



\$2.5 million boost to restore Provincial Buildings

The Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage recently announced they will jointly provide funding of \$2.5 million for the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, to be used towards restoration and reconstruction of its Armagh and Durham street stone towers. When completed, this work is intended to enable the adjacent wooden buildings to re-open for public use as soon as possible.

Widely acknowledged as New Zealand's most outstanding example of High Victorian Gothic Revival architecture, the buildings were severely damaged in the 22 February 2011 earthquake. The Stone Chamber (1865) collapsed immediately, compounded by subsequent seismic activity. The Armagh Street stone tower collapsed and the Durham Street stone tower was damaged to the point where dismantling was necessary.

Dr Rod Carr, Trustee of Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust says, "Given the unique heritage value of these buildings and their importance as a venue for cultural and other activities, the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust is very pleased to help get this project underway".



Photo: David Reynolds

The Armagh Street tower in better days.

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At this point the Armagh and Durham Street stone towers have been dismantled to a height of 2-4 m above ground level. The \$2.5 million is to be put to their restoration and reconstruction, opening up the principal public access way to the buildings, through the Armagh Street tower. Funding of \$1.25 million is being provided by the Ministry for

Culture and Heritage to match the \$1.25 million granted by the Appeal Trust. The restoration of the two towers supports a landmark recovery project, significant to the Christchurch City Council's contribution towards rebuilding of the city. "This is great news for Christchurch and will be well-received locally and internationally.

I am excited we have secured this funding so we can preserve some of Christchurch's unique story and make significant parts of this iconic building available for public use once more. So much has already been lost here in Christchurch it's great to celebrate this good news and take this positive step forward in restoring the Canterbury Provincial Building," says Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel.

Dr Anna Crighton, Chair of Canterbury Earthquake Heritage Buildings Fund says, "The Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings are the last remaining purpose-built provincial parliament buildings in New Zealand. The ornate and detailed stone council chamber has a particularly significant heritage value and these were the first buildings listed as a Category 1 Historic Building by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust."

Assessments by engineers confirmed that the timber portions of the buildings are repairable, however the stone towers and chamber will require major works. Christchurch City Council has been dismantling, stabilising and making safe all the buildings, ensuring they are weather proof.

The remains of the Stone Chamber have been stabilised but a decision on whether to rebuild this part of the complex has yet to be made. The total cost of restoration and reconstruction of the Provincial building complex is yet to be determined, but it is estimated to exceed the total insurance pay-out of approximately \$30 million. Work is expected to commence this year.

A word from the Chair

The Board met in Christchurch in February – our grateful thanks to the Canterbury Museum who very kindly hosted us for the day. At the end of the meeting the Board undertook a walk of the area comprising the central city – not an easy experience and



Punishing pace tells: Laura Kellaway, Becky Harfield, Robyn Burgess, David Reynolds, Jenny May, David Bade, Amanda Ohs and Phillip Hartley enjoying a Christchurch easterly after a bout of disorientation.

certainly now a very disorientating one.

I am delighted to announce that at that meeting Ian Bowman was duly elected Vice Chairperson by the Board Executive. Ian is a long-time member of ICOMOS NZ and a well-recognised conservation architect and it is fantastic to have him in this position.

Over the past year the Board has, in line with the review of its structure which was approved by the Board in 2013, prepared a discussion document on succession planning. One of the more debated items has been whether or not to introduce limited time for terms of office for the Chair and Board members. At this meeting the Board agreed that the status quo will remain and that there will be no limit set for terms of office or time on the Board. Annual elections for the Chair and office holders as well as Board members will remain in the current format.

Committees and working groups have established their terms of reference and agreed work plans within that though some are still to elect chairs; interim chairs are in place where required but here is an update:

NZ Charter Working Group: David Reynolds

World Heritage Committee: Kevin Jones

Heritage@Risk Committee: Mary O'Keefe

Technical and Materials Working Group: Ian Bowman

AGM

A heads up that the AGM will be held in Dunedin this year from 31 October-2 November – but more about that later!

