

# INSIDE

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**Above:** A welcome sign of summer; a newly-emerged native copper butterfly at rest in the Museum garden. These tiny beauties have established themselves on our pohuehue plants - an oasis in a downtown desert.

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

**Summer  
2017**





## Director's comment: Activity highlights a variety of roles

The Museum has been a busy place on a number of fronts. We've had high visitation rates, with October being our busiest month on record, with 3,200 service users recorded. This is thanks to demand for school holiday programmes, a new WW1-themed exhibition, busy education programmes and the very successful evening dramatic performances staged over three nights (see next page).

The busyness extends behind the scenes with exhibition planning, event planning and a wide range of collection management and archive documentation projects underway by volunteers and staff. Much of the activity is in

collaboration with others, highlighting the central role the Museum can play as a centre of exploring local heritage in a variety of ways.

This is set to continue over the next few months as we prepare new temporary exhibitions and the second stage of our Mezzanine Floor exhibition redevelopment. We'll also be running a range of educational and public programmes, and generally trying to make the Museum more accessible, unlocking the potential of our collections and find more ways to help everyone explore our heritage.

Keep in touch! - *Philip*

## First World War commemorative focus continues to grow

We have held five First World War-themed exhibitions over the last four years, with one last one to follow towards the end of next year. There have also been a large number of schools visiting to focus on the War as a topic.

The South Canterbury Roll of Honour project (SCRoll) now has data for more than three and a half thousand names for men and women who served during the War. Data is being recorded by a team of volunteers co-ordinated by curator Tony Rippin. The SCRoll data is available to view on the Museum's webpage at [museum.timaru.govt.nz/explore/scroll](http://museum.timaru.govt.nz/explore/scroll). It is also on a special touchscreen that has been toured around museums and libraries in the wider South Canterbury region.

The continued focus on the First World War has also seen a few recent donations of poignant reminders of our wartime history, such as two memorial plaques and King's messages for Allan and Ernest Murphy, two local brothers who died while in service overseas.



## Museum team expands over summer



Museum team numbers have increased for 12 weeks with the employment of four local university students over the summer break. Funded by the Timaru District Council as part of a Council-wide scheme, the student interns will be engaged in a wide variety of projects which include collection management, research and documentation, public programme assistance, exhibition changeover and more. All four have been volunteers at the Museum at different stages, some extending back into their school days. They join the regular team of more than 12 volunteers, nine part-time and three full-time staff who work on the huge variety of tasks and projects that we currently have in front of us.

**Above from left:** Saray Sedeno, Emma Williams, Sophie Howe, Stacey Fraser.

## *In Flanders Fields*: Live performances mark 1917 centenary

October saw the centre of the Museum transformed into a performance space, with theatre lighting, a stage and large screen projected images. This was for the staging of Glenys Whittington's moving one-woman show titled *In Flanders Fields*. Her script was drawn from the diaries of her grandfather Harry Osborne, a bandsman and stretcher bearer with the NZ Expeditionary Force at the terrible battle of Passchendaele in October 1917.

Glenys's performance was augmented with projected images and music and poetry from high school students and musicians from the Alpine Energy Timaru Brass Band. Performed over three nights, the show received a great reception from full audiences.





## Exhibition news



### ***Hell Let Loose,***

This is our current First World War exhibition. It runs until 7 February and looks at the experiences of local soldiers on the Western Front in 1916 and 1917. The exhibition has been popular and has had two public talks centred around it.

### ***Remembering the 70s***

Opening on 17 February, this is the second exhibition to cover aspects of the local music and entertainment scene. It will feature images and recollections from the 1970s when

every local hotel had bands playing on Friday and Saturday nights. Watch out for a special opening event on the evening of Saturday 17 February! The exhibition runs through until May.

### **Later in the year: *Limestone landscapes***

Local natural historian and conservation advocate Hermann Frank is presently working with the Museum to document populations of the rare native South Canterbury limestone gentian (see inset image below right). This small flower grows in local limestone areas. Hermann has been photographing both the plants and the wonderful landforms that they are found in, and his photographs will feature in an exhibition that looks at these landforms and the plants and creatures that find shelter there.



