

**Comments from
our visitor survey
forms**

*Impressive natural history
section for such a small
museum. Would like to see it
developed further*

Timaru City visitor aged
19-35

*Excellent local history
museum - very informative &
also quirky with history of
Caroline Bay*

Australian visitor aged
51-65

Excellent presentation
Timaru City visitor aged
51-65

*Enjoyed the **Fire and
Floods** exhibit!*
Timaru District visitor
aged 35-50

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Timaru at Last!

Exhibition and book launched

Timaru at Last! our exhibition marking the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Timaru's first immigrant ship, the *Strathallan*, opened to the public on the 29th of November. This followed an opening the evening before for 180 invited guests, and a special preview for more than 70 *Strathallan* immigrant descendents. The exhibition was the culmination of a lot of hard work and planning by team of Museum staff, volunteers and contributors, and is receiving much favourable comment.

Also launched on the 29th was a book with the same title. Written by local historian and keen genealogist Alan McKenzie and produced by the Museum, the book gives an account of both the voyage and the subsequent lives of the immigrants who travelled to Timaru. An essential text for anyone interested in local history or immigration, it is only available from the Museum, with all proceeds going to the Museum Development Trust. See the back page for details.



Above: Scenes from the opening night of ***Timaru at Last!***

Right: Curator of Collections Davina Davis and Museum volunteer Tracy Morris in costume at the exhibition opening.

Left: Alan McKenzie speaking at the launch of ***Timaru at Last!*** held in St. Mary's Church beside the Museum (book cover inset).



Timaru at Last! A major effort for exhibition and book



The many positive comments received from those viewing our new exhibition *Timaru at Last!* or purchasing the book indicate the quality of what has been produced. Both are the result of many hours of planning and work by various people in the Museum. Planning began in earnest over a year ago, and culminated in a 3 week set up period prior to opening. Much of the initial research and content development undertaken by Davina Davis, Curator of Collections, who then worked with Museum Technician Rob Tulley, whose design and construction work ensured that the replica cabin structure would contain the elements planned as well as fit into the space available. A team of Museum staff and volunteers worked long and hard, putting in additional hours and going several extra miles in order to get the job done.



We have been very fortunate to have support from a number of people in the wider community. This includes organisations and individuals who have loaned items to the Museum, people who have assisted with making display items and replica textiles, and staff members' family members who have assisted with a wide range of tasks, including harvesting tussocks and collecting shingle! We are now looking at how components of the exhibition can be incorporated into the Museum's long term displays once *Timaru at Last!* finishes on 3 May 2009.



Top: The Museum's central display area during construction.

Above: Visitors enjoy the finished product.

Right: Rob Tulley building the Strathallan cabin framework.

also the result of a huge amount of work. Author Alan McKenzie has spent over 3 years carrying out research on the voyage and the lives of the Timaru immigrants and producing the manuscript for the book. Alan then worked at the Museum with Tony Rippin, Curator of Documentary History who edited the manuscript, located illustrations and designed the layout and oversaw the printing.

Timaru at Last! the book is

Museum team takes part in Timaru Christmas Parade



A costumed team consisting of children from the Museum Explorer's Club and several staff and family members took part in Timaru's Christmas Parade on December 6. We had chosen to represent the Strathallan immigrants theme, linked to our new exhibition, book and the forthcoming 150th anniversary. We were fortunate to be loaned an authentic-looking cutter by the Endeavour Sea Scouts to serve as a landing vessel. The sun shone, our Explorers handed out lollies and Museum flyers, and the several thousand-strong crowd that lined the parade route expressed their appreciation of the float.



Above: Some of Parade team at the Museum prior to setting sail down Stafford Street in the December 6 Timaru Christmas Parade.

Museum happenings

Farewell to Cynthia



After four years as inaugural Museum Educator, Cynthia McCaughan has finished her time here. Cynthia began as the first Ministry of Education-funded Museum Educator in 2005. She very quickly established the Museum's Heritage Education Service as an important resource for local schools, both at the Museum and at various sites around the region. Cynthia's talent, drive, organisation, skill and determination have resulted in a service which is highly regarded by teachers and students, and which consistently receives very positive reports from Ministry evaluators. Cynthia created a number of initiatives that have been very effective and drawn interest from other educators, such as the use of costume, regional education programmes and a number of partnerships with local agencies and organisations that benefited our education programmes and the schools that use them. We wish her all the best for a well-deserved break.



We also say goodbye to Margaret Riordan (left; at the Christmas Parade) and Aaron Howard (right; at a Council function). Margaret has been at the Museum for over 3 years in a variety of roles, both paid and voluntary. Her latest role was as Education Support worker, which included preparation of education resources for schools, assisting with production of newsletters and other printed material, and also a stint in costume for a week at Clark's Mill near Oamaru.

Aaron joined the Museum as a volunteer and for the last 9 months has been employed on a Taskforce Green scheme as a collection technician, working with stored social history collection items to update records and images, and rehouse stored items. In addition, Aaron has provided willing assistance with a range of tasks, including collecting old timber for the *Timaru at Last!* exhibition, painting exhibition walls and assisting with the inevitable newsletter mail outs.



Museum Explorers: a success story for 2008

The Museum Explorer's Club for primary students has continued to grow since its beginning in April. Recent sessions have included a closer look at birds and historic costume, with Explorers trying on replica items. Bigger things are planned for 2009!



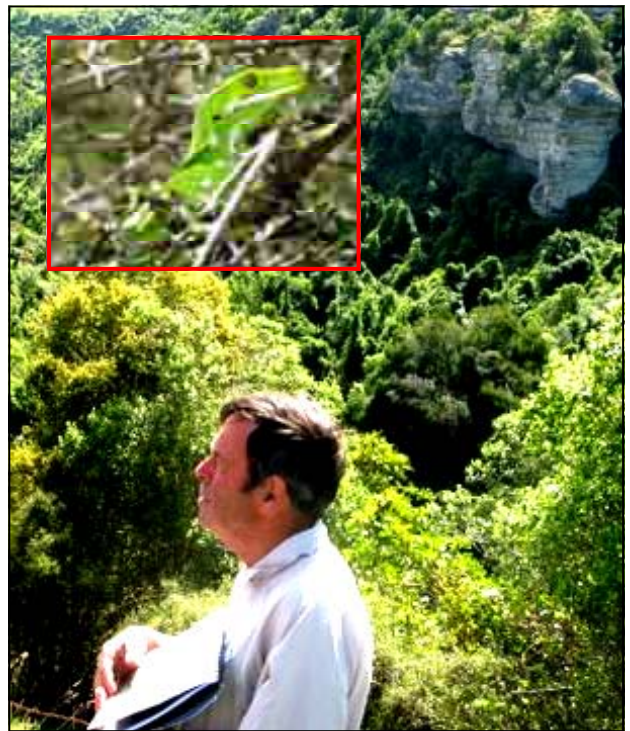
Around the Museum



2008 Lizard survey concludes

During this year, the Museum has hosted Hermann Frank, a local teacher who as awarded a Royal Society of New Zealand teacher's fellowship to conduct a study of lizards in local limestone areas. Hermann's survey involved visual searches of many local sites, as well as setting out artificial covers to lure lizards out to where they could be checked. Hermann also encouraged people with information on lizard populations, both past and present, to contact him in order to record as much local data as possible.

Hermann has also had a number of opportunities to talk to schools and interest groups about local lizards and conservation. He will work with the Museum to produce an exhibition about local lizards opening mid May 2009.



Training course for local museum workers

16 people from 10 museums and heritage organisations attended a collection management training course at the Museum on 12 December. Organised by Te Papa's National Services Department, the course was taken by Salme Kortet from the National Preservation Office in Wellington.



Get your copy now!

Our new book, *Timaru at Last!* is now available at the Museum for only \$40.00 (cash or cheque only) Nearly 180 pages illustrated in colour, it is an exceptionally good book! Copies can be couriered to your address for \$10 for up to 2 copies. Please send a cheque made out to SC Museum to the address shown lower left with your order.



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The South Canterbury Museum is a community service of the Timaru District Council.



Become a friend of the Museum!

For only \$15.00 per year, receive this quarterly newsletter, invites to Museum openings and events, members' meetings, discounts on sales and services at the Museum and more. All Museum Friends are automatically members of the South Canterbury Historical Society. And you'll be supporting the Museum, so its **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	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Organisation/Business	\$25.00
Overseas	\$25.00
Life	\$200.00

Send your information and cheque for the correct amount to:

Friends Membership
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