



NOTICE OF MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the Meeting of the
Southland Regional Heritage Committee
to be held in the Senior Citizens Rooms,
Cnr Bath Road and Princess Street, Riverton on
Thursday 11 May 2023 at 10.00 am**

Cr P Duffy (Chair)
Cr C Menzies
Cr N Phillips
Cr B Reid
Cr L Soper
Cr B Stewart
Rev E Cook
Alternate - Cr G Dickson
Alternate - Cr D Ludlow

Southland Regional Heritage Committee - Public

11 May 2023 10:00 AM

Agenda Topic	Page
1. Apologies	
2. Declaration of Interest	
a. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.	
b. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.	
3. Minutes of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee Meeting Held on 15 March 2023 (A4481459)	4
4. Southland Regional Heritage Committee Funding Report (A4524215)	8
5. Roving Museum Officer Annual Report (A4523486)	11
5.1 Appendix 1 - RMO Annual Report (A4523488)	12
6. Public Excluded Session	

6. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Moved , seconded that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting; namely

- (a) Financial Report - Project Ark
- (b) Report on the Summary of Funding Applications and Recommendations
- (c) Major Late Item - Report – Acquisitions

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
(a) Financial Report - Project Ark	Section 7(2)(i) To enable any local organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
(b) Report on the Summary of Funding Applications and Recommendations	Section 7(2)(i) To enable any local organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). Section 7(2)(a) To Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
(c) Major Late Item - Report - Acquisitions	Section 7(2)(i) To enable any local organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). Section 7(2)(a) To Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET,
INVERCARGILL ON WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023 AT 11.00 AM**

Present: Cr P Duffy (Chair)
Cr C Menzies
Cr N Phillips
Cr L Soper
Cr B Stewart
Rev E Cook

In Attendance: Mr M Morris - Manager - Governance and Legal (ICC)
Mr J Cappie – Community Relations Manager (SDC)
Mr W Marriott – Manager - Museum and Heritage Services (ICC)
Mr J Geddes – Advisor (GDC)
Ms J Massey - Roving Museums Officer (SDC)
Ms K Simonds – Accounting Technician (ICC)
Ms B Affleck – Fund Administration Officer (Great South)
Mrs T Amarasingha – Governance Advisor (ICC)

Mr Michael Morris, Manager – Governance and Legal welcomed the committee members.

1. Appointment of Chairperson

Mr Morris called for nominations for the Chairperson.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Rev Cook and **RESOLVED** that Cr Duffy be appointed as the Chairperson.

Note: Mr Morris vacated the Chair and Cr Duffy assumed the Chair.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chairperson

Cr Duffy called for nominations for the Deputy Chairperson.

Moved Cr Stewart, seconded Rev Cook and **RESOLVED** that Cr Soper be appointed as the Deputy Chairperson.

3. Apologies

Cr B Read

4. Declaration of Interest

The committee members were asked to provide their interests.

Rev Cook declared that she is the Acting Chair of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery (SMAG).

5. Major Late Item

5.1 Project Ark – Information Report

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Stewart and **RESOLVED** that the Major Late Item 'Project Ark – Information Report' be accepted.

The reason that the item was not in the Agenda	The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed
The item came to hand after the publication of the agenda	Matters can be progressed in a timely manner

6. Minor Late Item

6.1 Project Ark 2020 – 2023 Summary

Moved Cr Phillips, seconded Rev Cook and **RESOLVED** that the Major Late Item '6.1 Project Ark 2020 – 2023 Summary' be accepted.

The reason that the item was not in the Agenda	The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed
The item came to hand after the publication of the agenda	Matters can be progressed in a timely manner

7 Heads of Agreement

A4422863

Moved Rev Cook, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the Heads of Agreement be received.

8 Meeting Schedule

A4436062

The Committee discussed the proposed meeting schedule and agreed the following amendments according to the open and closing dates for funding applications.

1. The next meeting will be Thursday 11 May 2023. The meeting will be at the Southland District Council office building at Riverton and site visits to Project Ark at Te Hikoi Museum and Thornbury Museum.
2. To remove the meeting dates of 20 April 2023 and 21 June 2023 from the meeting schedule.

3. No changes to the meeting dates of 17 August 2023, 19 October 2023 and 14 December 2023 meeting dates, is required amendments would be made at the next meeting.

9 Minutes of the Meeting of Southland Regional Heritage Committee held Friday 23 September 2022

A4422865

The guidelines for considering applications would be included in the next agenda. It was noted that the guidelines were attached to the funding applications. The Committee discussed the importance of reviewing the current funding guidelines. Officers would review the Funding Guidelines and present a report to the Committee.

In response to a query about Regional Acquisitions, the Advisory Group said they would present a report to the next committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the ability to attend meetings via Zoom. Mr Morris advised that Zoom attendance could not count as the quorum according to the current legislative requirements.

