

ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland,  
NEW ZEALAND.

APPENDIX TO A.G.M.A.N.Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 39.

19th March, 1968.

CAPITAL SUBSIDIES

When the deputation from AGMANZ Council met the Visual Arts Committee on 13. 11. 67, it was suggested that copies of correspondence and reports be circulated for general information. Accordingly, the following letters and reports have been selected in an attempt to show that there is an urgent need for capital subsidies to assist the development of the art gallery and museum service.

Brief reports on capital subsidies in Canada and Victoria are included to show that the Governments concerned recognise the need to develop art galleries and museums as a vital part of cultural life.

Perhaps the next job for AGMANZ Council is to try to persuade the Minister of Internal Affairs, who is Chairman of the Lottery Profits Board of Control, that the pattern of distribution established by the Board in 1963-4 should be varied to include the needs of museums. The present pattern provides capital subsidies up to 3:1 for club rooms and other welfare centres for aged persons, up to 1:2 for recreation and youth activities, and nothing for art galleries and museums.

Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary.

"ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.  
21st January, 1967.

Right Hon. K. J. Holyoake C.H.,  
Prime Minister,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Holyoake,

In the past the Government assisted public Art Galleries and Museums with subsidies for new buildings and extensions. Since the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council was established in 1964

however, it has been impossible for Galleries and Museums to obtain grants for buildings and similar capital purposes.

Mr. G. Gibbes Watson, Chairman of the Arts Council, advised members of the Association on 23rd March, 1965 that the Council was unable to make capital grants owing to lack of funds. Mr. David Peters, Director of the Arts Council, confirmed that the policy must continue, when he addressed members on 27th April 1966.

Since 1963 a number of public Art Galleries and Museums have sought subsidies for capital purposes. Most have applied to the Golden Kiwi Board of Control or Department of Internal Affairs, have been referred to the Arts Council and, finally, have been advised that there are no funds for the purpose. We are writing now to ask for your assistance in resolving the situation.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Association, several solutions were suggested. One proposal was that capital subsidies for centennial, commemorative and similar projects of Galleries and Museums might be paid from the Consolidated Fund as, apparently, they were before the advent of the Golden Kiwi Lottery.

An alternative suggestion was that the Kiwi Board of Control might allocate a specific sum, in accordance with Section 22 of the Gaming Amendment Act 1962, for the Minister of Internal Affairs to distribute by way of subsidy for the capital works of Galleries and Museums. It is understood that a sum has been allocated in this way for building Church Halls for youth work. (Youth work is also undertaken by Galleries and Museums through school classes, and art, natural history, archaeology and similar clubs.)

A further suggestion was that the Distribution Committee for the provision of recreational facilities might be made responsible for capital grants for public Art Galleries and Museums; the Arts Council to remain responsible for subsidies for exhibitions, the purchase of works of art, and similar cultural activities. While it is appreciated that New Zealand's resources for capital purposes are limited at present, it must be mentioned that other countries are recognising the recreational and tourist values of Museums by substantial Government expenditure on capital works. For example, the Canadian Federal and Provincial Governments are making substantial grants at present to establish new Museums and to expand existing institutions, to mark Federal and Provincial Centennials from 1967 onwards.

The problem of capital subsidies has caused the Association increasing concern as the number of Galleries and Museums has risen rapidly in recent years, and the establishment of new institutions shows no sign of slackening. The increase has been from 38 in 1958 to about 80 today. This rapid growth is due to:

1. the celebration of centennaries and the formation of local museums to preserve records of the colonial period,
2. the preservation of technological material to illustrate the history of transport, industry and agriculture, and
3. expanding urban populations and the great growth of tourism.

At the same time there has been continuous expansion of

activities on the part of older-established institutions to meet public needs and demands. Early in 1966 I obtained attendance figures of all N. Z. Galleries and Museums for a Unesco return. Attendances in 1965 exceeded 2½ million. This seemed too high, but portions of it were paid attendances, supported by actual receipts. Several Directors confirmed that New Zealanders and overseas visitors are using Galleries and Museums more than ever before; several said they badly needed more staff, space, and facilities to meet the ever-increasing public demand.

Support for most Galleries and Museums comes from the particular community in which they are situated, and a resumption by the Government of subsidies for capital works would greatly encourage local fund-raising efforts. The 9th Biennial Conference of the Association will open at Southland Museum, Invercargill, on Monday, 27th February, 1967, and we shall be most grateful if you will let us have a reply in time for the meeting. A copy of this appeal is being sent to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Seath, seeking his help to resolve the present impasse.

Yours faithfully,

R. Cooper  
Hon. Secretary"

"Prime Minister  
Wellington  
New Zealand.

24 February 1967.

Dear Dr. Cooper,

When I received your letter of 21 January in which you put forward proposals for assisting art galleries and museums throughout the country financially, I discussed them with my colleague, the Minister of Internal Affairs.

I appreciate that this is a problem which is of considerable concern to you and the members of your Association, and I am fully aware of the important function of galleries and museums in our community.

There is no doubt in my mind, however, that these institutions are appropriately regarded as primarily artistic and cultural, and are, therefore, within the sphere of the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council rather than of the distribution committee for Youth and Recreational Activities. You are no doubt aware that the Arts Council receives substantial grants annually from both lottery profits and from Vote: Internal Affairs. The Arts Council is an independent statutory body which forms its own policies and is at liberty to choose its own priorities and to distribute its funds accordingly. The policy of not making grants for building projects and such capital expenditure has been made solely by the Arts Council and any difficulties which might result from this policy seem to me to be a matter for the Arts Council to resolve.

I am sorry that I am not able to give your Association a more

favourable reply, but I should like you to convey to the members my best wishes for your 9th Biennial Conference in Invercargill.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Holyoake"

"ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.  
21st January, 1967.

Hon. D. C. Seath,  
Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Seath,

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Association I was instructed to write to the Prime Minister and to you, to seek your help in resolving the present impasse regarding capital subsidies for public Art Galleries and Museums.

Possible solutions are suggested in the attached copy of our appeal to the Prime Minister. We shall be most grateful if you can resolve the present frustrating situation.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary."

"Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Wellington C. 1.

23 February 1967.

Dear Dr. Cooper,

Further to my letter of 25 January concerning the position of art galleries and museums requiring financial assistance for capital works, I have discussed this matter with the Prime Minister.

You will be informed by the Prime Minister of the conclusions drawn from our discussion.

You may be aware that the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council has received £30,000 annually from Vote: Internal Affairs since it was established in April 1964, and for the current year has also received a grant of £200,000 from lottery profits. In terms of its statute it has the responsibility for assisting art galleries and museums as well as for libraries and dramatic, musical and artistic groups. It appears that the Arts Council has made an overall policy of not making grants for capital purposes, and were any of your

Association's proposals to be adopted considerable sums would be involved.

The Lottery Board of Control will be meeting again shortly to decide what allocations it will make for 1967/68, and I think it is rather unlikely that it will make available to me a sum such as you suggest for assisting art galleries and museums with capital projects. I am sorry that I am unable to offer you financial assistance as I have no funds at my disposal from which to do so.

Please convey my best wishes to your members at their Conference at the Southland Museum which I hope will be very successful.

Yours sincerely,

(David C. Seath)  
Minister of Internal Affairs.

"ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.  
21st January, 1967.

The Secretary,  
The Municipal Association of New Zealand (Inc.),  
P.O. Box 1214,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Bishop,

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Association I was instructed to appeal to the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs to resolve the present impasse regarding capital subsidies for public Art Galleries and Museums.

I was also instructed to send a copy of my letter to the Municipal Association, and I enclose it herewith.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary.

Encl.

"THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

9th March, 1967.

Dear Mr. Cooper,

SUBSIDIES FOR CAPITAL WORKS

Your letter of the 21st January, 1967, was considered at the recent meeting of the Executive of the Municipal Association.



It was resolved that the Association would support your request for subsidies direct from the Consolidated Fund.

Yours faithfully,

L. Bishop  
Secretary."

CAPITAL SUBSIDIES IN CANADA

The Canadian art gallery and museum explosion is described in the Museums Journal for June 1967, volume 67, number 1. Briefly, the Canadian Federal Government chose to develop museums as part of the Centennial Celebrations. Four of the nine provinces have built new museums at a total cost of 60 million Canadian dollars. Further capital expenditure to 1970 will double this amount.

"NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

Swanston Street,  
Melbourne.

13th December, 1967.

Miss J.H. Goulding,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand (Inc.),  
c/o Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
AUCKLAND. 1. New Zealand.

