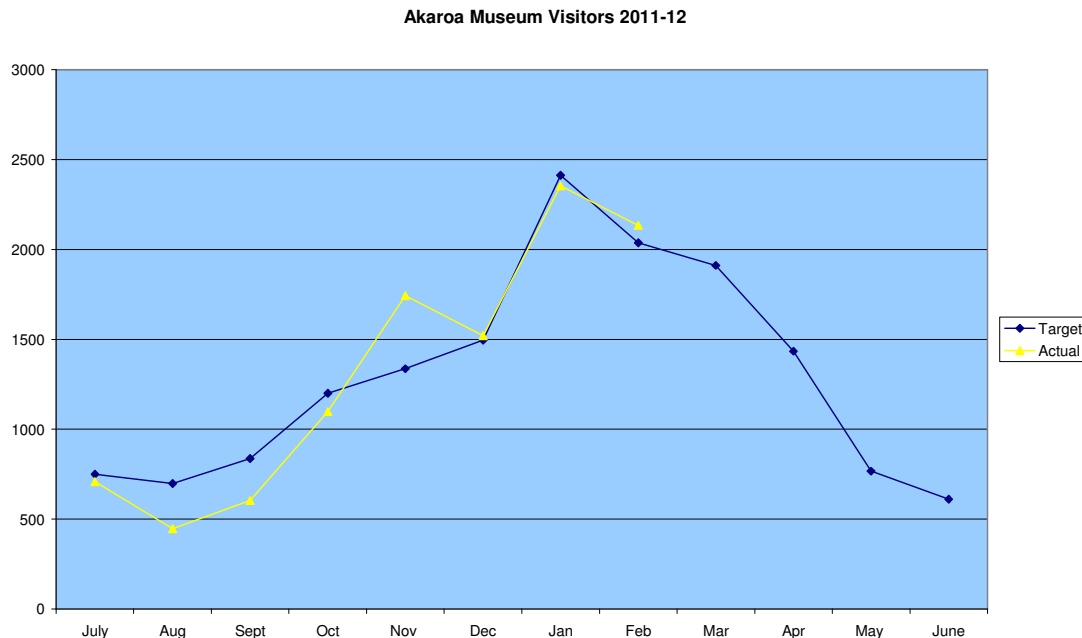


4. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

4.1 VISITORS

Visitor numbers

Cruise ship visits during the summer have delivered us enough visitors to meet, and in some cases exceed, our target for each month since November.



Visitor survey

Museums Aotearoa, the museum sector's national body, has provided us with an opportunity to participate again in a national visitor survey of museums and galleries. We will be sampling our visitors over a period of six days this month and feeding the data collected into the national survey. Museums Aotearoa uses this national visitor data for its sector advocacy work.

Friends of Christchurch Art Gallery visit

About 35 Friends of the Christchurch Art Gallery visited the Museum in mid-February, one of their stops on a bus trip to Akaroa.

4.2 EXHIBITIONS

Current – Akaroa on Holiday

Akaroa on Holiday is proving popular with our visitors, reviving memories in those who had holidayed in the town in the past and providing some historical context for those who are visiting for the first time.

Upcoming – photograph competition, Akaroa on Holiday

In a collaboration with Akaroa District Promotions, we have offered our temporary exhibition gallery as a venue for exhibiting the best entries in a photograph competition. With the theme *Akaroa on Holiday*, the exhibition complements our summer show perfectly. The competition attracted well over 200 entries, and the best 20 of these will be exhibited at the Museum, with an opening planned for Friday 30 March.

4.3 COLLECTIONS

Storage spaces rationalised

We continue to work through our storage spaces, rationalising and improving as we go. The small object store is the most recent space to receive our attention, with new shelving installed to suit its primary purpose, that of an art and photographs store. Other objects are gradually being re-housed in the larger new store.

4 Cont'd

Earthquake damage

Architects and engineers are looking at options for the repair/reconstruction of the Langlois-Eteveneaus house chimney. It has been agreed that an inspection of the chimney below roof level is required, so linings will need to be removed from the chimney breast to enable this inspection. Obviously, this involves the removal of all collection items from the parlour half of the cottage, a process that will be managed by museum staff.

4.4 PROJECTS

Detailed Engineering Evaluation

Although the Museum's three heritage buildings have received their Detailed Engineering Evaluations (DEEs), the more modern Museum buildings have not. Council has approved a prioritised list of almost 1000 facilities for DEE assessments, part of the Facilities Rebuild Plan, and indications are that our buildings are among the top 25%.

4.5 OTHER

Thanks

The November 2011 meeting was the last attended by Liz Haylock as a representative of the Friends. I wish to record my thanks and appreciation to Liz for her commitment to the Museum over a very long period of time, during which she has effectively influenced the direction of the Museum, advocated for it when the need arose, and strengthened the Museum's links to the community.

4.6 EVENTS

Opening of *Akaroa on Holiday* photograph competition 5pm, Friday 30 March 2012.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.