

## Good Things Take Time...

### Progress Update: Dutch Connection Centre Set to Go

It doesn't seem that long ago... When the Dutch Connection museum trust went out to the Dutch community throughout the country and asked whether people wanted a place to tell their story – a national centre where they could also participate in Dutch festivities, and enjoy seeing exhibitions from the Netherlands. But the years have gone by in a flash, our project has matured, and it's now ready to enter its final stages.

De Molen in Foxton will have new neighbours soon. There's lots of good news!

- Horowhenua District Council (HDC) bought a building for *Ons Museum* and the other local participants (end of 2013)
- A project manager and a fundraising manager were appointed (2014) to move things along
- The architectural plans were finalised and approved (2015), after a consultation process involving all the participants and stakeholders in the Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom project
- And now the new multi-purpose tourism and community facility has Building Consent (pewh...)

What all this means, is that we're now pretty darn sure that the project will go ahead. And for that reason, we can start our funding appeal. We've had a great many contributions already! But if you can give us a little bit or a larger bit more? Please visit

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/dutchconnectionmuseum#> and give what you can afford?

### Early Funding Successes

In the last 6 months, some \$2 million in funding from various external organisation like Lotteries has been committed to the project. It took a lot of effort, smart thinking and organising to 'collect' that much money. The project team and HDC Fundraising Manager Pete Leach did an excellent job – working long days (and nights).

Together with funding made available by Council, the total that's now available for Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom has reached over \$4 million. Unfortunately that's not quite enough – for a project that will transform heritage town Foxton into a tourism hub for the region. But we're almost two-thirds on our way, with the total costs estimated at just under \$7 million, and more to come.

*Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom building – Design by Pete Bossley Architects*



## The Dutch Dollar

The Dutch Connection Trust has in the past received generous donations from a large number of Dutch organisations, including the Federation of NZ-NL Societies, the NetherlaNZ Foundation, and the clubs in Wellington, Waikato, Christchurch, Wanganui and Palmerston North. Well over \$50,000 in total.

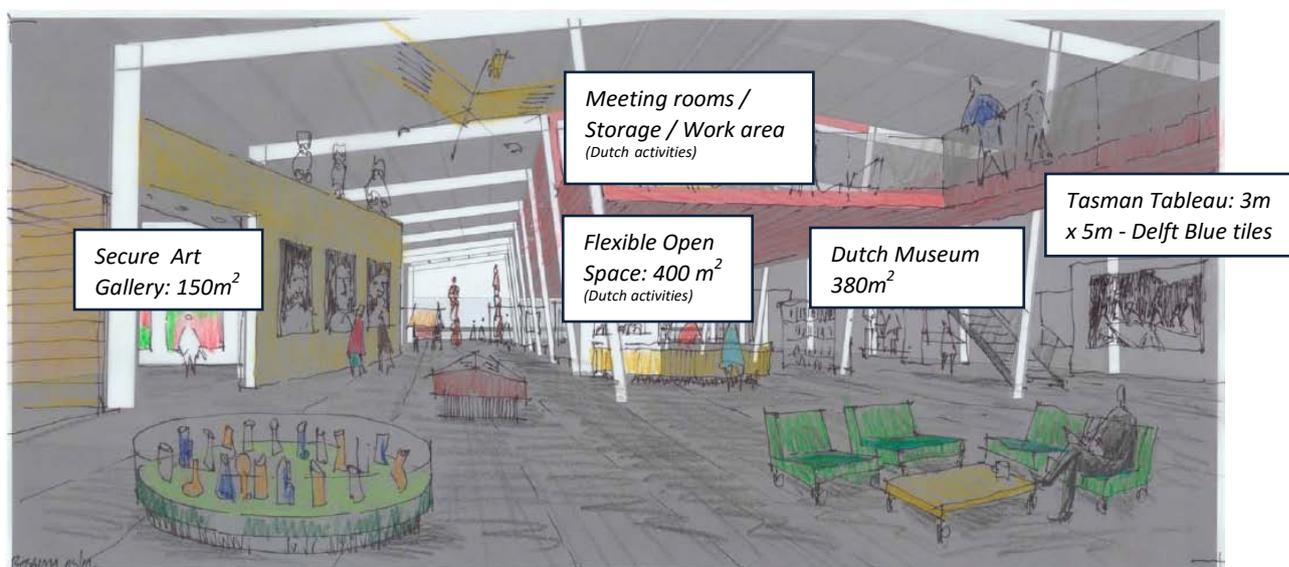
Recently we've talked to a number of businesses with Dutch connections and several of them will make sponsorship in kind available to the value of some \$150,000 – by discounting building, fit-out materials and labour costs (more news on that topic soon, with more funding to come).

In 2008, HDC made \$100,000 in capital funding available. And through organising the Karin Bloemen concert and the Tasman Tiles Tableau, and through generous gifts by individuals, we've raised another \$50,000 or so.

With a total of \$300,000 gifted or committed, we're well on our way to raising the \$1.5 million we've been asked for. But we need more. We've already applied for 'big' funding of \$100,000s (keeping our fingers crossed).

We're also asking for 'small' amounts. From whoever can contribute a little, or a little bit more. And it's easy these days. Everybody can just go online with the credit card handy, and a few minutes later? All done! At <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/dutchconnectionmuseum#>

*Indicative plans for the TANS multi-purpose facility – An innovative tourism and community hub (Pete Bossley Architects)*



## What Do We Need the Money For? Exhibitions!

The story of Dutch immigration into New Zealand is an untold story. In his bestselling 'History of New Zealand', Michael King overlooked us (unlike all the other ethnicities, which he did mention). We were the largest non-British immigrant group for many years – some 5% of the population at one stage – but we have always been the Invisible Immigrants. (Did we integrate too well?)

Let's change all that! So that our children and grandchildren can go to a place where they can find out more about *Opa en Oma*. A place where they can look at the *spulletjes* we brought over – *een huiskamer en een keuken*. A place where they can discover their cultural heritage and their roots.

Perhaps they want to learn our language – *onze moedertaal*? Perhaps they just want to have *poffertjes met een kopje koffie*. It will all happen in the Dutch Connection Centre.

Good exhibitions, to tell our story – *Ons Verhaal* – in a deserving manner, don't come all that cheap.

We had a Feasibility Study done that showed us that \$1.5 million will give us the space we need in the building, specialised exhibition fit-out like lighting and display cabinets, and all the displays and technology that we need.

### **We're Viable and Sustainable**

Our Feasibility Study by museum expert Tim Walker also showed that we can expect some 20,000 visitors every year just into our Dutch Connection museum – Nederlanders, Kiwis, travellers and international tourists. And that we can break even in our operational costs – through the innovative partnership model we've set up with local Maori Hapu and Horowhenua District Council.

By establishing the Dutch Connection, we will finally get a place we can call our own – *onze plek*.

This will be a place to celebrate our Dutch identity, and what we've achieved in this country. But it will also be a place to build a future with stronger connections with the Netherlands. To the benefit of our children and grandchildren, and to the benefit of two small countries that can stand stronger in the world when they can stand together.

Please give generously. Even if you've given before? This our one chance in a lifetime, to create something that will benefit the entire Dutch community in New Zealand.

At <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/dutchconnectionmuseum#>

Once we've brought all our money together, and we've achieved what we set out all those years ago? Then you can attend the opening in a year's time or early 2016... It will be a joyous occasion!



*Entrance to Museum – Indicative design (3D Creative)*