

## Activity builds for Museum since closure

The sign on the door of the Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery in Napier may say 'closed', but the flurry of activity going on behind the scenes paints another picture.

The museum closed the doors to its exhibition galleries on Sunday 25 July, shortly after receiving funding approval for the redevelopment project.

Museum staff have already begun the task of packing up, which includes dismantling the current exhibitions, returning loaned exhibits and packing approximately 100,000 individual objects ready to move off-site. It is estimated to take staff nine months to complete this process.

Director of the Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, Douglas Lloyd Jenkins says that not only does each object require crates and packaging made to protect it during the move; each item also needs to be tracked in and out of the building through the collection database.

"We want to reassure donors that precious items they have donated to the museum over time will be

treated with utmost care and will be transported to an off-site facility in due course, where they will be carefully protected until the redeveloped museum is constructed."

"It is for this reason that there will be a moratorium on new donations to the collection until April 2011. This will give us the required time to take care of our current treasures before we begin to take any new ones in," says Douglas.

While the galleries are closed and preparation for the move off-site takes place, much of the facility will remain open.

The museum's education programme will continue to be offered to schools throughout the redevelopment project, and programmes will take place at The Education Discovery Centre, Faraday Centre and other off-site venues throughout the region.

The Century Theatre will see in the launch of the 2010 New Zealand International Film Festival, Italian Film Festival and the inaugural HBMAG Director's Cut Film Festival.

Along with keeping these important programmes and products operating, staff have the exciting role of planning new exhibitions, collection storage spaces, the research archive, and education facilities for the redeveloped museum.

It's all hands on deck now as the museum team pack-up and plan for Hawke's Bay bigger and better museum.



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