



**Art Deco Trust Inc.**  
Annual General Meeting,  
Wednesday, 26 November 2025  
5:30–7:00pm  
(former) Women’s Rest, 5 Clive Square East  
Memorial Square, Napier

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Welcome, Art Deco Trust Board Chair, Barbara Arnott
2. Address by Trust Patron and Mayor of Napier City, Richard McGrath
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of the Minutes 2024 Art Deco Trust Inc. AGM
5. Chair’s Report
6. Acceptance of the Chair’s 2024-2025 Report
7. Acceptance of the 2024-2025 Audited Accounts
8. Acceptance of new constitution for the Art Deco Trust Inc, (the rules have been rewritten in line with Charities Commission’s new requirements
9. Reappointment of BDO as Auditors
10. Election of one (1) Board Member
11. Reappointment of two (2) Nominated Board Member
12. Life Membership Awards
13. Closing/refreshments



## **Art Deco Trust**

Annual General Meeting 2024

Wednesday, 27 November, 5:30pm

MTG Building, 1 Tennyson Street, Napier

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Barbara Arnott, (Chair), Rachel Bashnick (Deputy Chair) Simon Dunn, Councillor Chad Tareha, Ben Hutton and Martin Bain

**Apology:** Amy Cowan

**In attendance:** Jeremy Smith, (Heritage Manager G/M), Jan Simmonds, (secretary), Fiona Simon, Maggie Genet

**Attending:** William Stacey, Christine Bongiovanni, David Brock, Dean Hagen, Derek Forsdick, Esther Edmonds, Hannah Patterson, Heather Plested, Helen Ball, Judy Rasmussen, Lee-Anne Freeman, John Cocking, Margaret Husheer, Margie Campbell, Rod Earnshaw, Yvonne Bain, Matilda Schorer, Matthew Bonnett, Philip Eilenberg, Norma Eilenberg, Robin Johnson, Rose Unsworth, Paul Unsworth, Sarah Atley, Sue Myles, Sue Page, Sue Fullarton, Tony Mairs, Tony Smith Jr, Yvonne Hickson, Alan Parsons, Lindy Anderson, Lorraine Leheny, Paula Coppell, Joy Axford, Jo Aplin, Yvonne Huckson, Penny Madden, Stephen Matthews, Robyn Johnson, Ann Galloway, Lynn Lusby, Judy Anderson.

**Apologies:** Alison Kerr, Ana Sullivan, Cheryl Mennie, Cindy Morgan, David James Meale, Geoff Bibby, Hamish Saxon, Heather Jane Walter, Helen Berry, Ian Hunt, Jess Leslie, Jill Verschaffelt, Joan and Hal Craft, Joanne Minto, John and Jean Ellison, Judy Shinnick, Kerry Heath, Marlene Judd, Mayor Kirsten Wise, Niki Keehan, Peter Feltham, Robin Graham, Robyn Molony, Trish Patterson, Tania Wright, Simon Taylor, Colin and Jody Barnes, Bev and Kev Thompson, David Lowe.

**Welcome:** Barbara welcomed everyone to the AGM. Chad was introduced as the representative for Napier City Council.

Chad said that he felt honoured and privileged to represent NCC Mayor, Kirsten Wise. He added that the Art Deco Trust is a taonga and belongs to all of us and our buildings are our strength and vision. Chad thanked everyone for representing the people of Napier.

Barbara thanked Chad for his understanding of the Trust.

### **Confirmation of the 2023 Art Deco Trust Inc. AGM Minutes:**

*Moved: John Cocking*

*Seconded: Rose Unsworth*

*All present agreed*

**Chair Report:** Barbara thanked NCC for supporting the Trust, Festival and Heritage fund. This year, 5 properties have been awarded grants from the Robert McGregor Heritage Fund.

Barbara reported an increase in volunteer hours this year over those of 2023. She added there were 19 training sessions for volunteers and 14 new volunteers recruited.

**Acceptance of the Chair Report:**

*Moved: Sue Myles*

*Seconded: Sarah Atley*

*All present agreed*

**Acceptance of the 2023-2024 Accounts: Audited** Accounts will be circulated to members once completed.

*Moved: Rose Unsworth*

*Seconded: John Cocking*

*All present agreed*

Barbara stated that as chief fund-raiser for the Women's Rest Project, she had not managed to raise \$500,000 to \$600,000 in these difficult economic times. She is still hopeful that these funds will be raised.

