

Title: South Canterbury Museum looking to the future

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

The South Canterbury Museum is an important facility for preserving and presenting the region's natural and human heritage. In existence for over 50 years, it has become South Canterbury's leading museum of nature and history. The Museum has undergone significant change and growth, in particular over the last twenty years as a Timaru District Council-operated facility.

Around New Zealand, museums are undergoing change and reinvention to appeal to a wider audience. Museums can play significant roles in building communities through information services, providing programmes and civic spaces, and attracting visitors to their regions. New technologies and techniques have brought about changes in how museums present their stories and significantly raised public expectations of quality.

In order to consider possible future developments here in Timaru, the South Canterbury Museum has produced a draft strategic plan. This four-part document looks at where the Museum is currently at, how it operates, what issues need to be addressed over the next three years, and some possible options for development over the next twenty years. This draft plan has been considered by the Council's Community Development Committee and is now available for public comment. Submissions received will be reviewed by the Committee later in October.

The final version of this significant document will guide Museum activities and planning, and provide input to the Council's Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The plan can be downloaded from www.timaru.govt.nz/museum, or copies can be obtained from the Museum by phoning 687 7212.

This Media Release has been prepared by
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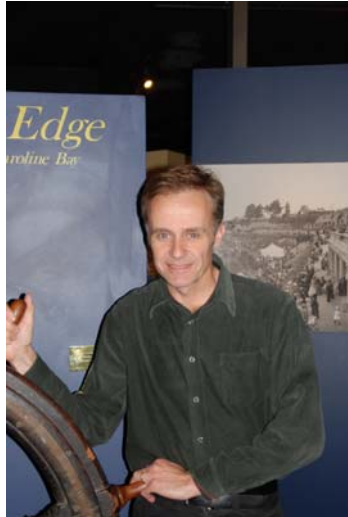
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Please note, this is a different project to the 2009 exhibition upgrade recently reported.



*Photo:
Museum Director Philip Howe steers the South Canterbury Museum on a course for the future*

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