

INSIDE



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Above: Museum technician Simon Cullimore puts the finishing touches into a new display case featuring local bird species. Read more about this on Page 3.

**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Spring
2019**



Director's comment: We live in a unique place

People sometimes think that museums are much the same, but nothing could be further from the truth. Visit any museum in New Zealand and yes, you might see some similar artefacts to those in other places, but the stories that they tell will be unique to that district or region.

It's the stories - natural and historical heritage - that each museum can present that give us such a unique picture. No two regions in New Zealand have the same heritage, whether it's the underlying landscape story, the mix of natural life past and present, the region's Māori heritage or stories of recent settlement. Unlocking and presenting those unique stories is what museums can provide through their collections, exhibitions, education programmes, research and public programmes.

Here's an example of a little-known local story. Did you know that our region is home to a plant rare than the better-known kakapo parrot? I had the opportunity to accompany local botanical researcher Hermann Frank (at right) out to Manahune, west of Albury in early October to locate and count the flowering Manahune buttercup (inset photograph). These tiny plants only grow along the limestone ridge that stretches from Albury Park to Manahune, a fascinating landscape feature and home to several rare limestone-loving plants.

Our part of the world is home to some fascinating life forms and distinct landscapes, a point we want to emphasise in our revitalised natural history exhibition areas. You can read more about this project over the page.

Philip



Museum people together, sharing and learning

On 16 October we hosted two different meetings at the museum, enabling museum workers and volunteers to meet, share news and ideas, and learn more. The morning saw a meeting of the Central South Island Museums Group, with representatives from museums and galleries from Mid and South Canterbury and North Otago. A highlight of this meeting was a presentation by the local Police firearms officer about issues for museums holding historic firearms, a matter of increased interest and risk.

In the afternoon we acted as hosts for a regional hui organised by Museums Aotearoa, the national membership organisation. Executive Director Phillipa Tocker and Mo Farrell travelled down from Wellington to report about the future direction of Museums Aotearoa, and lead discussion about how services to



museums and members can be enhanced, along with general discussion about wellness in the workplace for museum workers and volunteers. Representatives from museums and galleries for our central South Island region were joined by others from Christchurch and the West Coast. The meeting concluded with tours of some of our storage areas and our recently-upgraded exhibition spaces.

Above: Heritage Education Service educators Keely Kroening and Ruth outline our regional programmes to morning meeting attendees.

Left: Museums Aotearoa hui attendees outside the Museum following a tour of our facilities.

Heritage Education Service funded for additional two years

We are very pleased to announce that thanks to a recently-renewed contract with the Ministry of Education and the generosity of a local family we will be able to continue to deliver education programmes both at our Museum and at a range of museums, marae and heritage sites around the wider region. These programmes annually provide over 5,000 school students at all levels with hands-on learning experiences that encompass and link together a wide range of heritage topics: nature, history, technology, culture, language, art and more.

These programmes have only been made possible with the core funding supplied through the Ministry of Education's Learning Experiences out of the Classroom (LEOTC) programme. Over time, this support has been reduced, and a local family have stepped in to make up the shortfall. This will enable us to continue operating at the current level until December 2021.

Our Heritage Education Service team, consisting of three part-timers (Wendy Hurst, Keely Kroening and Ruth Gardiner) have built upon the programmes that have been developed over the last 14 years that we have had LEOTC funding. Their programmes consistently receive a very positive response from teachers and students, and from Ministry of Education evaluators.

Above right: A very happy Keely and Ruth with a signed copy of the Ministry of Education LEOTC contract.

Right: Students from Ashburton's Hampstead School getting a closer look at Māori archaeological items at South Canterbury Museum.

Below: Students from Mayfield School take a break from examining a huge totara tree at Peel Forest as part of a forest biodiversity discovery programme,



Exhibition news: local schooling and reinterpreting nature

The 3 R's: Education in South Canterbury opened on 30 August, and is running through until 30 November. This exhibition gives local visitors especially the opportunity to see how local schooling has changed over time; from beginnings in the 1850s up to a look at a modern classroom.

Curator Tony Rippin has drawn upon a range of historic documents, images and artefacts to highlight how schooling has developed and changed since the rule of "the 3 R's" - reading, writing and 'rithmetic. Visitors can get a feel for the Victorian era, and take in a video tour of a modern primary classroom narrated by a 6-year old pupil.

Right: Museum Technician Simon Cullimore and Curator Tony Rippin install a "window" display into the exhibition area.

Lower right: At the opening of the exhibition on 30 August.

Below: Former Timaru Girls High School classmates Helen Henderson and Lee Keeley, our textiles collection volunteer, with Lee's art shirt from 1962, signed by classmates.



A Land Cloaked in Life: Revitalising natural history displays



Forest giants, mighty moa, the world's largest eagle, a huge variety of birds large and small, a beetle named after Temuka, dozens of invertebrates, a diversity of sea creatures, millions of years' worth of fossils and more will be featured in ***A Land Cloaked in Life***, the revitalised natural history displays.

Over the next few months we are carrying out a revitalisation of our natural history displays to bring more specimens on exhibition and provide greater insights for visitors into the fascinating and sometimes unique aspects of our region's natural history. There will be a number of new display cases integrated in amongst some current displays, along with new imagery, signage and audio-visual material.

Left: Among the 27 inhabitants of our new local bird species case are a tui (still occasionally seen locally) and a South Island kokako (sadly long-gone).

Coming soon: a Timaru landmark

Our next exhibition will focus on the Sacred Heart Basilica, 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. Opening on November 31, this exhibition will take a look at photographs both of and from the building, as well as providing some of the history of this significant example of built heritage and its central role to the local Catholic community.

Right: The Sacred Heart Basilica nears completion in 1911.

SCM 0935



Recent events at the Museum & elsewhere



Above: Members of the South Canterbury Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists cut a cake to mark 50 years since the establishment of the branch, at the Museum in September. The branch is now based at the Museum, and members assist the public with genealogical inquiries on Sunday afternoons.

Top right: Museum Director Philip Howe leads a bug hunt at the Otipua Wetlands wild day in September. Photograph courtesy of Geoff Cloake.

Centre: Author Ruth Entwistle Low with Rachael Eady from Penguin Publishing, at the launch of Ruth's new book *The Shearers*. Ruth can be seen at right, giving a short reading from the book to those gathered at the Museum at the event in August.

Right: Robyn Cooper, a former high school Museum volunteer and recent archaeology graduate, gives an illustrated talk about a recent month-long archaeological dig at Pompeii that she participated in.



Recent arrivals into the collection

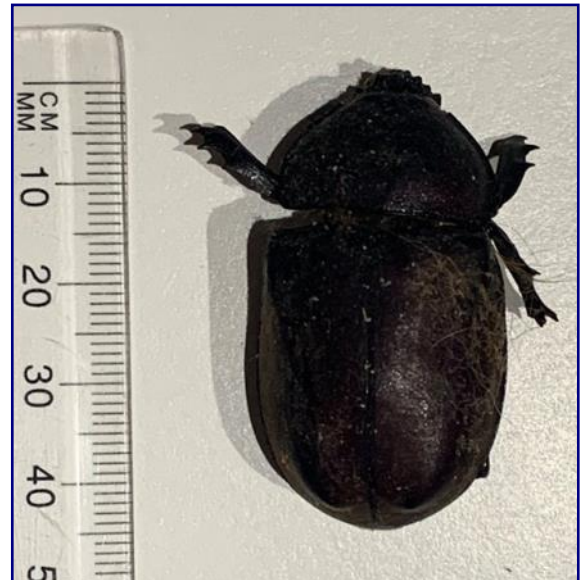


Above: A late 20th century word processor, used by local author Doug Drake to write a book about local aviation history. (2019/141).



Above right: Souvenir ribbon from the 1961 French Rugby Tour, where a local woman hit a French player whose had punched a South Canterbury player during the match which the local side won. (2019/148).

Right: A Japanese rhinoceros beetle, found dead in an imported car. This is the second such specimen we've seen. (2019/147).



Bottom left: An original floor spring removed from the Caroline Bay hall dance floor during recent renovations, one of the devices that provided such a bounce to the floor. (2019/132).

Bottom right: Mountainview High School teacher Justine Carson-Iles and students Kylee Quantock, Tanya Smith and Jessica Laws with climate change protest signs which they donated to the Museum after a recent public event. (2019/146).



Getting around with the Heritage Education Service



Above: Opihi College students work with Museum Educator Keely Kroening to test limestone's chemical properties during a field trip at Kakahu. The class also visited the Ravensdown limestone quarry, as part of an NCEA unit standard.

Above right: Waimataitai School students examining information panels built into beehive honey racks as part of a programme looking at bees and other insects. The panels were loaned from New Zealand Beeswax at Orari.

Right: Highfield School students try their hand at twentieth century technology in the form of typewriters, at the South Canterbury Museum.

Bottom: Craighead Diocesan School students work on flax weaving at Waihao Marae, part of a joint programme run between the Marae and the Heritage Education Service.



People around the Museum



Left: Molly Loffhagen with the Japanese rhinoceros beetle that her mum Tania found in their imported car (see p6)

Right: Carol Boulton points out her younger 1963 self in a large Caroline Bay carnival image at the recent Genealogists 50th event at the Museum.

Lower left: Alex Rapley, who narrated a video looking at a modern classroom, part of **The 3 R's** exhibition, with her teacher Chelsea Jenkins.

Lower right: Museum curator Tony Rippin speaks at the opening of **The 3 R's** exhibition.



Recent visitor comments

*Tino atoahua tenei whare taonga.
Tino harikoa matau kua tae ki roto
me te whawha atu i nga taonga a
koto nei. Kia ora mai.*

*(This museum is very beautiful. We
are very happy to have come in
and handled the items briefly.
Many thanks)*

50-65yr old North Island visitor

*Fantastic place – always some-
thing new to see, lovely staff,
great for any age!*

19-35yr old Timaru visitor

*Hands on and the clothing dress
up were a real hit with the kids.
One of the best museums we have
been to. Thank you for sharing*
Family from North Island

*Loved the school exhibition, it's so
cool to see how the uniforms have
evolved!*

13-18yr old Timaru visitor



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
Overseas	\$35.00
Life	\$300.00

Send your information and cheque for the correct amount to:

Friends Membership
South Canterbury Museum
PO Box 522
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