

4. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

4.1 VISITORS

Visitor numbers

With the doors of the Museum shut, the only visitors we can count are those who attended the series of July talks, a total of 75. The talks were a very successful collaboration with the Friends of the Museum.

Web Site

Visitors wishing to use the Museum's services can still make contact by phone, email and now, via our new website www.akaroamuseum.org.nz.

Family History Expo

We are taking another opportunity to reach audiences in October, when we will be participating in a Family History Expo to be held in Christchurch. Over two days, staff will join other local and national history organisations to promote the Museum's services and resources.

4.2 EXHIBITIONS

Keeping the Museum in Mind

The Museum's closure has shifted our current focus from exhibitions on the walls inside the Museum to a programme of activity that can be delivered outside the Museum – we are calling it **Keeping the Museum in Mind**. This programme will include exhibitions, interpretation of key historic sites around the town, talks and events. We are aiming to deliver a new activity each month, from October.

Current

The first in our programme of Keeping the Museum in Mind is an exhibition titled *An A-Z of Akaroa Ancestors* which was installed in the windows of the empty shop across the road from the Museum early in August. Very positive feedback is being received from locals and visitors about this exhibition.

Upcoming

Two projects interpreting aspects of Akaroa's history will roll out over October and November. *A Second Point of View*, and our mobile *Story Boards* will provide visitors with access to local history at various key locations around the town. These should be particularly appreciated by cruise ship visitors who step off the wharf in Akaroa keen to learn about the town's history. With the Museum closed, their access to information about our unique stories will be substantially reduced.

4.3 COLLECTIONS

Galleries cleared

Since the Museum's closure on 21 June, staff have worked hard to clear all the galleries of collections, dismantling exhibitions, emptying cases and moving objects into the store. In observance of cultural protocol, a blessing ceremony was held before taonga were shifted to the store. The store has also become workspace for staff, not an ideal scenario but all are feeling grateful to have some part of the building above 34% of NBS where they are able to work.

Valuation project

A major project being tackled while the Museum is closed is that of a valuation of the collection. Necessary for insurance, and part of responsible asset management, the valuation will be carried out by expert consultants during November.

4.4 PROJECTS

Facilities rebuild

The Museum recently made it onto a list of "top 27" community facilities prioritised for decisions around repair/rebuilding. Council has undertaken to make a decision about the facilities on the list by December.

DEEs have not yet been completed for the three heritage buildings the Museum manages (Langlois-Eteveneaux Cottage, Court House and Customs House).

Re-opening Scenarios

Museum staff have worked through a variety of scenarios for re-opening, including different combinations of spaces and buildings, in order to be able to react quickly should a partial, temporary reopening be possible for the summer.

This process has involved identifying key objects, themes and stories that we know are most popular with our visitors, and that we can display and interpret effectively in reduced spaces with minimal cost.

If a summer opening isn't possible, the **Keeping the Museum in Mind** programme will be stepped up so we can share our history with visitors in other ways.

4.5 EVENTS

Friends of Akaroa Museum AGM Guest speaker Nancy Tichborne Akaroa Sports Complex	Friday 28 September 2012 – 4.30pm
First cruise ship of the season Sea Princess 2000 passengers on board	Saturday 13 October 2012
Family History Expo St Albans Shirley Club, 269 Hills Road, Christchurch	Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October 2012
Inside Out Garden Tour Friends of Akaroa Museum/ Akaroa District Promotions (ADP)	Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November 2012
Akaroa Civic Trust AGM Guest speaker Fiona Farrell and book launch, John Wilson Akaroa Boatsheds	Friday 30 November 2012 – 4.30pm
Last cruise ship of the season	5 April 2013

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.