

Teachers' News

Autumn arrives

It has certainly been a cooler and wetter end to term this time around. This has seen many of our classes happening indoors but luckily most of the outdoor trips were able to go ahead with few postponements.

Inside the South Canterbury Museum we have been going through the first of many changes. Our new front desk area has been installed and just in time to see the opening of the **Square & Compasses - Freemasonry in New Zealand** exhibition which is on display throughout May and June. We are very excited about the next temporary exhibition; **Feeling for daylight - The Jack Adamson Collection**. Jack Adamson was born in Timaru and grew up in Albury. The exhibition will display a collection of his rare and beautiful glass plate images taken mostly around the Mount Cook area in the early 1900s. Curriculum areas that could fit with this exhibition are Technology and Visual Arts particularly focussing on Photography. This exhibition will run from July to early September.

Another exciting exhibition that the Heritage Education Service is involved with is **Ka Takata Whenua o Waihao** exhibition in the Waimate Museum. This exhibition is open now and is running through to November 2010. The staff at the Waimate Museum have been working very closely with the local runaka from the Waihao Marae to create this very special exhibition which explores not only the history of Maori from Waihao, but is also a great resource for teaching students how early Maori in our region were living, and what resources they used and technologies they developed. It will be possible to use the Heritage Education hands on collection of Maori technology items in lessons at Waimate.

IN THE SOUTH CANTERBURY MUSEUM

Term two kicked off with an **ANZAC** theme. We had classes from Craighead Diocesan School and some lovely juniors from Barton Rural School come in to meet our Friend of the Museum, Malcolm Brady. Mr Brady was able to bring along a huge assortment of items worn and used by soldiers during World War One. We also had other Craighead Diocesan Year 9 and 10 classes in for some more **Maori Technology** programmes.

Timaru Boys High School had a two part visit this term for their Science research project on the **Living World**. The first visit for the boys was an overview of different native flora and fauna, while in part two the boys had chosen a specific plant or creature to study using the Museum resources. On a similar theme were the juniors from Timaru Christian School that came in to explore our programme **Birds - Beaks and Wings**. Scattered over the term were 5 classes from Waimataitai School who came in as part of their Science class to see some of our **Insects & Spiders - Six legs, Eight legs**.

Back for another year of **Elbow Grease and Hard Work** were the year 10 students from Craighead Diocesan School. The students are able to experience a day in the life of a 19th Century housewife.

A real treat this term was having another friend of the Museum Jim Geddes come along with his replica of the first car built not only in Timaru but in New Zealand by Timaru local Cecil Wood in 1901. Mr Geddes was able to explain the history of the replica and give the students from Geraldine Primary a demonstration drive as part of their **Transport - Shank's Pony to Lighter than Air**.

Lighting the World with us during the term were St. Joseph's School from Fairlie. These students were able to explore all sorts of different lighting items from the past including torches, carriage and bicycle lamps, as well as finding out how a lighthouse lens works.

On a similar theme we had Grantlea Downs students focussing on **Electricity**. These students were able to learn about how an electrical circuit works, by being an electron, and investigate changes in electrical appliances over time. The Fairton School juniors were in to find out about some of our **Hometown Heroes** with movies and aircraft to see.

We had another group from Barton Rural School in to find out about **Dairy Times Past**. As part of their programme, these students were able to churn cream into butter to take back to school along with the buttermilk.

Several aspects of pre European Maori life have been explored this term. Some schools have looked at **Maori Technology**, some at **Mahika Kai** and others from the point of view of **Matariki** and **Myth and Legend**.

Timaru Christian school's Year 7/8 class visited to inquire into possums and their effect on birdlife in NZ. They looked at a variety of introduced predators that we have specimens of. Some of our collection of biological control agents were also used.

OUTREACH UPDATE

Disaster in the Mid Canterbury area was under the microscope for Allenton students. The Fire and Flood travelling exhibition was set up along with some great display material supplied by Don Geddes the Ashburton Civil Defence coordinator.

Visiting a potato onion and arable farm, a dairy farm and a turkey farm was a real eye opener to both students, adult helpers and teachers from Hampstead School. We have updated our **Farming: Meat and Wool and Dairy** programmes to look at concepts such as 'Sustainability' and 'Where our Food comes from'. Students on these trips were able to ask the farmers many questions and were amazed at what 5800 tonnes of potatoes looks like in one heap, the care and attention to detail required to produce the food and the sheer amount and range of foods produced in our area.

The **Wetland Environment** and associated field trips to Riverside Wetland, which has the bonus of students being able to see Canterbury Mudfish up close, continues to be a popular excursion. Lowcliffe school visited the Wetland at Lagmhor and also travelled to Lake Heron to find out about Mid Canterbury's water from source to sea. St Joseph's Ashburton visited the Ashburton Museum to investigate how the RDR irrigation system works and the use of water in Mid Canterbury on farms and in town.

Simple machines was set up in North Otago Museum for Totara school. These students enjoyed being able to test their ability to use wooden wedges, pulleys, an auger and other examples of simple machines.

Coming events and activities for Heritage Education Service

Student Ex and Science Fair Exhibition Opens 24th September - a chance to showcase work particularly from Year 9 -13 students. Can be dramatic performance, NCEA or other class work that is in poster or display form, wearable arts, models or technology projects.

This exhibition will start with Science fair projects and then change to other student work.

Ka Takata Whenua o Waihao exhibition Waimate Museum May - November

History Quiz night for Year 11 July 27th – a fun way to test students' knowledge

A Feeling for Daylight – An exhibition featuring photographs and the life of Jack Adamson

A Day at the Bay – 2010 will end with a major exhibition about Caroline bay from mid November!

A great way to end the year