



# Lyttelton Museum



## NEWSLETTER – Spring 2019

### HARBOUR PEOPLE

#### The cannon has landed...

In the early hours of 1st of August the largest cannon from the Lyttelton Museum collection was lowered onto our site at 35 London Street. The arrival of the cannon, likely to be a 6" breech loading Mark XXIV Coastal Defence gun, contributes to the 'enlivening' of our site as we fundraise for a purpose-built museum in the heart of Lyttelton. The cannon was previously in the Museum yard on Gladstone Quay, and during our digitisation project we re-discovered this nostalgic photo of Baden overseeing the delivery of the cannon to site by Burnham soldiers. Since the earthquake, the cannon has been safely stored along with the rest of the Museum collection at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand. We are grateful to them, and to Stark Bros Lyttelton who generously donated their services to transport and deliver the cannon to our site.



The cannon on Starks' truck



Nostalgic photo of Baden (right) and Brian Magill



Also new on site recently is a permanent display screen. Currently showing the creative work of Dianne Jones featuring Lyttelton Museum photographs, the screen will be used for changing displays, lighting up the cabin window 24/7.

Just a reminder that Holly is on-site at the cabin on Thursdays and Fridays. Pop down and have a chat about anything Lyttelton history related that's on your mind, and check out the displays and progress on the front lawn.

# HARBOUR PEOPLE

## Meet the



### A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

On 27th July one of the Museum's founding members, John Fenton shared his skills and local knowledge with a steady stream of visitors to the Museum cabin. On display were over 30 images of Lyttelton ships framed by his craft and bell ropes of all colours.

John is an active member of Lyttelton Museum and in addition to showing his work at this popular exhibition he has raised over \$2000 this year for Lyttelton Museum with donation boxes dotted throughout the town and in Ferrymead.

The Museum committee is grateful to John for his energy, dedication and enthusiasm.



### Newsletter Support

A big thank you to Ange Hodgson who has for the last 2 years undertaken the graphic design work and printing of this newsletter. Ange, graphic designer and digital printer has always lived in Lyttelton and loves to support her community.

Ange created Lyttel Greeting Cards in 2014 as a hobby designing greeting cards using her local photography. She has been a Co-Op Member of The Lyttel Kiwi Gift Shop since opening in August 2017 where her locally designed and printed products retail.

Lyttel Greeting Cards' intention is to send a "Lyttel love, laughter and message through sustainable print". With this in mind, LGC gives back into the Lyttelton Community. A percentage of sales are regularly donated via print, graphic design services and monetary donations to our non-profit groups and sports teams.



### Another of our great volunteers

Amanda is originally from Asheville, North Carolina, USA and moved to Christchurch, New Zealand with her husband 7.5 years ago.

She first started volunteering for the Lyttelton Museum in 2013 when the collection was being stored at the Canterbury Cultural Collections Recovery Centre based at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand where she helped accession and catalogue the Museum's textile collection.

Since then, she has been involved in the planning & research of "When Death Jumped Ship," our exhibition for 2018 Heritage Week and she continues to update the Museum's website and facebook page. We were really excited to learn that Amanda has started a new job at Canterbury Museum. Congratulations! and thanks for all your help, Amanda.



*Helen Cobb,*  
**TREASURER**



*Peter Rough,*  
**DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER**



*Ursula Raek,*  
**SECRETARY**

# the committee

*Helen Cobb*, TREASURER

## 1. Why did you get involved on the committee?

Baden Norris is very persuasive and after an enjoyable wander through the Museum I was convinced that coming down once a month to help out at the Museum would be the best thing ever...and it was, I met so many interesting people and had so many enjoyable outings with the Museum members and volunteers.

## 2. What's your background and skills?

I'm an import from the North where I spent a good part of my life working as a chartered accountant for various organisations (although I have now spent more time in the South than in the North!). Lyttelton is very reminiscent of my birthplace Wellington so I feel very at home here.

