

## 1. ROBERT McDOUGALL GALLERY - CANTERBURY MUSEUM

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The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on the seminar on the Canterbury Museum Revitalisation Project that was held on 28 March 2003 and to update progress on the Council's Local Bill in Parliament.

### BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 22 August 2002 the Council resolved that the Legal Services Manager report to the Strategy and Finance Committee on the timetable for the enactment of the Local Bill and occupancy issues regarding the Robert McDougall Gallery. Since that August 2002 resolution was passed, the Local Bill has been introduced and this will be discussed in further detail below.

The Council also resolved at that August 2002 meeting that a separate report be made to the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee regarding the conservation of the Gallery and its heritage features. A report on those matters is being made separately this month to the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee.

### MUSEUM REVITALISATION PROJECT SEMINAR

The seminar held on 28 March 2003 was to update City Councillors regarding the Canterbury Museum Revitalisation Project as a precursor to obtaining formal Council approval, as the owner of the Robert McDougall Gallery, to work that the Museum Trust Board proposes to carry out at the Gallery which would need a resource consent from the City Council. Any resource consent application will need to be heard by a commissioner as the Council owns the land that is the subject of the resource consent application.

One of the purposes of this report is to enable the Council to consider the Museum's proposals in relation to the McDougall Gallery and for the Council, if it is happy with those proposed alterations, to give its consent as land owner (not as resource consent authority) to the Museum so that it may go forward and lodge a resource consent application with the Council knowing that the Council, as land owner, agrees to the works proposed in that application.

The Museum advised that it was not seeking, as part of any resource consent application, to make any structural changes to the Robert McDougall Gallery itself other than:

- (i) to allow direct access from the back of the Museum buildings into the rear of the McDougall;
- (ii) in relation to the establishment of the whare whakairo which would be physically situated between the Museum and the Gallery; and
- (iii) basement access between the Museum and the McDougall Gallery.

A drawing showing the proposed location of the whare whakairo is tabled.

The whare whakairo originally came from Tokomaru Bay and the proposed location between the Museum and the Gallery has received the blessing of the Ngati Porou and there has also been an accord between Ngai Tahu and Ngati Porou. It is considered that the proposed location is suitable in relation to tikanga and Maori protocols.

The operational and economic benefits of the location of the whare whakairo over the rear of the McDougall Gallery are seen as:

- (a) all public areas of the Museum/Gallery complex are on Levels 1 and 3;
- (b) there are significant security and staffing savings;
- (c) there is a major Maori taonga at the heart of the Museum;
- (d) it binds the two buildings into one entity;
- (e) access to the whare is greatly simplified;
- (f) there is a commercial potential for Maori performances and bicultural training in the whare.

The Councillors who attended the seminar were generally supportive of the proposed location of the whare in the location shown on the tabled plan.

## **BILL UPDATE**

The Local Bill promoted by the Council, the Christchurch City Council (Robert McDougall Gallery) Land Vesting Bill, was introduced into Parliament by Mr Tim Barnett MP on 19 February 2003 and was referred to the Local Government and Environment Committee.

That Committee requested the Council, as the promoter of the Bill, to make submissions on the Bill and those submissions, having been approved by the Legislation Subcommittee on 23 April 2003, have now been filed. The Committee has advertised for public submissions on Wednesday 30 April 2003 with a closing date of 27 June 2003. The Committee is required to report back to Parliament no later than 18 August 2003 on the Bill.

**Recommendation:** That the Christchurch City Council, as land owner of the Robert McDougall Gallery, approve the revised Museum Revitalisation Project for the use of the McDougall Gallery and request the Property Unit staff to finalise the lease for the McDougall Gallery between the Council and the Museum Trust Board for implementation immediately following the Royal Assent if Parliament enacts the Christchurch City Council (Robert McDougall Gallery) Land Vesting Bill.