



Softly does it in the city at risk

ICOMOS NZ is urging the Christchurch City Council to take particular care in assessing damage to its heritage buildings, following Saturday's devastating earthquake and to learn from the lessons of the 2007 Gisborne earthquake where a number of damaged heritage buildings were demolished when expert advice could have saved them.

ICOMOS New Zealand takes the view that engineering advice that is sympathetic to heritage values is important and that the top-ranked heritage buildings that have come through the quake with only moderate damage are testaments to good engineering interventions of the last decade or so.



As the diggers move in to Christchurch streets, Dr Ian Lochhead, (left) a board member of ICOMOS and Associate Professor

of architectural history at the University of Canterbury urges the earthquake cleanup authorities to seek advice before making decisions on the fates of buildings.

"Many buildings that look in a grim state can, in fact, be saved. There should be no precipitous clearing or removal of heritage buildings or structures, and priority should be given to stabilisation, repair, and reconstruction."

He said "Christchurch has a rich stock of architecturally significant buildings. The city's built heritage is an important part of the city's identity and attraction, and ICOMOS urges owners of heritage places that have been damaged to undertake appropriate action and seek appropriate advice."

ICOMOS is reassured by statements from the Christchurch City Council Policy and Approvals manager, Steve McCarthy who said "We don't



Damage to the octagonal room makes it the second time round for Cranmer Square's 1875 former Normal School, now Cranmer Court, which lost two towers after an earthquake in 1928.

Photo: Ann Devereaux

want anyone taking any pre-emptive action because they think a building is unsafe. What we want to do is protect those buildings as much as we can." ICOMOS confirms this approach should be followed throughout the affected

region. ICOMOS considers undue haste to get back to normal should not be allowed to compromise the long-term objectives of repair and reconstruction of heritage.

Ian Lochhead advises "Material that has fallen from buildings should also be carefully assessed because what initially appears to be rubble can contain valuable, reusable material that, when reinstated, will help to preserve the heritage value of damaged buildings."





So what does it mean if we put a comma after 'reconstruction'? A moment for serious reflection for members of the Charter Review Group.

Charter approved - thanks for the feedback!

The ICOMOS Board met last Saturday in circumstances memorable as much for the steady update of texts from quake-ridden Christchurch as for the final approval of the revised ICOMOS New Zealand Charter.

Following the June 2010 Board meeting the draft charter was circulated to all ICOMOS members inviting a final round of feedback on the text. The Board sends its thanks all those who provided comments on the penultimate draft.

The charter review group met on 21 September 2010, considered all the comments of members and the changes proposed by them, and acted upon members' proposed changes, making amendments to the draft revised charter.

The draft revised charter has now been approved by the Board and will be circulated to members and other key users shortly in PDF form. A printed version and Maori translation will follow. 

Crown Minerals Act - Schedule 4

The government confirmed recently that it no longer plans to remove any land from Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act for the purposes of further mineral exploration or extraction.

ICOMOS NZ made a submission to the Minister of Energy on this important issue, as the land contained in Schedule 4 of the Act contains many archaeological sites, including many areas of historic gold mining.

ICOMOS made five key points:

- that there was no mention of the importance of historic heritage in the discussion document issued by the Ministry.
- We were disappointed at the lack of adequate consideration given in the discussion document to the existence of significant historic heritage in many of the areas mentioned for Schedule 4 protection removal, particularly on Te Ahumata Plateau (Great Barrier Island), the Coromandel Peninsula and in the Inangahua Section (Paparoa National Park).
- There was no mention in the discussion document of the protection mechanisms of the RMA and HPA.

- The discussion document also notes that there will be further investigations (not currently subject to section 4) in the Coromandel Peninsula, the Dun Mountain area, mesothermal gold areas in Otago, the Longwood complex and parts of Stewart Island. All these areas contain significant historic mining sites and/or pre-European stone quarries or both.
 - If there is to be a mitigation fund from mining royalties then it needs to include cultural heritage within its scope and administered using appropriate cultural heritage expertise.
- Charter approved - 

Annual general Meeting Tauranga

Friday 5 – Sunday 7
November 2010

Details follow

Christchurch heritage@risk



Above left and right: Damaged and scheduled for demolition is Christchurch's first high rise, the Category 1 Manchester Courts, formerly the NZ Express Co building, (Alfred and Sidney Luttrell, 1905-6).



Below: Damaged. The Category 1 Community of the Sacred Name in Barbados Street, (J.G. Collins, 1911-12, with earlier sections by B.W. and C.J. Mountfort), has sustained damage front and rear. Photos: Ann Devereaux





Clockwise from top: Damage to the gable end of the 1905 nave extension, Holy Trinity, Avonside (Category I); detached facade, Empire Hotel, Lyttelton; the only fire-damaged building in the CBD in Worcester St; and one of the lucky ones in Hereford St. Photos: Ann Devereaux





Nuclear weapon test Romeo at Nam Island, Bikini Atoll, 28 February 1954.
Photo: U.S. Dept of Energy

Bikini Atoll and Australian Convict Sites on the World Heritage List

Kevin L. Jones

The 34th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting in Brasilia has added Bikini Atoll and a serial list of 11 Australian convict sites to the World Heritage list.

Bikini Atoll

In 1946, Bikini Atoll, the northernmost of the Ralik Chain, was the site of an early series of atomic bomb tests named 'Operation Crossroads'. Bikini is also the name of one particular island nearest the site if the tests on the north-east of the atoll.

An atoll is an irregularly ring-shaped reef with a chain of islands built up on the reef. The central sea water lake or lagoon is usually connected by a deep pass or passes to the open sea. In trade wind areas there may be a greater build-up of islets on the windward side and a series of small channels draining the lagoon though the leeward side of the reef.

The original vegetation of the ring of islands was zones of mixed broadleaf forest of low stature with a climax forest of *Neiosperma* and *Pisonia grandis* (a very tall tree). Herbaceous plants such as some bunch grasses may have been dominant in dry interiors and in seabird colonies. About 10 species of seabird breed on the Marshall Islands and seven pelagic roaming species pass through the area.

The land area of Bikini Island is abandoned land because of radiation risk and still has restricted use. Its vegetation was largely destroyed by the thermonuclear tests in 1954 but has since recovered.

The events of Operation Crossroads had high significance at the end of WW II and also in the opening phases of the Cold War.

The target area in the Bikini lagoon is about 5 km south-east of Bikini, a small island about 5 km long and no more than 1 km wide.

There were two atomic blasts: the first, Able, an air blast, and the second, Baker, underwater. From the US point of view they destroyed symbolic vessels of a defeated enemy and demonstrated the capability of atomic weapons against a substantial assemblage of naval vessels - equivalent to the fifth largest national fleet on the international scene.

The ships that are now sunk on the lagoon floor following the tests of 1947-1954 were vessels of great symbolic importance in the naval history of WW II.

They include the battleship *Nagato* (Japanese flagship for the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941), the USS *Saratoga* an aircraft carrier and the USS *Arkansas* a battleship. The German cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, damaged but not sunk by the bombing, was eventually towed to Kwajalein and driven ashore there by a storm. Other ships on the floor of the lagoon include submarines and smaller support and transport ships.

The sinking of the ships under a series of atomic bomb explosions was an important step in escalating the

mutual fear that fuelled the Cold War.

The later thermonuclear (hydrogen bomb) blasts nearly blew a gap in the perimeter reef that can be seen in NASA photographs.

The ownership of the ships on the lagoon floor was transferred to 'the people of Bikini' under the Compact of Free Association between the USA and the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

The sunken fleet assemblages on the lagoon floor will retain their symbolic and archaeological significance. On the world scene, apart from the Japanese fleet of support vessels sunk at Chuuk, there are other sunken fleets, notably the WW I German fleet scuttled by German crew after their surrender at Scapa Flow in the northern UK.

The people of the RMI and Bikini in particular were removed from these islands so that the tests could proceed. Today they are determined that this aspect of the imperial and Cold War programme represented at Bikini should not be forgotten. The islands have also become an important symbol for peace and anti-nuclear movements.



Hyde Park Barracks Sydney Photo J. Bar

Australian Convict sites

Included in the Australian convicts sites listing are the following: Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area, Old Government House and Domain, Hyde Park Barracks, Brickendon and Woolmers Estates, Darlington Probation Station, Old Great North Road, Cascades Female Factory, Port Arthur Historic Site, Coal Mines Historic Site, Cockatoo Island Convict Site and the Fremantle Prison

As the Australia ICOMOS Newsletter noted, "Australia ICOMOS has had a long involvement in the development of the nomination, and ultimately the inscription, of the Convict Sites. In the early 1990s the idea of recognising the outstanding universal value of the forced migration of criminals and undesirables to further the expansionist ambitions of the colonial powers was first raised, and in May 1996 Australia ICOMOS ran an expert workshop to discuss the possibility of a serial nomination of Australian convict sites to the World Heritage List.

