

CNZ ANTARCTIC OFFICE

Progress against Gateway Strategy 2021 - 2022

Priority 1 – Welcome and Deliver Excellence

Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2021 – June 2022
<p>Gateway Leadership and Partnership</p> <p>1.1 Establish a gateway Leadership Group of iwi, national and local partners that, through regular meetings and engagement, to make the most of the economic, community, cultural, scientific and environmental opportunities of the city's gateway status and supports New Zealand's interests in the Antarctic region.</p> <p>1.2 Maintain a strong, supportive relationship with key national and international agencies with an Antarctic interest and other gateway cities, working collaboratively on areas of shared interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local leadership links, coordination and focus amongst the wider Antarctic-related sector in the city, and a sustainable, positive, effective relationship with Antarctica New Zealand. Our role as a Gateway City is valued locally, nationally, and internationally for its contribution to the success of our own and other nations' Antarctic programmes, and New Zealand's commitments to the Antarctic region. The COMNAP Secretariat is located in Christchurch and helps facilitate positive relationships between the city and COMNAP members. Christchurch is recognised as a proactive Gateway City that looks outwards to builds opportunities for collaboration that can increase knowledge on matters of global interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference were agreed for the Gateway Leadership Group. Numerous meetings were organised for the Christchurch City Mayor, including with key NAP leaders, NASA SOFIA contributors to the Antarctic Gateway Cities study, the local Antarctic community, and with the Hobart Mayor. Regular meetings were held with AntarcticaNZ and COMNAP to share updates on relevant information and opportunities. The Antarctic Cities Project, reinvigorating discussions about what it means to be a citizen in an Antarctic Gateway City, was finalised. New collaboration has been built with other gateway cities, including Cape Town, who are looking to send a delegation to Christchurch during Days of Ice later in 2022, and the Argentine and Chilean Ambassadors, on their current diplomatic missions in NZ. Support was also given to the Christchurch Antarctic Gateway Cities youth representative.
<p>Welcoming host</p> <p>1.3 Work to retain and grow National Antarctic Programmes using and visiting Christchurch as a Gateway City.</p> <p>1.4 Continue to deliver an engaging and popular annual Season Opening for National Antarctic Programmes, local</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antarctic visitors are welcomed warmly to our city and the summer season is celebrated each year. The local Christchurch community understands the city's unique Antarctic legacy and current role and enjoys participating in Season Opening and other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In another challenging Antarctic Season, with border restrictions in place, Christchurch Airport saw 2300 passengers and almost 1000 tonnes of cargo moved in the 21/22 season. Assisted the Italian and Korean Antarctic Programs in obtaining MFAT prioritisation for MIQ places. There were 16 return flights by NZDF, 30 US Air Force C-17 ICE missions, 16

<p>and national stakeholders, and the community to enjoy.</p> <p>1.5 Identify ways for the local Antarctic community to provide additional opportunities to welcome and connect Antarctic visitors with each other and the community.</p> <p>1.6 Provide a world-class welcome with the support of MFAT, Antarctica New Zealand and other partners, with a view to deepening international Antarctic relations, including a focus on the retention and potential expansion of National Antarctic Programmes basing themselves in or accessing services and supplies through Christchurch.</p>	<p>related events throughout the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Antarctic Programmes can connect with the Christchurch Antarctic community (including other national programmes) and there are opportunities to engage with the wider local community. 	<p>missions by the US Air National Guard's LC-130 skybirds, and 10 missions by the Italian Air Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port of Lyttelton welcomed US Coast Guard Cutter <i>Polar Star</i> on her 25th Antarctic journey in support of Operation Deep Freeze. The port also hosted multiple visits of Italy's NR <i>Laura Bassi</i> and Korea's RV <i>Araon</i>. The polar class HMNZS <i>Aoteoroa</i> called at Lyttelton on her first mission to Antarctica. Antarctic Season Opening celebrations were cancelled. Instead, the Mayor hosted a dinner to personally welcome the NAPs back to the city in October 2021 attended by US, Italian, Korean and NZ NAP reps, MFAT and key city leaders. Meetings were organised for the Christchurch Mayor with the new US Ambassador, along with other diplomatic mission heads of gateway partner countries. CAO organised a programme to welcome NAP personnel and supporting groups to the city, including a Mayoral Welcome card, a video presentation, welcome gift baskets, and a new 'Explore Ōtautahi Christchurch' online resource. We welcomed and connected the US Air Force 304EAS and New York Air National Guard 109th with key persons. The NSF, KOPRI, Italian Antarctic program and C-17 team were invited to be part of the Explore Antarctica Family Day. Contact was maintained with NASA SOFIA and key SOFIA managers and scientists were personally welcomed on their return to Christchurch for SOFIA's final deployment on the 19th of June, with 200 personnel and 32 missions scheduled June to August.
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<p>Business excellence and opportunities</p> <p>1.7 Review Christchurch's current breadth of business support to Antarctic programmes, to identify and nourish strengths, as well as finding and filling gaps or new opportunities to supply goods and services and enhance / expand the local offering e.g. demand created by the Scott Base and McMurdo redevelopments, along with renewal projects by other National Programmes.</p> <p>1.8 Grow the local Antarctic Business Network, to foster and facilitate engagement between Christchurch businesses with Antarctic experience or relevant expertise and National Antarctic Programmes, to realise opportunities for local provision of services or goods.</p> <p>1.9 Continue to recognise the importance of supporting Antarctic programmes through the Council's expectations of the Council-owned airport and seaport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National programmes can readily connect with businesses/ innovators for supply of expertise, services, or products. The Business Network meets regularly, provides networking opportunities, and showcases local expertise and innovation of interest to national programmes. Christchurch International Airport and Lyttleton Port Company recognise in their Statements of Intent the key role they play in supporting the Christchurch Antarctic Gateway Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Christchurch Antarctic Network (CAN) membership reached its target for the year of 75 members, with further businesses expressing interest. Due to COVID-related restrictions it was not possible to organise networking events, though plans are in place for the next year. Key business case studies, including Earth Sea & Sky, have been profiled on the ChristchurchNZ website. Numerous business introductions and connections were made throughout the year. Stronger collaborations were built with the local Aerospace sector, particularly around the NASA SOFIA mission.

Priority 2 – Connect and Excite

Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2021 – June 2022
<p>Celebrate Christchurch's connection with the Antarctic region and encourage people to engage with it in interesting and interactive ways</p> <p>2.1 Promote Christchurch's involvement with Antarctica through the Christchurch narrative.</p> <p>2.2 Broaden and promote opportunities for our residents and visitors to learn about and engage with the Antarctic region (e.g. ship visits, art and cultural events, heritage tours, profiling current science and scientists).</p> <p>2.3 Co-ordinate the annual 'Days of Ice' celebration of Christchurch's gateway status.</p> <p>2.4 Continue to work with Ngāi Tahu and arts and culture partners to identify a thematic approach to incorporating aspects of the Antarctic region into art/culture activities and installations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Christchurch narrative includes the city's connection with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. New and enhanced attractions are developed which utilise technology to tell a rich story of the Antarctic's history, present and future. 'Days of Ice' attracts people to take part and enjoy Antarctic-related events and activities. Residents and visitors readily know about the ongoing and one-off activities, sights and events about the Antarctic region that they can visit or engage with. Current and new activities and events are promoted so people can engage and find out about Antarctica. (e.g. the anticipated re-vamp and enlargement of Antarctic exhibitions at Canterbury Museum, and the restoration of the Magnetic Observatory in the Botanic Gardens to attract an increased number and breadth of visitors). Antarctic-related cultural features and activities in the city reflect Ngāi Tahu and a range of partners' art and stories. 	<p>Tirama Mai:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Antarctic Explorer Zone in Cathedral Square was developed as part of Tirama Mai (24 June to 3 July), in collaboration with key local Antarctic organisations. This included a series of curated content such as the first screening of the C-17 virtual tour filmed in Christchurch by HITLabNZ. A short new video introducing Christchurch as an Antarctic Gateway City was commissioned as part of the festival. Introductions for SOFIA's outreach team resulted in three popular Canterbury Museum public talks and of small group tours and talks at the International Antarctic Centre. The Botanic Gardens Magnetic Observatory underwent refurbishment, supported by the US Embassy, and is now open to the public. <p>'Days of Ice':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for 'Days of Ice', celebrating our city's unique connections with Antarctica, brought together stakeholders with an Antarctic interest from more than 50 local organisations. The regular meetings provided valuable networking opportunities and resulted in a number of collaborative projects. Initially planned for October 2021, the 'Days of Ice' curated programme of events was rescheduled twice due to COVID-related restrictions. The celebration will now run from 29 September to 9 October 2022, with

		<p>over 40 events, activities, presentations, movies and exhibitions curated into a programme under the 'Days of Ice' umbrella.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of proposed events under the 'Days of Ice' programme did proceed in February 2022, including 'Science on Ice' at Tūranga and two 'Bike to the Ice' cycle rides from Scott's Statue to the International Antarctic Centre. • US Embassy sponsorship was secured for private and public screenings of the US Giant Screen Films 3D documentary 'Dinosaurs of Antarctica' to launch 'Days of Ice' at Hoyts EntX. <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAO supported AHT's Worsley Weekend, Nov '21, which saw 20 Year 7-9 students from Canterbury gather in Akaroa to 'follow in the footsteps of Frank Worsley' and connect with the spirit of exploration. • Antarctic Heritage Trust's Inspiring Explorers Summit June '22 saw 20 Year 7-9 students from throughout NZ selected and welcomed to the International Antarctic Centre, where they challenged themselves and took part in Antarctic learning experiences over a weekend. • The Antarctic Gateway Audio Trail leaflet, highlighting stories of the city's Antarctic connections from early explorers to the science undertaken today, was redesigned. The leaflet is being distributed through CCC Libraries. • Four issues of <i>Off Ice</i>, informing people of National Antarctic Programs' activities, local Antarctic news and dates of interest, were emailed to a database of over 800 people, including internationally.
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Priority 3 – Share Knowledge and Champion Climate Change Action

Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2021 – June 2022
<p>Support New Zealand’s Antarctic scientific endeavour, collaboration and conversations through Christchurch</p> <p>3.1 Identify and evaluate opportunities for building on Christchurch’s existing research capability to support New Zealand’s Antarctic research activities and international collaboration.</p> <p>3.2 Provide opportunities, through Christchurch events and activities, for the science community to develop and leverage national and international research partnerships and increase our scientific profile.</p> <p>3.3. Attract international conferences to the city that are Antarctic-related, such as climate change, extreme environments and ecology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evaluation of Christchurch’s current research capacity and capability informs a targeted action plan for increasing opportunities to promote what the city can deliver. • The city hosts international conferences or forums that reinforce our role as a gateway and host for Antarctic knowledge and expertise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support was provided to Gateway Antarctica in the development of their Short-term Antarctic Visiting Erskine Fellowship Programme, hosting international scientists enroute to and from the ice. • A ‘Community Placements’ programme has been developed as part of the Master of Antarctic Studies and Post Graduate Certificate, with CAO seeking support of local organisations and businesses with an Antarctic interest. • University of Canterbury also launched <i>Antarctica in a Changing Climate</i> MOOC (Massive Online Open Course). • Introductions were made to connect Korean and German scientists with Gateway Antarctica. • CAO participated in the MFAT organised forums on NZ’s presence at the Antarctic Treaty consultative meeting in Berlin. • Support was provided to secure the SCAR Biology Symposium in 2023.
<p>Enable people of all ages to engage with the Antarctic region through education and learning opportunities</p> <p>3.4 Provide and promote public, school and tertiary educational programmes to engage the curious, and stimulate interest and participation in formal Antarctic study and research.</p> <p>3.5 Explore opportunities to better coordinate and promote Antarctic education resources offered by local and national educational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is sustained interest in Antarctic-related learning, and a range of opportunities to meet different interests, age groups and levels of scholarship. • There is effective coordination across education programmes to inform people about the range of learning opportunities available, to expand their Antarctic knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions were made for NASA SOFIA with the International Antarctic Centre and local schools to support SOFIA’s outreach programme.

institutions, e.g via a 'Gateway City' portal.		
<p>Champion the city's strategic priorities of accelerating climate change action and the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045</p> <p>3.6 Engage the Christchurch community – and beyond – in finding out about Antarctic science programmes related to climate change, environmental sustainability and carbon reduction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increased understanding of the role Antarctic science programmes play in researching the impacts of climate change and the importance of emissions reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions were made to ECAN in support of Blue Cradle's city artwork. • Opportunities for the community to become more engaged in Antarctic science and sustainability were promoted through the 'Off Ice' newsletter and 'Days of Ice' programme. • Introductions were facilitated in support of Elanti Media's 'The Climate Canary' short film, which is being made into a documentary.