Below are the dates for the remaining 2014 ICOMOS NZ Board meetings – please feel free to send any matters to me that you wish to raise at Board meetings or indeed any matters you feel we need to look at when we are in the cities as listed below:

7 June 2014 (Auckland)
2 August 2014 (Christchurch)
31 October- 2 November 2014 – AGM (Dunedin)
6 December 2014 (Wellington)

– Jenny May

ICOMOS New Zealand Travel Scholarship Announced

In 2013 ICOMOS New Zealand established an annual travel scholarship to encourage and assist heritage professionals and students to undertake further education or professional development in subjects that support the development of heritage expertise within New Zealand.

"We are delighted to announce that the 2014 ICOMOS New Zealand Travel Scholarship heritage has been awarded to Auckland heritage advisor **Angela Scott**. The scholarship will assist Angela in travelling to Rome to study at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, (ICCROM)," says ICOMOS NZ Chair Jenny May.



Angela is Heritage Technical Advisor for Northern North Island Region in the Department of Conservation, based in Auckland. Her background is in archaeology and cultural heritage management.

The scholarship is for up to \$1,000 awarded on an annual basis and is a travelling scholarship – national or international though it may include a contribution towards tuition or course fees if the travel costs are under \$1,000.

A call for applications for the 2015 scholarship will be made towards the end of this year.

Who's New?

Gretel Boswijk is a senior lecturer in the School of Environment at the University of Auckland. She studied Archaeology and Prehistory at the University of Sheffield, and specialised in dendrochronology. Her research interests are in Environmental Change, dendroarchaeology, and the kauri timber industry, and she has a growing interest in recent landscape change and heritage issues.



Wendy Hoddinott is a heritage landscape architect with Opus International Consultants in Ōtautahi/Christchurch and for the past 7 years has enjoyed working on local heritage projects - both through design work and the preparation of landscape conservation plans.



Wendy's work has taken her to some remarkable sites and settings including Takapuneke on Banks Peninsula for which she was engaged by Christchurch City Council to be part of a consultant team

providing input into the Takapuneke Conservation Plan. Her input included research into the cultural landscape history of Takapuneke, identification of site elements of Pakeha significance, mapping changes to the landscape over time and developing policies for landscape heritage values. Other sites and settings where she has undertaken similar work include Tautahi Pa/The Bricks, the first place of occupation for Canterbury Association surveyors and Christchurch's first trade entrance, the historic residential gardens of the late Dame Ngaio Marsh on Cashmere Hills and Grubb Cottage in Lyttelton.

The majority of her work since the beginning of 2013 has been to provide heritage input and advice to the design team for the Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, and North and East Frames, two of the Anchor Projects for the Christchurch city rebuild.

In May this year she starts a PhD at Lincoln University having recently received a Lincoln University Doctoral Scholarship to assist her studies. She will continue to work part time with an aim to continue her interest in historic and documentary research and the preparation of landscape conservation plans.

Alex Laird is a structural Engineer working for Opus International Consultants Ltd. Based in Christchurch he has been carrying out seismic assessments and strengthening schemes on a number of heritage buildings from un-reinforced masonry churches to pre-1900 gaols.



Prior to Christchurch he worked in the UK as a structural engineer specialising in the structural works associated with the preservation and adaptive re-use of 18-19th Century country houses. He has enjoyed a wealth of interesting and challenging projects here and moved to Christchurch as it is a fantastic gateway to the mountains and the sea.

Bev Parslow Came to archaeology later in life in the late 1980s entering Auckland University as an adult student, did the archaeology field school at end of her BA year and then undertook a stint as a volunteer on excavations in London, Greece and Egypt before returning to NZ to start her MA.



Her research focus at the time was on gender in archaeology, specifically women and fishing in the Pacific, culminating in re-locating to Otago University working with Richard Walter

toward a PhD proposal as part of his Niue research.

The early 1990s saw a boom in Auckland CBD development and Bev's focus turned to employment as a contractor for Bioresarches Ltd, grounding her interest firmly in historic archaeology, particularly urban archaeology.

