

# INSIDE

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Cover image: Taking learning outdoors. A Roncalli College senior class explore a volcanic outcrop at the top of Mt Horrible with the Museum's Heritage Education Service.

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

**Summer  
2020**





## Director's comment: Project value recognised with funding

You don't get to meet a Prime Minister everyday. Well not in Timaru, so it was pretty special for me. It's even more special when the Prime Minister announces that they are going to give \$11.6 million towards the new Heritage Centre and redevelopment of the Theatre Royal project! I was delighted to meet the Right Honourable Jacinda Adern in late September during her visit to Timaru, where she announced the grant for our "shovel-ready" project. This is around half of the funding required, and makes a huge impact on the feasibility of the whole project.

We are obviously very grateful for this grant, and particularly to Timaru District Council Group Manager Corporate and Strategy Donna Cross who undertook work on the application under a tight deadline during the Level 4 lockdown in April. A lot of effort is being put in by the Timaru District Council to ensure this project succeeds.



We're now very much engaged in starting the design process, with the selection and appointment of architects, and various specialists. The design has been awarded to Christchurch architectural firm Architectus. Representatives have been regularly coming to Timaru to hold meetings with local groups to gather information and understanding about what we see for the future. This has helped clarify what is required before starting work on designs that will provide this.

**Left:** A project team meeting at the Museum, with Museum team members Tony Rippin (far left) and myself and Ruth Gardiner at far right, Architectus team members Dave Pearson, Carsten Auer and Jane Rooney at front centre; Rubix project managers Andrew Haig and John Collins at back, with Nicole Timney, Timaru District Council project lead.

The initial timeframe will see design work carried out through 2021, with site clearance taking place, and construction underway in 2022 with a target date for completion in late 2023.

We are excited about how things will develop, but realistic about the amount of work that this will require. Keeping things going while undertaking extensive planning will require careful scheduling and juggling of tasks. We're looking carefully at developments elsewhere, looking at what will work, and gathering information and ideas to take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

*Philip*

**Right:** Some of the Museum team in the basement carpark of Christchurch Art Gallery during a trip to look at modern heritage developments, including Tūrangā, the new Christchurch City Library building, designed by Architectus, the firm working on our project. From left: Philip, Chris, Keely, Tony, Mel, Ruth, Jan and Simon.





## Partnership with Royal Society brings expert talks to Timaru

In September we resumed public talks held in partnership with the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand. This programme saw the Society bringing speakers to Timaru to provide illustrated talks on subjects from the humanities and sciences. The series had commenced in March, but was cut short by the COVID lockdown. All talks were held in the Council Chambers at the Timaru District Council that were able to accommodate audiences between 60 and 100 attendees.

In September, we had University of Otago historian Professor John Stenhouse talking about the New Zealand reaction to the 19th century controversy that erupted between religion and science following the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*. This was followed by Dr Katie Marcar from



**Above:** Dr Katie Marcar (centre) speaking with talk attendees following her talk on the Greek language used in the New Testament in September.

**Right:** Roger Fagg and Professor Daphne Lee examine local leaf fossils collected by Roger and donated to our Museum. Roger is the President of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society and has organised the talks in conjunction with the Museum.

the University of Otago's Theology department looking at the original Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, and how these were translated in the centuries that followed their writing. The final talk for the year in November was Professor Daphne Lee from the University of Otago Geology department who talked about the internationally-important fossil sites at Foulden maar and Hindon maar in Otago, and the fight to save them from destruction.

We are now planning a new series of talks for 2021—keep an eye out for what's coming soon.



## Another great day for Heritage Alive 2020



The sun shone, the BBQ sizzled and several hundred people dropped in on the fifth annual Heritage Alive event held on 28 November. The organising team from the Museum, St. Mary's Church and the SC Historical Society put together a great programme of entertainment, activities and refreshments. Adults and children had fun, and had the opportunity to explore the Church and the Museum and learn more about the heritage of this wonderful part of our town.



## Heritage Education Service: heritage inside/outside

Despite shifting between Levels 2 and 1 a couple of times, our Education team still continued to work with schools around the region. With far fewer schools being willing to visit the Museum, numbers were down at first, but we have still managed to conduct a range of programmes. Term 4 has seen a big increase in outdoor programmes, with our team ranging as far afield as Oamaru, Waimate and Raincliff.

