



Lyttelton Museum



Newsletter - Winter 2015

A.G.M. 2015 - Milk Shed - Garage Sale - Canterbury Community Trust Grant - Development Committee update - Collections update - Festival of Lights - Lyttelton Museum website - Important dates - and more...

Annual General Meeting 2015

This year the annual general meeting of members was held at the newly opened St Saviour's at Holy Trinity. Various committee members updated the membership on the committee's activities over the previous year, and a number of questions were asked regarding the plans for a new building. The committee was re-elected with the additions of Liz Grant and Wendy McKay. However, we bid a sad farewell to John King who decided to retire from the committee following many years of service.

The Museum would like to thank Jane Teal for the interesting talk on the history of St Saviour's at Holy Trinity, which followed the meeting, and also the Church for providing the venue for the meeting.

St Saviour's at Holy Trinity was consecrated on 7 July – learn more about Lyttelton's newest church on our website.



Vice President Lizzie Meek addressing the membership attending the Museum AGM, 28th June 2015.

Lyttelton Historical Museum Society Committee 2015-2016

President: Dr Kerry McCarthy

Vice-Presidents: Jeremy Agar, Lizzie Meek

Treasurer: Helen Sellwood

Membership Secretary: Ursula Rack

Minutes Secretary: Liz Grant

Web Secretary: Helen Greenfield

Committee: Lynn Campbell, Andrea McHarg, Wendy McKay, Liza Rossie, Peter Rough



Milk Shed, Gladstone Quay

You may have noticed that the old Milk Shed, which housed a number of the Museum's chattels along with some collection items, has now been demolished. The landslide behind the shed had left the site unstable and dangerous. The building was deconstructed to allow for the retrieval of a number of collection items, which are now in storage at the contractor's premises. The committee hope to be able to inspect the retrieved items in the near future. The committee would like to thank the Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board for their assistance in making the retrieval possible.

Canterbury Community Trust Grant received

In July the Museum received a grant of \$20,000 from The Canterbury Community Trust. This grant is being used to assist with employing another collection technician to prepare the collection to go into long-term storage. You can read more about this work in the Collections Update.

Development Committee update

The committee continues to asses a number of sites around Lyttelton for a potential home for the new Museum. The focus of interest in recent times has been on sites in London Street and a site near the waterfront in Dampier Bay that the Lyttelton Port Company (LPC) intends to make available for public use. Our interest in the latter has waned somewhat as the LPC now wish to keep the area we are interested in as an operational area for ten or more years.

With assistance from Councillor Andrew Turner we have found out that one of the London Street sites we are interested in, namely the former site of the City Council's Service Centre, has been deemed by the Council as 'operationally redundant'. In order to secure an interest in the site before the Council considers selling the land, the Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board, at its last meeting, passed a motion supporting the Museum Society's interest in that site.

In the near future Development Committee representatives hope to have a meeting with relevant City Council staff to discuss the possibility of the Society utilising this site, either independently or in partnership with the Council. Such a meeting should enable the Development Committee to further evaluate which of the sites we are focussing on is the most suitable for a new museum.

Festival of Lights 2015

For the third year in a row, Lyttelton Museum lit up the window of Henry Trading on London Street on 19th June as part of the Lyttelton Festival of Lights. Over the evening, many people gathered in front of the window to watch our slideshow, which included images of the Lyttelton Volunteer Fire Brigade, St John's Ambulance, sports clubs, bands, and Oxford Street. While we were choosing the images for the slide show, it reminded us of what a wonderful collection of photos we have. Thanks Henry Trading for providing the space to do this again!

If you didn't brave the cold or the crowds for Festival of Lights this year, we'll show the slideshow at the Christmas party in December.



Festival of Lights attendees viewing the Museum's slide show in the window of Henry Trading, London Street, 19.6.2015.

Garage Sale success

On 9th May, we hosted one of Project Lyttelton's highly successful garage sales, which benefit local organisations. We're thrilled to report that we made over \$500, which will go towards day-to-day expenses like paying the phone bill...it's not quite enough for a new building but it's a start. Thank you to Liza Rossie, Krystal Coppell, Malcolm and Dawn Pearson, Helen Greenfield, Andrea McHarg and Helen Sellwood for their hard work on the day!

Contact the Museum if you would like to help out at the next garage sale on 14th November.

Lyttelton Museum website

Our website has been live for nine months or so. You can find it at www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz. To date, the website has had over 1000 visits and we've received several enquiries from our online contact form.

If you haven't already, please take a look at the website and let us know what you think about it and, more importantly, how we can improve it. Here are some questions to think about:

Does the website represent what you think Lyttelton Museum is about? Is there anything missing? Can you find what you're looking for? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Our contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Congratulations

Helen Sellwood, the Museum's hard-working treasurer/secretary, was recently recognised for her commitment to Lyttelton in this year's Community Service Awards. As well as the work she does for the Museum, Helen is on the Cressy Trust Board, and is on the Vestry of St Saviour's at Holy Trinity. The awards are given in recognition of significant voluntary service, and Helen was one of 12 Banks Peninsula residents to receive awards at a ceremony held at Rāpaki Marae on 30th June.

Important Museum dates coming up

Members meeting: 26th September 2015, venue to be confirmed.

Lyttelton Museum at the Garage Sale: 14th November 2015

Collection packaging: September - November. See the Collections update for more information.

Notes from the Curator's desk

Like many items from Lyttelton Museum's collection, these beautifully sleek, albeit ordinary-looking, wooden skis hide stories of adventure and, ultimately, tragedy. They were once owned – and judging by the hand-carved initials, firmly claimed – by William Knowles. A resident of Lyttelton, Knowles was issued them during his term as an Able Seaman on Scott's Terra Nova Antarctic expedition (1910 – 1913).

On return to New Zealand he joined the Naval Reserves, went to the First World War, and in February 1915 was shot in a skirmish with Turkish troops. He later died of his wounds, becoming the first New Zealand sailor killed as a result of enemy action in WWI.

<https://ehive.com/account/5362/object/469987/Skis>



Fancy one of these in your living room?

Apparently, back in the day, a stuffed Emperor Penguin (known to science as *Aptenodytes forsteri*) was quite the rage as a souvenir for intrepid explorers returning from Antarctica. And, of course, home for a number of these men was Lyttelton.

We have been told there was once a time when numerous Lyttelton homes featured a chap similar to this one from the Museum's collection. Do you have any memories, stories or photos of stuffed Emperor Penguins in Lyttelton houses?

[https://ehive.com/account/5362/object/469990/Emperor Penguin](https://ehive.com/account/5362/object/469990/Emperor_Penguin)

You can also find this and more at <https://www.facebook.com/lytteltonmuseum>. We welcome your comments or knowledge on any of the Museum's objects – do please get in touch via contact details at the end of the newsletter, or leave your comments on the object records pages in eHive: <https://ehive.com/account/5362>

Collections update

As members will know from previous newsletters, the Lyttelton Museum collection continues to be stored at the Canterbury Cultural Collections Recovery Centre, at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand (Wigram).

Since June 2014, our Collections Technician April Guenther has been steadily working her way through the collection, cataloguing and photographing each object, often with assistance from Emeritus Curator Baden Norris. April worked as a higher education administrator in the United States before moving to New Zealand in 2007. Prior to joining the team at Lyttelton Museum, she held positions at Archives New Zealand, Canterbury Museum, University of Canterbury, and New Zealand Micrographics Services. She has a BFA in Painting from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Lyttelton Museum Collections Technicians April Guenther and Murray McGuigan.

As of 31st July, April has catalogued 2766 objects. We have been uploading them in batches to the online catalogue eHive, which you can find through this link: <https://ehive.com/account/5362>

We welcome your comments or knowledge on objects – if you know more about their history or use, do please let us know using the comments box on the object record page. We'd like to thank Canterbury Museum for their generous support in providing us with funding for a five year licence for the eHive catalogue.

Meanwhile, with assistance from the Canterbury Community Trust, the Museum has employed an additional technician, Murray McGuigan, to work specifically on packaging collection objects for their move into restricted access storage for the years 2016-2018.



Museum objects are carefully wrapped in foam and labelled before being placed into large pallet boxes.

Murray has broad museum experience, having worked at Otago Museum for twelve years in a range of roles - most recently in the areas of Collection Care and Exhibitions. Murray has an MA in Geography, a postgraduate qualification in Public Health, and recently became a qualified baker. Since moving from Dunedin in 2014, Murray has succumbed to the charms of Lyttelton and the Peninsula, and is enthusiastic about working to keep the Museum's rich collection safe while it is in deep storage.

We'll be looking for volunteers at some point between September-November to assist Murray with a few packaging projects. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and future newsletters for more info, and register your interest in helping via the contact details below.



Lyttelton Museum

Please note that the Museum is not currently open. We welcome your enquiries while we work towards establishing a new Museum.

PO Box 95, Lyttelton 8841

+64 3 328 8972

info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz