



Christchurch City Council

AKAROA/WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD

AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY 3 JULY 2008

10AM

**IN THE BOARD ROOM, AKAROA SERVICE CENTRE
78 RUE LAVAUD, AKAROA**

Committee:

Pam Richardson - Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board representative
Jane Chetwynd and Liz Haylock - Friends of the Museum representatives (FOAM)
Victoria Andrews - Community representative
Meri Robinson - Onuku Runanga representative
Stewart Miller - Chairman Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board - ex-officio

Community Board Adviser
Liz Carter
Phone 941 5682 DDI
Email: liz.carter@ccc.govt.nz

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Jane Chetwynd

2. **REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 26 MARCH 2008**

The report of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee held on the 26 March 2008 is attached for members' information. This report was presented to the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board meeting held on 17 April 2008, and the recommendations contained in the report adopted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT - 26 MARCH 2008

General Manager responsible:	Michael Aitken
Officer responsible:	Lynda Wallace, Museum Director
Author:	Liz Carter, Community Board Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2008.

The meeting was attended by Committee members:

Stewart Miller - Acting Chairman
Elizabeth Haylock - Friends of Akaroa Museum
Jane Chetwynd - Friends of Akaroa Museum
Victoria Andrews - Community representative

Also in attendance were: Lynda Wallace - Museum Director
Liz Carter - Community Board Adviser

1. **APOLOGIES**

An apology was received and accepted from Pam Richardson.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee **recommended** to the Community Board that Pam Richardson be appointed as Chairperson of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The committee **resolved** that the report of the meeting held on 12 September 2007 be received.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

4.1 **Siene de Vries – Sculpture Proposal**

The Committee approved an item of correspondence written in reply to Mr Siene de Vries proposal to erect a sculpture in the Museum grounds.

5. MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

The Museum Director updated the Committee on the following specific items:

5.1 Visitors

- Visitor numbers for the period October 2007 to February 2008 compare favourably with the previous year, showing an overall increase of about 7%.
- Dealing with visitors' enquiries about the collection, local and family histories has, as usual, engaged a considerable amount of staff time. Hundreds of enquires have been received by email, phone and mail, as well as from visitors through the door.

5.2 Exhibitions

- Normal exhibition programme has continued throughout the summer. A lot of interest from locals and visitors in the exhibition about the history of schooling in Akaroa, coinciding with the 150th jubilee of the school held in October.
- Summer show was "Milk It", focusing on the history of the dairy industry on the Peninsula. Again, it has prompted very positive feedback from visitors.
- From the beginning of April the Museum will be displaying photographs and other material relating to the 100 year history of rugby on the Peninsula. The local club mark its centennial over the weekend of 11-13 April and the exhibition is planned to coincide with their celebrations.
- The costume case received its annual change in November, and at the same time a small case was filled with a display of knitted lace. Mary McNutt was largely responsible for these exhibitions, with some help from museum staff.
- Worsley Expansion – the main activity in the area of exhibitions over the next few months will be the major expansion and improvement of the permanent display about Frank Worsley. Concept design and refinement is underway now, and installation will be happening during June. The expansion of this exhibition will involve the dismantling of the colonial cottage display – the last remnant of the Museum's 1960s exhibitions. The design work for the exhibition is being done by Chris Curry. John Thompson from Canterbury Museum will carry out the peer review. The Canterbury Museum has copies of two notebooks used by Worsley. The Museum is able to get digitised copies of the notebooks.

5.3 Collections

- Most of the activity in the area of collections is in data entry for the costume and textile collection, which is being carried out by Mary McNutt, and in keeping up with accessioning new objects for the collection.

5.4 Projects

Storage Building Project

- In November an application was lodged for funding assistance with the Canterbury Community Trust and in February it was confirmed that the Museum had been successful in securing a \$200,000 donation towards the building project. This is a substantial amount to receive from this source. There will need to be consideration given to the nature and timing of an appropriate function in Akaroa to publicly thank the Trustees and acknowledge their support.
- The resource consent application for the building has been lodged and is being assessed at present.

5 Cont'd

- Further detailed investigation by consultants into the cost of a fire sprinkler system, both in the new building and retro-fitted throughout the rest of the Museum, revealed that this will be at some considerable additional cost. Staff have looked at options for funding this separately to the building project and identified funding for the retro-fit to the existing building.
- The Committee acknowledged and thanked the Museum Director for her work on the application for funding

Langlois-Eteveneaux Cottage

- Progress continues to be made with the re-painting of the cottage with the work being carried out by City Care. The colour scheme will be based on original colours, found on the building and approved by Ian Bowman, conservation architect. The building will be stripped of all layers of paint in preparation for the new coat. Of the original 13 layers, only four remain on the bulk of the building, indicating that it has been quite thoroughly stripped back at some stage in the past. It was hoped to have the cottage painted before winter.
- A further stage in the conservation of the building will be the lifting of the brick paving in front of the building, lowering the ground level around the cottage to assist with drainage. In place of the bricks a lawn will be established with a central path from the gate to the front door. All plants and hedges have been removed from around the building, again in the interests of the long-term preservation of the building. It was suggested that a media release be made around the time that the major landscaping work occurs at the cottage.

5.4 **Customs House Fence**

- The Friends of the Museum are making progress with the painting of pickets for the new fence around the Customs House. The design of the new picket fence is based on photographs of the fence which surrounded the building in the late 19th Century, and using a surviving remnant of an authentic fence for measurements and spacing.

5.5 **General**

- **Museums Aotearoa Conference** - the Director will be attending the annual conference of Museums Aotearoa in Dunedin from 8 - 11 April. The theme of the conference this year is "Museum People – the human collection".
- **Museum Graduates Internship Project** - Te Papa National Services is now assisting with placing recent Museum Studies graduates into temporary positions in museums throughout the country. Akaroa Museum has expressed an interest in being part of this project, as it will provide an opportunity to have a trained person working in the museum for up to three months, with salary paid by Te Papa National Services. The project will be assisting with the transfer of collections to the new building.

6. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Ms Chetwynd updated the Committee on the following specific items:

6.1 **Fundraising Activities**

The main fundraising activity for the year, the Antiques Fair, was held on January 5th at the Gaiety. It was a successful day with over \$2,000 raised. It has been agreed by the Committee that these funds will be dedicated to help with the extension of the Worsley permanent exhibition which the Museum has planned for later this year.

The Friends have \$15,000 - \$20,000 for that project.

5 Cont'd

6.2 **Building/Gardens Maintenance Work**

A major project is underway to replace the picket fence around the Customs House building and then plant up a new garden inside it. Most of the old fence has now been removed with just the main posts needing to be dug out. (This will be done with archaeological oversight from the Museum Director because of the historic nature of the site.) The Friends have spent some time finding a source of appropriate sized pickets, posts and post caps to match those in early photographs. These have now been delivered and the first coat of painting on these is complete.

Two working bees have also been held in the Museum garden and the gardens around the Cottage.

6.3 **Exhibitions Support**

Members were able to help the Director with supplying some items and photos for the recent *Milk It* exhibition and help with the 'dairy' themed afternoon tea at the opening of the exhibition. Practical help was also given in the hanging of some exhibits.

6.4 **Special Interest Issues**

For some years members of the Friends have expressed concern about the deteriorating state of the Garden of Tane and have offered to work with Council to give historical and botanical support with a view to its restoration. It was learnt recently that the development of a Management Plan for the Garden of Tane is on hold until next financial year. In the meantime it appears that some unauthorised tree cutting may have been undertaken and this has been drawn to the attention of Council staff.

The Museum Director undertook to send information from a previous exhibition on the Garden of Tane to the Planning & Investigations Team Manager.

6.5 **People**

Life memberships have been given to Elizabeth and Duncan Johns as an acknowledgement of the many years of work they have given the museum, especially in indexing the Akaroa Mail.

The Friends were sad to learn that immediate past President and previous Community Board member, Winston McKean has had to undergo heart surgery in Melbourne. Fortunately, he is recovering well.

