

INSIDE

A group of people, identified as Waimataitai School students, are sitting in a circle on the floor of a dark room. In the center of the circle is a bright, glowing campfire made of sticks and paper. The fire casts a warm, orange light that illuminates the faces of the people and the floor around it. The background is dark, with some vertical lines suggesting a room with pillars or a stage.

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- Measuring satisfaction with the Museum
- International Dance Champions! *Whatever next?!!*
- Current and forthcoming exhibitions
- Illuminating our History
- Collection and Education news

Above: *Waimataitai School students gather round an electronic campfire in the Museum to hear tales of Matariki, the Māori new year.*

**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Winter
2018**



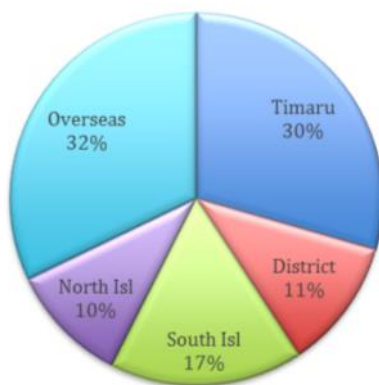
Director's comment: Measuring visitor satisfaction

We're interested in finding out more about the people who visit the Museum. We haven't yet systematically surveyed every visitor that enters the building, but we do invite Museum visitors to fill out a survey form in the Museum. Only a very small proportion of visitors actually do this, making it very non-scientific. It's really just a survey of people who choose to fill out the form. However it does give interesting facts and provides visitors with the chance to make comments and observations.

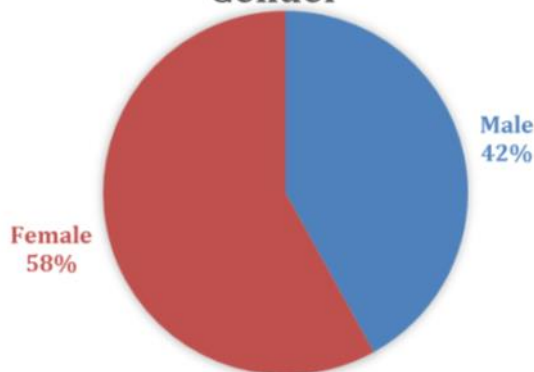
Museum volunteer Susan Scott collated forms from the first half of this year, with some of the data shown here in pie graph form (thanks a lot, Susan!). It seems most form fillers are from overseas or Timaru itself. And their comments are always of interest to us.

Philip

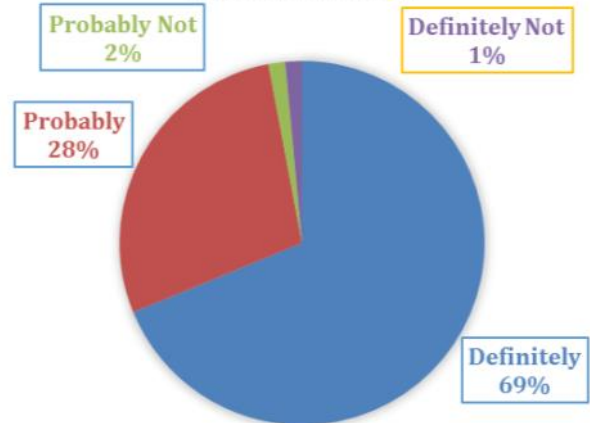
Where From



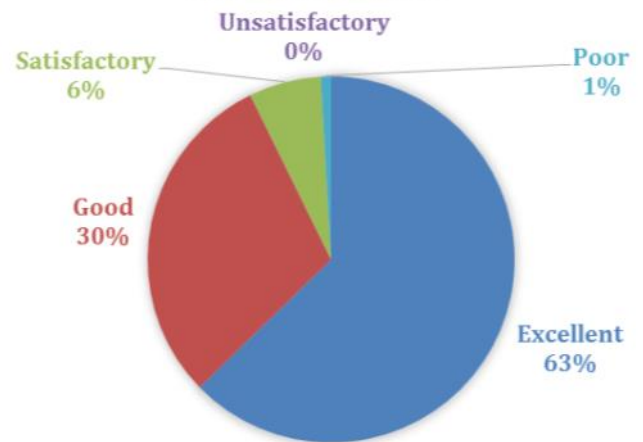
Gender



Would You Return?



Visitor Satisfaction



Very interesting, loved seeing my daughters' interests and expressions. Staff were very friendly and helpful. Will be back!! - Female, 36-50, from Timaru District.

"An excellent museum better than I expected. Child friendly. I can see more vivid history about whaling than I can in other museums. I also love the set-up of the ship. - Female, 25-50, China.

"The kids love to visit the museum. They are now a part of the Explorers Club and can't wait to visit again." - Female, 19-35, Timaru City.

New faces: People at work around the Museum



We're delighted to welcome Mel Rippin (left) as part of the regular team. Mel was appointed as Museum Receptionist in July, selected from exactly 100 applicants. She is no stranger to the Museum, having participated as a volunteer at Museum events along with other members of her family on many occasions. Mel works Tuesday-Friday on the front desk - say howdy next time you're in!

We also have a team of local genealogists in three mornings a week working on transcribing local cemetery records. This voluntary work will provide a valuable resource for future researchers.

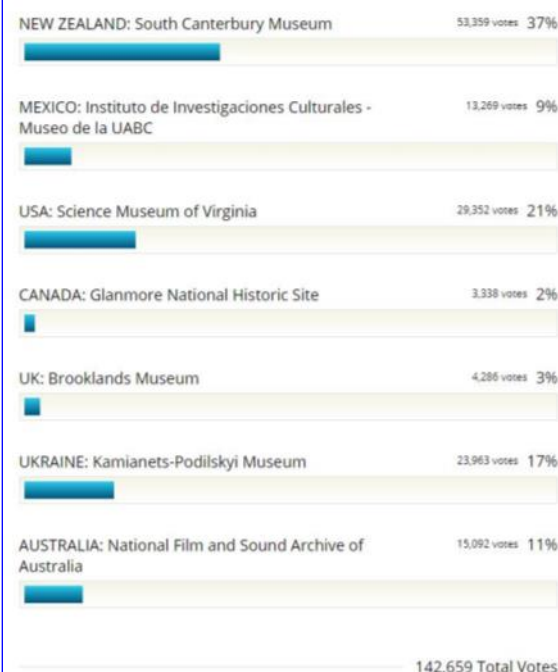


We are the Champions.....of the World!

Tuesday 15 May was a day like no other. For a 24-hour period, our Museum was entered against six others from around the world in an on-line contest, to win the title of World Museum Dance-Off Champion. Our victory happened because of the thousands of online votes cast by hundreds of supporters in our community and around the country, and quite a few elsewhere as well.

Along with 47 other museums, we had submitted a video of Museum Team members and Explorers Club members dancing in the Museum. To our amazement and delight we won the New Zealand "play-off" in April, putting us forward to represent NZ on the world stage on May 15.

Vote for your favorite Museum Dance Off 5 Thunderdome video! (Poll Closed)



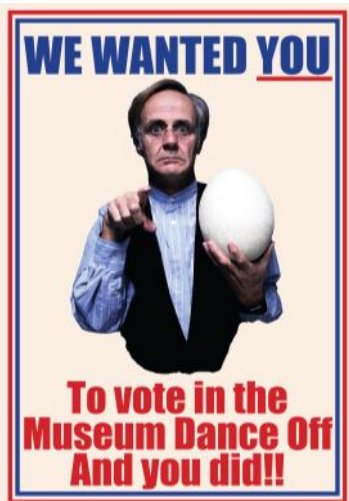
So what did we do?

Our Museum Dance-off entry has some Museum staff and volunteers dancing to 1970s tune "Ballroom Blitz" by **The Sweet**.

Some of our Museum Explorers Club members also took part, sometimes in animal costume. We got some dancing help from Timaru Librarian Cath Gilson who did her best to try and teach us a few moves.

Google "Museum Dance off 2018", you'll find us on YouTube!

which saw nearly two hundred people show up to sign a big banner we created, enjoy refreshments while they watched Museum Dance-off videos and take part in fun activities. We're also going to be sent a small inexpensive trophy from the competition organisers, which will go on display with the banner.



Voting started at midnight NZ time, which saw northern hemisphere contestants at an advantage. By mid-morning the US entrant was 12,000 votes ahead, and we were trailing in the last few. But we began to gain ground, slowly overtaking the others. By 6pm we were only a couple of thousand behind a now-sleeping US. This inspired our supporters into a feverish round of online voting, which not only saw us catch up, but begin to create an unassailable lead. By the time the US woke up they stood no chance of getting their lead back. When voting closed, victory was ours with 53,359 votes - 24,000 votes ahead! (see graph at left).

We didn't win any major prize, but to us it's really about the victory won by the New Zealand voters who pulled out all the stops. **Dancing with the Stars** this ain't. There were some amazing museum dance videos from around the world, but it came down to our loyal supporters rather than exceptional dance talent on our part. However, we had fun and energy!

To celebrate our win we held a special voter's party a week later,



Recent and current exhibitions

My Favourite Things

This popular colourful exhibition ran from mid May to late July and featured an eclectic mix of interesting items loaned from members of the community. These ranged from an ornate tiny Japanese carving to a beehive and beekeeper suits. It included items loaned from Timaru District Mayor Damon Odey and from MP Andrew Falloon.



Above: *My Favourite Things* made bold use of colour to draw attention to the unusual mix of objects on display, things ancient and modern, local and from elsewhere in the world.

Left: Curator Chris Rapley with Fletcher Riley, aged 7, who's budding insect collection was featured in the exhibition (which gladdened the Museum Director's heart greatly).

Landscape of Dreams

Opening at the end of July, this beautiful exhibition provides visitors with an array of images of local limestone features, taken by local researcher Hermann Frank. Hermann has also developed a series of information panels that explore various aspects of nature and history to do with our limestone areas.

The usual shapes and erosion patterns of limestone outcrops have long fascinated people, whether early Maori who left rock art drawings or modern-day sightseers or rock climbers. In addition, local limestone outcrops act as sanctuaries for a range of plants and animals that cannot survive in the surrounding farmland.



Enduring the Inferno: Marking the end of the First World War



27 October will see the opening of **Enduring the Inferno**, our last First World War centenary exhibition. It will tell the entire story of South Canterbury's World War I experience and is timed to mark the centennial of the war's end. **Enduring the Inferno** will complete the story of the war covering the last year of the war as well as revisiting the major events of the conflict.

It will also look at the experience of the Mounted Riflemen who fought in Sinai and Palestine, while the main New Zealand force was on the Western Front.

Enduring the Inferno will display some amazing items, including a Mounted Rifleman's saddle, and use animations to talk about how the different battles unfolded. The exhibition will run until 10 February 2019.

Over the last four years we have held five separate war-related exhibitions. In 2014, we looked at South Canterbury at the eve of war with **1914**, and with **Into Hell Itself**, the local experience of Gallipoli campaign in 2015. In 2016 we held three war-related exhibitions. **Equipped to Survive** focused on the equipment used by local men serving overseas. We also mounted **Battle Flag**, an exhibition with one very large object; the unique battle ensign flag from the British battleship HMS New Zealand (lower right). **Never a Day Goes By** came from South Otago Museum and looked at how the fallen were remembered in two communities - New Zealand and New Caledonia (below left).

Last year's **Hell Let Loose** looked at the experiences of local men in the battlefields of Western Europe in the 1916-17 campaigns. In October last year the Museum was also a venue for three performances of a one-woman play that focused on one man's experiences of the battle of Passchendaele (below centre).

Throughout the commemorative period, the Heritage Education Team have delivered war-focused programmes for schools, often assisted by local historian and collector Malcolm Brady (bottom right), Malcolm has also generously loaned many items for use in the exhibitions and presented public talks.

Work has been ongoing on the South Canterbury Roll of Honour (SCRoll) project overseen by curator Tony Rippin, who has also served on the local SCWW100 commemorative trust. The SCRoll touchscreen has been displayed in several local sites to provide access and awareness of the commemorative project. Over 20 volunteers have contributed to this on-going project.



Our History Illuminated - 150 years of Council operation



Saturday 4 August saw an amazing event in Timaru, the ***Our History Illuminated*** lightshow and celebration that marked 150 years since the first Timaru Council was formed. For this occasion, King George Place was closed to vehicles, with various Council teams setting up fun activity stations. A giant historic slideshow covering the last 150 years was projected onto part of the historic Council building which was also lit up with changing light colours. The weather played along and hundreds of locals and visitors turned up to enjoy the spectacle and take part.

The Museum team were heavily involved with this project. Museum Director Philip and curator Tony were on the Council planning team, and Tony was responsible for developing the 101-image slideshow used on the building. Philip provided a live commentary to the show to further outline aspects of our history.

We also had an activity set up on the street, along with other Council units. We had produced a life-sized image of a local family enjoying afternoon tea at the turn of the century. Members of the public could pop their faces through the back to be in the image and have their photo snapped. This was manned by curator Chris and technician Simon (below), and our marquee set up and packed down by other members of the Museum Team.



Images from the Heritage Education Service



Busy times in Term II for our team, running programmes in our Museum and around the wider region. We range from Mid-Canterbury to North Otago, providing experiences in participating museums and nature or history sites.

Left: Teaching the teachers: early childhood education students from Ara Polytech try out hands-on replica wiri - Māori stone-tipped drills

Lower left: Museum Educator Keely Kroening exploring local disasters with Geraldine High School students.

Below: A student from Allenton School in Ashburton in replica costume during a session we presented at Ashburton Museum.

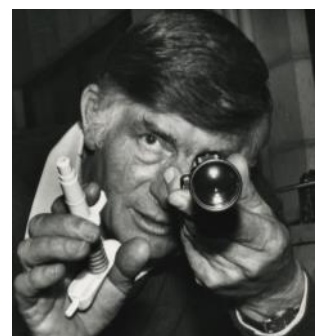
Bottom right: Year 7 students from Craighead Diocesan School came in to learn about early schooldays. They had the chance to try on former Craighead uniform items loaned by the school.



A very special addition to the collection



We recently received a fountain pen that belonged to local inventor Colin Murdoch (1929-2008), who was inspired by this very pen to create the disposable hypodermic syringe. This played a vital role in revolutionising medical care. While using the pen one day he took off the cap and placed it on the end. It dawned on him that something similar could be done with a plastic syringe, with the protective cap becoming the plunger in the back of the syringe. That moment was the genesis of an invention that has saved countless lives.



Amazingly the disposable syringe was just one of Murdoch's inventions. His incredibly innovative mind also came up with things such as tranquilliser guns, child-proof container caps, and the first silent burglar alarm. The Museum is very excited to have this unassuming, but extremely important, pen in our collection, and we are grateful to Colin's wife Marilyn for this kind donation.

Around the Museum



Left: Timaru District Mayor Damon Odey speaking at the opening of *My Favourite Things* in May.

Right: Craighead Diocesan School students try out old-fashioned deportment lessons, walking around the Museum balancing books on their heads.



Middle left: Photographer Hermann Frank speaking at the opening of *Landscapes of Dreams* in July.



Middle right: Two happy punters taking part in one of our July school holiday craft activities. The Museum was swarming with kids for two weeks with a variety of events and in-gallery activities giving relieved caregivers the chance to get out of the house.



Lower left: Harrison and Brian Reeve visited us from Wellington recently. Brian was inspired by his visit to South Canterbury Museum as a 13-year-old visitor in 1968 to develop a life-long passion for moas, archaeology and history. This was Brian's first time back since that fateful day in 1968. A great example of the impact museums can have.



Right: Librarians on the loose in our storerooms. We hosted staff teams from Timaru Library for a couple of days in early August while the library was closed for maintenance. They undertook training using our Education Space and also toured behind the scenes.



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:

Friends Membership
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