

AKAROA/WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD
AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

MONDAY 22 JUNE 2015

2.30PM

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

Committee: Janis Haley - Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board representative
David Miller - Friends of the Museum representative (FOAM)
Kate Clare – Friends of the Museum representative (FOAM)
Meri Robinson - Ōnuku Rūnanga
Lyndon Graham - Community 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

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1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 23 MARCH 2015

The minutes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 23 March 2015 are **attached** for members' information.

The Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board received these minutes at its meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2015 and resolved to approve the Terms of Reference, including the recommended addition to 3(b).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee held on Monday 23 March 2015 be received.

AKAROA MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – 23 MARCH 2015

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services DDI 941 8607
Officer responsible:	Akaroa Museum Director
Author:	Liz Carter, 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 23 March 2015.

The meeting was attended by Committee members, Pam Richardson, Lyndon Graham, Janis Haley, David Miller, and Kate Clare.

Also in attendance was Lynda Wallace (Museum Director).

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and accepted from Meri Robinson.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee **received** the minutes of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014.

4. 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:

- **Long Term Plan – Future Management**

The Committee discussed the Activity Management Plan (AMP) for Museums as released with the Draft Long Term Plan. The Committee was disappointed at apparent shortcomings in the process of development of the AMP, particularly the factual errors relating to the Akaroa Museum and the poor quality of the overall document. Members did not believe that the AMP reflected what they knew about the Akaroa Museum and the part it plays in the local community.

The Committee **resolved** to make a submission to the Long Term Plan, and to ask the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board to support that submission. The submission to highlight the following areas of concern in regard to the Museums Activity Management Plan, in relation to the Akaroa Museum:

- inaccuracies – e.g. the benefits and funding sources
- general minimisation of the role the Museum plays in the cultural life of the wider city
- failure to acknowledge the Museum's full contribution to the Council's Community Outcomes
- failure to identify how the benefits of a review on whether the management of the Museum should be taken over by the Canterbury Museum, could justify the cost of such a review for a well functioning, relatively low cost museum
- lack of any consultation with the Community Board, the Committee or the community on the suggestion of a review of management

The Committee **received** the report of the Museum Director.

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

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

- **Long Term Plan Submission**

It was noted that the Friends of the Akaroa Museum would also be making a submission to the Long Term Plan about the future of the Museum, and would be seeking the support of the Community Board on that submission.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7. COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE

7.1 Terms of Reference

The Committee **resolved** to ask the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board to approve the Terms of Reference as **attached** including the following amendment:

Add including *Friends of the Akaroa Museum, local Runanga and the wider community*, to (b) as follows:

- (b) Provide a local link with the Museum's stakeholders, **including Friends of the Akaroa Museum, local Runanga and the wider community.**

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Committee members received information on various matters.

- **Oral Histories – Ngāi Tahu**

Members were informed that a Ngāi Tahu representative would be meeting with staff to progress this oral history project.

- **Community Services Awards**

Members were informed of the upcoming Community Services Awards.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm.

4. AKAROA MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

4.1 VISITORS

4.1.1 Visitor Numbers

Although visitor numbers dropped away dramatically in May and June, the Museum will still achieve an all time high this year, with a total of 24,479 visitors to the end of May. This is a remarkable number considering the Museum has had only limited spaces open for visitors to access, and is attributable to the free admission introduced in July 2014.

4.2 RE-OPENING EXHIBITIONS

4.2.1 Main Galleries

Concepts are in development for new exhibitions in the main galleries, an exciting phase of the Museum's rejuvenation. Responding to the needs of our visitors, we are making some changes to how spaces are used and are designing the new exhibitions with a more coherent narrative. We have a challenging target of end of December for reopening these spaces to the public.

4.2.2 Temporary Exhibition Gallery

A new exhibition will open in the temporary exhibition gallery ahead of the main spaces, probably in late October/early November. This exhibition will focus on the work of John Henry Menzies.

4.3 COLLECTIONS

4.3.1 Pressure on stores

As contractors move progressively through the Museum, the spaces available for collection storage have reduced. The entire collection is now in our two stores, main object store and small object store, and both are at capacity. We look forward to being able to bring objects back out into exhibition spaces again when we start refitting exhibitions in the latter part of the year.

4.3.2 Akaroa Pharmacy

Despite the lack of space in our stores, a recent opportunity to collect items relating to the operation of the Akaroa pharmacy proved too good to miss. The building on Rue Lavaud was built as a pharmacy in 1882 and, until recently, was operated by a succession of pharmacists – first Henri Citron, followed by two generations of Dodds, then two generations of Stewarts. We have been able to collect a range of objects representing the pharmacy business over that long period.

4.3.3 Revaluation

The Museum has recently had its collection re-valued for insurance purposes.

4.4 FACILITIES REJUVENATION

4.4.1 Building repair and strengthening

Repair and strengthening of Museum buildings is well underway now and expected to be completed in July. The lower gallery roof has been replaced, and steel bracing fitted to both end walls of the gallery and in the ceiling. Ducting for the climate control system is being installed and the second roof replacement will be started this week. A substantial proportion of the cost of this work is being funded by the \$500,000 grant received last year from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

4.4.2 Exhibition refit

Fundraising continues for the exhibition refit component of the Museum's rejuvenation. To date, committed funds are available to meet about half of the expected total cost of exhibition redevelopment (\$350,000). In the meantime, Stage One of the project is underway. This involves the preparation of concept drawings for all main galleries, with associated budgets. Stage One is funded by the \$30,000 donation received last year from The Canterbury Community Trust.

4.5 LONG TERM PLAN – MUSEUMS ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP)

As resolved at the March meeting of the Committee, a submission to Council's Long Term Plan was drafted to address the shortcomings of the Museums Activity Management Plan. This was delivered by our Chairperson on 9 May and reinforced the following week when David Miller delivered a further submission for the Friends of Akaroa Museum. As a result of these submissions staff have had an opportunity to correct and review the Museums AMP.

A copy of the submission is **attached**.

4.6 EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

4.6.1 Akaroa's 175th Anniversary

Committee members may have noticed the series of articles titled "175 years ago" which has been running in every issue of the Akaroa Mail since April. These are being contributed by the Museum, aiming to raise local awareness of the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of French and German settlers in Akaroa, and provide an insight to what was happening in Akaroa in 1840.

4.7 EVENTS

The Explorer, the Whaler, the Doctor and the Priest - Readings from 1840
Friday 14 August - Akaroa Bowling Club - 7pm - \$15
An Akaroa Museum/Friends of Akaroa Museum collaboration

175th anniversary of Landing Day
Comte de Paris Descendants Group luncheon, School gymnasium
Sunday 16 August (bookings essential)

Commemorative Walnut Tree planting, Garden of Tane
Sunday 16 August - 3 pm

Beca Heritage Week
Theme – Arrivals and Departures
9 - 26 October

French Festival, including landing re-enactment
9 -11 October

The Explorer, the Whaler, the Doctor and the Priest - Readings from 1840.
Friday 16 October - Akaroa Bowling Club - 7pm - \$15
An Akaroa Museum/Friends of Akaroa Museum collaboration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum Director's update be received.

**Submission to LTP 2015-2025
from Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee
24 April 2015**

Contact: Pam Richardson, Chair, Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee

We request the opportunity to present our submission to Council in person.

We understand that council's activity management plans form the foundation of the long term plan and it is on this basis that we make the following submission.

The Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee is disappointed at apparent shortcomings in the process of development of the Museums Activity Management Plan (AMP), which includes Akaroa Museum. We note particularly the factual errors relating to the Akaroa Museum and the poor quality of the overall document, which generally minimises the activity, role and importance of the Museum and the contribution it makes to Council's community outcomes.

Akaroa Museum is a cultural facility which has been in local government ownership and management for 30 years, the last nine of those as an asset and responsibility of Christchurch City Council. It serves the local community of Banks Peninsula as a repository for its history, the residents of Christchurch City as a well-used cultural facility, provides a valuable experience to visitors to Akaroa and contributes to the tourism infrastructure of the greater Christchurch area.

Akaroa Museum does not merely, as stated in the AMP, "attract largely tourist visitors over the summer". Although 50% of its visitors are overseas tourists, the other 50% are New Zealanders, with 20-25% of the total being Christchurch City residents. The summer months are certainly busier at the Museum, but it continues to receive steady visitor numbers during the winter.

Nor is Akaroa Museum *fully funded* by Christchurch City Council. Using the definition provided in the AMP it is rather *majority* funded by Council as it generates revenue (from donations, grants and retail activity) to offset more than 6% of its operating costs.

The AMP (p.1) contains the statement;

"Longer term, it makes good sense to ask Canterbury Museum to manage the Akaroa Museum, but its buildings should be renovated prior to this."

The Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee is alarmed at the idea of Canterbury Museum management of Akaroa Museum and can see no evidence in the document of the "good sense" claimed for this idea. On the contrary, it doesn't seem to make sense at all to remove a well-functioning cultural facility from the Council's embrace and transfer its management to a non-Council organisation.

