

INSIDE

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Above: Taking a closer look at some interesting insects during the July school holidays' activity programme.

**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Winter
2019**



Director's comment: Seasonal variations

Over winter months, we notice a general drop-off in casual visitor numbers on weekdays, as tourist numbers decline and locals hunker down. A wet weekend day will still bring locals in, but all this changes over the July holidays when the place is positively swarming with active children and their caregivers.

We cater for this by preparing holiday programmes and running special programmes, including craft sessions, microscope use and the very popular *Museum in the Dark* evening event (right). This last event had all 80 spaces booked out within 12 hours of notification going out. We also ran competitions for sketching items on display and for finding the mysterious golden frog, hidden among our exhibition areas.

The quieter weeks in winter are also a time where we can carry out work within the galleries. We've commenced making changes in our natural history display areas, which will see new cases, graphics and more specimens being placed among existing displays while they're still open. Along with business as usual, we'll also start planning for the next holidays - the Museum is an essential part of many families' holiday experiences!

Philip

Below: One of our Find the Frog prize winners, Ava Gudsell, with her prize voucher, along with images of happy participants in a "make a bug" craft session, and a young visitor trying out a digital microscope to look at a wasp (right).



Here come the Super Explorers!

Patrick Dawson (right) is one of our first Super Explorers - members who have earned their gold badge and keep coming back for more! To recognise their dedication and enthusiasm, we've created this new category, complete with a red Super Explorer lanyard.

There are now nearly 2,700 members of the Museum Explorers Club. Yes, they do grow older and leave, but there is no shortage of new recruits. They are our most enthusiastic visitors and supporters out in the community. As well as receiving passports and earning badges, Explorers get first notifications about forthcoming events and holiday programmes.



Meet the Museum Team: our volunteers



David Batchelor
cataloguing photographs,
developing finding aids and
event assistance since
2004.



Lee Keeley
working with our textile
collection storage and
display since 2003.



Mark Denne
carrying out extensive
research, compiling
resources, cataloguing
photographs, and much
more since the late 1970s.



Julia Hardie
repacking social history
objects and assisting with
exhibition research since
April 2019.



Rodger Laycock
repacking photographs,
cataloguing maritime
records and assisting with
exhibition setup since 2008.



Elaine Aitcheson
Transcribing records,
scanning photographs, and
assisting with archival
tasks since 2005.



Joanne Knight
scanning and cataloguing
photographs, cataloguing
library records and
assisting with holiday
programmes since 2011.



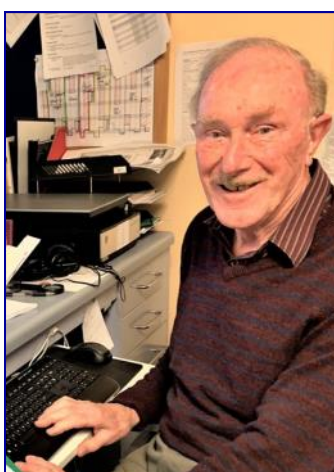
John Nicholas and Aaron Howard
Transcribing the historic
Otaio Station diaries since
2008. Aaron also assists
with collection relocation
and storage projects.



Mateo Bottari
assisting with natural
history collection storage
improvements since May
2019.



Susan Scott
Assisting with education
programme resource
production, education
communications and
Museum Explorers Club
data entry since 2009.



Keith Bartholomew
working on built heritage
information files and
publications with us since
2009.

Our volunteers play a huge role behind the scenes in helping the Museum carry out its functions. In excess of 1,900 hours of volunteer time are given each year, more than the employment of a person working fulltime. We are fortunate to have a committed and skilled team of individuals who work with staff to care for collections, develop displays, run public programmes and generally ensure this Museum is able to meet and exceed community expectations.

A very beastly exhibition - *All Creatures Great & Small*



The centre of the Museum is overrun with creatures from the Museum's natural history collections. Ranging in size from tiny beetles only a couple of millimetres in size to the skin of a python that measures nearly 20 feet in length (see below!), the exhibition features dozens of specimens from around the world, and from close to home. Today the Museum has a focus on local nature, but in years gone by a number of fascinating things found their way in. They are still useful for teaching about biodiversity and giving visitors a chance to look closely at some fascinating things. The exhibition runs until 25 August.

Left: A mute swan, found dead at coastal Orari in 2017.

Middle far left: An 8mm-long native beetle (*Tarphiomimus undosus*), one of 96 species on show from over 200 discovered at Claremont Bush, near Timaru.

Middle left: A drawer from the Bennett Marine Life collection, showing shells from around the world, collected in the 1950s.

Middle right: Some of the historic Sealy collection of world butterflies, dating from the late 19th century.

Middle far right: A highland cattle head, originally displayed for years at Claremont homestead, west of Timaru.

Bottom: A reticulated python skin - all 19 feet of it, collected in Indonesia in the 1890s.



Shhhh, the movie's started!



Museum visitors can now take a break from moving around the exhibition areas to watch local heritage films in a comfortable new theatre space. Designed by Curator Tony Rippin and installed by Tony and Technician Simon Cullimore, the theatre will feature local films and footage.

Visitors will be encouraged to donate to the Museum Development Trust who have made several short films illustrating local notable people from history.



Exhibitions on the way: local schooling, a Timaru landmark

The Three R's (31 August - 24 Nov)

Schools today bear little resemblance to “traditional” schooling using repetition and focused on the three R's – reading, writing, and arithmetic – brought from Europe by early settlers in the 19th century.

This exhibition will provide snapshots of how our education system and local schools developed as the community grew. Major changes through the twentieth century reflected society's gender perceptions of the time. Boys in rural high school had compulsory agricultural classes, while girls did home science. Once there was even a feeling that further (secondary) education made girls unfit for motherhood!

