

AKAROA/WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD
AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

MONDAY 24 JUNE 2013

2.30PM

IN THE AKAROA SPORTS COMPLEX, AKAROA RECREATION GROUND
28 RUE JOLIE, AKAROA

Committee: Leigh Hickey - Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board representative
David Miller - Friends of the Museum representative (FOAM)
Lyndon Graham - Community representative
Meri Robinson - Ōnuku Rūnanga representative
Pam Richardson - Chairman Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board - ex-officio.

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PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION
PART B - REPORTS FOR INFORMATION
PART C - DELEGATED DECISIONS

INDEX

PART C	1.	APOLOGIES	2
PART C	2.	AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – 25 MARCH 2013	3 - 4
PART B	3.	AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE	5 – 6
PART B	4.	FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM (FOAM) PRESIDENT'S UPDATE	7
PART B	5.	CORRESPONDENCE	8
PART B	6.	COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE	8
PART B	7.	COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION	8

1. APOLOGIES

An apology has been received from David Miller.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the apology of David Miller be received.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 25 MARCH 2013

The minutes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 25 March 2013 are **attached** for members' information.

The Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board received these minutes at its meeting held on Wednesday 17 April 2013.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee held on Monday 25 March 2013 be received.

ATTACHMENT TO CLAUSE 2

AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 MARCH 2013

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services DDI 941 8607
Officer responsible:	Akaroa Museum Director
Author:	Edwina Cordwell, Community Board Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 25 March 2013.

The meeting was attended by Committee members, Pam Richardson (Chairman), Lyndon Graham and Kate Clare, representing the Friends of Akaroa Museum, in the absence of David Miller.

Also in attendance was Lynda Wallace (Museum Director).

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and accepted from Leigh Hickey, David Miller and Meri Robinson.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The committee **received** the minutes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 26 November 2012.

3. MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

The Committee received information from the Museum Director on Museum related activities and projects which were outlined in her update circulated with the agenda. Topics covered included:

- Off site education sessions for school groups
- Success of the "Frequently asked Questions" brochure and "Disasters, Mysteries and Sensations" tabloid
- Update on closure of facilities
- Will Watkins painting unveiling – Friday 19 April 2013
- Community Consultation – Theme for exhibits when Museum reopens
- Upcoming Events

The Committee **received** the report and acknowledged the Akaroa Museum staff's innovative ways in which they were meeting the needs of visitors and residents during the closure of the Akaroa Museum.

The Committee also **decided** to write a letter conveying their appreciation of the work being undertaken by the Museum and the wider staff team.

4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM (FOAM) - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received information as outlined in the President's update, circulated with the agenda.

- Oral History Project – Lyndon Graham's name was put forward to participate in the Oral History project as a previous County Clerk.
- Recognitions – Mention was made of the recent deaths of Gwen Manhire, Jim Sunckell and Frank Helps. Committee members wished to recognise the significant contribution over the years that they had made to the Akaroa Museum and the community.

4 Cont'd

The Committee **received** the report.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

6. **COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE**

Nil.

7. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

7.1 **Akaroa Museum Exhibits – Theme**

The Committee **decided** to hold a workshop on Monday 24 June 2013, following its next meeting, to contribute to the proposed community consultation regarding the themes which might be used to guide displays and exhibitions when the Akaroa Museum reopens.

7.2 **Funding**

The Committee discussed funding sources that might be available to the Friends of the Museum and suggested this could be followed up with appropriate staff.

7.3 **Facilities Rebuild**

The Committee expressed support for the work of the museum team and noted that no firm date for the reopening of the building and other community venues in Akaroa was yet available.

The Committee **decided** to ask staff for an update on these matters to a future Community Board meeting.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday 24 June 2013 commencing at 2.30pm.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm.

3. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

3.1 VISITORS

Continued closure

While the Museum remained closed throughout a busy summer and autumn, the results of a Christchurch Canterbury Tourism/Lincoln University survey of cruise ship visitors revealed just how much it is being missed.

When asked what activities they would most like to do in Akaroa on a return visit, 66.9% responded that a museum visit would be their first choice. That put the Museum just behind "eating and drinking" and ahead of "experiencing Maori culture".

School Groups

At the time of the last update, in March, the Museum's focus had been on meeting the needs of school groups from outside the area. This month, staff are working with the local Akaroa Area School, visiting the school to deliver programmes about what the museum does, the activity of collecting, and favourite objects.

3.2 EXHIBITIONS – KEEPING THE MUSEUM IN MIND

Keeping the Museum in Mind

The programme of activity staff have been engaged in for the past year, called *Keeping the Museum in Mind*, peaked in April with four very successful events run in conjunction with the Friends of the Museum. All events were well attended and achieved the goal of raising the Museum's profile in the community. *Keeping the Museum in Mind* is now on hold while staff prepare for a partial reopening.

