

Riverton Heritage and Tourist Centre Gets Significant Funding

The newly constructed Riverton Heritage and Tourist Centre is to receive funding from the Government's Significant Community Based Projects Funds from this years allocation.

The grant of \$172,203 is for the completion of the Centre. This includes the fit-out of the building to house heritage displays and a tourism information centre. The project includes a major revision of the Wallace Early Settlers' Museum and will incorporate a major new display 'Te Hikoī – Southern Journey' illustrating the history of the area and its people.

Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Rick Barker said that the project has the potential to become a major tourist attraction in Riverton and Southern Southland linking into tourism initiatives in the Southland region along the Southern Scenic Route.

'This project will contribute significantly to the region with the provision of cultural, heritage and nature tourism attractions in Southland and along the Southern Scenic Route. A modern heritage museum, a multi-function educational theatre, heritage galleries, museum facilities and a tourism centre will undoubtedly attract significant tourist interest, he said.

'This project is also likely to heighten environmental awareness, particularly of the southern oceans, through education and interpretation on such things as the history of whaling and sealing.'