



September 2021



*"Hello world!"*

Dear Members

Despite lockdown, the natural world continues apace! Lambs are born, birds are nesting and seeds are sprouting. We do hope you are all safe and well, and let's hope the Covid alert level will drop before too long.

Our event at 4 Takutai Street took place just in time and what a great event it was! Tom and Kim were wonderful hosts and it was such a convivial and happy event. Full details follow in the Newsletter.

You will be pleased to hear that your Executive has joined the Zoomers and managed to meet online during lockdown.

Remember, if you would like to take a more active role in Parnell Heritage and join our friendly Executive team, or to help in any way, please contact Sue (who looks after our administration) on [andreassensue@gmail.com](mailto:andreassensue@gmail.com) / 09 846 7661 / 022 647 5155.

With best wishes,  
Chair: Julie Hill



## A Late Winter Celebration



With huge thanks to Tom Bowden (pictured left), over thirty people gathered at his home, 4 Takutai Street. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of interesting presentations, accompanied by mulled wine and a delicious spread of baked ham and many other culinary delights, and of course plenty of conversation and laughter. Thank you, again, Tom and Kim – what a great event and one we will remember for a long time.

Julie Hill said that the event was a fundraiser in defence of Auckland's special character areas. She noted that Parnell's main street (in parts) is a Special Character Area – Business, and much of the older housing area of Parnell has Special Character Area overlay -Residential Isthmus B. Parnell Heritage is a member of Character Coalition, which is leading the effort to protect our heritage. Special character areas are unique, and the Unitary Plan had already been set, but the Council has passed new guidelines that now place heritage areas at threat.



Julie introduced Dr Warren Limbrick, historian, especially relating to Anglican church history. A synopsis of Warren's presentation follows: -



Bishop George Selwyn, the first Anglican Bishop of New Zealand from 1841 to 1869, encouraged the Neo-Gothic style of architecture but with less ornamentation, as shown by St Stephen's Chapel, Judges Bay. The Bishop's vision was essentially implemented by the consistent teamwork of architect Frederick Thatcher, builder A.H. Hunter and stonemason Benjamin Strange. Thatcher arrived in New Zealand in 1843. He entered St John's College to train for the ministry after acting as a secretary for Governor Grey and Supervisor of Auckland Public Works. He was ordained deacon in 1848 and priest in 1853. By that year he had also designed or overseen construction of 13 buildings including 7 churches. His enduring iconic designs are the College's chapel (1847) and 'Old' St Paul's, Wellington (1862-66).

Benjamin Strange had worked on Buckingham Palace, and in Auckland became the leading stonemason responsible for the early stone buildings in Parnell, including 4 Takutai Street. Bishop Selwyn commissioned this house in 1857 and it was one of the first Thatcher-designed stone buildings in the Anglican Church's Parnell cluster near the future cathedral. The stone



came from either Rangitoto or Mt Eden, hauled along the bullock track from Hobson Bay. Dressed stone was used for the windows, corners and doors, with 'random rubble' in between the dressed stone, and with triangular vents in the gables (see photo right).



The first residents of the house were Benjamin Strange and his wife, Maria, followed by Archdeacon George and Margaret Kissling from 1862. Margaret was concerned for the education of young Māori women and she established a Māori girls' boarding school, first at Kohimarama and then, following a disastrous fire, the school moved to the site of the current Parnell Primary School. To qualify for government grants, such schools had to provide training in agricultural, domestic or industrial arts, as well as a formal education. To carry out these objectives and to gain financial support for the school, Margaret Kissling ingeniously organised it as the 'New Zealand Female Aborigines Washing Establishment', which took in laundry from Auckland settlers.

Tom Bowden bought the property from his Grandmother In 1987 and has enjoyed living in and caring for this beautiful heritage house for the past 34 years.

### **Erebus Memorial**

Also at the event, Jo Malcolm of the Protect Mataharehare Group, gave an update on the Erebus Memorial situation in Dove-Myer Robinson Park, where before lockdown around 30 people had been camping and holding a vigil since 1<sup>st</sup> March to prevent work starting on the proposed site for the memorial. Jo said that a stalemate had been reached with the government. However, Dame Naida Glavish is giving outstanding support with the dialogue continuing with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Heritage NZ, Auckland Council and local iwi. Apparently, there are a number of things in train which it is hoped will see a positive result in the near future. At present, although the camp is closed during lockdown, we understand that members of the public continue to check the site at all hours of the day and report in to the Group with photos and text messages.

### **Heritage Area in Parnell**

Parnell Heritage is undertaking an initiative to create a new Category 1 Heritage area in Parnell. An application has been made to the Ohinerangi Trust for funding to prepare the application to Heritage NZ. The proposal is to create a single Category 1 Heritage Area for the three reserves: Dove-Myer Robinson Park, Judges Bay Reserve and Point Resolution Reserve, which contain sites of significance to both Māori and European history. The area includes archaeological sites and buildings, such as St Stephen's Chapel.

The histories of the three reserves are intertwined. The area represents an outstanding natural and cultural landscape which, to date, has been managed in piecemeal fashion. The main aim of the application is to protect this area in its entirety and for it to be managed as a whole under a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. Currently, there is only a management plan for Point Resolution.



### **R I P Charlie Watts**

Back in 1965, drummer Charlie Watts stayed in the Norfolk Motel (now Parnell Pines Hotel) in Parnell Road. The Rolling Stones played at the Auckland Town Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> February of that year.



### **Future Events (we hope!)**

#### **2021 Annual General Meeting**



As already advised, our AGM will now take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at The Parnell Hotel, 10-20 Gladstone Road. Come along at 7.00pm and enjoy a free drink with us all, and the meeting will start at 7.30pm. It is hoped that Paul Slattery will talk about his ancestor, Joe Slattery, who had a boat-building business in Judges Bay early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### **Auckland Heritage Week**

This year the Festival runs from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with the theme, **Topography, taonga and trailblazers of Tāmaki Makaurau**. In conjunction with the Holy Trinity Cathedral and with thanks to organist Phillip Smith, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 12pm we will hold an organ recital in St Mary's, followed by refreshments in the Cathedral visitors' Centre. More details will be sent out nearer to the event.

#### **Parnell Rose Festival**

We will have a stall at the Parnell Rose Festival again this year – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 11.30am to 4.00pm.

Of course, the above events are subject to restrictions from the Covid pandemic. We will advise any changes as soon as they are known.

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If you have any suggestions for future events, or local places/history/people in which you are interested and that might be suitable subjects for events, please don't hesitate to contact Sue via the details given below.