

# UPDATE

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**Above:** An iconic image of New Zealand soldiers resting in the trenches at Gallipoli, taken by Timaru man Ernest Gibson (image courtesy of Canterbury Museum).

**SOUTH CANTERBURY  
MUSEUM**  
**EXPLORE** our heritage

**Autumn  
2015**



## Director's comment: Big decisions for our future?

What should the South Canterbury Museum look like in ten years' time? Or in 50 years' time? And how will we get there? These are questions that we have been considering recently as we work on the Museum's contribution to the Timaru District Council's Long Term Plan.

This Plan is now available for public consultation under the title **Are We There Yet?**. I would encourage everyone with an interest in the Museum and our region's heritage to take a closer look to understand the options facing the Museum, and if you wish to, make a submission to the Council as part of this process before 28 April (go to [www.timaru.govt.nz](http://www.timaru.govt.nz) to do so).

The Long Term Plan takes a close look at how all areas of the Council, including the Museum, will operate over the next 10 years. It identifies potential problems and opportunities, and indicates options for future development.

Last year the Museum commissioned consultant Richard Arlidge to examine the Museum's operations and possible future development. The feasibility study produced by Richard identified that the Museum could undergo significant development, with three potential options

identified. These are outlined in the planning document. If the Museum is to continue to serve the district as a place where everyone can explore and enjoy our heritage, then it is important we carefully consider the Museum's future requirements and look at what opportunities can be taken up.

The South Canterbury Museum owes its existence to the generous bequest of land and buildings by the late T.D. Burnett in 1941. That enabled the newly-formed South Canterbury Historical Society to establish a Museum in one of the houses on the site. 2016 will mark 50 years since Pioneer Hall, the Museum's octagonal exhibition building, was opened. That occasion marked a significant advance in how the region's heritage was cared for and presented.

Today's Museum is a very different place from the first Museum that opened in 1952. Our challenge now is to envisage what the Museum will be in the future, and plan what steps we will take over the next ten years to ensure that we reach that vision.

- Phillip



### Stages of growth at the Museum

**Top left:** The first Museum which opened in 1952 in a house on the Perth Street site. The Museum was set up and administered by the South Canterbury Historical Society, with some financial support from the City Council.

**Above:** Pioneer Hall nears completion in 1966. The modern design by Ron Dohig drew attention to the Museum. The design featured an open plan gallery and mezzanine floor, providing a huge boost to exhibition space. This building marks its 50th anniversary next year.

**Left:** Work underway on the Collection Wing extension in late 1999. Construction of the three-floor wing provided new improved spaces for collection storage, work areas, a loading bay and workshop. Former storage areas in the older Pioneer Hall building were able to be opened out to provide new exhibition spaces,



## Our past in pictures: charting change at the Museum

**Right:** An elegant Edwardian drawing room diorama that sat in the middle of the Museum for 25 years.

**Below right:** Archival storage in the early 1990s - already overfull and of substandard quality.

**Below:** A local Māori history display area set up in 1991, making use of large murals to explain different periods of time and how artefacts related to daily life.



**Left:** Participants from Timaru's 1968 time capsule attend its opening in 2000, a wonderful occasion.

**Below left:** Installing sprinkler pipes in 2000, a necessary step to protect irreplaceable collections. Several major improvements have been carried out to Pioneer Hall over the years.

**Below:** A class at the Museum in 2012. The Museum now plays a major role in local heritage education.



## ***Into Hell Itself***: commemorating the Gallipoli centenary



This ANZAC Day we will be opening a new exhibition on Gallipoli, marking 100 years since the iconic battle.

