



## Christchurch City Council

# AKAROA/WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

**THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**10.00 AM**

**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

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**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 3 JULY 2008**

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 3 July 2008 are attached for members' information. The Akaroa Wairewa Community Board received these minutes at its meeting held on 21 August 2008.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes be received.

## AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – 3 JULY 2008

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	Michael Aitken
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Lynda Wallace, Museum Director
<b>Author:</b>	Fiona Shand, 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 Thursday 3 July 2008.

The meeting was attended by Committee members:

Pam Richardson (Chair)  
 Elizabeth Haylock - Friends of Akaroa Museum  
 Victoria Andrews - Community representative  
 Meri Robinson – Onuku Rūnanga representative

Also in attendance were: Lynda Wallace - Museum Director  
 Fiona Shand – Community Board Adviser

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Stewart Miller and Jane Chetwynd and an apology for lateness was received and accepted from Meri Robinson who arrived 10.50 am.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The committee **resolved** that the report of the meeting held on 26 March 2008 be received.

**3. MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

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

**3.1 Visitors**

- End of year update shows an increase in visitor numbers of around 7%, a very pleasing result. The committee thanked the Museum Director for her hard work in achieving this result.
- 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.

**3.2 Exhibitions**

- Summer show was "Milk It", focusing on the history of the dairy industry on the Peninsula. The exhibition was well received.
- The exhibition on 100 years of rugby on the Peninsula was in place until the end of June. This is being replaced by "Quirky Collections" - dealing with local collectors of unusual objects which will run from July to October. The Museum Director recognised the work of the two Museum Assistants who were preparing this exhibition.

- Worsley Expansion – the final panels are complete and being proofed. The title for the exhibition will be “Salute to Adventure – The Frank Worsley Story”, and it will open on Friday 8 August. The exhibition will be promoted during Antarctic Festival Week – 26 September to 3 October. The Antarctic theme will continue at the Friends AGM on 26 September. The committee discussed sending invitations of the opening to City Councillors, the Community Board, Canterbury Community Trust and key staff involved in the project. The Museum Director will work with the Council’s internal communications team about a media release and appropriate promotional material.

### 3.3 Collections

- As displays were dismantled to make room for the Frank Worsley display, items have been inspected, cleaned and inventories updated.

### 3.4 Projects

- Storage Building Project is continuing and is expected to be finished on time and within budget. The detailed design has been signed off and staff are continuing to work through Resource Management issues. A full sprinkler system is not now being installed due to the additional costs required to maintain and service it. The variable water pressure means that underground tanks would need to be installed with a pump which would require fortnightly inspections. A state of the art smoke detection system will be installed.
- The committee agreed that the issues of water on the Peninsula (and associated fire fighting issues) should be brought to the attention of the Community Board asking that the issue be considered by the Board with respect to the LTCCP.
- The committee considered invitations to an event to celebrate the storage building project, including Canterbury Community Trust members Rob Dalley and David Close. A date to be set around a significant milestone in the project, for example, laying foundation or putting the roof on. Friends to support the event.
- Langlois-Eteveneaux Cottage, the painting is now complete with only some final tidy up required which will be completed in the Spring. The colours of the cottage were based on the earliest colour scheme of the building, established by taking paint scrapings. The committee asked the Museum Director to write to City Care thanking them for the excellent job.
- Customs House fence is now complete using authentic construction practices. Pam Richardson will send a letter of thanks to Peter Haylock and Angus Davis for their hard work in undertaking this task.

### 3.5 Internship

- A proposal will be prepared to try and secure an intern for a three month period over the summer, although the Museum Director noted that competition is strong for the two positions nationwide. Interns must be involved in stand alone projects (not general museum work). The interns receive an allowance but accommodation will need to be found – it was acknowledged that this may be difficult over the summer period.

## 4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Ms Haylock updated the Committee on the following specific items:

### 4.1 Building / gardens maintenance work

Following the erection of the picket fence the next stage of work is to redesign and plant the garden. The Committee has decided to devote funds to employ a general gardener on a contract basis to maintain the garden and plant the new garden. The bi-annual working bees will continue.

