

4. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

4.1 VISITORS

Visitor numbers

Approaching the end of our financial year, the Museum is on track to achieve a total of 14,250-14,500 visitors for the year. This is at the low end of our target range, but a reasonable result in a tough year.

Visitor survey

My March update to the Committee referred to our participation in the Museums Aotearoa national visitor survey. Preliminary results of the survey are back now, available as national data and for our museum individually. Results for the Akaroa Museum show that during the week of the survey (mid-March), 76% of our visitors were from overseas; 75% of our visitors spent more than 40 minutes in the museum; and 97% were satisfied with their visit (higher than the national average, which was 86%).

School groups

School groups from all over Canterbury have been using our Museum resources over the last few months, some very intensively. Local school students have been studying soldiers who served in the First World War and have visited the Museum to view objects and records associated with them.

4.2 EXHIBITIONS

Current

The Dog Show is an exhibition of original photographs from our own collection, exhibited alongside digital enlargements. The subject of the show, dogs, appear in each photograph, sometimes deliberately included as companions, sometimes incidentally as they pass by in the background or foreground of the shot. This exhibition will run through the winter months.

Upcoming

Agricultural and Pastoral Shows on the Peninsula will be the subject of our summer exhibition, from December through until March 2013. We are intending to borrow objects from the community for this exhibition and would welcome contacts and information.

Frank Worsley

The Frank Worsley story, told in our Museum's exhibition "Salute to Adventure", reached a wider audience on the evening of 3rd June, when the docudrama "Shackleton's Captain" screened on TV1. The Museum had assisted both the producer and director of the film and we were acknowledged in the credits. James Heyward, the producer, has advised that there will eventually be a DVD release of the movie, which we can stock in our shop.

4.3 COLLECTIONS

New Acquisitions

There is a growing awareness in the community of the Museum's role in preserving local history in the form of archives and records of local organisations. The Akaroa Lighthouse Society has deposited its records with us and the Lions Club are choosing to lodge their original charter document in the museum. The Banks Peninsula War Memorial Society will eventually bring their records to us and we are having discussions with a notable Canterbury historian about taking in the research notes compiled for his most recent publication. Among the family collections have been photographs and family history relating to the Moore family of Okains Bay.

4.4 FACILITIES

DEE inspection

The Museum buildings were inspected by an engineer in April, as the first stage of their DEE. Reassuringly, no risks to staff or visitors were identified.

4.5 COLLABORATIONS

Public talks at the Museum

Museum staff are working with the Friends of the Museum to organise public talks at the Museum, to be held during the July school holidays. The first will be a lecture by Rick Menzies, about John H. Menzies, artist and carver most well known for his work in the Little Akaloa church of St Luke's. The second, to be delivered by Museum staff and titled "The Home Curator", will provide tips and guidance on caring for a range of objects at home.

4.6 EVENTS

John H. Menzies and his work

Public lecture by Rick Menzies, at the Museum

4.30 pm, Fri 6th July 2012

The Home Curator

Public lecture by Museum staff, at the Museum

4.30 pm, Fri 13th July 2012

Friends of Museum AGM

At the Museum, guest speaker to be advised

4.30 pm, Fri 28th Sept 2012

Inside Out Garden Tour

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25
November 2012

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.