



## **Picton Smart & Connected**

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Long Term Plan Submission 2018-2028

From: Picton Smart & Connected

To: The Marlborough District Council

### **Re: Marlborough Maritime Heritage & Environment Centre**

*This submission is being forwarded by Richard Briggs and Julie Kennedy on behalf of the Picton Smart & Connected, Arts and Heritage Working Group, in conjunction with the Picton community.*

Following consultation between the Picton Smart & Connected Arts & Heritage Working group, the Picton community and representatives of the Marlborough Heritage Trust, we (PS&C) would like to advocate for the development and building of a Marlborough Sounds Maritime Heritage & Environment Centre in Picton.

Understanding a community's historic, cultural, environmental and social context, is essential for celebrating and developing a '**sense of place**' for both locals and visitors and economically, heritage tourism is now internationally recognised, as a significant attractor for sustainable tourism growth.

We believe that a Marlborough Sounds Maritime Heritage and Environment Centre, would offer an invaluable resource in both regards.

We (PS&C) also believe that community based infrastructure initiatives such as this, where local and regional heritage and environmental values are at its core focus, make Marlborough an even greater place in which to live and a better and more engaging place to visit. We believe that such resources increase local and regional pride and amplify community values, which in turn increase the quality of every visitor's experience.

It is the opinion of the Picton Smart and Connected, Arts and Heritage Work Group that the building should be located on the waterfront with the existing Edwin Fox dry dock at its centre. We would propose a two storied building to reduce its footprint, traditionally built using wood, steel and natural materials and we support the building of a structure that mirrors the design principles and maritime feel, of the new Picton library.

We understand that the Marlborough Heritage Trust which governs the Edwin Fox Museum and Ship, are also fully supportive of such a development on the existing Edwin Fox Museum site.

We believe that the existing Edwin Fox Museum building, side entrance way and associated waterside land, could provide sufficient land area to accommodate this project.

## **The Edwin Fox Ship**

The Edwin Fox, (a World Ship Trust-awarded ship, an award shared by the Mary Rose, The Victory, and the Cutty Sark), deserves to be housed in a more modern, environmentally sound and structurally safe space, suitable to preserve and showcase an internationally important and valuable maritime asset.



We (PS&C) believe that the MDC should agree to recognise the unique world heritage status of the Edwin Fox, as an historic ship of world renown and agree that, it is this province's duty to protect and enhance the Edwin Fox and that only Council can lead this work. That on this basis Council should work with the Marlborough Heritage Trust to develop a detailed long term plan to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the Edwin Fox. That in addition the Council should request the Marlborough Heritage Trust, to develop a long-term plan that would allow the Province to fully realise the tourism potential of the Edwin Fox to Marlborough.

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, is a fine example of how a quality heritage-based platform that showcases Marlborough's unique history, can greatly increase visitation to Marlborough, while at the same time growing regional pride in provincial heritage. We (PS&C) believe that a 'Marlborough Sounds Maritime Heritage & Enviro Centre' with the Edwin Fox at its core, would enable Marlborough to showcase its rich and diverse maritime history, environment and bicultural strengths under one roof.

### **Tourism Growth through education**

Marlborough's tourism (GDP) against other industries is low (against national trend) and only very modest growth has been realised in recent years in this sector. At Picton Smart & Connected we believe that Marlborough should safe proof its future by developing diversity and strength in all of its industries and we believe that tourism is one sector that Marlborough needs to develop and strengthen, as a safe guard, should other industries not maintain current patterns.

In recent years Destination Marlborough has increased its marketing of the Marlborough Sounds and we believe that Marlborough now needs a 'presentation platform' to showcase the Marlborough Sounds story under one roof. We believe that a Marlborough Sounds Maritime Heritage & Enviro Centre would assist Destination Marlborough to effectively promote the Marlborough Sounds and that it would provide information and support opportunities, to explore locations that can be physically visited, using local operator offerings e.g. Perano Whaling Station, Ship Cove, Kaipupu Point, Motuara Island, Blumine Island, Long Island Marine Reserve and various other historic and environmentally valuable sites in Queen Charlotte Sound and further afield, in the vast Marlborough Sounds waterways. *Effectively turning the Marlborough Sounds into an internationally important, living heritage and environmental landscape that can be explored by all age groups and all visitor types.*

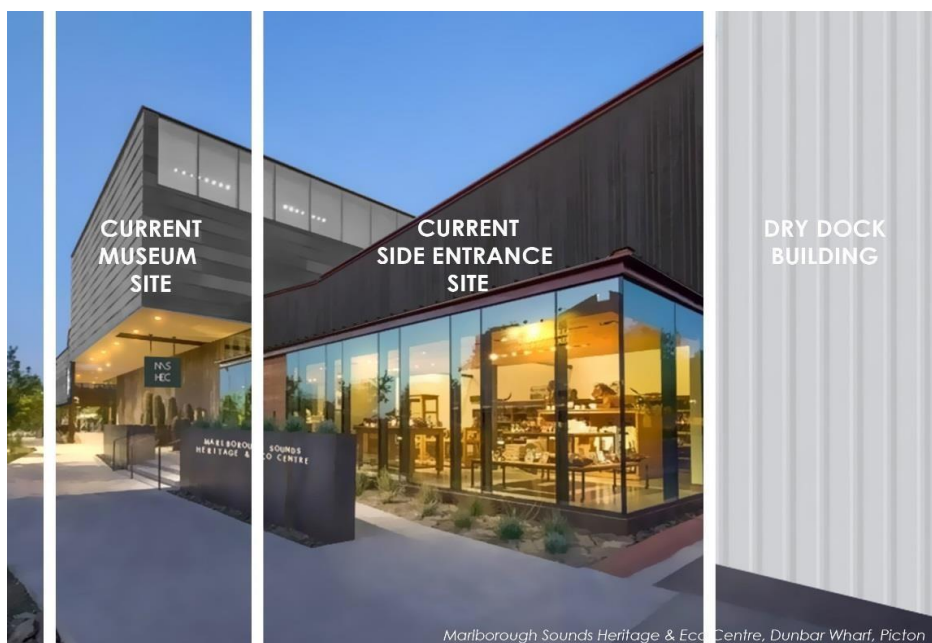
### **Potential to include:**

- Marlborough Sounds Whaling exhibit (Potential Marlborough Sounds Whale, World Heritage Site) (Picton Museum - Supportive)
- Maori Culture / Heritage
- A Captain Cook exhibit
- Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum (Supportive)
- Maritime History Archive
- Eco (Kaipupu, Envirohub, etc)
- Multi-Functional Exhibition Space (Maritime Art, Museum displays, Exhibits, Book Launches, Theatre, Music, Port Marlborough Exhibitions & Events)

We (PS&C) also believe that the centre would offer opportunity for educational platforms, visits and interactions (schools, marine education, clubs, historical groups, international visits etc)

**Possible Concept / Visual:** Marlborough Sounds Heritage and Environment Centre – next to Edwin Fox Dry Dock.

### **Concept showing potential use of land / space.**



## **Conclusion**

We believe that this proposed centre of excellence would be regionally, nationally and internationally important. We (PS&C) believe that it would greatly improve the ability to tell authentic and important stories of Marlborough's past, present and future in both historical and ecological / environmental terms.

We (PS&C) believe

- This Centre would be an opportunity to continue and build on the legacy of Totaranui 250.
- By telling the combined story of encounters between Maori and European this would help to provide a shared heritage.
- By showcasing heritage and environmental values, the Centre would promote a shared vision.

We therefore strongly support that a feasibility study be carried out to assess the practicality of this potential project.

NB: We (PS&C) would like to briefly speak to this submission.

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**Arts & Heritage Working Group**

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