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Above: *Dancing in the street during The 70s Show concert and event outside the Museum on 17 February, watched by a crowd of more than 1,000 people.*

**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Autumn
2018**



Director's comment: More than just a building

It was a big summer here. Near-record visitation for January, three great summer holiday outdoor nature trips for kids, then a new exhibition and the biggest event that we've staged so far, in February. Oh, and winning a dance competition to represent New Zealand - see below!

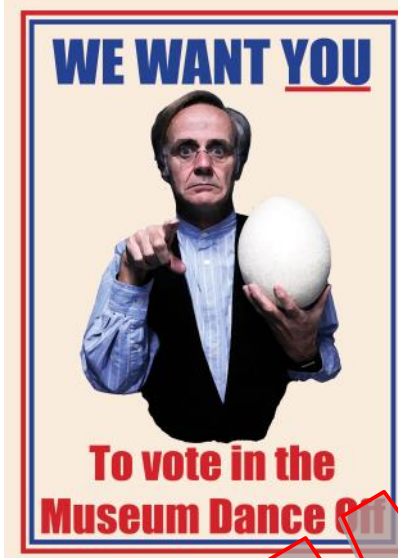
To me, the success of the programmes that we've run highlights the need that exists in our community for experiences that bring people closer to nature, history, community and fun. The key for us at the Museum is to play to our strengths, the subjects that our collections and exhibitions are based upon.

We will be looking at ways of doing more of this, because it fits in with our vision - to get people exploring our heritage. Our building will always be our base, and our unique collections will always be the raw material that we use to present and promote heritage. We have a wide range of opportunities to get people engaged with that heritage. I'm looking forward to seeing what ideas come next - and then working with others to try and make them happen.

Watch this space, and keep in touch!

Philip

Taking Timaru to the world stage - *but we'll need your help!*



So what did we do?

Our Museum Dance-off entry has some Museum staff and volunteers dancing to 1970s tune "Ballroom Blitz" by The Sweet.

Some of our Museum Explorers Club members also took part, sometimes in animal costume (lower right). We got some dancing help from Timaru Librarian Cath Gilson who did her best to try and teach us a few moves.

Hopefully you'll see this before midnight on Tuesday 15 May! Performing in an international dance competition may not be in our job descriptions, but the opportunity to take part in the last-ever **International Museum Dance-off** event could not be missed. This contest sees museums around the world submitting a video of people in their museum dancing to a song or piece of music. An online voting system sees regional finals, with the winners from each world region being pitted against each other for voting over a 24-hour period in May. There are no prizes, just glory and great publicity for museums and their communities.

We made a video, and on 17 April competed against 4 other New Zealand museums. A 24-hour on-line voting system meant that anyone in the world could vote as many times as they liked for the Museum of their choice. As people voted, they could see the number of votes recorded as they came in to check progress.

The result? **WE WON!!!!** 18,063 votes, a 54% total. All thanks to an army of supporters from Timaru and indeed around the world (thanks, family members in Scotland, Indonesia and elsewhere!). We now compete against other world regional winners on Tuesday May 15th NZ time. Voting will start from 12:01am and run through until 11:59pm. And the crazy thing is, you can vote **as many times as you like!**

To vote, visit **whenyouworkatamuseum.com**, where you will be able to view the videos from each museum on the day. You then place a vote, where you'll be asked to tick a box (to show you're not a robot) before voting for South Canterbury Museum. Once you've voted, you will see a live updated count of votes so far. This shows how quickly people are voting, giving each museum an indication of progress. You can vote multiple times, so we're hoping for strong support to help us take on the world over a 24-hour period.

Key date: **Tuesday 15 May 12.01am—11:59pm**

Website: **www.whenyouworkatamuseum.com**

Your task: **Vote as many times for us as you are able!**

View our video on **YouTube** - simply search for *South Canterbury Museum dance*, you'll find us!



The 70s Show: Outdoor event hits the spot

Saturday 17 February - oh what a night! We closed Perth Street, had three live bands playing 70s music on the back of a truck, a fashion contest judged by Mayor Damon Odey (at right, barely-recognisable under that wig), food stalls, a 70s history quiz and more.

The weather was perfect and a crowd of over 1,000 people grabbed a spot on the grassy slope outside the Museum. Linked in to the newly-opened **Remembering the 70s** exhibition, the event attracted a wide range of people; families, music aficionados, fashionistas and local residents who enjoyed the free public event.

Amazing costumes, great food and dancing in the street were the order of the day. So many people got into the spirit of things, relishing the opportunity to have fun and remember the recent past.

We were grateful for the support that made this happen; a grant for \$1,950 from the Creative Communities fund, organisational support from local business Living With Style, street closure organisation via Timaru District Council, prizes donated by Street Food Kitchen and Cameron's Clothing, three local bands being willing to play for free, and a great team of staff and volunteers who made the event work perfectly.

The audience response? "This is *great*, when's the next one?" So now we'll have to think about what we might do early next year perhaps.



Local music remembered in 70s exhibition



Officially opened on 16 February, **Remembering the 70s** showcased the flourishing 70s local music scene. The exhibition features photographs and artefacts loaned by locals who participated in the scene, where bands had gigs every weekend, and pubs patrons were eager to hear music before closing time at 10pm, and later 11pm.

Many bands flourished, often working with Timaru's Galaxy Entertainment Agency to tour further afield. Some musicians went on to national or international careers in music.

The exhibition closed on Sunday 13 May.



Above: Former Timaru musician Ronnie Harris, who loaned his rare Gibson Les Paul Custom guitar for part of the exhibition. Ronnie purchased it in 1967 for £90, while playing in local group The Trend. He still plays with his 70s group, Odyssey, in Christchurch.

Above right: A young visitor admires a 1970s Kasuga telecaster guitar, one of several instruments used by local musicians in the 1970s.

Right: Geraldine-based group Basement playing in the Crown Hotel in Temuka in 1980. Some of Basement's members later moved to Christchurch to form The Exponents, who became known nationally and world-wide in the 1980s and 90s.



Exhibitions on the way



My Favourite Things (19 May - 22 July)

This quirky exhibition will feature an unusual mix of objects, not from the Museum but from local people. Curator Chris Rapley put out a call for anyone to loan specific things that they own that are important or interesting to them. The result will see nature specimens, antiques, personal items and working tools, to name a few. The exhibition highlights how we collect or hold on to objects that fascinate us or that represent us. It will include items from local children, families, the District's Mayor and our local MP. There will be an opening preview on Friday 18 May at 5:30.

Upper right: A 1974 Commonwealth games commemorative coin.

Right: An Australian army dog tag, worn by a family member of the current owner while serving in Vietnam in the late 1960s.

Left: A carved Japanese puzzle ball. This family heirloom dates from before the Second World War.



Landscape of Dreams (28 July - 14 October)

South Canterbury is one of the regions of New Zealand blessed with surreal limestone landscapes. Formed under the sea, this distinctive soft rock has been uplifted and eroded to produce truly fantastic shapes. The rock contains evidence of its marine past, and also acts as a habitat for native plants and animals, some of which do not occur elsewhere. In addition, South Canterbury's limestone areas contain dozens of early Maori drawings, a significant record of our human history.

Local natural historian and conservation advocate Hermann Frank has been surveying and photographing our limestone areas and the lifeforms that occur there while documenting local lizard and plant populations. The exhibition will feature Hermann's images, along with interesting details about the natural and cultural significance of these areas.



New additions to the collections



Left: A 2017 watercolour by Ray Morris of the now-gone Hydro Grand Hotel.

Lower left: A wooden weaving shuttle used at the Alliance Textile factory located on Bank Street (now the Mitre 10 site).

Below: A series of fossil turret shells from White Rock River, Cannington area.



A summer focus on nature



In January the Museum Team provided three outdoor nature programmes. Many families and children joined us to explore fossils at Evans Crossing, insects at the Timaru Botanical Gardens, and seashore life at Smithfield rock pools. Great weather meant we had a great time building fascination for nature and the environment.

These sessions were followed up by handling sessions at the Museum, where species were able to be handled and viewed under microscopes.

Left: A block of turret shells at Evans Crossing.

Upper right: Museum Director Philip talks to some of the 100+ people who attended the Evans Crossing trip.

Right: A Smith's dragonfly, caught and released at the Botanical Gardens.



Heritage Education Service news



Term 1 in 2018 has seen our Education team busy with a wide range of outdoor programmes around the region. Many are long-standing programmes that schools utilise every year, taking advantage of the expertise and assistance that we can offer to make heritage learning experiences memorable.

Left: Students from St Andrews School examine introduced pest species at the Museum.

Lower left: Ashburton Intermediate students handle grasshoppers, and try their hand at old-fashioned pen writing while on camp at Peel Forest

Below: Year 12 biology students from Timaru Girls High School conducting fieldwork at Smithfield Beach rock pools.

Bottom right: St Joseph's Pleasant Point pupils reenact the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in February.



More images from *The 70s Show*, 17 February



See more from out the front and behind the scenes on the Museum's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SCMuseum



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Become a friend of the Museum!

Receive this newsletter, invitations to Museum openings and events, members' meetings, discounts on some sales and services at the Museum and more. All Museum Friends are automatically members of parent organisation the South Canterbury Historical Society. You'll also be supporting the Museum, so it's *always* a good cause!

Membership forms are available from the Museum, simply phone, write or email and we'll send one out. But if you can't wait, send us a note with the following details and correct amount and we'll sign you up! We'll need: Name, Address, Phone no. & email if you have it.

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|------------------------------------|----------|
| Membership type: Individual | \$25.00 |
| Family | \$30.00 |
| Organisation/Business | \$30.00 |
| Overseas | \$30.00 |
| Life | \$300.00 |

Send your information and cheque for the correct amount to:

Friends Membership
South Canterbury Museum
PO Box 522, Timaru 7940