Dear Miss Goulding,

I must apologise for the delay in answering your letter of 20th September but things are rather hectic here with our proposed move in January to the new building, a brochure about which I am enclosing for your information.

Victoria has ten provincial galleries at Shepparton, Geelong, Mildura, Hamilton, Sale, Bendigo, Ballarat, Warrnambool, Castlemaine and Swan Hill. The assistance given by the State Government to these galleries comes under two headings. The first is a grant given through the Chief Secretary's Department and intended to be used for the maintenance of these institutions. It is given as a lump sum. The total is in the region of 25,000 dollars and advice on its subdivision is sought by the Chief Secretary, first from the Executive of the Victorian Public Galleries Group and second, from the Director of the National Gallery. Since there are now ten members of the Group, the amount is proving inadequate, even for maintenance, and it leaves the question of funds for acquisitions entirely to the governing bodies of the galleries, often local government.

The second source of funds is a cultural fund administered directly by the Premier. Through this, occasional grants are made for projects put up by the regional galleries individually. There have

been many grants of over \$100,000 provided for building projects and in the last ten years, five complete new structures and at least three extensions have been financed in this way. For the new building at Shepparton and that at Mildura, I believe the Government grants involved would total \$400,000. The important relationship appears to be that between the local government authorities and the State Government. The City Art Museum has unquestionably achieved enormous status importance in Victoria. The City Councils are very proud of their achievements and the work they have done has made an important mark in the general cultural advancements and in education.

Please write to me again if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

(Eric Westbrook)  
Director."

"ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

c/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.  
20th November, 1967.

Mr. David Peters,  
Director,  
Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand,  
P.O. Box 2563,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Peters,

On Monday 13th November, 1967, a deputation from the Council of the Association discussed capital subsidies for museums and art galleries with the Visual Arts Committee of the Arts Council. I am writing to ask for confirmation of the points made at the meeting.

As I recall it, Dr. R.R. Forster, President, and Dr. R.S. Duff, Vice-President, made the following submissions for the Association:

1. that in the past successive Governments had granted occasional subsidies for the capital works of museums and galleries.
2. that, since the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council of New Zealand Act was passed in 1963, museums and galleries have been unable to obtain capital subsidies.
3. that the Association wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs on 21st January, 1967, seeking clarification concerning the appropriate channel through which subsidy applications might be made. The Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs discussed the matter, and replied on 23/24 February:-
  - a. that museums and art galleries are primarily artistic and

cultural institutions,

- b. that they are, therefore, within the sphere of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council,
  - c. that the Arts Council receives substantial grants annually from lottery funds and Vote: Internal Affairs, and
  - d. that the policy of not making grants for building projects and capital expenditure has been made solely by the Arts Council, and any difficulties which result from this policy are a matter for the Arts Council to resolve.
4. that the Council of the Association has asked this deputation:-
- a. to seek confirmation from the Arts Council that the capital requirements of museums and art galleries come within the purposes of the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council of New Zealand Act, and
  - b. to ask that, if the Arts Council, because of its established priorities, has insufficient funds to meet this need, it will make this situation known to the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs.

In reply, the Chairman of the Visual Arts Committee, Mr. J.H.E. Schroder, and the Director of the Arts Council, Mr. David Peters, commented:-

1. The policy of the Arts Council regarding museums and art galleries was outlined in the policy statement by the Chairman of the Council, Mr. G.G. Gibbes Watson, appended to the first annual report for the period ended 31st December 1964, presented to the Minister of Internal Affairs on 1st September, 1965. The Chairman said there that "museums will qualify for assistance in those aspects of their work that come within the scope of the Council's functions. As in other fields, the Council is not able to make grants to museums for capital equipment".
2. The reason for this policy is financial. Lack of funds precludes the Arts Council from making capital grants to any organisation. Parliament has been informed accordingly in successive annual reports.

In response to questions, Dr. R. Cooper, Hon. Secretary of the Association, gave the following information:

1. Last year museums and galleries were asked to supply details of capital subsidy applications. These amounted to \$400,000 in 1966 and would now total about \$500,000.
2. These applications have accumulated since the Arts Council was established in 1963/4.
3. Applicants applied for subsidies up to 50% of the cost of new buildings and equipment and, probably, would be very happy to receive any assistance. Consequently, the sum needed to satisfy the backlog of applications was estimated to be about \$250,000, or less.
4. In answer to a press enquiry early in 1967, Dr. Cooper had expressed the view that, if this backlog could be cleared, an amount of say \$40,000 a year would be sufficient to provide capital subsidies in future. The amount of subsidies sought by museums and galleries would vary each year and, if surpluses



could be accumulated, rare major works need not be a problem.

5. Applications for capital subsidies are addressed usually to the appropriate Government agency but, since 1963, all have been re-directed to the Arts Council. For example, the Museum of Agriculture, Hastings, described their experience as follows:

"It was decided early this year that application be made for a grant from the Golden Kiwi and with this in mind a deputation consisting of the President and four executive members met the Minister of Internal Affairs on Wednesday 3rd May 1967. The Minister's recommendation was that application be made to the Lottery Boards Scientific Research Committee. This application was duly lodged before the closing date of 31st August 1967. A reply is now to hand from the Secretary to the Board of Control to the effect that all applications for artistic and cultural activities should be directed to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand. Through our local Member of Parliament, the comments of the Board of Control were referred to the Minister of Internal Affairs for his comment bearing in mind the previous recommendation of the Minister, that application be made to the Scientific Research Committee. The Minister's reply stated that the application was one for consideration by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand..."

During the discussion, it was agreed that the Association should approach the Minister of Internal Affairs again, and that reference might be made to this meeting. It was agreed also that it would be helpful if the Association prepared a "white paper" on capital subsidies for general information.

I shall be grateful if you will advise me of changes and additions necessary to make this letter an accurate record of the discussion and of the conclusions reached therein.

With regards,  
Sincerely,

Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary."

"Queen Elizabeth II  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

4 December 1967

Dr. Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Art Galleries and Museums Association of N. Z. Inc.,  
C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.

Dear Robert Cooper,

Thank you for your letter of the 20th November concerning the

meeting between members of A.G.M.A.N.Z. and the Visual Arts Committee. I have checked the points you have made with our own records of the meeting, and I find that they tally very closely.

There is one matter which I think should perhaps be clarified. This is (2) under "Reply by the Chairman of the Visual Arts Committee, etc." and mentions that the reason behind the policy of not making capital grants is lack of finance. This is basically true, but it should be kept in mind that the Arts Council operates in the Arts field and, for that reason, an application pertaining to capital grants for other museum purposes (for example, Science Museums, Agricultural Museums) would be unlikely to succeed. If money were to be made available to the Arts Council for capital grants use for museums, it would probably be as well to dispense with the Arts aspect and re-define the museums as "cultural institutions". In this case, the priorities factor would pertain.

(5) Under the same heading refers to the "appropriate Government agency". I think you would find, in fact, that there has never been any specific Government department to handle this type of application. Any previous grants made have been rather in the nature of a windfall from art union profits rather than the result of definite Government policy.

Finally, with reference to your second-to-last paragraph, I think it was agreed that your Association should take steps to advise the Government formally that the Arts Council was unable to make capital grants and, when this came back to us, the Visual Arts Committee would then be able to confirm it, at the same time giving reasons why this is so.

Yours sincerely,

David Peters  
Director."

"ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.  
13th December, 1967.

The Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Seath,

On the 23rd February last you kindly wrote to me regarding the discussion you had with the Prime Minister about the position of art galleries and museums requiring financial assistance for capital works. You referred us to the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council and, accordingly, a deputation from the Association met the Visual Arts Committee on Monday, 13th November.

Dr. R.R. Forster, President of the Association, and Dr. R.S. Duff, Vice-President, made the following submissions:-

1. that in the past, successive Governments had granted occasional subsidies for the capital needs of museums and galleries,
2. that, since the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council of New Zealand Act was passed in 1963, museums and galleries have been unable to obtain capital subsidies,
3. that the Association wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs on the 21st January 1967, seeking clarification concerning the appropriate channel through which subsidy applications might be made. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs replied on the 23rd and 24th of February, referring the Association back to the Arts Council,
4. that the Council of the Association has asked this deputation:-
  - a. to seek confirmation that the capital requirements of museums and galleries come within the purposes of the Arts Council's Act, and
  - b. to ask that, if the Arts Council has insufficient funds to meet this need, because of its established priorities, it will make this situation known to the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs.

In response to questions, I, as Hon. Secretary of the Association, gave the following information:-

1. Last year museums and galleries were asked to supply details of capital subsidies sought or to be sought. These amounted to \$400,000 in 1966, and might now total \$500,000.
2. Most of these applications have accumulated since the Arts Council was established in 1963/4.
3. Applicants ask for subsidies up to 50% of the cost of new buildings and, probably, would be very happy to receive any assistance. Consequently, the sum needed to clear the backlog of applications is possibly less than \$250,000.
4. If this backlog could be cleared, an amount of \$40,000 a year should be sufficient to provide capital subsidies in future. If surpluses could be accumulated, rare major works need not be a problem.
5. Applications for capital subsidies are addressed usually to the Prime Minister, Minister of Internal Affairs, or Golden Kiwi Lottery but, since 1963, they have been re-directed to the Arts Council, whether or not they concern the arts. The experience of the Museum of Agriculture, Hastings, was described.

Mr. J.H.E. Schroder, Chairman of the Visual Arts Committee, and Mr. David Peters, Director of the Arts Council, replied:-

1. The policy of the Arts Council regarding museums and galleries was outlined in the policy statement by the Chairman of the Arts Council, Mr. G.G. Gibbes Watson, appended to the first annual report for the period ended 31st December 1964, presented to the Minister of Internal Affairs on 1st September 1965. The Chairman said there that "museums will qualify for assistance in those aspects of their work that come within the scope of the Council's functions. As in other fields, the Council is not able

to make grants to museums for capital equipment."

2. the reason for this policy is financial. Lack of funds precludes the Arts Council from making capital grants to any organisation. Parliament has been informed accordingly in successive annual reports.
3. It should be kept in mind that the Arts Council operates in the arts field and, for that reason, an application for a capital grant for another museum purpose (for example, for a Science or Agriculture Museum) would be unlikely to succeed even if money were made available to the Arts Council for capital grants for museums. In such an event, it would be necessary to dispense with the arts factor and re-define museums as "cultural institutions", but the priorities factor would then pertain.

As the Arts Council is unable to make capital grants, we are seeking your help again. We shall be most grateful to you if you can resolve the impasse.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary."

"c/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
Auckland.  
15th February, 1968.

The Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Seath,

On the 13th December 1967 I wrote to you regarding the unfortunate position of public art galleries and museums needing financial assistance for capital works. I described the submissions that a deputation from the Association made to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and the reply received.

As the Arts Council is unable to make capital grants, I asked again for your help to resolve the impasse.

No reply has reached me although two months have passed since I wrote to you. I shall be grateful if you will advise me whether you received my letter of the 13th December.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Cooper  
Hon. Secretary."

"Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Wellington C. 1.

26 February 1968

Dr. Robert Cooper,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Art Galleries and Museums  
Association of New Zealand (Inc.),  
c/- Auckland Institute and Museum,  
Private Bag,  
AUCKLAND.

Dear Dr. Cooper,

I have received your letter of 13 December 1967 in which you let me know the results of your Association's deputation to the Visual Arts Committee of the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council, and your letter of 15 February. I regret the delay in replying to your earlier letter.

I fully appreciate the difficulties faced by the individual art galleries and museums and the concern of your Association that financial assistance is not easily available to help them to carry out building programmes and meet other capital expenditure.

The Lottery Profits Board of Control has given a great deal of thought to the question of assistance to museums, but holds the view that this is a matter which properly comes within the scope of the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council, which is empowered by its Statute to assist artistic and cultural activities.

However, as Mr. Schroder and Mr. Peters explained to you, the funds at the Council's disposal are not sufficient to allow it to make grants to any organisation for buildings and other capital purposes. Quite frankly, although the Lottery Profits Board of Control has not yet considered its allocations for the coming financial year, and it would certainly not be in order for me to appear to anticipate the Board's decisions in this regard, it does seem unlikely to me that the financial position of the Board will permit it to increase its allocation to the Arts Council to the extent that would be necessary to allow the Council to make grants for capital purposes in the various fields for which it is responsible. Similarly, in the present state of economy, I can see no possibility at present of increasing the Government grant to the Arts Council to provide for such purposes.

The Lottery Profits Board of Control recognises that the Arts Council is not the appropriate source of assistance for technological museums, but here, too, lack of revenue has obliged the Board to decline to provide them with assistance from lottery profits.

I am sorry that I can do nothing to alter the situation as it is at present, nor am I able to suggest any alternative source your Association might approach for capital assistance.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(David C. Seath)  
Minister of Internal Affairs."