



Lyttelton Museum



NEWSLETTER - Summer 2018

HARBOURS PLACES



The Concept Design for the new Lyttelton Museum in London St

AGM 2018

We decided the AGM would be the ideal occasion to share with members the Concept Design for the new building. Lead architect Fiona Short and her colleague Alexandra Smith (Warren & Mahoney) made a presentation of the design following the formalities of the meeting. The architects have clearly listened to our brief and have designed an exciting building. The response of the members at the meeting was very positive.

Since then, the architects have completed the Preliminary Design phase of the project, which involved refining spaces within the proposed museum in terms of their relationships and sizes and has involved vital input from structural, fire, services and acoustic engineers.

Early in the Preliminary Design phase the architects held a planning workshop with the Society's committee members and a representative from Ngāti Wheke, which was an opportunity for those involved to have input into the design and functionality of the proposed building.

On 8 November, the architects and consultant planner, along with President Liz Grant, and Chair of the Development sub-committee Peter Rough, presented the Preliminary Design to the Lyttelton Urban Design Review Panel. We think that the design for the proposed museum was generally well-received by the Panel and we are now awaiting their report before our consultant planner lodges the proposal with the Christchurch City Council for a Resource Consent. We are also waiting for the Preliminary Design to be costed by Rawlinsons, our cost consultant.

With a Resource Consent and an updated costing to hand we will be in a strong position to commence the all-important next phase of the project – fundraising! The project design team, led by Warren and Mahoney, will now cease work until the Society has raised enough funds for the project to proceed to the Developed Design, Detailed Design and Documentation, Contractor Procurement and Construction phases. We still hope to be able to open the doors of the new Museum late in 2020.

2018/2019 LHMS Committee

All the sitting members of the committee indicated they would stand again, and they were confirmed by the members attending the AGM.

President – Liz Grant

Vice Presidents – Lizzie Meek, Kerry McCarthy

Secretary – Wendy McKay

Treasurer – Helen Sellwood

Health & Safety – Alan Calvert

Committee members – Ursula Rack, Murray McGuigan, Peter Rough, Ann Jolliffe, Dave Green, Trevor Hal

Ngāti Wheke representative – Nathan Pohio

Community board representative –
Jed O'Donaghue

HARBOUR PEOPLE

Sad Losses

Two people to whom Lyttelton Museum owes a great deal passed away in recent months. On Saturday 18 August Baden Norris, our founder, was farewelled at LAF in Lyttelton with a celebration of his rich and varied life. Moving tributes were paid to Baden, and there was a large turnout for someone who had clearly touched many people. We would like to warmly thank Baden's family – they requested that, instead of flowers, people make a donation to the Museum. We received \$763 – thank you everyone for your generosity. We're sure Baden would have been very touched.



Baden in his garden
(Photographer Kerry McCarthy)

It was through Baden's vision and determination that we have a museum in Lyttelton. Back in 1965, realising that the heritage stories of Lyttelton and the wider harbour communities needed a home, he set to work. Baden has been widely acknowledged for his deep knowledge of our connections with Antarctica. He has been tireless in developing and nurturing the Museum, and he was very supportive of the plans for a purpose-built museum in the heart of the community. The Museum Society has been blessed by the years of Baden's wise counsel.

Friend and advocate

And recently we, and the museum world more widely, lost a great advocate with the passing of Thérèse Angelo on 15 October. Thérèse, who was the Director of the Air Force Museum of New Zealand, was a member of Lyttelton Museum's management committee for six years and she brought her extensive knowledge and experience to our vision. Until recently, Thérèse and her husband Rob lived in Lyttelton and she had a real passion for the new museum. We have undoubtedly benefitted from her mana getting support in the heritage sector.

Thérèse was recognised for her museum work with many awards, but highlights were the Museums Aotearoa Individual Award in 2010, followed in 2011 by being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister and Minister for Culture and Heritage, has paid tribute to Thérèse, saying that she had made 'A tireless and substantial contribution to the New Zealand heritage sector and wider Canterbury community.'

Thérèse was farewelled with a moving service held at the Air Force Museum on 23 October attended by several hundred people. These included the Chief of Air Force, the Chief of Defence, and the Executive Director of Museums Aotearoa as well as colleagues and friends from museums around the country.



Thérèse helping to rescue the Lyttelton Museum collection after the old museum collapsed
(Photographer: Matthew O'Sullivan, Air Force Museum of New Zealand)



When Death Jumped Ship

For Beca Heritage Week this year, the museum once again collaborated with Lyttelton Library to create an exhibition – this year marking the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Flu Pandemic. It was an extraordinary event, killing 50 million people world-wide. Nine thousand New Zealanders died within the space of two months – coming at the end of The Great War and the loss during the war of 18,000 people, there weren't many families in New Zealand untouched by the flu and the efforts to contain it.

The exhibition of storytelling and photographs included fascinating medical objects lent by the Cotter Medical History Museum in Christchurch, and bottles and medicine tins lent by local Lyttelton collectors. Library staff recreated a fabulous 'Medicine Depot' similar to the one that had been in Cathedral Square at the time. There were two

Boy Scouts were enlisted to run messages and distribute baskets of food and medicine to patients' homes. These young people were in the age group least affected by the deadly form of the flu virus. (Christchurch City Libraries IMG0048)

well-attended evening talks by Christchurch writer Anna Rogers and historian Dr Geoffrey Rice, an internationally acknowledged expert on the pandemic. We were delighted when Dr Rice later emailed to say that he thought the exhibition was 'splendid'! Lyttelton Primary School brought 91 of their students to see the exhibition and made the pandemic a study project. Just over 500 visitors came in total and we are pleased to be able to report that other Christchurch libraries have asked to display it.