Barbara expressed her gratitude to Margie and Rod Earnshaw for their \$200,000 donation and Angus McGregor and Nathan Akhaven- Moosavi for their \$10,000 donation.

Barbara thanked Jane for her work in preparation for the Auditors. Jeremy was also thanked for his work as Chief Executor of the Trust.

**Reappointment of BDO as Auditors:**

*Moved: Rachel Bashnick*

*Seconded: Sue Page*

*All present agreed*

**Deputy Chair Rachel assumed role as Chair as Barbara's position, (Chair), was up for re-election.**

**Reappointment of Ben Hutton as Nominated Board Member:**

*Moved: John Cocking*

*Seconded: Chad Tareha*

*All present agreed*

**Election for 2 Board Members:**

Nominations received from Barbara Arnott and Martin Bain.

Therefore, Barbara and Martin as Board Members.

Barbara assumed the role as Chair for the continuation of the meeting.

**Life Memberships:**

**Dean Hagen:** (in recognition of over a decade of service as a greeter at the Art Deco Centre. His warm welcomes and engaging stories have left a lasting impression on countless visitors from around the world.)

**Corrine Bowey:** (for passion and dedication to the Art Deco Festival since 2012. Corrine leads a troupe of dancers in stunning Art Deco-era costumes, embracing the spirit of the 1920s and 1930s). The award was accepted by Corrine's friend Paula.

**John Cocking:** (an Art Deco stalwart with 30 years of extraordinary contributions to the Trust. Known to many as Bertie, John's tireless efforts have helped elevate Napier as a global destination for heritage tourism).

Barbara again acknowledged the efforts from volunteers of the Trust as guides, involvement with car tours and general commitment to the Trust.

**Closing:** Barbara thanked fellow Board members and Jeremy and his team and Jan.

The meeting closes at 6.00pm.



**Chair's report to the Members of the Art Deco Trust Inc.  
for the year ended 31 August 2025**

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Art Deco Trust Inc over the past 12 months.

**Highlights**

Launching our 2025 Art Deco Festival Napier programme was the first major milestone of the year in October 2024, as we eagerly anticipated a balmy Hawke's Bay Summer and a return to business-as-usual full scale Festival programme! The weekend celebrations didn't disappoint

In November the Trust hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Hawke's Bay Heritage Awards, in collaboration with Napier City Council and Hastings District Council at the Napier War Memorial Centre.

Also, in November at our AGM we awarded Life Membership of the Trust to Corinne Bowey and Dean Hagen and acknowledged John Cocking (already a life member) for his 30 years' service to the Trust.

The Trust experienced a very busy summer of tourism activity welcoming over 16,000+ visitors to our shop, on walks, on coaches and in our vintage cars.

The Festival in February was another highlight hugely successful and economically provided over \$2.5m net benefit into the local economy.

May provided us with our annual opportunity to thank all our volunteers and issue long service certificates for 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, and 30-years' service to the Trust. This year we acknowledged Tony Chittenden and Sue Myles as members of the Trust's 30-years of service club.

In July, and perhaps one of the most significant events the Trust has been involved with for many years, saw the completion the long-planned move from 7 Tennyson Street to our new home, the newly restored (former) Women's Rest Building, in Memorial Square. This project was a huge undertaking for the Trust in partnership with Napier City Council – the restoration took 10-months to complete, and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved in the project.



