

MEDIA RELEASE
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**Museum of Wellington
City & Sea**



The Making of The Word Witch 18 June to 1 August

The creative genius of David Elliot casts a spell over the Museum of Wellington City & Sea this winter with **The Making of The Word Witch**. This enchanting exhibition features Elliot's original illustrations, character sketches, renderings and doodles for Margaret Mahy's book 'The Word Witch'.

Museums Wellington Director Brett Mason says 'It's a great combination – one of the world's great children's writers with New Zealand's leading illustrator. Visitors will be taken on a magical trip into the art of book making'.

With an insight into the imagination, originality and whimsicality behind Elliot's talent, visitors will be given a glimpse into the creative process from initial idea to finished product.

Editor Tessa Duder describes the exhibition as 'a window into the magical world of imagination, a celebration of the creativity that, along with a good deal of hard work, lies behind a handsome book that will undoubtedly become a children's classic.'



The Making of The Word Witch coincides with another unique exhibition – *Farmer Fred's Cow* featuring original illustrations by David Waller. For young and old alike, these illustrations show farm animals acting as spirit guides in an attempt to help children deal with the sensitive issue of death in an inevitable and positive way. With an overall feeling of gentleness and compassion it brings to life the themes of friendship, life, loss and dreams come true.

These two exhibitions set the scene for the return of the Museum's annual winter festival **Sampler Season** which includes 6 weeks of literary talks, kids' Saturdays, Sunday afternoon concerts and school holiday programmes. Author Margaret Mahy and artists David Elliot and David Waller are at the Museum during the school holidays for workshops relating to these fabulous exhibitions.

**For further information and images please contact Museums Wellington Publicist
Chris Hamilton on 04 471 0514 or email chris.hamilton@wmt.org.nz**

Museum of Wellington City & Sea
Queens Wharf
Open daily 10am to 5pm
Free entry
www.museumswellington.org.nz

The Museum is managed by the Wellington Museums Trust with major funding support from Wellington City Council.