

Teachers' News

Another year draws to an end...

Although school is out for the summer we will be in the office for most of the time and welcome your enquiries about bookings and programmes for 2010.

We recently put in a contract bid for a further three years starting mid 2010 and hope to hear soon that it has been successful. We certainly look forward to being able to serve the central South Island schools and bring Heritage Education in to your local area next year. 2009 has seen a great expansion into regional museums and sites and we have enjoyed working with 4500 to 5000 or so students and their teachers.

Both Nadine and Jean have taken the opportunity for professional development during 2009 and much of this has been about the revised curriculum. It has also included a Social Sciences conference for Jean and Interpreters conference for Nadine.

Recently we attended a workshop about the Key Competencies facilitated by Sue Ashworth from E-time and held at Ferrymead.

It was a good opportunity to join in discussion with other LEOTC providers and get an insight into the changes that schools will be implementing. We are in the process of changing our programme to better reflect the revised curriculum and we will be getting these out to schools in the near future. If you have any questions or want to discuss any of our programmes please contact us.

We finish this year wishing you all safe and happy holidays and look forward to working with you in 2010.

IN THE SOUTH CANTERBURY MUSEUM

A Year 10 Science class from Timaru Girls High school were able to come into the Museum and work on their skills of classifying our local **Geology** samples. They spent time in the Geology exhibition gallery, a permanent display in the Museum. Human cultural evolution was the topic for a Year 13 Biology class from Craighead. The girls enjoyed the fire lighting kit, the drill and stone tools which are part of the hands on collection of Maori technology. They were able to envisage the use of rock art for spreading information.

Elbow Grease and Hard Work has been another popular programme in the Museum this term. We have had visits from St. Joseph's school, Fairlie wanting to know what life was like and even had a go at churning some cream into butter. The juniors from Highfield school also wanted to know about life in early times before electricity, and got hands-on with some washing, before we took a trip with them to the Douglas School in Waimate to discover what **Schooldays Past** were like.

We had a lovely day out with Westmount school in and around Timaru doing the **Historic Marine Walk**. The students wanted to know about different places of interest around our town, like where the first house was and who the captain is outside the landing services building. Along the way, we were also on the hunt for different brass plaques mounted around the historic marine area of Timaru. The students were able to take a rubbing of each plaque and discover what they were about.

The year 9 and 10 students of Mount Hutt College from Methven, and Timaru Girls High School have been into the South Canterbury Museum this term. They took up the chance to participate in our **Back 'em Up!** Exhibition. The students were able to explore the exhibition and discover how the people responded to World War Two and the threat of invasion. While the students were in the Museum, they were also able to have a go on one of the morse code devices or have a go at playing '*Smash the Nazi Navy*'. The students also took up the opportunity to visit the air raid shelters on Station Street and some were able to visit Caroline Bay and see the some remains of the 44 concrete tank traps that had been used in the Timaru streets.

The **Train Day for Schools** out at Pleasant Point was a great success again this year with over 450 students participating. The students were treated to some funny old time cartoons as well as the fabulous ride on the steam train. Many thanks to all the staff at the Pleasant Point Railway.

OUTREACH UPDATE

Stream study and **Rock art field trips** have been very popular this term, especially with classes that are on camp. Timaru Christian School and Grantlea Downs Years 4 and 5 all enjoyed lovely spring weather and the chance to be out in the local environment. All of the students who visited a range of stream sites this term have been able to find a wide variety of stream life. **Stream studies** were also carried out by students from Fairlie Primary and St Josephs Fairlie in their local streams. It was interesting to hear the excited comments from student when they were able to find and identify small fish and insect larvae in the streams. This is an ideal camp or local activity during Terms 4 and 1 of a school year when the weather is sometimes warmer! Heritage Education service is able to come to a site near your school and can work in conjunction with others.

Ashburton Borough Year 7s were in the Ashburton Museum to study **Māori and Early European history** of their area. They enjoyed having hands on with some of the Maori tools from the education collection. In the 1970's Wakanui school carried out an archaeological dig with Canterbury Museum and the result is a record of the life of Māori in the area. Some of the items found in the dig are on display in the Ashburton Museum and this adds an authentic local perspective to classes. The students were thinking about resource use and they enjoyed matching the mid Canterbury landscapes to the way they were used.

Victorian Heritage week in Oamaru heralds a great opportunity for schools to participate in activities associated with the community celebrations. This year students from several schools participated in **Victorian Games** in the Botanical gardens. Getting active and using imagination as well as being dressed in costume all added to the experience.

Kakanui school were able to enjoy a **Rocks in the Neighbourhood** lesson with hands on samples in the North Otago Museum and then a field trip from Weston to Duntroon, culminating in a visit to Vanished World. There are a wealth of sites to view in the area including volcanic, sedimentary and metamorphic material.

Waihaorunga school visited Peel Forest to enjoy a **Forest Environment** study on the Great Fern walk. They were lucky to be able to sit in a cage with kakariki (native parakeets) in the afternoon.

The **Fire and Flood** exhibition has been on display in the Fairlie Museum with additional local content. Mackenzie College, St Josephs Fairlie, Fairlie Primary and Tekapo schools have all enjoyed the opportunity to view the exhibition and think about how they would cope in a disaster. This exhibition has been to other museums twice this year and means a great local opportunity is available.

Kā Takata Whenua o Waihao Exhibition at Waimate Museum

From May through August 2010, the Waimate Museum and Te Runanga o Waihao will tell stories of the takata whenua of the Waihao area through a special exhibition. The interactive display will describe the relationships between land and people, from the past through to present day. This exhibition will be in the old courtroom of the Waimate Museum.

Shift your classroom to Waimate Museum's Douglas School for the day and explore this local Maori exhibition.

Exhibition plans for 2010 South Canterbury Museum

Next year will see further variety in the Museum's temporary exhibition programme, and the installation of new long-term exhibitions in several Museum spaces.

Wetland wildlife (Feb-April) will feature local photographer Ron Lindsay's images of wildlife living at Timaru's Otipua Wetland area, along with information and educational activities about this important local site.

Squares and Compasses: Freemasonry in New Zealand

(May-June) is a travelling exhibition that provides an inside look at Freemasonry in New Zealand.

Feeling for Daylight (July-Sept) celebrates the historical alpine photography of Jack Adamson, who managed the Hermitage at the end of the 19th century. The Museum is producing a significant book featuring his photography which will be launched at the same time.

Student Ex Science Fair (Sept-Oct) A changing exhibition that showcases local high school student achievement in a number of cultural and creative subjects. It will also feature highlights from the annual Schools Science Fair.

A Day at the Bay (Nov-Feb) marks the 100th anniversary of the Caroline Bay Association, and will explore the rich social history of Timaru's "natural" beach and its history as a resort.