These have included working with Mountainview High School geography students who used large aerial photographs of the urban Timaru area to understand patterns of urban growth and change (below), Opihi College geographers looking at limestone at Kakahu quarry (lower right) and volcanic landforms at Mt Horrible (front cover) Waimataitai School juniors looking through the museum while studying flight (lower right), Winchester Rural School students viewing items relating to Egypt while studying ancient Egypt (bottom right), and a Timaru St Josephs School student holding an egg-bearing rock crab at Smithfield rock pools.

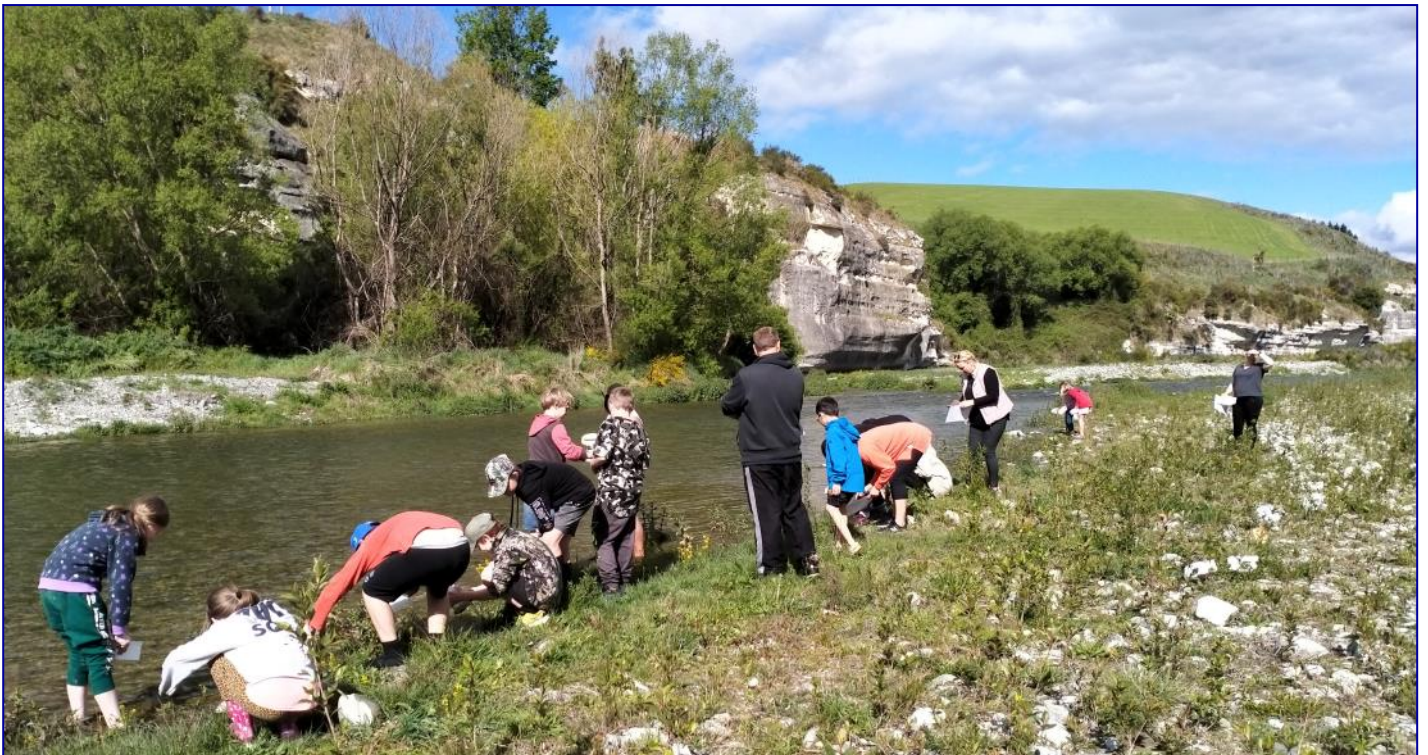




## Heritage Education Service: heritage inside/outside



Waimataitai School students ask questions aboard the Prime Port tugboat Te Maru during a harbour visit (above), Bluestone School students learn about moa bone finds at the Centennial Park quarry site (right), and students from Ashburton Borough School explore stream life in the Opihi River at Raincliff (below).





## New mid-20th century arrivals in the Collections



**Left:** A women's two-piece suit made from crepe material. Purchased by Nora Ellis for the cancelled 1949/50 royal tour. (2020/0791)

**Right:** Two images from colour slides taken around 1959: the former West End Park swimming baths and local people whitebaiting. (2020/071)



**Below:** A 1964 Sorrento Coffee Lounge menu card, which includes cigarettes.

Coffee, Black 1/-		TOASTED ROLLS	
Coffee, White 1/-		Cheddar Cheese 9d.	
Coffee, Cream 1/3		Asparagus 1/-	
Hot Chocolate 1/3		☯☯	
☯☯		TOASTED SANDWICHES	
FRUIT JUICES		Ham and Tomato 2/3	
Orange 1/-		Cheese and Pineapple 2/-	
Grapefruit 4/-		Toasted Raisin Bread 1/-	
Pineapple 1/-		☯☯	
Tomato 6d.		Cigarettes	



## Lock up your parents, Timaru, **Retro Rock 2021** is coming!

**Retro Rock 21**

**Live local bands**  
Playing groovy rock music from the 70s, 80s, 90s and today!

**Saturday 13 Feb 7-10:30pm**  
Downtown Timaru on Perth St (outside SC Museum)

20th century Fashion contest  
Wear some **CROOVY** threads!

Audience participation quiz and games  
Great sponsored prizes for fashion contests  
Fun for all ages, alcohol-free  
Food/drink stalls on site  
It's all too beautiful!

**IT'S FREE!**  
gold coin donations taken on the night

Museum open

Living with history  
Timaru District  
creative COMMUNITIES  
TIMARU  
SOUTH CANTERBURY MUSEUM  
EXPLORE our heritage

Now in its fourth year, Retro Rock is returning to the Museum on 13 February 2021. This is a free outdoor evening rock concert which sees up to a thousand people attending to enjoy local bands playing classic rock from the 1960s to today. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in retro costumes, with fashion contest awarding prizes, along with audience participation events and the chance to dance on Perth Street, which is closed for the evening.

This event is only made possible through generous support from outside funders. We're lucky to have received grants from Venture Timaru and Creative Communities Timaru that will cover most of the costs of the night. Donations from attendees help cover the rest. The bands and volunteers give their support for free, making it a great all-ages fun community event.

Dust off your glad rags from the 20th century and get ready to have fun, hear some great music and strut your stuff on Perth Street from 7pm. Oh, and fingers crossed for great weather!



**Right:** At Retro Rock 2020 local band Devil's Handbrake took the crowd on a journey with some classic rock from the last 40 years.



## Exhibition news: Celebrating the region's kindergartens

In late October we opened **Whakamana o te Tamariki**, which translates as The importance of children. This exhibition was launched in conjunction with the South Canterbury Kindergarten Association, who are marking their 75th anniversary. The exhibition outlined how the local kindergartens had become established, as well as aspects of their history and how kindergartens operate today. As well as text and images, it features a range of toys and video footage of kids at play today.

Curator Chris Rapley (below) worked closely with representatives from the Kindergarten Association, including teachers past and present. He also received considerable aid in-house from the author of *Consistency and Change*, the Association's 75th anniversary history book, Marie Rapley (lower right), who Chris is fortunate enough to be married to Marie, who is also one of our Heritage Education Team, is a Kindergarten Association committee member and undertook to organise the Association's archival material and produce the book.

This exhibition will continue until early February 2021.



Later in February we will open a new ANZAC-themed exhibition that has a focus on the memorabilia collection donated by the Timaru RSA in 2020. This collection contains a variety of items that reflect the military experiences of local men and women in various conflicts during the 20th century. It includes an embroidered 27th Machinegun Battalion flag (2020/179.084, right), which had been "souvenired" by a Battalion member returning from active service in 1944.





## The Museum Team in action



**Above:** One of these things is not like the other ones..... Can you spot the Museum Educator mixed up in a mannequin move in the Museum lift?

**Left:** Museum technician Simon Cullimore prepares a cast replica of a *Dinornis* moa skull, surrounded by a range of replica and actual specimens from moa and the creatures that lived with them. These will feature in a new moa display case in the new year.

**Below:** The Museum Team encountered some intriguing artworks during their recent visit to Christchurch City Art Gallery and other institutions (see p.2).

**PS:** That's *not* the Museum Director sitting at the table, contemplating his lunch.



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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## 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**  
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