



September 2019



Dove-Myer Robinson Park, Parnell

Dear Members

It's officially springtime!! I am sure we are all pleased to be looking forward to warm sunny days and walks in parkland and along beaches. We have both been engaged in heritage matters during the past quarter. Regarding the Erebus memorial, we met with a representative of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and we report on this meeting later in the Newsletter.

Also, with thanks to researcher Polly Smith, some details follow from her findings of the survey she conducted into people who volunteer for Auckland heritage organisations. Overall, most people said that volunteering made them happy, which is nice to hear, and the general motivation to be of help to the community helps to make Auckland such a great city.

Our recent AGM was a great success with presentations from Councillor Desley Simpson and Murray Cammick – details follow. Also, we are delighted to announce that Dr Rob Roche has joined the Parnell Heritage Executive.

Remember, if you would like to take a more active role in Parnell Heritage or to help happily(!) in any way, please contact Sue (who looks after our administration) at andreassensue@gmail.com / 09 846 7661 / 022 647 5155.

With best wishes,

Co-Chairs: Mary Barry and Julie Hill



Erebus Memorial



Whilst there is enormous sympathy for those who lost relatives in the Erebus disaster and it was recognised that the Dove Myer Park offered a beautiful contemplative setting for the memorial, several people in the Parnell community are concerned about the size of the memorial and would like to see it scaled-down.

As a result, Parnell Heritage wrote to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and in response Co-Chairs Julie Hill and Mary Barry were invited to meet with representatives from the Ministry at the proposed site. The Ministry representatives said they would like Parnell community organisations to arrange a meeting for them to talk to the local people about the issue. So, we will keep you informed about any meetings planned.

2019 Annual General Meeting

Over 30 people enjoyed a delightful evening at our 2019 AGM. We would like to thank the management of the Quality Hotel who again hosted the meeting in their excellent facilities, and their staff members could not have been more helpful. We recommend this hotel to you all for functions, or should you need accommodation for friends and relatives.



Following the official part of the meeting, Chair Julie Hill invited Councillor Desley Simpson, who has been Councillor for the Orakei Local Board for the past three years, to address those present.



Cr Desley spoke about members of her family who have been active in Auckland since 1878 when her Great-Great-Great-Uncle, Sir Henry Brett, was Mayor of Auckland. As well as a business man, Sir Henry was a musician and donated a magnificent pipe organ to the Auckland Town Hall when it opened in 1911. Cr Desley herself has played a pipe organ for thirty-five years.

Sir James Donald, Cr Desley's grandfather, was a member of government in charge of postal services and railways, and a member of the Harbour Board when the harbour bridge opened on 11th May 1959. Five years later they had to add the two outside lanes on each side of the bridge – at a cost in excess of the original bridge! A salutary lesson for future budget planners!



Cr Desley outlined the Auckland Heritage Snapshot that was published last year and gave interesting details and figures relating to this. It was obvious that Aucklanders valued heritage greatly. She emphasized the importance of the role held by societies in approaching local government for funding. There had been an increase of \$80,000 to \$500,000 in funds for heritage and regional grants.



Next Murray Cammick, photographer and music journalist, gave a delightful photographic trip through the Parnell music scene in the 1970's to late 1990's. The photos featured many Parnell landmarks including the White Heron and Windsor Castle Hotels, with many well-known members of the music scene mentioned, including Bob Marley, Iggy Pop and Charlie Watts.

Findings from a Survey of Auckland Volunteers

Polly Smith, researcher for The University of Auckland, conducted a survey recently to establish a greater understanding of the social benefits of the Auckland heritage sector. Volunteers from over seventy heritage organisations were invited to take part and the following indications have been extracted from the survey response: -



- 95% of heritage volunteers are aged 45 and over, with 55% retired and 37% in employment; 58% female/42% male; 90% identify as NZ European
- There are four prominent factors that motivate people to volunteer: -
 - Passion – for history and heritage
 - Connection – personal link to heritage feature or place
 - Community – charitable desire to help
 - Wellbeing – to meet new people, feel useful, keep engaged and active.
- Volunteering made 85% happy, 14% unsure, 1% not happy....
- Whilst participants reported declining levels of interest in their chosen society with a need for more volunteers, they were optimistic that in twelve months' time their group would be as strong if not stronger, reflecting the keen interest for Auckland's heritage.

Future Events

- The theme of the 2019 Auckland Heritage Festival, that runs from 5th to 28th October 2019, is *Journeys – the stories of how our people travelled to Tāmaki Makaurau by sea, by air or by land, to create a shared future together*. We will hold an evening with wine and nibbles at the Arcadia Bookshop, 26 Osborne Street, Newmarket, on Thursday 10th October 2019 from 5.30pm-7.00pm, in conjunction with Remuera Heritage and the Epsom and Eden Historical Society. Our journals and publications will be displayed along with those from the other Societies, and short presentations will be given by the authors of some of the articles, particularly regarding the theme of this year's Festival. The publications will be on sale, as well as the excellent range of books stocked by Arcadia Bookshop. Numbers will be limited so, if you would like to attend, it is essential you advise us via enquiries@parnellheritage.org.nz.
- On 17th November, we hope to take part in the Parnell Rose Festival by holding a stall, and we plan to hold stalls at the Parnell Farmers' Market at least twice during the year.

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