The exhibition touches upon these subjects and more. Well illustrated with photographs, digital media, and items from past and present, the exhibition will evoke memories for anyone who once attended school.

Top right: The original Timaru Grammar School on Browne Street.

SCM1046

Middle: Home Art girls at Timaru Technical School, c1960s. Courtesy of Mountainview High School.

L2019/004.004

Below: Moving out of the old Gleniti School in 1974.

T8895-4 [1974]



A Timaru Landmark (31 Nov - 9 Feb)

A notable Timaru landmark, the Sacred Heart Basilica, is currently undergoing a major strengthening and renovation project. Since its construction in 1911, the Basilica has attracted photographers both for its architectural beauty and the views of Timaru that are observed from its high towers.

This exhibition will take a look at photographs both of and from the building.

Right: The Sacred Heart Basilica nears completion in 1911.

SCM 0935



Social history collection recent arrivals



We accept around 150 accessions into our collections each year. An accession is a separate donation of items, whether it is one or several hundred. Accessioned items are assigned to appropriate collections: Natural History, Social History, Photographic, Library or Documentary History. A lot of work by curators and collection volunteers goes in to recording, documenting and storing or displaying these items. Here are several items recently entered into the Social History collection.

Top: part of a crockery set from the former Empire Hotel on Church Street (2019/098).

Right: Kia Toa Bowling Club blazer, late 20th century (2019/064).

Bottom left: South Canterbury Amateur Athletics Cup (silver jug trophy awarded to F.N. Robinson in 1884. (2019/093).

Bottom right: A pair of hair trimmers in a box, used by Timaru barber James Arneil in the 1920s (2019/99).



Images from the Heritage Education Service



Term 2 saw a very busy programme for our team, running programmes both at the Museum and around the region. The term ended with a very positive review by our Ministry of Education evaluator. Term 3 is shaping up to be another busy one as well.

Left: Gleniti School students visit SC Aviation Heritage Centre during a Heritage Education Service programme at the airport.

Lower left: Museum Educator Ruth Gardiner assists a Gleniti School student into some replica historic costume.

Below middle: Geraldine High School students re-enact the fight to stop the Great Fire of Timaru in 1868.

Bottom right: A student from Fairton School, Ashburton, exploring the rocky shore at Smithfield beach

Bottom: Timaru Boys High School students learning how to use a purerehua (bull roarer), with Museum Educator Keely Kroening.

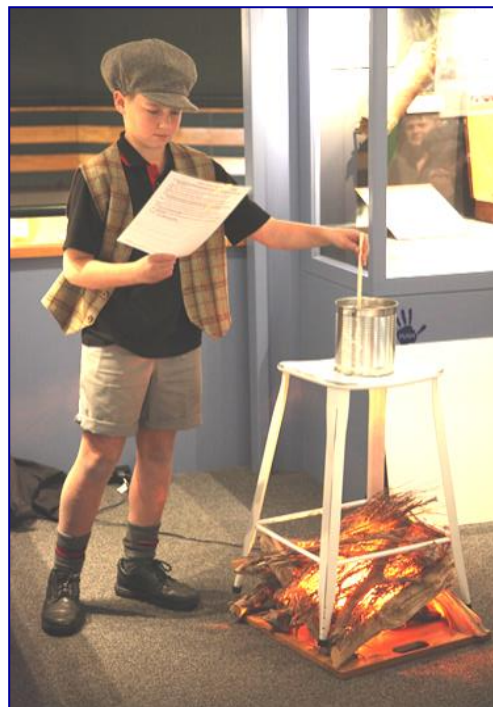


Around the Museum



Left: Volunteer Julia Hardy applies glow-in-the-dark face paint to a participant in the recent *Museum in the Dark* event.

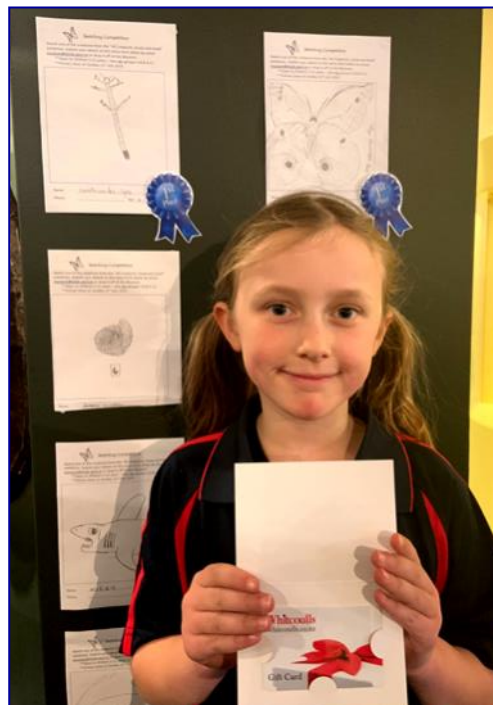
Right: A Geraldine High School student taking part in a dramatic re-enactment (not a real fire!) of the start of the Great Fire of Timaru in 1868. He plays the hapless young teenager who knocked over a hot gluepot and stove, igniting a wooden shed which then led to a major fire destroying or damaging more than 40 properties.



Above: volunteer face-painter Maddy Kroening glows under the UV light with some of her own artistic work during *Museum in the Dark*.

Left: Museum Educator Keely Kroening with a replica kiwi egg which will be used for hands-on sessions looking at NZ bird life.

Right: One of our July Holiday winners, Samantha van der Spuy, with her prize for an excellent sketch of a giant stick insect in the *All Creatures Great and Small* exhibition.



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

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.

Membership type: 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
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