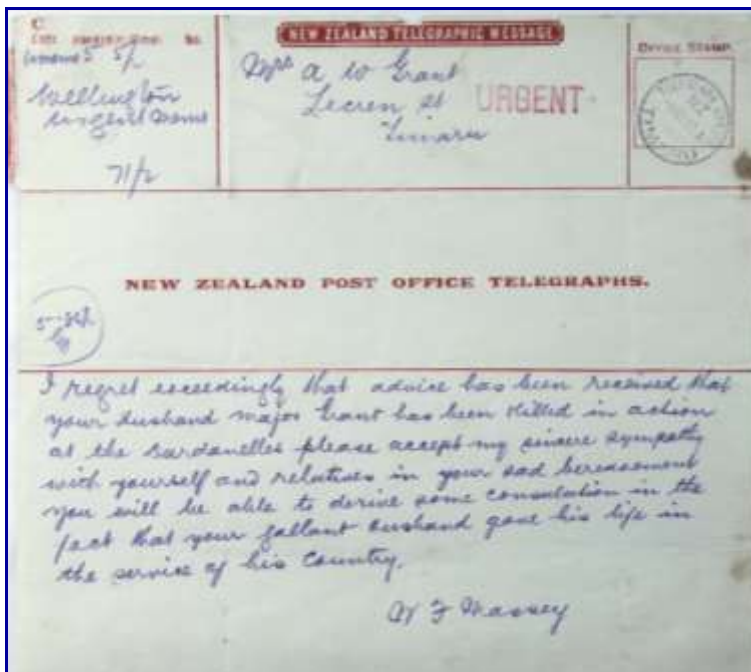
Entitled ***Into Hell Itself***, a quote from a local survivor of the campaign, the exhibition will use excerpts from letters of South Cantabrians who fought at the battle to give a first-hand account of what it was really like to be there and the impact the fighting had on the men. The exhibition will also use photographs by Timaru man Ernest Gibson, who served in the infantry at Gallipoli before being badly wounded and shipped home, to show the day-to-day experience of the campaign.

A centre point of the exhibition will be a scale model of the battlefield, known for its unforgiving terrain, which is being made by Curator of Documentary History Tony Rippin, a keen model maker. The model will be terrific help to understand a complicated battle and the part the boys from South Canterbury played in it.

***Into Hell Itself*** will open on Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April. The Museum will be open from 10am, and Curator Chris Rapley will provide two floor talks about the exhibition, at 11am and at 2pm. Refreshments will be available, and the talks are free and open to all visitors.

**Left:** A telegram from Prime Minister Massey, received by the widow of Major Grant of Timaru, informing her of her husband's death. Major Grant was a Timaru butcher and officer in the Territorials before the War. He was a respected and popular leader who led the South Canterbury contingent and was among the first to fall in the landings at Gallipoli.

**Below:** Two work-in-progress images of a topographical map of the difficult terrain at Gallipoli under construction. Made at home by Curator Tony Rippin, this model will be a central feature of the exhibition. Tony has volunteered dozens of hours on this project.



### **Visitor comments from survey forms**

*Far more interactive than bigger museums. I would have liked to have seen a bit more on local Māori life.*  
South Island visitor, April 2015

*Loved the fact that children have things they can touch and drawers to explore. They never once said "I'm bored! Can we go home now?" Fantastic friendly staff!! Lots of interesting displays.*  
Timaru District visitor, April 2015

*One of the best museums we have been to!!! Loved it!!!*  
North Island (Kaitaia) visitor, April 2015

(those exclamation marks help convey some excitement!)



## On the way in 2015



In July, we will be hosting an exhibition about New Zealand Radio History called **Sounds Like Us**. This quirky exhibition with specially created “artistic” radios tells the story of radio in New Zealand to help visitors understand what it means to be a Kiwi. The exhibition has been produced by Radio New Zealand and is touring around the country.

**Below:** A pavlova radio—one of 15 wonderful designs that are part of **Sounds Like Us**



## DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS

*A Story of Discovery*

In late September and October, visitors will be able to find out more about an important scientific discovery with the **Dinosaur Footprints** exhibition. This travelling exhibition has been developed by GNS Science to highlight the recent discovery of dinosaur footprints in the northwest Nelson area.

The exhibition presents information about the discovery, the type of dinosaur that made the tracks and how New Zealand may have looked around 70 million years ago when the tracks were made. Visitors will be able to touch replica casts of the footprints and watch audio-visual presentations that tell the story of discovery.

