



Media Release

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Horowhenua District Council Signs Agreement with Dutch Museum Project

The national Dutch museum centre project that's planned for Foxton – The Dutch Connection – has moved another major step forwards, with Horowhenua District Council and the Museum Trust set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Saturday 23 August.

“This new document is an expression of the high levels of cooperation we've developed between our two organisations,” says Arjan van der Boon, Chairperson of The Dutch Connection museum trust. “We are formalising the commitment from both parties to making this project succeed. Once a site has been secured for our Museum Centre close to De Molen – Foxton's replica 17th century Dutch windmill – then things can move ahead at a quick pace.”

The plans for adding the Dutch Connection to De Molen in the middle of town fit right into the long term strategic direction for Foxton, which is set to become the tourist centre for the Horowhenua District. The Museum Centre plans to attract some 40,000 visitors per year.

FEEL FREE TO EDIT:

“There are now two major projects planned for Foxton,” says Brendan Duffy, Mayor of the Horowhenua District Council. “The combined library and community centre in a prominent position on Main Street, plus the Museum Centre building, will invigorate the township and will create foot traffic that will benefit all the other businesses. Our plans for a tourist information centre will ensure we also attract additional visitors from out of town.”

"The Dutch Connection will be the focal point for the Dutch community to tell the proud story of our contribution to New Zealand," says Mr van der Boon. "The Dutch are often called the 'invisible migrants' because we integrated so well. The time has arrived to add some colour to that bland national image. The Dutch arrivals and their descendants have made a tremendous contribution to our country – ranging from the arts to sports, and from farming to iconic companies such as Lockwood Homes, Vogel's Bread, Verkerk's deli products and Rembrandt suits.

"Our Museum Centre will be the place to celebrate our contribution to the country's history and to build a future that ensures closer cooperation between the Netherlands and New Zealand. Whether it will be international conferences or workshops on topics like global warming or wind power, an annual bike ride around Foxton or a tulip growing competition, Foxton will become the centre for the Dutch to congregate.

"In combination with De Molen, our museum centre can give visitors a complete Dutch experience. And just imagine adding into the mix a Dutch pancake house and a café that serves a traditional brew of coffee as well as a cold Heineken, and we're completely sorted!"

PREVIOUS QUOTES

"Through this new project we believe that the Dutch Community and the community of Foxton can build a solid future based on harmonious co-operation by exhibiting the unique, yet complimentary, social, cultural, economic and political aspects of our past, our present and our futures", says Mayor Brendan Duffy.

REPLACE, OR ADD ADDITIONAL QUOTES???

"Over the past decade we have already built a strong rapport with the Dutch community," says Mayor Brendan Duffy. "Our pride in housing De Molen in Foxton already demonstrates that our strategic intent aligns with that of The Dutch Connection, as well as with the many Dutch organisations and migrants who now enjoy the fruits of this nation with us." says Mayor Brendan Duffy.

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