#### 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.

## **Roof Replacement**

Replacement of the roof over the lower gallery, the original Museum's exhibition gallery built in the mid-1960s, is planned for later in the financial year (April-May 2011). This is a capital project, planned through the LTCCP process, and will be managed by City Care. Some disruption will be inevitable, since the gallery will need to be closed for the duration of the project and collections removed for their protection. Access to the French Cottage will also be closed.

#### 3.5 **OTHER**

# **Museum Development Officer**

Judith Taylor, Te Papa National Services development officer for the South Island, visited us on Tuesday 13 July.

## **Book Launch - Past Perfect**

Karen Zelas, author of a novel about a search for identity and set partly in Akaroa, held her book launch at the Museum on Friday 6 August.

## **New Collection Manager**

Dan Smith, our new collection manager, starts at the Museum on Tuesday 26 October.

### 3.6 EVENTS

Friends of Museum AGM Friday 24 September - 4.30pm

Heritage Week Friday 22 – Sunday 31 October

# 3.7 THANKS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Museum Advisory Committee for their genuine interest in the museum and its activities over the past three years. You are the community stakeholders in our Museum and your input, and support, is very valuable to me.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.