

**Title:** *Timaru at Last!* Book Launch and Exhibition opens this weekend

**DATE:** 24 November, 2008

**FOR RELEASE:** Immediate

This weekend will see the launch of a new exhibition and book to begin marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the immigrant ship Strathallan, considered a key event in Timaru's founding history. Both share the title *Timaru at Last!* taken from a diary entry by J.T. Morris, one of the immigrants who arrived with the ship in January 1859.

The book, with 176 well-illustrated pages, has been written by local genealogist and historian Alan McKenzie and published by the South Canterbury Museum. Alan has spent over three years researching the lives of the immigrants, and has produced a detailed account of the voyage along with biographical notes about the immigrants. The book will be launched at 2pm this Saturday, 29 November, in St. Mary's Church in Timaru, and will be available for sale afterwards in the South Canterbury Museum.

The exhibition *Timaru at Last!* opens to the public from 1:30pm on Saturday. Visitors will be able to gain a greater understanding of the voyage and the immigrants' experiences with a replica cabin interior, and displays that examine life on board and what the immigrants found when they arrived. The exhibition will run until May next year, and school education programmes have been developed for all class levels.

**ENDS**

**A review copy of the book *Timaru at Last* is available for press**

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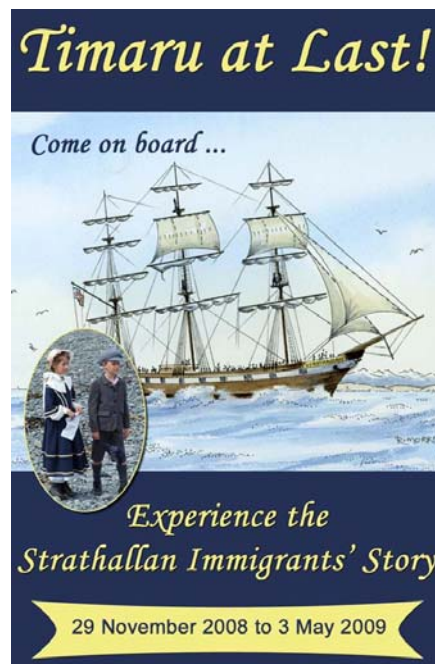
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*Timaru at Last!* Celebrating the Strathallan's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a new book and exhibition at the South Canterbury Museum