#### 4.2 Oral History

The oral history project is progressing well. Training of volunteers has recently taken place to increase the number of people able to assist in the project. The first 10 books and interviews will be complete by 8 July. A digital recorder is being sourced to assist as is funding to transfer the tapes to CD.

The oral histories will cover the history of the Peninsula from a number of perspectives including, fishing and farming – some of those already interviewed include, Molly Robinson and Jim Hay.

The Museum Committee expressed an interest in viewing the completed books.

#### 4.3 Exhibitions Support

Funds have been earmarked to help with the design of the extension of the Museum's permanent exhibition of Frank Worsley.

#### 4.4 Garden of Tane

A subcommittee of members has been formed to work with the Council on the Garden of Tane. A letter has been sent to the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board seeking to be involved in this work – an informal meeting between Council staff and the group is expected to be held soon.

In discussion on this item it was noted that some general tidy-up work was required for the area and that a request for service should be lodged with the Council.

#### 4.5 Fund raising

Planning for the major fundraising activity for the year, an Antiques Fair, is well underway and will take place at the Gaiety Hall on 3 January 2009.

#### 4.6 Submissions

At the April committee meeting the Friends decided to put in a submission supporting the Council's decision to seek National Reserve status for Green Point and Takapuneke.

### 5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

#### 5.1 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 is associated with the 1830 events 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. Ms Robinson will follow this up informally and report back to the next meeting.

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 in October, which will include a field trip to Akaroa. The possibility of keeping the mere until Waitangi Day was also discussed as an option for celebration (given that the date of gazettal is unknown). The Community Board will follow-up on the gazettal process with a view to having a commemoration to coincide with gazettal.

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It was **agreed** that the Museum Director would, in the first instance, make contact with Auckland Museum to see what assistance it may be able to offer to support having the mere in Akaroa. If some additional funds are required, for example for panels, transport and display, an application may be made to the Community Board's Discretionary Fund.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 10 am on Thursday 25 September 2008 at the Akaroa Service Centre.

The meeting closed at 11.25am

### 3. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

#### 3.1 VISITORS

Although our July visitor numbers were down on last year (688 compared to 797 for 2007), August has reversed the trend (765 compared to 692 in 2007). Generally I believe we have fared well over what local retailers are commenting has been a very quiet winter.

#### 3.2. EXHIBITIONS

##### **Salute to Adventure – the Frank Worsley Story**

Installation of this exhibition pre-occupied us from mid-July until opening on 8th August. This was an intensive effort for a few weeks, but all went smoothly and we opened the exhibition with a very well-attended and successful function, hosted by the Friends of the Museum. Feedback from visitors has been very positive and, as often happens, further information and details of Frank Worsley's life continue to be offered to us as a result of the increased awareness resulting from the exhibition.

To boost the capital budget for this exhibition, the Friends contributed almost a third of the total cost, topped up with a smaller donation from the Lions Club. Support from both sources was essential to make the exhibition possible, and is much appreciated.

We have printed a special set of four postcards to mark the new exhibition, and are working with the Friends on developing a 'Worsley trail' brochure, so that interested visitors can find their way to the house where he was born, to his mother's grave in the cemetery and to the bronze bust on the Britomart Reserve.

##### **Quirky Collections**

This exhibition, featuring local collectors and a diverse range of objects they collect, from bullets to bricks, has proved to be of great interest to locals and visitors alike. It has also drawn out other local collectors willing to share their passion with the public, sufficient to allow us to plan for "Quirky Collections II" next year.

#### 3.3 COLLECTIONS

##### **Temporary storage of collections**

All the collections currently stored in the workroom/storage area will need to be removed to temporary storage while the connection is made between our existing building and the new, preventing any risk of damage to objects during construction. This is a significant element of the project which will require considerable care and attention to documentation. I am hopeful that our application for an intern, with collection management expertise, for a period of three months will be successful, as a person with these skills will be invaluable for this part of the project.

#### 4. PROJECTS

##### **Storage Building**

The resource consent process has progressed steadily and smoothly, with the last hurdle, that of obtaining affected party consents (Historic Places Trust and close neighbours) now concluded. Wilkie Bruce Architects have prepared the detailed drawings which will allow us to progress to building consent stage, and then to tender. A considerable increase in the cost of steel has resulted in our shelving fit-out needing to be reduced to meet our available budget, but we will still have sufficient shelving capacity to meet current and future needs.

**5. EVENTS**

**Museum as Venue**

Since the last meeting of this Committee, the Museum has been used for two non-Museum events: a City Council public consultation meeting for the Garden of Tane and Stanley Park on Saturday 23rd August, and a book launch on Saturday 6th September. Both were successful events which drew a number of people into the Museum who would not be regular visitors. I delivered a short, illustrated presentation on the history of the Garden of Tane as an introduction to the session.

The book being launched was "Akaroa, an Historic Precinct" by Barbara Allison, an attractive addition to the range of titles about Akaroa and its historic buildings. We will be stocking it in our museum shop.

Akaroa District Promotions will be using the Museum as the venue for its annual general meeting on the evening of 24th September, with Rodney Russ of Southern Expeditions talking about their Antarctic tours.



#### **4.0 FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

##### **4.1 CONTRIBUTION TO EXHIBITIONS**

The Friends hosted the official opening of the Frank Worsley Exhibition at the Museum on 8/8/8. The opening was a great event addressed by John Thompson, author of *Shackleton's Captain* and by Wendy Dunlop also an author who has written widely on Frank Worsley. Although the weather was very snowy and stormy, stopping many from attending, three city councillors and several senior council staff were present as well as a large audience. We must acknowledge the enormous contribution that Lynda Wallace has made to the Museum in creating this important exhibition. It will be a key part of our display for many years and will help spread wider understanding of the enormous role played by Worsley in Antarctic history. We are pleased to have been able to make a significant financial contribution to the costs of this exhibition.

##### **4.2 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

We are continuing to collect oral histories as time permits and have recently completed the first seven of our written catalogues which accompany and amplify the tapes of each individual. One of our members has carried out extensive research on the options for long term digital storage of the oral histories with advice from National Archives and the National Library. As a result we have now lodged an application for funding which will cover the costs of equipment allowing us to record directly onto digital format, as well as store the data on hard drive and transfer our existing analog tapes into digital. We will need to store the hard drive at the Museum in a temperature controlled environment. National Archives have also offered to store original data for us long term if required.

##### **4.3 GARDENING AND MAINTENANCE**

We have set up a contract with a local gardener to help in ongoing maintenance of the grounds around the Museum buildings. This has been in effect for one month and appears to be working well. Our Spring Working Bee is set for October 4<sup>th</sup> when the Friends will undertake a major clear up as well as begin a new garden around the Custom House and put the final coat of paint on the new picket fence.

##### **4.4 GARDEN OF TANE**

A public meeting was held at the Museum on August 23<sup>rd</sup> where Council staff presented various options for the future management of the Garden of Tane. The Friends were very pleased to have this opportunity for exchange of ideas and opinions. There was considerable interest from the community with about 60 people present and it was clear that there were quite differing views for preferred future directions but unanimity in the need for urgent management of the Garden. The Friends have approached the Community Board to request a Reserve Management Committee be set up immediately so that this group can help the Council staff in developing the management plan.

##### **4.5 FUND RAISING**

The Friends will have a stall as part of the French Festival celebrations on October 11<sup>th</sup> which will be a chance to raise some money as well as inform more people about the association and the advantages of joining. We are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this event free of charge.

##### **4.6 AGM**

The AGM is to be held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> this year with guest speaker Natalie Cadenhead, Curator of Antarctic History at the Canterbury Museum. We have scheduled this to coincide with the beginning of the Council's Antarctic Festival.

Jane Chetwynd, President.

25. 09. 08

5.0 COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE

6.0 COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION