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And more!

Cover image

Curator Tony Rippin and local Genealogical Society representative Teresa Scott review the SC Roll of Honour (SCRoll) touchscreen at the opening of *Enduring the Inferno*, the last of our WW1 commemorative exhibitions.

**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Summer
2018**



Director's comment: Business as (un)usual

The year that is ending has seen some rather interesting times for the South Canterbury Museum. Business as usual is flourishing. Our collections continue to grow and to be cared for to a high standard. We have continued to produce a series of temporary exhibitions that have attracted a wide range of local visitors, and our regionally-focused education programmes have seen schools from Mid Canterbury to North Otago working with our Heritage Education team. Visitor numbers remain constant, and visitor satisfaction measured through onsite surveys and in the wider community remains very high. Through the internet more people are making use of our collections or participating in our programmes.

But as well as our usual activity, there have been a few less-than-ordinary things happening. In February we assisted with an outdoor rock concert on the street



outside the Museum, which saw over 1000 people attend. A good many of those chose to visit the Museum while here, and many came back to tell us what a great time they had. This was so successful that it's going to be repeated on the 30th of March this year.

And then there was the small matter of a certain

museum dance-off video which ended up being voted as best in New Zealand, going on to represent New Zealand and to win the world championship. The dancing might not have been that

great, the production a bit rushed, but the national and international publicity and support that it generated was huge. We've hung up our dancing pumps, but will always consider any opportunity like this in the future!

The Museum Explorers Club has been a continuing success, with a current membership of over 2,300. Of course, members keep growing up and out of the Club, but more keep signing in. Museum Explorers are keen advocates for the Museum, bringing in families, friends and caregivers to explore with them. In the 30 years I

have worked here, I have seen the value and importance of giving children and families an engaging experience where they can explore and enjoy heritage, returning many times over the years. Museums really do add so much to people's lives.

Good wishes to everyone for the year ahead. Come on in over summer, see what's new and check out our special International Dance-off winner's plaque!

Keep in touch - *Philip*



Illuminating the Council's history

In early August the Museum took part in a Timaru District Council event called ***Our History Illuminated***. This marked 150 years since the first Timaru Borough Council was formed, and was celebrated by closing off the street areas in front of the Council building, having a range of Council activity stalls and then as darkness approached, colouring the Council building with changing lights and

projecting images from the last 150 years on the building. Curator Tony Rippin developed the historic slide show (lower left) and the Museum provided a stall where people could put their faces into an early 1900s picnic scene (below). A very successful event which showed our District's heritage in a new light, so to speak.



The Modern Era: Mezzanine Floor gallery space reopened

The Modern Era was opened by Timaru District Deputy Mayor Richard Lyon on 30 November. This section of our mezzanine floor has displays with a focus on the 20th century. It covers topics such as local involvement in overseas wars, man's interaction with water, the continuing harbour development, Caroline Bay's social history, local industries and inventors, domestic and social life in the 1950s through to the 1990s, changes in farming, introduced animals and more.

The displays make use of large images, objects, text panels and touch screens to help visitors explore aspects of our recent past. These displays carry on from the first stage which opened in 2017. Many visitors, including Deputy Mayor Richard, have expressed both delight and disquiet at seeing their own pasts reflected in the content.



Final chapter of War remembrance

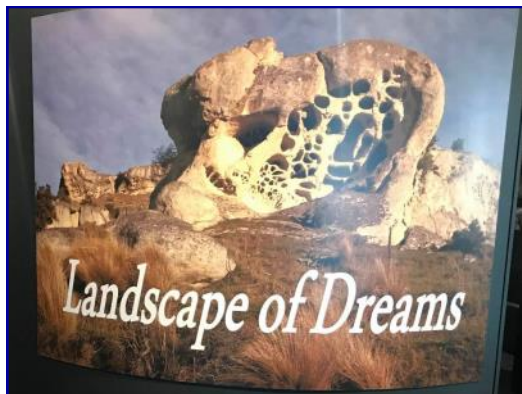


Our last exhibition commemorating the centenary of the First World War opened at the end of October. **Enduring the Inferno** takes a look back across the more than four years of conflict that had such a deep impact on local communities even though it was a world away. Overseen by curator Chris Rapley who worked with curator Tony Rippin and technician Simon Cullimore to provide an overview of the main areas of conflict where local soldiers fought, along with the aftermath of the war.

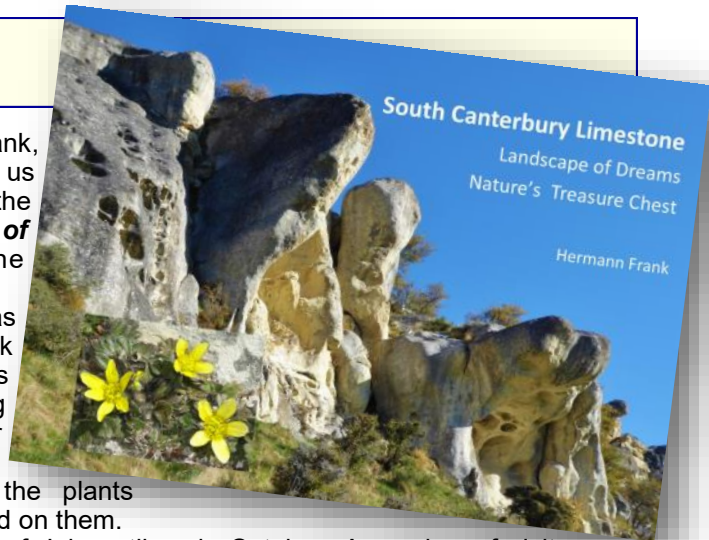
Once again local collector and historian Malcolm Brady (left) has loaned a range of artefacts to enable visitors to get a closer look at original items that were used or made by soldiers serving overseas. The exhibition runs until 10 February 2019.



Exhibition leads to publication



Hermann Frank, who worked with us to produce the **Landscape of Dreams** limestone photographic exhibition, has produced a book containing dozens of stunning photographs for local limestone formations and the plants and animals found on them.



This book grew out of the exhibition which ran from the end of July until early October. A number of visitors commented that they would love to have a book of the images, and Hermann undertook to create the book using the images and text from the exhibition.



Hermann then wrote, laid-out and produced the book. He drew from the information panels and images he had developed for the exhibition. The cost of printing the book has been met by the SC Museum Development Trust, to whom Hermann has generously gifted all proceeds from the print run.

The book was launched to an appreciative audience on 13 December. At the time of writing, in the following week, over quarter of the print run had sold - it'd pay to be in quick if you really want a copy! The book is only available at the Museum, at a cost of \$35.

Left: Hermann signing books at the launch on 13 December.

Commemorating 125 years of women's suffrage

September saw us join with the local chapter of the National Council of Women to commemorate an important milestone in New Zealand Society, the granting of the vote to women in New Zealand in 1893.

Museum Director Philip had worked with a planning team representing the NCW to develop an information panel display that is now up in the Museum. This display provides an "entry level" information for visitors about what happened and its significance to us today.

Suffrage Day, September 17th, was marked with a special ceremony where the efforts of Mrs Isobel Mayman, a local woman who worked for women's issues, were recognised with a camellia shrub being planted by her husband and daughter (right). Attendees then moved into the Museum to hear from several speakers before enjoying refreshments and taking a closer look at the information panels that had been produced (below right).

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition of *Inside*, the Heritage Education Team developed a short roleplay drama for local school students to participate in in order to get a clearer understanding of the significance of the 125th event.



Heritage Alive celebrated in December

On Saturday 8 December we joined with St Mary's Church and the South Canterbury Historical Society to hold another Heritage Alive market day. Attendees could purchase fascinating gifts from a range of stalls, play Victorian games on the lawn, enjoy free refreshments while listening to music, and enter prize draws in the Museum. Close to 200 people attended, with many families making the most of a free morning out at a time that can be stressful as the year ends.



Scenes from the day:

Sausages on the BBQ, a young prize winner, St Mary's children's choir perform, and a young family playing with replica Victorian games.



Coming up: Holiday programmes, music and art

Over January the Museum has joined forces with other Council units to create the **MLA** holiday programme - Museum, Libraries and Art Gallery. Participants can obtain a "passport" which will be stamped every time they take part in an activity at these venues, and can collect prizes. We'll be running some special outdoor excursions and special activities in the Museum. Check it out on our website or Face Book page, or pick up a programme in the Museum.



On 30 March live music returns to Perth Street below the Museum with the 2nd retro rock concert. Local bands will be playing songs from the 70s to the 90s, with food vendors on hand and prizes for those who dress in period costume. Check your wardrobe, you might still have a few things from the late 20th century you can pop down in!

Our Painted Past will be on show at the Museum from 16 February. This exhibition will feature a number of artworks that depict local scenes from the last 150 years. The Museum's collection holds about 100 historic artworks, including paintings and sketches. Many depict local streetscapes, buildings or coastal scenes.

HEY KIDS

Join the MLA

Museum | Libraries | Art Gallery

Complete the MISSION POSSIBLE CHALLENGE

Become an MLA AGENT & complete the stages to earn FREE LOOT & go in the draw to WIN a tablet!

Free to enter, visit your MLA HQ for all the details.

JOIN UP at the following MLA HQ's

- Museum
- Libraries - Timaru, Temuka, Geraldine
- Art Gallery

EARN FREE LOOT

Go in the draw to win a tablet



Left: Elmsdale House, painted in 1895 by E.A. Le Cren. This house belonged to the artist's parents, and was situated on what is now Selwyn Street, by the camping ground.

Right: a Timaru harbour scene in the 1960s, by Joan Forsyth.



Dramatic times at the Museum



There was a bit of drama at the Museum in recent months. In September, we offered schools a Suffrage 125th-linked programme. Students, staff and Museum team members acted from a script developed by Museum Educator Wendy Hurst. This gave students a greater understanding of the difficulty faced by suffragists and their supporters in gaining the vote for women, and to get a sense of the historical contest and everyday life in the 1890s.

Left: Museum Team members Ruth Gardiner, Philip Howe and Wendy Hurst in character as pro- and anti-suffragists.

Below: A Timaru Girls High School class participating in the suffrage story drama.



In early October we hosted an evening performance by senior drama students from Craighead Diocesan School. The year 11 students performed two humorous Victorian melodramas, with villains, fair maidens and hapless heroes (below).

This was followed by a poignant historical drama written and performed by Year 12 and 13 students that looked at the lives of women emigrating to New Zealand in the mid-19th century (lower right).

The dramas were performed in the central exhibition space which was empty during an exhibition change, providing an intimate theatre experience for an audience of around 40.



Finally, at the end of November the Museum hosted several performances by touring Canadian drama team **Live History**. Actress Jasmine Bowen performed a show called **Circa**. This drew upon the Museum's galleries and local information to create an interactive show where audience members were led around the Museum to find clues to work out the identity of a mysterious local woman who had "lost" her memory.

Each performance of **Circa** lasted an hour, with each audience finally discovering the identity of the missing woman; Sarah Maria Elworthy, a local runholder's wife, active in the community in the late 19th century.



Excellent – interesting collection, very comprehensive in stories & information provided. Better than most (if not all) Australian regional city museums.

– Male, 51-65, Australia

Fantastic place, we homeschool & love coming here especially when there are new things for children to explore/test/try/discover. Anything 'hands on'. Great place.

- Female, 35-50, Timaru district

Education in the Museum and beyond



Our Heritage Education team have continued to develop and deliver a whole range of innovative programmes for schools and for children within the Museum. Term 4 is particularly busy, with a large number of nature-based field trips. While the rainy weather over November and December didn't help, they were still able to ensure that classes got close to nature.

Left: An artificial cave created as a learning space during the October school holidays.

Lower left: Waituna Creek School students beating shrubs to dislodge insects at Kelcie's Bush near Waimate.

Bottom left: Year 10 students from Craighead Diocesan School try using a replica wiri (traditional stone drill) during a programme at Waihao Marae.

Below: A Gleniti School student tries to measure the wingspan of a Salvin's mollymawk in the Museum.



People at the Museum



Left: At the opening of *Enduring the Inferno* Barbara and Grant Findlayson (NZ Defence Force liaison), Timaru District Councillor Nigel Bowen who opened the exhibition, Rangitata electorate MP Andrew Falloon and Rose Falloon.

Below: Easy to remember everyone's name with this group - it's the Timaru Shirley Group, having a Museum tour with the decidedly non-Shirley Museum Director

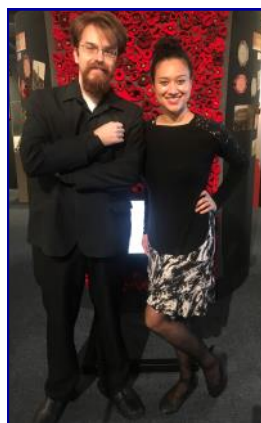
Bottom left: Victorian drama performed by Craighead students in October.

Bottom centre: Josh and Jasmine from touring drama group *Living History*

Bottom right: Museum Team members Chris Rapley and Simon Cullimore manning the Museum's activity stall at the TDC 150th light show event in August.



Above: A storeroom full of librarians. Here are some of the Timaru Library team having a tour of the Museum's natural history store a few months back when the Library was closed for minor construction work. Always nice to show our Council colleagues around.



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	\$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:

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