

ANOTHER FOUNTAIN IN NEED OF ATTENTION



Bowker Fountain Victoria Square

Victoria Square is arguably the City's most aesthetically pleasing inner city space, and is for the most part well maintained by Christchurch City Council, but one feature is being seriously neglected, and that is the Bowker Fountain.

This fountain unveiled on 26 February 1931 was intended to be the major water feature of Victoria square, by both day and night, but especially at night

When installed the electric Bowker Fountain was unique in Australasia. Apart from another in Bournemouth England it was the only one outside of the USA which at that time had already 41 of this kind.

As part of its construction, lighting units were submerged and operated automatically in sequence from an electrical mechanism in a Chamber beneath the fountain's bowl.

This original illumination from within, ran a cycle that was continuous.

A Rising ring of jets and sprays were coloured with amber, green, red and blue, either singly or in a variety of colour combinations.

Any variation to the display was easily effected by a change in water pressure. The jets could either be separated, combined, raised or lowered. A total of 12 projectors were installed which were effectively electric lights with reflectors behind, covered with coloured lenses. Of these 3 were white 3 were red, 3 were blue and 3 were amber.

During daytime the central jets could be made to rise to a height of 10 to 12 metres in the air. The three jets surrounding this could throw sprays with a much wider angle, and a further outer ring of jets was capable of creating a curtain fall of water around the fountain base.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Generous funding has been obtained from the NZ Lottery Grants Board for the development of the Trust website. It is expected that it will take about three months for that work to be completed and for the site to be active. A subcommittee lead by David Thornley will provide the content.

The Civic Trust Constitution was amended by the AGM in May. There will now be additional categories of membership, new provisions for the functioning of the Board between AGM elections and the disposal of funds if the Trust was to be dissolved. The objectives of the Trust remain as formulated in 1965.

The Board has responded formally to the Arts Centre on the Music School proposal for Hereford Street. This follows on from the presentation given by the Architects to us before the AGM. I reproduce below the substance of the letter which was sent to the Arts Centre Director -

The Civic Trust recognises the responsibility of the Arts Centre to generate revenue for the preservation and revitalisation of the buildings and environment. This endeavour should not be at the expense of the heritage values and character of the precinct.

Although music and education have a fit at face value with an arts centre the Trust is not convinced that it is appropriate to reintroduce hundreds of students back into this environment. The proposed building will not allow for the future expansion of the School that would be available on a less constrained environment. If part of the University is to be dislocated from the Ilam campus there are other parts of the central city that could benefit.

The new building follows the established pattern on the site of public spaces and permeability from the street. While the height of the School is no higher than the existing buildings the ratio of the width to height makes the structure too bulky and at odds with the established grain within the site. This is most evident in the east and west elevations.

It is apparent to the Civic Trust that the surfeit of

bulk to the proposed building is a principal feature which will inevitably result in a significant number of those most influential and concerned about heritage and conservation issues in Christchurch, strongly opposing this proposal in its present form.

The Trust made an oral presentation to the City Council in May as part of the LTCCP 2009 – 19 hearings on the proposal to stage Test cricket at Hagley Oval. The expenditure dedicated in the Plan of \$1 million has since been approved. The Board is to write to the Council to find out what statutory procedures will now be followed to allow this project to proceed. The Board does not support the redevelopment of the Oval and the reasons for this as presented to the Council at the hearing are stated below -

Hagley Park is not an appropriate venue for a commercial activity of this scale. The Canterbury Cricket proposal has indicated the requirement for an embankment, fencing and the enlargement of existing buildings. The public consultation that led to the Hagley Park Management Plan 2007 indicated that the citizens of Christchurch treasure the open parkland nature of this part of Hagley Park and wished this to be retained for future generations.

The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan 2008 identified the Village Green at QEII as the preferred venue to develop a test cricket ground. This was identified with the area around Addington Raceway as one of two clusters that will be important in the future provision of sports facilities in Christchurch. It is ironic that netball is likely to exit Hagley Park for Addington and that area returned to parkland. QEII already has complimentary high performance facilities and it has been demonstrated for over a generation beginning with the Commonwealth Games in 1974 that it can host sporting events.

International cricket will continue to have a central city presence with ODIs and 20/20 games at AMI Stadium. The more sedate 5 day Test version is suited to a venue in another part of Christchurch which would benefit from that exposure. Hagley Oval should be retained for club cricket. In that exposure, Hagley Oval should be retained for club cricket.

The Music School and Hagley Oval look set to be concerns for the Board in the near future. If any members have comments on either proposal please let myself or other Board members know.

Tim Hogan
Chairman

With 3 different sets of jets many variations of display were, and still are possible.

From its beginning the Bowker fountain did not have what could be described as an auspicious start.

When Henry Layton Bowker the English born retired land agent died in 1921 aged 80 years he left in his will £1,000 for the 'erection of a fountain or statuary in front of the proposed Christchurch Town Hall'.

Unfortunately the town hall design drawn up prior to WWI was never built, and it took Christchurch City Council the best part of a decade to come to a decision on how to deal with the Bowker bequest. However, a decision was eventually made to place a fountain in Victoria Square where a band rotunda had once stood.

At present the fountain although it spurts a few jets of water it performs nowhere near its capability and at nighttime is disappointing in its light effects.

This is all a direct result of neglect of regular maintenance, the same kind of neglect that led to the removal of the Peacock Fountain in 1949.

It took the hard work of the Civic Trust the best part of three decades to have the Peacock fountain reinstalled.

Hopefully it will not be the same length of time before the Bowker fountain is functioning to optimum capability again.

Christchurch City Council have advised the Civic Trust that they are aware of the problems with regard to the fountain and are endeavouring to deal with them..

The Trust will be monitoring progress on this issue

Grubb Cottage Heritage Trust

Lyttelton's Grubb Cottage Heritage Trust continues to develop future strategies and policies for one of Canterbury's oldest buildings.

While this is proving to be a slow process, the Trust's view is that it's essential that this project has a sound foundation on which to build future policies to safeguard and hopefully use this hugely significant heritage building.

Developing a sound partnership with the

Christchurch City Council has been a priority for The Trust and to this end a comprehensive draft management agreement is still being considered by both parties. We are developing protocols for the communication strategy of the project in partnership with the Council as well as developing the structure for the lease once the restoration work is complete.

Although the painstaking process surrounding the stabilisation and restoration of the building lies in the hands of the Council's Heritage team, the Trust continues to have a central and vital role as the link between the CCC and the community. With this goal in mind, it is evolving policies on the future use of the cottage. Discussions to date have produced some very innovative ideas which Trust members are developing.

The vision for end use of the site will be a departure from the static museum approach that is common to these kinds of buildings. We intend to engage visitors in a unique way using visual media and creative interpretations of the site. The detail is still in development and hinges on the limits that will be placed on The Trust in terms of the level of access to certain parts of the cottage. The Trust has deliberately kept a low profile in terms of wider communication because we understood that the time-line to establish the foundational elements of this project would be a lengthy one and didn't want to build expectations with the community until the project milestones became more visible.

The Heritage Places Trust is involved in the development of the restoration work and their deliberations with council continue to evolve the treatment of the work.

A website is up and running at www.grubbcottages.org.nz, an information banner is in place and some community projects will be launched later this year.''

[Christopher Moore]

THE 2009 CIVIC TRUST BOARD



Seated front; Marett Taylor, Anne Dingwall, Tim Hogan (Chairman) Lindsay Carswell (Secretary) Prue Wignall
Standing; Neil Roberts, Lynn Wicks, Ted Pryor, David Thornley, Ian Clark, Ron Fussell, Cory Bedford Joanna Mackenzie
Absent ; Bruce Alexander (Treasurer)

Tim Hogan [Chairman]

Tim was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2003 and has held office as Chairman since 2005.

Tim has been in practice as an architect since 2001. He is also the Civic Trust Representative on the the Heritage Trust Advisory Committee.

Dr Ted Pryor [Deputy Chairman]

Ted was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2002 and has been Deputy Chairman since 2006.

A town planner by profession Ted spent many years shaping cities in both South East Asia and New Zealand.

Bruce Alexander [Treasurer]

Bruce was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 1968 He has held the office of Chairman from 1987 -1989. Secretary 1979 – 1984, 1986-7.2000 -2001. Minute Secretary 1992 -2000 and Treasurer since 2000

He is also a member of the Port Hills Trust Board.

Until his retirement in 1989 Bruce was a Surveyor

Lindsay Carswell [Secretary]

Lindsay was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2001 and has held the office of secretary since.

Prior to retirement in 1996 Lindsay was a teacher of accountancy and economics.

He has been the Civic Trust representative on the Port Hills Park Trust Board since 2002

Cory Bedford

Cory was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2008. He is a chartered structural engineer who owns his own company; Construction Ltd. Cory practiced in the UK before coming to live in NZ in 1999.

Ian Clark

Ian was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 1985 He has held the office of Chairman from 1991 -2000. Deputy Chairman 2000 – 2005 .

Ian was also an elected member of the Waimairi District Council from 1972 – 1984 the Canterbury Museum Trust Board 1975 - 1984 and Canterbury United Council 1978-1984.

Until he retired in 1990 he was a senior lecturer in the Department of Continuing Studies at the

University of Canterbury.(formerly Department of Adult Education)

Ian was the Civic Trust representative on Art Centre Trust Board for 9years. He is also a foundation member of the Ferrymead Trust.

Anne Dingwall

Anne was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2000.

Before joining the Trust Anne was a proactive member of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens whose membership amalgamated with the Civic Trust in 2004. Anne is the Civic Trust representative on the Nurses Memorial Chapel Trust board.

Ronald Fussell

Ron was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 1980 and was Chairman 1989 – 91

Before joining the Trust Ron was chairman of the Environmental Vanguard

Organisation(EnVo) (following the death of Dr Helen Hervey). After several years in that role he approached the Civic Trust with Envo members support to suggest an amalgamation. In 1981 the Civic Trust agreed that this would be mutually beneficial to both.

Ron's career was in the the printing industry, though now retired. Until 2003 he was Design and Print manager of the University of Canterbury Press.

Joanna Mackenzie

Joanna was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2001 and is currently the Trust representative on the Christchurch Art Centre Trust Board

Joanna is an artist and art educator.

Neil Roberts

Neil was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2007

Until 2006 he was senior curator at the Christchurch Art Gallery. Currently. Neil is chairman of the Sydenham Heritage Trust. He is an independent art historian and valuer.

Marette Taylor

Marette was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 1985 and has held office as deputy chair 1986 – 88 and 1989 – 90. Marette served as an elected member of the Heathcote County Council 1974 -77 and 1980 - 85 and Chair of the Port

Hills Park Trust Board 1991 -1998 representing the Civic Trust

David Thornley

David was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 1992.

He is a highly regarded design consultant specialising in industrial architectural and theatre design.

Prue Wignall

Prue was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 1993 and held office as Treasurer from 1992 - 2002 .Prue is a language speech therapist.

Lynn Wicks

Lynn was elected to the Civic Trust Board in 2009.

She has international commerce experience in sales, procurement and marketing.

Civic Trust Sub -Committee Members

Membership/Publicity

Lynn Wicks,Marette Taylor, Bruce Alexander, Neil Roberts,Jacqui Smith,Lindsay Carswell.

Newsletter:Ron Fussell,Prue Wignall,Lindsay Caswell,Neil Roberts.

Heritage Urban Design and Environment

Tim Hogan,Cory Bedford,Ian Clark,Ted Pryor, David Thornley

Social

Prue Wignall

Awards:

Ian Clark,Cory Bedford,Roger Buck,(co-opted)Joanna Mackenzie,Neil Roberts,Jacqui Smith,Lynn Wicks,

Web-site

David Thornley,Ted Pryor,Bruce Alexander,Lynn Wicks,Ann Dingwall.

Our Heritage At Ferrymead

If Lyttelton is considered historically to be the front door of Canterbury, then Bridle Path Road must be the driveway down to the gateway to the plains. For early settlers the stopping point was

the Heathcote River. For a short time rowboats were used then a ferry was installed in May 1851. The first ferry was at the site of the existing bridge, but it was soon discovered that this was a somewhat dangerous site so it lasted there only about a year, after which it was moved about 400 yards upstream where there is still some evidence of gravel in the river, placed there to form landing ramps at each bank. This can be seen at the end of the walkway from Settlers Crescent to the river. This ferry was in use until 1864 and had to allow for passing river traffic by having its guiding ropes dropped to the bottom, whenever other boats came up or down the river. The ferry was 8 metres long and 3 metres wide, and could carry up to 30 passengers or two vehicles and their horses, or live stock, such as sheep and cattle. It is recorded that in the year 1862 it carried 10,000 carts, 12,000 saddle horses and about 30,000 people, paying one shilling per vehicle and 3 pence per passenger.

Now a small enthusiastic group is planning and working towards reinstating this historic ferry as near as possible to the original dimensions and operational methods. This should eventually become part of the Ferrymead Heritage Park and form a link from Settlers Crescent to the Park.

In the 1850's and 60's Ferrymead was an extremely important part of the lives of early settlers and there was a very busy settlement on the south side of the river at Ferrymead; people and goods on boats were there aplenty and a wharf was built in 1863, initially for the shipment in of railway engines and rolling stock to operate on the line being constructed from Christchurch to Lyttelton with a branch line to Ferrymead wharf. This line was in use until the tunnel to Lyttelton was completed in May 1867, so for about four years it became an arrival point for transshipping goods and carrying passengers to Christchurch by rail. This railway line to Ferrymead holds the record of being the first public railway in New Zealand to open in 1863 and the first to close in 1867. About 100 years later the Ferrymead Railway and Locomotive Society re-laid the rails on the original embankment and began operating trains again; this well maintained operation has continued for over 40 years. The history of Ferrymead is a very important background to the

settlement of Christchurch; many industries were established in the adjacent areas including; timber yards, ship building, brick works and several others, none of which have received any recognition as part of our history and heritage. The continuing development of the Ferrymead Heritage Park could expand to gradually include much more of the history of the area.
[Guy Evans]

ORAL HISTORY

People wishing to record their family history for posterity have a diverse and growing range of methods to choose from. Written accounts are ideal for presenting a large amount of detailed information such as names, dates and places. Oral histories offer a more personal perspective and can often give a deeper insight into the person telling the story. Now a third alternative is growing in popularity - video histories that allow individuals, families or organisations to tell their stories on film.

