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# TE AWAHOU NIEUWE STROOM FOXTON

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## Mōrena, goedemorgen and good morning

**Over the past month we have continued to make significant progress with the development of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.**

I am so pleased to announce that at last weeks Council meeting Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom took another significant step forward as we were given the green light to start building. Wahoo, is all I can say! Some may say this decision is long overdue, however good things take time and this is an exceptionally good thing.

It was lovely to have so much support in the Council Chambers from school students through to the internationally recognised architect Pete Bossley. We had a strong community presence which showed how much support this project has from not only the local community but throughout New Zealand.

To quote the beautiful words of Awhina "museums have the capability to change people's lives" and for the locals who have been crying out for a new library and the young people and adults looking to access technology this is truly a life changing decision that will create a facility in Foxton loved by many.

From here work will continue with contractor negotiations, and on-site work will begin during May 2016! We will be in touch to invite you all to a celebration to acknowledge this huge milestone.

As I mentioned in the last update we have been working with Open Lab to compete the brand for Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. We have completed this project and you

can see images of our brand which we are very proud of below.

Next steps for our project are continued negotiations with the contractor, demolition of Foxton Service Centre and vacated Foxton Arts Centre, and ongoing work to confirm the exhibition designer which we are currently doing through a thorough process.

Until next time,

Cathy McCartney  
Strategic Projects Coordinator

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## **Green light for Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom construction**

Construction of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton has been given the go-ahead by Horowhenua District Council.

At its meeting tonight, Council authorised the negotiation of a managed contract with Horowhenua company Caldwell Builders. Construction is scheduled to start early this May, with the completed facility likely to open to the public in December next year.

To be developed at the re-purposed Mitre 10 building off Foxton's Main Street, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom will be a multi-purpose community hub, and home to:

- Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre - a high-quality arts and crafts gallery and museum representing stories of local Māori. It is being developed and supported by Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou Trust.
- Onze Plek - New Zealand's National Dutch Museum that will inform, educate and inspire New Zealand about its Dutch connections. It is being developed and supported by the Dutch Connection Trust.
- Council's Foxton customer service and visitor information centre
- Foxton community library

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom will also include world-class galleries for local, national and international exhibitions; meeting rooms, lounge spaces, demonstration and performance spaces; workshop and learning spaces; and a cafe. The facility will be integrated with the surrounding amenities such as deMolen Windmill, the Flax Stripper Museum, and Council's upgrade of Foxton's Main Street.

Horowhenua District Mayor Brendan Duffy says that the development process has focused on how to deliver "a very high quality experience for local users and visitors".

"Significant thought and planning has gone in to how the local community will use the building and what they want from the space, which will be open and flexible to ensure the free-flow of people throughout the facility," he said.

"Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom will provide opportunities for local community groups to make it their home. As such, it will have meeting rooms, lounges, play areas, spaces to socialise, kitchenettes that the public can use and rooms for parents and caregivers with infants and small children. In addition, it is designed to have plenty of room for school performances, dances, musical events and movies."

For visitors to the area, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom will provide an authentic tourist experience. They can learn about and experience the importance of the Tangata Whenua and the Dutch community in New Zealand, as well as get a real feel for life in a small provincial town.

The \$7.4 million project is being funded from a variety of sources. The \$900,000 purchase of the old Mitre 10 building is included in Council's contribution of \$2.65 million. External funding obtained so far totals \$2.39 million and includes \$500,000 allocated from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account, \$1.25 million from Lotteries, \$170,000 from the Eastern and Central Community Trust, and \$470,000-worth of in-kind contributions from the Dutch Connection Trust. In addition, the Dutch Connection Trust and Te Taitoa Maori o Te Awahou would each contribute \$500,000. Sourcing further external funding will continue.

The vision for the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom project supports Council's wider aim for the economic, environmental and social development of Foxton and the Horowhenua District.

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# Fundraising Update

We have made significant progress with funding with the submission of a third application to the Lotteries Commission for approx. \$1.9 million. This application was a joint initiative between the three major stakeholders, Horowhenua District Council, Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou Trust (TTTMOTA) and The Dutch Connection Museum Trust. A big pat on the back to all involved.

Currently fundraising work is ongoing with the Dutch Connection Museum Trust and TTTMOTA with the remaining funding expected to come in around the middle of the year.

In the last update it was mentioned that it was now time for the local Foxton and Foxton beach community to galvanize and start a community fundraising campaign. Four weeks ago a “**Friends of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom**” funding group was formed. The group consists of 10 members of the local Foxton and Foxton Beach community. This group has taken the lead in raising local awareness of the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom facility and has already raised close to \$4000 from a local school mufti day and a large contribution from Boffa Miskel.

