

# AKAROA CIVIC TRUST

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## NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2022



The dawn unveiling of the Pou at Takapūneke Reserve. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

## A Special Matariki Commemoration at Takapūneke

**R**epresentatives of the Akaroa Civic Trust attended the dawn unveiling of Pou Tū te Raki o Te Maiharanui on the cold but clear morning of Friday 24 June this year, New Zealand's first Matariki Public Holiday.

The Pou is a contemporary sculpture, created by Ngāi Tahu master carver Fayne Robinson, which forms the focal point of the Takapūneke Historic Reserve. The carving is erected within the stunning landscaping and planting designed by landscape architect Debbie Tikao.

The dawn event marked the culmination of more than twenty years of work on the part of the Civic Trust in supporting the goal of Ōnuku Rūnanga to protect the land from inappropriate development.

The Rūnanga chairman, Rik Tainui, recognised the Civic

Trust's long-standing contribution during speeches at Ōnuku Marae following the dawn ceremony.

Victoria Andrews (Deputy Chair, Akaroa Civic Trust).



Landscape architect Debbie Tikao and Ōnuku Rūnanga chairman Rik Tainui at the dawn unveiling. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

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# THE AKAROA CIVIC TRUST

The Trust is a society dedicated to the preservation of the beauty and history of Akaroa and its surroundings.

## NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please support the work of the Trust by becoming a member or by making a donation.

Direct credit to our BNZ bank account  
02-0832-0018158-000.

Please include your full name in the reference field.

**Individual membership is \$15.**  
**Family membership is \$20.**

## THE BOARD

The 2022 Akaroa Civic Trust Board consisted of:

Chair	Mike Norris
Deputy Chair	Victoria Andrews
Secretary	Paula Comerford
Treasurer	Lynda Wallace
	Ben Campbell (resigned June)
	Steve Carswell
	Nigel Harrison (co-opted April)
	George Hook
	Rodney Laredo
	Chris Mangels (co-opted April)
	Dean Marshall
	Meri Robinson
	Amanda Sharpe (co-opted Sept.)

**Patron** Our Patron is Steve Lowndes.

## Valuing Heritage Buildings

Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is an essential element in terms of preserving Akaroa's rich architectural history. To this end the Trust wishes to acknowledge Andrew and Amanda Sharpe, along with their business partners, in successfully refurbishing their Rue Lavaud buildings. The Trust also welcomed Amanda as an Akaroa Civic Trust board member.



63 Rue Lavaud gets new roofing iron as part of its refurbishment in association with The Common cafe and garden bar next door.  
Photo: Victoria Andrews.

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# Report from the Chair

**F**or an organisation with only a couple of hundred members, enjoying a reasonably high profile as we do, the Akaroa Civic Trust could be accused of punching above its weight. Indeed, for what is essentially seen as a heritage body trying to uphold the core values it embraces – namely the protection and conservation of the beauty, history and character of Akaroa and its surrounding areas, we often appear to have stepped outside of any narrow boundaries which might otherwise constrain us.

Why should the Trust be interested in the Christchurch City Council's Destination Management Strategy (DMS) for example? Well the simple answer is that the long awaited DMS appears to be heavily focussed on 'brand'. This marketing term appears frequently in all the blurb surrounding the compilation of the new plan. Aimed at broadening the appeal of Christchurch and Akaroa to their perceived tourism markets, the impact which might concern us is how this new branding might affect the appearance of our little town, and that certainly is something which should concern us.

Typically, the Trust involves itself in advocacy relating to issues, sometimes contentious, which the council of the day is wrestling with in trying to balance the disparate views of its constituents. The current debate over how to manage the town's waste water is a good example of where the Civic Trust has been able, through numerous submissions to the Community Board and the full Council, to make elected officials and staff aware of valid concerns within the community about the effect on our environment of plans being proposed.

The cynic might say that the community's voice and the appearance of proper consultation is illusory, and so often it does appear as if decisions have already been taken on such major projects, and that the consultation process is merely a smokescreen to satisfy the requirement of local government to be engaging in it. Perhaps the current low level of turnout for the local body elections indicates a growing disillusionment with the whole process, causing residents and ratepayers to say 'why bother?'

Well, in the case of the Civic Trust, we do believe that in many cases it has been worth bothering. The undoubted success of Matariki Day and the unveiling of the pou on the land at Takapūneke is a good example. At the official proceedings to mark that historic day, Civic Trust members, particularly Victoria Andrews, were acknowledged for their relentless campaign to alert the council of the day in the early 2000s to the folly of ever considering turning over this tapu site to wholesale real estate development. Imagine how that might have turned out without our intervention!



After the public opening on 24 June 2022, visitors chat and enjoy the view, which would have been built out if earlier council plans had proceeded. Photo: George Hook.

Having celebrated our 50th anniversary three years ago, the Trust believes we need to continue examining our organisation and working out our pathway for the next 50 years. To that end a Strategy Workshop should occur early next year with the new board. We need to ensure we remain a valued part of the community whilst holding true to the core ideals of the founding members.

Looking back over the last year as Covid loosened its grip on our communities, there are several significant achievements which the Trust can lay claim to.

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## The 'New Wharf'

The Trust campaigned at community board and council level to have the proposed design modified, so as to eliminate the 'knuckle', which we considered incongruous and also a safety issue. The design was eventually altered.

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## Cruise ships

The absence of a proper traffic management strategy to avoid heavy traffic using the south end of the town during cruise ship visits has been of concern. This is a highly contentious matter with quite a large number of people disagreeing with the Trust's claim that our streets are too narrow to allow safe traversing of 40-seater coaches, particularly those attempting to pass by each other, without mounting the pavement and endangering foot traffic. As in Lyttelton, we suggested some sort of shuttle system (in our case from the north end of town) be devised, but the council's traffic engineer disagreed and stated there was absolutely no problem with the status

quo. We now learn that, from pressure having been applied in the right places, there will be a review of the traffic management plan. There have been two years without ships, which should have given the Council plenty of time to sort something out before the potential problem resurfaces.

On a broader front, we note with pleasure that our ongoing pleas to Council, ECan and Maritime NZ have borne some useful fruit. For the next season there will be tough new rules governing the operation of cruise ships in NZ and in particular, Akaroa. Not only will the size and numbers of ships admitted to our harbour be severely reduced compared to previous seasons, but also mandates over low-emission fuel use and discharges will be imposed, and what's more they will be monitored! This constitutes quite a remarkable achievement, and the number of ships visiting Akaroa this season can be expected to be a fraction of previous years – maybe 18 in total, while the larger ships (i.e. those with over 1000 passengers) will be directed to Lyttelton to the newly completed \$60 million terminal.

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### Daly's Wharf

Some of you will have noted the increasing deterioration of the iconic pavilion at the end of Daly's Wharf, with roof tiles missing and rotting timbers. Partly through persistent nagging by Civic Trust members, the Council has finally come up with a plan for complete restoration of this much viewed building, and work should be starting in the near future. As it is such a marker on the town's landscape and often photographed by visitors, due to its quirky nature, this example of our built heritage requires the fullest attention of its owners to safeguard its upkeep.



Repair work should commence shortly on the pavilion at the far end of Daly's Wharf. Photo: George Hook.

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### French Farm Naval Building

Developments relating to this building are covered in detail elsewhere in this issue (see page 8), but it is really heartening to be able to report real, tangible progress in the preservation of this building – possibly the oldest wooden building in the South Island.

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### Other Submissions

There have been other activities that the Trust has been involved in, including submissions in response to applications for development (e.g. the Giants House), and correspondence with CCC and Heritage NZ. The latter in an attempt to address an apparent disconnect between the Council's response to proposed demolitions of HNZ-listed buildings and the need to inform owners of pre-1900 buildings of their legal obligations under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

This issue appears to have led to the inappropriate demolition of some heritage buildings. We have suggested that a simple cross-referencing of affected properties would address this issue and Heritage NZ has said it has taken on board our concerns. We have yet to hear back from Christchurch City Council.

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### Britomart Memorial event

The Civic Trust is pleased to have been able to support the Christchurch City Council's Heritage Festival by presenting a talk on the significance of the site given by eminent historian and ex-board member Dr John Wilson, followed by a field trip to the monument on Saturday 22 October (see page 16). Bordering as it does the Takapūneke Reserve site, this important memorial – a significant piece of New Zealand's history – and the story it tells will continue to increase in significance as the full development of the Takapūneke vision becomes a reality.

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### Andrew Turner

On the retirement of Deputy Mayor and Banks Peninsula Ward Councillor Andrew Turner, the Civic Trust hosted a small luncheon for Andrew and his partner Glen in Akaroa in September. This enabled board members to express their gratitude to Andrew for his many years of service to this particular part of his realm. Overall, Andrew has been a solid advocate of matters relating to the peninsula. This is a special community, not easily served by applying the principles of suburban administration, a distinction Andrew understood well and acted on accordingly. He was always our 'go to' representative, and I personally thank him for his continued accessibility over the past eleven years.

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### Civic Trust Board Members

On the Civic Trust Board we have welcomed three new board members during 2022, in addition to Dean Marshall

who joined us in 2021. Nigel Harrison has a lifelong association with Akaroa – basically born and bred here, and his membership of the Community Board has been a great asset to us, broadening the scope of his contributions to our discussions without any conflict of interest. We expect his continuing representation of Akaroa on the Community Board will serve us all well as it has already. In Chris Mangels we have welcomed another Akaroa resident, who with his wife Gina and two young children thoroughly enjoy living here and wish to play their fullest part in the community. Chris's youthful enthusiasm is exactly what the Civic Trust should be encouraging in the makeup of its board. Most recently we have welcomed Amanda Sharpe to the board. Amanda and her husband Andrew have recently taken over the old bakery *Sweet As* and the neighbouring properties. We wish them well with their new venture, *The Common*. I am sure Amanda will help us remain relevant in a changing and sometimes challenging environment. In the middle of 2022, we accepted with regret the resignation of board member Ben Campbell, after all too brief a term. We wish Ben well with his plans for hospitality in Akaroa, and the impending restoration of Waeckerle's Cottage adjacent to the Grand Hotel.



Waeckerle's Cottage, 2 Rue Lavaud. Photo: George Hook.

This is the time of the year where I have great pleasure in paying tribute to our hardworking board. Readers will appreciate that board members are unpaid volunteers, who in other walks of life would be remunerated for the work they do. However that is never expected nor sought.

Paula Comerford has applied herself cheerfully to the task of Secretary and brings order and useful commercial insight to our proceedings. Thank you very much Paula.

Treasurer Lynda Wallace has given freely of her wide knowledge and calm wisdom, including navigating the frustrating waters of post-branch banking in Akaroa! Her thoroughly deserved recognition with a Queen's Service Medal is heartily endorsed by all of us.

George Hook has stepped into the role of newsletter editor for which I am eternally grateful. It is no small task and

George does it with aplomb and careful research, as he does with other board activities he has volunteered for. Victoria Andrews, my very supportive Deputy Chair, has put in another stellar performance to add to all these previous years in which she has served. In many ways she remains the driving force behind the scenes, and I am indebted to her for her dogged determination in preparing very detailed and thoroughly researched submissions to either the Community Board or the City Council, which we often co-present. A lot of hard work goes into the collation of all the necessary components of these presentations, which only those near to the subjects will be aware of. Thank you Victoria. Please don't ever think of retiring!

To the remainder of the Board – Steve Carswell, Rodney Laredo, Dean Marshall, Chris Mangels, Nigel Harrison, Meri Robinson and Amanda Sharpe – my sincere thanks for putting your hands up to help shoulder the work of this vital organisation. Only by having such a diversity of members serving on the board will we continue to maintain our relevance and usefulness to the community that we serve.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the contribution which our Patron, ex-chair Steve Lowndes, continues to make. His sage advice is always welcome and listened to.

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### In conclusion

Sometimes it is tempting to think we don't always achieve as much as we might like to in order to justify the effort put in, but little examples keep reminding us of the value of what we do. For example, it was heartening to receive news that our support of the application by John Harding and Lesley Burkes-Harding for their restoration of historic Blythcliffe House, one of Akaroa's most significant heritage buildings dating from the 1850s, was successful in obtaining the grants they sought.

As we look to our AGM in November and the election of board members for 2023, I view with confidence the healthy (if somewhat static) state of our finances, and welcome the continued enthusiasm of the board in dealing with the issues of the times that directly affect the preservation of heritage and the quality of life in Akaroa.

Michael Norris (Chair, Akaroa Civic Trust)

# Britomart Memorial Update



The Britomart Monument commemorating the demonstration of British sovereignty that occurred at the site in 1840. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

The Akaroa Civic Trust's 2021 Annual Newsletter featured articles about the Britomart Memorial, which was also a matter we raised in our 2022 Annual Plan submission to Christchurch City Council. The Trust has raised the issue of the Memorial's neglect in deputations to the Banks Peninsula Community Board in recent years as well. Residents, students and visitors are already seeking out the Takapūneke Historic Reserve with its culturally sensitive landscaping, pathways, planting and stunning pou. But lower down the hillside, behind overgrown bushes and trees, stands the Britomart Memorial, with problematic public access and hidden from public view.

Takapūneke and the Britomart Memorial are two of the most important historic sites on Te Waipounamu / South Island, and their overlapping histories tell a significant part of the story of the establishment of New Zealand. The two sites remain separate but, without question, they are historically linked.

A 1995 article in *The Press* by historian Harry Evison, titled "Akaroa Bay Outrage", came to the attention of Civic Trust members in 1997. The article provided a detailed overview of the horrific history of Takapūneke and Red House Bay. It also outlined the involvement of the then Akaroa County Council and Banks Peninsula District Council (BPDC) with the land. In 1999 a 9.6 hectare portion of the land adjacent to the Memorial, owned by the BPDC, was designated the Takapūneke Historic Reserve by that council. The balance of the land was subdivided into 47 sections for residential

development in a non-notified resource consent. Several original farm buildings were demolished in a council "tidy up" of the site around the foreshore area.

The Civic Trust wrote its first submission about the site in November 1999, acknowledging that BPDC had shown a degree of consideration to Ōnuku Rūnanga by creating the Takapūneke reserve. The Trust also asked that the same level of respect be shown to the Britomart Memorial since the proposed subdivision was hard up against the small Britomart Memorial reserve. The submission also noted that there was no decent footpath or public access to the Memorial.



Potential hazards still exist along the pathway down to the Memorial from Stanley Place. Photo: Victoria Andrews.



The challenging path up to the Memorial from Beach Road. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

Another submission, dated May 2000, emphasised the historic importance of the Britomart Memorial and the lack of suitable public and disabled access to the site as well as parking. We also noted the lack of adequate signage and interpretation. The submission also emphasised the need for an appropriate landscape plan. At that point in time the Trust argued that the entire site, inclusive of the 47 sections, should become part of the Takapūneke historic reserve. The BPDC finally agreed not to subdivide the land for residential housing and the entire site was then registered as an historic reserve.

In 2002 Liz Carter, Administration Manager BPDC, commissioned a Condition and Remedial Action Report by Ian Bowman, a noted conservation architect. The report stated that the Memorial “Is a highly significant heritage structure in New Zealand’s history” and it made numerous recommendations relating to the conservation of the Memorial, landscaping, access, parking and walking tracks, as well as the monitoring of the site. However, little action was taken at the time and there has been minimal follow-up by the Christchurch City Council in subsequent years following the abolition of BPDC in 2006 and the merger of Banks Peninsula into the much larger district of Christchurch City.

I congratulate the Christchurch City Council for its foresight in protecting the land at Takapūneke and for working to create a sensitive cultural landscape plan in close association and partnership with Ōnuku Rūnanga. Further landscaping will soon take place with an allocation of \$500,000 funded through the 2022 Annual Plan. However, the Council’s response to the Britomart Memorial section of the Trust’s CCC Annual Plan submission proved to be woefully inadequate in comparison. Council officers stated that staff would look to improve pedestrian access and “wayfinding signage”. It seems the Council is currently more focused on projects in the city instead of providing funds for the conservation, interpretation and public access of one of the nation’s most significant historic sites. New Zealand history will be taught in schools and students as well as visitors will

be coming to Akaroa to see Takapūneke and the Britomart Memorial.



An example of the inadequate signage currently at the site. The Monument is hidden from public view behind the overgrown vegetation. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

The Civic Trust and I hope that Christchurch City Council will regard the Britomart Memorial and its European history, inclusive of its impact on Maori culture, with a similar degree of consideration and respect as it has shown to Takapūneke in recent years. As historian John Wilson recently correctly pointed out in his Heritage Festival talk “the importance of the Britomart monument today is that Greens Point is one of the best places in the country to continue the national conversation about the treaty, sovereignty and how the country has been and should be governed.”

Victoria Andrew (Deputy Chair, Akaroa Civic Trust)

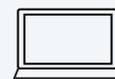
*(This article presents a personal point of view that is not necessarily shared by other members of the Trust Board.)*

**Become  
Involved**

**New members are always welcome.**

The membership form can be found on our website:  
**[www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz](http://www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz)**

If you are interested in joining the Trust Board, please ring Mike Norris 021-660-292.



## Akaroa Civic Trust Website

Have you ever looked at our website?

**[www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz](http://www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz)**

The website has a brief history of Akaroa and information on the large number of historic sites and heritage buildings in the area.

A digital version of our Annual Newsletter can be downloaded from the website.

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# The French Farm Naval Building

This historic Category 1 heritage building on the south side of French Farm Valley Road is probably the oldest wooden structure in the South Island, and is therefore much more significant than it might appear to the casual gaze of a visitor looking up the valley from the harbour. Built by the French Navy in the 1840s to French designs using locally milled totara, it remains standing in its original setting and context.

We have covered its illustrious past in previous newsletters of the Akaroa Civic Trust, and we have been instrumental in leading the charge, together with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in stabilising and rebuilding the majority of the floor plates and lower wall studs. This exercise was co-funded by the Civic Trust and Heritage NZ, and now the bigger task of continuing repairs to include the back wall and the roof timbers and shingles must be addressed.

Fortunately, the new owners, Lyell and Val McMillan, are passionately committed to saving this building from any further decay, and accordingly, working with board members of the Civic Trust and senior management of Heritage NZ, plans are now underway to commence further works.

First the drainage on site must be addressed so that further water damage to the building is halted. Then comes the task of completing repairs to the walls of the building and the roofing structure. At present the favoured approach is to build a temporary canopy over the building to allow roofing repairs and any re-shingling to be carried out. It is pleasing to report that the team at Heritage NZ is very supportive and accommodating in this cause.

Ultimately the project now relies on the willingness of the owners to meet the considerable costs involved in any restoration work, and it is really heartening to be able to report that the McMillans are absolutely determined to do this work – in fact it is one of their current priorities, and they have no illusions as to the costs they will incur.

An architect and builder are already engaged, so as things stand we should be able to report in the future that a project in which the Civic Trust has been so closely involved, and in which we have invested a sizeable amount of our available funds, is now on course to be completed so the future of the building will be assured.

Because of its location in the middle of privately owned farmland, it will not be possible to provide public access to the building, but an interpretive panel on the main road below the house will enable interested visitors to the area to be fully informed of the building's significance to the peninsula and indeed to Canterbury.

Mike Norris (Chair, Akaroa Civic Trust)



The new owners of the land on which the historic building stands, Val and Lyell McMillan, and builder John Howson.  
Photo: Mike Norris.



Extensive repairs are needed to the walls and roof of this important heritage structure. Photo: Mike Norris.

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# Queen's Service Medal

On 6 June of this year, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet announced that Lynda Wallace had been awarded a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for her long-term commitment to heritage and the communities of Akaroa and Banks Peninsula.

On 20 September, Lynda received the medal from acting Governor-General Dame Susan Glazebrook in a ceremony in Government House, Wellington. (The Governor-General, Dame Cindy Kiro, was attending the funeral of Queen Elizabeth in London).



Lynda Wallace after receiving the Queen's Service Medal from Dame Susan Glazebrook at Government House in Wellington. Photo: Doug Mountain.

Lynda has served on the Board of the Akaroa Civic Trust since her arrival in the town in 2001. Her previous professional background of working for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga has benefitted the Trust as it works to protect and enhance the heritage and character of the Akaroa. As a member of the Board, Lynda has served as Minutes Secretary and is our current Treasurer. She has also written numerous articles for the Trust's Annual Newsletter.

One of the major achievements of the Akaroa Civic Trust during the past 20 years has been to work in partnership with Ōnuku Rūnanga to protect Takapūneke, a site of major historical and cultural significance (see page 12). In 2010, Lynda oversaw the installation of a major exhibition, *Nga Roimata o Takapūneke: Tears of Takapūneke* in the Akaroa

Museum. The exhibition, curated by Helen Brown of Heritage New Zealand, Meri Robinson from Ōnuku Marae, and Victoria Andrews of the Civic Trust Board, told the story of the tragic events of 1830–31 that saw the village of Takapūneke sacked. The exhibition won a Christchurch Heritage Award for Heritage Education and Interpretation.

As Director of the Akaroa Museum, Lynda oversees the conservation and interpretation of the three historic buildings that are part of the Museum, which were all damaged in the 2011 earthquake.

Akaroa Museum has hosted numerous exhibitions, co-curated by the Civic Trust, which have highlighted aspects of the town's heritage. Lynda's watchful eye and supervision have been crucial to the success of these exhibitions, and her work at the Museum helps the Civic Trust inform and educate the residents of Akaroa and Christchurch about Akaroa's unique heritage.

Lynda was an active and well-informed community representative while serving on the former Akaroa Design and Appearance Advisory Committee, and she currently serves as a community representative on the Akaroa Design Review Panel. Her expertise and determination to further a better understanding of the town's unique cultural and historic values have been invaluable in helping the Trust achieve its goals.

Lynda has greatly enhanced the public's appreciation of the history of the area through personal research. Of notable importance has been her research into the historic French Farm Naval Building (see opposite), which the Civic Trust has been working to preserve and restore since 2000. Her guidance, historical knowledge and expert advice made crucial contributions to this project.

Her commitment, determination and unstinting work as a volunteer are appreciated by all in the Akaroa community, but especially by the Akaroa Civic Trust. She has brought to the Trust her professional skills, an acute understanding of the problems of historic preservation in a small community, and a readiness to do whatever she can to advance the work of the Trust. Other community groups that Lynda gives her time to are The Gaiety Trust and the Garden of Tane Reserve Management Committee.

We salute Lynda for being awarded the QSM, which formally recognises her hard work, commitment and many contributions to the community of Akaroa and the Peninsula.

Victoria Andrews (Deputy Chair, Akaroa Civic Trust)

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# Managing Heritage Expectations

Recently there were reports on the sale of Englefield Lodge and its land, in Christchurch. Englefield Lodge is a heritage listed property built c. 1855.

Unfortunately the privately owned property was significantly damaged in the 2010 and 2011 Christchurch earthquakes and since then nothing of substance has been done for the property or its land. It is in a very sorry state.



Englefield Lodge, 230 Fitzgerald Avenue, Christchurch, built c. 1855.  
Photo: George Hook.

The real estate sale publicly advises, “offering a staggering 1,624 sqm of land on one of the four avenues”, being ideal for a developer and for sale “as is where is.” That makes it very clear what is intended for Englefield Lodge.

The sale notice prompted mostly negative public comment, including that “Heritage New Zealand has failed to come to the aid of this historically significant building.”

There are over 5,800 heritage listed properties and places in New Zealand. Other than the 45 that are owned by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga on behalf of the Crown and public of New Zealand, the remainder are privately owned or owned and managed by trusts. Englefield Lodge is one of those.

[The current edition of] Heritage Quarterly does highlight many positive contributions to heritage from private heritage owners, heritage trusts and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. The stories highlight what heritage owners can expect from our organization.

Being heritage listed provides a historical and empirical record of heritage significance. It also provides a gateway to Council District Plans, and these are currently where true heritage protection comes from. The stories of the Queen Victoria statue and Bill Sutton House come from the narrative of their heritage listing.

Heritage properties, like any property, need regular repair and maintenance. It is pleasing that many dedicated heritage property owners do focus on maintaining their properties. This can be an expensive exercise. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga manages the National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund. This Fund is managed in partnership and seeks commitment from a heritage property owner, a trust, or a community. The Chateau, Rawene Church, St Michaels Ohaewai and Tanewhirinaki are examples of how beneficial the Incentive Fund can be.

The management of the archaeological authority process, where there is pre-1900 evidence, is an important function. Most heritage listings relate to heritage that is visible, i.e. above the ground. These often sit above New Zealand’s deeper heritage, i.e. below the ground. This is why archaeology is critically important to the preservation and protection of Maori heritage. The listings commented on in [the current edition of] Heritage Quarterly all contemplate what is below the property, and through archaeology their deep heritage significance is determined and managed.

Heritage advocacy is a principal role of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and Heritage Quarterly is one example of this in action. We should all be realistic about what advocacy means; encouraging, convincing and supporting the conservation and preservation of heritage. We should also be realistic about what it is not; demanding and requiring the protection and ongoing care of heritage, particularly when it is privately owned.

The Resource Management reform, which is currently being considered, is critical to seeking future and compelling protection for heritage, amongst other things. In my view, those who commented on Englefield Lodge may like to spend their time more wisely commenting on the reforms rather than seeking actions from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga that are currently unrealistic.

Andrew Coleman (Chief Executive, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga).

(This article has been reproduced in full with permission from the editor of the 2002 Winter edition of the Heritage Quarterly.)

# Restoration of the Try Pots

The three early nineteenth-century iron try pots, which were encased in a brick structure opposite the pharmacy on Beach Road, have been restored by Christchurch City Council and were recently reinstated at the same location near the French landing site memorial.

Try pots were used by nineteenth-century whalers based within Akaroa Harbour or in outer bays of Banks Peninsula to heat whale blubber in order to render it into an oil that was mostly used to light lamps and produce soap in the northern hemisphere. The three pots came from local

whaling stations, one from Peraki Bay and the other two apparently from Whakamoia Bay further south. As the pots were pitted and rusted, extensive delicate conservation work needed to be carried out on them by experts in order to ensure they will survive into the future as a reminder of the past ruthless exploitation of whales.

As can be seen, a crane was needed to carefully lower the three pots with their new steel bases onto a concrete pad on 2 October 2022. Members of the Akaroa Civic Trust were on hand to observe and record the delicate operation.



The last try pot being lowered into place.  
Photograph: Angus Davis.



Workers ensuring that the middle pot is correctly aligned.  
Photograph: Victoria Andrews.

You are cordially invited to attend our

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at 4.30pm  
on Saturday 26 November  
in The Gaiety theatre,  
105 Rue Lavaud.

**Everyone is welcome!**

### GUEST SPEAKER: **Shaun Stockman**

The Akaroa Civic Trust is delighted to have Shaun Stockman of the Stockman Group as guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting. Shaun is well known in Christchurch as having a deep passion for heritage buildings and his companies have been responsible for successfully restoring a significant number of damaged Christchurch buildings. Restoring a heritage building is a time-consuming, difficult and expensive task, but Shaun has managed to make a very successful business out of preserving our history.



Shaun Stockman, Managing Director of the Stockman Group.  
Photographer unknown.

**TOPIC: Heritage with Purpose? Making Heritage Work?**

# Takapūneke Update



The well attended public opening of Takapūneke Reserve at noon on Friday 24 June 2022. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

## Public opening of Takapūneke Reserve

At noon on Friday 24 June, several hundred people attended the public opening of Takapūneke. Dr Kelly Tikao, a kaikōrero (speaker) from Ōnuku Rūnanga, outlined the history of the land including the 1830 ‘Elizabeth Affair’ and its impact on her ancestors. Ōnuku Rūnanga chair Rik Tainui told us he grew up in the area but was not aware of the history of the land, because it was never mentioned. Mayor Lianne Dalziel discussed the development of a co-governance structure for the site and the process of gaining national recognition for the land. She added that the council had committed a budget toward the project in order to “right the wrongs of the past”. Carmel Sepuloni, the Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, explained that the country was going through a journey of learning and that Takapūneke was a missing part of most people’s knowledge. The speeches concluded with Pam Richardson, the Co-Governance Group chairperson, who commented that a large amount of work remained to be done but that the site was on a par with Waitangi in the Bay of Islands in terms of Aotearoa / New Zealand’s history.

After the formalities, members of the public were invited to plant trees and shrubs at selected spots across the landscape.

## Current development and management

A parking area is being developed at the decommissioned rubbish dump site, which is accessible from further along Ōnuku Road. A pathway through native bush will lead you to Takapūneke.

As Takapūneke is a tapu site, dogs are not allowed onto the reserve and food or beverages should not be consumed while on the land.

At present Takapūneke is administered by a co-governance management structure consisting of Ōnuku Rūnanga and Christchurch City Council.

## Future developments at Takapūneke

Takapūneke Historic Reserve, which encompasses an area of 14 hectares, will gradually be landscaped in phases that tell the story of the site’s history using traditional art forms and



The three parks of Takapūneke Reserve. Takapūneke Reserve Landscape Master Plan Report, Ōnuku Rūnanga / Christchurch City Council, June 2021.

te reo Māori. The flow of the design will inspire reflection and an understanding of the events that took place on this nationally important site.

As can be seen on the plan, the site will consist of three main areas:

- Te Atutahi O Takapūneke (Park Of Silence)
- Te Wāhi Ao O Takapūneke (Park Of Healing)
- Pou Tū Te Raki O Te Maiharanui (Park Of Reflection)

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### Other connections

Takapūneke is also connected to several other sites of cultural significance. Directly across the harbour on the western side is Ōpukutahi and Wainui, where harakeke (flax) was once harvested and the hilltops were traversed to access the extensive harakeke resources in Wairewa (Little River valley).

From the higher points of the site, extensive views across the harbour can be enjoyed, particularly views toward Onawe in the north and Tuhiraki (Mt Bossu) to the south, along with sights of many other significant landscape features and places that are embedded with whakapapa and bicultural history.

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### History of the site

The following brief overview of the history of the site is taken from the Takapuneke Conservation Report published in December 2012, which was commissioned by Christchurch City Council.

“A range of significant Maori and Pakeha values and histories

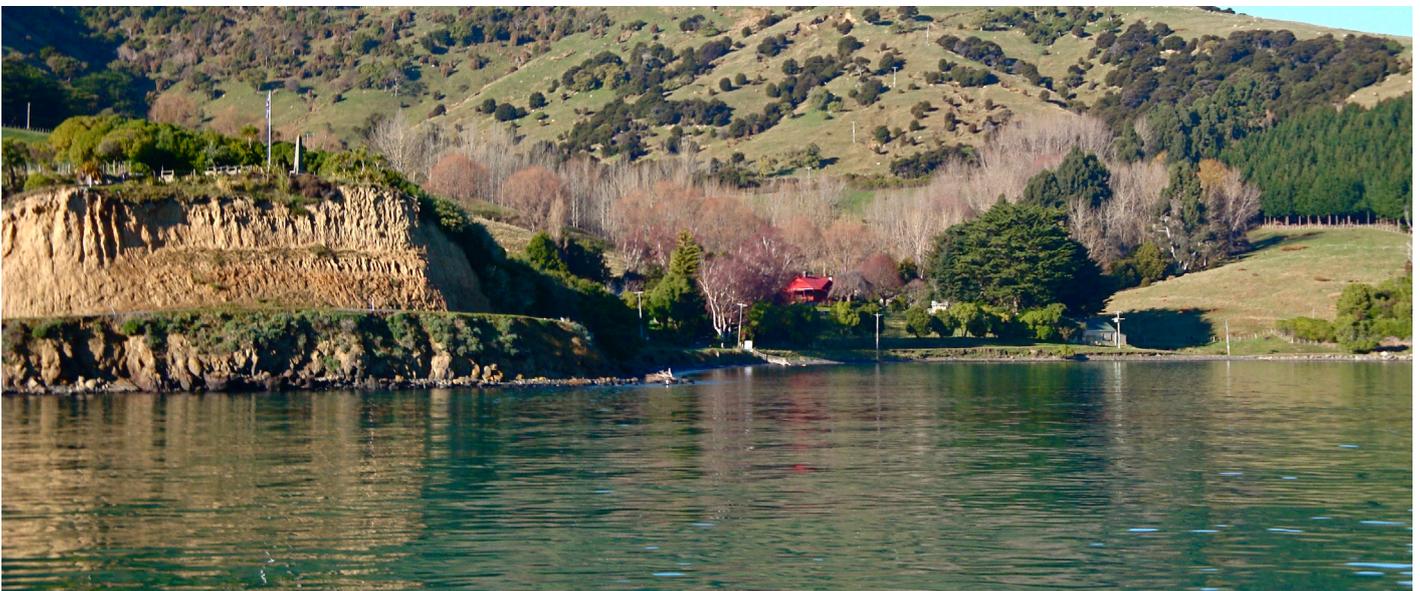
is associated with Takapuneke, making it a site of immense local and national importance. Ngai Tahu and their tupuna from earlier tribes – Kati Mamoe and Waitaha – have settled, travelled and held traditional authority over an area that encompasses most of the South Island (Te Waipounamu). The area of Akaroa, the harbour, surrounding hills and the outer bays, were also strongholds for Ngai Tahu and earlier iwi.”

“Takapuneke became an important centre for trade between Ngai Tahu and Pakeha in the early 19th century. Whalers and other traders visited Akaroa to replenish necessary supplies, especially food, and by the mid-nineteenth century farming brought changes to the landscape. As one of the earliest European farming sites, its buildings, fencing and other physical objects are of historical significance as the tangible reminder of European life on Banks Peninsula, particularly in the early years of the twentieth century. Takapuneke is one of the most revered and sacred sites in Aotearoa, because of the tupuna who once lived there, and because of the Brig Elizabeth incident and subsequent events that resulted in the devastation of the people who lived there in 1830. Following the 1830 massacre and fall of Onawe in 1832, Ngai Tahu never lived at Takapuneke again, regarding the bay of Takapuneke as tapu because of the deaths that occurred there. Local iwi then lived at Ōnuku, the next bay south of Takapuneke. Events at Takapuneke provided the impetus for British intervention in New Zealand that ultimately led to the Treaty of Waitangi, and are acknowledged as a significant point in New Zealand history.”

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### Acquisition of the Red House

The last piece of the puzzle in terms of the overall site was finally resolved in December 2020, when Christchurch City Council purchased the Red House property in Red House Bay below Takapūneke Reserve just prior to it being



The Red House property is located in the centre of Takapūneke Reserve. The Britomart Memorial can be seen above the cliff on the left, and to the right is the hillside where Maori lived up until 1830. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

put up for auction on the open market. The Civic Trust joined forces with Ōnuku Rūnanga representatives to form a deputation to the full council during a break in a public-excluded meeting that was held to discuss the purchase of the land.

As chair of the Rūnanga, Rik Tainui said the council had a chance to chart a new path forward for future generations. “We can’t change the past, but we can change the future. We can ensure we don’t make the same mistake again.” Civic Trust chair Mike Norris asserted that Takapūneke offered a unique opportunity to educate current and future generations about the circumstances in which modern New Zealand was founded. If the property remained privately owned, it would possibly become the location of activities

that might not align with the cultural and historical significance of the reserve. Mike argued that “continuing private ownership of the Red House could set back the orderly and appropriate development of the Takapūneke Reserve for decades.” Fortunately, this last ditch effort paid off. Afterwards Victoria Andrews, Deputy Chair of the Civic Trust, said the Trust was hugely relieved and incredibly grateful that the Council had stepped in to buy the property on behalf of the people of Canterbury, Ōnuku Rūnanga and all of New Zealand. Victoria stated that the site is “historically important on a national scale.” (*The Press*, 8 December 2020).

Victoria Andrews (Deputy Chair, Akaroa Civic Trust)

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## Exhibition of Meryon Prints at Akaroa Museum

Charles Meryon’s Pacific etchings are currently on display in the temporary exhibition gallery at Akaroa Museum. Curated by the Museum’s Collections Manager, Daniel Smith, the exhibition includes a recent gift of five etchings from Andrew Baker and Katarina Vesterberg. Also displayed is a portrait of Meryon by Charles Bracquemond, donated to the Museum by George Hook and Marie Connolly.

As a young naval cadet officer, Charles Meryon (1821–1868) was stationed at Akaroa with the French corvette *Rhin* from 1843–1846. During that time, he made a wide variety of drawings: landscapes, portraits and natural history studies. More sketches were produced when the *Rhin* visited the

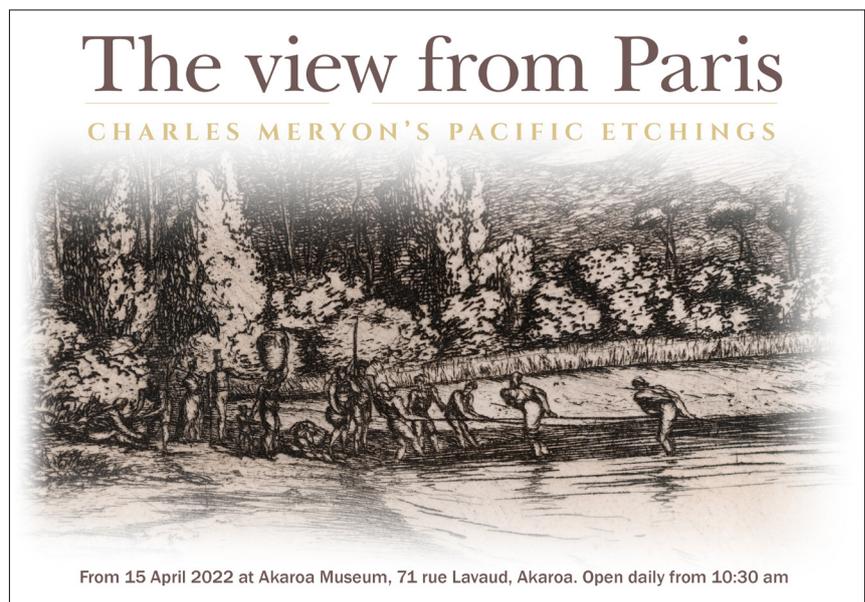
French Catholic mission stations that were dotted around the Pacific. When he returned to France, Meryon became an etcher and was eventually recognised as one of the masters of the medium. His work is represented in art collections around the world.

In the 1860s, Meryon used Akaroa and other Pacific drawings to create a series of prints entitled ‘Voyage à la Nouvelle-Zélande’ – (A Voyage to New Zealand). This exhibition showcases five original prints from that Pacific series and continues through to November 2022.

Lynda Wallace (Director, Akaroa Museum)



Portrait of Charles Meryon seated, heliogravure reproduction after an etching by Félix Bracquemond (1833–1914), 1853.



Akaroa Museum’s exhibition poster illustrating a detail from *Pointe dite des Charbonniers, à Akaroa, Pêche à la Seine* (Seine fishing off Collier’s point, Akaroa), Charles Meryon, etching, 1863.

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# Akaroa Air Crash

**O**n Saturday 18 June of this year a beautifully framed information plaque, sponsored by the Akaroa Civic Trust, was unveiled on the side of Jamie Stewart's hardware shop in Rue Croix.

The illustrated panel, developed by Rodney Laredo, documents an accident that occurred on this spot at 11.30am on 15 June 1940, when an Airspeed Oxford twin-engined training aircraft from Wigram Aerodrome crashed into a building on the opposite corner of Rue Croix and Rue Lavaud, setting the two-storey building on fire. Such was the impact that the hardware shop building owned by Jamie's grandfather caught fire as well.

The crash killed aircraftsmen Francis McFarlane and John McFadyen. Jamie Stewart reports that the plaque has drawn a great deal of interest from many who stop to read this sad chapter in the life of Akaroa.

Rodney Laredo (Board Member, Akaroa Civic Trust)



The unveiling of the plaque on 18 June 2022. From left, Jamie Stewart, Richard Stewart, Rodney Laredo and Richard Sales (frame maker). Unknown photographer.

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## Notice of Motions to Amend the *Constitution and Rules of the Akaroa Civic Trust*

Our existing constitution contains examples of out-of-date, exclusively masculine terms such as 'Chairman', 'Deputy Chairman', 'he', 'him' and 'his' throughout the document. The Board of Trustees believes the *Constitution and Rules* needs to be updated to meet twenty-first century inclusive expectations and obligations.

There is also an issue that there is currently no provision in the constitution to officially co-opt members onto the Board of Trustees.

Therefore, two Board Motions will be put to the membership at the 2022 Annual General meeting to be held at 4.30pm on Saturday 26 November 2022 in The Gaiety theatre, 105 Rue Jolie, Akaroa.

Motion 1: That all exclusively masculine terminology in the constitution be replaced with inclusive, gender-neutral language.

Motion 2: That the following clause be inserted in section 7 of the *Constitution and Rules*:

(c) "The Board may also appoint additional Trustees if fewer than ten are elected at the Annual General Meeting, or if a member expresses an interest in serving on the Board after the Annual General Meeting, providing the total number of Trustees does not exceed 15."

Copies of the *Constitution and Rules* document will be available at the front desk at the Annual General Meeting should you wish to look at it prior to the motions being put.

Further revisions to modernise the *Constitution and Rules* and to meet the requirements of anticipated legislative changes will be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

# Heritage Festival Event



John Wilson pointing out other significant historical features around Akaroa Harbour to attendees at the Heritage Festival field trip. Photo: Victoria Andrews.

As part of the Christchurch Heritage Festival, on Saturday 22 October in The Gaiety esteemed historian and writer, John Wilson, presented an engaging and thought-provoking lecture about the Britomart Monument. After a welcome by Mike Norris, the chair of the Akaroa Civic Trust, and a very moving waiata by Meri Robinson, Victoria Andrews introduced John, who then took us on an insightful journey that spoke to the historical and cultural significance of Greens Point.

Noting three important moments in time, John began with the raising of the British flag at Greens Point on 11 August 1840, followed by the grand occasion of the unveiling of the obelisk on 14 June 1898, and then the national celebration on 20 April 1940 that marked the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. But this was not a talk in celebration of British sovereignty. It was a poignant and nuanced exploration of the losses experienced by Ngāi Tahu over time, the cultural differences in the meaning of sovereignty, and the disrespectful lack of care and interest that has resulted in the neglect of this historical site, both physically and in terms of its national significance. Greens Point, he persuasively argued, is an important cultural meeting point where national conversations can and should take place about the Treaty, about sovereignty, and the way in which Aotearoa / New Zealand should be governed into the future.

John's presentation inspired many questions from the audience as people explored and clarified the issues raised. These included questions about the motivation of the British in colonising New Zealand, illuminating the ways in which historical accounts have been both selective, and often influential, in our understandings of and knowledge

about the past. It is a tribute to John that he was so able to generate open and honest discussion in an area that can be contestable and controversial. In response to the presentation, Rik Tainui, the chair of Ōnuku Rūnanga, also spoke graciously about the importance of individual and shared cultural histories. It was a wonderful experience to be a part of, and I am sure it will remain in the minds and hearts of those who listened.

After the presentation at The Gaiety, about twenty attendees were transported to Beach Road, where they ascended the steps to Britomart Memorial. There, John explained further the significance of this historical site and its connections with other important landmarks around Akaroa Harbour visible from that location. Helen Brown and Victoria Andrews also shared insights into the importance of the events that occurred there.

Marie Connolly (Chair, Akaroa Community Arts Council)



John Wilson indicating the intentions of Captain Owen Stanley of the H.M.S. *Britomart* when he raised the Union Jack on 11 August 1840. Photo: Angus Davis.