

Te Ūaka
The Lyttelton
Museum

AUTUMN Newsletter 2023

Resource Consent Granted!

On 21 March 2023 Council finally granted the Lyttelton Historical Museum Society resource consent.

We submitted our first consent application in July 2020. In February 2022, Council advised they had made a mistake in notifying affected parties instead of publicly notifying our application, and that a new urban designer had some misgivings about the design.

Architects Warren and Mahoney subsequently amended the design to the extent that Council could process our second application on a non-notified basis. The Council commissioner concluded that the effects of the proposal are less than minor and, overall, no parties will be adversely affected.

We are delighted to be able to move forward with renewed enthusiasm!



Approved Design 2023, Warren and Mahoney



AGM 2023

Our AGM will be held on **Sunday 9 July from 2pm** at Trinity Hall, Lyttelton Recreation Centre, 25 Winchester Street. Join us to hear about current initiatives as we move into the next phase of the project.

Elections will be held for Lyttelton Historical Museum Society positions. New memberships are most welcome and there will be an opportunity for informal networking.

Aerial view of Lyttelton (cropped).
Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum ref 14584.1

“Great oaks from little acorns grow”

In 1917 Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton planted an oak tree in the grounds of the Girls’ Training hostel, now cared for by the Ara Institute at their Woolston campus. In 2020 seedlings from this English oak (*Quercus robur*) were propagated. Proceeds from sales goes towards the building of Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum.

30cm seedlings \$20 - contact info@teuaka.org.nz or drop into the Museum Cabin on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 am and 2 pm to arrange collection.

Thanks to the NZ Antarctic Society (Canterbury), especially Anne and Grant Hunter.



A Celebration of Built Heritage

Our 2024 calendar will again be a collaboration with Lyttelton Engineering - its focus will be on the built heritage of Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour. Part of a Museum’s role is as custodian of what has passed - the calendar will be a reminder of some of the special places lost as a result of the earthquake sequence of 2010-2011.

Harbour Light Theatre (cropped). 1951
Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum ref 6539.1



Scan here to donate your chosen amount.



Friends of Te Ūaka

On Thursday 1 June the first ‘Friends of Te Ūaka’ get together was held – an initiative of Committee member Wendy McKay. As Wendy sees it, the stories of Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour belong to all and there are opportunities for the local community to be involved in this important project in different ways.

The next ‘Friends’ gathering is at **6.30 pm, Thursday 6 July** at the Top Club, starting upstairs in the Car Club room with an informal talk by President Pete Rough about the design of the proposed museum and fundraising goals. There’ll be a chance to brainstorm about ways to contribute to the proposed museum in the heart of Ōhinehou Lyttelton. If the energy is anything like the first meeting, you are in for a lively time! We’ll then share a buffet meal provided by the team at the Club.

To get involved in this exciting kaupapa, join the ‘Friends’ mailing list. Contact wendy.mckay@teuaka.org.nz

Group of young people in the snow (cropped).
Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum ref. 8143.1

Fundraising Goals

With our resource consent now granted, we will soon be reinvigorating the Tile Campaign and working with the ‘Friends of Te Ūaka’ to link with the local community.

We are pleased to be collaborating with Lyttelton Engineering on our calendar and to be supported by Lyttelton Port Company sponsorship. Our focus will also be on assessing and securing grant funding for the rebuild.

Fundamental to our success is the support of the community so please get behind your new museum.

Trinity Hockey Club.
Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum ref 8337.1



Museum Design Changes

Although our architects Warren and Mahoney had conferred with Council’s Senior Urban Designer throughout the concept design process, the Lyttelton Urban Design Panel had given a favourable report, and we had a satisfactory pre-consent application meeting, our July 2020 application for resource consent stumbled in early 2022.

A newly assigned Council planner decided that instead of seeking response from 22 ‘affected parties’, our application should have been publicly notified. In addition, a new urban designer raised some concerns about the height, bulk, cladding, and some details of the exterior appearance of the building. Following consultation with our planning team and a resource management lawyer, we decided to amend the design. In order to mitigate concerns about the height and bulk of the building, we briefed our architects to take the bold step of removing the top floor!

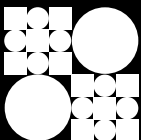
Exhibition space lost as a result of that decision has been recouped by extending both the first floor exhibition space over an original void in the foyer and also the first and second floors towards the southern boundary. The viewing room that was on the third floor has been relocated to a level lower, replaced by a roof courtyard and garden.

The design changes have resulted in the gross floor area of the proposed museum being reduced from 1,034 m² to 853 m² with the exhibition area reduced from 434m² to 408 m². Minor amendments have been made to the external appearance of the building but the character of the original striking design has been retained.

The amended design complies with the rules in the Christchurch District Plan to the extent that consent was granted without affected parties needing to be consulted nor our application having to be publicly notified.



Above: Original design 2020
Below: Approved design 2023





Meet our Staff - Malcolm Riddoch

How and why did you get involved with Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum?

My friends Helen Greenfield and Andrea McHarg were active on the museum committee producing wonderful historical exhibitions over the last decade. Their dedication to a museum that had ceased to exist post-earthquakes intrigued me. I'd never known the old Gladstone Quay museum but had heard a lot about its quirky mannequin sailors and dusty corners filled with stuff. So when the opportunity arose, I jumped at the chance to join the Rebuild Campaign. Two years later and we're good to go!

What are your background and skills?

I have a BSc in archaeology and a BA that became a PhD in philosophy specialising in phenomenology with an interest in the history of science. I've also worked in the university sector, community arts, and digital media production.

The best exhibition you've seen and where?

Gunter von Haagen's 'Körperwelten' exhibition of plastinated cadavers in Ljubljana, 2012 – deeply ethically questionable! Also the Western Australian Museum's 'Land and People' exhibition that ran from 2000-2015, for which I created its 'Late Cretaceous' dinosaur soundscape. My Carnotaurus roar is still frightening children in the new museum's hall all these years later!

Your favourite object from the Lyttelton Museum collection and why?

An image of the steam tug moored in port from a century ago – a tug that I got married on, and a port town I live in.



The steam tug 'Lyttelton I' in Lyttelton Port.
Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum ref 14986.124

Stories from the Collection

For two years we have been publishing weekly historical narratives inspired by the 20,000 digitised images in the Museum's online collection; bringing that content to life while the physical items are in storage.

There are now over 100 stories archived on our website covering a wide range of topics including but not limited to intriguing objects, the Harbour environs, Dazzle ships, beloved buildings, the tunnel opening, remarkable people and penguins!

Check out the back catalogue and watch out for future exciting developments in this arena!

<https://www.teuaka.org.nz/news-events>

Enjoying our Stories
from the Collection?

Just imagine what
we could offer with a
physical Museum!

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help make it a reality.

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donating today.



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