With the cooperation of the various States and Territories, and with expert input from Australia ICOMOS, a draft nomination was prepared by the Commonwealth in 1999 but unfortunately did not proceed.

Eventually however the concept of the nomination was revived, and with input and support from a broad range of stakeholders including the governments of Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia and Norfolk Island, a revised and much more comprehensive nomination dossier was prepared.

The dossier was referred to a number of organisation and individuals, including Australia ICOMOS, for comment. The final nomination dossier was dispatched to the World Heritage Centre in Paris December 2007. As is usually the case for cultural heritage nominations to the World Heritage List, UNESCO referred the nomination to ICOMOS in Paris for expert advice, and this was subsequently provided with input from Australia ICOMOS."

For more information, see:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/647>
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1306>



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New World heritage cultural site Ad-Dir'iyah on the outskirts of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

New Sites inscribed at Brasilia Meeting

Of the 29 properties considered for inscription on the World Heritage List at the Brasilia meeting of the World Heritage Committee, 26 July to 3 August, 21 were inscribed (4 nominations had been withdrawn before the Committee met). Of these, 5 were natural sites, and 15 were cultural properties, and one was a mixed site. In addition, 8 extensions were approved by the Committee. The total number of sites on the List now stands at 911: 704 cultural sites, 181 natural sites, and 26 mixed sites.

The new cultural sites are:

- Australian Convict Sites (Australia)
- São Francisco Square in the Town of São Cristovão (Brazil)
- Historic Monuments of Dengfeng, in the "Centre of Heaven and Earth" (China)
- Episcopal City of Albi (France)
- Jantar Mantar in Jaipur (India)
- Sheikh Safi al-Din Khānegāh and Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Tabriz Historical Bazaar Complex (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Bikini Atoll, Nuclear Test Site (Marshall Islands)
- Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (México)

- Prehistoric Caves of Yagul and Mitla in the Central Valley of Oaxaca (México)
- Seventeenth-century Canal Ring Area inside the Singelgracht, Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong (Republic of Korea)
- At Turaif District in ad-Dir'iyah (Saudi Arabia) (above)
- The site of Siega Verde (Spain) was added as an extension to the Prehistoric Rock-Art Sites in the Côa Valley (Portugal)
- Proto-Urban site of Sarazm (Tajikistan)
- Imperial Citadel of Thang Long-Hanoi (Viet Nam)

The new natural sites are:

- China Danxia (China)
- Pitons, Cirques and Remparts of Reunion Island (France)
- Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati)
- Putorana Plateau (Russian Federation)
- Central Highlands of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka)

The new mixed site is:

- Papahānaumokuākea (United States of America)

World Heritage sites whose boundaries were extended are:

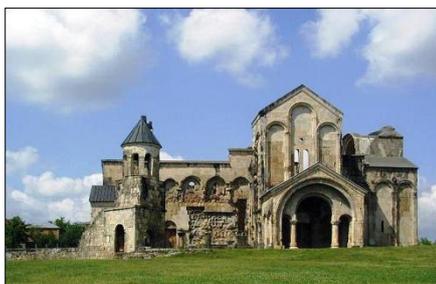
- City of Graz - Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg (Austria)
- Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)
- Mines of Rammelsberg, Historic Town of Goslar and Upper Harz Water management system (Germany)

- Røros Mining Town and the Circumference (Norway)
- Churches of Moldavia - extension to the Church of the Resurrection of Sucevita Monastery (Romania)
- Monte San Giorgio (Italy)
- Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania, United Republic of)

The Committee also recognized the cultural values of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania), which was inscribed in 1978 as a natural property. This property now becomes a mixed property.

The Committee followed the recommendations of ICOMOS to inscribe 11 cultural nominated properties. Based on satisfactory clarifications provided by the nominating State Parties, the Committee inscribed 6 sites that ICOMOS had recommended for referral in accordance with the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel that met in December 2009. Finally, 3 sites recommended by ICOMOS for deferral, on the basis that the Outstanding Universal Value had not yet been demonstrated, were also inscribed by the World Heritage Committee.

Two new cultural and two natural sites were added to the List of World Heritage in Danger, as follows (in alphabetical order):



- Bagrati Cathedral (above) and Gelati Monastery (Georgia).

Proposals for reconstruction and new work on the site were deemed to threaten the authenticity of the place.

- Rainforests of Atsinanana (Madagascar)
- Tombs of Buganda Kings (Uganda). The tombs recently underwent a catastrophic fire.

Everglades National Park (United States of America)

The natural site of the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Training



17th International Course on Stone Conservation - SC11

Dates: 13 April - 1 July 2011

Place: ICCROM, Rome, Italy This disused space comprises abandoned buildings such as homes, factories, hospitals, mills and schools, huge mining landscapes and even places that have never seen their intended use at all.

Partners

ICCROM (www.iccrom.org)
 Getty Conservation Institute (www.getty.edu/conservation/)

ICCROM is pleased to announce the 17th International Course on Stone Conservation - SC11 that will be held in Rome from 13 April to 1 July 2011.

The primary goal of the course is to improve the practice of stone conservation internationally by providing participants with a holistic understanding of the decay and deterioration of stone, disseminating effective conservation methodologies, and ensuring a practical understanding of appropriate repair methods and long-term management strategies.

We are interested in inviting applications from mid-career professionals and other decision makers in conservation, with at least five years of practical working experience in the field, from different disciplines (archaeologists, architects, conservator-restorers, conservation scientists, engineers and other professionals involved in stone conservation).

Applications should reach ICCROM by 30 September 2010 to ensure inclusion in our selection process.



Website of the month

Derelict Miscellany could just be the site you've spent years hunting for, when you've got time on your hands or are feeling guilty about the hours and hours you've been spending on Facebook.

The Derelict Miscellany records with photographs, maps, observations and narratives, explorations of disused space within the built environment. It contains nearly forty location reports, all illustrated and set in context with histories, observations and accounts of site visits.

This disused space comprises abandoned buildings such as homes, factories, hospitals, mills and schools, huge mining landscapes and even places that have never seen their intended use at all.



The site's creator Dan Gregory says, "these modern ruins and wastelands are often uniquely beautiful, atmospheric and interesting and the interaction between people and disused space has much to teach us about our society."

There's even a section devoted to rusty old cars and if you like you can follow Dan on Twitter.

Check it out on <http://derelictmisc.org.uk/index.html>



Some of the delegates during a visit to Fuerte Bulnes (Fort Bulness) a guard post established in 1843 to help enforce Chilean sovereignty over the territories of Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and the Straits of Magellan. (Paul Chaplin is 3rd from left. Volcano beater Bryan Lintott is at the far right)

NZ well represented at IPHC conference in Punta Arenas, Chile

Paul Chaplin

Five New Zealanders were present at a conference staged by the International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) 22nd - 27th April. The successful conference in Punta Arenas was staged with excellent support from ICOMOS Chile. It was based at the University of Magellanes with assistance from the University's Antarctic Department as well as number of other Antarctic related agencies. We were especially fortunate that ICOMOS International President, Gustavo Araoz was also able to attend.

New Zealand members presented 2 papers. Nigel Watson gave a fascinating update on the use of technology and innovation for Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project,

while Adam Wild and colleague Russell Gibb gave an interesting insight to the use of intelligent digital technologies to record and guide conservation and interpretation of historic sites. Our Chilean hosts also provided some interesting lectures on local history and arranged a fascinating programme of visits to local historic sites.

During the formal IPHC meeting that was held at the same time there was a discussion on the issue of succession when the current President and Secretary General are required to step down in 2011. A proposal which would result in the new IPHC secretariat being established under Nigel Watson in the offices of Antarctic Trust with an Australian President, Julian Bickersteth, was warmly received. This proposal for the new Executive will be presented to next meeting of the IPHC to be held in conjunction with the ICOMOS General Assembly in 2011.

2011 GA now in Paris

Since our last issue the venue for the 17th General Assembly, to be held from 27 November to 2 December 2011, has changed to Paris, France, and the theme will be "Heritage, as an engine for development." More details next month.



Lintott's Dash to Punta

In sending this IPHC report, Paul Chaplin alluded to former ICOMOS NZ Chair, Bryan Lintott's heroic efforts to beat the Icelandic ash-cloud to get to Punta. When taxed on the details Bryan told us "essentially, the volcano delayed my departure by several days, so I jumped on the Eurostar (I got a ticket by staying on-line until a new train was listed) with a bag of scroggin, a dinner suit, and 200 Euros. I got up at 4:00am on Monday morning, and went via 6 taxis, 6 trains, 1 tube train, 1 shuttle train, sprinted over 500 metres through Madrid airport to catch a different flight via Peru (!) collapsed on the flight, was cared for by two doctors and 6 LAN Chile stewardesses, slept when I could - sort of, arrived in Punta Arenas in time for three hours sleep before the conference began, then went to the dinner that evening - and finally got into a bed for real sleep at midnight on Thursday.