

INSIDE

Cover image: An ancient pathway revealed: moa footprints exposed on the Pareora coastline following heavy rain in late July. Read more on page 7.

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**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Winter
2022**



Director's comment: Finding our way forward

We're now in our third year of operating under the effects of a world-wide pandemic. We've had lockdowns and periods where the staff have worked split teams to minimise the risk of sudden infection taking down the lot of us and forcing a museum closure for seven days or more. This precaution was necessary when we see how schools and businesses have been affected by recent COVID waves. Apart from myself and two others, the Museum team have been largely spared from COVID, and we've been able to continue functioning.

My own COVID experience highlighted the continuing importance of adhering to health Visitors are mostly complying with the requirement to wear masks, but I am aware that weariness with it all is setting in. Of course we're hoping for better times ahead, but will need to proceed carefully to protect our visitors, our community and ourselves.

It has been difficult having to restrict the number of events that we can hold and requiring all health measures to be undertaken. We had to cancel the 5th annual Retro Rock at the Museum in February, and have either cancelled or had restricted access to the usual events that we would hold. This is now changing, and delayed programmes are starting up again, see more on

page 8.

Over the last two years, our visitation rates have dropped significantly and are only now climbing back up. The two most affected sections are international tourists (there were none) and school programme usage, either in the Museum or offsite. Given how hard schools have been hit by COVID over the last two terms, it is not surprising that we've had quite a number of cancellations. We've adapted here by sometimes taking our programmes into the schools or through remote onscreen sessions - find out more about this further on in this edition of *Inside*.

My hope is that as conditions ease generally, locals will be more prepared to take advantage of local arts, culture and heritage offerings. And then we can get back to running a wider range of interesting public programmes and trying new things and collaborations to provide a wider range of ways for people to explore our heritage. We have better times ahead, a new development to plan, and a whole bunch of ideas about how we can help people make the most of what we can offer.

Philip

New education contract takes our programmes through to 2025

With less than a month to go before our current contract ended, we were over the moon to find out that we'd won our tender for a new Enhancing Local Curriculum contract with the Ministry of Education to provide learning experiences for students in local schools and early childhood centres. Adding the ECE sector (lower right) is a new approach and will build upon the informal work we have done with early childhood centres up until now.

Announcement of the contract award had been delayed, making it difficult for us to plan with certainty for any programmes from July onwards. Now Keely, Marie and Ruth (below left) are planning and promoting our expanded services with much more certainty.

The contract, which runs from July 2022 until December 2025, is from a contestable fund that is highly sought after by museums and galleries. We've managed to retain contracts since beginning our first in 2005. This reflects the creativity, hard work and skill of our educators, past and present, who have built the Heritage Education Service into an essential local education resource, benefitting several thousand students each year. We're looking forward to new opportunities and innovations over the next three and a half years.



Operation Mindfall: encouraging exploration downtown

From May to July, we acted as a host for **Operation Mindfall**, an “escape room” game that had teams of people exploring parts of downtown Timaru. Each was armed with an iPad to unlock clues to solve a mystery and stop a fictional heinous international criminal from wiping out humanity. This programme was brought to Timaru by the Timaru District Council City Hub development team who are reviewing how local people can make better use of the downtown area that is planned to undergo redevelopment. They are working with Christchurch-based company Gapfiller, who brought the game to Timaru and adapted it for a local audience.

Customers booked sessions online, then started at the Museum where they collected their gear - an iPad, and a bag of clues, and received a briefing from Museum staff. They then headed into downtown Timaru, guided by the iPad, to locate clues in sometimes out-of-the-way places. Each session lasted for around 2 hours. Participant feedback was very positive. Participants included family groups, workplace teams, groups of friends, plus a couple of Museum teams who tried it out.

