RETURN TO ANIWANIWA

Gregory O’Brien, poet, painter and Futuna trustee since 2012.

Last time I visited Aniwaniwa - with Peter Parkes, Nick Bevin and a dozen others - was the morning demolition began, in early September. Returning four months later, all that remained of John Scott’s soulful architecture was a nondescript area of regenerating bush and a pile of rubble. Nothing was left standing of Scott’s remarkable choreography of walkways, entrances, windows and central marae-platform. The roofing timbers had been recycled as floorboards for the new visitors’ centre two kilometres down the road. On that note, I composed a whakatauki/proverb:

The dispossessed stars, 
the roof above our heads 
trodden underfoot.

How might one register the chilling fact of the loss of this building - a fate which could so easily have befallen Futuna Chapel? I took some photographs of the rubble. I wrote an account of the return visit for Home magazine (Feb/Mar 2017).

I merged with the condemnation of Scott’s building in the painting below. Using drawings made last September as a basis, I evoked the interconnecting spaces of Aniwaniwa; the striped hill/landforms were based on the striped pillars of the Sienna Cathedral.

Like many others who visited Aniwaniwa, I am haunted by this building. Closely aligned to Futuna in so many respects, the visitors’ centre similarly contained something of the sacred and the ancient, as it did a sense of modernist adventure.

Today, walking across the empty space where it stood is like visiting an urupa. And the sound of nearby Aniwaniwa Falls is a waiata or Scottish/Irish lament that will accompany the building’s absence for all time.

Some weeks earlier, I had been asked to contribute to an exhibition in Canberra and Sydney, in which 14 artists each responded to one of the 14 Stations of the Cross. I was assigned the First Station - ‘Christ is condemned’, a narrative
As guardians of a heritage building, the Trust has decided to cast its net beyond the world of contemporary architecture. It recognised an opportunity that by inviting Sarah as its guest for 2017, the Futuna Lecture Series would begin to engage in the realm of architectural heritage and culture.

Professor Kenderdine is an archeologist working concurrently on numerous heritage sites around the world including China, India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. She received her PhD at RMIT in 2010 with a thesis entitled “In-situ: Immersive Architectures for the Embodiment of Culture and Heritage”. It immediately placed her at the forefront of new methods of digitally capturing and publicly exhibiting built and cultural heritage through interactive augmented reality in libraries, art galleries and museums all around the world.

Her digital laboratory applies the high fidelity data acquisition technologies to new virtual environment design (portable and permanent installations), using computer graphics, data mining, high-speed networking, visual and sonic analytics and knowledge visualization in ways that reframe engagement with tangible and intangible heritage.

Sarah is better known outside her home country of New Zealand. The Trust is very excited to be able to provide her with an opportunity to present her work to a New Zealand audience. Her lecture is entitled “Architectures for the Senses: Cultural Heritage in the Age of Experience”.

She will deliver the lecture in Auckland Wednesday 5th April at the Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium, Christchurch, Thursday 6th April at The Piano Auditorium and on Saturday 8th April at Futuna Chapel. Tickets are available online at www.dashtickets.co.nz

Sarah will talk about her research work at the forefront of digitally interactive and immersive experiences. Her work amalgamates cultural heritage with new media art practice in the realms of interactive cinema, augmented reality and embodied narrative. Sarah is a pioneer in the fields of digital heritage, digital humanities and big data visualisation.

Biographic information

Sarah is Professor at University of New South Wales Art & Design where she is the founding director of the transdisciplinary Expanded Perception and Interaction Centre (EPICentre), pioneering new visualization infrastructures and projects across the arts and sciences. In addition she is the Director of the Laboratory for Innovation in Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (iGLAM), Deputy director for the National Institute for Experimental Arts (NIEA) and Head of Special Projects for Museum Victoria since 2003.

Sarah’s recent Awards include:

- Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Prize for Distinctive Work in 2014
- The International Council of Museums Award (Australia)
- Inaugural Australian Arts in Asia Awards Innovation Award in 2013.

In 2016 Sarah was elected President of the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities. In 2017 she will take up the position of professor in Digital Museology at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland.

The Futuna Lecture Series is the largest annual fundraising event for the Trust and would not be possible without the support of the following:

The Trust is grateful for this support in helping to bring this unique annual lecture series to New Zealand for the 7th year running.
ANNOUNCING A NEW PATRON

We are very pleased to announce that Chris Cochran has agreed to take on the role of Patron, following humbly in the strong tradition set by Shona Kenderdine.

