

## Since Te Papa – museum developments in New Zealand 1998-2012

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March 2007

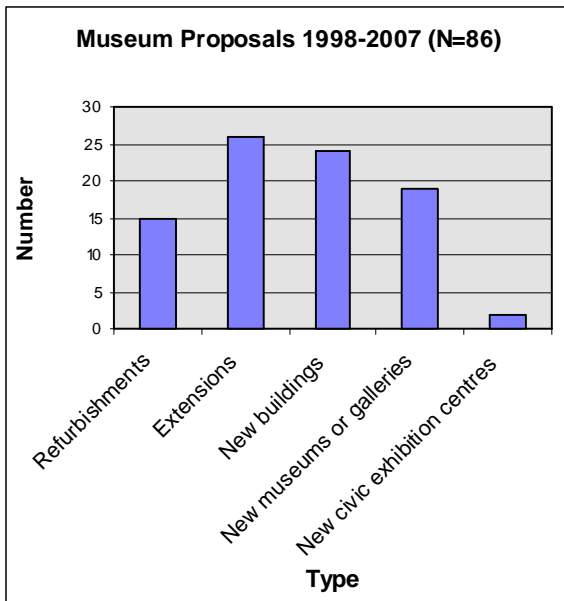
[**Disclaimer:** This paper, presented at Museums Aotearoa's 2007 Annual Conference at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, should be regarded as a work in progress. Some projects have been inadvertently excluded from consideration and final figures for individual projects may be amended. (Canterbury Museum's proposed redevelopment, for example, has been significantly reduced in scale since this paper was written.) Details will be updated from time to time and comments or corrections are welcome.]

### **Introduction:**

In the last 10 years, New Zealand, following overseas trends, has seen a significant increase in the number and scale of museum and gallery facilities. Refurbishments of existing buildings have been matched by a smaller number of new buildings. Since the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa was opened, in February 1998, the largest of these developments has been the additions to the Auckland War Memorial Museum (M\$65). Other major developments include the Christchurch Art Gallery (M\$52) and a wide range of others, including new urban landmarks in Nelson, New Plymouth, Tauranga, Masterton and Stratford, as well as Otago Museum's relatively modest, but highly regarded, M\$18 refurbishment, and the possible emergence of Gore as the nation's future cultural capital.

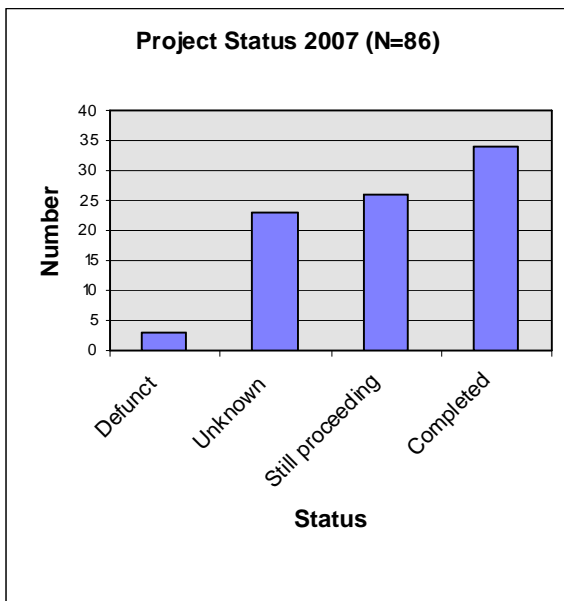
In 1934, New Zealand had only 26 museums. Sixty years later, in 1994, it had about 440, a 16-fold increase. Since then, only a handful of new museums has appeared, but there has been a significant increase in extensions to, or replacements of, existing museum buildings. This paper examines, for New Zealand, the cost and extent of capital projects proposed in the 9 years since the opening of Te Papa and draws some conclusions from them.

My main source of information has been Museums Aotearoa's monthly publication "Museum News". I have considered only proposals for capital projects to build new museums and galleries or, by far the majority, to replace, extend or refurbish existing museum buildings, whose proponents have been unwise enough to announce their intentions in the press before they got the building completed. Because much of my information comes from newspaper reports, it may be open to correction. I believe, however, that, in broad terms, the summaries I shall present are accurate enough to be useful.



To begin, since 1998, there have been:

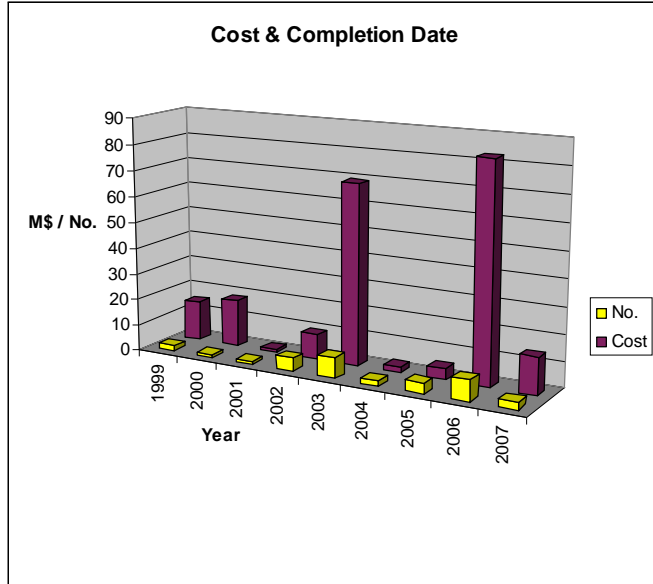
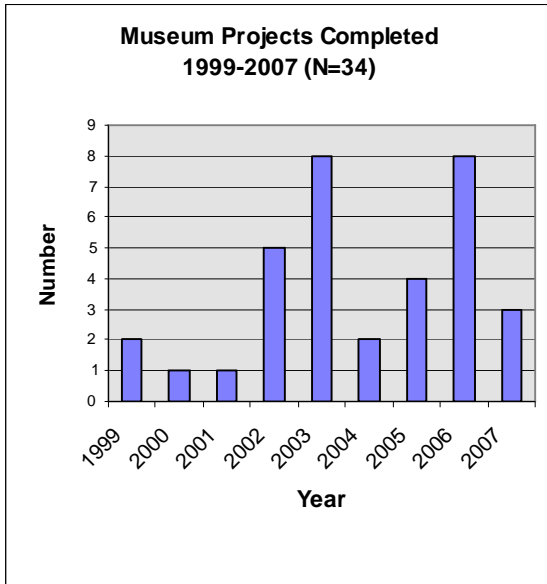
- 86 new museum, art gallery or civic exhibition centre proposals in New Zealand, with estimated completion dates extending through to 2012. Of these,
  - 15 were refurbishments of existing buildings
  - 26 were extensions to existing premises
  - 24 were entirely new buildings
  - 19 were new museum or gallery institutions
  - 2 were new civic exhibition centres.
  
- These proposals involved an estimated new floor area of 53,000 m<sup>2</sup> (roughly the same as Te Papa) at a projected cost of over M\$560 (rather more than Te Papa, but probably less than a Rugby Stadium in Auckland).



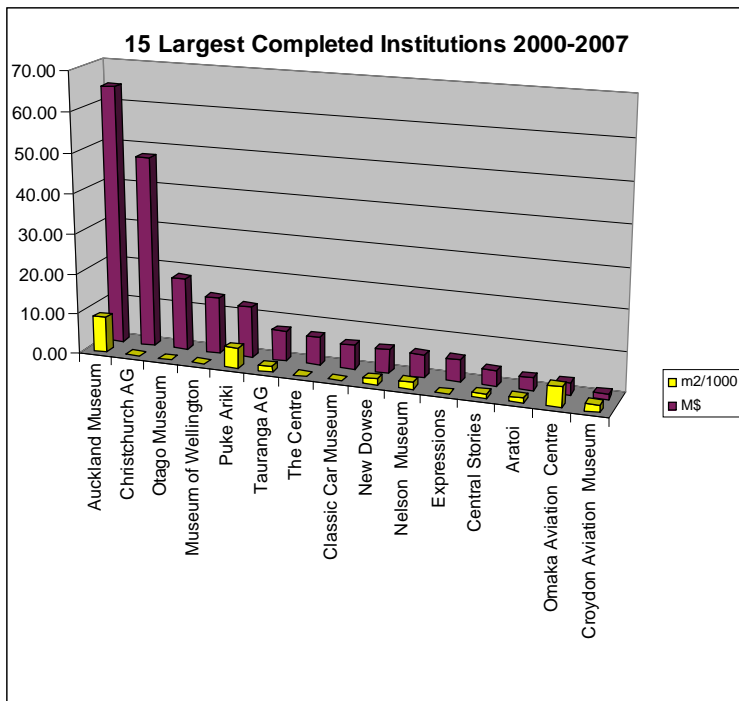
Of the 86 projects proposed,

- 34 (40% of the total) have been completed to date, contributing well over 42,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space (almost as much as Te Papa)
- and costing well over M\$216 (not all that much over half that of Te Papa's).

Of the remaining 52 proposals which have not yet been realised, 3, including the much-touted Mackenzie Centre, seem to have disappeared, 24 still appear to be proceeding and are scheduled to be completed by 2012, at a cost of M\$314, and I don't know about the other half.



The completed projects have appeared steadily over the last 8 years, with peaks in 2002/2003 and 2005/2006.



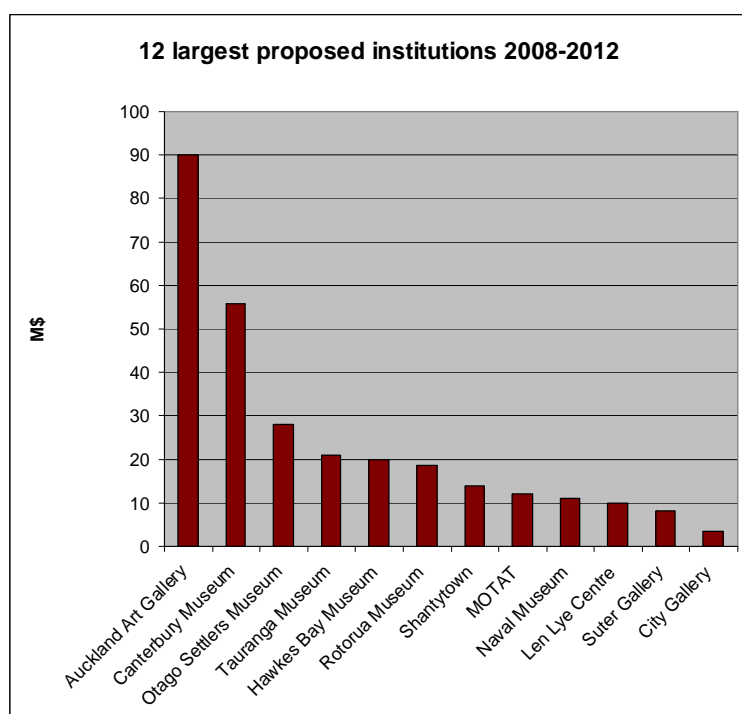
Of the 34 completed proposals, the 15 largest, just under half the total, account for M\$206 and 28,000 m<sup>2</sup>, an average cost per square metre of \$7300, which compares well with that of Te Papa at \$10,000 per square metre.

