

ACQUISITION OF THE BULLS LIBRARY BUILDING

The Bulls Museum expresses a strong desire to acquire the vacant Bulls Library building situated on High Street in its present state and take responsibility for any work required to bring the building up to the necessary earthquake standard.

There are multiple reasons for securing the building that would be an adjunct to the existing Bulls Museum.

It would retain a building that has played a key role in the history of both the town and Rangitikei district.

It would preserve the important World War 1 Memorial frontage.

It would give the existing museum the required space to expand its displays. The current military material would be transferred to the Library building, there has been an offer of assistance from the Waiouru NZ Army Museum to collaborate in the setting up.

It is the intention to include a display outlining the history of the Library building, it also presents the opportunity to recognise the important story of RNZAF Base Ohakea and key points of interest in the region like Scotts Ferry.

The area in front of the building would undergo a transformation to enhance its appearance while retaining its character, benefitting the Bulls CBD area. Much of the transformation work could be carried out by volunteers or groups working with local tradesmen.

It's envisaged that the left hand side of the site would feature an expanded memorial rose garden, the right hand side offers an excellent alternate site for the proposed Chris Amon statue as a feature of the new-look frontage.

The current Amon displays will be upgraded and shared between the two buildings with the major display in the Library building, the upgrade would include touch screen audio-visual of Chris Amon's career.

It's our firm belief that acquiring the old Library Building presents a unique and one-off opportunity to preserve both the building and its history, while allowing the Bulls Museum to complete a much-needed expansion to more graphically tell the story of the region and its major features for the benefit of future generations. It would also provide a close link to the nearby Bulls RSA and Cenotaph.

Initially the thoughts revolved around finding a suitable location for a statue to recognise the Rangitikei's best known international sportsperson, it was quickly realised that the acquisition of the old Library would give the Museum the much needed space to expand while ensuring the building's future.

We believe that when completed it could give both vehicle and pedestrian traffic a reason to visit the heart of the Bulls CBD.