6.6 **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was well attended and an interesting address was given by Jenny Harper, Director of the Christchurch Art Gallery.

6.7 **Donation**

A member of the Friends has donated \$1,000 to the Worsley Exhibition.

7. **ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The Committee considered a report seeking a recommendation for a schedule of meetings, setting out the proposed times and dates of ordinary Committee meetings.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to the Community Board that its schedule of meetings for 2008 be as follows:

Wednesday 26 March 2008	Akaroa Museum	10am
Thursday 26 June 2008	Akaroa Service Centre	10am
Thursday 25 September 2008	Akaroa Service Centre	10am
Thursday 27 November 2008	Akaroa Service Centre	10am

8. COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE

8.1 Membership of the Committee

The Community Board Adviser reported that the Community Board had reconfirmed Pam Richardson as the Board representative on the Museum Advisory Committee.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to the Community Board that the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee appointments remain as follows for the balance of the triennial term:

2 members Friends of the Akaroa Museum	- Jane Chetwynd
	- Elizabeth Haylock
1 community representative	- Victoria Andrews
1 member/representative of the Onuku Runanga	- Meri Robinson
1 member of the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board	- Pam Richardson
Chairman of the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board (ex-officio)	

8.2 Standing Orders – Relevance to the Committee

The Community Board Adviser gave a brief overview of Council's Standing Orders and the relevant sections for this Committee.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

9.1 Loan of the "Kataore" Mere from the Auckland Museum

It was reported that the Kataore Mere which was held in the Auckland Museum, had a special significance for this area as it had been used in the massacre at Takapuneke.

It was suggested that it would be pertinent to have the Mere on loan for an exhibition that could coincide with the gazettal of the land at Greens Point/Takapuneke.

Informal discussions had been held with members of the local Rūnanga to ascertain if there would be any insensitivity in bringing the Mere to Akaroa. Early indications were that the Onuku Rūnanga would welcome such a move, although there would need to be dialogue with both Onuku and Ngāi Tahu.

The Museum Director agreed with the concept for such an exhibition, however cautioned that it would be hard to fit into the exhibition schedule when the date of the gazettal was still unknown. It was suggested that another suitable date could be to coincide with a conference of the Canterbury History Teachers Association to be held in Akaroa next year.

It was reported that Ruth Dyson MP was also interested in commemorating the gazettal of the Greens Point/Takapuneke land as an historic reserve and it was suggested that staff should be consulted as to a likely timeframe for the completion of the formal process.

It was **agreed** that the Museum Director should work together with Ms Andrews and Ms Robinson to pursue this suggestion.

10. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- That Pam Richardson be appointed as Chairman of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee.

3. 7. 2008

10 Cont'd

- That Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee schedule of meetings for 2008 be as follows:

Wednesday 26 March 2008	Akaroa Museum	10am
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- That the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee appointments remain as follows for the balance of the triennial term:

2 members Friends of the Akaroa Museum	- Jane Chetwynd
	- Elizabeth Haylock
1 community representative	- Victoria Andrews
1 member/representative of the Onuku Runanga	- Meri Robinson
1 member of the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board	- Pam Richardson
Chairman of the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board (ex-officio)	

The meeting closed at 11.15am

3. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

3.1 VISITORS

- We have ended the year with a healthy overall increase in visitor numbers of about 7%. This is despite lower visitor numbers being reported in the town generally, particularly over the past quarter.
- Visitors' enquiries during the year (received by email, phone, mail and visitors through the door) have totalled over 350, the majority of which are family history enquiries.

3.2 EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition programme

- The Banks Peninsula Rugby Club marked their centennial over the weekend of 11-13 April 2008, when we mounted an exhibition to coincide with their celebrations. This remained on display until June.
- Cotrina and Patsy, Museum Assistants, have co-curated an exhibition about local collectors of unusual objects which will run from July – October.

Salute to Adventure – the Frank Worsley Story

- Our new permanent exhibition honouring the life of Frank Worsley will open on Friday 8 August. Installation will be happening during the 10 days from 19th July. The title for the exhibition is 'Salute to Adventure – the Frank Worsley Story'. We will be promoting the new exhibition during Antarctic Festival Week 26 Sept-3 Oct, and continuing the Antarctic theme at the Friends AGM on 26 September.

3.3 COLLECTIONS

- During the process of dismantling displays to make room for the new Frank Worsley exhibition, we have been taking the opportunity to inspect, inventory and clean these objects. The Colonial Kitchen display is one which has been in place since the Museum opened 40 years ago. Finding space in our storage areas for these objects is proving challenging.

3.4 PROJECTS

Storage Building Project

- The Museum Director attended the Canterbury Community Trust function for donors on 19th May and had the opportunity to personally thank two of the Trustees for their donation to our building project.
- The resource consent process continues, with some minor changes having been requested in details of the building design. Our architect, Alun Wilkie, has produced updated drawings which will be the basis of the consent application.
- Due to the significant additional costs associated with a full sprinkler system (in the new building and retro-fitted into existing buildings) a decision was made that no sprinklers will be installed. Instead the building will be protected by the latest in smoke detection systems.

Langlois-Eteveneaux Cottage

- Repainting of the cottage was completed in June. Scaffolding remained around the building until the copper spouting was repaired and replaced.

Customs House fence

- The Friends of the Museum have completed the construction of a new picket fence around the Customs House. It was a major job and represents a significant contribution of skills, time and money on the part of the Friends. The result is authentic and attractive, and sets off the historic Customs House very well.

4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

4.1 BUILDING/GARDENS MAINTENANCE WORK

Members have now completed the construction of the picket fence around the Customhouse building. This has been a major undertaking and we are grateful to all who helped. The next stage of work in this area is to redesign and replant the garden – a task we are leaving until the Spring. After that a final coat of paint will be applied to the fence and this will complete the project.

The committee have recently decided to devote funds to employing a general gardener to maintain the gardens around the Museum buildings and to help create the new gardens around the Cottage and the Customhouse. We will continue to have bi-annual working bees when Friends take on larger seasonal jobs, but for ongoing mowing, weeding and general tidy-up work we need a person dedicated to that work.

4.2 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Progress continues on this ongoing collection of local histories by the Friends of the Museum. We have recently held another training session with our professional advisor, Michelle Bradley, so as to increase the number of volunteers qualified to help in the project. The collection of histories is growing and we hope to complete our system of archiving in the near future. We are currently using audio tape recording but we intend to transfer to digital recording when we have satisfactorily researched the most appropriate equipment and secured the funds to purchase it.

4.3 CONTRIBUTION TO EXHIBITIONS

The Friends have earmarked funds to help in the current redesign and extension of the Museum's permanent exhibition on Frank Worsley. We are delighted to see this work underway in the Museum and look forward to the opening of the new exhibition.

Our AGM will be held in the month following this opening and we are working with the Director of the Museum to find a speaker for that event who will continue the 'Antarctic' theme of the Worsley exhibition. We also intend to hold the AGM during the Christchurch Antarctic Festival which the Council is organising from September 26 to October 3.

4.4 GARDEN OF TANE

A subcommittee of interested people has been formed to work with Council on the Garden of Tane. As a first step in this process the group wrote to the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board expressing their desire to be involved with the forthcoming development of a management plan for the Garden of Tane and offering their help and expertise. The Community Board have proposed to invite the subcommittee, together with Council staff, to an informal meeting in order to facilitate this collaboration.

4.5 FUND RAISING

Plans are underway for the major fundraising event of the year, our Antiques Fair. We ran into a problem with this due to very heavy forward bookings of the Gaiety Hall for summer weekends. Fortunately, due to a recent cancellation we have now been able to secure the hall for 3 January 2009 and will hold the Fair accordingly.

4.6 SUBMISSIONS

Following Council's decision to seek National Reserve status for Greens Point and Takapuneke the Friends decided at its April committee meeting to put in a submission supporting the creation of the Reserve. The vice president presented our case before the Hearing panel in May. No decision has yet been announced but as there were no submissions against the proposal we are optimistic that the Reserve will be formed.

5.0 COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE

6.0 COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION