

Finance and Operational Performance Committee

**Monday, 11 August 2003
Commencing at 9.30 am**

Part IV: General

**Item 14A: Progress Report on Historical
Collections Research**

SUPPLEMENT TO AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON MONDAY, 11 AUGUST 2003, COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.

PART IV - GENERAL

14A PROGRESS REPORT ON HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present an update on work on researching the historical collections within the city and the development of protocols and policies required to manage the acquisition of heritage collections and artefacts being undertaken by Ms Mary Gilligan, the volunteer ambassador appointed by Council in May 2003.

BACKGROUND

At a meeting of Council held on 28 May 2003, Council resolved:

“That Ms Mary Gilligan be appointed a volunteer ambassador for the Council to research historical collections within the City, and that she work in conjunction with Waitakere City Libraries and the Manager: Arts to develop protocols and policies to progress this work, and report back to Finance and Operational Performance Committee on a regular basis.”

1015/2003

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the strategic review, under the Urban and Rural Villages strategic pathway, Council affirmed support for the protection and celebration of the City's cultural diversity and heritage. Support for heritage is acknowledged in several platforms in the Long Term Council Community Plan, but it is an area that within Council has been under-resourced for some time. The development of a plan for the protection and celebration of all kinds of heritage in the city will be undertaken in 2003/2004. This will provide priorities and a framework for Council's buildings and would guide an understanding of the requirements and resources needed for the preservation, conservation and display of artefacts collected as well as provide guidelines for the kinds of activities that Ms Mary Gilligan is engaged upon.

Earlier work undertaken in May 1999 and February 2000 saw the creation of a draft "Heritage Strategy" which was researched and prepared by Dinah Holman, a consultant on heritage planning. This document identified the current state of, and considered the future direction for, the management of the city's heritage materials, buildings and cultural treasures. This work has provided information to support a variety of heritage initiatives such as building an oral histories archive, advocacy for heritage buildings such as Clarks Lane in Hobsonville, and support for other heritage buildings, some high profile projects for the City.

ISSUES

Ms Mary Gilligan has submitted a brief report titled, "Artefacts Collection Project Update" to provide information on her work to date. A summary of her activities for the period is given here:

- In consultation with John Coster of Heritage Works, paperwork and protocols are under development. Robyn Mason, Local History Collections Advisor of Waitakere Library and Information Services has also been contacted and work is being done to adapt existing library documents that relate to the collection of documentary heritage materials such as the Acquisitions forms, Receipt forms, the Code of Ethics statements and the Collection policy documents.
- Progress has been made on the identification of heritage artefacts in conjunction with Simon Best a noted archaeologist. Members of the local community known to possess, or have access to, historical collections of significance, including a visit to John Diamond to view the JT (Jack) Diamond brick collection, a visit to Guthrie Stewart's house to consider the artefacts and furniture from Crum Brickworks and Gardner Bros. and Parker have been undertaken.
- Accompanying the Mayor to Papakura Museum to meet with the museum curator.
- Journey to Ambrico Place to research premises as suitable storage sites for any artefacts collected. John Coster has offered his services to undertake the necessary atmospheric testing of any premises potentially suitable for the storage of heritage artefacts.

RESOURCES

The development of the Waitakere City Heritage Action Plan is provided for in 2003/2004 as a carry forward from 2002/2003.

CONCLUSION

Ms Mary Gilligan has commenced in her role as the 'volunteer ambassador' and has progressed the creation of protocols and procedures for the identification and collection of heritage artefacts, has researched several noted collections of heritage materials and has begun to identify potential storage facilities for the artefacts which may be acquired in future.

This work is complementary to, and supportive of, the development of the Heritage Action Plan which is planned for development in 2003/2004. It is expected to be presented to the City Development Committee before the end of 2003.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Report prepared by: Su Scott, Library and Information Services Manager.



