

# WELLINGTON CABLE CAR MUSEUM

## Tourism grant for Wellington's second busiest museum

August 2004



The Wellington Museums Trust has just received a grant of nearly \$85,000 from Tourism Minister Mark Burton to help fund the expansion of the Wellington Cable Car Museum.

The funding comes from the Minister's Tourism Facilities Grants Programme, which was set up to develop nationally significant tourism facilities that enhance international visitors' understanding and enjoyment of New Zealand.

Mr Burton presented the cheque at a small function at the Wellington Cable Car Museum – and Trust Chairman Bill Brien says he is obviously delighted with the Minister's recognition of the museum as a significant tourism facility.

"Thanks in part to its prime location at the top of the cable car route and at the upper entrance to the Botanic Gardens, the Wellington Cable Car Museum is proving to be a major drawcard for both national and international visitors," Bill says.

"This extension is vital as, when we built the museum four years ago, we were anticipating annual visitor numbers of around 90,000. However, we are currently attracting more than twice that number, making the museum the most visited facility in Wellington after Te Papa.

"This extension will allow us to restore and display a nationally significant grip cable car (c1905), and to provide better interpretation for the cable car system and for the site, including its early Maori history. We will also be able to provide interpretation for the Botanic Gardens and for Wellington attractions generally, in recognition of the museum's role as a signpost for local activities."

The expansion project has also attracted funding from New Zealand Community Trust, which provided a \$50,000 seeding grant, and a \$100,000 grant from the Lotteries Commission Environment and Heritage Committee. The Wellington City Council has earmarked funding of \$650,000 to be spread over the next two financial years.

Building plans are currently being drawn up and site work will start immediately after the museum's busy summer season, to minimise disruption to visitors. The museum extension should be completed by late 2005.

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