



NEWS

Te kawerongo hiko ō te mana ō nga pouwhenua ō te ao

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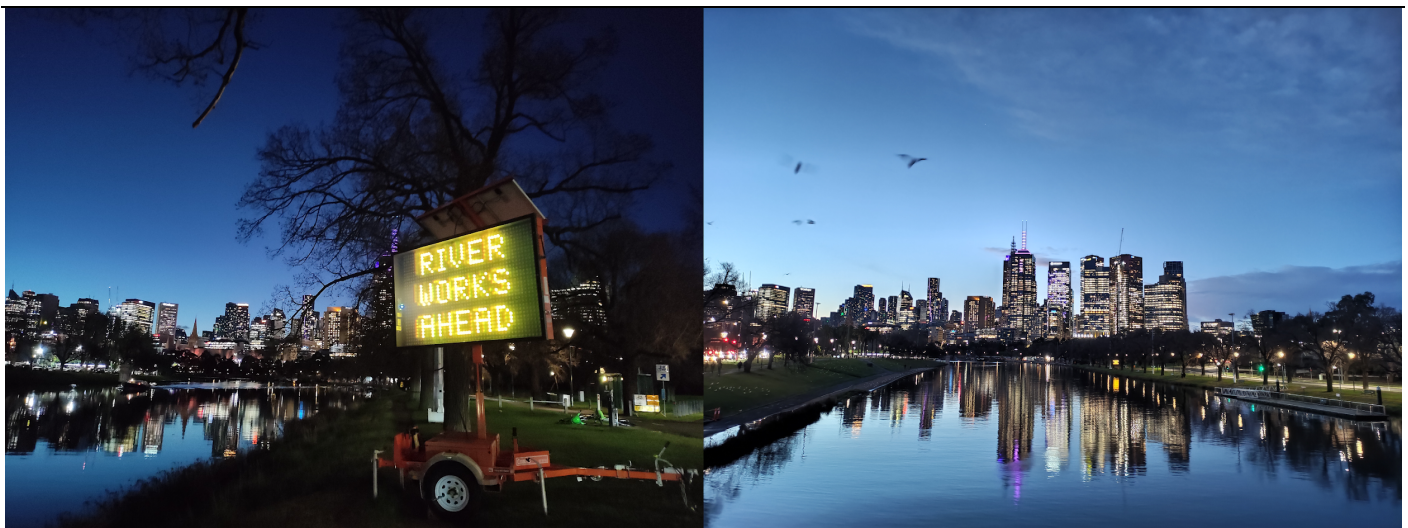


Photo credit: Simon Kieser

Photo credit: Simon Kieser

Q & A with Simon Kieser, author of Australian Journal of Human Rights article “The Yarra River Protection Act: a step towards implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?”

Simon Kieser

Simon Kieser is a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge and an Associate of the Sydney Indigenous Research Hub at the University of Sydney. As a Teaching Fellow and PhD Candidate at Victoria University of Wellington, his research focuses on Indigenous justice, heritage governance, and international environmental law.



Photo credit: Simon Kieser

Simon is a member of ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand and the ICOMOS Working Group on Indigenous Heritage (IHWG).

Simon's recent publication in the Australian Journal of Human Rights, titled "The Yarra River Protection Act: a step towards implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?", has become one of the journal's "most-read articles of all time" and was the "most-read article of the past 12 months". The article has been featured by [Oxford](#), [Cambridge](#), and Taylor & Francis.

The article is accessible here:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1323238X.2025.2478682>

Q: Your paper explores the intersection of heritage governance and Indigenous rights. What motivated you to write it, and what gaps were you hoping to address?

The Yarra River Protection Act (Birrarung River Law) is often celebrated as progressive; yet, little has been written on how it aligns with international Indigenous rights standards, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). I aimed to fill that gap by examining the law, not only as a means of environmental reform, but also as a framework that partially affirms Indigenous custodianship. The motivation was to reframe the Birrarung law as more than symbolic recognition, demonstrating its value as a case study for integrating Indigenous rights into heritage governance in practice.

Q: You reference UNDRIP throughout the paper. In your view, what does meaningful interpretation of UNDRIP look like in heritage practice in Aotearoa today?

UNDRIP affirms existing human rights as they apply to Indigenous Peoples; the Declaration does not create new rights. In heritage practice, meaningful interpretation means more than citing UNDRIP in policy — it requires embedding its principles into governance. That means recognising Māori as rights-holders, not stakeholders, and ensuring Indigenous decision-making authority in law and heritage practice. Aotearoa's Indigenous and heritage laws are often celebrated, but their lessons are mixed: true implementation requires that UNDRIP's minimum standards are treated as binding obligations, shaping how heritage is assessed, protected, and governed. Symbolic gestures are not enough without structural shifts in power and authority.

Q: One of the key themes in your work is governance. What do you see as the most promising models in use, and what makes them effective?

The most promising models are those that centre Indigenous authority in governance, rather than merely consulting Indigenous Peoples. Effective models recognise Indigenous Peoples as self-determining rights-holders who are included in all processes of effective decision-making. Globally, models that work best are those where Indigenous law and knowledge are recognised as equal systems, not reduced to inputs for state decision-making.

Q: You discuss the tensions between symbolic narratives and lived Indigenous experiences. Can you share a moment or case study where this tension was particularly visible – and how it was navigated?

The Birrarung (Yarra River) law is often celebrated as a landmark in recognising the river as a living entity, yet the path to that legislation reveals a deep tension. The community movement that drove reform initially prioritised river health and Melbourne's prosperity — Indigenous rights were not at the forefront. Only later did political momentum lead to recognition of Traditional Owners' custodianship and the inclusion of UNDRIP. This contrast between symbolic language and the lived struggle for Indigenous authority illustrates how reform can begin without Indigenous rights at its centre, and how persistence reshapes outcomes.

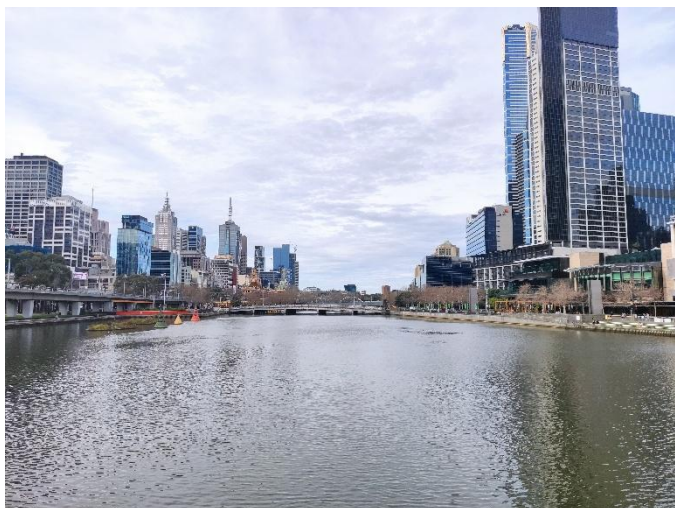


Photo credit: Simon Kieser

Q: What role do heritage assessments play in advancing Indigenous rights, and how might they evolve to better reflect Indigenous relationships to place?

Heritage assessments often shape whether Indigenous relationships to place are protected or marginalised. Too often, they have reduced heritage to material remains, ignoring living cultural, spiritual, and governance systems. To advance rights, assessments must evolve: shifting from technical exercises into relational processes that recognise whakapapa, cosmology, and Indigenous legal authority. This means measuring heritage not only by physical integrity but by continuity of Indigenous governance and relationships with place. Embedding UNDRIP and Indigenous Peoples' own laws into assessment frameworks is essential for this shift to be meaningful.

Q: For heritage professionals reading this, what is one mindset shift or practical action they can take to better support Indigenous self-determination in their work?

The most important shift is to stop seeing Indigenous Peoples as a homogeneous group of stakeholders and start recognising them as self-determining rights-holders with inherent authority. Practically, this means entering partnerships ready to cede decision-making power, rather than simply gathering cultural "input". A professional action might be as simple as asking: "Who holds authority here, and how can we align with that authority?". That question reorients practice from extraction to respect, and from token consultation to genuine self-determination. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is crucial — and so is simply asking

communities what they want and respecting their decisions.

Q: Looking ahead, what changes – legislative, cultural, institutional – are most urgent for transforming heritage governance in Aotearoa? And what about globally?

In Aotearoa, the most urgent change is cultural: recognising that Te Tiriti creates binding, enduring obligations that cannot be reduced to symbols. Legislative reform must follow, embedding Māori authority across heritage, environmental, and governance law. Institutionally, the sector must invest in Indigenous-led processes, resourcing hapū and iwi to govern heritage on their own terms.

Globally, the shift must be towards recognising Indigenous law and authority as equal and autonomous, rather than treating it as supplementary to colonial systems. That requires humility, redress, and structural transformation.



Photo credit: Simon Kieser

Text © Simon Kieser, 2025. 🌍

President's Report



Stacy Vallis, ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand President

Kia ora koutou,

We are eagerly looking forward to our joint ICOMOS-Historic Places Aotearoa Conference taking place very soon in Napier between 9th – 12th October 2025, addressing the theme of “Tell me a story - Interpreting our Heritage”.

There's a great program of papers offering a diversity of perspectives, as well as a number of field trips to choose from, including Ōtātara Pā, Hastings CBD Architecture, Whare Ra, Havelock North, Matthews House, and an Art Deco Walk in Napier.

As we come together to consider the current challenges and opportunities for heritage, it's been very valuable to participate in the network of partner organisations across the wider sector including Historic Places Aotearoa, New Zealand Archaeological Association, Professional Historians'

Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa (PHANZA), and others.

An important topic of discussion has focused on developing more targeted and collaborative strategies to increase support for history and heritage, and we are inviting suggestions and feedback from members.

Partnership is especially important and there are various events coming up in Aotearoa New Zealand and across our Asia-Pacific region during the coming

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months and during 2026:

ICOMOS Annual General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (Lumbini, Nepal (11th – 19th October 2025). Please check out the website for information regarding online participation:

<https://icomosaga2025.checkout.com.np/>

New Zealand Historians Association Conference (Auckland, 25th – 28th November 2025):

<https://nzha.org.nz/he-rau-ringa-2025/>

ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly (Sarawak, Malaysia, (17th – 24th October 2026):

<https://www.icomosga2026.org.my/>

Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference 2026 (Wellington, 29th November – 2nd December 2026): <https://www.achs2026.nz/>

As always, we warmly invite all those interested in contributing to any of our ongoing initiatives to refer to our ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand Committees and Working Groups page on our website:

<https://icomos.org.nz/committees-and-working-groups/>

Looking forward to seeing you in Ahuriri Napier!

Kia Kaha Aotearoa. 🌍

From the Board

Tim Holmes intends stepping down as Treasurer at the end of 2026 (or before). If you are interested in shadowing the role over the next twelve months, and assist with the work of the Treasurer, please get in touch with Tim at icomosnz@gmail.com.

Occasional Papers

A reminder that ICOMOS publishes what are called Occasional Papers. These are papers on any aspect of work, research, practice, or themes related to any aspect of historic heritage. Have you got a wee piece of work you'd like to publish? – get in touch – mary@heritagesolutions.net.nz

World Heritage

ICOMOS is really pleased to note that the Department of Conservation (DoC) is reviewing New Zealand's Tentative List for World Heritage. DoC is NZ's State's Party in terms of the World Heritage Convention, so all NZ work in terms of World Heritage falls to them.

New Zealand currently has three inscribed World Heritage sites:

- Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand
- Tongariro National Park
- Subantarctic islands of New Zealand

Tongariro is notable in that it was the first ever World Heritage site to be inscribed for mixed values, that is, both natural and cultural values.

To be considered for World Heritage inscription, a site must be on the country's tentative list.

NZ's tentative list was devised in 2006 (you can find the tentative list document at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/role/international/our-world-heritage.pdf>

NZ's Tentative List is well due for a revision. DoC has called for applications from the public for sites to be included on our Tentative List – you can read about the process at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2025-consultations/world-heritage-tentative-list-review/>

Members of ICOMOS ANZ are to be Observers of DoC's consideration process.

Other Notes from the Board

The Board encourages Master of Architecture (Professional) students who have recently completed theses to share their work in upcoming newsletters. Please email icomosnews@gmail.com to register your interest.

A reminder that the Board meeting in May noted that the General Assembly meeting is taking place in Sarawak, Malaysia in October 2026. Members interested in attending the General Assembly can check the website for details as they are published: [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\) Triennial General Assembly 2026 - Business Events Sarawak](#).

As outlined in the March newsletter we are inviting you to take an active role in shaping the future of ICOMOS ANZ by joining one or more of our committees or working groups for 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute your expertise, collaborate with colleagues, and support the preservation of our shared cultural heritage. See the [Committees and Working Groups Overview](#) below for further details.

We greatly appreciate your dedication to ICOMOS ANZ and believe your involvement will help us continue to grow and make a meaningful impact in the field of heritage conservation. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out. 🌍

ICOMOS ANZ Committees and Working Groups

Overview:

We have a wide range of committees and working groups, each with specific goals and areas of focus. Below is a list of our current committees and working groups. If any of these resonate with your skills and interests, we encourage you to get involved:

Committees

- **Advocacy & Communications** – Chair: Anna Renton-Green - the key responsibility of the Advocacy and Communications Committee (ADCOM) is to promote the work of ICOMOS ANZ to members, the heritage sector, local and central government, and the public. We advise the Board on the ADCOM policy, and the strategic use of social media. We also manage communication with members through the quarterly newsletter and assist the Board with preparing media releases as required. We are keen to hear from anyone interested in supporting this work - particularly anyone with interest/experience in promoting the International Day of Monuments and Sites. Please contact ADCOM chair Anna Renton-Green if you are interested in joining the committee or contributing to the newsletter.
- **Education & Professional Development** – Chair: Laura Kellaway - the committee looks to advance both education and professional development and provides information about various courses and workshops that may be in-house or available in New Zealand or overseas. It includes administering the two ICOMOS Funds available for Travel and for Education. With committee members in most regions a focus is to promote events and groups at each main centre. Please note we have a small budget that can help with this, and strengthen collegueship and learning. All welcome.
- **Heritage@Risk** – Chair: Laura Kellaway - the group focuses of keeping an eye on places at risk in New Zealand and any themes that can be seen. Many items and areas are now considered greatly 'at risk'. We desperately need eyes and ears on publicly known risks in each of our regions. All welcome.

- **Legislation & Policy** – Chair: Chessa Stevens - Advocacy and review of policies and legislation that affect heritage conservation in New Zealand. The committee is actively involved in preparing and submitting responses to national legislative proposals and changes that affect heritage conservation. This includes providing expert opinions, recommending amendments, and advocating for stronger protection of heritage values in new or amended laws.
- **Tautiaki Maori Heritage** – Co-chairs: Xavier Forde & Kararaina Teira
- **Membership & Ethics** – Chair: Ian Bowman - Receive and review membership applications and make recommendations to the Board to accept or decline the applications. We have written, and periodically amend, a Code of Ethics and Ethical Commitment Statement and Complaints Processes and Conflicts of Interest.
- **World Heritage** – Chair: Ian Bowman and Mary O'Keeffe - Works with DoC to progress work on world heritage nominations from NZ. Works with DoC to review and develop NZ's tentative list. Keep abreast of thinking and development in the international world heritage space.

