



# Newsletter

## Autumn 2015

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### Lyttelton Museum in Albion Square

This anchor (formerly in the Museum yard) is now on long term loan as part of the Albion Square redevelopment. It forms one part of the waharoa (carved entrance way) into the square known as Ohinehouroko. Loaned to the Museum by the Lyttelton Harbour Board, it is a kedge or salvage anchor which is used to assist with turning ships or shifting them against the wind or during calm weather.



Ohinehouroko, with the anchor in its new home.

## What's been happening?

The Museum Society Committee recently welcomed Wendy McKay. Wendy's vast wealth of local knowledge and experience working for the community will be very beneficial to the Museum and the Committee is very pleased to have her on-board.

The Museum Development Committee has continued its work on a new museum, work on cataloguing the collection continues, two exhibitions have been completed, and Museum Society members have attended a couple of great get-togethers. Read on for more details.

## Development Committee Update - progress towards a new Museum

Based on information from museums in Akaroa, Timaru and Wanaka, the Committee has prepared a Draft Operational Costing for a new museum. In addition, consultant Ray Sleeman has prepared a Market Analysis Report which focuses on determining the external factors that will impact on the potential visitation to a new museum once it has been completed. Recently Ray and Development Committee member Therese Angelo, discussed the Market Analysis Report and the idea of a Lyttelton Tourism Strategy with the Lyttelton Business Association.

The Committee also met with Helen Brown, Senior Cultural Mapping Researcher at Ngai Tahu, who will be Ngai Tahu's representative with whom the Committee will engage in conversations about the museum development.

The Committee has now met with the owners of a number of potential museum sites. Quantity surveyors and construction consultants Rawlinsons have prepared an Options Report (pro bono - thank you very much to Rawlinsons!), which outlines a rough order of costs to develop a museum on each of four physically different sites. These cost estimates are proving to be very useful for realistic comparative purposes.

In the near future the Committee plans to have further meetings with landowners, including Christchurch City Council, and Lyttelton Port Company representatives. The Committee intends to decide upon a recommendation for a new museum site and present this to the Museum Society by the end of the year.

## Lyttelton Museum Collection

April Guenther, the Museum's Collection Technician, continues to make good progress with the collection catalogue. Currently we have over 2000 objects catalogued. An extended eHive license is being negotiated, and we will let members know via Facebook and meetings when this is in place, and more of our collection is accessible online. In the meantime, check out the initial batch of records here <https://ehive.com/account/5362>.

April often finds intriguing objects from the collection, for example this woven luggage grip (right). It was made of rope and leather by a sailor on the sailing vessel *Cardigan Castle* and given to emigrant Charles Gasson and his wife. The *Cardigan Castle* left Plymouth on 23rd August 1873 and arrived at Lyttelton on 15th November 1873 after a voyage of 84 days. The third ship to arrive under the auspices for the New Zealand Shipping Company, she was built of iron with and carried an immense spread of canvas.



1060.1 Woven Luggage Handle - Woven luggage grip made of rope and leather, areas of colourful paint.

## Collection Insect Control

The Museum collection has been assessed by April and Lynn Campbell (Conservator and Museum Committee member) to find items with signs of current or past insect activity. On 18th April the objects identified were temporarily shifted to a walk in freezer container at the Air Force Museum and frozen for a week as part of an Integrated Pest Management programme. Freezing is a useful way of dealing with insect activity because chemicals (which may be harmful to the objects and to the people handling them) are not required, and objects of all sizes including large pieces of furniture can be treated this way.

## *At Home with the Grubbs* exhibition concludes

The Museum's *At Home with the Grubbs* exhibition at Grubb Cottage has come to an end but its presence remains. The Museum has loaned a couple of display cases to the Grubb Cottage Heritage Trust so they can continue to display items from Grubb Cottage, which is open 10.30-12.30 Saturday mornings.

Around 800 people visited Grubb Cottage over the Summer period when *At Home with the Grubbs* was installed there. The Museum had numerous enquiries as a result, and some new members have signed up too.

If you didn't make it to the exhibition, you can view a few photos on our website: [www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz/archived](http://www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz/archived). And you can still visit the Museum's Lyttelton Timeline panels outside Grubb Cottage during opening hours.

## *Through the Glass Ceiling* exhibition concludes

Late last year the Tin Palace invited Lyttelton Museum to contribute the first part of a two part exhibition to accompany the display of the Women's Refuge's large perspex Kate Sheppard sculpture. The Museum's exhibition from March 8th until April 12th focused on Lyttelton Harbour's significant connections to the suffrage movement, women in local politics, and the 1993 suffrage centenary celebrations in Lyttelton.

This was the third exhibition by Lyttelton Museum since the building that housed the collection was damaged in 2011, and was part of the Museum's continuing programme of distributed displays which has been funded by a grant from Christchurch City Council.

Just over 700 people visited the Museum's exhibition during the month it was open.

The second part of the exhibition continues Wednesday 15th April - Sunday 10th May with the Kate Sheppard sculpture accompanied by portraits of women with connections to Lyttelton Harbour by Julia Holden.

A big thanks also to the Tin Palace for their support.



Liza Rossie from Lyttelton Museum (left) and Holly Cunningham from the Tin Palace in front of the Kate Sheppard sculpture at the opening of the *Through the Glass Ceiling* exhibition on International Women's Day (Sunday 8th March) 2015.

## Lyttelton Museum Collection Donations

The Museum is grateful for recent donations to the collection from members of the public. These have included historic photographs, items from Lyttelton School and a model of TEV *Wahine*. If you have an item relating to Lyttelton's history that you would like to donate, please contact the Museum Secretary for a donation form at [info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz) or PO Box 95, Lyttelton.

## Museum Christmas Party 10th December 2014

It was great to see so many Museum members at last years Christmas party. A good time was had by all!



Museum Committee member Peter Rough addresses attendees during the Christmas party at the Lyttelton Club 10th December 2014.

## Members Meeting on the Tug *Lyttelton* Sunday 12th April

The recent quarterly members meeting started with a visit to the Museum's *Through the Glass Ceiling Exhibition* at the Tin Palace where Committee member Liza Rossie presented a slide show of museum photographs. Members then walked down to the harbour and boarded the Tug *Lyttelton* to explore the vessel and have a cup of tea before the meeting.

## Coming up - Lyttelton Museum at the Community Garage Sale 9th May

As part of its fundraising programme the Museum is running the Community Garage Sale, 25 Canterbury Street, Lyttelton, on Saturday 9th May 10 am - 1 pm. You can help to support the Museum by dropping off your unwanted items the night before or by coming down on the Saturday to pick up a bargain. See you there!

## Coming up - Lyttelton Museum at Lyttelton Harbour Festival of Lights

Keep an eye out for the annual Museum slide show during the Festival Street Party on 19th June. This year's festival will be held on 18th - 21st June. You can also see a selection of images from previous Festival slide shows on the Museum's website Past Exhibitions page: [www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz/archived](http://www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz/archived).



**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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