

HISTORIC PLACES

MANAWATŪ - HOROWHENUA

Newsletter of Historic Places
Manawatu—Horowhenua

Number 19 August 2021

The Voice of Heritage

ALL SAINTS PALMERSTON NORTH TO BE STRENGTHENED AND ADDED TO

All Saints has stood guard over the South West corner of the Square since it was constructed in 1916. It was designed by noted architect Frederic de Jersey Clere. Clere designed over 100 churches, and All Saints is one of his finest. The building is listed as Category 1 with Heritage New Zealand – one of a few in Palmerston North.

Around the year 2000 the Church decided to explore the strengthening of the building, and the Palmerston North City Council funded a study into its earthquake resistance to assist with this.

This lay on the table till 2012 when as part of a city wide assessment the City Council declared the structure as earthquake prone, and the assessed level of strength was such that the church decided to close the building for any use in 2013.

An advisory group – the Church Building Advisory Board (CBAB) took up the challenge to identify the most appropriate method of strengthening the building, and following assessment of two proposals recommended the design of Structural Concepts of Napier.



View of All Saints Church with the new addition
- prepared by Chapple Architecture

It was recognised that for the church to have a future, it needed to be brought into the 21st Century in terms of facilities and additional areas expected in a modern church.

A proposal by parishioner Matt Soong to create a new entrance to the church was adopted by the Parish, and the proposal together with the strengthening proposals was submitted to the City Council for Resource Consent in September 2019.

A hearing was held before independent Commissioners with submissions both for and against the proposal, and they eventually ruled against the new entrance, declaring that it was not consistent with the historic nature of the building. They did however leave the door open to consider alternative entry proposals. A stay was requested of the Environment Court who agreed to a time delay to enable an alternative scheme to be developed.

An alternative had been suggested previously, and this was re-examined in the light of the Commissioner's ruling and more detailed plans, prepared by Susie Elms of Chapple Architecture were considered by the Parish, and unanimously approved. A feature of the proposed scheme is that the existing entry door openings will be glazed and allow passers-by to view the interior of the Church.

A series of interchanges between the expert witnesses who had given evidence on behalf of the City Council, and the proposers of the alternative scheme were held to confirm common ground and a way forward.

This resulted in a submission to the Environment Court which resulted in the alternative design being approved and a Resource Consent was issued to enable the Parish to move ahead with planning a strategy for carrying this out.

New Primary School History Curriculum

Most of our members will have heard at least something about the new school history curriculum and its emphasis upon the following 'big ideas':

Māori history is the foundational and continuous history of Aotearoa New Zealand;

Colonisation and settlement have been central to Aotearoa New Zealand's histories for the past 200 years;

- The course of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories has been shaped by the use of power;

Relationships and connections between people and across boundaries have shaped the course of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.

These will be investigated through lenses famed as:

Whakapapa me te whanaungatanga/culture and identity;

Tino rangatiratanga me te kāwanatanga/government and organisation;

- Tūrangawaewae me te kaitiakitanga/place and environment;

Kōwhiringa ohaoaha me te whai oranga/economic activity.

So far, so general, and what actually happens in the classroom will be interesting to see.

There is a push to have these big themes supported by local history and local examples, and Virginia Warbrick has organised two meetings at the Convention Centre labelled 'Ka Mua, Ka Muri'. These gatherings drew together more than 30 groups from the heritage sector within and beyond Palmerston North: history groups, museums, libraries and archives, and the occasional business with an interest in producing resources, giving them a chance to showcase themselves and their wares to teachers from local schools.

A number of committee members from Historic Places Manawātū Horowhenua were there, wearing different hats.

Chairperson Cindy Lilburn specifically represented our group, and she put together some ideas for topics which would introduce pupils to historic places and buildings. Her flyers showed how places such as Caccia Birch, the site of the old railway yards, and Broadway could be used to illustrate wider themes, and she also suggested possible historical walks.

Trustees of the Regent Theatre were also represented at Ka Mua Ka Muri by Tania Kopytko, and they have pulled together resources which could form the basis of lessons based upon that splendid building.

And David Chapple was among those foregrounding the Hoffman Kiln, our very special piece of industrial heritage (which has recently been visited by children from Terrace End School).

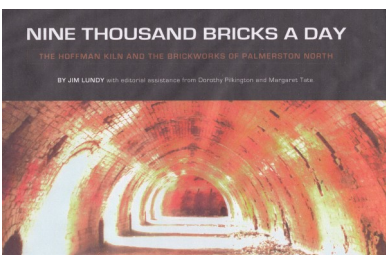
Representatives of Rangitāne were also present, and the telling of the stories of mana whenua will be vital to rolling out the first of the 'big ideas' in the syllabus. Yes, students will learn about the Treaty and its signatories – which did not include Rangitāne o Manawātū – and about the New Zealand Wars, but there is also the story and the symbolism behind the statue of Te Peeti Te Aweawe in Te Marae o Hine, and Te Peeti's injunction 'I have laid the foundation of friendship for you to bring to completion'. Te Rangimarie marae and the sites of significance to Rangitāne and other iwi are already being visited by some schools, their significance also rolled out for public viewing on story boards and interpretive panels.

The more that local resources can be made available to teachers in a readily accessible form, the more likely that students will have their eyes opened to the history in the streets and places around them, and not just in places afar.



The city centre was once the site of a major hub where workers arranged and rearranged sets of carriages coming from four directions. There are many stories to be told about Palmerston North's railway past.

Photo: Collections of Te Manawa, accession number: 2016/54/6



HOFFMAN KILN BOOK IS STILL AVAILABLE

The Trust is donating copies of Jim Lundy's book—Nine Thousand Bricks a Day to a number of local Primary Schools for their libraries. There are still copies available for purchase as well. If you would like a copy they are still \$30.00 each. Phone 06 3574045 if you are interested.

Farewell to the former Palmerston North Teachers College



Massey campus in the 1990s. From left to right in centre of the picture: the Library building, tower Administration block, Auditorium.

Photo: Manawatu Heritage taken 2021 by Ben Foster.

It is with regret we announce the forthcoming demolition of the former Palmerston North Teachers College – Hokowhitu Campus. The three anchor buildings of the campus, the tower administration block, library and auditorium, are scheduled to go from 2023 onwards as Phase 3 of the area's conversion to housing by the Wallace Development Company. Phase 2 of the subdivision [50 sections] at the Manawatu River end of the campus is currently under construction.

Love it or loath it, the Hokowhitu campus is a rare Brutalist style landscape in which its concrete construction is, shall we say, honestly expressed. The only other like settings to be found in Palmerston North are at the Massey University Turitea campus and Civic Complex.

Palmerston North Teachers College was established in 1956 for primary school teacher training, initially sited in the former Technical School building on the corner of King and Princess St [now UCOL]. Building began from 1972 onwards at the Hokowhitu site [the library, gymnasium, and classroom blocks] with the administration tower block and auditorium later opened in 1982. The College was merged with Massey University in 1996; this saw staff transferred to the Turitea Campus and most teacher training now done as distance learning.

Over its forty years, the campus site has provided specialised training, had a distinguished art faculty, and still boasts a keen alumni group.

Wallace Development have worked with former students of the college to preserve the wedge of memorial trees at the river end of the site which commemorate deceased students and teachers. The wedge will also feature explanatory signage by Rangitane as the whole area was once the Hokowhitu Native Reserve, set aside when Rangitane sold the block in the 1860s.

Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua enquired whether the buildings could be photographed before they were demolished. As a result, Wallace Development has generously provided their recent images to the Manawatu Heritage and Tamiro [Massey University archives] websites so there will be a publicly accessible record of the campus. Manawatu Heritage,



HOFFMAN KILN

There may not be any discernable difference to the appearance of the Kiln in Featherston Street, but work has been progressing on the interiors of the buildings on site.

The Jim Lundy Building has been lined internally, and several working bees have been held by Trustees to finish the walls, to enable displays to be mounted. When the weather picks up the exterior will be tidied up and painted. The Trust has collected an amazing number of early photographs of the Kiln, which it is keen to display.

The former Office building has been re-roofed, and now it is waterproof, work to the ceiling which was substantially damaged by fire many years ago, can be addressed. The Trust is awaiting quotes for earthquake - strengthening this building. When completed it will provide a great meeting and small display space.

All of this has been made possible due to the generous support from the Awapuni Rotary Club.

The Trust was successful in obtaining funding from the City Council for installation of a sewer connection to the site. This work was completed recently, and that enables the installation of a toilet and sinkbench to be completed.

A significant project for the Kiln itself is addressing the amount of dust that is blown through the holes in the Kiln top. This is eroding the areas around the holes and leading to further damage of this area. The Trust has been experimenting with clear Perspex covers fixed over the holes, which it hopes will correct the issue.



Manawatū Journal of History

The 2022 issue of the *Journal* is hot off the press and orders are currently being posted out. Issues can also be purchased from Bruce McKenzie Books.

Early signs are that this year's *Journal* will sell out quite fast, especially with Father's Day coming up. If you want to buy extra copies to send to people or know people who would like to order a copy, best to take action soon! They also make a great Christmas present.

Included in this year's fascinating issue:

Peter Lineham: the arrival of Christianity in the Manawatū

Fiona McKergow: the Patriotic Cookery Book of 1917

Simon Johnson: the story of local company Blackley Construction

Margaret Tennant: Mina McKenzie, museum director

Russell Poole: post-Second World War transit camps in Palmerston North

Leanne Croon Hickman: the first 100 years of the Palmerston North Horticultural Society

Mike Roche: A visit by the director of Kew Gardens to the Manawatū flax country

Tony Rasmussen: The Boys' Brigade in the Manawatū

Easy steps to order on-line the *Manawatū Journal of History* Issue 18 2022:

Make payment of \$25.00 per copy to ANZ 06-0729-0511593-00 Please use your name as reference.

Email: manawatujournal@inspire.net.nz with the following information (this will ensure the journal gets posted out to you at the correct address as soon as the payment and name are reconciled): Name, address, post code, number of copies, and indication that the bank payment has been actioned.

Some back issues are still in print and available for purchase under a special offer price of \$15 per copy. They are disappearing fast so please email

manawatujournal@inspire.net.nz to ascertain whether the issues you would like to order are currently available!

[PLEASE DO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HISTORY JOURNAL](#)



Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua AGM is to be held on Sunday 25 September.

Place: Te Rangahau room, Te Manawa (museum)

Time: 2:30 pm

Speaker: Juliet Thomas, on 'My life with historic cookbooks'

When Heritage New Zealand (formerly NZ Historic Places Trust) shed its volunteer membership to become a Crown Entity, it might have seemed that there was no longer a role for volunteers in heritage. In Manawatu-Horowhenua, as well as a few other areas in New Zealand, the committee acted on the premise that there is still a need for a formal volunteer group locally and formed the present Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua (HPM-H), gaining members from among those who had been members of NZ Historic Places Trust.

No longer a direct arm of Heritage New Zealand, HPM-H is now linked with Historic Places Aotearoa, a national, independent grass-roots body which advocates for heritage. Our branch committee has continued to be the eyes and ears of heritage matters in Manawatu and Horowhenua. We keep an eye on local body heritage policies, make submissions on heritage matters where needed, and also make small grants for plaques and other heritage signage. Recently we have been involved in gatherings to foreground the importance of local heritage in the new primary school history curriculum.

But we do need your help. Several long-serving committee members are retiring at this AGM. We need people to carry on their good work.

Archives Central

For researchers, this place is a hidden gem. Archives Central in Bowen Street, Feilding holds the local government archives in one place for most of the lower North Island.