**Below:** The likely perpetrator of the Nelson footprints; a large plant-eating dinosaur.



## Visitor comments from survey forms

*I liked the “can you see?” and “can you imagine?” prompting panels*

South Island visitor, January 2015

*Good balance between display and description. Many different topics and themes. The most important information in a compact space - just awesome*

Swiss visitor, January 2015

*One of the best museums I have ever been in! Thank you so much for your time and effort!*

Australian visitor, January 2015

*Excellent all round displays*

South Island visitor, February 2015

## New arrivals in the collection

The Museum's collections have continued to grow with a number of interesting items being received over the last three months. Staff are careful to ensure that only items that will serve a purpose for research, education or exhibition are added to our collections to keep building this unique heritage resource.

**Right:** *Business card from George Keen, bootmaker. The Museum received several items relating to George Keen's business.*



**Right:** *A distinguishing shoulder patch for 1st Battalion Canterbury Regiment, believed to have been worn by Frederick Lund, during the First World War.*

**Left:** *An ornate silver teapot presented to Fanny Jackson for her services as an organist by the Pleasant Point Presbyterian Church, 1885.*



**Below:** *A photographic postcard featuring a class portrait of Pareora East School standard 5-6 in 1933.*



## Heritage Education Service news



**Above:** Meet the team for 2015: Keely Kroening (with happy daughter Nadia), Ruth Gardiner and Wendy Hurst.

**Below:** Ruth works with Waimate Centennial School at Waihao Marae



**Below right:** Getting hands-on with a live darkling beetle at Northaven Kindergarten in Timaru.

**Below:** Waimate Centennial School students discover small forest creatures at Kelcey's Bush.



Education programmes have been in full swing over the first term of 2015. This year the team have been joined by Ruth Gardiner, working fulltime, while Keely Kroening and Wendy Hurst are working part-time.

As in previous years, Term One has seen a lot of activity out in the countryside with school camps and nature studies in full swing. Sites visited have ranged from Kelcey's Bush near Waimate, Smithfield rocky shore area at Timaru, Pareora River geological site, multiple classes at Peel Forest and a diary farm stream at Orari.

Programmes have also been conducted at several cultural facilities such as Waihao Marae, Waimate Museum, the new Ashburton Heritage Centre Museum and of course South Canterbury Museum.



**Above:** Keely conducts a WWI programme in the new education space at the Ashburton Heritage Centre.

**Below:** Craighead Diocesan School students research invertebrate life in the Wild Suburbia exhibition at the South Canterbury Museum.



# Around the Museum

## Volunteer Spotlight



Keith Bartholomew (above) has been volunteering "officially" at the Museum since 2013, but had been working closely with us since 2008 when he commenced work on researching and rewriting the text for the book *Streets of Timaru*, which we published in 2011. Keith's local knowledge, built up during a long and successful career in administration at the Timaru District Council, has proven invaluable for the work he has carried out. Keith is currently working on research for a long term project that is updating and enhancing records for Timaru's built heritage.

It was with sadness that we farewelled Museum volunteer Barbara Hertnon (right) who passed away in March. Barbara and her friend Elaine Aitcheson had worked on projects transcribing and cataloguing historical records at the Museum over the last eight years.

Barbara was an enthusiastic person with a wonderful sense of humour. She is greatly missed by us, and by her family and many friends.



**Left:** From an Invercargill street to our Museum..... One of the more popular specimens in the recent **Wild Suburbia** exhibition was this hedgehog.. As we didn't have one in the collection, we had to find one from somewhere else. This turned out to be on internet auction site Trade Me, where former Invercargill road kill had been transformed into a very acceptable hedgehog mount (with newspaper stuffing).

**Above:** A photograph taken in our meeting room at the recent AGM of the SC branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. The local branch are based at the South Canterbury Museum, housing their research library here and holding monthly meetings. Members are also on duty in the research library every Sunday afternoon, providing assistance to anyone seeking help in tracking down ancestors.

See more from this and other events on the Museum's **Facebook** page:

[www.facebook.com/SCMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/SCMuseum)



### Contact the Museum

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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.

<b>Membership type:</b> 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  
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