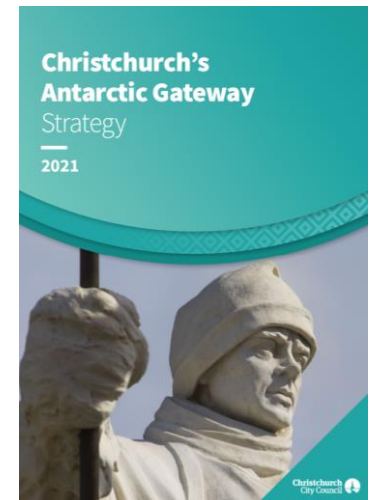




# CNZ ANTARCTIC OFFICE

Progress against Christchurch's Antarctic Gateway Strategy 1 July 2022- 30 June 2023



[Link to view Christchurch's Antarctic Gateway Strategy 2021](#)

## Priority 1 – Welcome and Deliver Excellence

Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2022 - June 2023
<b>GATEWAY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP</b>		
<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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The COMNAP Secretariat is located in Christchurch and helps facilitate positive relationships between the city and COMNAP members.</li> <li>Christchurch is recognised as a proactive Gateway City that looks outwards to build opportunities for collaboration that can increase knowledge on matters of global interest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A significant emphasis was placed on promoting relationships within the Antarctic Leadership Group. The newly appointed Head of the Christchurch Antarctic Office, David Tayler, conducted meetings aimed at understanding the pivotal roles each member assumes in executing the Christchurch Antarctic Gateway Strategy. This encompassed entities such as Antarctica NZ, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT), Christchurch City Council (CCC), Gateway Antarctica, Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP), Christchurch International Airport (CIAL), and Lyttelton Port Company (LPC).</li> <li>New relationships have been developed with Antarctic Gateway Cities. A key focus on building relationships with Hobart, to understand where there are opportunities for collaboration.</li> <li>The Antarctic office attended key meetings in Hobart that focused on bringing all the Antarctic Gateway Leaders together.</li> </ul>



Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2022 - June 2023
<b>WELCOMING HOST</b>		
<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 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antarctic visitors are welcomed warmly to our city and the summer season is celebrated each year.</li> <li>• The local Christchurch community understands the city’s unique Antarctic legacy and current role and enjoys participating in Season Opening and other related events throughout the year.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing relationships with key National Antarctic Programs remained paramount, involving both in-person and online interactions with key stakeholders from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide (PRNA), Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC) and Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR). Individual meetings occurred in Christchurch throughout the season, supplemented by online discussions, and additional gatherings were convened at the COMNAP AGM in Hobart. The ongoing focus remains on understanding the present and future requirements of these programs and being an exemplary Gateway for the programs.</li> <li>• In collaboration with the Civic and International Relations team at Christchurch City Council, the CAO orchestrated important meetings involving the Mayor and significant Antarctic stakeholders (NSF, KOPRI, PRNA). A personalised New Zealand ‘BBQ’ to welcome the Italian team as the season concluded stood out as a highlight.</li> <li>• NASA/DLR’s SOFIA (Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy) received a formal farewell from the Mayor and prominent stakeholders. The Christchurch Antarctic Office (CAO) collaborated with Aerospace Christchurch for the event, and attendees encompassed distinguished guests such as the US Embassy, City Officials, and affiliated local businesses.</li> <li>• Prominent National Antarctic and military personnel, including the US Air Force 304th (C-17) and 109th (LC-130), the Italian Air Force, and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), were extended a warm welcome to the city. They received tourism information, along with personal greetings, introductions, and hospitality arrangements. Key city stakeholders had the opportunity to visit the US Airforce-C17 crew and see the Globemaster aircraft up close.</li> <li>• A 'sausage sizzle' organised by the CAO welcomed various groups to the city and facilitated connections with International Antarctic campus personnel, Christchurch Airport, and supporting Christchurch Antarctic Network businesses.</li> </ul>



- The Days of Ice Civic & Business Program, including the Civic Reception, garnered a positive response with notable attendance from key National Antarctic program figures, 19 diplomats, as well as essential NZDF and ministry representatives and prominent city leaders. The event featured a city welcome, thought-provoking presentations, site visits, and informative sessions at Antarctica NZ and the International Antarctic Centre. The program also included a Gateway Antarctic presentation session and a campus tour that facilitated numerous introductions and conversations.
- The Civic Reception, which marked Mayor Lianne Dalziel's final event in her role, welcomed 150 guests. The event featured Minister Mahuta as the keynote speaker, and the CEO of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was also in attendance.
- Christchurch Airport managed multiple return flights in partnership with the NZDF. Continuing their 35th season of supporting Antarctic research, the US Air Force's 304th EAS successfully executed numerous ICE missions utilising the Globemaster C-17. Alongside them, the New York Air National Guard's LC-130 'Skybirds' also completed multiple missions. The Italian Air Force embarked on their second season, conducting flights to Terra Nova Bay and McMurdo.
- The Port of Lyttelton extended a warm welcome to multiple National Antarctic Programme Research Vessels (RVs) for the season. The Mayor and significant stakeholders were invited to vessel tours, interacting with key personnel and scientists aboard Italy's NR Laura Bassi and Korea's RV.
- The Christchurch Antarctic Office collaborated closely with stakeholders from the International Antarctic Campus, which encompasses key entities such as the International Antarctic Centre, Antarctica NZ, and the Antarctic Heritage Trust. This collective effort was aimed at informing the Christchurch City Councilors about the intricate challenges inherent in Antarctic logistics, while also emphasising the profound and impactful contributions of Antarctic Science.



Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2022 - June 2023
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**BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES**

<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"> <li>National programmes can readily connect with businesses/ innovators for supply of expertise, services, or products.</li> <li>The Business Network meets regularly, provides networking opportunities, and showcases local expertise and innovation of interest to national programmes.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christchurch Antarctic Network (CAN) activities included collaborating with Tait Communications to host a presentation about the Scott Base Rebuild, partnering with Terra Cat for the Days of Ice event and invited members were addressed by Tim Jarvis as part of a research and collaboration session held at ChristchurchNZ.</li> <li>As a part of the Days of Ice Antarctic season opening celebrations, the CAN organised an event for local businesses. This occasion facilitated introductions between program representatives, embassies, and key CAN members.</li> <li>CAN members were invited to a Research and Innovation workshop that initiated discussions centred around introducing the Research and Innovation Strategy. This initiative aimed to connect investment, research, and innovation, with a focus on advancing technologies for conducting research in remote environments like Antarctica, while also nurturing a dynamic innovation ecosystem in the region.</li> <li>The Christchurch Antarctic Office effectively represented CAN during the COMNAP AGM, providing an excellent platform to establish connections and highlight Christchurch's expertise in logistics, innovation, and extreme environment capabilities to key stakeholders across the diverse National Antarctic Programs.</li> <li>Aerospace facilitated introductions to the US Embassy, resulting in a visit by the NASA Administrator and Deputy Administrator to Christchurch. Introductions were also made to the British, German, and Italian Embassies/High Commissions.</li> </ul>
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## Priority 2 – Connect and Excite

Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2022 - June 2023
<b>CELEBRATE CHRISTCHURCH’S CONNECTION WITH THE ANTARCTIC REGION AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH IT IN INTERESTING AND INTERACTIVE WAYS</b>		
<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 Coordinate 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"> <li>• The Christchurch narrative includes the city’s connection with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.</li> <li>• New and enhanced attractions are developed which utilise technology to tell a rich story of the Antarctic’s history, present and future.</li> <li>• ‘Days of Ice’ attracts people to take part and enjoy Antarctic-related events and activities.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Antarctic-related cultural features and activities in the city reflect Ngāi Tahu and a range of partners’ art and stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with Tūranga (Christchurch City Library), the Christchurch Antarctic Office orchestrated the Days of Ice public program, serving as the city’s focal point. This curated initiative celebrated the special ties between Christchurch and Antarctica, engaging in over 50 events, talks, exhibitions, movies, and collaborative ventures, including partnerships with institutions such as Otago Museum, US Embassy Public Affairs, Canterbury Museum, and Antarctic affiliates.</li> <li>• A joint opening event, "Dinosaurs of Antarctica," was successfully hosted with the participation of 130 individuals. The event received support from Hoyts Cinemas and was attended by the US Embassy.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• CAO LinkedIn posts have been viewed in large numbers, with posts shared frequently in support of Antarctic gateway activities.</li> </ul>

## 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 2022 - June 2023
<b>SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND’S ANTARCTIC SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR, COLLABORATION, AND CONVERSATIONS THROUGH CHRISTCHURCH</b>		
<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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The city hosts international conferences or forums that reinforce our role as a gateway and host for Antarctic knowledge and expertise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Antarctic Office collaborated with Gateway Antarctica, Antarctica NZ, and key research organisations to boost Christchurch's role as a sustainable Antarctic Gateway City. The developing Research and Innovation Strategy focuses on advancing scientific knowledge and minimising the environmental impact by leveraging the city's innovative businesses across Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, IoT, Robotics, and Information technology. The office arranged workshops promoting collaborations to discuss the possibility of bringing innovation into Antarctic research by utilising tools like remote sensors and UAVs to enhance research quality.</li> <li>• The Antarctic Office also dedicated efforts to nurturing relationships with key National Antarctic Programs, international scientists, and New Zealand Antarctic research organisations. This endeavour aimed to provide support and serve as a conduit for future scientific collaborations.</li> </ul>



Proposed actions for 2021 - 2024	Proposed short to medium-term outcomes (years 1 -3)	Actions undertaken July 2022 - June 2023
<b>ENABLE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO ENGAGE WITH THE ANTARCTIC REGION THROUGH EDUCATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
<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 institutions, e.g via a 'Gateway City' portal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is sustained interest in Antarctic-related learning, and a range of opportunities to meet different interests, age groups and levels of scholarship.</li> <li>• There is effective coordination across education programmes to inform people about the range of learning opportunities available, to expand their Antarctic knowledge.</li> </ul>	
<b>CHAMPION THE CITY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF ACCELERATING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION AND THE TARGET OF NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2045</b>		
<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"> <li>• There is increased understanding of the role Antarctic science programmes play in researching the impacts of climate change and the importance of emissions reduction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christchurch Antarctic Office unveiled its vision for the Antarctic Gateway to a diverse audience, both local and international, during Sail GP's "Champions of Change" event at Te Pae.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>