



Lyttelton Museum



Newsletter - Autumn 2016

**Collections update - New Museum display - Assessing a new Museum site
- Historic harbour films - Notes from the Curator's desk - and more...**

A window into the past

Lyttelton Museum has a new presence in the town. On the Tuesday before Easter weekend, we set up the museum's new screen in the window at the Lyttelton Information Centre at 20 Oxford Street. Our multi-talented technician, Murray, designed and installed the plinth that houses the media player and TV screen. It looks great in the window and the Information Centre are thrilled with the result.

At the moment, we're displaying our slideshow from last year's Festival of Lights but we'll update the display throughout the year with images from our collection as well as hosting some mini-exhibitions.

This new display is another positive step in the museum's journey to re-establish itself in Lyttelton. The funding for this project came from our Distributed Displays grant made by the Christchurch City Council and supported by the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board.



Lyttelton Museum slideshow in the window of the Lyttelton Information Centre – the display runs 10am – 9pm each day.

Looking to the future

It's a bold plan, but the committee's goal is to open a new building for the museum in September 2019, Lyttelton Museum's 50th anniversary. And at the latest members meeting, held on Sunday 20 March at Lyttelton's Rec Centre, Peter Rough, chair of the development committee, gave an update on progress to find a site on which to build.

Over the last year, the development committee has done thorough research into the best place for the new museum. They've investigated over 10 possible sites and Peter gave a rundown of the pros and cons relating to each of them. For a variety of reasons, it's clear that the optimum location is to build on London St, so the museum will be in the heart of the community. One possible position is the Council-owned Service Centre site next to the Library. As well, the development committee is in discussion with the owners of three other, privately-owned sites.

Peter acknowledged that the process so far has had tremendous support from professionals who have done pro bono work as part of the investigations. Geotechnical research was done by Southern Geophysical, and quantity surveyors Rawlinsons provided a report giving a general estimate of costs. As well, architects Warren & Mahoney carried out a 'bulk and location study' for various sites. Peter presented one of the reports from that study, showing how a museum of approximately 750 sqm would sit on, for example, the Service Centre site.

There are a lot of issues to consider, such as District planning requirements, environmental issues, local heritage, and the City Council's requirement to have an 'active frontage'. But the first step is to secure the land. Following Peter's presentation, members were free to ask questions and raise any issues that concerned them. After that they were asked to vote to give approval for land to be acquired, and also to give the development committee the authority to negotiate with the land owners. Approval was unanimous. Once those negotiations have been carried out, the committee will bring a recommendation to the members at either the AGM or at a special members meeting.

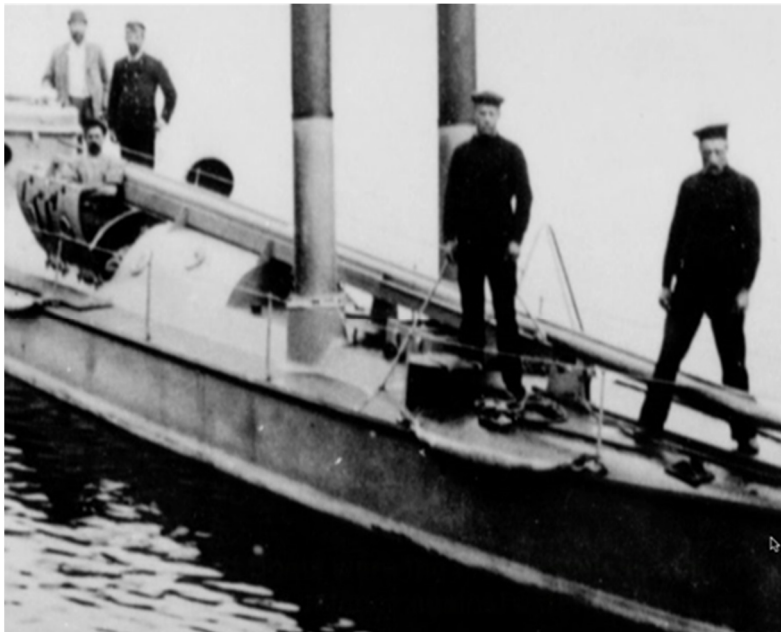


Plan showing the sites evaluated for a new Museum building.

And enjoying the past

Extracts from two filmed documentaries about Lyttelton Harbour Whakaraupo were a highlight of the recent members meeting. Lyttelton local Andrew Tebbutt was the film maker and he talked about how and why they were made. In 2000, Andrew was inspired – by Ned Knewstubb, he acknowledged – to make a film about the tradition of regattas on the harbour. It wasn't exactly a big budget production – just one camera and one boat, he said – but he shot some beautiful footage out on the water. He also discovered some old Harbour Board films which he was free to use. Andrew transferred them to a digital format and created his documentary out of the old images and his contemporary ones. Magic.