Although we are not able to travel the objects, the text panels and images will be shown at the libraries in Papanui, Halswell, South City, and possibly also in Tūranga in January. So if you missed it at Lyttelton Library, you will be able to catch up with it elsewhere in the city.

Women of Lyttelton Gaol

Many people don't realise that the small port town of Lyttelton was once home to New Zealand's largest prison, let alone that over 800 women served sentences there between 1868 and 1913. A team from Lyttelton Museum has transcribed the prison records for these women and is launching this information online. Also part of the project is a unique sound installation on the Gaol site, and an exhibition at Lyttelton Library.

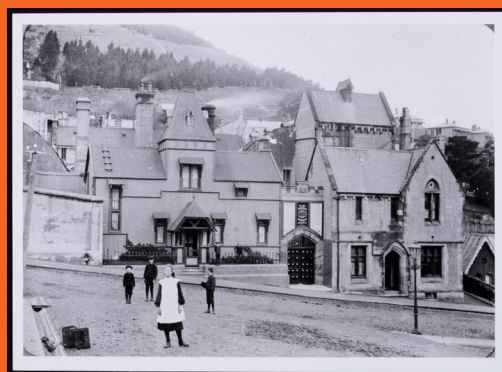
We discovered that a lot of the women were born in Ireland (around 40%) and almost all the offences were committed outside Lyttelton. Many were prostitutes, and their crimes relate most often to drunkenness and poverty. There are numerous repeat offenders, with one woman imprisoned 80 times. The youngest we have found was just 14, the oldest around 80. One of the best-known female prisoners at Lyttelton was Amy Bock, who, in 1909, posed as a man to marry the daughter of a South Otago boarding house owner. Sisters Bella and Mary McKegney are frequent residents over a 50-year period as part of a joint 'life of crime' that was tracked with breathless fascination by newspapers up and down the country.

In response to the stories we have unearthed, Lyttelton sound artist Helen Greenfield has created a unique

soundscape which will play in the rose garden beside the Upham Memorial Clock on Oxford Street over the 2018-19 summer. The 9-minute piece is condensed from over ten hours of audio in which the name, age, occupation, nationality and sentence of each woman was spoken and recorded. More than 30 women donated their time and diverse accents to this project.

The Women of Lyttelton Gaol has three components:

1. A website and searchable database, live from 8 December 2018 at <http://www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz/>
2. A sound installation on the Gaol site, now the rose garden and Upham Memorial Clock, Oxford Street, Lyttelton.
3. An exhibition at Lyttelton Library (early December, dates TBC).



Lyttelton Gaol from Winchester Street, ca 1890s (Palliser family collection Canterbury)

HARBOUR PEOPLE

The 3rd Ka Awatea exhibition opened at full moon on Friday 23 October at The Miniatures Gallery on our site in London St. Once again it was fun occasion – braziers for toasting marshmallows, fabulous free food provided by Rāpaki, great music from Jason Lockhorst, and 11 new artists and 33 new miniature artworks. All of these have been made in response to objects in the Museum's collection and are wonderfully imaginative. And they are for sale. Christmas is coming ... just saying!

This exhibition is open until Saturday 22 December – Gallery hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am–2pm. Access down to the site and the gallery is via the stairs between Henry Trading and Lyttelton Coffee Company.

Liz Grant took the opportunity to thank Sarah Amazinnia and Holly Cunningham for all their work realising this wonderful project. "The creativity of the artists who have responded to objects in our collection, and the three opening events where the community has gathered to talk and share ideas and enjoy music and each other's company have created exactly the kind of atmosphere that we hope the new museum will have – a hub for the community to get together."



One of the works in the first of the three exhibitions – a piece by Adele Jackson showing the ships Charlotte Jane, Randolph, Sir George Seymour and Cressy

Our Digitisation Project

Amy Ryan, the digitisation technician we have engaged to work on our large photographic collection, started work on 5 November. Employing Amy has been made possible by a generous grant from the Lotteries Commission. Initially she is working through the collection of glass plate negatives and lantern slides. There are around two thousand of these, and they need to be checked, cleaned and pre-packaged with a number prior to digitisation. This is no small feat! Amy is working out of Canterbury Museum with the firm Micrographics, who will digitise each item. Amy will then create sets of these images to provide a full catalogue entry. The project is expected to take a year to complete but then we will have an extraordinarily rich resource of images to share with the world.

Talking of photos and Christmas (and fundraising)

At the Lyttelton Farmers Market we will be selling the Lyttelton Museum 2019 calendar. This year we have gone for the theme of 'Growing up in Lyttelton'. We were so delighted to be offered by Baden's sister, Dawn Dawson, a quintessential Kiwi summer image of Baden as a nipper with his cousins – it's the perfect cover shot! Quite a few of the other images are from our collection but some have come from people in the community. Thank you to them. We feel pretty sure the calendar will bring back lots of memories for a lot of people. They are selling for \$20 – all part of helping us to fundraise.



We are also producing a heavy duty canvas tote as a fundraiser, featuring our friend the Captain. The canvas has been ethically manufactured at a factory in India. And it's 100% biodegradable, made from naturally grown and ethically sourced cotton fibres. Join the 'no plastic bags' movement and help Lyttelton Museum at the same time! These will sell for \$30.



**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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