

Museum Receives Lottery Funding for Taoka Online Project

The Otago Museum's Collections and Research team has been awarded \$395,448 from the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund to support their Taoka Digitisation Project. The project will see Collections and Research staff work with two full-time project officers to manage, assess and digitise the Māori collection over the next three years.

With over 66,000 registered objects and a further 670 registered lots, the Museum houses one of the largest collections of Kāi Tahu taoka in the world. The digitisation project will make culturally appropriate material more accessible to the community and allow the Museum to provide a rich online resource. While not all of the objects in the collection will be digitised, a target of 20,000 digitised taoka has been set for the three-year project.

Selected key objects will be photographed with enhancements such as 3D renders or 'panning' views, using custom-made technology developed by Andrew Charlton, the Museum's Developer, Systems and Interactive Media.

Once the project is firmly established, staff will take the knowledge and experience gained to the community and their collections. The project officers and team members will work directly with community groups to facilitate a better understating of the condition status of objects held in various marae and elsewhere. This is an extension of outreach work already being undertaken by the Conservation team.

"This funding gives the Museum the opportunity to truly focus on the important Māori collection," says Director, Collections, Research and Education Robert Morris. "It enables us to work with the community to develop them for the benefit of everyone."

Upon completion of the project, work will extend to other areas of the Museum collection. This project helps deliver the Museum's strategic vision to care for its world-class collection and make it accessible both locally and internationally.

For further information please contact:

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