## 3. The best exhibition you've ever seen and where.

It would probably have to be an installation called HG at the Clink Street Vaults in London in 1995. It was so different to anything I had ever seen before and combined elements of literature and history in a way that made the experience intensely personal, where previously history had always been something to read about and view from afar.

## 4. Your favourite object from the Lyttelton Museum collection and why?

I can get this down to three things...the old gas standard lamp in the yard because it always makes me think of Narnia, the fog horn in the Maritime Gallery because so many children had so much fun making so much noise, and the glorious piece of Pounamu that sat so serenely in the upstairs gallery and just had to be touched by every visitor.

<https://ehive.com/collections/5362/objects/469985/fog-horn>

<https://ehive.com/collections/5362/objects/532881/geological-specimen>

*Peter Rough*, DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

## 1. Why did you get involved on the committee?

One Sunday afternoon when visiting the museum before the earthquakes my wife, Cheryl Lucas, accepted an invitation to become a custodian and, knowing my general interest in museums, she 'signed me up' as well. A year or two later, at an AGM after the earthquakes, I was asked if I would accept being nominated for the committee. I accepted as there seemed to be quite a bit of momentum to re-establish the museum and I thought that being involved with the Society would be an interesting and worthwhile activity as I headed towards retirement.

## 2. What's your background and skills?

I gained a post-graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University and have practised as a landscape architect for 45 years, 36 of which have been as a director in my own company. I worked on design and landscape assessment projects all over New Zealand and now, in semi-retirement, concentrate on undertaking peer reviews. In relation to the Society I consider my skills lie in understanding the process associated with development projects from their inception to post-contract evaluation.

**In the next few issues we will be introducing our committee. This issue we interview Helen, Peter and Ursula**

## 3. The best exhibition you've ever seen and where.

I consider the best exhibition I have seen was "Escape from Pompeii", in 2017 at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney. The exhibition revealed the story of a dramatic rescue attempt from the Roman navy that followed one of world's most devastating natural disasters. On display were everyday objects recovered from Pompeii, including jewellery, lamps, tableware, mirrors and even perishable items like bread, wheat and figs, all remarkably preserved in ash and debris. Body casts of several victims of the eruption were included in the exhibition, captured during their final moments and preserved in ash.

## 4. Your favourite object from the Lyttelton Museum collection and why?

That's a hard one! I love ports (that is why I live in Lyttelton) and have an interest in sailing vessels of all types. I appreciate the old photographs, in the museum's collection, of sailing ships that stopped in Lyttelton en route to Antarctica. For the moment my pick is Object 418.3, which is a black and white photographic print of the Nimrod preparing to depart for the Antarctic, 1 January 1908. The photograph captures an obvious huge public interest in a vessel about to depart on an exploratory voyage to a very forbidding environment.

<https://ehive.com/collections/5362/objects/532203/photograph>

*Ursula Rack*, SECRETARY

## 1. Why did you get involved on the committee?

Baden asked me once if I want to join the Lyttelton Museum Society and have an eye on the Antarctic collection. So I became a member and very soon got involved on the committee.

## 2. What's your background and skills?

I am a trained (University of Vienna, Austria) and working historian with focus on Polar history. I have been a teacher in Austria and Germany (from primary to secondary level) for 17 years. Since 2010, I have also taught history at the University of Canterbury for Antarctic Studies Courses. I participated in many museum courses which were offered after the Earthquakes. I have also been involved in the Polar Museums Network for a few years.

## 3. The best exhibition you've ever seen and where.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC. The displays were impressive and demonstrated the – often on purpose - hidden history of the USA. The themes were perfectly linked with all the context and it became clear to me that one visit is not enough

## 4. Your favourite object from the Lyttelton Museum collection and why?

Skis (collection/5362) – William Knowles, crew member of the Terra Nova 1910–1913. Skiing was a skill which many members of the British expeditions of the Heroic Era learned to master during their time in the Antarctic. This pair of skis can tell a lot about the benefits of skiing in this harsh environment but also how the men learned to master to cope and adjust to it. The skis fascinate me especially about the social historical aspect.