And in 2002, Andrew made another documentary about the rescue of the hull of *Defender*, the torpedo boat that had been disintegrating for many years in the sand dunes in Purau Bay. The hull can now be seen at the Torpedo Boat Museum in Magazine Bay. John Cleaver and David Bundy of the Torpedo Boat Museum Trust had asked Andrew to make the film. Jeremy Agar was also part of the team. We also saw footage of Corsair Bay, and other bays around the harbour in the 1950s. Andrew screened only 7 minutes from each of his documentaries but judging by the enthusiastic chatter among the members, they clearly sparked a lot of memories. Andrew has done extensive research at Archives New Zealand and said it would be great to bring back to the community old footage held by them.



Operational days for the torpedo boat which was rescued from the sand dunes in Purau Bay. Andrew Tebbutt was commissioned by the Torpedo Boat Museum Trust to make the 36 minute documentary.

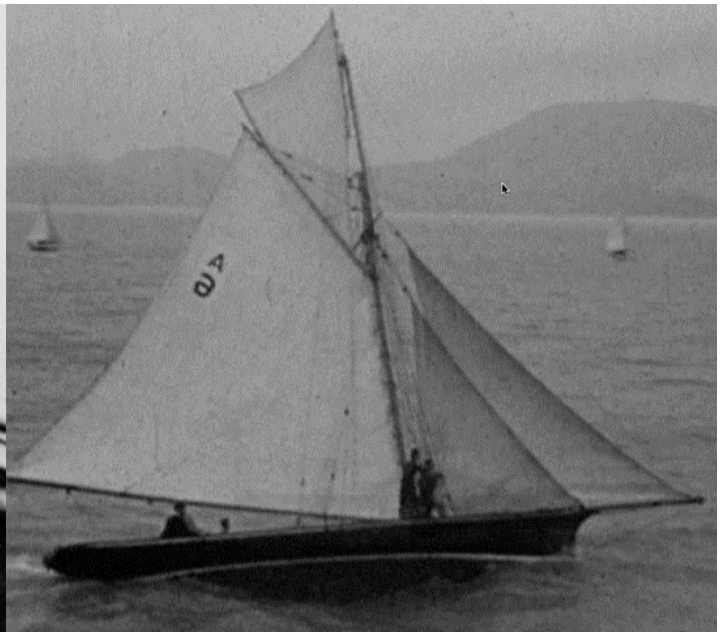


Image from the 28 minute documentary on Lyttelton regattas made by Andrew Tebbutt.

Hot property!

This year's Lyttelton Museum calendar was a runaway success. The initial print run was 200, but it soon became clear that 'demand was exceeding supply'. Another 100 were printed, and 274 of the 300 calendars were sold. Of the rest, some were given as gifts and a few have been kept for the archives. The calendars made a profit of \$1725 for the Museum Society. We would like to thank Coastal Living, Henry Trading, God Save the Queen, Leslie's Book Shop, London St Books & Antiques, Lyttelton Harbour Information Centre and Lyttelton Library for their support helping us to sell the calendar – it would not have been possible without them. And thanks too to all those involved with its creation and distribution, in particular committee members Andrea McHarg and Helen Greenfield.

AGM

A notice will be sent out to members giving details of the AGM. It will be held in the last weekend in June – why not make a note in your diary now!

Garage sale

Another date to note in your diary – Saturday 9 April. We're holding a garage sale between 10am and 1pm at 54a Oxford Street. Come and get a bargain, and help us with our fundraising at the same time.

Collections update

Just before Christmas, the Lyttelton Museum collection was moved into restricted access, secure storage at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand (Wigram). Many thanks to AFMNZ staff who worked with us on the move, and also to Lyttelton Museum volunteers who assisted with wrapping copies of the *Lyttelton Times*.

Through the generosity of the Air Force Museum, we have been able to keep our two technicians, April and Murray, cataloguing and packaging artefacts, in a small but well set up workroom space. They will be with us until June this year.

To date, we have catalogued a little over 6000 objects. We have just sent a big batch of records up to the eHive folks in Auckland, and they are beginning the process of loading nearly 5000 images and collection records to our online database. Keep checking for new records here: <https://ehive.com/account/5362>

We've continued to receive a slow but steady trickle of donations, particularly photographs of old Lyttelton. If you think you might have something you would like to donate, please contact the Secretary of the LHMS for a donation form, so that the Committee can assess your object against our collection priorities.



Lyttelton Museum technician Murray McGuigan cataloguing some of the smaller objects in the collection.

Notes from the Curator's desk

This curious piece featuring a bearded man drinking from a horn was carved from timber from the Saxon Hotel, Norwich Quay, which was built after the fire in 1870 and demolished in 1970. It was carved and presented to Lyttelton Museum by W.G. Quartermain.

Tales of recovery

Look out for the latest issue of *Heritage New Zealand* magazine – Lyttelton Museum is part of a feature story on the town's post-quake recovery.



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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