

3. National Erebus Memorial

Community Board Information Session/Workshop Notes

The Manager Office of the Mayor & Civic Services, and Manager Engagement, discussed with the Board options for potential locations within Ōtautahi Christchurch for a National Erebus Memorial, with the attached presentation.

Staff explained the wider process, led by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage (MCH), to find a suitable, respectful, and community-supported site for the memorial.

Staff specifically sought the Board's views on stakeholders relevant to the site being considered in the central city, and members noted relevant Air New Zealand staff, though also noted concern for the families about the memorial being located outside Auckland.

Staff addressed the Board questions about the sites being considered, including in relation to:

- Concern about proximity to other memorials in the central city
- Accessibility of the memorial
- Dimensions of the memorial
- Community consultation
- Decision-making process

Attachments

A Staff Presentation [↗](#)

National Erebus Memorial



Duncan Sandeman

Manager Office of the Mayor and Civic Services

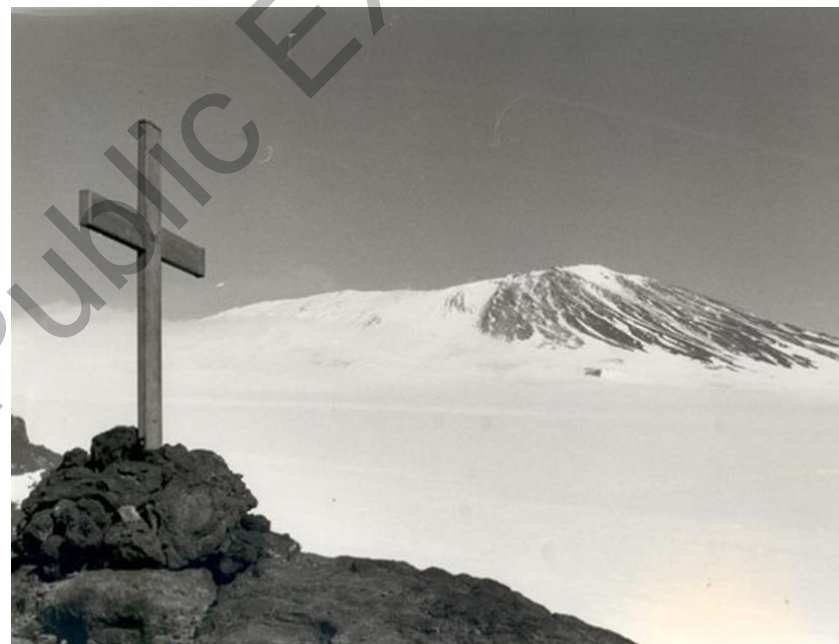
The Accident

- 28 November 1979 - Air New Zealand flight TE901 crashed into lower slopes of Mt Erebus. All 257 people onboard died.
- It remains the worst civil accident in NZ history.
- Operation Overdue - the identification, investigation and recovery after the crash.



The Memorial

- Government has committed to a national memorial.
- 45 years and yet to be realised.
- Auckland site challenges.
- Exploration of potential sites in Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch.
- Erebus families & Operation Overdue.



The Why

- Everyone deserves a space to remember their loved ones
- Strong & enduring connections between Christchurch, Antarctica & Flight TE901
- Christchurch has a deep understanding of what it means to honour those who have passed in tragic circumstances, alongside its strong community spirit.



Memorial Design

- Developed in 2018/19: Te Paerangi Ataata – Sky Song
- Studio Pacific Architecture in collaboration with artists Jason O'Hara & Warren Maxwell – following a national design competition.
- White concrete & mirrored stainless materials to evoke stark beauty of Antarctica.
- Ice wall – 257 names. Lines from the poem 'Erebus Voices' by Bill Manhire. Snowflake Wall – 257 unique digitally grown snowflakes.
- Underlying design principles – *"Along with sadness and loss, the design also evokes the sense of adventure the crew and passengers are almost sure to have enjoyed as they boarded the flight."*
- One continuous wish from Erebus families is for the Memorial to display the names of everyone onboard, so they can touch the names of their loved ones



Site Criteria

- Accessible.
- Safe.
- Amenity.
- Own Meaning.

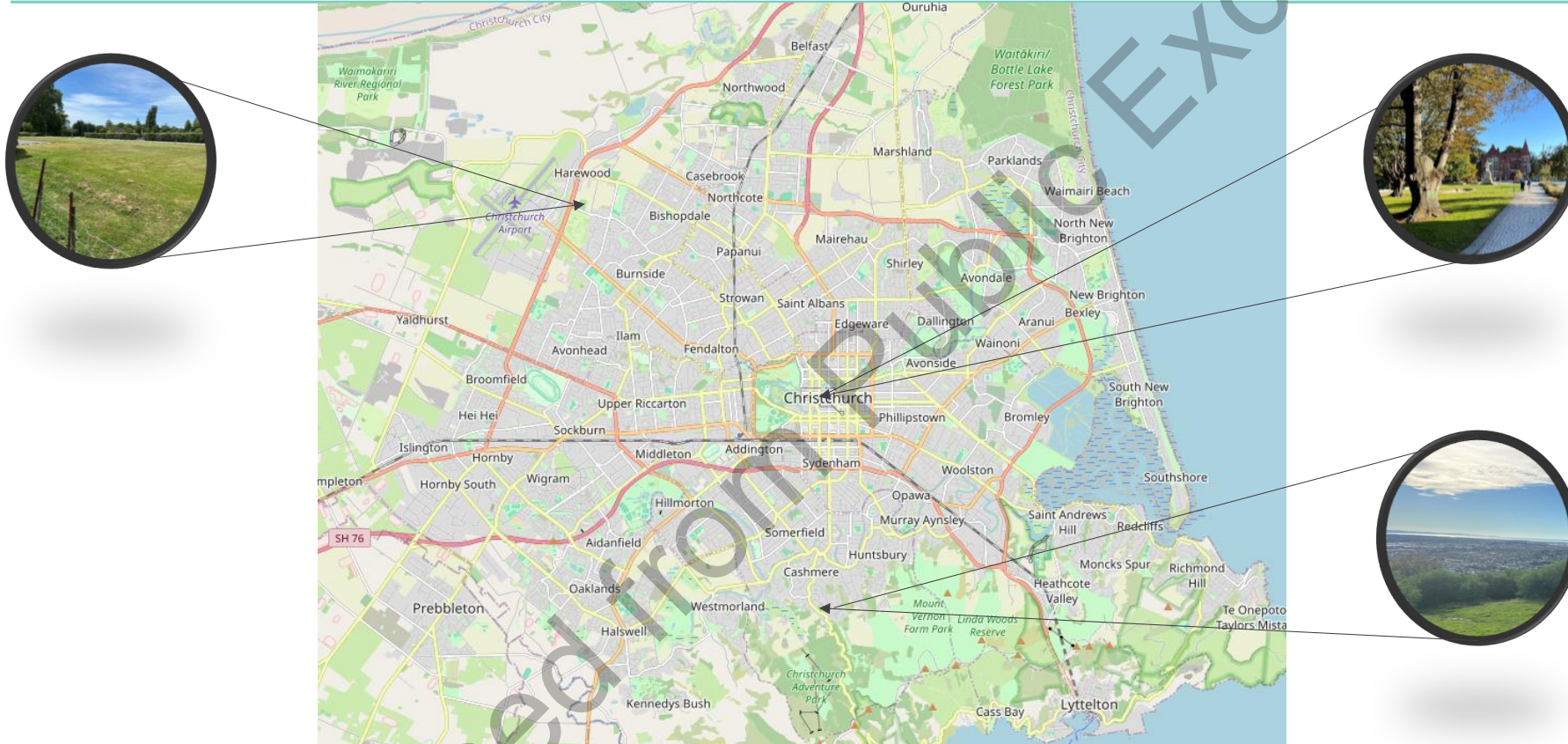
Locations Considered & Ruled Out

- Cathedral Square.
 - Latimer Square.
 - Cranmer Square.
 - Victoria Square.
 - Quail Island.
 - Western Summit Road.
 - New Brighton/Southshore.
 - Burwood/Bottle Lake Forest.
 - Lyttelton.
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Locations Considered & Visited

- Christchurch Airport & Vicinity.
- Central City.
- Port Hills.
- Reserves and Parks.

Identified Sites for Detailed Examination



Scott Statue

- Centrally located with great access.
- Existing link to Antarctica.
- High amenity value.
- Traffic noise.
- Smaller site.



Cracroft Reserve

- Multiple potential memorial locations.
- Good accessibility.
- Good amenity.
- Excellent outlook.
- No scheduled trees on site.



St James Church Yard, Harewood

- Site owned by the Church Property Trustees.
- Easily accessible.
- Potential to be tranquil & contemplative.
- Able to develop own meaning.
- Would require landscape modification.



Next Steps

- MCH advise families of identified locations
- Complete detailed evaluations
- Targeted engagement with identified stakeholders
- Preferred location identified and brought to Council for consideration

Questions/Discussion