At present the archives holds records from the:

Ruapehu District Council
Rangitikei District Council
Manawatu District Council
Horowhenua District Council

Taranua District Council
Manawatu-Whanganui [Horizons] Regional Council
Hawkes Bay Regional Council

Whanganui District and Palmerston North City Council records are still physically at their own councils, BUT the index to all these records in all these organizations are available online on their website:
www.archivescentral.org.nz.

Note the regional council records include numerous small former drainage, rabbit, catchment and pest control boards – anything environmentally minded. There are many sobering images of local floods – and work schemes requiring big diggers!

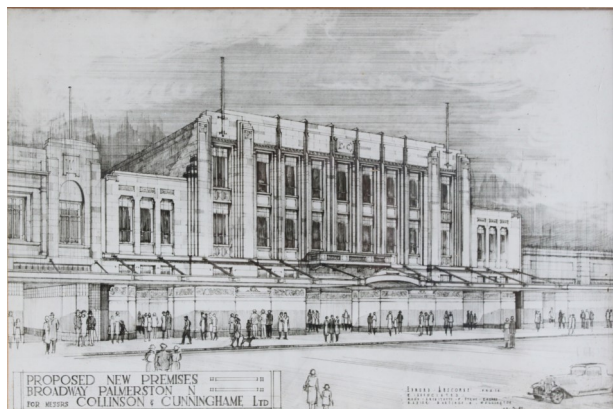
You need not visit in person. Archives Central has invested heavily in digitizing their collections which includes rate books and files as well as maps, plans and aerial photographs. They are accustomed to answering questions electronically so will happily scan and email you out a reply.

For genealogists, please note.

Te Manawa has recently received the business records of Collinson & Cunninghame Ltd, the local department store which was on the corner of the Square and Broadway, Palmerston North and traded from 1904 until 1983. The records include staff wage books should you wish to determine when and what your relative did at the store. Contact Cindy Lilburn, Collections Manager [Heritage], email: cindy.lilburn@temanawa.co.nz

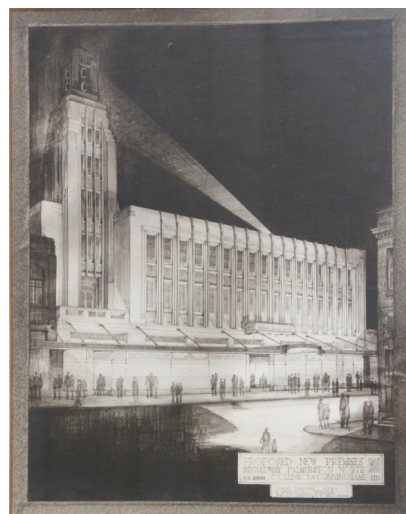
What might have been

In 1932 Collinson & Cunninghame, the Palmerston North department store on the corner of Broadway and the Square, asked their favourite architect, Edmund Anscombe of Wellington, to design a new Broadway façade. The image below suggests we could have rivalled Oxford Street in London. Alas, not to be in the economic times of the Depression.



Portrait format one [night scene] is:

Collections of Te Manawa,
accession number 2021/41/73



STOP PRESS: The former Plunket Rooms in King St, PN have just been given a Category II registration by Heritage NZ.

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER Note from the Treasurer Bill Bendall

A reminder that subscriptions for the year 2022/23 are due in the amount of \$20.00 single or \$25 family. Please pay to TSB account 15 3977 0028377 00 with your name as reference.

I have a locked letter box at 8 Manuka St, Hokowhitu, so cash in an envelope would be an option, if that is easier. If you are not sure whether you have already paid, please give me ring on 3544945 or email junnbil@xtra.co.nz

HISTORIC PLACES MANAWATU-HOROWHENUA COMMITTEE

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8 Manuka Street, Palmerston North (for posted mail to HPMH)

Committee: Don Irvine, David Chapple, Ian Robertson, Margaret Tennant, Pauline Knuckey, Leanne Hickman.