

3. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

3.1 VISITORS

Visitor Numbers

The first three months of this financial year have delivered us fewer than usual visitors. September totals will be impacted by the loss of four days of opening while we waited for our buildings to be inspected for safety following the earthquake.

Recording Visitors

We have recently begun collecting statistics on the number of visitors we receive from the Christchurch City Council area, in addition to Banks Peninsula locals. Previously we had recorded visitors from the wider Canterbury region, but knowing how many Christchurch City Council residents visit our museum will be more useful for Council reporting and policy-making.

3.2 EXHIBITIONS

Our planned programme of exhibitions for the next six months should be able to proceed as planned, although all of our work has been disrupted since the earthquake.

Charting the Long Harbour will open on Friday 22 October, and our summer show on *The Gaiety* in mid-December.

Nga Roimata is planned to be exhibited in Our City during Heritage Week, and has also been nominated for a heritage award. It is hoped that damage to the old Municipal Chambers building, home to Our City, will not disrupt these plans.

3.3 COLLECTIONS

Earthquake 4 September

The Museum was fortunate to suffer only minor damage to both collections and buildings during the early morning quake of 4 September. The sturdy construction of our buildings, the nature of our shelving and an element of good luck all contributed to this outcome. Only 14 small objects were damaged or broken.

Of our new store, which was not damaged at all, the inspecting engineers commented it was "built like a bomb shelter".

Of our heritage buildings, the court house suffered no damage and collections and exhibits barely moved. The recently rebuilt chimney on the Langlois-Eteveneaux cottage cracked at its base and will need to be rebuilt again. The plaster finish on the interior walls of the custom house has been cracked, some of it ending up on the floor.

3.4 PROJECTS

Archaeological Report

An application has been lodged with the Environment and Heritage Committee of the Lottery Board for funding to engage an archaeologist to write up the report on the material retrieved from our building site. The outcome should be known by the end of the year.

Web Site

Some preliminary work has been done on the development of website for the Museum, with assistance from the marketing and communications team of the Council. Post-earthquake demands on those staff mean that we will be delayed in this project.

