

# Heritage

## Quarterly working together for our shared heritage

### NZHPT in the front line to retain heritage

Summer | 2011

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust continues to work alongside property owners, the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and Christchurch City Council to try to achieve the best results for heritage.

NZHPT heritage advisors and a structural engineer contracted by the Trust are available to work with CERA when dealing with registered heritage buildings. CERA, along with the owner, make the final decision on a property's future.

NZHPT Heritage Adviser, Dave Margetts says discussions with willing heritage owners are important in working towards retention. Examples of this are Miles Warren's Dorset Street Flats and artist Bill Hammond's Lyttelton Studio (Kilwinning Lodge Ltd), both of which are likely to be retained.

"High Street saw an owners' group provide CERA with a 'securing proposal' to delay demolition and explore retention options."

The NZHPT and council have encouraged owners to strengthen their buildings for a number of years, with the results evident. The Canterbury Museum, St Michael's, New Regent Street shops and Antigua Boatsheds

were strengthened to varying degrees and soon will be, or are already, back in business.

"The New Regent Street shops which have Category I and Historic Area status received a National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund grant from the NZHPT after the September 2010 quake and part of the buildings' frontage was strengthened at that time."

Retention is only part of the story. The NZHPT was involved in discussions with the owners of ChristChurch Cathedral and welcomed the decision to 'make safe' the iconic landmark and retain as much of its original heritage fabric, and looks forward to working on future options for this important building.

"Working together and having rigorous discussions about the current and future state of heritage buildings is key to maximising heritage retention, and helping to rebuild the social and economic resilience of the whole community," says Dave.

#### Contents

- 01 NZHPT in the front line to retain heritage
- 02 Coton's Cottage rebuild to start
- 02 Cuddy and Levels thatching planned
- 03 NZHPT input to CEISMIC project
- 03 International recognition for Christchurch landmark
- 04 Fyffe House comes to life
- 04 Traditional lime mortar at Totara Estate
- 05 The Pelichet Bay Infectious Diseases Hospital
- 06 Dunedin's Opoho Fish Ponds re-discovered
- 06 Two southern-most historic places visited
- 07 Larnach's Tomb restoration complete
- 07 'Gobsmacked' at Port Chalmers find
- 08 Reel success on the West Coast
- 08 Heritage Happenings



## Coton's Cottage rebuild to start

Following meetings between NZHPT staff and the Hororata Historical Society, and after taking advice from a conservation architect and engineers, the NZHPT Board has approved the rebuild of Coton's Cottage (pictured). The cottage was seriously damaged during the 4 September 2010 earthquake.



Work is expected to be completed by May next year. The whitewash on the building will be carried out in spring once the cob has dried.

The original cob cottage built in 1864 by Bentley Coton was a mixture of local

clay and tussock. The cottage fell into disrepair but in 1977 members of the Hororata Historical Society reused some of the original materials from the building and reconstructed the cottage.

Two open days are planned to give locals

and the wider public the opportunity to see how cob construction is done. Dates for these events will be announced early next year. If you want to be contacted about these open days, please contact Zoe Roland on 021 117 1627 or email [areacoordinatorcw@historic.org.nz](mailto:areacoordinatorcw@historic.org.nz).

---

## Cuddy and Levels thatching planned

Work is planned to re-thatch The Cuddy in Waimate and The Levels near Timaru in March and April next year. This follows major restoration of these historically-significant heritage properties.

The Cuddy (pictured) was built in 1854 by the Studholme brothers who came from Cumberland, England, and began farming at the Te Waimate sheep station. It is still owned and run by the Studholme family today. The brothers used vertical totara slabs plugged with cob to construct the building, while the original thatch may have been local tussock.

The Levels cottage, part of another early South Canterbury sheep run, was built by George Rhodes in 1851. The Levels station was also the site from which the legendary James Mackenzie and his dog rustled sheep, only to be caught heading for the high country.

The thatching projects have not been without challenge for NZHPT Heritage Destinations staff in finding suitable thatch material, with enquiries made in New Zealand and overseas. NZHPT Southern Project Supervisor Marcus Brown has negotiated with a North Otago farmer for a 1.5ha crop of wheat straw to be grown specifically for the purpose. It is planned to harvest the crop in mid-January. This will be transported and stored at Clark's Mill for drying and, in March and April, a skilled thatcher will undertake this specialist work.

The NZHPT plans to hold an open day at each of the sites so the public can see how



this work is done. Dates will be advertised in February. Please leave your name and email address with Zoe Roland at [areacoordinatorcw@historic.org.nz](mailto:areacoordinatorcw@historic.org.nz) if you wish to be updated about the open days.

# NZHPT input to CEISMIC project

The NZHPT is pleased to be involved in a University of Canterbury project that is collating images and information related to the Canterbury earthquakes.

The CEISMIC Canterbury Earthquake Digital Archive Project will collect video, audio, emails, documents and images related to the earthquakes which will then be used for research and teaching purposes.

The University project is based on a similar archive created by the Centre for History and New Media (CHNM) following the destruction of the World Trade Center buildings in New York. The archive will

represent a significant national web asset, and be capable of being archived by the National Digital Heritage Archive.

The NZHPT has the opportunity to contribute content to the Quake Studies section of the CEISMIC project. This may include NZHPT research on historic buildings, archaeological reports from the demolition of earthquake damaged buildings and other NZHPT records in its earthquake recovery work. Research on



specific heritage-rich areas of the city may also feature as a CEISMIC sub-project.

With this an era of high technology uptake, the Canterbury earthquake can be documented in unprecedented detail. The project is led by the University of Canterbury Digital Humanities programme with the guidance and support of the UC CEISMIC Consortium. For more information please visit [www.ceismic.org.nz](http://www.ceismic.org.nz).

## International recognition for Christchurch landmark

Earlier this year the NZHPT nominated the iconic Provincial Government Buildings for inclusion on the World Monuments Fund Watch List. Letters of support from the Christchurch City Council and Department of Conservation bolstered the submission which was included on the list in October.



The magnificent Provincial Chambers' interior. Picture: Duncan Shaw-Brown.

The World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organisation dedicated to saving the world's most treasured places. Based in New York, the Fund has helped preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites in more than 90 countries through partnerships with local communities, funders and governments.

The Category I-registered Provincial Government Buildings (pictured) were built from the late-1850s in a Gothic Revival style in timber and stone as the seat of the Provincial Government of Canterbury. Today they comprise one of the earliest Gothic Revival complexes of government buildings in the world.

The impressive Stone Chamber and other stone elements of the complex were extensively damaged in the 2010/2011 earthquakes.

NZHPT Southern Region General Manager, Malcolm Duff says the chamber interior is held in high acclaim worldwide, with tiles arranged in geometric patterns and stained glass windows adding to the colour.

"The NZHPT is delighted with the World Monuments Fund Watch listing. It will raise the profile of this iconic landmark's plight at an international level, assist with fundraising initiatives and attract expert assistance as efforts to retain and restore continue."

The repair, restoration and possible partial reconstruction of the Canterbury Provincial Government Buildings will serve as a heritage conservation model and help promote the revitalisation of Christchurch's cultural heritage. For more information, please visit this site:

[www.wmf.org/project/canterbury-provincial-government-buildings](http://www.wmf.org/project/canterbury-provincial-government-buildings)

## Fyffe House comes to life

A series of small dioramas are due to be installed at Fyffe House in Kaikoura this December as part of a range of recent changes to this exceptional heritage site.



The NZHPT contracted Wellington-based company Locales to design the dioramas with the support of generous funding from the Ministry of Economic Development.

Standing on an area rich in human history, Fyffe House is one of the world's few buildings with whale bones as an integral part of its structure. Built in three parts with whale bones, ship wreck and ballast material between 1844 and 1860, its very fabric reflects the development of early European Kaikoura from whaling station, to port, to small frontier town.

Fyffe House and the surrounding land have many layers of Maori history dating back over 850 years to when the first waka arrived here. A registered wahi tapu site, the dioramas reflect the area's significance to Maori. By working closely with Te Runanga O Kaikoura the NZHPT's project has created captivating glimpses into the stories of settlement of the first tribe through the whaling period to present day.