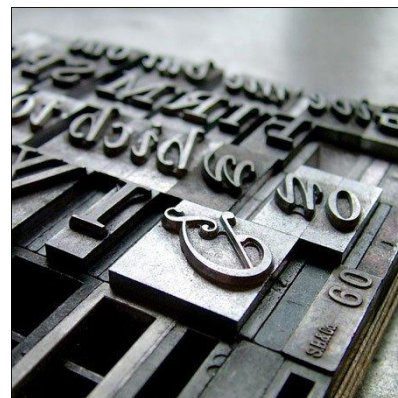
In 1995 Bev was appointed Regional Archaeologist with Heritage New Zealand in Auckland where she has fostered her interests in archaeological site protection and management, undertaking a number of small collaborative research-based or rescue excavations at Medlands, and Browns Spar Station Mahurangi and broader heritage identification and management projects - City @ Risk and Learning Quarter University of Auckland. Bev is also a member of member of NZAA and ASHA, the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology.



New Student member **Stacy Vallis** is currently studying towards a Master of Architecture (Professional) at the University of Auckland. Studying History and

Classical Studies, combined with many an episode of Time Team, has resulted in her aspiration to pursue a career in conservation.

Stacy is looking forward to participating in and following the work of ICOMOS, both in New Zealand and overseas.



ICOMOS

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The Victoria Clock Tower and Victoria Mansions on the corner of Victoria and Montreal Streets. Both were quake-damaged.

Canterbury Tales

Amanda Ohs reports on some good news coming out of Christchurch this month.



A rare win for Christchurch heritage in a billboard application case

Pre-earthquake the heritage team dealt with a number of billboard applications, and rarely succeeded in preventing the effects of billboards on listed heritage buildings. In February 2014 Commissioner Ken Lawn declined a wall mounted billboard sign (18 m x 8 m; 144 square metres in area) at 83 Victoria Street in his planning hearing decision. The billboard was proposed to sit behind and to one side of the Group 3 listed heritage building Victoria Mansions and the Group 2 Victoria Clock Tower.

The Commissioner in his decision

notes "The view down Victoria Street, coming into the city centre, is also framed by the Victoria Mansions and the Clock tower. They are part of the character of this entrance to the City. The billboard is a large feature which competes with the views of those buildings although it does sit mainly to one side of those buildings. But from most viewpoints along Victoria Street it sits partly behind, and also above, the building outline of Victoria Mansions."

The Commissioner concluded "that the billboard does have more than minor adverse effects on the amenity and heritage values of significant parts of Victoria Street."

CERA declines Public Trust demolition

CERA has declined an application to demolish the Public Trust building in Oxford Terrace, under section 38 of the CER Act on the 20th February.

In a first, the decision and its rationale was fully documented and made available proactively under the Official Information Act. Roger Sutton, Chief Executive of CERA further considered an internal staff decision of 31 January that the building should be demolished



The Public Trust Building - demolition denied

under section 38. Sutton considered the issue of whether or not to demolish the building using the powers under section 38 of the CER Act in accordance with the purposes of the CER Act to be finely balanced, noting the benefits to the community and the owner of enabling a timely, economic and expedited recovery. However he also considered that the demolition would be inconsistent with the cultural well-being element in section 3(g) of the CER Act, and would exclude any community participation that might otherwise occur with demolition was undertaken through the RMA process.

Photos: Christchurch City Council

The owner asserted that the building was uneconomic to repair and that it would be unable to attract tenants back into the repaired building at commercially viable rates, however Sutton was not satisfied this was the case based on the information provided. He decided not to exercise his powers under section 38 of the CER Act as he considered demolition to not be “reasonably considered necessary.”

Shand's Emporium pirouettes on site

Resource Consent (non-notified) was granted by a Commissioner in November 2013 for the temporary relocation on site of Shand's Emporium.

The owner's (Anthony Gough) intention is to enable construction work his \$140 million dollar, 8500 square metre 'The Terrace' development on the Hereford/Oxford Terrace site to begin and provide a temporary home for the building while a new owner is sought to permanently relocate it off the site.

The building is a Group 2 Protected Heritage Item in the Christchurch City Plan, and is registered as a Category I Historic Place by Heritage New Zealand.



Above: Pre-quake Shand's was sandwiched between Gough House and the former NZ Trust and Loan Building, both now demolished.
Right: Shand's is parked.



Waiting for wheels, Shand's had been exposed to the elements for more than two years.

