

4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

4.1 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

With the support of various Funding Bodies and the work of several dedicated individuals, the recorded data of the oral histories has now been totally transferred to a digital format. The next stage is to copy the working discs on to the dedicated computer at the Museum and on to the external hard drive. The gold disc master CDs have been put in the safe at the Council's Akaroa Service Centre.

The interviewing of new contributors and the abstracting of transcriptions has been continuing as has the completion of the compilation booklets on each participant. Examples of the booklets will be tabled at the meeting for committee members' interest.

4.2 EXHIBITION SUPPORT

The Friends were pleased to support the Museum staff recently at the ceremony for returning to the care of Auckland Museum staff the mere Kataore which had been lent for Nga Roimata o Takapuneke.

On public display for the first time in the current exhibition "New Stuff" is the collection of locally provenanced Maori artefacts which was purchased for the Museum last year by the Friends.

4.3 HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND PUBLIC ITEMS AROUND AKAROA

After enquiries with the City Council the Friends confirmed that the Worsley Statue which they erected on the Britomart Reserve some years ago has not been formally gifted to the Council. It is their desire to do this so after researching earlier committee minutes they have now completed the necessary paperwork to proceed with this offer. As there are so few public artworks in Akaroa they are optimistic that the Council will accept the offer.

The Friends were pleased to learn that a Community Board seminar with Council staff on historic items in Akaroa is to be held in conjunction with the Museum Advisory Committee and look forward to the development of some long term strategies for the care of these special objects.

4.4 ART COLLECTION

The Friends committee have agreed with the proposals concerning the membership of the art acquisitions committee and look forward to continuing progress with this matter when it has been considered by the Museum Advisory Committee.

4.5 PUBLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

At the last meeting of the Friends committee it was decided to set up a publications subcommittee whose brief will be, at the invitation of the Museum Director, to produce booklets which accompany the exhibitions and other historic items in the Museum. These will be sold at the Museum and subsequently the scheme will become self-funding. Recently one or two proposals for such initiatives have been discussed by the committee and we recognise that this could be a useful service which the Friends could offer the Museum. The first such publication which will be produced is the Worsley Trail Booklet which has been prepared over the last year with the help of Jan Shuttleworth. We are grateful to the Community Board who have agreed to fund the first print run of this publication.

4.6 GARDEN MAINTENANCE

The Friends continue to fund the specialised gardening maintenance of our museum gardens. We are planning a Spring Working Bee to undertake some of the larger jobs and we are also considering other ways to fund this work in the long term.

4.7 MARKING THE HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS

In 2016 it will be 50 years since the first steps were taken to establish what was to become the fore-runner of the Akaroa Museum. The Friends committee have begun to discuss ways in which this might be commemorated such as the production of a history booklet on the Friends and the commissioning and erection of a memorial to mark the foresight and work of those early founders.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Friends of Akaroa Museum, President's update be received.