

7. OUR CITY O-TAUTAHI UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress related to the Our City O-Tautahi Project. While the report is usually bi-monthly, given that we are now officially open, it is considered timely to update the Committee this month on the exhibitions.

OUR CITY O-TAUTAHI

Our City O-Tautahi was officially opened by the Mayor and Councillor Anna Crighton on Friday 23 August 2002. Some 160 guests attended and all feedback was extremely positive. My sincere thanks to this Committee for its support to date for this project.

The Ground Floor of Our City O-Tautahi is divided into three main exhibition spaces representing the 'Past', 'Present' and 'Future' of the city. Upstairs, on level 1, the Debating Chamber, the Library and the Education Room.

Ground Floor

- The Past** – inanahi
Gifts to the City – a display of items gifted to the Mayors of the city to mark special occasions or visits to Christchurch.
50 Years On – a look at how central Christchurch has changed over 50 years.
Christchurch Before 1850 – highlights the history of the city prior to formal settlement by the Canterbury Association.
Reserve 10 – The history of this building and site – its many uses and stages of development.
Lost Christchurch – A pictorial examination of buildings now demolished.
- The Present** – te ra nei
Issues of the Day - Changing displays, exploring the issues important to the people and governing bodies of Christchurch.
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 – current display: Air Pollution.
Avon River Strategy – A display that looks at the history and future of the Avon River.
- The Future** – apopo
Central City Revitalisation – an opportunity to view, and comment on, the mayoral forum's proposed plans for the central city of Christchurch.

First Floor

- Know your Councils* – Who and what are the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury?
- Christchurch Art Gallery* – A look at the new Christchurch Art Gallery due to open in 2003.
- The Debating Chamber* – Originally the Debating Chamber for the City Council from 1887 to 1922. The room is available for hire for lectures, debates, seminars etc.
- The Library* – Formerly the Councillor's Library as a meeting room.
- The Education Room* – The home to permanent and semi-permanent exhibitions about community groups and professional organisations. The Education Room houses a permanent display about the Environment Centre.

The doors opened to the public on Monday 26 August 2002. We had approximately 60 visitors the first day and have 30 Riccarton High School students in residence for the week undertaking their 'in town' experience. They are using the Education Room as their base. The students have found the exhibition spaces most useful in this project and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being 'resident' in a heritage building. We have further classes from Riccarton for the next two weeks in 'residence'.

The Art and Industry Biennale will open an exhibition of Michael Parekowhai's 'bunnies' at Our City on Tuesday 3 September 2002.

Bookings for the first floor rooms are steady over the next month.

Environmental Awards 2002

The entry form and information sheet have been printed and distributed widely among the community. Entries close on 23 September 2002. Advertisements are being placed in local newspapers.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Committee receive the information.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.