So make a trip to Kaikoura and Fyffe House one of your highlights this summer. For more information, please visit [www.historicplaces.org.nz](http://www.historicplaces.org.nz) and click on Places To Visit.

---

## Traditional lime mortar at Totara Estate

Traditional stonemason, Allan Ward has spent over six months at Totara Estate, just south of Oamaru, painstakingly replacing the old cement pointing at the NZHPT property with traditional lime mortar.

The exterior of the buildings has now been completed and thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from the Otago Community Trust, the roofs of all buildings have also been repainted.

"Totara Estate is expanding the services it offers - and will be providing a coffee, tea and light refreshment service from

December," says Totara Estate Manager Paula East.

"The range of quality gifts and souvenirs that we have to offer will also be expanded to enhance the visitor experience at Totara Estate."

A range of small events at Totara Estate are planned over the Summer/Autumn season to encourage new visitors and promote the redeveloped gift shop and food service.

The first of these is a Christmas Festival on Sunday 11 December and classes and demonstrations on making rustic Christmas decorations. A children's event in late January and an Easter-themed event in April are also being planned.

Totara Estate's summer hours are 10am–5pm, seven days a week. If you are visiting



the area on Sundays through to April, Clark's Flour Mill, 4km south of Totara Estate, will be open 1pm–3pm, with the machinery run on the last Sunday of each month.

For more information, please visit [www.historicplaces.org.nz](http://www.historicplaces.org.nz) and click on Places To Visit.

# The Pelichet Bay Infectious Diseases Hospital

An investigation into the Pelichet Bay Infectious Diseases Hospital in Dunedin began routinely enough for NZHPT Otago/Southland Heritage Adviser Susan Irvine. In the end her registration report became a colourful tale of public campaigns and changing attitudes to child welfare - and culminated in the building being ranked among New Zealand's most significant.

At the turn of the 20th century, the local Hospital Board proved slow in providing an isolation hospital for infectious diseases. Newspaper editorials spoke about the need for urgent action, the *Otago Witness* using emotive language to describe four sick children found bedded together in a Dunedin cottage: "The colour had been drained from the wan little faces and lay in one hectic spot on each pale cheek. Flaxen hair lay tossed on the makeshift for a pillow, and wasted hands lay listless on the coverlet".

In 1906 a suitably isolated spot for a fever hospital was identified at Pelichet Bay on the shores of Lake Logan (now Logan Park). Plans were prepared based

on the pavilion plan, an international trend in hospital design where separate wards, or "pavilions", provided a greater degree of segregation than before.

By September 1908 the hospital was accepting patients, but came under threat as early as 1915, when local doctors complained about conditions. *New Zealand Truth* claimed the hospital's "antiquity of design and depressing environments" were a disgrace. It was not until 1952 that the hospital finally closed its doors to patients and in 1959 it was bought by the University of Otago. Once used as flats for students, it has recently been on-sold to a private owner intent on restoring it back for student living.



View across Lake Logan to the hospital in 1909. Picture: S1023a, Hocken Collections.

The building is significant not just because it is one of only two remaining purpose-built infectious diseases hospitals in New Zealand, but because it is in almost original condition.

When the building's registration was highlighted in the *Otago Daily Times* it attracted reminiscences from people who had been at the hospital.

Betty Dawson's cousin Billy was six-years-old when he died there. She told the *Otago Daily Times* that "it was depression time and my aunt and uncle would walk from St Kilda, where they lived, so that they could afford to take Billy a treat, his last request being a Tonka Toy".

Another woman recalled she was admitted as a four-year-old in 1932, and that the nurses beat the children if they wet the bed. One night she was put into a strait jacket after she got out of bed to slide on the polished floors. At the end of their stay, however, children were taken to a room full of toys to choose a "going-away" gift.

For more information on the Category I registration, please visit [www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz) and search 'The Register' for Register Number 9575.



Pelichet Bay Infectious Diseases Hospital.

## Dunedin's Opoho Fish Ponds re-discovered

Otago Mountain Bike Club stalwart Hamish Seaton was unsure of what he had found when stone walls were uncovered when beginning work on a new multi-use bike track in the Dunedin suburb of Opoho.

He contacted NZHPT regional archaeologist Dr Matt Schmidt who visited the site and did some research. Since then Matt and Hamish have carefully uncovered the rest of the site and revealed the stone-lined pools and channelling - all still in good condition - of what is believed to be the first successful brown trout hatchery in New Zealand.

The Fish Ponds at Opoho were built in 1868 for the purpose of establishing a viable fresh water sport fishery in Otago. The ponds were archaeologically investigated, with the lower pond's construction stone-lined using cobbles from the nearby Opoho Creek.

The investigation underlined the valued partnership between the NZHPT and



The lower large pond after clearing of the vegetation. Hamish Seaton, President of Mountain Bike Otago, is clearing dirt from the pond walls.

community groups such as Mountain Bike Otago. Through this work a once forgotten heritage site will be integrated into the mountain bike track which will help in promoting not only the track but the site as a heritage asset for the community.

## Two southern-most historic places visited

NZHPT Otago/Southland area staff recently accompanied building heritage consultants including an engineer and archaeologist to New Zealand's two southern-most registered Category I historic places - the Traveller's Rest and Acker's Cottage, on Stewart Island/Rakiura.

The team completed a condition assessment for the former Traveller's Rest boarding house being funded through the NZHPT's National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund. It was also an opportunity to monitor the condition of the 1836 Acker's Cottage nearby which has a protective heritage covenant.

"This work is an important record and will help the current owners in making decisions relating to the restoration of the building," says Heritage Adviser (Building Conservation) Jonathan Howard.



Acker's Cottage, Harrold Bay, Stewart Island.

Lewis Acker was an American whaler who settled on the island around 1836 and built the cottage of local stone. With his wife, Acker raised a family of nine children in the tiny cottage. On Acker's departure around 1864, Captain James Harrold and his wife Agnes moved into the bay. The stone cottage was then used as a smithy, storeroom, brewery and later a boat building workshop, located on a picturesque headland.

Overlooking Halfmoon Bay, Traveller's Rest was built as a boarding house for tourists in the 1870s, and is an example of an early tourist operation providing a base for exploring the island.

The Traveller's Rest, registered in August 2009, ceased to operate as a guest house around 1900. From that date the house has remained a private residence, but has been unoccupied for many years.

# Larnach's Tomb restoration complete

Six years of hard work has paid off with the completion of the \$345,000 restoration of Larnach's Tomb at the Dunedin Northern Cemetery.

The restoration work included extensive repair and replacement of Oamaru stonework such as spire finials and crosses, new stone window tracery, new and repaired stained glass, new doors and wooden floor.

Led out by local heritage stalwart Stewart Harvey, Chairman of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand, who secured all the funding required, the project relied on the skills and craftsmanship of stonemason Marcus Wainwright and stained glass artist Peter McKenzie. Built heritage conservation adviser Guy Williams supervised the project.

The tomb is the resting place of William Larnach, one of Dunedin's most important historic figures. Larnach erected the tomb in 1880 to memorialise his first wife Eliza Jane Guise. The tomb contains the remains of Larnach, his first wife and his second wife Mary Alleyne and two children.

The NZHPT supported the project through an initial grant via the Dunedin City Council/ NZHPT-administered Dunedin Heritage Fund, and further with a grant made from the NZHPT McKay Bequest. Technical advice and expertise was provided by Otago/Southland Area team over the six years from planning to completion.



The restored Larnach's Tomb

The Northern Cemetery site has a Category I registration with the NZHPT.



Part of the Port Chalmers Garrison Hall mural.

## 'Gobsmacked' at Port Chalmers find

**Conservation specialist and former NZHPT staff member Guy Williams says he was "gobsmacked" when a huge mural under wall linings in Port Chalmers was discovered.**

The discovery came during the recording of the demolition of the Garrison Hall, owned by the Dunedin City Council earlier this year. The hall was built in 1883 and the council had decided to demolish it.

NZHPT Otago/Southland Area staff have given heritage advice over several years

including the archaeological authority process, a condition of which was to carefully dismantle and record findings.

No one was expecting to find two wall-length (20.4 metres by 3.6 metres watercolour-on-linen) murals painted depicting harbour and mountain scenes. Following media interest a member of the public identified the mural as dating from 1892. It was painted by David Ogilvie Robertson for a Japanese-themed festival held around that time.

Local architectural historian Peter Entwistle says it is a special artefact that deserves to be preserved. "It's certainly

very unusual. It is of great social and historical significance."

The salvage and restoration project has involved the NZHPT, Dunedin City Council, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Port Chalmers Historical Society and Otago Settlers Museum. A cultural heritage assessment was prepared ahead of the removal of the murals by conservators.

NZHPT Heritage Adviser (Conservation) Jonathan Howard says the removal will now "allow further assessment of their condition and guide any conservation works undertaken on them, including future display and/or storage options".

## Reel success on the West Coast

The recent 'Reel Life on the West Coast' travelling film show was a huge success with almost 1000 people from Fox to Westport enjoying seeing themselves and their environment on screen.

The eight archival film screenings, a collaboration between the NZHPT and NZ Film Archive, took place in registered historic places along the coast.

Each screening was introduced by a local heritage advocate. In Reefton, Paul Thomas discussed how the first public electricity supply in the Southern

Hemisphere was demonstrated in the Oddfellows Hall and in Hokitika, Russell Gugich encouraged the 200-strong audience to participate in the preservation of their world class heritage.

Greymouth-born, Sydney-based pianist Jan Preston composed the score for the silent films in the first half of the show. Jan and partner percussionist Mike Pullman-Webb toured and played live accompaniment to the films and agreed that, "after composing the score in Sydney it was such a pleasure to play for an audience in situ, and hearing the reaction to the films from local people was wonderful".

NZHPT Area Coordinator Zoe Roland says the tour was "a fantastic way to utilise and celebrate these places of heritage significance. To have passionate, active heritage advocates speaking about their local built and social history was particularly relevant in this part of the country".

The NZHPT would like to thank the support of Solid Energy, Dispatch & Garlick, the Buller Community Development Corporation, Grey District Council, Heritage Hokitika and the Buller District Council.



Masonic Lodge, Westport

## Heritage Happenings Events and Updates

### 'The City as Memory' panel discussion online

Chaired by NZHPT Heritage Destinations General Manager Priscilla Pitts, the SCAPE Art Biennial discussion panel hosted a diverse lineup of speakers; Historian Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Landscape architect Di Lucas, Artist Anton Parsons, Sound Artist & Academic Bruce Russel and Architect William Fulton. The five presentations are now available for viewing on the SCAPE website [www.scapebiennial.org.nz/2011-video](http://www.scapebiennial.org.nz/2011-video)

### Properties' Open Days

Watch our website for summer open days at Fyffe House, Hayes Engineering Works and Totara Estate and cob and thatching demonstrations at Coton's Cottage.

The Levels and Te Waimate Station's The Cuddy. [www.historicplaces.org.nz/events.aspx](http://www.historicplaces.org.nz/events.aspx)

### New NZHPT Publication

'Heritage Redesigned: adapting historic places for contemporary New Zealand' includes a discussion of the values and benefits associated with using heritage places while meeting modern requirements. Several short, easy-to-read, practical examples of adaptive reuse within the New Zealand context are included.

Download a copy from our website [www.historic.org.nz/en/Publications.aspx](http://www.historic.org.nz/en/Publications.aspx) (pdf, 3.6mb) or contact NZHPT's National Office (04) 472 4341 or email [information@historic.org.nz](mailto:information@historic.org.nz).

### Applying to the Canterbury Earthquake Heritage Buildings Fund

Private owners of earthquake-damaged heritage buildings located within the Canterbury region (as defined by the Regional Council boundaries) are eligible to apply to this Fund for assistance. You can find more information about eligibility criteria, operational guidelines and the application form or to donate funds at [www.ccc.govt.nz/homeliving/civildefence/chcheearthquake/heritage.aspx](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/homeliving/civildefence/chcheearthquake/heritage.aspx)

### Donovan Rypkema – The Economics of Heritage DVD

The order form for the DVD featuring Donovan Rypkema's 2010 workshop presentations in Christchurch is available on the NZHPT's website [www.historic.org.nz/Publications.aspx](http://www.historic.org.nz/Publications.aspx)