

## 6. OUR CITY O-TAUTAHI - UPDATE



<b>Officer responsible</b> Director Our City O-Tautahi	<b>Author</b> Jenny May, DDI 941-7461
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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on matters relating to Our City O-Tautahi.

### OVERVIEW

Our City O-Tautahi is now in its sixth month of operation. January and February have been quieter months both in terms of visitor numbers and use of the meeting spaces, but over this time the building has averaged 400 visitors per week.

February has seen the introduction of three new exhibitions: Environment Canterbury's Sharing Our Seas, The South City Library and Stage II of The Avon River Strategy. An outline of the current exhibition programme is listed below. Exhibitions in the Central City Revitalisation area have been regularly updated.

The small collection of books housed in the former Councillor's Library on the first floor were kindly catalogued by the team at the Central Library in January.

An updated exhibition guide and a flyer are currently being printed.

All exterior signage has now been installed.

The Art Gallery continues to assist with security liaison for the building during open hours.

### EXHIBITIONS UPDATE

The current and proposed exhibition programme to date:

- Ground Floor Exhibitions
  - Past
    - Gifts to the City - A collection of items gifted to the City and Mayors, past and present, of Christchurch from around the world.
    - 50 years on - A look at how central Christchurch has changed over 50 years.
    - Our City Pre 1850 - Highlights the history of the City prior to formal settlement by the Canterbury Association.
    - Early Surveyors - The current Director's office was the City Surveyor's office - this exhibit presents short biographies of who occupied this office between 1887 and 1924.
    - Reserve 10 - The history of this building and site - its many uses and stages of development and now includes a model of the 1851 Land Office built by Colin Amodeo.
    - Lost Christchurch - A pictorial examination of buildings now demolished.
  - Present
    - Issues of the Day - Changing displays exploring the issues important to the people and governing bodies of Christchurch.
    - The Avon River Strategy Stage II display which examines issues about the past, present and future of the Avon has now been installed.
    - At the end of April an exhibition 'The Story of the Steel' will open. This exhibition examines the sourcing, transport and formulation of the steel for the Fire Fighters sculpture. (For financial reasons this exhibition has now been withdrawn, however, it is hoped that sponsorship can be raised)
    - Environment Canterbury - Various exhibitions outlining the work and policy of the Council responsible for the promotion of sustainable management of natural and physical resources of the City and Canterbury region. The current exhibition which opened in January looks at Sharing Our Seas - marine farming.

- Future
  - Central City Revitalisation - A changing series of exhibitions and information which provides an opportunity to view, and comment on, detailed plans of proposals for the central city of Christchurch by the Mayoral Forum. The area now features the latest on the soon to open Christchurch Art Gallery, including the architect's model.
- First Floor
  - Know your Councils - Who and what are the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury?
  - South City Library - this exhibition sponsored by the library's architects Warren and Mahoney opened at the end of February.
  - Community Room - A permanent display about the Environment Centre and changing displays about our community groups and professional organisations featuring displays and information on the Peace Foundation, New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga, Civic Trust, Sister Cities, Live Tall and the Environment Centre.

#### **STAFF TRAINING**

At the end of March Our City will host a two day workshop for Museum professionals by Te Papa National Services on how to develop a marketing strategy. Staff from the Provincial Buildings and Our City will attend.

A fire safety trial evacuation for staff and tenants was held the first week of March.

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Committee receive the information.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.