and audiences. Part of the attraction in going to public lectures, meetings, religious services, and entertainments during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was the chance to view images of fascinating architectural sights from around the world while also listening to explanations about them, a process made easier with the magic lantern, the predecessor of today's digital data projector. This instrument not only enabled people to learn about the very latest ideas concerning buildings, but it also provided the opportunity to discuss issues about them and make decisions about their surroundings that continue to affect how we view and experience Wellington today.

Laura Dunham is currently a PhD student in the Wellington School of Architecture at Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington. Her research investigates the role of the magic lantern in effecting change in New Zealand's built environment from the 1880s to the 1940s. Laura is an historian of art and architecture and has taught at the University of Canterbury, worked as a curator

of art and archival collections at the University of Canterbury and New Zealand Parliament, in addition to undertaking heritage consulting in Canterbury.

We will also have refreshments. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HISTORIC PLACES WELLINGTON INC, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of Eleventh Annual General Meeting 2022***
3. **Committee's Annual Report – Statement of Service Performance****
4. **Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement***
5. **Election of Committee**
6. **Appointment of representative to Historic Places Aotearoa AGM**
7. **General business**

** The minutes and the financial statement are attached. Copies will also be available at the meeting.*

*** See below.*

Please bring to the meeting this newsletter and any other papers that will assist you for full participation in the meeting.

Note for Item 5.

Current Committee members who have indicated willingness to stand for re-election are:

Deborah Cranko; Sally Hasell; Nigel Isaacs; Christina Mackay; Vivienne Morrell; Richard Norman; Ben Schrader, and Felicity Wong. Under our Rules the AGM has to elect a minimum of six and maximum of twelve committee members. Office holders are subsequently elected by the Committee. **We welcome hearing from other potential committee members who are interested in heritage issues and like working collaboratively.**

Note for Item 6.

The following draft resolution is proposed: Moved that Felicity Wong represent HPW at the HPA meeting but if she is unable to attend, that the committee be authorised to appoint another appropriate representative.

Annual Committee Report 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

Under our rules the Committee is obligated to report to its membership annually about activities over the past financial year. We are also obligated to report annually to the Charities Services on "service performance" so this report is designed to meet both requirements.

The **Committee** continues to meet approximately every six weeks during the year. Eight members were elected to the committee at the AGM held in August 2022. Office bearers appointed by the committee were: Chairman – Felicity Wong; Vice Chairman – Ben Schrader; Minutes Secretary – Sally Hasell; Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Deb Cranko.

Chairperson, Felicity Wong, regularly convenes meetings of the Chairpersons of Historic Places Aotearoa (HPA) Member Organisations to share information at the national level.

We reached 85 individual and 32 family **members**, in addition to our ten life members. We provide a discounted membership rate for youth (25 and under).

Our **accounts** remain in a healthy state (with approximately \$24,000 in funds). The largest items of expenditure were our levy to Historic Places Aotearoa (\$1345) and a contribution we made towards a Heritage Week 2022 panel discussion event (\$535) so some young WCC and HNZPT heritage staff could attend; which we consider an important part of our outreach and advocacy work.

We're grateful to the speakers and hosts of visits, to whom we provide modest koha for their insightful presentations.

Advocacy issues have continued to be an important focus for the committee. We made several submissions (a number on the WCC's Draft District Planning process; and to Parliament on the Natural and Built Environments Bill). You can read our submissions on our website's [advocacy page](#).

We held seven **events** during the year: including three guided walks; a well-attended talk on Eating Houses in Wellington in the early 1980s; and visits to Wellesley Hotel and the former Mt Crawford Prison garden.

Four **newsletters** were issued at quarterly intervals, sent either digitally or by post to all members. These contain news stories and commentaries about HPW's activities and about historic places in the Wellington region, illustrating these, when possible, by photographs.

The figures for our **website and Facebook** page show a considerable interest in heritage issues. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, we had 3566 'visitors' to the website, an average of 297 per month. This is our second-best year since we set up the website in August 2015, as the table shows.

Financial year	Website visitor numbers	Average per month
2015-16 (from August)	1,627	148 (11 months)
2016-17	2,259	188
2017-18	2,820	235
2018-19	2,377	198
2019-20	2,056	171
2020-21	3,709	309
2021-22	2,541	212
2022-23	3,566	297

As at July 2023 we had 1064 followers on Facebook (compared with 983 last year, 891 in 2021; 704 in 2020; 621 in 2019; 526 in 2018 and 176 in 2017). The most popular posts tend to be about specific buildings.

We set up an Instagram page on February 3rd 2023. We have made 25 posts to date and have 127 followers. Find us here: [Instagram](#) (#historicwelly)

Chairperson's report – Felicity Wong

Much of my focus this year – as was last year – has been on the Wellington City Council's spatial and district plans. I commend Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga for its input to the Wellington District Plan hearings. Otherwise, I'm deeply disappointed by the Government's NPSUD policy and legislation forcing Wellington City Council to strip protections from Wellington's oldest suburbs and radically upzone the city.