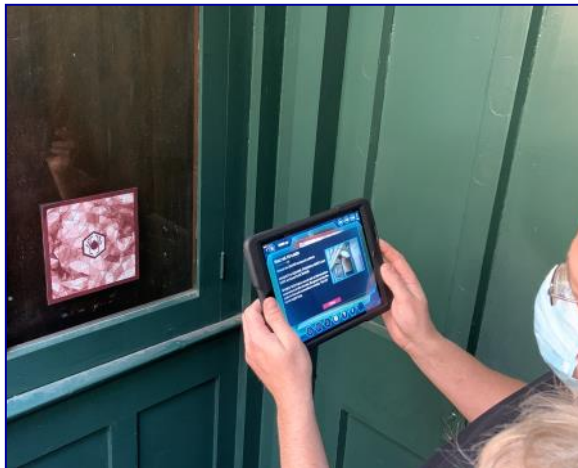
This programme ran until 31 July. The success of this particular programme has also given us ideas for possible programmes in the future - an interesting experiment.



Above: A workplace team completes their mission at the Museum.

Below right: Museum Co-ordinator Mel Rippin provides a briefing for participants.

Below left and centre: Museum teams in action trying out **Operation Mindfall** in downtown Timaru.



Public event in an outdoor setting: lunar eclipse

Although our ability to hold public events has been hampered by COVID restrictions, we were able to support an astronomical event held in a public outdoor space. On 16 May, several local astronomy enthusiasts set up telescopes on the piazza above Caroline Bay. This enabled the public to view an eclipse of the moon, rising at a convenient time of between 5 and 6pm. A large number of people took the opportunity to view this event at a reasonable hour since the next such eclipse will be in the early morning later this year (we won't be staying up for it....).



On show: Anne Frank *Let Me Be Myself*



From February to the end of April, we hosted a travelling exhibition about the life of Anne Frank. Toured by the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand and the Anne Frank Foundation, this exhibition told her life story in simple yet powerful terms, outlining her life, the wartime situation, and how she and her family suffered. Images, information panels, and a small selection of original artefacts, such as the cloth Star of David (right) that Jews in occupied Holland were forced to wear, provided a poignant glimpse into a terrible time which the world has still to fully learn from.

We were pleased to have 95-year old Boyd Klap (above) join us at the opening. Boyd grew up in wartime Holland and was a teenaged member of the Dutch resistance. He has lived in New Zealand since the 1950s and has been tireless in promoting the Anne Frank story. He has attended every opening of the exhibition in New Zealand. Boyd also joined us for an online presentation in March where he was able to talk to over 40 participants from around the world.

The exhibition was arranged to coincide with Term 1 of the school year. Unfortunately the COVID situation saw many schools having to cancel their visits. However, a few students were able to attend either in classes or as individual visitors. Local student Maddy Sugrue (lower right) also took part in the exhibition opening, reading a key passage from Anne's famous diary, published after the war by her grieving father.



On show: A variety of uniforms and the colossal squid



What We Wear opened in May and ran through until the end of August. It featured a variety of uniforms from the Museum's textile collections. These included such diverse items as school uniforms, work uniforms, service uniforms and items from special events, such as a dress worn by a local resident who was part of the formal hosting team at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch. These items all have stories behind them and reflect the importance of uniforms in so many areas of our society.



Above: For **What We Wear**, we were fortunate to be able to loan the original sword carried by Alfred Pennyfeather during the First World War. This accompanies his uniform that was in the Museum's collection. The sword was loaned by family member Jeff Henderson who was alerted to the fact that the uniform was going on display through a Museum Facebook post. He then made contact with us and offered to loan the sword.

Exploring the life of the Colossal Squid

Running from September to mid November is a travelling show from Te Papa that has a focus on the colossal squid specimen found in Antarctic waters and now on display in Te Papa in Wellington (right). The actual squid won't be coming, but the exhibition will give insights into the life of this mysterious creature from the depths of the Antarctic sea. **Colossal Squid: Freaky Features! Te Ngū Tipua: Ngā Wāhanga Weriweri!** It includes the lens from an eye of the colossal squid, part of a tentacle, and a complete tiny squid; the miniature of its colossal relative. Touchable rotating models of a squid's tentacle hook and the colossal squid's beak are also on display.



Planning for a new Museum



The Timaru District Council is continuing work on the design of a new museum exhibition centre to be built alongside the Theatre Royal, also undergoing redevelopment. This project will see the Museum's exhibitions, education programmes and public programmes being relocated to the new facility. Our current building on Perth Street will become a heritage collection and archival research facility.

Construction of this new facility should be completed in 2024. We have a lot of work ahead, planning how we will work in the new spaces, what exhibitions will be installed, as well as the relocation of collection items for the planned new exhibits (see next page). We will bring you further updates on the building project as things

Above: A detail from an illustrated hoarding placed on the fence of the site on Stafford Street where the entrance to the new facility will be located. The fence now bears images representing local nature, Māori heritage, a 19th century painted view of where the current site will be on Stafford Street and a 1940s promotional image of Caroline Bay.

Below: An architectural rendering of the new facility. The Theatre Royal is on the left, the façade of the historic Criterion/Excelsior Hotel on the right, with the entrance to the new museum at centre right. The new facility will be over two floors. The linked spaces will provide opportunities for programmes that run across both facilities.



An opportunity to create a unique experience

The Museum team have been working on the development of something quite incredible - planning the development of a world-class exhibition experience for the new Museum site. The aim is to produce a high-impact exhibition area that covers the wide range of natural and historic heritage themes that the Museum has as its focus. This new exhibition area will provide visitors with an exciting and absorbing opportunity to explore the aspects of heritage that our make our region unique - its nature, history and culture.

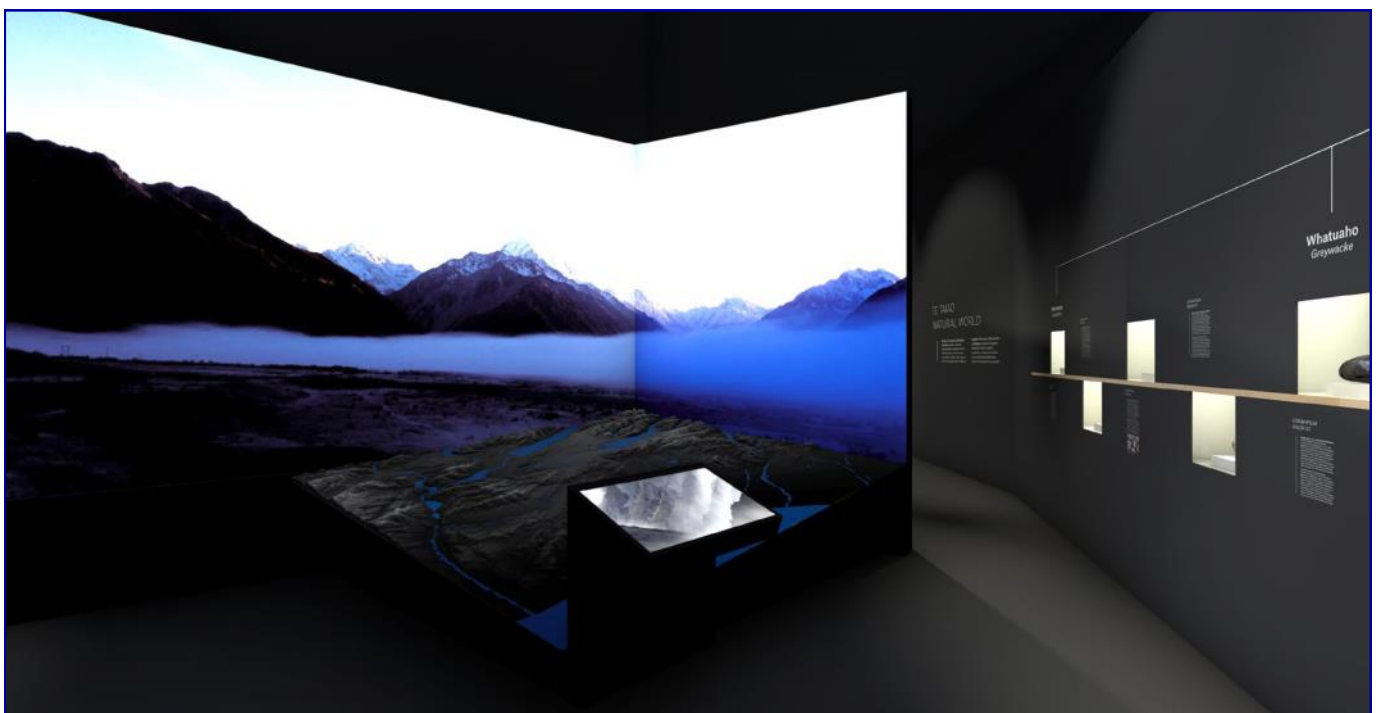
We have partnered with award-winning exhibition design company Workshop E to create a preliminary concept plan that enables us to identify the scope, size and likely costs of developing exhibitions that draw upon our rich collections as well as utilising modern digital technology to tell our region's stories in new ways.

This is a long process as Museum staff and the Workshop E team meet either in person or on screen (below) to review collection items, themes, subjects and many more details. In addition, we've held meetings with iwi representatives to consider how Māori heritage and knowledge is portrayed and woven throughout the exhibition areas. A recent two-day hui saw iwi representatives, the Workshop E team and Museum staff meet together to review collections, subjects and visit Arowhenua Marae (right) to further explore local heritage.



We're looking at a total of \$3 million to develop this new experience. While the Museum has some money in its planned budget for display development, there is a rather large shortfall. The South Canterbury Museum Development Trust have launched a campaign to raise the \$2.4 million needed to achieve this goal. We have now passed the \$1 million mark and will be talking more about how you can support this fantastic opportunity to create an incredible exhibition experience that will draw visitors to explore our heritage again and again.

Below: An image of a local landscape interactive experience screen proposed for the Igeological history area.



Ancient footprints - an *incredible* find

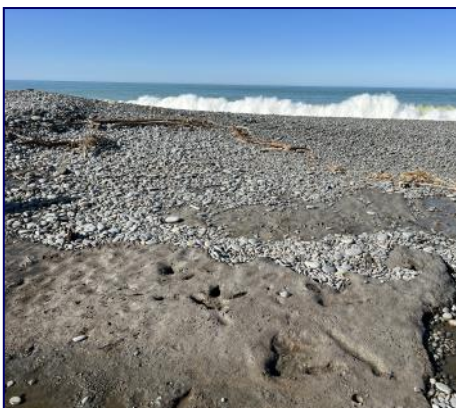
On Friday 5 August, Pareora local Chris Sargent (lower left) contacted the Museum to report an amazing discovery he'd made on the Pareora shingle beach. While walking along the beach he noticed some curious indentations in a flat bed of mud, exposed when a pond behind the beach had washed out the shingle covering the prints following recent heavy rains. Chris realised that these were footprints, more than one. Their identity was soon confirmed with the discovery of foot bones about 600mm from one of the prints. Chris carefully photographed the prints and bones in situ, before gently extracting the exposed toe bones (lower right).

Worried about the site on an exposed beach, Chris contacted us. The next day Chris took Museum Director Philip Howe to the site for a closer look. Philip contacted Dr Paul Scofield at Canterbury Museum, who quickly confirmed that the bones and prints were likely from a



medium-sized moa that once roamed this area. Although dating has yet to be carried out, it is likely that the bones date back several thousand years to a cooler period where the coastline was a little further out. It is possible that the exposed mud represents a former coastal swamp area.

It is not hard to imagine that moa would have moved around the swamp, feeding on vegetation. They would leave large prints and risk becoming bogged down, as evidenced by the bones. Patches of mud or clay of similar age are sometimes exposed elsewhere along our coastline. These often contain pieces of timber and vegetation from the lowland forests that grew here, stretching out some tens of kilometres towards the east during colder periods.



Given the exposed and ephemeral nature of the site, plans were made to revisit when weather allowed to document the prints more carefully, make plaster casts, and consider removing the prints if the site looked likely to be damaged or disappear. Retuning to the site on 12 August revealed that the sea had reached the prints during Spring high tides, eroding some of the clay and depositing more shingle. There were more marks where gulls had walked around the prints and a 4WD tyre track about 30cm from the clearest of the prints. Documentation and removal were deemed the best approach before the site was either damaged or covered over by more shingle by the sea. Following photography and measurement, Paul Scofield made plaster casts of five prints (lower right), which were then cut out of the clay and brought back to the Museum. Here we will dry them out for preservation and display once adequately prepared (lower left).



This was an incredible find, only the second time that confirmed moa footprints have been discovered in the South Island. They provide a unique window into our region's past, revealing both the extent of climate change upon our landscape and more about the creatures that once roamed here. We look forward to having this incredible find on display in due course.



Recent arrivals in the collection



Left: Motorola Ultra Sleek 9660 Mobile phone, 1994 (2022/061.01).

Right: An interior view Pareora Freezing Works, soon after its opening in 1904. Included in an album of images from the plant (2022/030.01).

Middle right: A 1961 view of the Stafford Street/Canon Street corner, downtown Timaru. (2022/037.009).

Lower right: A Timaru Technical High School prefect badge, named to Elaine Hunt, 1956 (2022/034.01).

Below: Museum Technician Simon Cullimore and Curator Chris Rapley with a stained glass window removed from All Saints Anglican Church in Cave when converted to a private dwelling in 2020. The window is one of three that were installed in 1952 as a memorial to the Aymes family of the district. (2022/003.01).



Royal Society talks resume

Science talk

Waitaki Geopark: from Gondwana to today

Thursday 8 September at 7pm

Sasha Morriss, geoeducator, Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust in Oamaru, will talk about how the Waitaki region's distinctive landscapes were formed, and the creation of a geopark in North Otago.

Where: TDC Council Chambers, Barnard Street, Timaru. All welcome, free admission. Facemasks required.



The 8th of September will see the start of our public talks, put on hold at the start of this year. The first talk, from Geopark educator Sasha Morriss, will look at the development of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark, with a focus on the unique landscapes that have made this venture possible. Admission is free and face masks are required.

In late October we have a talk from the Otago University Portobello Marine Laboratory, followed by an early November evening excursion into the Otupua Wetlands, led by Lincoln University's Cor Vink, an international expert on New Zealand spiders and invertebrates. More information will be available from the Museum, our website and Facebook page.

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the ROYAL SOCIETY
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MUSEUM
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Education programmes back in full swing



Top left: Timaru Boys High School drama students take part in our Tiriti o Waitangi programme at their school.

Above: Students from Dorie School (Mid Canterbury) working with us on Caroline Bay.

Left: A student from Opihi College tries on a pair of parepare - replica flax sandals - as part of a Māori technology programme at the Museum.

Bottom left: Museum Educator Ruth Gardiner with Shelley, a teacher from Opihi College, planning programmes for their classes.

Below: A group of primary and secondary teachers from Fairlie with Museum Educator Keely Kroening (second from left) during a recent trip to view the Museum's exhibitions and discuss potential programmes for their students.



Education programmes back in full swing



Above: Students from Roncalli College visiting the *Let Me Be Myself* Anne Frank exhibition.

Right: Timaru Girls High School biology students carrying out a rocky shore ecology study at Smithfield beach.

Below: Continuing difficulties for schools attending our programmes due to earlier COVID restrictions, cost or timing have meant that we've often ended up "taking the Museum to the school". In one new programme during Term 1, Museum Educator Keely Kroening (bottom left) created a live link to a Waimataitai School classroom and was able to use her phone to take the students around the Museum's fossil displays and answer questions from the students who watched her on screen in their classroom (bottom right).



People around the Museum

Right: Museum Technician Simon Cullimore prepares our only specimen of the now extinct whēkau, or laughing owl, for a new display.

Below: In May we were visited by Dr Rich Leschen, an Auckland-based entomologist and New Zealand beetle expert who examined the Claremont Bush beetle collection that has been developed here over the last 20 years. Museum Director Philip Howe was then able to take Rich to examine this small but scientifically important remnant of the original Timaru downlands forest cover on the south flanks of Mt Horrible.

Below right: Here are three Museum staff members dressed in uniforms, of a sort, for the opening of **What We Wear** back in May. Can you identify who they are and what they're being?



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.

Membership type: Individual	\$30.00
Family	\$35.00
Organisation/Business	\$35.00
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