

Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum

1146 Okains Bay Road
Okains Bay
Banks Peninsula 8161
New Zealand

Phone (03) 304 8611
Fax (03) 304 8611
Email okains.museum@xtra.co.nz

Friday 22 April 2006

To: The Christchurch City Council (C.C.C.)
and to: Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board (A.W.C.B.).

Application (and submissions in support) by Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum Trust Board for support and funding, and for inclusion in both the C.C.C. annual plan and budget, and in the L.T.C.P. (long term plan.)

1. The Board will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Waitangi Day 2007. Since inception, the Trust Board has had a representative of the Banks Peninsula District Council (at the present time Mr Steve Lowndes) and for the last two years the Board has received from the B.P.D.C. \$10,000 in each of those years, with the expectation, on both sides, that such funding would continue.
2. This application is not only for such funding to continue into the future, but we are hoping you could increase the level of support to \$50,000 annually.
3. The Okains Bay Museum houses a collection of not only Peninsula, Christchurch and Canterbury significance, but also of great national importance. This is exemplified by, earlier this month, four pieces from the Maori collection being chosen to go into the Ngai Tahu display at Te Papa in Wellington, for the next two and a half years. These are items of extraordinary intrinsic worth and rarity. Our collection is further exemplified with an original slab cottage (a rarity, again) and now two large Waka, uniquely housed side by side in a new purpose built shed. It is worth recalling that Christchurch city, in its pioneering days, was largely built from timber (mainly Totara) milled from the Peninsula, and the Museum is a testament to those times and endeavours.
4. The fact that a Museum in such a comparatively remote location can receive some 10,000 visitors a year, as it does, underlines what is said above; and the further fact that annually on Waitangi Day, thousands of people, mostly from Christchurch, attend these celebrations, only emphasises the importance and relevance the Museum already has to Christchurch citizens.
5. The Museum has always run on a shoestring budget with a huge amount of voluntary work put in by many folk from all around Canterbury. Given the goodwill of such people, that voluntary work will continue. Funding, however, is rather more vulnerable. Presently a total gross income of \$80,000 - \$90,000 is generated by specific grants, gate sales, donations and Waitangi Day celebrations. Income is variable from year to year, and bad weather on Waitangi Day can have a major impact on the funds raised. Therefore forward planning is very difficult.
6. The Board realises that comparisons can be invidious, so the following matters are not meant in any way to offend, but to give some contextual background.
Firstly, it is understood that the Akaroa Museum is to receive from the C.C.C. some \$500,000 towards construction of a storage building (that sum being perhaps only 1/3rd of the total cost.)

Secondly, some \$40,000 from (former) B.P.D.C. rates have been going annually, to the Canterbury Museum (where, if the Board understands correctly, some \$125,000 or thereabouts, is routinely set aside to fund particular exhibitions).

7. Currently the Board has in hand (and struggling to finance) several projects and some are set out below with the projected costs, based on large amounts of volunteer labour:

(a) completion of two large sheds, sourced, dismantled and carted from Barrhill, one for use as a display/store for wagons, drays, yokes etc; the second for general storage purposes --- approx. \$5,000.

(b) With the emptying of the old canoe shed (after the new Waka shed was completed) this shed now needs refurbishing and paving so it can become a display area for the smaller Waka and related equipment. These can be moved out of the Maori Hall to make room for further display cases, which will further enhance the Maori collection.

canoe shed --- approx \$2,500
display cases --- approx \$5,000

(c) completion of the refurbishment of the old Akaroa grandstand, from the recreation ground. There is still some \$5,000 needed to bring it up to the required standard (especially toilets and showers) to be able to house groups there for educational and recreational purposes.

(d) restoration, including re-piling, of the old Okains Bay school house, on the other side of the road to, and complementary to, the restored Okains Bay library --- approx \$25,000

(e) purchase of a (hard to find) supply of Totara logs for future rebuilding efforts, to be acquired soon --- approx \$5,000.

(f) longer term, the construction of a colonial boat shed, to house the small collection of eleven boats, which would partner the new Waka shed.

8. Acquisitions up until now have been done on an ad-hoc basis - reliant either on donations of items, or raising funds for specific items. The Board intends to set up, and fund from its own meagre resources, a separate acquisitions fund, so that if relevant taonga come on the market, the Board can compete for them. Also, long term, the obtaining of objects such as sailing ship anchors (two are presently available for \$5,000) or traction engines, (the popularity of cocksfoot threshing on Waitangi Day is remarkable) are under consideration. Again, just some examples.

9. Enough of a sketch. But if money is to be allocated to "revitalising" the Peninsula, then may the Board suggest, that as part of that process, something more than the present \$10,000 per annum could possibly come its way? Whether that be in the form of supporting or financing some specific project/s each year; or more acceptably from the Boards perspective, in the form of an increased annual grant (possibly the \$50,000 mentioned earlier), this is obviously up to the C.C.C. But the C.C.C. would know it was supporting a nationally important, public Museum with an outstanding collection of Maori taonga and colonial treasures. A Museum which is bound to have a significant part for the future in the growth, the development, the enhancement, the life of the Peninsula and the city, and in the education of the people, especially the young.

If further information is required, please feel free to contact the Board.

Yours sincerely,



Murray Thacker. QSM

Director,

Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum.



Nigel Hampton QC

Board Trustee

Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum.