

13. AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 12 SEPTEMBER 2007

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A meeting of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee
was held on Wednesday 12 September 2007 at 10:00 am

PRESENT:

Steve Lowndes	- Chairman
Jane Chetwynd	- Friends of Akaroa Museum
Victoria Andrews	- Community representative
Elizabeth Haylock	- Friends of Akaroa Museum
Lynda Wallace	- Museum Director

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and approved for Meri Robinson (Onuku Rūnanga)

The Committee reports that:

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2007**

The Committee **resolved** that the report of the meeting held on 4 July 2007 be confirmed, subject to the following alteration:

Item 5 Paragraph 1 - Add "which had previously been purchased by the Friends."

She informed members that the Art Gallery had agreed to donate the frame for the "Rehutai" photo by Neil Pardington, *which had previously been purchased by the Friends.*

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 **KATAORE**

It was agreed that it would be more timely to pursue the possibility of having a loan of the greenstone mere known as Kataore, from the Auckland Museum, after Takapuneke / Greens Point had been gazetted as a reserve.

2.2 **AKAROA MUSEUM COLLECTION POLICY**

The Akaroa Museum Collection Policy had been circulated to the committee. The Director tabled a finalised version on which some minor alterations had been made, from the version which had been circulated.

The Committee **resolved** to adopt the Akaroa Museum Collection Policy, as tabled by the Museum Director and as attached to this report as Appendix A.

2.3 **INTERPRETATION PANELS**

The Director reported that this work would be progressed as staff time allowed.

3. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

The Museum Director spoke briefly on each item of her update:

3.1 **VISITOR NUMBERS**

- Statistics show more Australians visiting in recent months, apparently due to intense advertising by Tourism NZ

3.2 EXHIBITIONS

- Dairy Industry
- Refreshment of Frank Worsley exhibition. Interest in this topic increasing every year. Concept had been prepared by Chris Curry, an exhibition designer. The Committee suggested that the exhibition be peer reviewed when it was completed.

3.3 COLLECTIONS

- Return of artworks
- Backlog of accessioning

3.4 EVENTS

- Curators Seminar. Board members expressed an interest in attending this event. It was agreed that this could be possible, but noted that the seminar needed to maintain focus on its agenda.

3.5 PROJECTS

- Building project. To be discussed later in the meeting. The Director noted that the project may not commence immediately in July 2008, but would be in the new financial year sometime.
- Website. Members questioned what effect this would have on the workload at the Museum as it was envisaged that it would generate an increased number of electronic enquiries.
- Building and Grounds Maintenance. Members expressed concern regarding the delay in the painting of the Langlois-Eteveneaux Cottage, which was urgently in need of attention.

The Committee **received** the report of the Museum Director.

4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms Chetwynd spoke briefly on the activities of the Friends of the Museum.

4.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Friday 21 September 2007. Guest speaker will be Jenny Harper, Director Christchurch City Art Gallery.

4.2 FRANK WORSLEY EXHIBITION

- The Akaroa & Bays Lions Club have donated \$5,000 to the Friends, towards the refreshment of this exhibition.

4.3 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

- This project is continuing with excellent results.

4.4 MUSEUM GROUNDS

- The Friends are having a working bee in the grounds today.

5. AKAROA MUSEUM - ALTERATIONS

Members discussed the proposed alterations to the Akaroa Museum. The Director tabled the plans for the alterations and outlined some pertinent points relating to the project:

- Plans drawn up by architect Alun Wilkie of Wilkie Bruce.
- Site coverage limited by zoning.
- Plans include an effective link to the current building.
- Design for the interior provides for the most flexible possible use.
- Hipped roof relates well to surrounding buildings.
- Architect wanted building to have a residential feel to it, rather than industrial or commercial, hence the inclusion of a veranda and window facing the street.
- Building will still retain a generous setback from the street.
- 2 cabbage trees will be retained.
- There will be a variation of ceiling heights.
- Access via a loading bay will be from the current driveway at the back of the Museum.
- A "dumb waiter" is included for lifting articles to the mezzanine floor, in consideration of staff safety and protection of the collection.
- Current kitchen will be partitioned to become totally separated from other areas.
- Part of current storage room will become a preparation and inspection area, part possibly a small meeting/multi purpose room.
- Environmental controls in new building will be an air-conditioning system using heat exchange units and fans. Will involve an operational cost increase although not substantial.
- Staff will investigate what can be fitted in new building in the way of mobile shelving units, drawers etc.
- Ground floor will need to accommodate a diverse range of objects.
- A fee simple subdivision is proceeding so the new building will be on an individual title rather than the current cross-lease situation.
- It is still questionable as to whether the resource consent will need to be a notified process.
- Fire sprinkler system has been quoted as \$19,000 for new building. To extend that to the rest of the museum buildings would cost an additional \$72,000.
- A memorandum has been circulated to elected representatives regarding the new building.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 SCULPTURE PROPOSAL FOR MUSEUM GROUNDS

Ms Siene de Vries had written to the Museum Director and the Community Board requesting that consideration be given to his sculpture "Where to?" being located somewhere in the Akaroa township, possibly in the Museum grounds.

The Director reported that Christchurch City Council was currently reviewing the Terms of Reference for its Public Art Advisory Group. As part of that review, Banks Peninsula would need to be incorporated into the new Terms of Reference.

Members noted that this proposal did not comply with the newly adopted Collections Policy for the Museum, and that the Museum did not have an acquisitions fund for such works.

The Director undertook to reply to Mr de Vries explaining the points that were covered in this discussion.

6.2 NGĀI TAHU EXHIBITION

It was reported that there was a DVD featuring an abstract visual presentation as part of the Ngāi Tahu exhibition, currently showing at Te Papa. It was suggested that the Museum could obtain a copy of the DVD for educational purposes. The Director agreed to make enquiries.

6.3 PETER MCKAY EXHIBITION

It was suggested that an exhibition featuring the work of Akaroa local, Peter McKay, which was currently touring nationally, could culminate at the Akaroa Museum when it finished touring sometime in 2009. The Director also agreed to make enquiries about this possibility.

6.4 CRADLE OF CANTERBURY – GORDON OGILVIE

It was reported that in the near future Gordon Ogilvie would be re-releasing an updated version of his book – Cradle of Canterbury. It was suggested that a local launch could be arranged, with the Akaroa Civic Trust and the Friends of the Museum jointly hosting the occasion. Members agreed that this suggestion should be followed up.

6.5 LOCAL ARTEFACTS

It was noted that many local artefacts had been donated to other museums, particularly the Canterbury Museum, before the Akaroa Museum came into existence. Artefacts from Goughs Bay, and also the Vangioni Collection, were cited as examples of this. Attempts by the donors to have the artefacts transferred to the Akaroa Museum collection had failed, however it was suggested that there could be a possibility of having some of the items on long term loan to the Museum.

6.6 VOTE OF THANKS

The Committee resolved that a vote of thanks be given to Mr Lowndes for his work on this Committee over recent years. Members noted that it had been an advantage to the Committee to be able to work with a Chairman who had such a good understanding of the Akaroa Museum and a working knowledge of what museums do.

The meeting closed at 11.35am

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive this report. (Please note this report will not have been confirmed by the Committee)