Relocation of Group 2 heritage buildings in the Central city is a restricted discretionary activity.

Shand's is a unique example of early colonial timber commercial architecture in central Christchurch, and is the oldest remaining purpose-built commercial building in the City. For today's community, the building on its site was an important cultural anchor, providing one of very few reference points to the colonial city. In the context of the rebuild of Christchurch, Shand's could have been a unique point from which to navigate the past, present

and future city. The Council Heritage Planner's report recommended the application be declined due to the overall effects on heritage values of relocating the building off its original site, and the lack of evidence provided as part of the application to indicate that all other means of retaining the building on its site had been exhausted.

Shand's has only moderate structural and earthquake damage – it has particularly suffered from the demolition of its neighbouring buildings, and a lack of weather-tightness as a result of the



Photos: Christchurch City Council

chimney breaking through the roof, and missing cladding on large portions of the east and west facades.

Tony Ussher, conservation architect for the relocation project, provided a Temporary Protection Plan to ensure the building endured the minimal intrusion possible into its heritage fabric to prepare it for relocation.

The building is now on its temporary location to the rear of Antony Gough's redevelopment site on Oxford Terrace, and has been made weathertight with ply.

The Press reported on 25 December that Gough had gifted the building to Peter Croft who planned to relocate Shand's to Redcliffs, near a very similar building known as Mother Hubbard that he relocated from the central city in the late 1990s and restored. Further resource consent is required for relocation of Shand's off its site.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust becomes Heritage New Zealand

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust is now known as Heritage New Zealand. The te reo Maori name of the organisation, Pouhere Taonga, remains the same.

"The name change is one of a number of changes included in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill currently before Parliament that effectively completes the organisation's transition from NGO to Crown Entity," says Heritage New Zealand Chief Executive, Bruce Chapman.

"Although we have been a Crown Entity since 2004, the Bill incorporates some changes to the governance of the organisation, removes provisions for branch committees, provides for recognition of two new categories of heritage sites: national historic landmarks and wahi tupuna, and simplifies and streamlines existing regulatory processes.

"With the introduction of a large number of policy and procedural changes that will need to occur on the date the Bill, once passed, takes effect, it makes sense to complete all the work involved with changing the name ahead of the legislation. And of course the change to the legislation is not a pre-requisite to the change of name."

Stencilled decoration makes brief reappearance at St Michael's



Photo: Christchurch City Council collection

St Michael's showing the Gothic reredos and stencilled decoration in about 1895. The coloured stencilling was recovered from the organ loft at the left of the chancel.

Jenny May

St Michael and All Angels, a timber Gothic Revival church built in 1872 and designed by William Fitzjohn Crisp (1846–1924), performed well, as many timber buildings did, through the seismic events in Christchurch. Internally there was minimal damage, cracked lath and plaster the most telling. Church services continued and the church hosted many and varied events; its wonderful acoustics providing a venue for some superb post-quake concerts.

St Michael's is a treasure. It is truly well loved and well maintained. Its cultural heritage significance, both

tangible and intangible is well understood. It has a Group 1 City Plan listing and has a Category 1 NZHPT registration.

So when the seismic repairs recently completed in the church revealed some hidden hints of its past ecclesiastical Victorian décor I was somewhat bemused that there was not more interest in their discovery.

While visiting the site in a personal capacity during the repair work, I enquired as to whether any of the original stencilled detail in the chancel had been discovered.



Above and right: Three examples of stencilled decoration revealed in the organ loft on the left of the chancel.

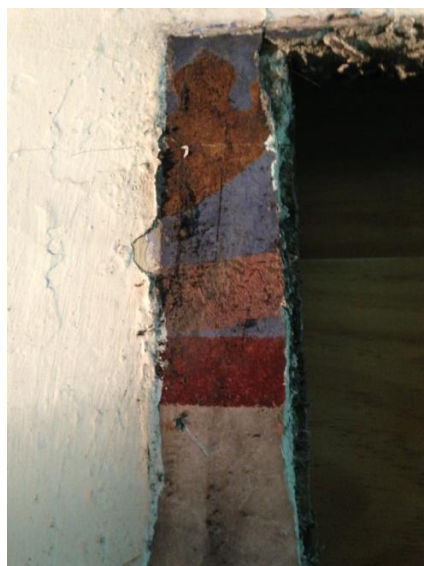
Blank looks responded. Despite having a conservation plan and photographs hanging in the church which clearly showed the early stencils, the plaster had been removed from the chancel and disposed of without any investigation or it seemed, knowledge of their existence.

Feeling a little flat at this lost opportunity and the fact that I was perhaps being a little too hopeful of any survival of such detail 140 years later, I turned to walk away and there in the area that had housed the organ to the side of the chancel I could see colour and pattern visible in the plaster.

This was an area that had not been subject, as the chancel had been, to change that involved much more than paint over time. Containing my excitement I casually indicated that this was what I meant as though I knew it was there all the time! A wonderful find but the chance to stall work and investigate further what remained was not to be and there was little I could do.

I blame to some degree, the changes to the Christchurch City Plan post-quake which enables certain levels of central city earthquake repair on heritage buildings to be undertaken without the requirement of resource consent and therefore enforceable conditions particularly around discovery.

It was but a brief moment in time to examine this work. The stencils in this area were rather poor in their execution and not the quality of what had appeared in the early photographs of the chancel –



perhaps it was the apprentice's area.

I made a plea for this area of plaster to be carefully removed to enable us to have paint layers removed and see what emerged. So my colleague Gareth and I were later given the opportunity to go through the removed plaster which we have carefully wrapped and there it now sits behind my desk until funds to investigate it further by a conservator are found. The intention is to have pieces on display at St Michael's.

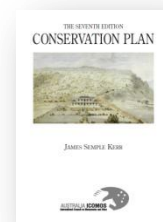
While it was all a rather exciting find what saddens me about all this is the lack of understanding and the loss of opportunity. If there is no regulatory system in place then we have no

way of setting conditions that allow for the monitoring of projects.

While I accept that the lath and plaster was in damaged condition post-quake and the walls required bracing elements it did not, in my opinion, preclude the opportunity to rethink how this was done. Some of the original stencilled fabric could have been left in situ so that the evidence of the past could be read in the present and tell the story to future generations.

I guess this tale raises the question for me about being more proactive in assisting building owners and managers to gain an understanding of the significance of cultural heritage retention and the role of the ICOMOS Charter in this.

Conservation Plan available as free download



James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan* was first published by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 1982. Since then it has evolved and expanded

through six editions and twelve impressions. It has been widely used, not only by heritage practitioners and owners in Australasia but worldwide.

It outlines the logical processes of the *Burra Charter*, and how to prepare a Conservation Plan to guide and manage change to a heritage item appropriately.

In 2013, Dr Kerr generously allowed Australia ICOMOS to provide this 7th edition version of *The Conservation Plan* as a free-of-charge download. Australia ICOMOS is delighted to be able to help make this publication nationally and internationally accessible in this way.

[The Conservation Plan, 7th Edition Large File Size](#) (pdf, 15MB)

[The Conservation Plan, 7th Edition Reduced File Size](#)

This project has been assisted by funds allocated to the Royal Australian Historical Society through the Heritage Branch of the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage.

Photos: Jenny May

2014 Conferences & Training opportunities

Flood Protection for Historic Sites

International conference: "Flood Protection for Historic Sites"
Dresden, Germany
13-14 June 2014

An international colloquium on "Flood Protection for Historic Sites: Integrating Heritage Conservation and Flood Control Concepts" will take place on 13-14 June 2014 at the Technical University in Dresden, under the patronage of the Saxon Minister of the Interior and in association with the German National Committee of ICOMOS.

Increasingly frequent disasters involving high water have led to efforts in many parts of the world to enhance flood protection. Although the extensive structural measures that are often undertaken also protect historic sites, at times these very measures can impair a site's special values. Not enough attention has been given in the past to such adverse effects.

This interdisciplinary colloquium will discuss relevant experiences from various contexts and professional perspectives.

Further information can be found in [the Flood Protection for Historic Sites flier](#) and at the [conference website](#).

New Zealand Archaeological Association 60th Anniversary Conference

Christchurch
Wednesday 25 June - Sat 28 June 2014

Proposed sessions:

- Earthquake archaeology
- The bicentennial and its consequences
- Managing archaeological collections
- Nostalgia: 60th anniversary of NZAA

- Māori archaeology of Canterbury and beyond
- Technology

Click the link below for [Conference Information](#)

CIPA Cultural Heritage 3D Surveying and Modeling Summer School

Paestum, Italy, July 2014

The [International Committee for Documentation of Cultural Heritage \(CIPA\)](#) summer school on "Cultural Heritage 3D Surveying and Modeling" gives the opportunity to scholars, PhD students, researchers and specialists in the surveying and heritage fields to deepen their knowledge and expertise with reality-based 3D modeling techniques.

The summer school consists of theoretical lectures (surveying, photogrammetry, active sensors, etc.) and practical work, in the field and in the lab. The participants will learn the basics in surveying and data acquisition (with digital cameras, laser scanning sensors and UAV platforms) as well as practice with data processing methods for 3D models and metric products generation.

The summer school is organized within the research project [PAESTUM](#) and by CIPA within its dissemination and technology transfer activities and with the financial support of the CIPA sustaining members.

Venue

The location of the school is Paestum, 50 km south of Salerno (Italy). Paestum can be reached by car or train. The closest international airports are Rome or Naples. The event will take place in the [Hotel Villa Rita](#) and inside the archaeological area and museum of [Paestum](#).

Registration Fee & Participation

The registration fee for participation is 600 Eur.

The fee includes: lecture material, entrance to the site and museum, full-board hotel, welcome party, social dinner.

To participate, please [email a CV to Fabio Remondino](#) by **23 May 2014**. The max number of participants is 24. The participant selection will be done according to the CV and order of arrival of the request.

For further information, see the [CIPA Summer School_Paestum, July 2014](#) flier.



ICOM New Zealand Conference 2014:
22-23 September
Auckland Museum

Pacific Connections

Call for Papers

The 2014 ICOM New Zealand conference will be held on 22-23 September at Auckland Museum. This two-day gathering for museum professionals, students, academics, artists and others interested in museums and their role in society in Aotearoa New Zealand will be focused on questions relating to the relevance and work of our museums in relation to the Pacific.

<http://icomnewzealand.wordpress.com/2014/04/23/icom-new-zealand-conference-2014-call-for-papers/>

Heritage and Landscape as Human Values

9 - 14 November 2014,
Florence, Italy

Scientific Symposium

Main theme: Heritage and
Landscape as Human Values

Sub-themes

1. Sharing and experiencing the identity of communities through tourism and interpretation
2. Landscape as cultural habitat
3. Sustainability through traditional knowledge
4. Community driven conservation and local empowerment
5. Emerging tools for conservation practice

Full details at:

<http://www.icomos.org/en/about-icomos/governance/general-information-about-the-general-assembly/18th-general-assembly-florence-2014>

Scholarships for the Advanced Masters in Structural Analysis of Monuments and Historical Constructions

Applications for the Advanced Masters in Structural Analysis of Monuments and Historical Constructions, approved by the European Commission within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Programme, are opened until 20 May 2014.

This Master Course is organized by a Consortium of leading European Universities/Research Institutions in the field, composed by University of Minho (coordinating institution, Portugal), the Technical University of Catalonia (Spain), the Czech

Technical University in Prague (Czech Republic), the University of Padua (Italy) and the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic).

The course combines the most recent advances in research and development with practical applications.

A significant number of scholarships, ranging from 3500 to 13000 Euro, are available to students of any nationality.

The SAHC leaflet can be downloaded [by clicking here](#). Please find full details on the MSC programme, as well as electronic application procedure, at the [course website](#).



Capability Brown: perception and response in a global context

September 2016 – call for papers

"Capability Brown: perception and response in a global context"
University of Bath, England
9–11 September 2016

Deadline for abstracts: 31 August 2014

Download the full call for papers by [clicking here](#)

An ICOMOS-UK International Conference in collaboration with the University of Bath, in association with the Garden History Society and the National Trust, and supported by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes.

The landscape designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716–1783) changed the face of 18th-century England. Yet Brown left no written explanation of his work. Much must be inferred from his surviving landscapes and by seeing his work

in the wider context of the naturalistic style that developed in Europe and in countries influenced by Europe.

In 2016 the tercentenary of his birth is being celebrated as an opportunity to reflect on his life, work, style and significance.

This international conference, organised by the ICOMOS-UK Cultural Landscapes and Historic Gardens Committee in collaboration with the University of Bath, will be one of the major events in the Capability Brown Tercentenary year. Internationally renowned researchers and practitioners will present Brown's work in a global context and explore the ways in which it has been interpreted over the last 250 years.

With partners including the Garden History Society and the National Trust, this conference will be one of the highlights of the first-ever Capability Brown Birthday and Festival, bringing together in a national campaign a huge range of events, openings, exhibitions and publications.

For further information [email ICOMOS-UK](#).

Media Matters: *No place for nostalgia?*

Curiously and curiously may be the only words that describe the past three months in Cathedral Square and activity in *The Press* office not too far away from it.

January saw **Rob Hall**, Southern General Manager for Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand) tell *The Press* he was offering "to act as an intermediary between the Anglican Diocese and groups wanting restoration to find a 'compromise solution,' hoping "... a compromise would save at least part of the landmark, while ensuring the rebuild met the needs of the modern church."

Christchurch Mayor **Lianne Dalziel** was quick to support Hall's initiative. Dalziel told *The Press* the High Court proceedings over the cathedral's demolition were not just about private interests. "They are about the public interest in doing what we can to retain an important part of our city's heritage," she said.

Bishop Victoria Matthews responded to Hall's offer saying "The media have made a bit of a scene over the fact CPT (Church Property Trustees) politely declined the invitation of Historic Places Trust to 'broker' a compromise about the Cathedral in the Square. In fact we have suggested any organization named Historic Places Trust could not act as a broker as they are required to hold a particular view of historic places, as their name suggests.

They are not allowed to be neutral. I also asked why they waited 15 months to contact us as we were having this conversation in the public realm quite some time ago. Lastly, CPT has reached a decision and announced it publicly, so if CPT were to enter into a new and different conversation designed to reach a compromise, CPT might well be accused of not keeping our word. But of course you won't hear those details from the media," she said.

The Press, once the last refuge of both humour and menace in the letters columns of a New Zealand newspaper and perhaps the last newspaper to run a regular lift out section on sheep breeding, astounded many by holding another poll on the fate of Christ Church Cathedral, the first since their 2012 poll found that a majority of Canterbury residents did not want to

spend public money saving the building (or running the temporary cardboard cathedral for that matter). Back in May 2012 54% of Cantabrians favoured demolition; 42% opposed it.

But times have changed in Christchurch over the intervening two years. The baby boomers weren't all hiding out in the suburbs waiting for Ballantynes to re-open – when the cordons came down they were exploring the CBD on Sunday afternoons in their jeans and cross trainers, rejigging their mental maps of the old town, marvelling at new vistas of the Edmonds Band Rotunda from as far away as Hereford Street and no doubt asking how it was that the old Government Buildings and the Arts

a foundation be set up to handle the restoration "independent of the Anglican church, but with their cooperation," he told *The Press*.

Later in the month another visitor from the old country, The Archbishop of York **Dr John Sentamu**, dropped in to add his support to the cathedral demolition and add his few cents worth on rebuild possibilities.

"Nostalgia doesn't work" he told *The Press*, plumping for something 'contemporary and wonderful'. "It's not about the building, it's about the people", he said. (It seems to work in the north of England, though. York Minster is currently having nearly \$40,000,000 NZ spent on its restoration programme).

Christ Church Cathedral campaigner **Jim Anderton** categorised the Archbishop's demolition call as "unqualified and disappointing."

Mortgage and real estate wiz **Mike Pero** weighed in on the argument in early April appearing on breakfast television in 60

second commercial slots on TV One, TV3, Prime and Canterbury Television supporting the cathedral restoration.

"I'm one of the few in Christchurch who has restored 100-year-old buildings in Christchurch [and] I was batting to have it removed until I got the facts about 18 months ago," he told *The Press*. Pero's commercial also features views of Christchurch locals supporting the restoration.

Rounding off the month, on 28 April the High Court heard two cases brought by the Church Property Trustees. One sought to lift the stay of demolition which would enable the cathedral walls to be reduced to about 3 metres; the second challenged the ruling which said the church should not have used insurance money on building the transitional cathedral.

On 30 April Justice Panckhurst reserved his decision.

– David Reynolds



Photo: Screenhot TV3

Centre were still standing while all the place markers of the old town, just under 50 per cent of the scheduled heritage buildings within the four avenues, had been consigned in very expensive truckloads out to the Bottle Lake dump.

When Cantabrians were polled in early March, 46.8% voted yes to the cathedral restoration option, 30.7% voted no and 22.5% responded positively to the option "stop asking I'm sick of this debate!"

Just how this relates to the future of other standing heritage buildings in Christchurch is unclear. One suspects that the cathedral debate and fear of unreinforced masonry, regardless of strengthening, hinders much reasoned discussion of preservation of historic buildings outside Cathedral Square.

Rich lister **Hamish Ogston** who first pledged \$4 million to the cathedral restoration back in 2011 was back in town in early March. He's now prepared to fund an independent survey to gauge the views of Christchurch residents regarding the building.

More provocative was his suggestion that

A summer stroll in the Garden City

ICOMOS Board members took a stroll after the February Board meeting, retracing much of the path they followed in February 2011 when they inspected damage resulting from the 4 September 2010 quake.

Clockwise from upper left:

Board members outside Christchurch's most propped building the former Municipal Chambers; dismantled gable ends at the Arts Centre await reconstruction behind recycled iron; the 1964 Government Life building awaiting demolition; votive offerings in Tuam Street, and the former Miller's building wrapped for demolition.



Photo: Rhony Burgess

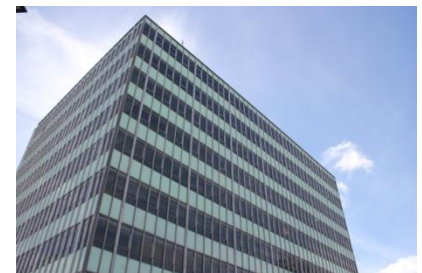


Photo: Grace Von Huben

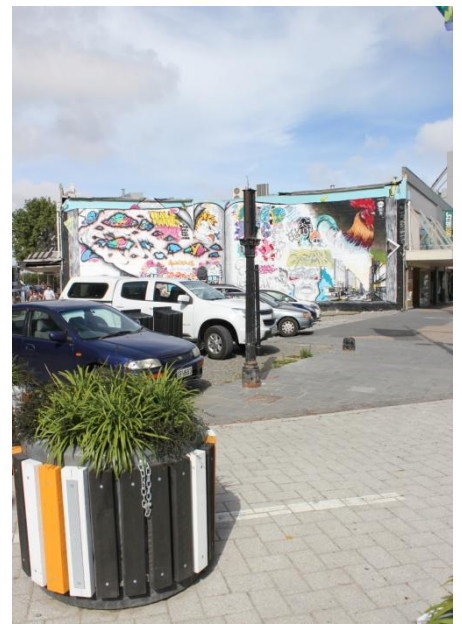


Above: Flashback: Board members gathered on the corner of Poplar Lane and Tuam Street in February 2011 and at right, the same area two years later after clear-felling.



Above left: The Manchester St facade of the Excelsior Hotel, propped with shipping containers. **Above right:** Close by, the Former McKenzie & Willis in Tuam Street, like the Excelsior, bides its time waiting for further funding.

Right: Positive proof that you can't keep people away from heritage buildings and scary menus. The edgy C1 Espresso, jolted out of its premises on the corner of Tuam and High Streets, re-opened in the solid former High Street Post Office in 2013. Call in for breakfast and you'll be treated to this fold-out menu cover and maybe the sight of a mini burger delivered to your table through the old post office's re-fitted Lamson Tube system.



Above left: A quiet Saturday in Cathedral Square as tourists and locals check out the cathedral and the inner city wasteland. **Above right:** Iron treasure: A single verandah post reminds us of William Armson's stunning Fisher's Building on the corner of High and Hereford Streets.

Photos: David Reynolds