

3. OUR CITY PROJECT

Officer responsible
Director of Our City

Author
Jenny May DDI 365 7489

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress relating to the Our City Project.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions for the opening are now in the final phase of progress. The exhibition team is working on finalising images and texts and the collection of objects for the opening exhibitions. The exhibitions will be a range of short and long term exhibitions that reflect issues of the past, present and future of our city. A programme of seminars relating to the exhibitions is being developed.

Councillor Crichton has agreed to curate a further exhibition of gifts to the City for the opening.

FUNCTIONS

Though the exhibition area is not open to the public a number of functions have been held in the seminar and lecture areas on the first floor. These have been well attended and have included:

- A public meeting to discuss the future of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery building.
- A public lecture by Ken Gorbey, Project Manager at the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Ken spoke of the politics underlying the development of the museum project, architect Daniel Liebeskind's design for the building and his own part in bringing the museum to completion. This outstanding lecture was attended by 125 people – a full house!
- A number of meetings – Civic Trust, Canterbury Branch of the Professional Historians Association of New Zealand, ICON Residents' Association, Civic Trust, and a number of Council committee, sub-committee, staff and consultation meetings.
- Visits to the building have been made by the city's Personal Guiding Service guides, the staff of the Canterbury Regional Office of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga, students from the School of Fine Arts and Christchurch City Council Customer Services staff.

It is wonderful to see the building being used again for the civic purpose for which it was built in 1887.

GENERAL

One hundred chairs have now been purchased for the former debating chamber which will allow for greater flexibility of use.

Consent has been received for the refurbishment of the Worcester Street entrance and work has now begun.

The Council's 2002 Environment Awards process will be managed by Our City.

From July, the liaison staff at the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings will report to Our City and Our City will report to the Art Gallery Director. After considerable consultation, Operations Director Ken Lawn made the decision to place Our City in the Art Gallery unit. This is considered the best option as it has a close association with many of the professional skills in that unit and it has a natural affinity with the outcomes of that unit. However, Our City will continue to have relationships with a number of other units.

A fixed term, part time appointment (20 hours per week for three months), for a liaison officer at Our City has been made and will commence on 17 June 2002.

Mr P Manning, son of former Mayor and Councillor Sir George Manning has generously presented a number of items, including gifts and photographs relating to his father's term of office.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.