CROWN HOTEL  
CROWN HOTEL  
TEMUKA

IN OUR LOUNGE BAR  
TONIGHT

# Sweet Leaf



CROWN HOTEL  
TEMUKA



## The Modern Era: Focussing on our recent past



Following the successful opening of *Times of Change*, the first stage of our Mezzanine Floor exhibition area upgrade, the curatorial team have been hard at work planning the next stage. Entitled *The Modern Era*, this area will feature exhibitions looking at aspects of local life and heritage from the 1920s through to the beginning of the 21st century. Displays will cover themes such as South Canterbury at war, electricity in the home, harnessing the power of water, Timaru harbour in the 20th century, the Caroline Bay story, local industry and inventors, home and social life in the last 50 years, changes in biodiversity and more.

The exhibition components will be similar in style to those used in *Times of Change*. Considerable effort in fundraising has seen sufficient funds raised to reach the target of around \$100,000 to complete this development. We are grateful for the support we have received from funding agencies and from some generous individuals, including a number of Friends of the Museum. We're looking forward to opening this new area in the first half of 2018, before we turn our attention to a revitalisation of the Museum's downstairs natural history exhibition areas.



Images from top, clockwise: 1963 New Years Eve on Caroline Bay; a 1936 Timaru and Caroline Bay promotional image; traffic on the Stafford Street/George Street corner in 1954, local fisherman Gordon Mitchell sorting the catch on a fishing boat the 1970s.

## New additions to the collections

Since the beginning of July approximately 41 accessions were made, with 130 items formally added to our collections so far. All items that we collect must meet our acquisition policy which looks at matters such as local provenance, significance, scientific importance and potential use for study, display or education. Items are then given a unique number, catalogued, photographed and prepared for storage or for display.

The Museum has approximately 80,000 items documented in its four main collections; objects, archives, photographs and library. These items are the raw material for our programmes: access, research, exhibition, education, appreciation and enjoyment.



### Clockwise from top left:

1960s local business advertising matchbook; 1950s pink nylon baby's dress; Samsung SH800 cellular telephone, circa 1994; late 1970s wooden toy pull car; mounted specimen of ship rat, 1940s woollen bathing costume.



## Heritage Education Service news



Terms 3 and 4 have seen a whole variety of programmes running in the Museum and at a variety of other museums and sites from Waimate to Ashburton. Programmes have been delivered to class levels from new entrant students to Year 13 high school students. 2018 bookings are now stacking up, with further co-operation planned with museums around the region.

**Left:** Gleniti School junior students in costume use slate boards while studying life in earlier times in the Museum's *Times of Change* exhibition area.

**Lower left:** Papakaio School students stand beneath a mollymawk during a lesson on flight

**Bottom left:** Year 13 geography students from Craighead Diocesan School take a break from learning about coastal erosion to pose with a replica Edwardian bathing costume

**Below:** Nothing beats hands-on learning when it comes to exploring our heritage.





## Random scenes from around the Museum



**Left:** Glenys Whittington (lower right) is photographed by the *Timaru Herald's* John Bisset and Rachel Comer as part of the lead up to the performances of *In Flanders Fields*.

**Below:** Painted faces glowing in the darkness of night - some of the Museum Team along with a few of the nearly 50 participants from the annual *Museum in the Dark* event on Saturday night back in August.



**Left:** An Explorer's Club member with a WW1-style gasmask made during a recent holidays craft programme.

**Right:** Educators Ruth Gardiner and Keely Kroening with our wonderful textiles volunteer Lee Keeley (centre) holding a replica fabric tuna/long-finned eel that Lee had made for hands-on educational use. The eel is non-slimy and weighs as much as a living eel that size - thanks to 2kg of sago sewn into it!



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

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



### Contact the Museum

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

## 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**  
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