



# Lyttelton Museum



## NEWSLETTER - Winter 2018

### HARBOUR PLACES

#### NEW museum building update



We know you're all very keen to hear about progress on the new museum. Sorry, we can't bring you any designs just yet, but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Architects Warren & Mahoney are developing the concept design and in the next few weeks we'll be working closely with them to bring detail into that. Then we'll be able to share the vision!

#### A loss to family, friends and community

Lyttelton Museum would like to acknowledge the passing of Christine Wilson, and extend our sympathies to her family. A fifth generation Lyttelton local, Christine's dedication to serving her community was remarkable. When we interviewed her last year, she said: "I don't really know how it started, probably with netball and rugby clubs, plus our parents were volunteers. I think there's something about Lyttelton and the harbour that brings people closer – they are somehow forced to bond as small communities and be involved in each other's lives."

She certainly gave of herself and, among other things, was Manager and Community Facilitator of Lyttelton Community House, Justice of the Peace, and organiser of the

Annual Parihaka Remembrance Service. We are particularly grateful to Christine for her support for the Museum in her role as Chair of the Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Community Board. She was excited to think that Lyttelton would have a museum once again and was a real champion in our quest for the land in London Street.

Christine will be greatly missed by many people in the community she so loved.





# HARBOUR PEOPLE



## GREAT community support for Lyttelton Museum

John Fenton was a Foundation Member of the Lyttelton Historical Museum Society, and at the Lyttelton Market and is still doing his bit. 'I want to help any way I can,' he said. What a trooper!

Now in his late 80s, John was born in Winchester St, and went to school in Lyttelton. His father was a seaman and when John was 18 years he joined the crew of the old Wahine as a deck boy. He rose to the rank of bosun before taking a shore job with the Harbour Board.

## ...and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration lives on in Lyttelton!



**Lyttelton school pupil Mila Blundell was so inspired by the story of Captain Scott** (as re-told in Joanna Grochowicz's fantastic book 'Into the White'), that she dressed in full Antarctic kit and dragged a home-made sled up Canterbury Street. Pupils at Lyttelton Primary School are encouraged to dress as a favourite character for the annual Book Week parade. Scott was no stranger to Lyttelton, supplying both his Discovery and Terra Nova expeditions from Lyttelton Port on the way south. His last visit to Lyttelton was when he and his crew departed for Antarctica in November 1910. Mila's pictures reminded us that Scott's crew also dragged their sleds through the streets of Lyttelton as a showcase of their expedition. Great effort Mila!



Using the fence in front of the site we have for the new Museum, John creates an exhibition of his fascinating collection of old sailing vessels – he had worked on quite a number of them. He's framed the photos and decorates those frames using his remarkable knot-tying skills. This is a guy who could in his day splice up to 14 strands of wire to make the strops for the port crane.

**Our thanks to those who donate  
to our cause, and a big thanks to John!**



## Thanks Lyttelton Supervalue for your support!

**And a really big 'thank you' to Cheryl and Rob de Thier of Lyttelton Supervalue.**

They have given us \$200 towards the design and production of some sturdy canvas 'Lyttelton Museum' tote bags. These are going to be another fundraiser for us. They fit in perfectly with Cheryl and Rob's other great community effort of having paper bags, not plastic, in the supermarket.

Look out for our bags soon! And give a shout-out to Cheryl and Rob.



## Lyttelton kids are into museums!

**Florence and Bridie decided to turn their dolls house into 'The Museum at 6 Rainwater Crescent'.**

The twins go to Lyttelton Primary School and this was their project. There's a Fossil Room – Bridie is inspired by trailblazing fossil hunter Mary Anning (1799–1847) who was credited with the first discovery of the plesiosaur. And there's a Star Wars Room – Florence loves Star Wars. Their sister Evelyn loves sewing and they got some very sparkly material from her for Star Wars; and all the curtain material. As well as making things, the girls got a lot of their objects from op shops. There's an Attic full of treasures – Josiah helped with that. Libby helped with the Winnie-the-Poo Room; Hanna helped with the Bug Room; and Mika helped with the Library. Florence made 'A The Museum is entirely the work of the children. Bridie and Florence liked having their friends involved but did say the hardest thing was making sure everybody agreed. The best thing was finishing it! But choosing things, sticking things up, and making things were all really good fun.



Florence & Bridie

**But it doesn't stop there – Lyttelton Primary School is buzzing.**

There's a keen team of four at Lyttelton Primary School that's planning their own museum! By the kids, for the kids. The School gave them permission to find a space, and they've earmarked a corner of the Library. Ngaio has got a passion for rocks – "Precious minerals are so pretty." – and they all reckon that might be the theme of their first exhibit. Lada and Eva are planning on being the art curators, and Rowan is really interested in history, particularly of the Victorian era.

It wasn't easy to find the right space – new schools don't have spare little corners – but having nailed that, they're now looking for a display cabinet, one



'The Museum at 6 Rainwater Crescent'

that they can keep secure. They've got permission to meet for a few hours in school time every second Tuesday and they're hoping to have their museum established by the end of this term. As Lyttelton Museum colleagues, we're looking forward to that.



Ngaio and Rowan in their future museum space.

Lada and Eva check out one of the school's folding cabinets



# HARBOUR HERITAGE

## Exciting installation on our site during Mātāriki and the Festival of Lights!

Sarah Amazinnia and Holly Cunningham, well known in Lyttelton for their art projects are working with Ngāti Wheke and Ngāti Tahu artists Caine Tauwhare, Amber Moke, Piri Cowie and Paula Rigby for an installation on our site beginning with the Festival of Lights on 29 June.

The installation will focus on the early history of the site, introducing elements honouring ancestors who fished and traded kai on Banks Peninsula. Public workshops around traditional kai, and storytelling events on site will accompany the installation. Planning for this is still underway, so look out for updates on our website and Facebook pages.



Smoked Tuna "Eel"

## For your diary!

### AGM

Sunday 19th August  
2-4pm,  
Community Board Room  
Canterbury St

We will confirm details closer to the time, but in the meantime, do mark the date in your calendar.

## Beca Heritage Week 2018

In October this year we will again work with Lyttelton Library on a project covering the 1918 Flu Pandemic as our contribution to Beca Heritage Week. Following the success of last years' Lyttelton by Rail exhibition, we're proud to say that we have again been made a key event. We're also partnering with the Ōtamahua Quail Island Trust who will be offering walking tours of the island, which had a sanatorium for patients on it for a while.

If you have family stories and/or photos connected to that dreadful pandemic, we would love to hear from you. Please email [lytteltonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lytteltonmuseum@gmail.com).

## Any old photos?

'For next year's calendar we are planning to make the theme 'Your Memories', and we would love to feature Lyttelton-related photographs taken between 1940 and 1980. We can all agree that things have changed a great deal, and we think it will be fun to look back at the buildings, the boats, the clothes, the entertainment ... photographs that tell a story are ideal, and if you're in the photograph yourself, even better!



Centenary celebrations in London St, 1950 (Lyttelton Museum)

Please send your photographs, and the story behind them, via email to [lytteltonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lytteltonmuseum@gmail.com) and include 'calendar 2019' in the subject, or by good old-fashioned post to PO Box 95, Lyttelton 8841.

## HARBOUR PEOPLE

### New committee members

Over the past few months, we have welcomed three new members to the Society's management committee: Lindsay Daniel, who is also a Trustee of the Ōtamahua Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust, and Caine Tauwhare and Kylie Jane Phillips as representatives of Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke.



Lyttelton  
Museum

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

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