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Newsletter of the Timaru Civic Trust - December 2023

Welcome to another instalment of the Timaru Civic Trust e-newsletter. We would like to thank all our members for their continued support over the past year and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Urban Art and Coffee...

Another successful urban art project has been added to our town centre, with the completion of another spectacular mural by Koryu Aoshima gracing the walls of the Coffee Culture building on the corner of Stafford & Canon streets.

Vibrant Alive and The Timaru Civic Trust have collaborated on the private commission, in association with Coffee Culture NZ and the building owner, Stephen Boys.

Coffee Culture approached the Timaru Civic Trust last year to assist with facilitating the project, which also involved finding the right artist and contributing grant funding.

Koryu Aoshima's colourful concept really pleased them and he was commissioned to begin work on the project in November. With 40 cans of paint, a few rainy days and a welcome audience, Aoshima completed his second CBD mural in our town, brightening up central Timaru and complementing the numerous heritage buildings of which we are so passionate about.

We would love to hear from any other central city building owners who would like to add further street murals to their buildings and contribute to Timaru's growing portfolio of urban art.



Heritage Grant for Geraldine Post Office Clock

The Board of the Timaru Civic Trust have awarded a special heritage grant of \$2,500 to assist with the restoration of Geraldine's historic public clock, mounted on the former Geraldine Post Office in Talbot St.

Made by Gent & Co of Leicester (UK), the bracket clock was first installed on the building shortly after it was built in 1909.

Whilst our heritage grants normally don't cover projects outside of the Timaru metropolitan area, in this instance the Board felt that this project was a worthy recipient, due to the highly 'civic' function that this historic clock performs within the local urban setting of Geraldine.



Heritage Grant for 'The Croft'

The Timaru Civic Trust has donated \$7,500 to contribute to the refurbishment and earthquake strengthening of The Croft homestead, situated at 12 Park Lane, Timaru.

The building is intended to be used as a community hub for village residents, as well as supporting other non-for-profit organizations and volunteers to continue to carry out meaningful work in the community.

The Croft was built in 1907 as a home for Robert Leslie and Ellie Orbell. It was designed in the English Domestic Revival Style by Dunedin based architect Basil Hooper (1876-1960).

It was later owned by James William (Hamish) & Lorna Grant, who bequeathed this fine residence to Presbyterian Support Services in 1968.

We would like to congratulate Presbyterian Support Services for committing to restoring this magnificent heritage listed homestead and securing its legacy for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

If anyone would like to contribute or assist PSS with their fundraising efforts for this important heritage restoration project, please get in touch with Tania McFarlane (Fundraising Manager) on 027 3157 387, or Tania.Macfarlane@pssc.co.nz.



Blue Heritage Plaques Update

The final blue heritage plaque has now been installed on the recently refurbished and earthquake strengthened Temuka Courthouse Museum.

This marks the completion of a joint project between the South Canterbury Historical Society and the Timaru Civic Trust to install eight new blue heritage plaques around the wider South Canterbury district.

The plaques have been placed on the following buildings:

1. Eleanor Tripp Memorial Library, Woodbury
2. Pleasant Point Railway Station
3. St Mary's Church, Esk Valley
4. The Vicarage, Geraldine
5. St Patrick's Basilica, Waimate
6. St Augustine's Church, Waimate
7. St David's Church, Cave
8. Temuka Courthouse Museum (*pictured above*)

We also wish to acknowledge *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga*, who's funding from a local bequest helped make this project possible.

For the latest list of Blue Heritage Plaques that have been placed throughout the country, visit www.blueplaques.nz



World Planning Day - Heritage Tour

The Timaru Civic Trust, in collaboration with Millward Finlay Lobb and the TDC Planning team helped out with a couple of events for World Planning Day, which was on the 8th November this year.

At lunchtime David McBride did a short (but highly entertaining) heritage walking tour of the town centre. This was followed by a visit to the Theatre Royal to have a look through the building and to hear how the redevelopment plans were progressing.

Past issues of our Timaru Civic Trust newsletters can be accessed [here](#).

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Do you know of anyone who might like to support the Timaru Civic Trust by becoming a member or joining our Board? Please feel free to forward this email on to anyone whom you think might be interested in receiving it.

Contact email address: info@timarucivictrust.co.nz

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