

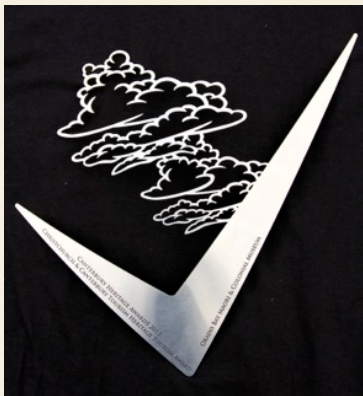
MUSEUM MUSINGS

News from the Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum

Sept 2012

Museum Wins Canterbury Heritage Award!

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OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



Our proud founder with Custodian Michelle Boardman and the Heritage Tourism Award

On Thursday 13th Sept, our founder and Director represented the Museum at the 2012 Heritage Awards Ceremony. This is the third year of the Heritage Awards which recognize excellence in heritage retention and conservation, heritage tourism and heritage education within the public and private sector. It was a great thrill and honour when the Museum took out the Heritage Tourism Award. This cultural tourist attraction award is open to cultural precincts, events and heritage destinations and attractions.

The Judges' Citation reads - 'The Museum complex at Okains Bay presents a unique bi-cultural heritage destination in Canterbury...The Judges considered it an outstanding heritage destination.' Well done to Murray, the Board and Custodians, as well as our large family of supporters with whom this award is shared. The 2012 Heritage Award Trophy by sculptor Neil Dawson is shown top left.

MUSEUM MUSINGS

This is the first of a regular bi-monthly newsletter from the Museum for Friends of the Museum and supporters to inform them of what is happening at the Museum. As you can see by this edition, there is much happening so we are very keen to keep you up to date. If you know others that would be keen to receive a newsletter, either by mail or email, please contact the Museum or a Board member. And if you haven't been over to the Museum in a while, we would be very keen to show you recent developments.

CRUISE SHIP VISITS RESUME

On Saturday 13th October, the Cruise Ship season starts again with a visit by the Sea Princess. After coming to Akaroa last year when Lyttelton was closed due to earthquake damage, Akaroa has become the third most popular port with cruise ship passengers in all of Australasia. This is a wonderful achievement for a first season and with upwards of 2000 passengers on most of these vessels, it is a tremendous boost to tourism in Akaroa and for the Museum. For those unfamiliar with the Cruise Ship programme, passengers deciding on a visit to the Museum are met at the wharf by Adrienne Boardman who welcomes the visitors and fills them in on local and Maori history as they travel over the hill by bus. Once at the Museum, they are welcomed onto the Museum with a powhiri with participation from the children of Okains Bay School. The visitors are always highly impressed by the enthusiastic school children, who welcome the opportunity to display their skills. Custodian Michelle Boardman was recently successful in gaining funding for Maori costumes for the children and this will really enhance their performances. There were many favourable comments from Cruise Ship visitors last year with many declaring their Museum visit the highlight of their trip.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Our two wonderful Custodians, Michelle Boardman and Sharon Henderson have worked hard at developing an education programme for schools and this has proved very popular with an increasing number of schools and classes visiting the Museum. The programme includes Maori activities such as kowhaiwhai drawing, flax weaving and Kete decorating, as well as Colonial activities such as traditional clothes washing, Girdle cooking, making butter, olden day games, and a day at school, including dressing up. We have begun to build up a stock of olden day school uniforms for children to dress up in but if anyone can help with

uniform making, the Custodians would love to hear from you.

DYNAMO SHED DEVELOPMENTS

Museum friend and carpenter Ian Purvis has very kindly given a lot of time on restoring the 1907 Dynamo Shed. Flooring has come for the totara floor of the Director's shearing shed in Robinsons's Bay. It is to be hoped the restored shed and display will be open for Waitangi Day. Please contact the Director or Museum if you can lend a hand.

LITTLE AKALOA STORE

We are hoping to begin developing the Little Akaloa Store in a corner of the Colonial Hall in the next few months. There is a great collection of colonial items that will enable us to build a wonderful representation of this important historical building. If anyone can lend a hand with this, please get in touch with the Director.

RECENT VISITORS

We were very thrilled to entertain the MX Club on Sunday Sept 16th. The MX Club caters for owners of Mazda MX 5 roadsters and they certainly enjoyed the drive over and the visit to the Museum. We are always thrilled to entertain social groups and similar to the Museum so if you are looking for somewhere special to visit with your social club or organization, give the Custodians or Director a ring.



PIANO DONATED

Brian Fineran has been a great supporter of the Museum over the past few years and he has recently donated a piano for the old school. It looks great and is in keeping with the old school environment.

GUN SHOW DISPLAY

In August, the Director attended the Gun Show 2012 at Riccarton Race Course. A display was set of some of the Museum's special muzzle loading guns which created a lot of interest and led to visitors coming over to see the collection on display at the Museum. If you haven't been over to see the new Gun Room, it's time you came and had a look! Many thanks to Bob Tai for his help in supplying a display case for this event.

CHRIS PRYOR BOOKS

Many of the thousands of books gifted to the Museum are now on display in the Chris Pryor Print Shop which is currently undergoing a make-over for Waitangi Day.

That's all for this issue! Please distribute to friends, etc.