*The restored (former) Women's Rest, photograph by Simon Cartwright Photography*

## **Our Activities**

### **Heritage**

A very important part of the Trust's work is the administration of the Robert McGregor Heritage Fund (RMHF), which this year has provided six (6) grants to various Napier CBD building owners. This year's grants were awarded to the following buildings for repair and repainting projects:

- (former) Empire Hotel, 1 Shakespeare Road;
- Mackenzie House, 24 Hastings Street;
- Focal House, 109 Clive Square West;
- Briasco Building, 162 Emerson Street;
- Smith and Chambers Building, 122-132 Emerson Street; and
- (former) Bank of New Zealand, Emerson and Tennyson Street

Awards given for Napier CBD art deco era building minor repairs and façade painting. Decision making as part of the awards programme is made by members of the Heritage Working Group – Ann Galloway, Guy Marriage, Matthew Bonnett, Napier City Councillor Ronda Chrystal – who has been joined by Napier City Council Planning team member Minnie Fox, who replaces long standing Working Group members Napier City Council Senior Policy Planner Fleur Lincoln. Also stepping down this year from the Working Group was David Low and Hastings District Councillor Michael Fowler. I sincerely thank current and past members for their roles guiding the city of Napier's heritage precinct.

Since inception, the Fund has distributed/committed to is over \$190,000 in grants to building owners, supporting nearly 40 different projects. The RMHF is an initiative we undertake with Napier City Council, and the Trust is actively fundraising to increase our annual disbursement through the Fund.

Other heritage activity during the year included our continued partnership with Historic Places Hawke's Bay, with the Trust presenting our third half-hour, heritage-focused speakers' lunchtime talks at 7 Tennyson Street. These events were extremely well attended, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future in our new location in Memorial Square.



*Award winners at the event, photograph Kirsten Simcox*

Presented biannually, the Hawke's Bay Heritage Awards are the region's communities' opportunity to recognise and celebrate the individuals, groups and organisation from across the region whose talents and energies preserve our cultural heritage and inspire us to connect with our past, so that we can all feel more confident in our future. This edition saw Te Kura i Awarua Rangahau Māori Centre, Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) awarded the Supreme Winner, acknowledging their work across a number of 'heritage projects' including the Henare Matua collection of Repudiation Movement letters of the 1870s, the JT Blake manuscripts of the 1880-90s and the raising of two Heritage Symposiums bringing archivists and curators nationally to Hawke's Bay. The team have also been involved in the Te Po-ho o-Kahungunu carvings repatriation, bringing them to Hastings for the 2023 Symposium.

For more details about the awards programme, category winners and all nominated project – visit <https://www.artdeconapier.com/heritage-awards/>.





*Promotional image for Walks&Tours, photograph Mi Farr*

### **Walks&Tours**

Coming out of 2023-24 season, the Trust's Walks&Tours tourism operations have seen increases in visitors undertaking guided walks and slight declines in other activities, while across the board revenues grew year on year:

- Visitors on guided walks: 7125 in 2024-25 compared to 5359 in 2023-24
- Visitors on coach tours: 8502 in 2024-25 compared to 9141 in 2023-24
- Number of vintage car tours: 1255 in 2024-25 compared to 1449 in 2023-24

An exciting initiative the Trust has been working on over the past years has been monitoring our carbon footprint and operating in a sustainable and responsible manner. Since 2022, a nominal \$10 donation has been added to each vintage car tour sold and set aside for tree planting projects to offset our carbon footprint. To date 1503 native trees have been planted via our Trees That Count partners across six (6) national projects. Our 1503 trees will help to remove about 333 tonnes of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere over 50 years. In addition, this financial year, the Trust has made a \$10,000 donation to Te Mata Park to directly support their native tree planting project and keep these funds in Hawke's Bay and off set our footprint within our region.

Each year the Trust works closely with tourism industry partners to promote nationally and internationally the work of the Trust and showcase Hawke's Bay as a visitor destination. Once such partnership saw the Trust profiled on the Australian TV travel show 'Get Away', this international exposure was made possible with the support of Hawke' Bay Tourism and Tourism New Zealand. The filming took place at Craggy Range Winery.

Over the Winter months the team as participated at several Tourism conferences and tradeshow (and together with colleagues from Hawke's Bay Tourism and other local tourism businesses) outside Hawke's Bay have been sharing the message that Hawke's Bay is open for domestic and international tourists to enjoy.

Consequently, our forward bookings (pre-booked groups) look extremely positive and everyone at the Trust is looking forward to welcoming all our visitors over the months to come.





*The Art Deco Trust shop, (former) Women's Rest, photography Simon Cartwright Photography*

## **Shop**

The Art Deco Trust Shop continues to serve as an integral part of our operations, contributing both to our mission of preserving and promoting Napier's unique Art Deco heritage and providing a meaningful income stream for the Trust.

Throughout the year, the Shop has offered a carefully curated selection of Art Deco-inspired products, including books, clothing, homeware, prints, jewellery, and local artisan goods. Our merchandise serves not only as a tribute to the Art Deco period but also helps educate visitors on the significance of Napier's architectural heritage.



*Art Deco Festival Napier 2025, photograph Matthew Bonnett*

## **Festivals and Events**

The summer Art Deco Festival Napier 2025 went off with a bang!

Over two hundred events and activities were delivered to over 19,000 unique visitors over the Festival weekend of 16-19 February 2025. Anecdotally, as reported by Napier CBD Inc, foot traffic in the Napier CBD over the 2025 Festival weekend saw a 10% increase in visitors over the 2024 Festival.

The Winter Deco Festival also proceeded as planned and again was well received by attendees. Our thanks to everyone who was involved in putting on Summer and Winter Deco weekends, with special thanks to Festival Sponsors.

## **Our people**

Supporting Jeremy Smith, the Heritage Manager/ General Manager, with oversight of the entire operations of the Trust – the Board wishes to thank all current staff Jeremy, Jane Roberts, Matthew Bonnett, Jonathan Smith, Heather Walter, Fiona Simon, Maggie Genet, Kaleen Cook, Robyn Molony, and Christine Bongiovanni for their commitment and dedication to the Trust.

In August 2024, the Trust farewelled Jess Leslie, Event Manager, who has been replaced by Jonathan Smith MNZM, who (re)joins the Trust as the Event Manager, a role he undertook in 2015-16. Following Tony Mair's stepping back from his Logistics and Maintenance roles for the trust (but remains with the team as a driver), we are joined by Stephen Matthews, who has joined us Maintenance Coordinator and Miranda Plummer as Logistic Coordinator for our Vintage Car Tour operations.

This year we also farewelled one of the true heroes of the Trust – David Low – who retired as a volunteer after 37 years' service – a remarkable commitment for anyone, and we are very grateful to David for his years volunteering.



As per every year – we sincerely thank and acknowledge the tremendous contribution of all our volunteers at the Trust; each year we welcome new volunteers and members, train walk guides and shop volunteers and welcome them all to our ranks. On behalf of everyone at the Trust we thank all the volunteers for their commitment of time, willingness to support and enthusiasm – we could not do what we do without all of you!

And to those volunteers and members who have left us over the past 12 months – thank you for your service and support over the years.



Volunteers' appreciation dinner photograph Matthew Bonnett

### **Operations**

The Trust is extremely grateful to Napier City Council who continue to support the Trust financially. This year we are pleased to announce the Council's continued financial support for the Trust with a new 3-year funding commitment to the continuation of the Trust's work.

Supporting operational costs, contributing to the Robert McGregor Heritage Fund, and directly supporting the Art Deco Festival. The Trust's partnership with the Council benefits the Trust with financial certainty and sustainability and the City in terms of marketing and service the Trust provides highlighting the City of Napier's special point of difference – its art deco architecture. We are very grateful to the Mayor and Councillors and the wider Napier City Council staff for the continued support we receive throughout the year from many departments and Council teams.

We are equally grateful to all our supporters – our dedicated volunteers, members, donors, sponsors, and stakeholders – who enable the Trust to deliver on our year-round purpose and commitment to the protection, preservation, promotion and celebration of our art deco era heritage. We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support.

### **Financial Reporting the year ending 31 August 2025**

I am very pleased to report, less the various donations received for the restoration of the (former) Women's Rest, our Year End operational surplus is \$38,713, against a budgeted Year End surplus of \$23,416.

The surplus in the audited accounts shows a YE surplus of \$217,213, however, the surplus includes (former) Women's Rest CAPEX income of the following, which has been spend.

- Lottery Grants Board: \$100,000
- Donations: \$55,000

- Chairs' fundraising: \$23,500
- Total: \$178,500

This income has been spent on the fixtures and fitout of the new building, which are included in the Balance Sheet, within Fixed Assets (Leasehold Improvements, Intangibles, Office Equipment and Fixtures and Fittings).

Less the various donations and grant noted above, our year end cash surplus is \$38,713.

On our balance sheet, our year-end equity position is \$974,244.25. An increase from \$757,030.97 as of 31 August 2024.

The Board is very cognisant of our financial situation and how local and world issues could impact us at any time in the future, we therefore continue to take a conservative approach to our budgets, forecasting and cash management.

### **In conclusion**

I am pleased to be able to report positively on all aspects of the Trust's operations and financial sustainability this last year.

In closing, I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their efforts during the year and for adapting to our changes in circumstances and locations. another challenging year for the Trust and my thanks to my Trust Board colleagues Rachel, Simon, Amy, Martin, Chad and Secretary Jan, and extend my thanks to Ben, who is stepping down from the Trust Board due to work commitments.

As it did in 1985 when the Art Deco Group first joined together, the Trust continues to be committed to protecting, preserving, promoting, and celebrating of our regions' unique art deco era heritage, and ensuring that the Spirit of Art Deco shines brightly into the future.

On behalf of the Board, we look forward to working with all of you, as we continue to fulfil our purpose over this coming year.

Best wishes,



**Barbara Arnott,**  
Chair, Art Deco Trust



## Notification of Board Vacancies

### Art Deco Trust has one (1) vacancy for elected members on the board

Clause 9.9 of the Art Deco Trust's rules state:

Nominations for elected Board Members, who must be Members of the Trust, shall be called for by the Board Secretary at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Each candidate shall be proposed and seconded in writing by Members of the Trust and the completed nomination form can be delivered to the Heritage Manager/GM at the Trust's offices or by supplied email address.

Nominations shall close at 5pm on the fifth (5) day before the Annual General Meeting at which such election or confirmation of appointment is to take place. The proposer and seconder for any nomination shall be a Member of the Trust.

#### Nomination Forms for Elected Board Members

Nomination forms are available from the Art Deco Trust website [AGM – Art Deco Napier](#) or by emailing Jeremy Smith, Heritage Manager/GM, [hm@artdeconapier.com](mailto:hm@artdeconapier.com).

The completed nomination forms must be emailed as per the above email, or delivered to the Art Deco Trust Shop, (former) Women's Rest, 5 Clive Square East, Napier during business hours by: **5pm, Friday, 21 November 2025.**

Please put "**Art Deco Trust Board nomination**" in the subject heading if sending via email. Nominees will be required to provide a profile statement of no more than 150 words to be included in the notice to members of election to be circulated before the AGM.

#### Current board composition:

- **Barbara Arnott**, representing heritage. Barbara was elected as a Board member at 2020 AGM, and as Board Chair by the Board in January 2021. Her third term as a board member was confirmed at 2024 AGM.
- **Martin Bain**, representing volunteers. Martin was elected as a Board member at 2022 AGM. His second term as a board member was confirmed at the 2024 AGM.
- **Rachel Bashnick**, representing finance, audit and risk was appointed by resolution at the 2019 AGM. Rachel's first term was approved by election at the 2021 AGM, and her third term expires at the 2025 AGM.
- **Simon Dunn**, representing business growth and management. Simon was appointed as a Board Member in January 2020. Simon's first term was approved by election at the 2021 AGM, and his third term expires at the 2025 AGM.
- **Ben Hutton**, representing tourism. Ben joined the Board in September 2020. Appointed as a Board member at 2020 AGM. His third term as a board member was confirmed at the 2024 AGM. Ben retires from the Board at 2025 AGM.
- **Amy Cowan**, representing Business and Administration. Elected at the 2021 AGM. Her second term expires at the 2025 AGM.
- **Councillor Chad Tareha**, representing local government. Councillor Tareha was appointed by Napier Mayor Kirsten Wise until the 2025 local body elections.
- Board secretary: **Jan Simmonds**. Jan is appointed by the Board.



**Board vacancies:****Elected members re-standing for the Board:**

One (1) elected member of the Board has indicated their willingness to re-stand for election:

- Amy Cowan

**Appointed member whose terms are ending:**

- Rachel Bashnick has indicated willingness to remain on the board as an appointed member for one more year; and
- Simon Dunn has indicated willingness to remain on the board as an appointed member for another term.