They are:

- Auckland Museum (M\$65)
- Christchurch Art Gallery (M\$48)

- Otago Museum (M\$18)
- Museum of Wellington City & Sea (M\$14)
- Puke Ariki (M\$13)
- Tauranga Art Gallery (M\$8)
- The Centre (Kerikeri) (M\$7)
- Classic Car Museum (Ferryhough) (M\$6)
- The New Dowse (M\$6)
- Nelson Provincial Museum (M\$6)
- Expressions (Upper Hutt) (M\$6)
- Central Stories (Alexandra) (M\$4)
- Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art & History (M\$3)
- Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre (M\$3)
- Croydon Aviation Heritage Trust Museum (M\$1.4)

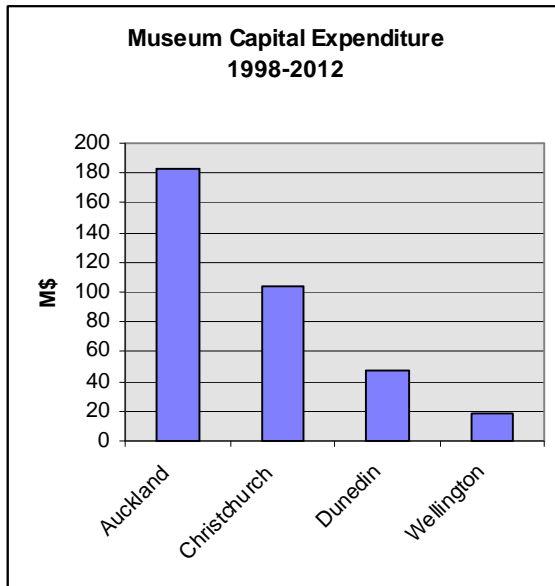
These 15 developments range in floor area from 1000 to 9000 square metres, and in cost per square metre, fully fitted out, from \$600 to over \$7500, which goes to show perhaps that aircraft hangars make the cheapest museums.



Of the 24 projects yet to be completed, the 12 largest are:

- Auckland Art Gallery (M\$90)
- Canterbury Museum (M\$56)
- Otago Settlers Museum (M\$28)
- Tauranga Museum (M\$21)
- Hawkes Bay Museum (M\$20)
- Rotorua Museum (M\$19)
- Shantytown (M\$14)
- MOTAT (M\$12)
- Naval Museum (M\$11)
- Len Lye Centre (M\$10)
- Suter Gallery (M\$8)
- City Gallery (M\$3.4)

Together, if realised, they will account for 290 million dollars, and the remaining 12 another 20 million, adding to a total expenditure on museum and gallery facilities since Te Papa of over 500 million dollars.



### Conclusion:

In summary, we will, by 2012, if all goes according to plan, have built, or undertaken major refurbishments of, around 50 new museum and gallery facilities in 14 years, at a cost roughly equivalent to that of Te Papa a decade ago. This represents a total, including Te Papa, of about a billion dollars in 20 years. Eighty percent of this money will have been spent in the four main centres and just under half the projects will have accounted for 94% of it.

So what is the reason for all this activity? Te Papa, temporarily focussing museum expenditure on the Capital was, I suspect, a significant catalyst for the subsequent surge in regional spending, but there are other reasons for such a sudden increase in cultural infrastructure. It has been driven by overseas trends, the perceived needs of the tourism industry, national and civic consciousness and an increasing cultural sophistication, not least within Government. Amendments to the Local Government Act, requiring Territorial Local Authorities to make provision for asset depreciation and to consider the cultural well-being of their communities, have been a significant factor. Developments also owe much to the museum profession, which has recognised the need for higher standards in the care, storage and display of collections, and in the way in which museums relate to the public.

That profession is itself changing in focus and outlook. The next question to be examined perhaps is the extent to which recent capital development drives increases in staffing and operational costs. They are likely to be substantial.

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### NEW ZEALAND MUSEUM PROJECTS 1998-2007

Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art & History, Masterton ~ Ashburton Museum, Ashburton ~ Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland ~ Auckland Museum, Auckland ~ Aviation Heritage Centre, Blenheim ~ Bedplate Press, Silverstream ~ Blackball Museum of Working Class History, Blackball ~ Bowls NZ Museum, New Plymouth ~ Burt Munro Museum, Invercargill ~ Cable Car Museum, Wellington ~ Canterbury Museum, Christchurch ~ Catlins Museum, Otago ~ Central Stories, Alexandra ~ Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch ~ City Gallery, Wellington ~ Classic Car Museum, Auckland ~ Classic Flyers NZ, Mt Maunganui ~ Coromandel Heritage Trust, Thames ~ Croydon Aviation Heritage Trust Museum, Mandeville ~ Dargaville Museum, Dargaville ~ Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt ~ Eastern Southland Gallery, Gore ~ Expressions Art

& Entertainment Centre, Upper Hutt ~ Far North Regional Museum, Kaitiaki ~ George Hood Aviation Museum, Masterton ~ Hawkes Bay Museum, Napier ~ Helensville Pioneer Museum, Auckland ~ Hokonui Heritage Centre, Gore ~ Kaikoura Museum, Kaikoura ~ Lake Taupo Museum & Art Gallery, Taupo ~ Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown ~ Len Lye Centre, New Plymouth ~ Mackenzie Heritage Centre, Tekapo ~ Mackenzie Motor Heritage Society, Fairlie ~ Manawatu Horsesdrawn Era Museum, Fielding ~ Mangawhai & Districts Museum, Northland ~ Maritime Museum, Nelson ~ Mercury Bay Museum, Whitianga ~ Morrinsville Art Gallery, Morrinsville ~ Museum of Transport & Technology, Auckland ~ Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Wellington ~ National Maritime Museum, Auckland ~ Naval Museum, Devonport ~ Nelson Provincial Museum, Nelson ~ Northland Medical Museum, Whangarei ~ NZ Cricket Museum, Wellington ~ NZ Fighter Pilots Museum, Wanaka ~ Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, Marlborough ~ Opotiki Heritage & Agricultural Museum, Opotiki ~ Otago Museum, Dunedin ~ Otago Settlers Museum, Dunedin ~ Otaki Museum, Otaki ~ Papakura District Museum, Papakura ~ Pataka Porirua Museum of Arts & Cultures, Porirua ~ Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford ~ Petone Settlers Museum, Lower Hutt ~ Porirua Hospital Museum, Porirua ~ Port Chalmers Museum, Port Chalmers ~ Puke Ariki, New Plymouth ~ Rotorua Museum, Rotorua ~ Russell Museum, Russell ~ Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui ~ Shantytown, Greymouth ~ Shear Discovery Centre, Masterton ~ Southland Museum & Art Gallery, Invercargill ~ South Canterbury Museum, Timaru ~ South Taranaki District Museum, Patea ~ Star of the Sea Museum, Manukau ~ Suter Gallery, Nelson ~ Tauranga Art Gallery, Tauranga ~ Tauranga Museum, Tauranga ~ Tawhiti Museum, Hawera ~ Te Manawa, Palmerston North ~ The Centre, Kerikeri ~ The Faraday Centre, Napier ~ Upper Waitaki Pioneer Museum and Art Gallery, Kurow ~ Waikato Coalfields Museum, Huntly ~ Waikato Society of Arts, Hamilton ~ Waipu Museum, Waipu ~ Wairoa Museum, Wairoa ~ Waitaki Agricultural Museum, Oamaru ~ Wanaka Transport & Toy Museum, Wanaka ~ West Coast Historical Museum, Hokitika ~ Whakatane District Council, Whakatane ~ Whanganui Regional Museum, Wanganui ~ Whangarei Art Gallery, Whangarei ~ Whangarei Museum, Whangarei ~ Whangarei Museum of Art & Heritage ("Te Papa North"), Whangarei ~ World of Wearable Art & Collectable Cars Museum, Nelson.

### Notes:

1. The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa opened on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1998, providing over 40,000 square metres of floor space at a cost of some 400 million dollars.
2. 10,000 square metres (a hectare) is roughly the size of a rugby field, including the in-goal areas as well as the field of play.