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***And more!***

### ***Cover image***

*A 1950 painting depicting the Timaru Gasworks site by BW Don, part of the Painted Memories exhibition. See inside for more about the exhibition.*

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

**Autumn  
2019**





## Director's comment: How others see us

We're past the quarter-way mark for the year and things seem to be as busy as ever. The first three months of this year have seen steady visitor numbers and school use, a new temporary exhibition in place, continuing work on collection management and care, work on new publications as well as planning and running great public programmes. Sometimes it's hard to stop and take stock of how well things are going. But ultimately, it's those who use our services who can tell us a lot - visitors, researchers, schools, programme attendees and so on.

Here's what some of our visitors had to say on their survey forms over the last couple of months:

*This museum packs a big punch for its size. Contains a great array of exhibits and explains a lot of NZ history, and of the expansion of Timaru – Male, 35-50, Scotland*

*It was nice visiting and discovering the new extension upstairs it was really neat! – Female, 19-35, Timaru city*

*I loved the activities it was fun the staff are kind and always smile – Female, 12 and under, Christchurch*

*Great visit, very intrigued – Female, 19-35, South Island*

*Absolutely fabulous! Just moved to district from Auckland. Love the 1950s-1980s objects. Also natural history & Maori history. Basically all of it!! – Male, 35-50, Timaru district*

*One of the best I have seen – Female, 51-65, South Island*

*Stunningly well organized. Sequence from pre-history to European settlement logical clearly explained. Local history from settlers to modern day coverage excellent. Wonderful museum – Male, 65+ North Island*

And a recent teacher programme evaluation included this comment:

*The activities were all excellent. The presenters were well-prepared, knowledgeable and able to engage all the students with their knowledge, enthusiasm and management strategies.*

We're very happy with this feedback, but we know there is so much more to be done. We're looking forward to seeing more people exploring our heritage and using our services. Keep in touch! – Philip

## Visit from Sister City Museum curator

In February we hosted Akihiro Nagamachi (shown first at right, with Timaru interpreter Nachiko Shollum and Museum Director Philip Howe), a curator of archaeology in Eniwa Museum, Hokkaido, Japan. Akihiro had arranged the visit with us as he wished to look closely at the similarities and differences between our institutions. Museum Director Philip Howe did the same in 2009, spending a week in Eniwa.

Eniwa Museum is also a unit within the local council. Eniwa Museum has a focus on the nature and history of its region, and is somewhat similar in scale operationally. The Museum also has responsibility for nationally-important collections recovered from local archaeological sites dating back several thousand years.

While here, Akihiro spent time with our Museum staff discussing operations, looking at exhibitions and collections, and getting a sense of how our museum operates. Museum and Council staff took Akihiro to visit Canterbury Museum, Te Ana Rock Maori Art Centre, Mt Cook, Otago Museum and Toitu/Otago Settlers Museum in Dunedin. We look forward to further contact with Eniwa Museum in the future.

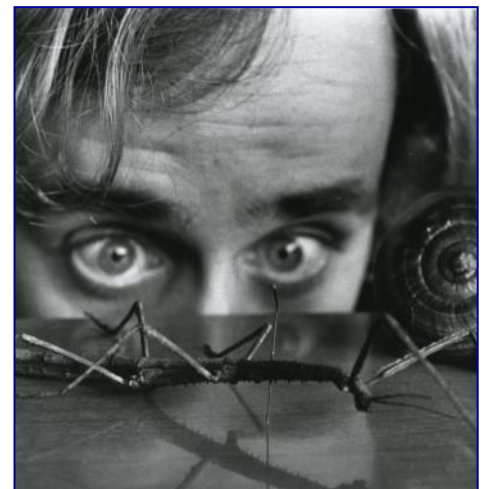


## On the way to becoming museum pieces.....



We've had a couple of work anniversaries crop up in the Museum Team over summer. In January, Tony Rippin, Curator of Documentary History (left), marked 20 years since he began working for the Timaru District Council. Tony started with his employment in the Children's Library in 1999 before heading to the Museum in 2002.

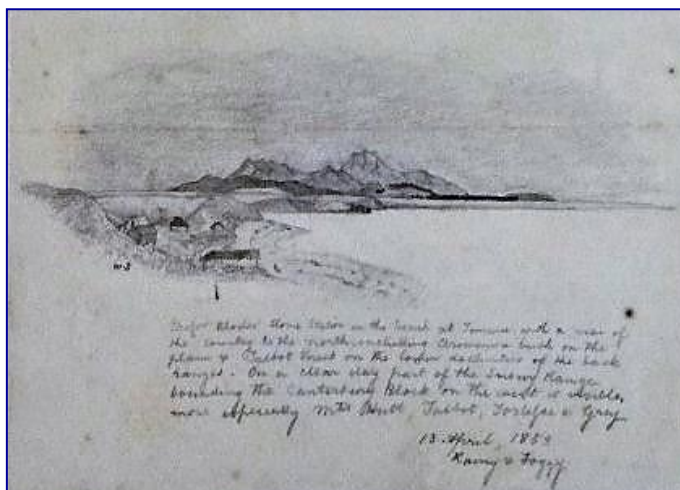
Museum Director Philip Howe (right) marked 30 years in the role in February. He continues to stare at stick insects on occasion.



## Painted Memories: Historic art on show

**Painted Memories** opened in February, bringing a selection of artworks from the Museum's collection to light. Our collection has nearly 100 artworks, most of which are documentary in nature, depicting aspects of our region's past and life captured by artists at the time. These artworks bring a dimension often missing from historic photographs, colour. They also bring the artist's vision, emphasising particular aspects that the artist wished to show in their work.

The oldest work on display is not actually a painting, but rather a sketch from 1853 (right), showing the fledgling settlement developing on the Timaru foreshore, and the natural landscape that lay beyond. Nearly all the works depict landscapes, features or buildings that have changed completely over the last 150 years. The exhibition will run until 5 May.



**Above: *Beverley Pond*** circa 1893 by William Greene. This work, by a well-known Timaru landscape artist, depicts the natural stream-fed pond that was formed at the bottom of what is now Beverley Road.



**Above: Museum Technician Simon Cullimore** hangs ***Great South Road, Timaru*** during the exhibition's setup. This painting by an unknown artist depicts the Stafford Street/George Street corner around 1880.

## Coming up: Exploring nature from the Museum storeroom



Our next exhibition, ***All Creatures Great and Small***, will feature a range of specimens not usually shown at the Museum. While we now have a collecting focus on local natural heritage, over the years all sorts of fascinating things had found their way into our collections from around New Zealand and the rest of the world.

Massive molluscs, the extinct huia, beautiful butterflies and terrifying reptiles will all be on show in a cabinet of curiosities that portrays the diversity of life. While today we can view the full range of Nature's splendour and design on screens and devices, nothing beats the experience of seeing the real thing.

This exhibition will open on 11 May and run through to 25 August. The Heritage Education Team will have programmes available for schools, contact us to find out more: 0800 687386 or (03) 687 7212 or email [scmed@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:scmed@timdc.govt.nz)





## Retro Rock: Celebrating recent social history and having fun

Once again, there was dancing in the streets. On Perth Street to be exact. Over 600 people made their way to **Retro Rock at the Museum** on Saturday 30 March, where three local bands took the stage to deliver sounds from the 1970s to the 1990s. There were colourful costumes and competitions, food stalls, colourful lighting, and images from our district's musical and social past projected above the stage onto the walls of the former telephone exchange building. The weather could not have been better, and many stayed for the entire show which finished at 10:30pm.

We were proud to be part of this event and wish to pass on our thanks to event co-organiser John Simpson from local business Living With Style, to key sponsors RSM Law and Creative Communities Timaru, to prize sponsors Movie Max Digital and Street Food Kitchen, to the Land Transport unit at Timaru District Council for arranging the street closure and to Hilton Haulage who once again loaned a truck to create our stage on Perth Street. And a special thanks to the members of all three bands who played - **The Burritos**, **Black Sheep** and **Devil's Handbrake**, all of whom gave their time and talent free of charge.

Will we do this again next year? Most likely, given the audience enthusiasm. Watch this space.

**Above right:** Contestants in the retro fashion contest line up for judging.

**Right:** Phil Flack and Kev Stuart from **Black Sheep** performing.

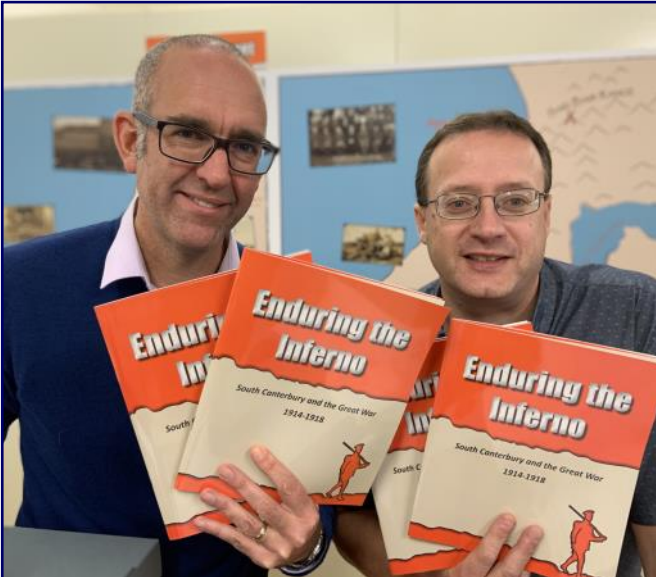


Timaru District





## Book launch: Final chapter in First World War commemorations



*Enduring the Inferno: South Canterbury and the Great War 1914 - 1918* was launched at the Museum on 12 April. This 42 page publication provides readers with an overview of the impact of the war on our region. It draws upon exhibition material developed and used by curators Chris Rapley and Tony Rippin (left) over the 2014 - 2018 period when seven separate exhibitions with a WW1 focus were mounted.

The book was produced with the assistance of the South Canterbury World War One Commemorative Committee Charitable Trust, who have worked on a number of commemorative projects over the last five years. The Trust is winding down so proceeds from the book's sales go to the South Canterbury Museum Development Trust for new projects. The book is available at the Museum for \$19.95.

**Below left:** Trust chairperson Michelle Brown launches the book

**Below:** Trustees and curators at the launch.



## An artistic response to a story of family tragedy



In March a special exhibition opened towards the back of the Museum, mixing art, history and the story of a family. The exhibition featured the work of Nelson artist Sue Heydon (left) whose work *Flight* was a response to the life of her great grandfather Alfred William Surridge. Alfred emigrated to New Zealand aboard the *Tintern Abbey* aged 18 in 1875, along with his 25 year old sister Emily. They were accompanied on the voyage by hundreds of English garden birds, captured and prepared for New Zealand on behalf of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society.