<https://ehive.com/collections/5362/objects/469987/skis>

# HARBOUR HERITAGE

## Toi Āmai

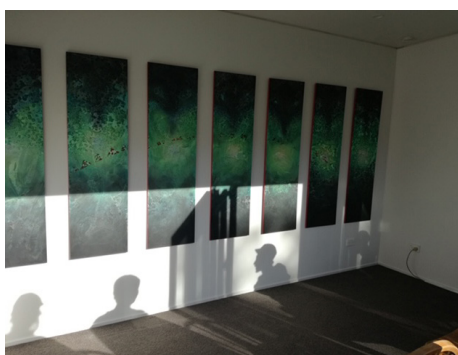


From 23-30th June the Lyttelton Museum site was commandeered by artist collective Toi Āmai with their project "who built the red rock walls?" as part of a project curated by Holly Cunningham and Sarah Amazinna for the Lyttelton winter matariki celebrations.

During their time on the museum site Toi Āmai, led by Asher Newbery, observed matariki, puaka by acknowledging those who have passed on this year in our region including those lost in the tragic terrorist attack known as the Mosque Shooting and they dug deeper into our past by asking the question "Who Built the Red Rock Walls?" – Lyttelton's connection to Parihaka exploring this question through:

- an installation of paintings inside the cabin
- performance
- spoken word
- projection installations
- manaakitanga (kai, inu)
- live to air feeds and interviews with Rotten Radio

Toi Āmai were onsite most days from around 10am until late. Ngāti Wheke also joined Toi Āmai with Caine Tauwhare carving, Toni Rowe weaving, Byllie Jean, Kylie Jane and others providing manaakitanga and joining in the conversations.



The week involved many gentle conversations around the work, matariki and Lyttelton's history. Asher said some visitors knew a lot and others nothing at all. Many just stopped and looked from the street. A highlight for him was building the wool 'fence' around our grassed areas in acknowledgement of the fence built at Parihaka in peaceful protest.

# HARBOUR PEOPLE

## Membership matters

### AGM 2019

The AGM was held on Sunday 21 July at the very hospitable Lyttelton Fire Brigade premises.

Thank you to all those that attended.

A few changes have been made within the committee, Kerry McCarthy is now our new President, our Vice Presidents are Liz Grant and Lizzie Meek and the Secretary is Ursula Rack. We also welcomed Lindsay Daniel onto the committee.

We would like to thank Roy Montgomery, who is a Lyttelton Fire Brigade volunteer, for his very interesting presentation "**Taking Stock: revisiting the Lyttelton Museum Collection salvage operation of 2011**". It was a fascinating insight into how the Lyttelton Fire Brigade, their comrades from Governor's Bay and Diamond Harbour, and staff of the Air Force Museum worked as a team. It was not just willing hands that saved so much of our collection. Over a series of three rescue missions, it was their superb organisational and practical skills brought to what was a very tricky, and sometimes dangerous task. The Museum owes them a great deal.



## VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF THE LITTLE MUSEUM

We are still on the look-out for keen volunteers to staff the cabin, to answer queries and talk to visitors about historical Lyttelton and the exciting plans for the Museum. At the moment, Holly, our part-time administrator, is based in the cabin on Thursdays and Fridays but we would like to have the cabin open over the weekend and even during the week if we can round up enough volunteers.

We are asking volunteers to meet and greet anyone who wanders down to the site, to hand out our literature, and generally be a contact for anyone with information or questions about the community's history. If this sounds like something you would be interested in being involved with, please contact Holly at [info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz) or pop down to the cabin to see Holly for more information. Even if you can only spare an hour or two here or there we are keen to hear from you.



## Lyttelton Museum

PO Box 95  
Lyttelton, New Zealand, 8841  
**Website:** [www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz](http://www.lytteltonmuseum.co.nz)  
**Email:** [info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@lytteltonmuseum.co.nz)  
**Facebook:** @lytteltonmuseum  
**Ph:** 03-328 8972 to leave a message