

# **Women of Empire Homecoming - Thames**

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**TO** Thames Community Board  
**FROM** Brian Robson - Thames Community Manager  
**DATE** 3 September 2018  
**SUBJECT** **Women of Empire Homecoming - Thames**

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## **1 Purpose of Report**

To seek Community Board approval to grant funds for the Women of Empire Homecoming exhibition in Thames - 5-18 November 2018 - from the District Natural and Cultural Heritage and Thames Discretionary funds.

## **2 Background**

In 2015 Thames hosted the Australasian Women of Empire exhibition at the Thames Civic Centre. The purpose of the exhibition was to highlight the impact on women left at home when NZ servicemen went overseas in WW1, told through individual's stories and accompanied by costumes that set the tone of the times. The exhibition was very well attended with approximately 700 visitors paying \$10 per-head admission.

The couple that curated the original collection have put together another exhibition that considers the servicemen returning to their homes after their horrific experiences overseas, from the perspective of the women who had had to fend for themselves during their soldier's absence. The purpose of the exhibition is largely educational and is presented in the context of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day in November 2018. It will be held in the Civic Centre Conference Room from 5 November - 18 November 2018, with a set-up and take-down day either side.

The first exhibition was organised by Rotary but the 2018 version will be organised by the Heritage Events Trust. The previous exhibition was underwritten by the Thames Community Board. The funds were not required and were repaid as the income exceeded the cost.

The exhibition is exclusive to Thames. The collection curators have sent press releases to both 'North and South' and 'NZ Memories' magazines promoting the event. Heritage Events trust has sent invitations to retirement villages around the region and one group booking from Hamilton has already been received.

## **3 Issue**

Heritage Events Trust need \$4,800 by Friday 26 October 2018 to secure the exhibition. Heritage Events Trust does not have sufficient funds in hand to pay the upfront cost and requests financial support from Thames Community Board to make payments by 26 October 2018 to Heritage Events Trust.

## **4 Discussion**

There are two other events happening in Thames at the same time as the Homecoming Exhibition: the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thames Hospital and the Steampunk weekend, which could either reduce the number of visitors or bring in additional visitors from outside of our region.

The budget that Thames Heritage Events Trust has prepared estimates 500 visitors at \$10 per head.

Heritage Events Trust requests \$4,800 from Thames Community Board, to be paid from Thames' \$6,000 allocation of the District Natural and Cultural Heritage fund, to ensure that the exhibition can proceed.

Heritage Events Trust further asks that Thames Community Board pay the \$1400 hire of the Conference Room out of its discretionary fund.

Staff considers this to be a significant exhibition and an important educational opportunity for Thames.

## **5 Suggested Resolution(s)**

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Women of Empire Homecoming – Thames' report, dated 3 September 2018.
2. Resolves to grant \$1,400 from Thames Discretionary Fund to Thames Hall Hire 176:12151 for the Women of Empire exhibition in the conference centre.
3. Resolves to grant \$4,800 to Heritage Event Trust to secure the Women of Empire - Homecoming exhibition. Any surplus funds after all costs have been deducted, up to the \$4,800 granted, to be returned to the Natural and Cultural Heritage fund before February 2019.

## **References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

**Attachment A** *Letter to Rob Williams from Women of Empire*

**Attachment B** *Heritage Events Trust Budget for Women of Empire - Homecoming exhibition*

[Attachment A - Letter to Rob Williams from WOE](#)

*Attachment A*

**Attachment B**

**[Attachment B - Heritage Events Trust Budget for Women of Empire - Home...](#)**