Chris brings to the Trust wide knowledge of New Zealand’s built heritage, learnt first-hand — initially in activism in the 1970s helping a local initiative to see the country’s first conservation zone established in Thorndon; then working on Government-owned heritage buildings in the Ministry of Works, and in 1988 setting up in private practice as a conservation architect. This has involved work for Heritage New Zealand, the Department of Conservation, NZ and UK Antarctic Heritage Trusts, the Rail Heritage Trust, and marae committees, local authorities and private owners.

His career in conservation has been motivated by the importance of the sense of place and the social life that heritage buildings nuture; by admiration of the ingenuity and creativity of those whose buildings we have inherited; by the need to conserve the natural resources of the planet, and by the challenge of adapting and modifying for modern use structures that served the different needs of an earlier time. His conservation planning documents have been influential in the adaptive re-use and conservation of some of our most important buildings, and even, in some cases, in seeing them survive at all.

BUILDING RESTORATION UPDATE

The Trust is pleased to announce that the refurbishment of the roof fin walls has been successfully completed prior to Christmas 2016. These fins are the high slender panelled walls at the outer end of each of the roof ridges which abut the triangular coloured acrylic clerestory windows. They have been completely rebuilt, structurally strengthened, re-clad, re-flashed and painted.

The timber sub-framing of the wing walls was badly deteriorating and the outer leading edge timber member was found to be very flexible under hand applied pressure. The original Hardies asbestos reinforced cement boards were in poor condition with loose fixings and peeling paint work.

The timber sub-framing has been rebuilt with plywood structural sheets connected at one end to the posts supporting the ends of the timber beam making up the roof ridge and at the other end to the outer facing timber to the wing wall. A steel T section was inserted between the plywood sheeting and the outer edge facing timber creating a much stiffer wall. Castellated timber cavity battens were fixed to the plywood and covered with new Eterpan cement board cladding.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank LT McGuinness and the material suppliers who have donated products: Dulux for supply of the paint, Plytech for the plywood, and PBS for the supply of the Eterpan sheets at cost price. To the neighbours at Futuna we are grateful for their patience and in one case the use of their house as a prop for the scaffolding!

As a Trust we now cast our eyes to the remaining refurbishment work to the roof. This involves re-roofing the building, replicating the original diamond shaped tiles and the triangular copper edge flashings; the replacement of some of the coloured acrylic window panes; insertion of sill flashing to the acrylic windows and repainting the high level hit and miss timber wall cladding. This work will prove to be the greatest financial challenge yet!
FUTUNA CHAPEL OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 9TH APRIL

The annual public Open Day at the Chapel will be held on Sunday 9th April between 11 am and 4:30 pm. The programme includes:

- Chapel open 11:00 am
- Guided tour of the Chapel 11:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Lunch and public access 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
- NZ Harp Duo 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
- PUBLIC TALK “Extreme conservation” 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Chapel closes 4:30 pm

“Extreme conservation”

Conservation architect and Futuna Trust Patron Chris Cochran MNZM, and architect Pip Cheshire (2015 NZIA Gold Medalist) will present conservation work they have been undertaking in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica for the last twenty years. The projects include huts constructed at Cape Adare in support of Carsten Borchgrevink’s 1898 expedition, at Hut Point for Robert Falcon Scott’s 1901 expedition, Cape Royds for Sir Ernest Shackelton’s 1907 expedition, Cape Evans for Scott’s fatal 1910 expedition and at Pram Point for Sir Edmund Hillary’s support of the 1956 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition.

The conservation projects have confronted difficult environmental and technical issues in the stabilisation of buildings generally constructed as short term accommodation and from which the expeditions were launched. The sites are invariably remote, the construction season short and working conditions challenging. Despite these challenges each of the huts now house superbly conserved artefacts from the expeditions.

Entry is by koha for the tour, the musical performance and the public. 10 CPD points for registered architects.

OPEN SUNDAYS

The Trust is pleased to confirm that the programme of having the Chapel open on the first Sunday of the month will continue throughout 2017. The Chapel will be open between 11 am and 3 pm on the following dates:

- 5th March
- 2nd April
- 7th May
- 4th June
- 2nd July
- 6th August
- 3rd September
- 1st October
- 5th November
- 3rd December

MUSIC FOR THE OPEN DAY

Michelle Velvin and Jennifer Newth are the NZ Harp Duo and have been performing together in various forms since they were young harp students. They are dedicated to showcasing the versatility and striking presence of two harps in concert and this will be their third performance at Futuna Chapel.

TRUST SPONSOR

The Trust is delighted to announce that Plytech (suppliers of plywood products) have joined in the support of the Futuna Lecture Series #7.

Those with good memories may recall that Plytech supplied the plywood used for the kitset Futuna model and most recently donated plywood panels for the rebuilding of the vertical roof fins (see Peter Parkes Building Report).

Our thanks and appreciation go to Plytech and we look forward to a long and fruitful association with them.