This year we made those views known with solid input to the statutory process for finalising the Proposed District Plan. Christina Mackay and I gave presentations to the Independent Commissioners in each of four "Streams" of the hearings:

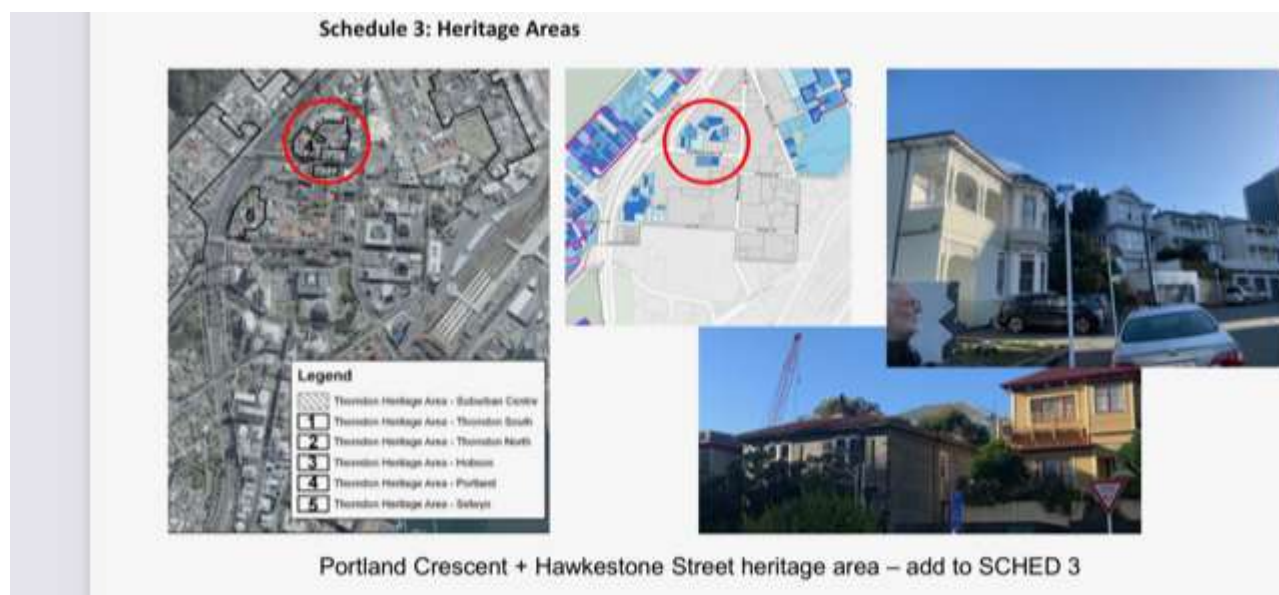
- general Plan wide matters;
- residential zoning and character areas;
- historic heritage listings and rules; and
- CBD/shopping centre zoning.

We called for the restoration of demolition protection for Wellington's oldest dwellings in the inner-city suburbs; supported proposals for new (and existing) heritage listings; and called for new heritage areas (including in Thorndon and The Terrace, areas long identified as of heritage value).

Of serious concern was opposition from the Government's urban development agency, Kāinga Ora. You may have seen news reports that Kāinga Ora is pushing for radical changes to Wellington's housing rules including: "No protection for character houses, allowing buildings heights to increase by over 50 percent, permitting more shade on neighbouring properties and ditching the legal requirements for flood mapping are just some of the hundreds of changes Kāinga Ora is proposing for the capital. Documents show it has spent \$800,000 on lawyers, planners, and architects to help its submissions on the city council's district plan."¹

The 'one size fits all' central government approach to intensification must be rejected. Alternative government policy, to allow local councils to decide themselves about intensification, is essential.

Thank you all for your support of our efforts to protect our heritage. My thanks to Committee members for their ongoing valuable contributions.



A screenshot from our Stream 3 presentation to the Independent Commissioners

Upcoming Events

1. Saturday 12 August, at 10:30am to 12:30pm (appx), Two Churches visit



At 10:30 am we will meet at the Wesley Church at 75 Taranaki Street to see and hear about the strengthening work recently carried out.

¹ Radio New Zealand: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018898806/kainga-ora-pushing-for-changes-to-wellington-s-housing-rules>

As a fine example of 19th century timber architecture, Wellington's Wesley Methodist Church is a category 1 listed heritage building. Blending Gothic and Classical features, the church was designed by Wellington architect Thomas Turnbull and completed in 1880.

The building has since undergone three significant alterations, including major changes by Ernst Plischke in the 1960s. The latest remediation and restoration project implemented extensive seismic upgrades to the church, through a carefully managed process, where discreet interventions belie the complexity of the works. Paul Cummack, project architect, will tell us about the process involved at the church. This project won an NZIA 2023 Wellington Architecture Award for Heritage. We expect the visit to take up to an hour.

Then, we can walk to our second church visit: **At 11:45am** we will meet at the **former Congregational Church at 45 Cambridge Terrace**. This impressive building was built in 1916, designed by architect William Fielding. The former church was recently earthquake strengthened and is now known as [The Chapel on Cambridge](#) and has concerts several times a year. Wayne Coffey will host our visit. We expect this visit to take about 30 minutes.

Images: Wesley Church from [Architecture+ website](#). The Chapel: Vivienne Morrell

2. Sunday 27 August at 2pm. HPW AGM, St Peter Church Garden Room, 211 Willis Street

Details are at the beginning of this newsletter. Note the change of speaker from our earlier advertised speaker – Eva Forster-Garbutt will now speak in September.

3. September 23 at 2pm – Eva Forster-Garbutt will speak about New Zealand's domestic interiors: 1840 to 1914. This will also be in the St Peter's Garden Room.



Eva Forster-Garbutt, a PhD candidate at the School of Architecture and Design and Victoria University Wellington, will talk about the changes in the interior lay-out and design of our early homes, between c1840 and 1914. She will draw on existing knowledge, early photographs, the work of heritage professionals, and her research on interior decorative linings. Case studies will focus on interiors from the Wellington region.

Other upcoming events of interest

Sunday 20 August at 11am: Early History of the Wellington Botanic Garden – Guided Walk. See the [Eventfinder](#) link for more information.

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Monday 21 August 6pm: Celebrating City Gallery's architectural interventions.

Monday 18 September 6pm: A panel discussion: Exploring the Capital's built environment

The next two talks in the NZIA City Talks series which is an ongoing series initiated by the New Zealand Institute of Architects Wellington Branch and presented in partnership with City Gallery Wellington. These are held at City Gallery and are usually also on Facebook live:

<https://www.facebook.com/NZIA.WLG>

*

Historic Places Aotearoa [HPA] AGM will be on the weekend of **7-9 October** in New Plymouth.

“We will be the guests of Heritage Taranaki. The meeting will take place during Taranaki Heritage Month so there will be opportunities to join some of the Heritage Month events. Following another successful AGM event last year in Auckland, we can remind members that apart from the formal, quite brief AGM, you can anticipate interesting papers, discussions and site visits that all contribute to an interesting heritage event.” (From [Oculus](#), HPA newsletter June 2023). HPW is a member organisation of the national body HPA and our members can attend their AGM.

There is a clash of dates with the [ICOMOS NZ](#) conference, which is in Wellington on Sat 7 and Sun 8 October 2023.

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23 October – 5 November: Wellington Heritage Week. This year’s Heritage Week will be spread over two weeks. The event list is not available yet, but keep an eye on their website: <https://wellingtonheritageweek.co.nz>

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Friday afternoons on October 13, 20, 27, and Nov. 3: A short course of lectures on “City Stories: Wellington’s architectural heritage” by Vivienne Morrell



How has Wellington developed since 1840? Why do we have a Town Belt and a Basin Reserve? Find out more about Wellington’s history and some of the buildings that illustrate different periods of its development. This well-illustrated course will give an outline of Wellington’s history and how and why it developed the way it has – with a focus on architecture.

This will be held at the Karori Arts and Crafts Centre in Karori and there will be a charge. It is not advertised yet, but if you are interested please keep an eye on [their website](#) or Historic Places

Wellington’s [website](#) (or email Vivienne at wqtn@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz)

Vivienne is a committee member of HPW and formerly worked at Historic Places Trust (now Heritage NZ). For a number of years (2015 to 2019) she taught this course as an evening class at Wellington High School.

Image: Plan of the city of Wellington. 1841. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/archivesnz/15975386086/in/album-72157649292890288/>

Past Events

Sunday 11 June 2023 – *Eating Houses of Wellington in the early 1980s* – an illustrated talk by Vivienne Morrell, with Lois Daish

About 35 members and guests came to St Peter’s Church Garden Room to hear this talk.

The idea for the talk came from the book *Eating Houses in Wellington*, published in 1980. The text was by Pauline Clayton, Jeff Kennedy had the restaurant connections, and illustrations were by then Wellington mayor (and architect) Michael Fowler.



Of the 30 places in the book, Vivienne talked about 10, looking at what the book said about them, the illustrations, some history about the building and historic images where available and what's there today. Perhaps surprisingly, most of the buildings are still there.

Former restaurant owner and food writer Lois Daish is one of the restaurant owners in the book, and she spoke about hers and connections with others near the end of the talk.

The presentation was followed by refreshments.

You can read a version of the talk on Vivienne's personal [website here](#).

Thursday 8 June: Visit to Miramar Prison Community Garden



A small group enjoyed a guided tour of the Miramar Community Garden (formerly the site of Mt Crawford Prison Gardens) on a sunny winter day.

Patty Zais, a community garden volunteer gave us an inciteful tour, followed by a delicious afternoon tea under the puriri tree.

We featured an article about prison gardens in our May 2023 newsletter, which you can [access here](#).

Reminder: Our 2023-24 membership year began on 1 July 2023. Thanks to those who have renewed their membership.

If you haven't yet, you can pay into our Westpac account: 03 0584 0244032 00 (by internet or phone banking, or in person). Be sure to include your name in the payee reference details.

If you want to pay in cash at our AGM, please put it in an envelope with your name on it.

The amounts are - Individual: \$30.00. Family / couple: \$45.00