

4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

4.1 EARTHQUAKE REPORT

Like everyone in the Akaroa area, the Friends were relieved at the relative lack of damage sustained by our public buildings, particularly the Museum, in the earthquake experienced on Saturday 4 September. Congratulations are due to the Museum staff whose dedicated care and custodial work must have contributed to such a low number of items in the collection being damaged.

4.2 ORAL HISTORY AND PUBLICATIONS PROJECTS

Work has continued on both the oral history project and the Museum publications project. The first publication of the newly formed publications subcommittee will be the Worsley Trail Brochure which guides visitors to places of significance around Akaroa relating to the time he spent here. Such items as his birth place, his mother's grave and his bust at the Britomart Reserve. It is hoped this brochure will soon be available for sale at the Museum.

4.3 HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND PUBLIC ITEMS AROUND AKAROA

This winter the elements have not been kind to various historic items in Akaroa. The first catastrophe occurred in August when very heavy rain contributed to a major land slip on the edge of Stanley Park which destroyed the historic bell tower. Possibilities for its future are now being considered by the Council's heritage staff.

Next the earthquake in September caused considerable damage to the War Memorial, as well as to numerous historic buildings both in Akaroa and the surrounding rural area. The Friends are available to help, but it is too early to know how this will proceed.

4.4 ART COLLECTION

I have been nominated by the Friends to be its representative for the first one year term on the Art Acquisitions Committee. The Friends were delighted when the Director of the Christchurch Art Gallery, Jenny Harper, suggested Peter Vangioni should be the art expert on the committee. The next step is for Mr Vangioni, myself and the Museum Director to meet and nominate the final member with a view to the full group having its inaugural meeting before the end of the year.

4.5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends is scheduled for Friday 24 September when Peter Tremewan will speak about his new edition of 'French Akaroa'.

4.6 SIGN OFF

As this is my last meeting of the Museum Advisory Committee as President of the Friends, I would like to express my gratitude to members for their support and the time they have given to help the Akaroa Museum in this capacity. I would also like to especially thank Pam Richardson for her insightful and considered role as Chairman of the Committee.

Jane Chetwynd, President.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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