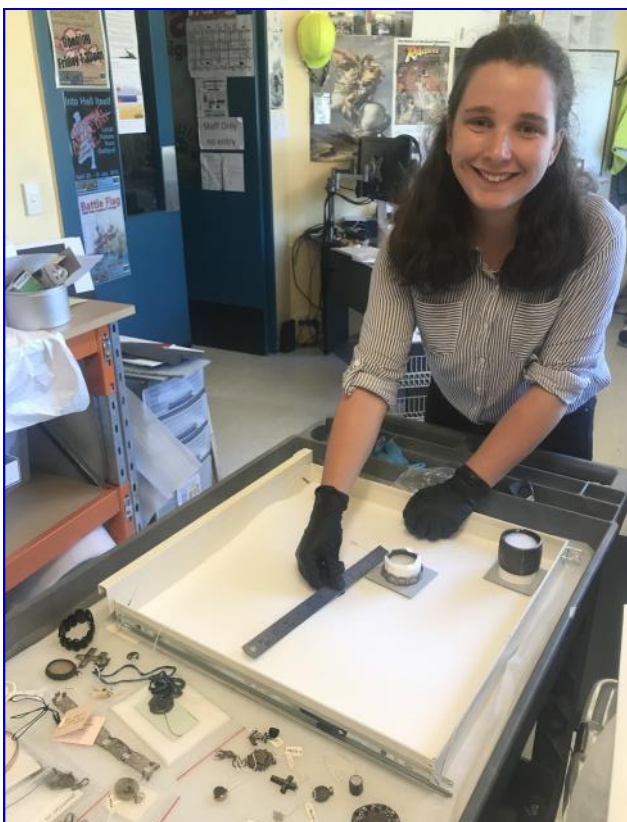
Alfred eventually settled in Temuka, marrying and starting a family. Tragedy was to befall him, losing his wife at a young age, and two of his sons, one by drowning at Milford. He worked as an artist, sign writer and decorator, before dying by drowning aged 62.

Sue has created burnt copper feathers, and used them with a specially commissioned birdcage and an antique candle holder to produce an installation that captures her response to her great grandfather's story. She has also produced an elaborate illustrated bound book which recounts the story of Alfred, as well as her journey to creating the work. Two facsimile copies of this book are available to browse in the exhibition, which will run through until June.



## Behind the scenes and out the front

Our two summer student interns Louise Rippin (right) and Stacy Fraser (below) finished their projects and returned to university in February. Over the 10 weeks that they were here, both worked on a number of collection-based projects, including copying photograph albums and rehousing and documenting stored collection items.



### Coming up at your Museum

**ANZAC Day 25 April at 2pm**

***Animals at War* - Illustrated talk**

Local military historian and collector Malcom Brady will present an illustrated talk about the roles, uses and experiences of animals during the First World War. Malcolm brings detailed research and has presented this talk as part of our education programme. His talks contain a wealth of easily-understood information, well-illustrated with images and artefacts from his collection.

**Monday 13 May at 2pm**

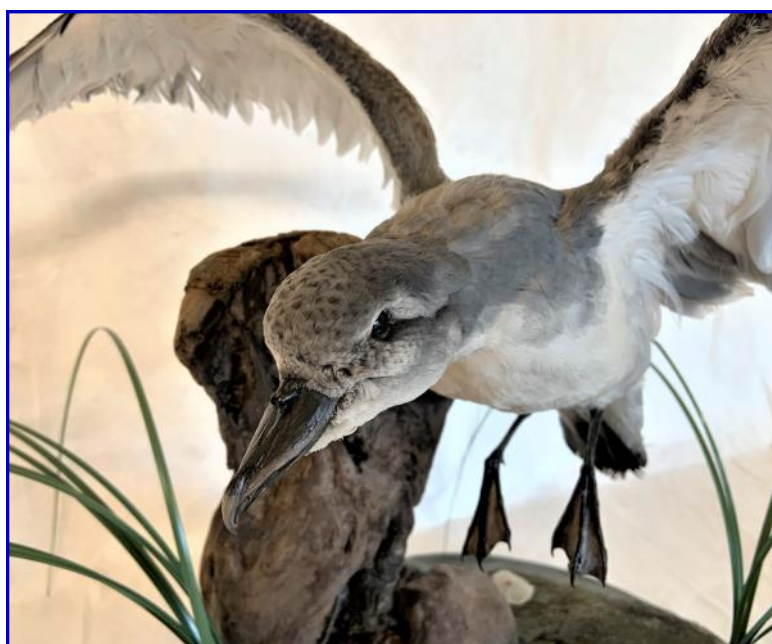
***Impressions of European Museums* – illustrated talk**

Museum Director Philip Howe will give an illustrated talk about a recent European trip and his experiences of a number of museums and galleries that he visited in Paris, London and Dublin earlier this year. All welcome, no cost, afternoon tea to follow.



