

4. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

4.1 VISITORS

Visitor numbers

The first three months of this year have not given us any respite from the falling visitor numbers we've experienced since February. However, the planned visits to Akaroa Harbour by 80 cruise ships over the summer season should boost numbers, while at the same time providing us with the challenge of coping with large numbers of visitors at one time.

4.2 EXHIBITIONS

Current

Our current exhibition, *Electric Servants*, opened on Saturday 10th September at a combined event with the Akaroa Hydro Generating Set Trust, who were launching their history of the power house "All Our Volts". Ninety to 100 people attended the event.

Upcoming

Our summer exhibition will focus on Akaroa as a holiday town. It will feature images of camping grounds, holiday makers and holiday activities, as well as promotional material from previous decades and souvenir-ware produced for the tourist market.

4.3 COLLECTIONS

Valuations

We continue to determine valuations for various categories of collection objects. Most recently, William Cottrell, an authority on New Zealand colonial furniture, inspected and valued our furniture collection. William will be returning to the Museum in mid-October, when he will be taking a two-hour public seminar on identifying colonial furniture. This event is being organised by the Friends of the Museum.

Earthquake damage

The Langlois-Eteveneaux house chimney has now been dismantled and capped. Unfortunately damage was also found in the mid-section of the Custom House chimney, so it too has been partially demolished. We have consulted with our conservation architect, Ian Bowman, seeking his advice on making good or rebuilding, and on repair to the interior plaster finishes of the Custom House.

Art Acquisition Committee

Membership of the Art Acquisition Committee has been finalised and the first meeting of the group held. Criteria to guide the acquisition of art works are being developed before any acquisition decisions are made.

4.4 PROJECTS

Policy Review

As previously advised, during the process of working through the requirements of the Museum Standards scheme we are reviewing existing policies and developing new ones. The first of these is our collections policy, the most recent version of which was adopted by the Advisory Committee in September 2007. Collection policies lie at the core of all museum activity and provide a basis for decisions about what objects to collect and how to develop the collection. The revised policy is to be called the Acquisitions and Disposals Policy and has been thoroughly reviewed and updated by staff.

Members of the Museum Advisory Committee should note that the Committee has a role in providing advice on deaccessioning decisions, as representatives of the community's interest in the collection. A copy of the draft policy is **attached** for members' comment.

4.5 EVENTS

Friends of Museum AGM	Fri 23 Sept, 4.30 pm
Colonial Furniture workshop with William Cottrell	Sat 18 Oct, 4 – 6 pm
Akaroa Civic Trust AGM Guest speaker Hugh Wilson	Sat 12 Nov, 4.30 pm

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.