



June 2018

Dear Members



We hope you are keeping warm and dry despite soggy Auckland!

So, Journal Number 7 is now launched and very well received all round. We had a delightful event at the Parnell Library for the launch and welcomed many members. Details of the presentations at the launch follow in this newsletter. Again, we all appreciated the extraordinary work and commitment of the Journal team that has produced another top-class journal full of interesting articles from Parnell's past. If you would like to buy a copy (\$15) please email enquiries@parnellheritage.org.nz or call 09 846 7661/022 647 5155.

This newsletter also reports on a most interesting event we shared with the members of Remuera Heritage. We were shown around the Church of Scientology at 136 Grafton Road where a huge amount of work has renovated the building of the Trinity Methodist Theological College, which originally opened in 1929, to its former glory.

As you know, our team of Executive members meet each month to address current local issues and to plan events. We would welcome new members to the Executive and we encourage you to offer to join our team – with its diverse members our meetings are always inspiring and helpful to the wider community.

Also, we welcome new members to the society and, of course, your input on any relevant matter and your suggestions for future events. Please do contact us by email on enquiries@parnellheritage.org.nz or call secretary Sue on 09 846 7661.

With best wishes,

Co-Chairs: Mary Barry and Julie Hill



Launch of Journal No. 7

This took place at the Parnell Library on Thursday 31st May 2018. We all enjoyed the evening with excellent refreshments and very interesting presentations. As the story of Parnell Library was one of the articles featured in the journal, historian, David Verran, told us about many Auckland libraries that existed since the first branch library was opened in Grafton Road in March 1913 where it remained until 1990. David joined the staff of Auckland Public Libraries in 1977 and worked at the Central Library, the former Mechanics Institute.

Apparently, in 1871 Auckland City Council was formed in the central business district which included Karangahape and Ponsonby Roads. Grey Lynn became a branch library in 1924, and Avondale Borough stretched to Manukau Harbour, known as Avondale South, and joined ACC in September 1927. As the area was so spread out, it was at first considered more suitable to be given a mobile library, but by June 1931 it had a purpose-built library.

Some libraries were set up in old buildings: for instance, the first Pt Chevalier Library was in a building transported from Remuera. In 1927 when suburbanization started to take place, Blockhouse Bay wanted their own library but it took a further 68 years before their library was built.



In 1990 there were discussions about forming a ‘mega-library’ in Newmarket, so several libraries were designated to be closed, but after public protests this didn’t occur. In the 1990’s people moved away to the suburbs so Grafton and Epsom libraries closed.

The second presentation was given by Gary Boyce who now lives and works in the original Parnell Library in Parnell Road, pictured left, and he gave some fascinating details of the building.

The original 1923 plans were drawn by architect M. K. Draffin and these were available for viewing at the meeting. Gary and Alison Boyce bought the building after Parnell Library moved to its current location in the Jubilee Building in 1996. The resource consent from

the Council finally came through in August 1997 enabling the Boyces to renovate the building. It had become very dilapidated, with water intrusion and many issues such as inferior aluminium windows needing replacement. Gary managed to get original drawings from the Council and replaced the windows to their original design.

As the Boyces got to know the building, they hoped to live there and so planned to develop an apartment within the building. After eighteen months building consents finally came through. The building exterior remains the same. Alison runs her business in the hall that housed the library. This has a 29’ stud and included a stage. Under the stage were the old unisex toilets. The Joyces raised the stage to incorporate a garage underneath, and they even have a garden on the building’s roof. They have managed to maintain the character of the building and there are even two original wall lights near the front entrance. Unfortunately, the garden area by the front door is owned by the Council and is not well maintained.



Visit to 136 Grafton Road



Earlier this month Robin Byron, Conservation Architect for Heritage NZ, led the tour of this interesting building, and Ali Axford from the Church of Scientology was our host.

The buildings in this complex have undergone meticulous renovation since being acquired by the Church of Scientology. Originally the site was granted to the Wesleyan Mission in 1844 by Governor Fitzroy. In 1925, a Dunedin architect, James Hodge White, designed the winning entry in a national competition to find the perfect design for a new Trinity Methodist Theological College, and the college opened in 1929 after two years of construction. Built in red brick and white Oamaru stone, it epitomises the Gothic Revival style to give a sense of tradition and learning.

Having suffered years of neglect since the 1970's while used as various educational institutions, the Church of Scientology took over the site several years ago and now the buildings in the complex, inside and out, present their original glory. The renovations included removing the roof tiles and replacing the repaired old tiles on the inner roofs, and new tiles on the outer. Also, poor quality cement grouting had been used for previous repairs and this, being impermeable, had forced water out through the bricks causing decay. The cement had to be removed and the correct lime mortar has now been applied. The beautiful Oamaru stone has been cleaned to give such an impressive effect.

Internally, too, it is all repainted and the oak and rimu timbers have been stripped and polished. There are impressive stone fireplaces and an amazing winding staircase.

If you missed this visit, the building will be open for tours from 10am to 6pm during the Auckland Heritage Week from 29th September to 14th October.

Events to come: -

Launch of *St Stephen's Taurarua: The History and Significance of the Judges Bay Chapels* (2nd enlarged edition, with profiles of People of St Stephens)



We are delighted to announce this launch of a new edition of Dr Warren Limbrick's excellent book. He published the original for the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Chapel and the first Constitution of 1857, which resulted from Bishop Selwyn's conference in the chapel.

The event will take place on the Selwyn Library, 8 St Stephen's Avenue, Parnell, on Sunday 22nd July 2018 at 3.30pm. Dean Anne Mills is the honoured guest speaker together with Dr Warren Limbrick, the author. We hope Bishop Ross Bay will also be able to attend. We do hope you will be able to come along. Refreshments and finger food will be served and members of the Anglican Historical Society and the Civic Trust are invited also.



2018 Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Thursday 13th September 2018 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Quality Hotel, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell – please add to your diary now! More details will be sent out nearer the event.

Auckland Heritage Festival from 29th September to 14th October 2018



Following the fascinating presentation given by Andrew Moyes at our 2017 AGM, when he spoke about the installation and specification of the Holy Trinity Cathedral organ, and we are holding a joint event with Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday 30th September from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Cathedral organist, Philip Smith, will give a half hour recital in St Mary's and a brief talk, followed by afternoon tea in the Bishop

Monteith Visitors' Centre. This event complies with the theme of this year's Auckland Heritage Festival which is 'Celebrating the heritage of our people', and music plays a very large part in this.

There is no charge for this event and we hope to see you all there.