

Nelson's Theatre Royal Gets Significant Funding

The Nelson Historic Theatre Trust has received up to \$3,129,388 from the government's Significant Community Based Projects Fund for the restoration and refurbishment of the Theatre Royal. The theatre has significant heritage value. Built in 1878, it is thought to be the oldest surviving, operating wooden theatre in Australasia.

In presenting the cheque to the Trust the Prime Minister Rt Hon Helen Clark said that this major project had significant local and national benefit as an important component of Nelson's architectural heritage.

"The restoration of this theatre will make a significant contribution to New Zealand's heritage of timber architecture. It is the only dedicated performance venue in the Nelson and Tasman area and its restoration will enable a wide range of local, regional, national performances, and even appropriately scaled international, performances to be held," she said.

"The retention of this building will provide Nelson, and the Tasman district, with a community focus and promote a positive environment to foster the arts and culture through access to multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary performances. It will also contribute to a network of quality touring venues needed to ensure a healthy and cost-effective performance arts community."