

Soldiers Block Project Community Information Presentation

15 May 2023



History

- Constructed 1914-1916
- Opened 1916 to rehabilitate soldiers from WW1
- QM hospital drug and alcohol centre
- Taha Maori program established
- QM hospital closed 2003
- October 2008 Crown agreement- vesting of the historic reserve in the Council
- Centenary celebrations 2016
- Strong desire from the community to use Soldiers Block



The long and winding road

A photograph of a long, winding road lined with trees in autumn. The ground is covered in fallen brown leaves. A wooden bench is visible in the foreground on the right. The sky is blue with some clouds, and mountains are visible in the distance.

- Reserve Management Plan created 2011
 - Community input
 - Te Runanaga o Kaikoura
 - Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
 - Department of Conservation
- Development levy established
- Landscape Maintenance Plan
- Conservation Management Plan
- Soldiers Building steering committee formed
- Community input sought
- Informal expressions of interest sought

The long and winding roads continues

- Multi use building concept investigated for funding.
- Lotteries Funding application - declined
- Engaged Weta workshop
- Ngati Kuri engaged
- A Place of Light concept developed
- Building concept plan reconsidered/developed
- Second Lotteries Funding application declined



The long and winding road gets straighter

- Council formally supports project
- Lotteries funding secured from Environment and Heritage Fund
- Better off funding
- Development contributions
- Capital Project added to 2023-24 Annual Plan
- Updated Conservation Management Plan
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga briefing



A PLACE OF LIGHT & LIFE

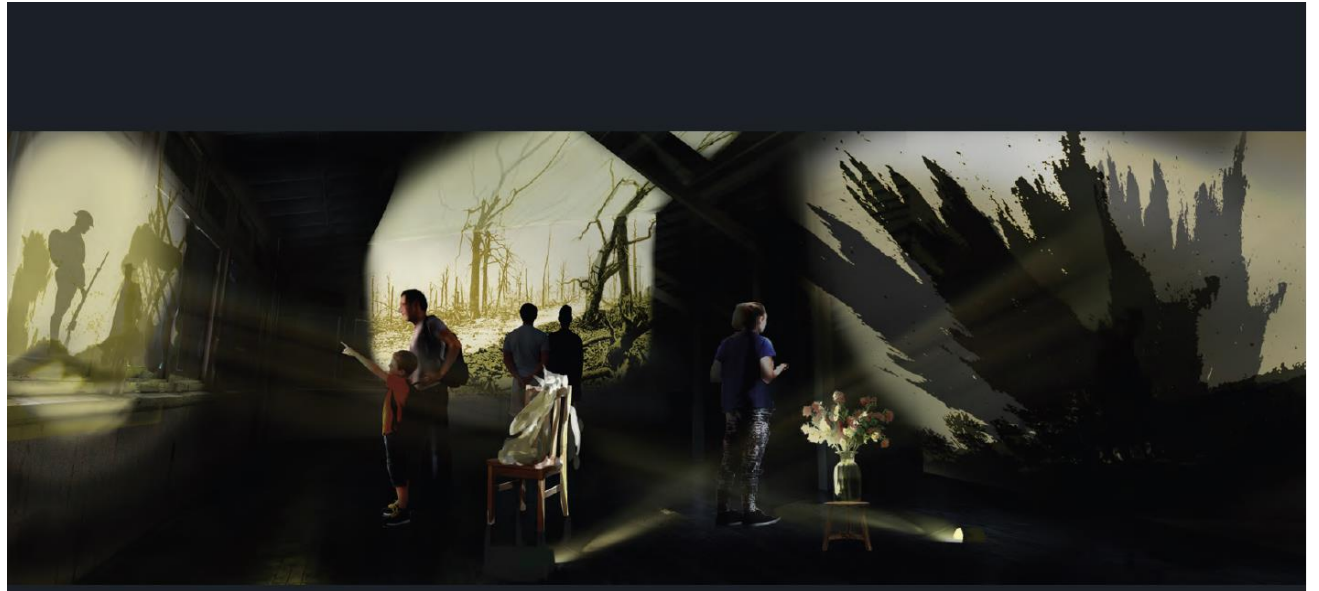
The Old Soldiers' Block is unique in Aotearoa New Zealand, designed to bring healing light and fresh air to shell-shocked soldiers returning from the Great War. It was the beating heart of a community still dedicated to health and well-being.

Visitors will discover the stories of soldiers, nurses, and doctors in the authentic setting of the historic ward. They are immersed in these soldiers' nightmares in a powerful, haunting display of light and sound. They then see how New Zealand's compassionate and forward-thinking therapies brought the soldiers back to the lives they had left behind.

Visitors then move through a series of encounters that tell the story of the hospital through to the twentieth century; the compassionate creative work of Dr Robert Crawford; the pioneering and innovative Taha Māori programme, before releasing their own creativity by painting, drawing, designing and building in our Creative Play space.

Queen Mary Hospital has healed the lives of New Zealanders, for the greater part of a century. We want to retell its stories of hope and recovery in compelling, immersive and interactive experiences, so this remarkable place again becomes **a significant part of Hanmer Springs, the greater-Canterbury region, and Aotearoa New Zealand.**

A PLACE
OF
LIGHT &
LIFE



The next steps-

Stage one

- Heritage Management Plan, consenting etc
- EQ Strengthen building and install services (power, plumbing etc)
- Rehouse Amuri players wardrobe
- Evaluate formation of a community liaison group

Stage two

- Build & refurbish Community lounges, wharenuī, cottage and community facilities
- Provision services and space for A PLACE OF LIGHT AND LIFE concept
- Open community lounges

Stage three

- Find more money - how can the community help raise funds?
 - Finalise A PLACE OF LIGHT AND LIFE concept
 - Create, build and open A PLACE OF LIGHT AND LIFE
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- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/v7dh8z105g1lggg/A%20Place%20for%20Everyone.mp4?dl=0>

Questions

