

NEWSLETTER

No. 49. August 2024

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CONTACT US

Our email address is
wgtn@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz

VISIT our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/historicplaceswellington

EVENTS

18 August – HPW AGM & speaker Redmer Yska

26 October – 17 Nov: Wellington Heritage Festival

8-10 November: Local Heritage Matters conference, Napier

HPW AGM – NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY 18 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:



Redmer Yska will speak on "*Voyages with KM; Picking up the Traces of a Writer's Europe*".

Redmer Yska is a Wellington writer and historian. After reading French at Victoria University, he began his writing career as a copy boy on scandal sheet *NZ Truth*, later working on respectable newspapers in England.

In the 1990s, he produced books about NZ post-war youth culture: *NZ Green*, *the Story of Marijuana in New Zealand* and *All Shook Up, the Flash Bodge and the Rise of the NZ Teenager in the 1950s*.

In 2001, Yska explored his identity as a Dutch New Zealander with *An Errand of Mercy*, *Captain Jacob Eckhoff* and *the Loss of the Kakanui*, a book about his great-grandfather.

In 2004, he was commissioned to write a history of Wellington City: *Wellington: Biography of a City*. In 2008, he won the National Library Research Fellowship to write *NZ Truth: the Rise and Fall of the Peoples' Paper* (2010), an institutional history of his old paper.

A substantial NZ History Trust Fund Award in 2014, allowed him to write *A Strange Beautiful Excitement: Katherine Mansfield's Wellington 1888-1903*. The book was longlisted for the 2018 Ockham Book Awards.

In 2019, a generous grant from Creative NZ allowed him to write *Katherine Mansfield's Europe: Station to Station*, published in 2023 by Otago University Press. See: <https://newzealandbooks.com/book/katherine-mansfields-europe-station-to-station/>

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

AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HISTORIC PLACES WELLINGTON INC, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Twelfth Annual General Meeting 2023*
3. Committee's Annual Report – Statement of Service Performance**
4. Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement*
5. Election of Committee
6. Amendments to our constitution
7. Appointment of representative to Historic Places Aotearoa AGM
8. 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, 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 society is required to re-register to comply with new incorporated society requirements. The main one is for all societies to introduce a specific process for resolving disputes between members and/or committee members (see separate report for the new Schedule). Several technical changes are also required such as formalising a contact point, and clarifying the status that all committee members are "officers" of the society. The committee has looked at what other societies have done (e.g. Friends of Old St Paul's).

The Committee proposes that members **approve the amendment of the Society's rules as follows:**

1. Add a Schedule setting out a dispute resolution process as attached; and
2. Make any technical amendments which the committee determines is necessary in order to comply with the requirements of the incorporated societies legislation to re-register the society.

Note for Item 7.

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 2023 - 30 June 2024

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 2023. 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 78 individual, 29 family, and two youth **memberships**, in addition to our nine life members. We provide a discounted membership rate for youth (25 and under).

Our **accounts** remain in a healthy state (with approximately \$22,000 in funds). The largest items of expenditure were our levy to Historic Places Aotearoa (\$1180); a contribution we made towards Wellington Heritage Festival 2023 (\$1000), plus our own 2023 heritage festival event – projecting large images of historic places onto the wall of an apartment building (\$1000) – see photo – and another \$1000 contribution to Wellington Heritage Festival 2024.



We are 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 (some on the WCC's District and Long-Term Planning processes; to Upper Hutt City Council with feedback on a report on Golders Cottage and the Blockhouse, and to Parliament on the Fast-Track Bill). You can read our submissions on our website's [advocacy page](#).

We held eight **events** during the year: including four guided walks; three speaker events; and visits to Vogel House, Lower Hutt and two inner city churches. These are on our [Past events](#) page.

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 2023 to 30 June 2024, we had 4,234 'visitors' to the website, an average of 352 per month. This is our 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
2023-24	4,234	352

As at July 2024 we had 1152 followers on Facebook (compared with 1064 last year, 983 in 2022, 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 42 posts to date and have 174 followers. Find us here: [Instagram](#) (#historicwelly)

Chairperson's report – Felicity Wong

Thank you, members for your ongoing support of HPW. You give voice to issues about the built heritage of our city. Despite the rather gloomy and expensive post-COVID era, the city's broadly a beautiful, diverse and interesting place. The sheer differences in details of buildings and places gives Wellington a variety that's part of its windy, steep, character.

It was sad to lose both Deputy-Chairman Ben Schrader, and founding member and former chairperson Priscilla Williams, to cancer in the past year. Each were connected to Wellington's intellectual world of history, ideas and advocacy for built heritage protection. Ben had published and lectured on the proud history of Aotearoa/NZ's social housing and its modernist era, and Priscilla advocated for decades for the Bolton St cemetery after a long, trail blazing diplomatic career. They were each remarkable individuals, highly intelligent, independent thinkers, influential and generous in mentoring others. HPW salutes you - Ben and Priscilla.



It was great to sponsor the first Welly Heritage Award and to recognise other remarkable individuals. Congratulations to finalists Joanna Newman, John Martin, Alistair Cattach, Jane Kelly and our special blessing and nga mihi nui to winner Liz Mellish (photo of Liz with Felicity).

There is going to be a super community heritage conference in Napier in November, which will be a great weekend for any of you who would like to attend, and we'll keep offering you interesting local visits and talks, and keep speaking up!

My thanks to Committee members for their ongoing valuable contributions.

Priscilla Williams (1940 – 2024)

Priscilla Williams died on 17 June 2024, her 84th birthday. She was for many years involved with Historic Places Wellington (including as our chairperson), as well as being an advocate and guardian for Wellington's historic Bolton St Cemetery. A direct descendant of early Anglican Bishop William Williams, Priscilla also had a long involvement with the Williams Museum Trust.



Her many friends and colleagues admired her formidable intellect, broad political and social concerns, kindness and mentoring to younger colleagues, and for being such terrifically good fun with so many stories of note. Her career as one of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's first and foremost female diplomats began in 1961; and Priscilla served in Malaysia, Thailand, New York, Australia, Tonga, and as High Commissioner to India.

"Priscilla was a great supporter of heritage and a wonderful person to be around. A very tragic loss to this community, the country, and beyond."

Jamie Jacobs, Director, Central Region, Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 18 August at 2pm. HPW AGM, St Peter Church Garden Room, 211 Willis Street and speaker Redmer Yska

Details are at the beginning of this newsletter.

Other events of interest



Until 22 September – Exhibitions at Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University Te Herenga Waka (Kelburn campus): *Duncan Winder – architectural photographs*, and *The buildings notice me*.

"Transitioning from architect to photographer in the 1960s, Winder was part of a new generation of architectural photographers, bringing a local perspective to the growing international trend of post-war architectural photography." Read more [here](#).

There is also a programme of public talks associated with the exhibitions. (The image shows a detail of one of Duncan Winder's Wellington photos – Antrim House in Boulcott Street is in the centre.)

Included in *The Buildings Notice Me* exhibition are two ceramic works that used to be at the former Karori Teachers College – a Doreen Blumhardt (and students) wall mural and a Roy Cowan sculpture.

*

New Zealand Institute of Architects festival of architecture is intended to run **21 – 29 September** in Wellington. Keep an eye on [their website](#) for details.

*

The Wellington Heritage Festival will start on Saturday **26 October** and run till **Sunday 17 November**. The programme will be available shortly. In the meantime, you can read more here: <https://wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz/>

Local Heritage Matters conference on 8 – 10 November in Napier at the War Memorial Conference Centre of the Marine Parade. The conference is for community heritage organisations and people who value and love their local heritage in all its many manifestations. As well as papers and discussion, there will be opportunities for visits and walks. For the latest information on the Community Heritage Programme follow the link here: www.historichawkesbay.org.nz/conference.

*

Past Events

Sunday 30 June 2024 – Speakers Felicity Wong (our chairperson), Joanna Newman (convenor of the Mt Victoria Historical Society) and Angus Hodgson (a house owner) gave an update on **recent heritage listings in the Wellington City Council District Plan**.

The article [here](#) (click for link on our website) presents some of the information that Felicity said at the event.

Photos of a few of the recent inclusions – St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay; Freyberg Pool, Oriental Bay; Alington House, Karori; Demonstration House, Karori:



Reminder: Our 2024-25 membership year began on 1 July 2024. 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, and hand to a committee member.

The amounts are - Individual: \$30.00. Family / couple: \$45.00. Youth (25 and under) \$10