

Hon Judith Tizard Member of Parliament for Auckland Central
**Minister of Consumer Affairs, Associate Minister for Arts,
Culture and Heritage, Associate Minister of Transport, Associate
Minister of Commerce, Minister for Auckland Issues**



Thursday 10 October 2002

Speech

The value of cultural heritage

CENTRAL OTAGO CULTURAL HERITAGE SEMINAR, ALEXANDRA, THURSDAY, 10
OCTOBER 2002, 11.15-11.45 am

Salutations

Malcolm Macpherson – Mayor of the Central Otago District Council

Dr Bill Tramosch – CEO of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Matapura Ellison – of Karitane, representing Ngai Tahu

Richard Crooks – Opus Consultants, Christchurch

Speaking Points

Greetings from the Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister, Helen Clark. It is wonderful to be here today to get a picture of the great work you are all doing in cultural heritage in the Central Otago region.

She does the major policy areas and I do the relationships with crown agencies and organisations, and the work to advance the whole sector.

It's great to have the luxury to spend the whole day here, because I think that Central Otago is one of the most important places in NZ in terms of our cultural heritage.

I think the work you are doing on preserving your arts, culture and heritage is very important and I look forward to hearing your advice on where you think things are going and how issues can be advanced.

Bill talked about the values of heritage, but I think that this is particularly noticeable in our regions, where people gather to bring together a regional heritage and a regional culture which is special and unique within the wider NZ heritage and culture.

Central Otago's special features

- Central Otago is a region that clearly values its heritage. It is a heritage that has many features unique in New Zealand. It has been enriched by the contributions of all its settlers: tangata whenua Ngai Tahu, British (especially Scottish – some of the Scottish heritage is like going home in many ways), European and Chinese, all of whose perspectives will be represented at this seminar.
- I was recently at the opening of the “**Southern Lands, Southern People**” gallery at the Otago Museum. And was enormously impressed by the way the Otago story as part of the NZ story was told there, from the earliest times our distant and geological past, thru to the coming of people and their interactions over the last thousand and 162 years.
- It's also a great pleasure to see other museums. Increasingly like the southland museum in Invercargill and the hokonui museum in Gore, which has to be one of my favourites. As the granddaughter of a man who was in the customs in the 1920s who was sent as a young man to rifle about the hills of Gore, it was astonishingly moving and evocative story of a local migrant family the people they found and how they managed to make a living and a future for themselves in that area, and I think it raises one of the issues that I think we have to make sure we confront as we deal with the issue