

# WORLD BUSKERS FESTIVAL

23 July 2015

## **Re: The Loons Theatre Trust**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of The Loons Theatre Trust's plans to rebuild a venue in Lyttleton.

Pre-earthquakes, The Loons Theatre Trust were a vital component of the Lyttleton community and the Canterbury entertainment industry. The Loons offered audiences a unique entertainment and hospitality experience, combining stunning circo-arts performance, with visually rich theatrical elements.

Their contribution to the Lyttleton community reached far wider than the confines of their theatre. These audiences would support the local bars, cafés, restaurants and other business, contributing to the Lyttleton and Christchurch economically and socially.

Their contribution to the education sector continues to be immense. The Loons have established themselves as one of the premium arts education companies in Canterbury and through their travels offer children all over New Zealand the opportunity to enjoy a unique performing and learning experience.

The World Buskers Festival and The Loons histories have been intertwined for many years, working together several times to produce and present works, and supporting the network of performers that made Canterbury the hub of the New Zealand circo-arts community. With the loss of The Loons theatre, this community dispersed around the world, with the hope that one-day they could return to a new Loons home and re-establish Christchurch as the national centre for circo-arts.

The World Buskers Festival is excited The Loons are building a state of the art, modern theatre. This theatre will not only support and regenerate The Loons professional work, but will also offer a unique facility for Lyttleton Primary, the Lyttleton community and offer professional organisations such as The World Buskers Festival an outstanding venue to present work.

The lack of venues has created challenges for many performing arts organisations throughout Christchurch. These new venues offer organisations, artists, performers, communities and audiences the opportunity to revitalise, rejuvenate, develop and rebuild.

The World Buskers Festival is proud to support The Loons Theatre Trust with this exciting development and look forward to working alongside this outstanding, special and unique company in the future.

The World Buskers Festival fully endorses and supports all applications.

Sincerely,



Glen Pickering  
**Festival Director, World Buskers Festival**