

#### 4. HERITAGE UPDATE REPORT

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The purpose of this report is to provide a monthly update on issues relating to heritage. Where applicable, information from the previous report is repeated in italics.

##### **FORMER CHRISTCHURCH GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL GROUP 2**

The former Girls' High complex has recently been purchased by the Arts Centre of Christchurch Trust. The Trust have for some years now rented this complex, ensured it has been fully tenanted and have undertaken remedial maintenance to these significant heritage buildings. It is so pleasing that the Trust have been able to purchase the complex and ensure its retention and preservation for the future generations of the city. Assistance towards the purchase has been made possible through the generous support of the Community Trust.

The Director of the Arts Centre has written to the Council to request that the Council allow the Trust to use up to \$50,000 of the Arts Centre Conservation Grant towards conservation work at the former Girls' High complex. This is not a request for further grant monies but a request that the Girls' High complex be now considered part of the Arts Centre complex in terms of Heritage Conservation Management and thus that the Council approve the spending of a portion of the existing grant monies on this complex. This would be a significant but cost neutral way of the Council supporting the conservation of this important complex.

##### **FORMER SYDENHAM METHODIST (CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH) CORNER BROUGHAM AND COLOMBO STREETS GROUP 2**

The public open day for the church held on 22 July saw some 1,800 people visit the church over a two hour period – despite the inclement weather. Clearly such a response signifies the community interest in the retention of this building.

##### **WARNER'S HOTEL RESTORATION UPDATE**

Work is progressing on Stage 3 of the consent. The full fire protection/sprinkler section is being fitted, currently on the first floor accessing the ground floor spaces. Structural frames are being poured as part of the full structural upgrade. Upper floors are being overlaid with plywood diaphragms once the sprinkler systems are installed. The fitout of the Backpackers in the eastern wing will follow the structural and fire work.

The ground floor bar refurbishment and restoration of the two double height reception spaces continues with completion due before the end of August.

Documentation is currently being prepared for Stage 4 of the work which will involve the architectural fitout of the Boutique Hotel, in the western wing, together with the reinstatement of the parapet, the completion of the exterior facade work including verandah, fire escape removal and reinstatement of the ground floor chamfered corner.

##### **LYTTELTON TIMES/STAR CATHEDRAL SQUARE/GLOUCESTER STREET GROUP 2**

Staff are working with the Christchurch Heritage Trust who are developing plans to achieve a workable/lettable solution for the Gloucester Street section of the building. A grant application to the Lotteries Board has been lodged to assist with the restoration work for these buildings. Building and Resource Consent application have now been lodged and are currently being processed.

The Lyttelton Times Star Building resource consent has been completed and the internal clean-up and partition instatement for backpackers has begun.

##### **INVERESK, 17-17a ARMAGH STREET, GROUP 3**

*An application has been received by the Council from Cathedral Grammar School for the partial demolition of this building in order to build a new classroom block. The area proposed for demolition is the original cottage c1865 and the two-storey wing c1875. The c1900 wing fronting Armagh Street will remain and be integrated into the proposed new development.*

Staff have been asked to comment on the application and have recommended consideration for public notification of this application.

## ICOMOS (NZ) TE MANA O NGA POUWHNUA O TE AO AGM/CONFERENCE

The ICOMOS (NZ) (International Council on Monuments and Sites) weekend in Christchurch drew 25 of the National Members and Board to Christchurch. ICOMOS looked to Christchurch as a case study for their theme for the weekend *Planning for Cities: Heritage, Planning and Urban Centres*. Speakers over the weekend, which was held at the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, included Dr Ian Athfield, Dave Hinman and Peter Burman, Director of the School of Conservation, University of York, UK. The Council hosted an event on the Friday night – the Board and members were welcomed by the Chair of the Environment Committee – and Heritage staff assisted with the weekend's programme and activities.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council approve the Arts Centre of Christchurch using up to \$50,000 of their Conservation Grant toward conservation work at the former Girls' High complex.
  2. That the Council's heritage staff be congratulated for organising a successful weekend conference for ICOMOS New Zealand.
  3. That it be noted that the ICOMOS NZ Conference was held in Christchurch due to the city's successful heritage retention programme and high standard of restoration work.