Like no other medium, a film can bring your historical story to life. It records not only important factual information, but also the essence of the people who are telling the story - their voices, their smiles, their laughter - all their unique mannerisms. Peoples' memories, as well as their personalities, are preserved on film forever for future generations to treasure and enjoy.

Films such as these make wonderful keepsakes and valuable historical records that are more personal and accessible than most written or oral accounts. Advances in technology also means broadcast-quality films such as these are becoming increasingly affordable for most people. That's why I started Bellbird Pictures, the only company in Canterbury that specialises in creating tailor-made video histories for local people. Bellbird Pictures' films can be about anything you like. One or more family members could recall their own life story, the story of an ancestor, or the wider story of your family tree. Special events like family reunions are a good time to record films such as these, or the film could be made in advance so its screening can be a central part of the celebration itself. Local businesses and organisations are also choosing to document their history in this way. Recently I have made films for the Sign of the Kiwi Tearoom, Piko Wholefoods and Alzheimers Canterbury as a

way of preserving their history and celebrating an important milestone. Whatever the subject, Bellbird Pictures' films consist largely of extended on-camera interviews that we record at a location of your choosing. We then edit these interviews together with any photographs and home-video that you may have to illustrate the story and bring it to life. The finished film is presented on a personalised DVD with its own custom-designed cover, along with copies of all the unedited interviews for your records.

Civic Trust members may be interested in recording their own family history in this way, or perhaps in telling the story of a local historical group or location. If so, I would be very happy to hear from you. Excerpts from several of my films can be viewed on the Bellbird Pictures website, along with more information about the type of services I provide. If you have a story that needs recording, or you know somebody who does, please don't hesitate to get in touch for a free consultation and quote.

[Simon Ogston (Creative Director)]

For anyone interested in his services Simon can be contacted by;Phone: 027 2129038 or Email: simon@bellbirdpictures.co.nz Web: www.bellbirdpictures.co.nz

New Members

The Trust welcomes the following new member: Jane Batchelor, David Reynolds, John Cleaver, Cliff Mason, Jessica Halliday, Robin de Mandeville, Nancy Sutherland, Ashley Spice, Roseanne Hawarden, Adam Cath, Salvatore (Sam) Strati and Athena Ellis

As we are always interested in recruiting new members we would ask current members to pass on a their copy of the Newsletter to others who may like to join. [a membership form is at the bottom of the next page

New intending members should not feel that because they subscribe they have to become involved and if they do not want to be, donations are welcome and tax deductible.

Have we got your contact details correct ?

As the Civic Trust is currently undertaking an update of its membership database we would ask that any members who have recently moved advise us of any contact details that may have changed, in particular email addresses and telephone numbers.

Lecture Series

The recent lunchtime public lecture series held during the second Friday of each month has been popular with members. The last lecture in the present series will be given by Captain John Cleaver who will speak about what is happening with regard to heritage in Lyttelton.

John Cleaver

Captain John Cleaver is a master mariner and has captained many vessels in his career, including Cook Strait ferries.

A long time resident in Lyttelton John is an enthusiastic advocate for the preservation of Canterbury's heritage. He has been involved with several restoration projects in Lyttelton and is currently chair of the Thornycroft Torpedo Museum.

A further series of lectures is planned for 2010, and members will be advised of these in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LYTTELTON

Lunchtime talk by John Cleaver

21 August

12.30 – 1.30pm

**South Christchurch Library Board Room
Colombo St**

THE CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST EVENTS CALENDAR

August	4	Trust Board Meeting
August	21	Lecture 12.30pm South City Library What's Happening in Lyttelton Capt John Cleaver
September	1	Trust Board Meeting
October	6	Trust Board Meeting

The Trust Board

Chairman: Tim Hogan

Deputy Chairman: Ted Pryor

Secretary: Lindsay Carswell **Treasurer:** Bruce Alexander

Cory Bedford, Ian Clark, Anne Dingwall, Ronald Fussell, Joanna Mackenzie,
Neil Roberts, Murette Taylor, David Thornley, Lynn Wicks, Prue Wignall

Contacts: The Secretary 389 4819

The Chairman 366 3322

The Christchurch Civic Trust P.O.Box 1927 Christchurch 8140

CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST

P.O.Box 1927 Christchurch 8140

Name.....

Address.....

Contact Nos Tele..... **Email**.....

Occupation.....

Skills which may be of value to the Civic Trust

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Signature.....

Individual membership \$20

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Christchurch Civic