The AMP appears to signal a review of the cost effectiveness of service delivery but contains no explanation or discussion of the reasons. The cost of operating Akaroa Museum is a relatively small part of the investment Council makes in cultural facilities. It is the opinion of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee that Akaroa Museum is a very effective deliverer of service at present, attracting around 20,000 visitors per annum, open 363.5 days a year, staffed by only 3.5 staff and costing around \$400,000 a year to operate. Benchmarked against other comparable South Island museums it is performing very cost effectively. It is difficult to see how the costs of any review could be justified by any savings identified in the review process. We note that this is cited as a condition for not undertaking reviews for service delivery and we suggest this should be the recommendation in the AMP.

Finally, the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee is disappointed at the lack of consultation with the Committee, the Community Board or the community about a possible review of management. It hopes that future AMPs for Akaroa Museum are developed with the involvement of the stakeholders in the Museum and will include accurate information about the Museum, its significance and the contribution it makes to Council's community outcomes. Better process will result in a better document as a foundation for planning Akaroa Museum's future.

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

5.1 THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM

Since my report of March 2015, perhaps the most significant FOAM activity has concerned FOAM's responses to concerns about rumours regarding integration of CCC facilities in Akaroa – particularly as they may implicate the mission and efficiency of the Museum's functioning and identity – and FOAM's considerable disappointment in the process and content of the Museum's Activity Management Plan, apparently published in September 2014 but made publicly available in late March 2015.

In relation to the rumours, on behalf of FOAM I made a submission to the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board on 11 March (**Appendix 1**), expressing FOAM's concern and requesting "the Community Board's support in ensuring that matters for consideration are brought out into the open, that they are made the subject of community engagement and consultation, and not kept hidden from those in whose interests these facilities operate." The Community Board was very supportive in this regard.

In relation to the Activity Management Plan (AMP), on behalf of FOAM I made an agreed, written submission to the Council Long-Term Plan hearings (**Appendix 2**) and was heard orally in support of the submission on Saturday 16 May. A related submission had been made by Pam Richardson, Chairman of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee (MAC), a week earlier. The outcome was an agreement that the published AMP was sub-standard, an apology from the Mayor, and a decision that it should be re-drafted with input from the staff of the Museum. At time of writing, this process was underway.

5.2 THE REJUVENATION OF THE MUSEUM

The strengthening of the Museum is now clearly underway and we within FOAM are excited by the noise and industry presently occurring! The work and output of the exhibition designer is also extremely tantalising! FOAM looks forward to supporting the exhibition refit project to the full extent of its capacity.

5.3 THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Paddy Stronach has volunteered to take up the coordination of this vital project. With Paddy at the helm, we look forward to a new round of interviews this year.

5.4 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR KATE CLARE

FOAM was delighted to learn that Kate Clare has been chosen for a 2015 Community Service Award based, in no small part, on her indispensable work as FOAM Treasurer these past 14 years (her equally selfless work for the Anglican Church and Senior Net was also mentioned in dispatches). The Award will be presented at Rapaki Marae on June 30, 2015.

5.5 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Explorer, the Whaler, the Doctor and the Priest – Readings from 1840.

FOAM is organising two dates for readings from 1840 to coincide with the 175th celebration of landing Day (Friday 14 August), and the second to coincide with French Festival and Heritage Week (Friday 16 October).

Annual General Meeting.

This year, the AGM will be held on Friday 2nd October. Instead of an invited speaker from 'outside', this year the AGM will feature a guided tour of the new Museum, post-strengthening and refurbishment (along with the usual wine and snacks).

Antiques Fair, January 2016.

Given the great success of the annual Antiques Appreciation Evening and Fair, we have booked the Gaiety for this purpose in January 2016.

FOAM is a support group, intent on fundraising in support of our wonderful Museum. As such, we remain grateful to the Museum staff who continue to work so hard and constructively for this beloved community resource. We are also grateful to the Christchurch City Council and the MAC for the spirit in which our unexpected experiences of advocacy have been received and supported – thank you!

Dr David Miller
President, FOAM

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

NOTES FOR THE AKAROA-WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD, LITTLE RIVER, 11 MARCH 2015

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak.

I have been hearing rumours that there is consideration being given, by CCC, to integration of Council facilities in Akaroa. These are rumours but, if the rumours are anything to go by, there appears to be a considerable amount of discussion behind the scenes regarding possible permutations for services integration in Akaroa.

I'm here in my capacity as President of the Friends of Akaroa Museum (FOAM), and I have two issues to raise in the light of the rumours:

1. Any consideration of the future of the Museum requires our consultation and engagement. This is not negotiable. Accordingly, we seek the Community Board's support in ensuring that we are a part of any conversation about planning for the Museum, not an afterthought to it.
2. Managers in the CCC are, no doubt, hard-working and deserve our thanks and appreciation for the issues they are grappling with and some of the outcomes they are achieving. However, the apparent veil of secrecy and 'sensitivity' being invoked in the context of the rumours about integration of Council services is working against the interests of this community. Council managers work for us, not the other way round. FOAM therefore seeks the Community Board's support in ensuring that matters for consideration are brought out into the open, that they are made the subject of community engagement and consultation, and not kept hidden from those in whose interests these facilities operate.

Thank you.

**Dr David Miller
President, FOAM**

388 Decanter Bay Road
RD3
Akaroa 7583

30 March 2015

I am writing in my capacity as President of Friends of Akaroa Museum (FOAM), in response to the Museums Activity Management Plan Long Term Plan 2015-2025, published by Christchurch City Council (CCC) on 25 September 2014 and which we became aware of only in March 2015.

FOAM is seriously concerned about two issues:

1. The extremely poor quality of the Museums Activity Management Plan Long Term Plan (AMP-LTP) 2015-2025;
2. The evident lack of due process associated with the drafting and publication of the AMP-LTP by the relevant CC officials responsible for the publication of the Plan.

1. The extremely poor quality of the AMP-LTP

THE Museums Activity Management Plan (AMP) is an especially poor document, in terms of quality of content and presentation:

- It is unfinished (up to the weekend of 21-22 March, the document had multiple track changes, many out of context. The track changes were eliminated on 21-22 March but the content is unchanged. Sentences in the document are incomplete - Operations and maintenance is incomplete [p.17]. Attachments cited are missing [p.17]).
- It is inaccurate (Visitor trends citing "largely tourist visitors over the Summer", p.1; Outcomes are incomplete, p.1; growth content is very limited, p.5; funding sources are incorrect, p.6; the Conclusion in review of cost-effectiveness presupposes the outcome of any review, p.14)
- As a result, the entire document appears as a cut-and-paste afterthought, especially if compared to other AMP documents, such as that for the Christchurch Art Gallery.

Further, we question the need for any 'review of cost-effectiveness – service delivery' at all at a time when the Museum is being re-built. Such a review would not justify its cost (a condition for not having a review, p.12). Unless, of course, there is an anticipated change of service levels to be co-incident with the review's outcome and the proposed review has a foregone conclusion.

That foregone conclusion is published on p.14 of the AMP, that "...it makes good sense to ask Canterbury Museum to manage Akaroa Museum, once the building refurbishment work is completed." (p.14). Publishing the envisaged outcome of any review process in this document proposing a review demonstrates clear bias in the AMP's preparation. In keeping with the poor quality of the document overall, no evidence is suggested.

2. The evident lack of due process in preparation of the AMP - LTP.

We know of no local (Akaroa/Banks Peninsula) involvement in developing the Museum's AMP. This represents an unprecedented new low in the preparation of CCC Activity Management Plans. The frankly less-than-amateur standard of the AMP, conceived without local or historical consultation is no way to plan for the future of our Museum. This is supposed to be a vital planning process that could affect the future management and governance of our Museum. We take our responsibility for Akaroa Museum far more seriously than the authors of this amateurish document. Such desultory authorship represents an affront and insult to the Akaroa Museum, the Friends of Akaroa Museum, the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board Museum Advisory Committee, and the wider Akaroa/Banks Peninsula community.

In summary, this AMP is an offensively inadequate document with which to determine the future of a greatly-treasured community resource and service. It has been compiled inaccurately, incompletely, and ineptly, and remains as an indictment of sub-standard civic bureaucracy. It has been developed without consultation and in the context, therefore, of bad faith, supposing the eventuation of a proposed review that will provide a veneer for a stated foregone conclusion.

Friends of Akaroa Museum also note that whoever produced this document is funded by ratepayers. We strongly recommend that the sub-standard work output of the author/s should be noted on their annual performance appraisal.

We recommend that the AMP be revised, corrected, and improved by appropriate due process. In the absence of this happening in the context of the current Long Term Planning process, we recommend that no review of cost-effectiveness of Akaroa Museum be undertaken as there is no justification for it, and that the Akaroa Museum be fully supported by CCC in its re-building and rejuvenation programme. We also recommend that in future no planning document in relation to Akaroa Museum be prepared or published by CCC without the Museum and its staff and supporters being consulted. We will not have planning about us without us.

The Akaroa Museum has a unique and central role in the life of our community. Our comments reflect the seriousness with which Akaroa views its Museum and its place in our community.

Yours faithfully,

Dr David Miller
President, FOAM

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. COMMUNITY BOARD ADVISER'S UPDATE

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION