

SOUTH CANTERBURY MUSEUM

EXPLORE our heritage

UPDATE

October 2011

Hands-on with nature in the July holidays

The recent July school holidays saw the Museum buzzing with family groups. Many came in to check out the **Retro Techno** exhibition, or to explore nature and history together. Others came in to take advantage of the Museum's varied holiday activity offerings. In the galleries were puzzles, costumes and the ever-popular Museum Mystery quiz sheets.

There were special activity sessions held on several mornings, all based around nature themes, and each with craft activities that enabled children to take something away with them. A session on birds gave children the chance to examine specimens and make their own bird feeders from recycled materials.

A fossils session provided the chance to make plaster "fossil" moulds of seashells as well as learn to more about the real thing. The insects session saw children using microscopes to examine preserved specimens and living things, and produce insect art. The Museum's gardens provided a place to explore native plants before producing leaf rubbings and flax craft.

Another highlight was a 50s, 60s and 70s fashion contest for kids, as part of the **Retro Techno** exhibition (right). The success of these programmes will guide development of future holiday programmes in October.



Director's comment: about all that stuff out the back.....

"Why do you need all that stuff?" - an understandable question from some when informed of the many thousands of items held in the Museum's stored collections. The simple answer is that these collections represent our region's heritage. A key Museum role is to build, preserve and make these collections accessible for the future as well as for today.

This role is of equal importance to the more public roles of exhibition and education. Careful collection management and growth ensures that vital aspects of our region's



Above: Museum artefacts stored in high-density mobile shelving in the basement storage area.

heritage are preserved for use in the present and the future.

This justifies the huge effort, resources and time spent in ensuring collections are stored correctly, well-documented and made as accessible as possible. Soon we intend to provide more ways in to stored collections through on-line access.

Managing these irreplaceable collections is a huge responsibility, but essential for the cultural well-being of our region, and to provide all of us with the raw material needed for exhibitions, education and research.

Heritage education receives a boost

The Heritage Education Service has received a donation of \$1,000 from Mitre 10 Mega. This will assist with our regional programmes. The cheque was presented by store manager David Ferguson to Museum Educator Wendy Hurst and Museum Director Philip Howe in July, and follows an earlier grant of \$3,000 from Ashburton District Council for the same purpose.

Programmes have continued around the region. Shown here are Waitaki Valley School and Highfield School students finding facts in the recent **Retro Techno** exhibition (centre and right), Oamaru's Fenwick School re-enacting the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi at North Otago Museum (bottom right), Grantlea Downs School students trying out early Maori technology (bottom centre) and Timaru Boys High School students using the South Canterbury Museum's Takata Whenua exhibition to learn about Matariki, the Maori new year (lower left).



Exhibitions: Richard Pearse revisited

Rediscovering Richard Pearse



Rediscovering Richard Pearse opened on 12 August, and has attracted many visitors fascinated by the story of one of our region's favourite but little-known sons. Drawing upon the archival and object collections of Pearse researchers Gordon Ogilvie and Geoffrey Rodliffe, the exhibition explores both the life of Richard Pearse and how his story was rediscovered and thrust into the national consciousness after his death.

Among the objects shown are a number of engine parts and other relics recovered by Gordon Ogilvie (seen sitting at the left with two others in the early 1970s at Waitohi, upper right photo), and models made by Auckland-based Geoffrey Rodliffe to test or demonstrate Pearse's aerodynamic principles (lower left). The exhibition also has three short films playing on a large screen to enable visitors to learn more about Pearse and how his story has been celebrated. **Rediscovering Richard Pearse** finishes on 30 October.

Note: Gordon Ogilvie will present a public talk about Richard Pearse on Sunday 9 October at 2pm at St Mary's Church Hall - see back page.



Streets of Timaru book and exhibition on the way

In November the long-awaited **Streets of Timaru** book will arrive at the South Canterbury Museum. This full-colour hard-cover illustrated book is a major revision of J.B. Hamilton's 1973 book of the same name.

The completed book will serve as a standard Timaru history text for many years to come. It will be launched on a soon-to-be announced date in November, at an invitation-only event (and all **Friends of the Museum** will be invited - see back page if you'd like to be there!).



On December 9 we will launch an exhibition of the same name that will allow visitors to explore aspects of Timaru's development and growth over the last 150 years.

The Streets of Timaru

Jack Hamilton and Keith Bartholomew



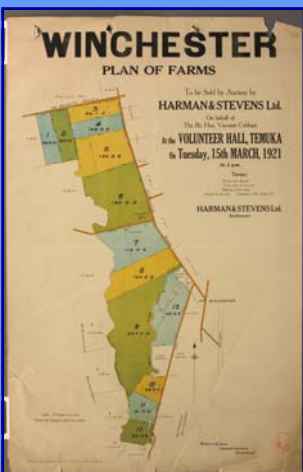
New items in the collections

Our heritage collections continue to grow. Recent items include:

Left: one of a series of local land plans donated by PGG Wrightsons, Timaru.

Right: One of a series of local Photo Review magazines from the 1960s received recently.

Far right: A WWI medal set awarded to Andrew Craigie of Timaru and a 1930s infant's dress that belonged to the Raymond family of Timaru.



Recent Museum events and news

Japanese curator visit

At the end of July we were visited by Eniwa Historical Museum curator Chiharu Obayashi (below right) and interpreter Yasuko Ohbayashi (lower left). Chiharu and Yasuko were able to spend a morning at the South Canterbury Museum meeting staff, examining exhibitions and storage areas, and observing school holiday activities.



Chiharu and Yasuko also visited Te Ana, the Ngai Tahu Rock Art centre, and attended a public event at the Timaru District Council where Museum DVDs were exchanged with South Canterbury Museum Director Philip Howe. Chiharu gave an illustrated talk, translated by Yasuko, about Eniwa's rich archaeological history, modern history and her museum.

Museum Volunteer effort recognised

The South Canterbury Museum's volunteers won the Heritage category at the recent Trust Power Timaru District Community Awards. Volunteers have always provided a considerable proportion of the effort needed to care for our heritage, provide access to resources and support public programmes. In addition, extensive volunteer support comes from the SC Historical Society Committee and the SC Museum Development Trust. Members of both organisations contribute their time to meetings, running events and working to support Museum programmes and fundraising. Total volunteer hours each year are usually equivalent to nearly two full time positions. Well done, everyone!

And farewell to Linda



We sadly said goodbye to Linda Roberts (left) as her six-month Task Force Green scheme came to an end. Linda had worked at the Museum from March on a variety of tasks, and quickly became adept at providing excellent customer service at the front desk, assisting with holiday programmes, data-entry tasks and assisting other staff when needed.

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



From Toronto to Timaru

In mid-September the Museum Team was joined by Canadian Museums Association intern Lianne Maitland (right). Lianne is here for six months and will be working with the South Canterbury Museum's curators to prepare collection information and images for use on websites and new exhibition developments as we move to enhance access to the unique resources held in our collections. Lianne has completed a Master of Museum Studies degree from the University of Toronto and has worked on a number of projects at several Canadian museums over the last couple of years.



Upcoming events for your calendar

- Sunday Oct 9 Author Gordon Ogilvie will give a talk about his Richard Pearse research at St Mary's Hall, Church Street, Timaru at 2pm. \$2.00 admission, afternoon tea to follow.
- Monday Oct 10 Illustrated talk by art historian Jane Vial 2pm in Museum's Heritage Theatre. \$10 charge, limited places, booking strongly advised.
- Friday Nov 4 Public preview of **Student Ex 2011** exhibition of local high school student achievement in science, technology and heritage. SC Museum, 5.30pm.
- Saturday Dec 10 End of year public party at the Museum 2 - 4pm. Spot prizes, mystery quiz sheets for all ages, refreshments and more! Free admission.

Please note: there are also several **Friends of the Museum** members' meetings and events happening over the next few months. If you're a Friend and don't have a Members Events Guide please contact the Museum.

If you're **not** a Museum Friend and would like a Members Events Guide, see below!

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 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	\$20.00
Family	\$25.00
Organisation/Business	\$25.00
Overseas	\$30.00
Life	\$250.00

Send your information and cheque for the correct amount to:

Friends Membership

South Canterbury Museum
PO Box 522,
Timaru 7940