



**Oranjehof**  
Dutch Connection Centre

# Acquisition Policy

## Oranjehof – Dutch Connection Centre

### Introduction

Oranjehof is the museum that tells the story of the Dutch in New Zealand, as part of the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom community centre and tourism hub that was opened on 18 November 2017 – in Foxton, next to windmill De Molen.

The museum centre was set up and is managed by the Dutch Connection Museum Trust – a registered charitable organisation.

The Trust coordinates local activities together with the Oranjehof Volunteers, the Dutch Club Manawatu and De Molen Trust.

### Definitions and purpose

1. **The Exhibition is defined as all the objects and stories of cultural or social significance that are on display in Oranjehof.**

It includes works of art, objects, photos, historical items, archival materials, furniture, costumes, manuscripts, printed books and other printed materials, digital media and audio / audio-visual materials, visualisations and interpretations in three languages.

The Exhibition reflects the Museum's concept: "A place that tells the stories of Dutch New Zealanders and preserves their cultural heritage or *erfgoed*, while creating vibrant, rich connections between past, present and future".

2. **The Collection is defined as all materials of cultural or social significance which have been accessioned by the Museum Trust.**

It includes works of art, objects, photos, historical items, archival materials, furniture, costumes, manuscripts, printed books and other printed materials, digital media and audio / audio-visual materials that reflect the purpose of Oranjehof.

Accessioned materials either become part of the *Permanent Collection*, which is on display in the Oranjehof Exhibition, or the *Exchange Collection*

of change-outs (see below).

Some materials may become part of the *Disposable Collection* – for example items that can be handled by visitors and therefore may be subject to wear and tear (eg books or the rug on the table in the living room De Huiskamer)

3. **Acquisition is defined as the transfer of ownership of an item to the collection of the Museum and its management and documentation.**

The materials that are acquired will enhance the ability of the museum to carry out its responsibilities to record, interpret, inspire and educate the wider community by telling the Dutch story.

As the museum is not set up to be a collection institution, the Trust can only acquire items that:

- a. Can serve as (part of) future new *Permanent Collection* objects – i.e. items that are of sufficient high interest or cultural significance to warrant a permanent place in Oranjehof
  - b. Fit into the *Exhibition Exchange Collection* – i.e. items that can, at some point in the future, become part of the current Exhibition set-up to keep the existing displays dynamic and interesting for return visitors
  - c. Can serve as part of a future *Temporary Exhibition* in the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom shared gallery
  - d. Can be digitised and become part of the *Online Collection* – i.e. books about Dutch New Zealanders, autobiographies, biographies, photos, manuscripts, official documents. (Originals may be transferred to other institutions – e.g. National Library or National Archives – if required.)
4. **A Loan is defined as all materials which have been loaned to the Museum Trust and Oranjehof by third party owners, for a limited amount of time.**

Loans terms may last from 3 months to 10 years, depending on the nature (e.g. fragility) of the items, or the owner's wishes, and the owners may include private individuals or organisations such as museums, archives, institutions or private companies.

## **Oranjehof Dutch Connection Centre - History and remit**

The Dutch Heritage Museum Trust was formally established in 2005, and discussed its initial Museum concept widely within the Dutch Community.

In March 2006 the Trust distributed a Survey, among the Dutch Community (organisations / individuals throughout the country), to seek additional advice on how to build pride and visibility for Dutch migrants and their descendants, their stories, and their contributions to New Zealand at all levels of society. Through the Survey Results, the Dutch Community expressed the direction they want the Dutch Museum Project to take.

In June 2006, the Trust appointed an Executive Team which was tasked with writing the Business Plan, a Location Study, a Feasibility Study and a Project Plan for the Museum Project. The Executive Team proposed a shift in direction for the Heritage Museum and the Project was re-named 'The Dutch Connection', to reflect an enhanced focus on present and future. The Dutch Community (11 Netherlands Societies) analysed the Location Study and selected Foxton as their preferred Museum town.

Funding was received in March 2007 from founding sponsor the New Zealand Netherlands Foundation to engage the services of Museum expert Luit Bieringa who finished the qualitative part of the Feasibility Study and, through in-depth consultation with the Dutch Community, helped finalise the overarching Concept for the Museum Centre.

In 2008 collaboration was agreed with local Mana Whenua, and later on with Horowhenua District Council to progress the project in Partnership – and create a multi-purpose community and tourism facility Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.

To create a suitable brand name for the museum, The Dutch Connection selected 'Oranjehof – Dutch Connection Centre' as its name, to include an easily recognisable and appealing Dutch word. The visual brand and logo was incorporated – together with the Priiharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre logo – in the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom brand and logo.

After finance was secured and a building was bought, the facility opened in November 2017. Bossley Architects won a major award for the design of the building. Exhibition company Workshop E took the lead with the Dutch Connection Trust, Te Taitoa Maori o Te Awahou Trust and Council to create the space, which won a 2018 Museums Aotearoa National Museum Award.

## **The Collection**

The chief strength of the collection is its coverage of a comprehensive list of topics:

1. The history of Dutch immigrants in New Zealand, and their achievements and contributions – in the arts, business, farming and popular culture
2. The history of Dutch migration to New Zealand, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the post World War II period to today
3. The contemporary connections between New Zealand and the Netherlands

The purpose of the collection is to help visitors:

- Understand the many historic and contemporary connections between New Zealanders and Nederlanders
- Understand the stories of the Dutch migration waves into New Zealand – the hardships and troubles encountered, as well as the successes and achievements
- Enable the children of Dutch migrants and their (grand) children to better understand the roots and Dutch cultural heritage that would have influenced their values, outlook on life, character and personality
- Better understand the Dutch contribution to the country's national identity
- Better understand the benefits of immigration, and its positive and innovative influences
- Achieve a deeper understanding of what enables and defines a successful, vibrant and diverse multi-cultural society, and provide insights into a topic of local and global interest and concern
- Better connect two small, entrepreneurial, trading nations so they can improve collaboration and achieve a better future in areas of common interest – such as science, business, the arts, multi-culturalism or international politics

## **The Oranjehof Exhibition**

The main areas of the Oranjehof Exhibition cover the following topics:

1. Encounter between Abel Tasman's crew and Tangata Whenua
2. Immigration and travel / Settlement / Positive and negative experiences

3. Home away from Home – Memorabilia / Typical Dutch items
4. Huiskamer / Kitchen / Dutch traditional clocks / Traditional costume
5. Personal Digital Stories – Spanning the 1950s to today
6. Achievement stories by Dutch immigrants – Individual and/or social / cultural / business
7. Visual Arts and Design
8. Interactive area for youngsters, incl dress up and a bicycle for selfies
9. Links with the modern Netherlands

## Online Exhibition

An Online Exhibition is in development, and will in the first stages cover personal stories and specific areas of interest (e.g. arts, agriculture, food, football). To tell these stories, the following items are required:

- books about Dutch New Zealanders (published or self-published)
- autobiographies / biographies
- photos / official documents
- manuscripts / diaries / correspondence

## Acquisition Policy and Criteria

The collection of materials must comply with priorities defined by the Dutch Connection Museum Trust and meet the criteria of the **Acquisition Policy**:

- The item must have intrinsic value
- The item must be consistent with and relevant to the stated purpose, scope and activities of the museum
- The item must fit with the Exhibition set-up at Oranjarahof
- The item must tell a typically representative Dutch immigration story
- The item should be of museum quality (exceptions will be made for certain items)
- Primary consideration will be given to the museum's ability to provide proper care and storage for any artefact or works of art. No item(s) should

be considered for acquisition if its physical condition exceeds the museum's financial ability to provide for its care and preservation

- The item(s) must have a verifiable, when needed, record of authenticity and provenance. The provenance of acquired items shall be a matter of public record
- The items must have a free and clear title
- The donor is responsible for appraisals of value. Unless an exception is made, the museum shall not provide an appraisal of a donation. It may offer suggestions concerning outside independent appraisal services
- All acquisitions are to be outright and unconditional
- All donations to the museum's collections are irrevocable upon the formal and physical transfer to the museum
- A form stating a description of the item, the conditions of the transfer and the history of the object shall be completed, signed and dated by the donor
- The Museum Trust at its sole discretion decides whether an accessioned item will be allocated to either the Permanent or Exchange Collection, or is designated as part of the Disposable Collection, the Online Collection or a Temporary Exhibition
- All acquisitions by gift or bequest to the museum that are allocated to the Disposable Collection will either be used as items that can be handled, used or touched by museum visitors as part of exhibitions or atmospheric displays until they lose their physical integrity, or if they no longer remain useful for the purposes of the museum will be disposed of through any method deemed appropriate by the Museum Trust
- All acquisitions by gift or bequest to the museum that are allocated to the permanent collection must remain in the possession of the museum for as long as they retain their physical integrity and authenticity, and as long as they remain useful for the purposes of the museum

**NOTE on Books:** No Dutch generic books can be accepted – due to the fact that operating in a Library environment, no second-hand books are allowed to enter the space (infection risk – eg mould or silverfish).

We can make exceptions and will occasionally accept books of exceptional or unique cultural, historical, social or rarity value.

## **Sources of Acquisition**

### **Gifts and donations**

Gifts and donations are a major source of materials for the Museum's collection, and are generally made in the expectation that they will be preserved in perpetuity. Selection must therefore be rigorous and any ambiguities (e.g. of ownership or intention) must be resolved before items are accessioned into the Permanent, Exchange or Disposable collection. Gifts will only be accepted on condition that they offer a genuine benefit to the collections and resources can be made available for their proper stewardship.

### **Bequests**

Material offered as a bequest will be evaluated against the collection and / or acquisition criteria, and items that do not meet the required standards can not be accepted for the collection.

### **Purchases**

The collection can be augmented by very selective purchases. Levels of authorisation of expenditure are specified by the Museum Trust.

### **Copies**

For certain categories of material, such as photographs or documents, copies of original material are acceptable as acquisitions.

### **Recordings and written accounts**

The museum undertakes its own Oral History interviewing programme on the topic of Dutch migration, but it will also accept audio or audio-visual recordings and written accounts produced by individuals at their own initiative.

# Acquisition / Loan Form

## How to Donate Materials, Objects or Artefacts

Before you donate an item, please read the description of our Collection in our Acquisition Policy, to help you understand the purpose and criteria of the museum collection.

Once you are satisfied that your donation meets our criteria, contact the Trustee in charge of acquisitions by email - through [www.oranjarahof.org.nz](http://www.oranjarahof.org.nz) - to arrange a time to discuss making the donation.

When the Trustee has agreed to accept the donation, you can fill out the acquisition form below. On this form we collect:

- name and type of artefact or object, and how and where it was obtained
- name of the artist or maker, and date it was created (if known)
- material, measurements, colours
- history of provenance (how it came to the owner) and associated people
- a brief history that can be recorded for posterity (eg what was it used for / anything special / any stories attached)
- your name and address, and other contact details

Please note any obvious damage, or if the object is incomplete.

As the donor, you are asked to sign an agreement that the item will be placed in the care of the Oranjarahof Dutch Connection Centre.

All donations to the Museum's collections are irrevocable upon the formal and physical transfer to the museum. Donations are accepted on the basis of an unconditional gift to the museum.

The museum can only accept items 'On Loan' if they are immediately placed in the Oranjarahof Exhibition or in other exceptional circumstances – due to insurance, storage and maintenance issues.

**Note:** Oranjarahof is not a Collection Institution. Our storage is of limited size, so it may not be possible to take possession of your item(s) yet. You may be asked to store the item(s) yourself for the near future, until it can be displayed.





**Oranjehof**  
Dutch Connection Centre

## ACQUISITION / LOAN DETAILS

**Name of Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift**

**Bequest (listed in your will)**

**Loan**

**Loan Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Address details:

<b>Street:</b>	
<b>Suburb:</b>	
<b>City:</b>	
<b>Country:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

**Item name / type:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Item description:

- **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Artist or maker:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Date created (if known):** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Material, measurements, colours:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date or year of acquisition of the gift:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief background or history of item:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Any damage or things to note:**

---

**Documents attached** **Yes / No**

**Details of documents:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Photo attached?** **Yes / No**

**Photo taken by Museum?** **No / Yes / Who:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Item accessioned by Museum:** **Yes / No**

**Accession number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of accession:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of person filling out this form:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Owner's signed copy of this form must be handed over when uplifting objects.

I/we certify that I am/we are the legal owner or the owner's representative and have read and understood the terms and conditions listed in the policy. The items listed are offered to the museum as a gift, and the item/s are not under dispute or being contested by a third party.

I/we retain no rights, *including copyright*, associated with the item.

I/we understand the museum cannot accept items on definite or long-term loan. This form represents transfer of ownership.

**Signature Donor / Lender:**

---

**Date:**

---

**Note: Objects offered and accepted but no longer required for the collection will be:**

- Returned to owner or owner's representative
- Transferred to another institution
- Considered for hands-on educational purposes
- Disposed of or recycled through a method decided by the museum