What's in Store

What's in Store will remain in the windows of the 4 Square building across the road as staff turn their focus and resources to preparing an opening day exhibition.

Horomaka - opening exhibition

Horomaka, the Maori name for Banks Peninsula, is the title of our re-opening exhibition and will occupy the small gallery adjacent to the shop/reception foyer. It will include two recently acquired objects (Menzies cutlery canteen and Will Watkins painting) alongside some core collection objects. With a mere 30 square metres of available space, selecting objects to showcase in this exhibition was a challenge.

Community consultation

As noted in the March update, the Museum's closure and dismantling of exhibitions provides an opportunity for starting afresh. Staff are interested to know what the community, and other users, would like to see in the Museum and to hear suggestions for new displays or new ways of doing things.

The process of identifying stakeholder groups and planning opportunities for consultation with those groups is well advanced. The first such session will be with this body, the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee, following this meeting.

An opportunity for input will be provided for the members of the Friends of the Museum, in conjunction with an email survey for those who are unable to attend the meeting. Focussed discussions are being held with the local school, while schools from outside the area are being invited to provide input via an email survey. Representatives from the local runanga will be our first point of contact for tangata whenua, and their advice sought on appropriate wider consultation.

3.3 COLLECTIONS

Acquisitions

Collecting activity doesn't cease just because the Museum is closed. Since closing the doors a year ago over 200 objects have been added to the collection.

Carved cutlery canteen

The Museum was recently contacted by a descendant of John Henry Menzies, offering to donate a carved cutlery canteen (box). Almost every surface of the two-drawer canteen is intricately carved, and the design features inset paua shell. This is one of the special new objects which will be included in our re-opening exhibition, *Horomaka*.

3.4 FACILITIES

Partial re-opening

With the demolition of an inadequately reinforced concrete block wall, and its replacement with a (temporary) timber-framed, plywood structure, the way was cleared to reopen the foyer/shop/small gallery spaces at the front of the Museum. Staff are working towards a 13th July opening to the public, which is the beginning of the next set of school holidays. The two spaces have been repainted and carpets cleaned. The shop is being restocked, research resources (family history files and photographs) are being relocated from the store to front of house, and a new exhibition is being developed to install in the small gallery space.

Heritage buildings

New anchor piles have been positioned along the front of the court house, bringing it up to well over Council's threshold for occupancy of 34% of NBS. This will allow museum staff access to clean and reinstate displays in the court house, and later open the building to visitors. Decisions are still being made about how best to use the space, and will be informed by our pre-closure visitor surveys, our knowledge of the needs of summer (and cruise ship) visitors, and our available budget.

Other spaces

The bulk of the Museum's exhibition spaces will remain closed until strengthened. Only four months out from the start of the summer season, the goal of having work on these spaces completed in time for a 2013/14 summer opening will be a challenge, bearing in mind that once the strengthening work is complete, the substantial job of reinstating old displays, and creating new ones, has to follow.

3.5 EVENTS

Partial reopening	preview - Friday 12 July Public - Saturday 13 July
Friends of the Museum AGM	Friday 27 September - 4.30 pm - venue to be advised

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.

4. FRIENDS OF AKAROA MUSEUM (FOAM) - PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

4.1 EVENTS

The Friends have had a very successful programme of events through the Autumn period this year. Our collaboration with the 'Keeping the Museum in Mind' programme saw four activities taking place:

- A sold out public screening of 'Shackleton's Captain' supported by the Akaroa Cinema.
- An extremely well attended event to mark the return and unveiling of the restored and reframed painting of Akaroa harbour by Will Watkins.
- A sold out workshop on framing and gilding by the Will Watkins gilder, Lin Klenner.
- A sold out literary event, 'Stranger than Fiction', featuring readings from literature in which Akaroa and the Peninsula feature.

The 'Stranger than Fiction' proved so popular that it may be repeated later in the Winter.

4.2 DONATIONS

The Friends have received a donation from Janet Drury, and one of \$1,000 from Mrs Janet Cooke. These will be added to the exhibition redevelopment fund in anticipation of the continued re-opening of the Museum.

4.3 TRIBUTES

Trees have been planted in memory of Gwen Manhire and Jim Sunckell at the Akaroa Heritage Park. The planting was sponsored by the Akaroa Lions Club, and well-attended by members of FOAM.

4.4 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Project has been re-activated and abstracting of outstanding interviews, to be finished prior to starting additional interviews, is on track to be concluded in July 2013.

Dr David Miller
President, FOAM

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Friends of the Akaroa Museum President's update be received.

5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE
7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION