

E ngā mana

E ngā reo

E ngā rau rangatira mā

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Welcome to the opening of the Anne Frank exhibition – Let me by myself - here in Nelson Whakatū. I'd like to offer a special welcome Boyd Klap, David Zwartz and to the German Ambassador His Excellency Stefan Krawielicki. Guten Abend and Willkommen!

I know this exhibition has been on quite a journey from its original inception at the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, reaching 100,000s of people including 25,000 students in the past three years alone as the exhibition has travelled around New Zealand. A notable achievement is the training of students as peer guides, to take their fellow students through the exhibition.

Last year our family were privileged to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A living memorial to the Holocaust, in New York. We did this because I believe that it's critically important to learn, and to remember.

As Auschwitz survivor Primo Levi so eloquently stated:

“It happened; therefore it can happen again: this is the core of what we have to say. It can happen, it can happen everywhere.”

Today I have the honour to welcome this exhibition to Nelson, so that our community can learn more about what happened in occupied Central Europe in the 1930s and 40s and to see how the anti-Semitism and prejudice affected Anne’s family. It allows us to look through that lens to explore what discrimination and prejudice exists today.

As its name suggests, the exhibition relates to Anne Frank, but it also represents the 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered in the Holocaust. By learning more about that terrible time – and ensuring we never forget – we hope to prevent such an atrocity ever occurring again.

We need current and future generations to understand history. Having exhibitions like this is one way we can respect and honour the past, and learn for the future. It brings the reality and impact of what happened during the Holocaust to life for people here in Nelson Whakatū; and for parents, supporting us to explain this horrific time more clearly to our tamariki. The more they can learn and understand, the more we hope to create future generations who are inclusive, caring and thoughtful.

The relevance of this exhibition to our young people has been further increased by the addition of two panels – a Pākehā girl and a Māori boy who talk about their own experiences with discrimination. This is a reminder to our young people that sadly, discrimination is not confined to the history books or countries far away.

Nelson City Council aims to provide and support opportunities for our communities to celebrate, explore and learn from their heritage and history.

Council values its partnership with the Museum. With around 70,000 residents and visitors attending exhibitions, public talks, outreach

activities and education programmes each year, the Museum not only collects, protects and displays our taonga, but is a taonga.

The Anne Frank exhibition will be in very good hands during its time in Nelson and I know that museum staff will ensure it reaches as many people in our region as possible.

Let me finish with a very heartfelt and sincere thank you to the exhibition curators, organisers and everyone who has made it possible to bring this exhibition to Nelson.

I want to end with Anne Frank's words, as to me, they speak of talking out against discrimination and being inclusive:

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world.”

Nō reira

Tēnā Koutou

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Tēnā Koutou Katoa