Working Groups

- **Emerging Professionals** – Chair: Rachel Paschoalin - advocates for, and on behalf of, Emerging Professional members of ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand and advises the Executive Board of ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand [the Board] on issues concerning Emerging Professionals.
- **Occasional Papers** – Chair: Mary O'Keeffe - format and promulgate Occasional Papers. Encourage topics or pieces of work to be published as an ICOMOS Occasional Paper.
- **Mentorship** – Chair: Renata Jadresin-Milic
- **Charter Practice Notes** – Chair: Mary O'Keeffe - Producing practice notes to support the ICOMOS ANZ charter, to encourage its use and promulgation.

How to Get Involved: If you'd like to join a group, simply reply to this email with your preferred committee(s) or working group(s). 🌐

ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand Board Members, Committees and Working Groups


Below are the Board Members, Committees and Working Groups for 2025.

A reminder that any member of ICOMOS ANZ can apply to join a Committee or Working Group and we welcome all applications.

Board members:	Position
Stacy Vallis	President
Boris Bogdanovic	Vice-President
Rachel Paschoalin	Co-Secretary
Mary O'Keeffe	Co-Secretary
Tim Holmes	Treasurer
Chessa Stevens	
Laura Kellaway	
Susie Farminer	
Xavier Forde	
Ian Bowman	
Renata Jadresin-Milic	
Anna Renton-Green	

Committee:	Chair:
World Heritage	Ian Bowman
Legislation & Policy	Moiria Smith
Heritage@Risk	Laura Kellaway
Tautiaki Māori Heritage	Xavier Forde/ Kararaina Teira
Education & Professional Development	Laura Kellaway
Advocacy and Communications	Anna Renton-Green
Membership & Ethics	Ian Bowman

Working group:	Chair:
Emerging professionals	Rachel Paschoalin
Occasional papers	Mary O'Keeffe
Charter best practice	Mary O'Keeffe
AGM 2025	Mary O'Keeffe
Mentorship	Renata Jadresin-Milic
Technical and Materials	Ian Bowman

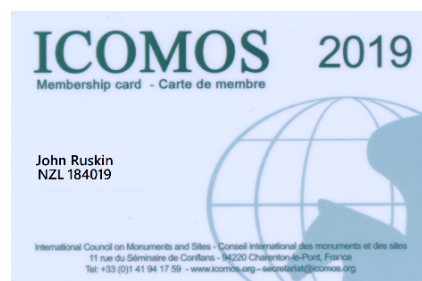
Please contact the chair of the committee or working group if you are interested in joining or learning more about their work. 

2025 Membership

Any questions about membership please contact icomosnzsecretary@gmail.com.

Did you know that being an ICOMOS member grants you a free access to numerous historic sites, historic monuments and museums all over the world?

To find out what sites/monuments/museums are accessible in a specific country, or to download your digital card visit www.icomos.org. 



Education and Professional Development Committee

Update from the Education and Professional Development Committee. Please contact Committee Chair Laura Kellaway for further details.

Scholarships

ICOMOS NZ has received three scholarship applications, two of these have been successfully awarded to Susie Farminer, and the next application is under review.

- Susie Farminer Travel Scholarship - Open
- Susie Farminer Education Fund - for ICOMOS members

Please note that there are two funds- one is open to all including students and the second is for ICOMOS members. Please ask us if you'd like to know more and check out our web site.

Donations to Scholarship Funds

Donations have been made by Matthews and Matthews Architects Ltd and by John P Adam. We are very grateful for these funds.

NZ Educational institutions and courses update

The need to promote and attend the heritage courses across New Zealand remains an ongoing problem as educational courses depend on students regularly enrolling, and the numbers to be consistent and ongoing. As Art History is now under threat with the changes to NCEA it remains important to support Art History and Heritage associated courses.

There are courses and electives at the main universities except Canterbury. Some of the polytechnics offer electives.

Professional development educational offerings to note for 2026:

Victoria University of Wellington is hosting the Association of Critical Heritage Studies conference

in December 2026. For more information see [below](#)



Advocacy and Communications Committee

The Advocacy and Communications Committee is keen to hear from members interested in contributing to efforts to strengthen our heritage advocacy efforts.

In light of the current climate it is more important than ever that we raise the profile of heritage issues and make sure that well-informed, research-based perspectives are part of the public conversation.

We are looking to develop more public-facing initiatives that highlight the values of heritage and its relevance to today's challenges. One practical starting point could be short, accessible articles for online news outlets that:

- Educate the public on key heritage topics (eg: Adaptive reuse, heritage and climate change, cultural resilience)
- Share evidence-based insights from research and practice
- Spark discussion in both specialist and mainstream media.

Outlets like *The Conversation* offer a great opportunity – especially as their editors actively invite contributions, and the articles can often gain further traction through platforms such as Radio NZ and the *NZ Herald*.

But this is only one pathway. We know that there are plenty of creative avenues – from op-eds and podcasts, to community forums, partnerships and social media campaigns.

We want to encourage all our members to utilise your expertise, ideas and energy to ensure that heritage voices are heard, and to inform the debates and decisions shaping the future of our heritage.

Please get in touch at icomosnews@gmail.com to join our advocacy working group; write/co-write

articles; and/or provide suggestions for platforms, audiences or strategies we should explore 🌐.

Shades of the Past: Historic Colour Schemes of New Zealand Buildings

Ian Bowman

I am now 18 months into my PhD (half way) with the focus being “colours and colour schemes painted on the exteriors of New Zealand buildings in the period 1837-1901”.

There were two possible approaches to my research: thin section microscopy of numerous paint samples or documentary research. Given I have no expertise in the former and this expertise is almost non-existent in New Zealand I chose the latter where I have had one or two few decades of experience.

Sources I have used to date have included coloured architectural drawings and specifications, newspaper and magazine articles, technical publications, settler diaries, artists' paintings of buildings, import records, and museum and archive collections related to paint application and manufacture. One NZ Rail archive of 1888 gave paint recipes for standard paint colours to be used on most buildings. Colin Gooch, paint chemist at Resene's, kindly made them up and gave exact colour matches for them.

I have also visited several private collections of paint tins. Some tins date to the 1860s and many still have paint in them.

Paint imports into New Zealand are another source of evidence for colours used.

I have found that there were 28 UK-based paint manufacturers that sent paint to NZ in some form. In 1838 Lewis Berger and Sons was the first company to send paint to New Zealand to a Mr Frank Gould in

the Hokianga Harbour in Northland. The colour supplied isn't specified in the documents consulted. The first newspaper advertisements for the supply of paint in New Zealand were in 1840 offering green, black, white and blue paints for sale. There is no more precise description of these colours and when I queried UK paint expert, Patrick Baty, on this he advised that “early accounts are hopelessly vague”.



Photo credit; Colour card showing waterproof paint proposed for use by the New Zealand military by E W Mills & Co, 1888, New Zealand Archives, ADS7/12 88/1012

Some of the UK firms prepared paint colour charts and I have managed to track down a number through UK archives so that actual colours can be identified. In addition, on a recent trip to archives in Sydney, where the same UK firms also sent paint, I discovered useful paint colour charts. I used a “datacolor ColorReader” that loads onto my phone readings of paint colour chips on the charts. The “ColorReader” uses four different colour standards to enable an accurate comparison with modern colour charts. Colin has tested this device and found it to be 95-98% accurate, which is comforting.

I am visiting archives in the UK in April/May next year where there are the Berger archives as well as colour charts of other UK paint companies.

New Zealand also imported paint from the US from 1878. The first was 7 tons of paint in tins manufactured by the Averill Chemical Paint Company of New York and Boston. No colours are mentioned in the newspaper article. The founder of the company, D A Averill, patented pre-mixed paints in 1867 and,

fortunately, they also prepared colour charts of their paints. A number of these dating from the 1880s and these and other paint company charts are available today through the APT Building Technology Heritage Library. I have been advised that access to US paint manufacturers' archives is not possible because they see a legal risk in doing so.

Based on this research to date, I have established the common use of several external paint colours.

In the first 40 years of settlement, settler cottages were often not painted, but where they were, buildings commonly had stone-coloured walls with a darker stone coloured trim (architraves, corner boards, bargeboards, quoins etc.). Sand was often thrown onto the wet paint to give a stone-like finish and to make the paint last longer. Doors and windows were also usually stone coloured.

A not uncommon alternative paint finish on exterior windows, doors and shop fronts was graining to imitate oak or other exotic timber. This was particularly popular in the Otago region. Corrugated iron roofs, when painted, were either red oxide or, less commonly, a green colour. Shingled roofs were also painted.

Less common colour schemes included walls painted lead, French grey, buff or drab, with trims of bronze-green, chocolate or purple-brown, and white doors and windows. From the mid 1880s some brighter colours such as chrome yellow were used to accent architectural elements. Ironwork was usually painted black.

I would like to acknowledge the considerable help given me by Philippa McDonnell, Mary Jablonski, Kirsten Moffitt, Patrick Baty, Sally Papps and Erika Sanchez Goodwillie.

Text © Ian Bowman, 2025. 🌱



Photo credit: Thomas Hubbuck and Sons, London, Paint tin, Richard Sparks Collection, Rangiora, photo Ian Bowman, 9 April 2025

Member News

New members

Welcome to new members:

- Christina Paterson
- Genny Schie

Genny Schie

I have recently returned to New Zealand and am based in Auckland, after a decade living in New York working in architectural and sculptural conservation.

The bread-and-butter of my career has been materials analyses and masonry conservation, especially churches, cemeteries, and post-war highrises, but working on bronze sculptures in Central Park is what got me hooked on conservation.

I have masters degrees in Historic Preservation (Pratt Institute) and Architecture (University of Auckland).

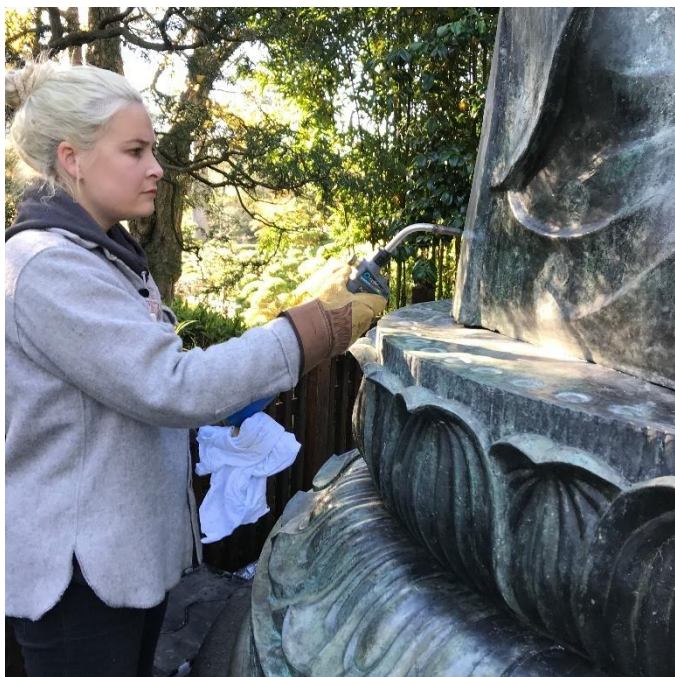


Photo credit: ARG (Architectural Resources Group), San Francisco

Retirement

Robin Byron – An Appreciation

By Martin Jones



Photo credit: Pauline Vela, HNZPT

As many Icomites will already be aware, long-term ICOMOS ANZ Board member Robin Byron recently retired from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) after nearly twenty years as the Northern Region's Senior Conservation Architect. Throughout that period, Robin was a dedicated champion of heritage conservation, applying a high level of expertise and practical experience to a wide range of matters, from the detail of paint finishes and earthquake strengthening to preserving historic built landscapes.

Born in Canada, Robin studied at the University of Toronto, graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture in the late 1970s. An early trip around Europe helped fuel a passion for historic heritage of diverse types. Subsequently in practice in both Canada and the United Kingdom – including a stint at Cambridge – her initial conservation training was gained at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at the

University of York, and the Laboratory for Architecture and Urban Design, Urbino, Italy. In the early 1990s, Robin, her family and their trusty Volvo relocated to Aotearoa New Zealand.

In mid-2005, Robin was appointed Conservation Architect for the Northern Region of what was then the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, with a role extending from Tairāwhiti/Gisborne to Cape Reinga. Her work in this role has been notable for its insight, diligence and collaborative focus, progressing positive conservation outcomes guided by the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter. Early contributions included involvement in transforming the Britomart precinct in central Auckland from a rundown waterfront area to one of the city's finest conservation achievements. Robin maintained a dedicated commitment to high quality outcomes in this - New Zealand's largest, heritage-focused urban regeneration project – over many years.

Other significant schemes in which Robin was involved are too numerous to detail but included an elegant upgrade of the Hotel de Brett (2007), adaptive re-use of the former Pah homestead (2010) and Melanesian Mission (2017), and recent work on Auckland's City Rail Link. In 2015, at the request of the HNZPT Board, she prepared a conservation report on the UNESCO World Heritage site at Levuka, Fiji - the only town with World Heritage status in the Pacific Region.

Committed to passing on knowledge to others, Robin has additionally contributed through heritage conservation teaching at the University of Auckland's School of Architecture and Planning, and Unitec's built conservation course. Her involvements with ICOMOS ANZ have been extensive, becoming a member in 2006, serving on the Board between 2012 and 2023, and taking particular interest in the Education and Professional Development Committee - including as its chair for many years. Robin has also been a long-term member of DOCOMOMO NZ. Her publications include several contributions in *Long Live the Modern* (2008), and a recent overview of building conservation in this country, 'The Inevitability of Change' in *Architectural Conservation in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: National Experiences and Practice* (2024).

For those of us lucky enough to have worked with Robin over the years, her gastronomic skills, Canada Day celebrations and wry sense of humour are also legendary.

Text © Martin Jones, 2025 

ICOMOS ANZ: GUIDELINES FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Our newsletter is a way of sharing information and news about our achievements – collective and individual. The range of experiences that our members are able to share is remarkable. Featured articles by members are informative and inspiring, and we want to be able to share as much of this type of content as we can.

To protect both you and ICOMOS ANZ, please follow these guidelines when submitting an article for the newsletter:

1. Original Work or Properly Licensed

- Your text must be original or correctly licensed.
- Any quoted or previously published material must be clearly attributed and, if needed, used with permission.

2. Images & Photos

- **You must own, license, or have written permission** to use any images.
- Credit images appropriately (e.g., "Photo by Jane Doe, used with permission; © 2025").

Giving credit alone isn't enough - permission is required. See here for further details: [Copyright protection in New Zealand | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment](#) and also here: [Can You Avoid Copyright Infringement By Giving Credit?](#)

3. Copyright Responsibility

- By submitting content, you confirm all permissions/rights are in place.
- If copyright infringement occurs, **you are responsible**, including any fines or claims.

4. Protecting ICOMOS ANZ's Reputation

- Unlawful or defamatory content may reflect poorly on us.
- Serious breaches may trigger our disciplinary policy if they risk the organisation's reputation.

5. How We Handle Mistakes

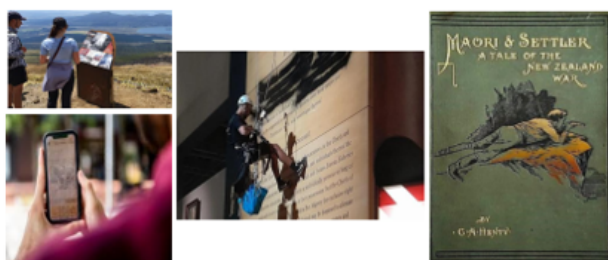
We all slip up sometimes.

- If a breach happens, you'll cover any costs — but we'll work together to investigate it.
- Repeated or serious issues could lead to follow-up under our disciplinary procedures.

Conference 2025

"Tell me a story"

Interpreting Our Heritage



ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand & Historic Places Aotearoa

Joint Conference 2025

9 - 12 October

2025

Napier

New Zealand's rich cultural heritage and history have been packaged, presented and interpreted for over 100 years.

Much has changed in this time - the audience, the purpose, the technology and the method. What has driven these changes? Have the changes been successful?

Stories can be told orally and visually, through architecture and landscapes, through signage, technology, or integrated landscapes. It is often filtered through social context and historical context. Perceptions change over time: interpretation and storytelling from 50 years ago may now feel anachronistic, or culturally insensitive, or "cringe".

We can reflect on particular ways in which our cultural heritage has been presented over time:

- Museums, from the 19th Century to now - the way in which they chose to display artefacts and objects, moving to more integrated storytelling

- The 1964 school bulletin "Washday at the Pa": the Te Papa website notes "The Washday at the Pa controversy raised a number of important points, the principal one being whether Māori people had the right to say how they were depicted".
- The Te Māori exhibition in the US in 1984,
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's digital walks and podcasts,
- Movies, such as *Boy*, *The Piano*, *Once Were Warriors*, *Utu*, *Whale Rider*,
- Current methods of interpretation of sites and places, using signboards, digital apps, and other media.

However, important questions remain:

- ❖ Who gets to tell the story?
- ❖ Who's the audience?
- ❖ Who decides what the story should be?
- ❖ How does the storyteller know they've got it "right"?
- ❖ Who does the story belong to, so who has the right to tell it?

Venue

Our conference venue is the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Category 1 listed Women's Rest building in Clive Square.

Programme

Thursday 9 October	Midday-5pm	Field trips
Friday 10 October	12.30pm-4pm 5pm	Conference papers Welcome drinks
Saturday 11 October	9am-5pm 7pm	Conference papers, including short walking field trips Conference dinner
Sunday 12 October	9am-3pm	Conference papers

ICOMOS News

AGA2025 in Lumbini NEPAL | 11- 19 October 2025

ICOMOS Nepal welcomes all ICOMOS members, international and national experts, friends and peace-lovers to Lumbini for the ICOMOS annual General Assembly 2025 and the Scientific Symposium on “Perceptions of Heritage and Resilience – Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness”.


We are honoured to take on the important task of contributing to the ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan 2024-2027, with the first year focusing on preparing for possible disasters, through the prevention and mitigation of hazards, improving resilience, as well as by preparing for conflicts that threaten our heritage resources. We also have the honour of inviting all participants to the 60th anniversary celebrations of ICOMOS. This would also be an opportunity to visit the archaeological sites in and around Lumbini and the enchanting urban ensemble of Kathmandu Valley that have gone through a decade of recovery after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. Furthermore, we welcome the international participants to visit the beautiful sites of Nepal. We look forward to meeting all of you in Lumbini. 



Image and text attribution: ICOMOS Nepal
[Home Page | ICOMOS AGA2025](#)

Annual General Assembly 2025 – Agenda and Working Documents

The ICOMOS Annual General Assembly 2025 is planned to take place on 14 October 2025 at 3:30 PM (NPT) in Lumbini, Nepal, in a hybrid format. You can now view the agenda and working documents [here](#).

The situation in the country seems to be normalising and we continue to closely monitor it in consultation with ICOMOS Nepal. We will share a more complete update with all registered participants in the coming days. Participants safety is our top priority.

If you are unable to join us in person in Nepal, you have the opportunity to stay connected and actively engage with the proceedings virtually.

Don't miss the chance to participate in key discussions and decisions shaping the future of our organization.

To register for online participation, please complete the [Google Form](#) by latest 30 September 2025.

For more information on the full programme in Nepal and to register for in-person participation in Lumbini, please [click here](#).

Register for the ICOMOS 2025 AGA online information session on financial reports

An information session on ICOMOS financial reports and the draft budget will take place online on Wednesday 1st October at 12:00 PM (noon, Paris time).

This session is intended for members who wish to ask questions to the Treasurer and the Director General about the financial reports included in the working documents for the 2025 Annual General Assembly.

[Click here](#) to register.

22nd ICOMOS General Assembly –2026



Image and text attribution: ICOMOS Malaysia
[About - ICOMOS GA2026](#)

Borneo, Malaysia: 17-14 October 2026

Join 2,000 cultural heritage experts from 130 countries to discuss development and conservation at the prestigious ICOMOS GA2026, being held for the first time in Malaysia. The event is expected to bring social, cultural and economic benefits to Sarawak and Malaysia in line with the commitment to protect and manage cultural heritage. The aim is to learn from ICOMOS GA2026 how to modernise while safeguarding our cultural and heritage assets and how to foster peace and respect in a complex world by celebrating and preserving our culture and heritage.

Conference website: [Home - ICOMOS GA2026](#)

Upcoming Events

New Zealand Historical Association Conference 2025

Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland | 25–28 November 2025

He Rau Ringa e Oti ai - Many Hands Make History

To tell the many and varied stories of our past we need many and varied storytellers in the present. He Rau Ringa e Oti ai: Many Hands Make History celebrates the many different people, organisations, modes, topics and approaches of history-telling in Aotearoa. The conference aims to foster connections across our history community.

He Rau Ringa e Oti ai is open to presentations from all history and art history practitioners from graduate students to independent and public scholars, from community groups and organisations, the GLAM sector, schools and the academy. We welcome submissions, especially panels, from those researching other areas of the world.

[He Rau Ringa e Oti ai - Many Hands Make History Registration, Tue 25/11/2025 at 8:00 am | Eventbrite](#)

He Rau Ringa e Oti ai – Many Hands Make History

NZ Historical Association Conference 2025
Tuesday 25 Nov to Friday 28 Nov 2025
University of Auckland



Association of Critical Heritage Studies – Tūhono 2026

Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington Te-Whanganui-a-Tara | 26 November – 2 December 2026

From the conference website:

"It is my great pleasure to invite heritage scholars and practitioners from around the world to join us at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington in 2026 for the biennial Association of Critical Heritage Studies conference.

We are planning a once-in-a-lifetime conference experience that will be highly engaged, sustainable and a force for change.

TŪHONO means to connect. At ACHS 2026, guided by our theme of RELATIONALITY, we will explore how heritage connects us with each other, with the past and with the land; and how, as a field, we can interweave theory and practice to create a more relational critical heritage studies.

Concepts and practices of relationality, time, space, and land from Aotearoa and the wider Moana Oceania region will provide a lens through which we'll reimagine heritage and its relationship to wider social, political, and environmental issues."

Lee Davidson
ACHS Conference Chair

To register for updates please visit the conference website: [ACHS Conference 2026](#)

Further afield/online

6th Annual Conference on Heritage Management, Education and Practice | Ahmedabad University, Delhi, India | 14-16 November 2025

This year's conference, themed "**Climate Change, Ecology, and Heritage Sustainability**," invites interdisciplinary dialogue on the complex interactions between climate change, environmental transformation, and cultural heritage. Climate change is not only altering physical heritage but also eroding traditional knowledge systems, displacing communities, and disrupting intergenerational transmission of cultural practices. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that integrates scientific innovation with time-tested traditional knowledge., visit the [conference website](#).



Image and text attribution: Ahmedabad University

International Conference on Cultural Policy | Bali, Indonesia | 05-06 January 2026



Image and text attribution: [International Conference on Cultural Policy ICCP in January 2026 in Bali](#)

From the conference website:

International Conference on Cultural Policy aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Cultural Policy. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Cultural Policy.

Call for Contributions

Prospective authors are kindly encouraged to contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. Also, high quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Cultural Policy are cordially invited for presentation at the conference. The conference solicits contributions of abstracts, papers and e-posters that address themes and topics of the conference, including figures, tables and references of novel research materials.

Guidelines for Authors

Please ensure your submission meets the conference's strict guidelines for accepting scholarly papers. Downloadable versions of the check list for [Full-Text Papers](#) and [Abstract Papers](#).

Please refer to the [Paper Submission Guideline](#), [Abstract Submission Guideline](#) and [Author Information](#) before submitting your paper.

Conference website: [International Conference on Cultural Policy ICCP in January 2026 in Bali](#)

Must Reads

GREEN PROPERTY SUMMIT 2025 – Hosted by NZGBC

Review by Anthony Vile for Architecture Now
[Green Property Summit 2025 – Hosted by NZGBC | Architecture Now](#)

PRESS RELEASE – In Beirut, Audrey Azoulay launches the restoration of iconic cultural sites
[In Beirut, Audrey Azoulay launches the restoration of iconic cultural](#)

THE CONVERSATION – How an Indigenous-led project is harnessing technology to protect Kakadu's rock art

[‘Those paintings belong to us’: how an Indigenous-led project is harnessing technology to protect Kakadu's rock art](#)

TAYLOR & FRANCIS Online – Shaping the Relation Between Heritage and Tourism: Taxonomies of Sustainable Cultural Tourism for Local Development

[Full article: Shaping the Relation Between Heritage and Tourism: Taxonomies of Sustainable Cultural Tourism for Local Development](#)

Australia ICOMOS News – September 2025

[Australia ICOMOS E Mail News No 1112 | Australia ICOMOS](#)

Historic Places Aotearoa Newsletter - Spring 2025

[Newsletters - Historic Places Aotearoa](#)

If you wish to publicise your work through the newsletter and/or our social media, please forward the details to news@icomos.org.nz.

The deadline for content for the next issue of the newsletter is **8 December 2025**. 

ICOMOS New Zealand
Te Mana ō Nga Pouwhenua ō Te Ao

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Thank you for your continued support of ICOMOS New Zealand

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