

**Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū**  
**Banks Peninsula Community Board**  
**MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

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**Date:** Monday 12 July 2021  
**Time:** 10am  
**Venue:** Little River Boardroom  
4238 Christchurch-Akaroa Road, Little River

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## FOAM Submission to the BP COMMUNITY BOARD, LITTLE RIVER, 12 JULY 2021

### Akaroa – an area of special and unique historical significance

- ❖ The Akaroa area is the site of two attacks by Te Rauparahau on the local tangata whenua at Takapuneke and Onawe resulting in atrocious consequences.
- ❖ The Council has recently acknowledged the history of Takapuneke by working with the Onuku rununga to assist with the landscaping of Takapuneke to ensure respect for those who perished here and to tell this story.
- ❖ The attack at Takapuneke set the wheels in motion for governance of New Zealand by the British. 10 years later, 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was written and signed by the British Government and Maori as our partnership document.
- ❖ The Treaty was signed in the Akaroa area by two chiefs - Iwikau and Tikau - on 30<sup>th</sup> May, the same year.
- ❖ In this respect Akaroa/Onuku is viewed as the Waitangi of the South Island – recognised by Government delegations on Waitangi Day.
- ❖ Akaroa is the site of the first formal European settlement in the South Island – 10 years before Christchurch was established by the British.
  - This settlement is the only one in New Zealand/Aotearoa to be carried out jointly with the French Government.
  - Many documents and items from this settlement are housed in the Museum.
- ❖ The Akaroa Museum is sited approximately halfway between the two massacre sites and is based in the old French Town - it is standing directly where these very significant nationally historical events took place.

### The Friends of the Akaroa Museum

- Friends of Akaroa Museum (FOAM) has, for the past 20 years, effectively subsidised Akaroa Museum's operational budget through its support of acquisitions, conservation and exhibitions.
- FOAM is extremely worried at the inequity being shown towards Akaroa Museum by CCC in its published post-consultation Long-Term Plan.
- In our LTP submission we asked two questions:
  - *Are the size of cuts to Akaroa Museum's activity, staff and contract costs the same as those being proposed elsewhere – e.g. the Christchurch Art Gallery and other services?*
  - *Is Akaroa Museum considered by CCC to be a 'lower priority site' and, if so, why?*
- We have not received an answer from CCC, but deeds speak louder than words regarding our first question:
- The published LTP shows a 10% cut in the Museum's operational budget (= \$40,000 annually) from 2022.
- Other CCC facilities received maintained or increased levels of funding going forward:
  - Arts Centre \$5.5 million
  - McDougall Art Gallery \$11.8 million
  - ChristchurchNZ \$3 million extra
  - Christchurch Art Gallery fully funded (proposed cuts were reversed)
  - Discretionary Public art fund \$200,000 restored
- In view of the huge sums being provided to other Christchurch facilities, we cannot understand the cut in support for Akaroa Museum.
- \$40,000 is a very small amount but represents a huge challenge to Akaroa Museum – a facility that is open 7 days /week and has attracted 24,000 domestic visitors/year post-Covid.
- FOAM notes that Akaroa Museum was not mentioned in the recent CCC 'Life in Christchurch' survey. The 1<sup>st</sup> section is about arts, heritage and culture and what a person has done etc. There are various options listed but nowhere is the Akaroa Museum listed even though this is a Council facility and other non-Council events are listed.

- As a Christchurch City Council facility it is astonishing that the Akaroa Museum is not even mentioned in the survey particularly as it does cover arts, culture, heritage, Maori taonga and stories.
- FOAM is amazed that the City Council is not promoting its own Museum at every opportunity.
- To answer the **second** of FOAM's LTP questions - this jewel does not seem to register in Council thinking at all.

**The Friends are forced to ask:**

- ❖ Are the Council and its' staff not familiar with the significant events in New Zealand/ Aotearoa's history that have taken place on its' own territory?
- ❖ Is this history and the associated taonga not valued by the Council?
- ❖ Is there a lack of interest or is there a lack of desire to become familiar with this history and thus accept the associated responsibilities?
- FOAM truly believe that the Council and staff are making decisions with inadequate knowledge, inadequate understanding and an obvious lack of commitment - to cut the Museum's vital day to day funding while giving money away for 'desirables' such as the Discretionary Public Art fund.
- FOAM requests that CCC immediately reverses the proposed cuts to Akaroa Museum's operations budget to ensure equality of commitment and to recognise the Council's serious custodial role.
- The Council cannot neglect or minimize this responsibility. This history and taonga are too significant for such disregard.
- We request a meeting with senior management in the CCC , the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to discuss how these marginalizing decisions have been arrived at.

This submission is supported by the Comte de Paris Descendants Group Inc, the Libeau Family and the Akaroa Cemeteries Group – all concerned at the lack of serious commitment to the preservation and protection of the Banks Peninsula (and thus Aotearoa/New Zealand's) history and associated artifacts.

In total (with the Friends of the Akaroa Museum members) approximately 460 residents.

Thank you.









