

UPDATE



In this issue

- Time to think ahead
- Exhibitions coming
- Gallipoli centenary
- Collection and Education news
- Around the Museum

Above: *One of the participants in the Museum in the Dark event in July. Special face paint and UV light made for some interesting sights around the darkened gallery space!*

**SOUTH CANTERBURY
MUSEUM**
EXPLORE our heritage

**Winter
2015**



Director's comment: Creating space for heritage

The Museum recently took part in the Timaru District Council's Long term Plan (LTP) process, which required us to look carefully at how the Museum is operating, what will be needed for the next ten years of operation, and how things might need to change. A major consideration was the need for the Museum to expand its public space, either through a building extension or a new development.

This issue was one of five chosen by the Council to be consulted on by the public in its document **Are We There Yet?**. Readers were asked to indicate if they supported the idea of further developing the Museum, and if so, what form that development might take.

Over 150 submissions were received, with two-thirds indicating their support for the project. Suggestions for what sort of development might occur varied, but at the final plan adoption meeting, the Council decided to approve a development to take place in the 2018-19 financial year.

So we will have quite a bit of work to do leading up to this, with a number of important decisions to be made. A development will enable us to provide not only more and better exhibition space, but to look at how we can build the Museum to be of more use to our community, as a public

area, meeting space and perhaps a performance venue.

The Council also considered the pressing issue for the need for collection storage space. The Museum will be unable to continue adding items, particularly large artefacts into its present storage areas. The Council have approved funding to allow the Museum to lease an off-site area for collection storage for the next four and a half years. This will enable us to manage new acquisitions, house large items taken off display during the upcoming exhibition changes planned, and to reorganise our existing storage areas to gain better efficiencies of space.

There is a lot to be done, and so much to be gained. That is what motivates our team - the volunteers, staff, supporters and those who work with us. I am very aware of a number of museums around the country that are flourishing, due to community interest and support. A healthy vibrant museum feeds its community. We have so many wonderful opportunities to do some really good things here.

- Phillip

All go in the July school holidays



The Museum recorded a 27 percent increase above target figures for visits and museum service use in July. We feel that this was due to three factors; local interest in **Into Hell Itself**, the exhibition that explored local experiences of the Gallipoli campaign 100 years ago, and the popularity of the Museum as an all-weather venue during the July school holidays. Our activity programmes were well-subscribed, in particular the **Museum in the Dark** event which was booked out. This event saw participants wearing glow-in-the-dark face paint exploring the Museum with torches at night, trying to locate hidden nocturnal creatures such as kiwi, ferrets and owls.



The craft activities saw children making flags, trying out trench periscopes and writing soldiers letter home which were then posted to their home address. It was great to see so many families with parents or grandparents taking part in these activities, which were often booked out in advance. Now we're planning ahead for the next holidays in late September.



Coming up: Dinosaur feet and the local 60s music scene

In late September and October, visitors will be able to find out more about an important scientific discovery with the **Dinosaur Footprints** exhibition. This travelling exhibition has been developed by GNS Science to highlight the recent discovery of dinosaur footprints in the northwest Nelson area.

The exhibition presents information about the discovery, the type of dinosaur that made the tracks and how New Zealand may have looked around 70 million years ago when the tracks were made. Visitors will be able to touch replica casts of the footprints and watch audio-visual presentations that tell the story of discovery.

We'll be running dino-themed activities in the Sept/Oct school holidays - keep an eye out for these if you have young dino enthusiasts in your home!



We change pace in November when we open **Rock 'n Roll Part 1**, a look back at the local popular music scene in the 1960s. Like many parts of the country, local teens were excited by the rock and roll revolution spearheaded by the Beatles, The Rolling Stones and other international groups.

A vibrant scene sprang up in the 1960s, with teen bands forming to emulate their idols, playing at dances, night clubs and pubs. A number of local musicians went on to achieve national or even international recognition. Some are still active today.

The exhibition will feature images, recollections and artefacts from the era, giving visitors a glimpse into another time, a nostalgia trip for some.



The exhibition has resulted from a collaboration with Queenstown-based Lyall Smillie, himself a teenage guitarist from Temuka in the 1960s. Lyall has been researching and collating images and recollections about the local music scene in the 1960-2000 period, making use of the Face Book page **Timaru Music Guitar History**. Another exhibition and a book is planned as part of this project.



Gallipoli focus fascinates visitors

Into Hell Itself, which focussed on the role local men played in the Gallipoli campaign, opened on ANZAC Day, 25 April. This followed a lot of creative work by some of the Museum team. Museum Technician Russell Armstrong (right) worked to produce an intricate replica of a Lee Enfield Mk I rifle, used in an interactive trench periscope display. This proved popular with visitors, particularly students.

Curator Tony Rippin worked at home to produce a three dimensional scale model map of the Gallipoli battleground (lower right). This enabled visitors to understand at a glance the topography of the area and the difficulties of the terrain faced by our troops.

The exhibition provided both an overview of the Gallipoli campaign as well as a focus on the experiences of soldiers from South Canterbury. Social History Curator Chris Rapley (below), who designed the exhibition, gave a number of talks both in the exhibition and to groups offsite.

Visitor reaction was great, with strong interest in the many quotes from letters sent back by local soldiers. A number of schools came for WWI-themed programmes that made use of the exhibition. Museum visit numbers were above target during the exhibition.

The exhibition closed on 19 July, but a number of the items used in the exhibition will be reused both in the Museum and displays around the region.



Visitor comments from survey forms

The Gallipoli exhibition was fantastic, the battlefield looks great and the attention to detail is spot on!
Timaru District visitor, July 2015

Brilliant display. Comment particularly on the Poppy Wall attached to a soldier's grey blanket"
Timaru city visitor, May 2015

At the exhibition's opening on ANZAC Day we hosted descendants (at right) of Major David Grant, the commander of the South Canterbury contingent, who was killed on the day of landing on 25 April 1915. The exhibition featured several of his belongings, including his identity disk (far right), removed from his body prior to burial.



Around the Museum

Timaru Herald Personalities Collection hits milestone!

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers the 5000th photograph in this massive collection has been packed, scanned and catalogued. This represents a significant body of work, but there is still a lot more to come – the collection is arranged alphabetically by the subject's surname and the team is currently working on the J's and L's. It has been a massive effort, but the half-way mark is close, after which its surely going to be all downhill ... won't it?

The images and records amassed from the project can explored through the 'Collections Online' portion of our website. The collection includes a wealth of portraits of people who have featured in the newspaper from around the mid 1980s until the early 2000s when the Herald moved to digital photography. Well known individuals keep cropping up and the collection even includes images of some people from the Mid-Canterbury and North Otago regions as the Herald has often covered stories in these regions in the past.

Right: Lee-anne Johns, manager of the Loaded Hog, photographed by the Timaru Herald in 1995.



SCRoll heads out into the region

Since the popular exhibition "Into Hell Itself" closed at the end July, the SCRoll touchscreen and model of Gallipoli has begun touring the region. The pair have been a massive hit – the model for its ability to help in understanding the terrible nature of the terrain, and the touchscreen allows exploration of the 2500 fascinating profiles and stories collected so far.

Until recently the touchscreen, providing access to the SCRoll website's current 2500 profiles, and model have been at the Temuka Library and Service Centre. Right now, they can be found at the Geraldine Library and Service Centre (at left) until mid-October, after which they will be at the Timaru library until early December. Waimate Museum will be the next stop, staying into the New Year. We then hope to travel them to Fairlie in order to complete the tour of our region's main centres.



Volunteer Spotlight

This year our volunteer ranks have been joined by two local high school students, Timaru Girls High School Year 12 student Saray Sedeno (left) and Craighead Diocesan School Year 11 student Emma Williams (right).

Both are coming in after school for an afternoon each week to work with Curator Chris Rapley on documenting and packaging social history artefacts. Saray also assisted us with the July School Holiday programmes.



New arrivals in the Collection

The Museum's collections have continued to grow with a number of interesting items being received over the last three months. Staff are careful to ensure that only items that will serve a purpose for research, education or exhibition are added to our collections to keep building this unique heritage resource.

Above: An iMac G3, originally launched in 1998, and used by a local accounting firm.

Below: Curator Chris Rapley works with the poppy wall made by The Aoraki Embroiderers' Guild for the *Into Hell Itself* exhibition and subsequently donated to the Museum.



Right: A shirt worn by a member of the Northdown Te Rangi Scout Troop in 1940. The Troop is the second-oldest in New Zealand.

Below: A 1968 EP record of 'Come to Mackenzie' by Jack Denley and the Trail-riders. The band's experiences went right back to playing during the Great Depression and entertaining the troops in World War II. The record includes the songs 'Sunny Timaru' and 'Lovely Alexandrina', a tribute to the stunning lake in the Mackenzie country.



The Museum has recently received generous donations relating to Charles Thomas, a Timaru doctor who was tragically killed in the fighting at Gallipoli one hundred years ago. Thomas commanded the Mounted Rifles Field Ambulance during the battle and he was killed by artillery when he went forward to help casualties during the disastrous attacks on Hill 60.

The first donation to the Museum was a folder of priceless letters that Thomas wrote to his wife during the battle, and this was followed by the donation of some more papers and the kitbag (at right) he used when he headed away to war in 1914. The donation of letters was so significant that it was the subject of a feature article in the *Timaru Herald*, which quoted Thomas at length, and together the items are a fantastic addition to the collection.



Heritage Education Service news



Above: A history student from Opihi College makes use of a phone camera to capture information in the Into Hell Itself exhibition..



Above: Timaru Boys High School students studying bird adaptations get a closer look at one of our penguins.

Below: A Gleniti primary School student tries out the periscope rifle replica in the Into Hell Itself exhibition.



The Heritage Education Service team have had a busy Term 2, with a number of schools taking the opportunity provided by the Museum's Gallipoli exhibition to have a focus on the First World War. These programmes have been helped considerably by the involvement of local collector and historian Malcolm Brady who has provided popular viewing and handling sessions for a range of classes.

The Education team work closely with teachers to ensure each programme fits the class learning needs. We were pleased to get this feedback from a Highfield School teacher recently.

We were very impressed with the visit. Staff were helpful and went out of their way to support my topic and class programme. Activities were engaging and age related. Activity sheet around radio exhibit kept students focused.



Above: Museum Educator Ruth Gardiner shows visiting students how to use a touchscreen that contains the SCRoll (South Canterbury Roll of Honour) database and accompanying images.



The Museum, Aigantighe Art Gallery and Timaru Public Library recently worked together with Winchester School to teach the children about the meaning of Matariki. Children were involved in story telling of Maori myths and legends at the Library, looking at the Matariki stars and playing of traditional Maori instruments such as the Porotiti and Purerehua at the Museum and learning about traditional Maori art at the Art Gallery (above).

Around the Museum



Left: We had a recent visit from Chanel Clarke, Curator Māori at Auckland Museum, and Dr Catherine Smith, University of Otago clothing and textiles science expert. They were here to view a very unusual item from our collection, a European-style jacket made from mostly traditional Māori materials and decorated in taniko pattern and feathers. This garment may be a rare “crossover” item where traditional and European designs were mixed. We know very little about the garment, and hope to learn more about it from further research.

Below: Who **are** these people? The Museum Team couldn't keep out of the glow-in-the-dark-paint during the Museum in the Dark event recently. Three student volunteers and three staff members are shown here.



See more from this and other events on the Museum's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SCMuseum



Contact the Museum

Phone (03) 687 7212
 Fax (03) 687 7215
 Postal PO Box 522, Timaru
 NEW ZEALAND
 Email museum@timdc.govt.nz
 Website www.timaru.govt.nz/museum

Visitor comments from survey forms

This was an excellent visit. First time my daughter had seen a dial phone, showed her how to use it

Timaru city visitor, July 2015

Perfect - wide range of topics (geography, Maori, settlers, animals)

German visitor, June 2015

Great spot to learn and relax with the kids!

Timaru District visitor, July 2015

We need a bigger museum to show off what's in storage

Timaru city visitor, July 2015

Warm and very friendly

North Island visitor, June 2015

It's been a long time since my last visit and really surprised by the number of changes. Excellent!

Timaru District visitor, July 2015

Loved the exhibits - especially the clothing! Well done.

Australian visitor, May 2015

Terrific place—great displays and a fun hour or two for children

English visitor review on **Trip Advisor** website, August 2015

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
 South Canterbury Museum
 PO Box 522, Timaru 7940