

### 3. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

#### 3.1 VISITORS

##### **Visitor Numbers**

As we approach the end of the financial year, we are confident of meeting our annual target for visitors. This is despite a very quiet May which delivered us only 75 per cent of the total visitors for May last year. Queen's Birthday week attendances boosted numbers for June.

#### 3.2 EXHIBITIONS

##### **Nga Roimata o Takapuneke**

It is confirmed that *Nga Roimata* will receive another showing at Our City in Christchurch, during Heritage Week. Helen Brown is organising the details, working with Roger Fyfe of Canterbury Museum to select objects for the exhibition.

##### **New Stuff**

Our current exhibition contains a selection of objects donated to the Museum over the past two to three years, demonstrating the variety and quality of material people continue to bring to us.

##### **Quirky Collections III**

The third in our series of exhibitions featuring local collectors and their collections is well under development now. We will hold an opening for this exhibition, at the end of July, to which we will be inviting all "quirky collectors" whose collections have featured over the past three years.

##### **Heritage Week**

The Museum will participate in Heritage Week (22-31 October) with an exhibition featuring maps and charts of Akaroa Harbour, fitting well with the theme of Discovery, Settlement and Adventure.

##### **Summer Show**

The spotlight will be turned on The Gaiety this year, tracing the history of the building from its beginnings as the Oddfellows Lodge to its present day role as hub of cultural life in Akaroa.

#### 3.3 COLLECTIONS

##### **Kataore Loan**

A poroporoaki was held for Kataore on 5 May, at the closing of the exhibition, *Nga Roimata o Takapuneke*. During the event, we again received encouragement to pursue the return of this taonga to Akaroa. Since the last meeting of the Museum Advisory Committee in March, a letter was sent to the Auckland Museum, requesting a more permanent return to Akaroa for the mere Kataore, and we have since received further advice on how to progress this loan. A formal deaccessioning process from the collection of the Auckland Art Gallery, in whose collection the mere resides, is one option. The other is negotiating with the Auckland Museum for a fixed term, reviewable, loan.

#### 3.4 PROJECTS

##### **Storage Building**

We are using two data-loggers to monitor the environment (temperature and humidity) in the new store. As was expected, fluctuations in humidity are being experienced as the new building settles down. Collections have not been re-housed in the new space yet as we wait for conditions to settle.

##### **Improvements to reception area**

The installation of new shop shelving was completed just before Christmas. The second part of this project is a new reception desk, which we plan to have delivered before the end of the month.

### **Establishing a Local Contemporary Art Collection**

Staff continue to work on establishing a process and terms of reference for an acquisition committee. Progress will be reported at the next meeting of the Museum Advisory Committee.

#### **3.5 EVENTS**

- |                                   |   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Opening of Quirky Collections III | - | Friday 30 July - 4.30 pm      |
| Friends of Museum AGM             | - | Friday 24 September - 4.30 pm |
| Heritage Week                     | - | Friday 22 – Sunday 31 October |

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Museum Director's update be received.