

Dear Museum Supporters

We trust that you have enjoyed the holidays and that your batteries are fully charged for the new year.

This year so far will be the most important year in the life of the Dutch Connection! As you can see from the below mentioned Council decisions, the project in Foxton is steaming ahead.

And we have to deliver on our promises on fundraising; in other words we have to do our bit!

Council decisions

On Wednesday 4 February at the full Horowhenua District Council's meeting in Levin, the following recommendations were passed:

3.1 That Report 14/940 Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom business case be received.

3.2 That this decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act

3.3 That the Horowhenua District Council supports the Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom project and agrees that the Detailed Design Phase of the project proceed.

3.4 That Council supports applications for funding being made to the Lottery Significant Projects Fund and Lottery Community Facilities Fund.

3.5 That the final approval to proceed with construction of the project is confirmed by Council once third party funding sources have been confirmed.

3.6 That Council consults on \$500,000 being granted from the Foxton Freehold Account to the Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom project, subject to the support of the Foxton Community Board at an extraordinary meeting on Monday 2 February 2015.

Fundraising

This is again very good news for our museum project and it means that we as Dutch Connection have to bring in significant funding. We cannot expect the Horowhenua District Council ratepayers to fund our national Dutch museum!

We have pledged to raise 1 million dollars towards the project.

In a following newsletter to you, we will tell you what we are planning to do to achieve this.

As the Council is making a start on the refurbishment of the old Mitre 10 building and have produced a "Preliminary Estimate of Cost", we have got assurances that if we can bring savings to those costs by using "Dutch" suppliers, these savings will count towards the total sum raised by us. In other words it is fundraising by saving!

We have already found 4 companies prepared to help us in this way!

If you have any contacts in the building industry who can help us by supplying goods or services, we would like to hear from you.

Database

To be able to reach as many Dutch New Zealanders as possible, we ask you to forward this email to your Dutch contacts and Cc us at the same time. This way we can grow our database. We willen graag meer mensen informeren!

Save the date: Koningsdag Foxton and a look behind the scenes

On Sunday 26 April the team behind De Molen, will organise the Big Dutch Day Out in Foxton, as they have successfully done in the past years. On top of celebrating Koningsdag, this will also be an opportunity for visitors to take a tour through the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom building to see projections of what the centre will look like. Not only the Dutch Connection will be present but also the other groups that will have a space in the building. Because it is a long weekend (ANZAC Day is observed on Monday) we are hoping that as many Dutchies as possible take this opportunity to travel to Foxton and join in with the celebrations.

Hartelijke groetjes

Joost en Yolande