

Reprint in response to demand

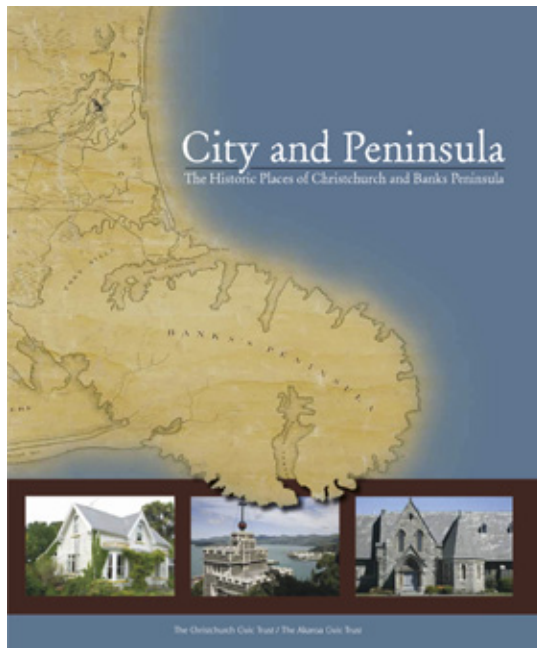
City and Peninsula

The Historic Places of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

Authored by noted heritage historian John Wilson and published collaboratively by The Christchurch Civic Trust and Akaroa Civic Trust, this book provides an excellent introduction to both the rural and urban heritage assets of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

200pp with over 290 full colour illustrations

This book was produced for the World Heritage Conference hosted in Christchurch in 2007 and copies were given to delegates attending. It is the most up to date record of many heritage buildings pre earthquake. Sadly many of these buildings are gone for ever.



Available from the Christchurch CivicTrust

PO Box 1927 Christchurch 8140

or email : secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz

for \$50 + \$10 postage and packaging

To: **Christchurch Civic Trust, P O Box 1927, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand.**

Please send..... copy / copies of "City and Peninsula" ISBN 978-0-473-12239-3 to:

Name:

Address :

.....

.....

.....

I enclose a cheque for NZ\$ being \$..... per copy + p & p

OR

Online Payments made to CCT Bank Account # 03-1351-0519933-03 (Please include your name as a reference) and email secretary@christchurchcivictrust.org.nz with address for postage.

Foreword

First edition

Over many years I have visited many of the world's great cities and admired their architectural and historic heritage. This book pictures and describes buildings of great architectural interest and historic value in Christchurch City which can be shown with pride to visitors to our country.

The historic buildings and sites of the enlarged city of Christchurch, now including Banks Peninsula, illuminate many chapters of our nation's story. Yet the human history of the region stretches much further back than the mid-nineteenth century, when European settlers arrived. It began with the Maori occupation of what became Canterbury. This book highlights the length of human habitation of Canterbury and its place in the wider New Zealand story.

Takapuneke, near Akaroa, was the scene of an incident in 1830 which contributed to Britain's decision to acquire sovereignty over New Zealand in 1840. I commend the former Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council on their decision to ensure that this land, of great importance to local iwi and the history of our nation, is to be protected.

The book also makes a convincing case for regarding the "Gothic Heart" of Christchurch as a heritage precinct of extraordinary importance. The buildings are of high architectural quality, and they are also powerful reminders of the great wave of mid nineteenth century British migration which brought the forebears of so many of us to these shores.

I am pleased that the book goes beyond the grand buildings of the central city. It is inclusive of working class homes, corner shops, and other buildings which tell us so much about the local lives of the residents of Christchurch, Lyttelton, and Banks Peninsula in the past. This gives it a depth which would have been lacking had it focused only on the well-known landmark buildings.

The author has written with unabashed pride, not only about the buildings but also about the efforts which have been made to protect them. The City Council and a number of enthusiastic community organisations, including the Christchurch and Akaroa Civic Trusts, have worked hard to safeguard the rich inheritance depicted in the book. But the author has also recognised that those working to protect the historic character of Christchurch, Lyttelton and Akaroa still face difficulties.

As Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, I share the passion and commitment of all those who have worked on this book. I also share their hope that the book, by increasing awareness of the rich historic heritage of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, will encourage even more vigorous efforts to protect that heritage. An informed and passionate pride among its citizens is the best safeguard of the region's heritage.

This book brings the fascinating histories of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula vividly to life. It is a handsome demonstration of the pride which the people of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula have in their region's heritage.



Helen Clark, Prime Minister,
Minister for Arts & Culture

Second edition

When the Christchurch and Akaroa Civic Trusts co-operated in 2007 to publish the first edition of this book their goals were to show off the region's rich heritage to visitors from overseas and to encourage local people to make more vigorous efforts to protect that heritage.

We little dreamt that four years later we would be publishing a second edition of the book with an entirely different purpose – as a record of heritage that has been almost entirely lost. The earthquakes and aftershocks that battered Canterbury between September 2010 and June 2011 damaged beyond repair a great number of the historic buildings depicted in this book. Christchurch and Lyttelton suffered particularly serious losses; Akaroa and Banks Peninsula fared better, but they too saw historic buildings damaged, and a few demolished.

This book is being re-published while demolitions are still in progress and the central business district of Christchurch remains closed. We do not know exactly what we have lost or what will be left. A quick tally (based on incomplete information) indicates that around 70 of the buildings in the book are gone. And the buildings in the book were only ever a representative sample of the region's total stock of heritage buildings. When the post-earthquake clean-up is completed, Christchurch and Lyttelton will each have only a handful of heritage buildings left. Places which, until September 2010, had rich collections of interesting heritage buildings. They have become heritage wastelands.

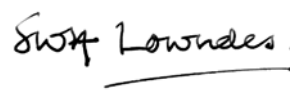
It will be debated for years to come whether the losses needed to be as severe as they have been. Many people who loved Christchurch and Lyttelton for their heritage buildings believe that buildings which could have been saved were pulled down only because those advocating their retention faced insurmountable political and economic obstacles. That belief only deepens the sadness about the fate that has overtaken Christchurch and Lyttelton.

Looking through this book will be depressing. You will be reminded of an architecture that once spoke of the city's past and the aspirations of its citizens and of aesthetic pleasures of brick, carved limestone, and Gothic and Classical detailing that are gone forever. Nobody will ever build like that again. But we hope too that grief for the lost buildings will be relieved by memories of them. We want this book to serve as a memorial to the city we have lost.

We can no longer hope that the book will encourage people to fight to preserve the buildings that gave Christchurch and Lyttelton their deserved reputations as places that had looked after their heritage well. Those buildings are mostly gone. But we need to remember, optimistically, that some of the heritage buildings depicted in this book have survived. We hope that this second edition will, like the first, strengthen the resolve of the people of Christchurch and Lyttelton to protect jealously and care properly for what remains.



Timothy Hogan, Chair
Christchurch Civic Trust



Steve Lowndes, Chair
Akaroa Civic Trust