**Above:** Japanese students from an English language class at Ara Polytech enjoy trying out replica wiri - traditional Māori stone-tipped drills.

**Right:** A new addition to the collection - a mounted specimen of a parara/broad-billed prion (*Pachyptila vittata*). This small seabird was found dead in a paddock in the Albury area in 2003 by Tom Sutherland, and donated in March by his son Jeremy. Broad-billed prions are not uncommon but not often seen around the South Canterbury coast. They can be beach-wrecked in some numbers during severe storms, and sometimes blown some distance inland.





## Education in the Museum and beyond



Term One this year saw our three educators out of the Museum more often than in. Warm weather helped with nature-based programmes that explored forest, stream and ocean life at a number of sites around South Canterbury. Often these programmes were part of a class camp. Programmes were also held at Waimate Museum, Waihao Marae and back at our place.

**Left:** Temuka Primary School students dress as Victorian school pupils during a lesson at South Canterbury Museum.

**Middle left:** Waimataitai School students get a hands-on look at local fossils.

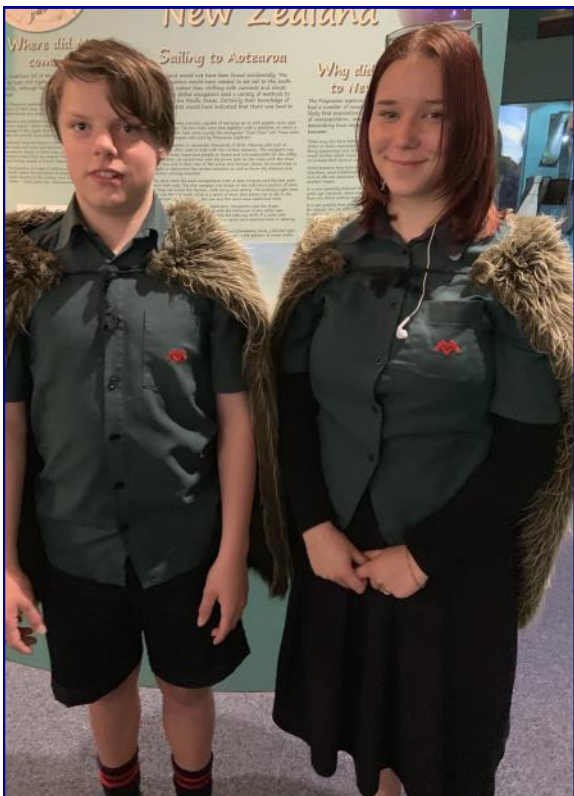
**Bottom left:** Moutainview High School students studying immigration take a break to try on replica kahu kiwi cloaks.

**Below:** St Joseph's School Timaru students compare specimens during a nature study at Caroline Bay.

**Bottom:** St Patrick's School Waimate students practising drill as they take part in an ANZAC-themed programme at Waimate Museum.

*The insect hunt sparked greater interest in the living world. Children are now more observant and approach all insects in a scientific manner - Teacher comment.*

*If you tap the branch with a stick, you'll see more species than you think - newly-acquired knowledge expressed from a Year 4 student on a field trip.*





## Just another Saturday night..... ***Retro Rock***, March 30



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

Phone (03) 687 7212  
Postal PO Box 522, Timaru  
NEW ZEALAND  
Email [museum@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:museum@timdc.govt.nz)  
Website [museum.timaru.govt.nz](http://museum.timaru.govt.nz)

## 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	\$30.00
	Family	\$35.00
	Organisation/Business	\$35.00
	Overseas	\$35.00
	Life	\$300.00

Send your information and cheque for the correct amount to:

**Friends Membership**  
South Canterbury Museum  
PO Box 522, Timaru 7940  
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