This will be last final funding update from me as I move on to new pastures, at the Manawatu Rugby Union, in closing I would like to thank you all for your amazing efforts in keeping this fantastic facility alive and breathing through what have been at times testing. It was a pleasure to meet and work closely with you all, I wish everybody associated with Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and all of your families, everything that is great in life.

Many Thanks,

Pete Leach

For any further funding updates please contact Cathy on 06 366 0999 or email [cathym@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:cathym@horowhenua.govt.nz)

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# Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou Trust

Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou Trust have been busy over the past couple of months with activities focused on the development of the Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre.

The first hui-a-hapū was held on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> February, at Paranui marae, Himatangi Straight, Foxton.

The purpose was to bring members of the nine hapū of Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou Trust together to update people on the overall project to date, and start to develop ideas for the first Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre exhibition.

Our special guest speaker was Ms Linnae Pohatu, Tumuaki Director Māori, at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Tāmaki Paenga Hira. Linnae, from Ngāti Porou, spoke about her involvement with the development of the C. Company Māori 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Memorial House, next to the Tairawhiti Museum, in Gisborne. Hearing the realities of another iwi and how they achieved their vision of building a cultural heritage



facility was inspiring.

Some great ideas and thoughts were generated throughout the hui, which will definitely be continued as we work through the exhibition development process with hapū members involvement.

Thank you to Creative New Zealand and Te Papa National Services Te Paerangi for providing advice and financial support.

The fundraising campaign continues, with major applications on course. See our [givealittle\\_page](#) to donate towards our efforts to create the Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre.

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## **Steady Flow of Funding – From Our Dutch Connections**

A year ago, the Dutch Connection Museum Trust started working with a number of businesses to see what they could contribute to the Te Awahou – Nieuwe Stroom project. The support has been great, and what's more – it doesn't matter whether the company is owned by Dutch people, or Kiwi owned with a strong Dutch

Connection.

Some enthusiastic enterprises are small, like Dutchy's Burger Joint, who committed part of his sales at specific events to our project. Four much bigger companies some have decided to contribute in kind, as part of construction and fit-out. While others simply transferred money into our bank account. For example, there was a Whanganui business man who got inspired at our Levin function, hosted by Mayor Brendan Duffy in Te Takere, and made a donation to us from his Pension Fund back in the Netherlands. The Dutch-Kiwi owner of a Christchurch company pledged \$20,000, after attending a business dinner in the Beehive.

Other businesses are still sitting on the fence – waiting just a little to see what's happening, ready to contribute when things move ahead.

That's why it's so great that Council has now decided to progress with the construction of Te Awahou – Nieuwe Stroom. There's a sense of security. Businesses are cautious, as they should be. A Wellington company director said he would support us, once things had firmed up. They now have! Donors have the security that our project will turn into something of great value to them.

### **Many Sources Across the Country**

- It's not just businesses who are supporting this project. The Netherlands Embassy has also decided to contribute to the museum from its fund for cultural activities. In other words, we now have 'official' support.
- In 2015, the Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies gave the Dutch Connection Centre a substantial part of its financial reserves. The Christchurch Netherlands Society did the same – even though its members will find it a long way to travel to Ons Museum Centrum in Foxton. Dutch organisations throughout the country are giving us support in many different ways.

### **Doubling the Money**

- Last year we increased the total amount of money pledged and brought in – over the years – by our 'Dutch Connections' to close to \$450,000.
- Still, we're aiming for more! In 2016, we will roll out a campaign to double our funding contributions.
- We have several exciting initiatives on the go, including applications for funding with organisations in the Netherlands.
- [Our Give-a-Little campaign](#) is also bringing in a steady flow. The Dutch connections are working hard. Feel free to check it out, make sure you have

your credit card handy!

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## Our Brand

We have been on a journey with Open Lab to create a brand that reflects Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and all the organisations involved. We believe our brand will connect visitors and users to our place.

Above are two examples of our brand in action, our brand will be displayed on more documents and publications as we expand our promotional material.

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## Coming up:

- **Foxton Main Street Upgrade** - The final working plans for the upgrade and beautification of Foxton's Main Street will be showcased at a community meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday 15 March in the hall at Manawatu College, Ladys Mile, Foxton. All welcome.
- **Foxton Easter Fair Easter** - Sunday March 27 - Easton Park Foxton. Come and shop up a storm at the annual Easter Fair. This will be the 25th year for the extremely successful event along with the 200 plus stalls offering all types of merchandise, there will be the bouncy castle, dodgems, bikes, slides and other fun things for the children to do during the day.



### Like us on Facebook

We now have our own Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Facebook page. To keep up to date with news like our page [here](#)

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