

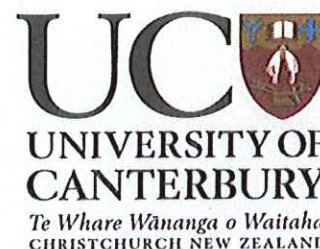
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Department of History

24 March 2010



Dear Sirs

I have been asked to write in support of the Christchurch Heritage Awards Charitable Trust, and am very pleased to do so.

As Professor of History at the University of Canterbury for the past four years I have been too preoccupied with the pressures of budget cuts and administrative restructurings, in addition to my own teaching and research, to take an active role in Christchurch's heritage sector, but as a thirty-year member of the Historic Places Trust, a life member of the Friends of Canterbury Museum, and the first to teach a postgraduate course in Public History at a New Zealand university, my interest in heritage retention and conservation remains strong and committed.

A civilised society needs to maintain a knowledge of its past, and to interrogate that knowledge critically, if it is to foster a sense of identity and community cohesion. Heritage buildings and landscapes are a vital part of that knowledge of the past, reminding each new generation of those that have gone before, and marking the changes that have taken place over the years to make Christchurch what it is today.

My books *Christchurch Changing* (second edition, 2008) and *Lyttelton: Port and Town* (2004) have attempted to make a modest contribution to increasing public awareness of our past and the heritage buildings that still remind us of that past. Both books include photos of buildings that have been lost over the years, some of which are now recognised as very serious losses.

I warmly support the establishment of the Christchurch Heritage Awards Charitable Trust and its aims, to promote and celebrate heritage retention, conservation and education. Rather than bemoan the losses, let us celebrate the successes, and commend those public-spirited owners and developers who have recognised the enormous value of our built heritage for future generations and have invested effort and expense in its preservation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'GWRice'.

Dr Geoffrey W. Rice FRHistS MRSNZ