Moved Cr Duffy, seconded Cr Philips and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee held Friday 23 September 2022 be received.

10 Funding Report

A4437033

Ms Simonds presented the report.

In response to a query "why 'the Project Ark forecasted remaining spend – 2022-23 year' has been added as an expenditure in the report, as it is a forecasted expenditure at this stage", Ms Simonds said that she would provide an update at the next Committee meeting regarding this matter.

It was noted that Lottery Grant and Ministry of Culture fund allocations for Project Ark were to pay staff wages and the rest of the project was funded by the Southland Regional Heritage Committee.

The aim of Project Ark was to digitise the regional heritage collections. The experts who were currently working with Project Ark would facilitate bigger projects or facilities in the region.

The Committee noted the importance of having a funding plan for the future of Project Ark.

Moved Rev Cook, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the Southland Regional Heritage Committee:

1. Receive the Funding report – 1 September 2022 to 28 February 2023.

11 Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022 Report

A4435829

Ms Simonds presented the report.

Moved Cr Phillips, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the Southland Regional Heritage Committee:

1. Receive and approve the report "Southland Regional Heritage Committee – Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022".

12 Project Ark – Information Report

Project Ark – Information Report from the Advisory Group was tabled.

The Committee requested a briefing report of the Project Ark at the next meeting.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 11.59 am to read the tabled report and reconvened at 12.08 pm.

The Committee noted that funding allocations from the Ministry of Culture would end by June 2023.

Ms Simonds noted a correction to the report that in page 2 of the tabled report that Grants provided to Gore and Southland Museum and Art Gallery are BERL adjusted not CPI. SRHC Levy \$35.06 (2022/2023 – CPI adjusted should be BERL Adjusted) – per property from ICC, SDC and GDC.

Moved Cr Menzies, seconded Mr Stuart and **RESOLVED** that Southland Regional Heritage Committee:

1. Agree to extend the Museum Support Agreement with the Riverton Heritage and Tourist Centre Trust until 31 December 2023 to enable the unframed photographic collection and archives to be digitised and catalogued.
2. Agree to provide Project Ark skills based staff to assist in the packing, cataloguing and relocation of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery Trust Board collection from 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.

Note: Rev Cook declared a conflict of interest that her role as Acting Chair of SMAG and abstained from voting.

13 Project Ark 2020 – 2023 Summary

The Committee noted the Project Ark 2020 – 2023 Summary.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 12.20 pm.

Southland Regional Heritage Committee Funding Report 1 Mar 2023 - 30th April 2023

Summary

Opening Balance	759,744.37
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Income

Rate - Invercargill City Council	167,136.66
Rate - Southland District Council	98,160.66
Rate - Gore District Council	0.00
Term Deposit released	0.00
CTOS-Grant for RMO	15,000.00
Interest Earned	5,648.86
GST Refunds	13,677.05
Lottery Grant for Project Ark	0.00
Ministry for Culture for Project Ark	0.00

Total Income	299,623.23
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Less

Grants and other

Southland Museum & Art Gallery Trust	207,310.18
Gore District Council	33,000.32
Term Deposit - reinvested	0.00
CTOS-Grant for RMO - paid back to SDC	0.00
Admin Grant	0.00
Bluff Maritime Museum 2020-21 Grant	0.00
Te Hikoi Southern Journey Ltd 2020-21 Grant	0.00
SRHC Fund	0.00
Admin Fees	0.00
RMO Charge	12,500.00
RMO Expenses	0.00
General Expenses	0.15
Repayment of Unused Grant-NZ Lottery Grant Board	15,000.00
Project Ark	93,578.48
Audit Fees - Jun-20	7,662.45
GST Payment	0.00

Total Expenses	369,051.58
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Closing Balance	690,316.02
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Forecast Expenditure	106,735.78
Project Ark forecasted remaining spend - 2022-23 year	327,741.37

Closing operating bank balance after current forecasted expenditure	255,838.87
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Term Deposit	Maturity Date - 30/06/2023	400,000.00
Interest reinvested with Term Deposit		
Total closing balance to date		655,838.87

0.00

Funding Available for Grants & Administration	
Southland Regional Heritage Fund - Opening Balance	534,433.69
Funding Received	75,000.00
Grants Paid and Other Forecasted Spend	
Total	0.00
Southland Regional Heritage Fund - Closing Balance	609,433.69
<i>Less Forecasted Spend</i>	37,985.78
Funds Available for Distribution	571,447.91
Administration & Other Museum Grants - Opening Balance	
625,310.71	
Funding Received	190,297.32
Grants Paid	240,310.50
Other Income	34,325.91
Term Investment Released	0.00
Admin Fees	0.00
RMO Charge	12,500.00
RMO Expenses	0.00
General Expenses	0.15
Project Ark	93,578.48
Repayment of Unused Funds-NZ Lottery Grant Board	15,000.00
Term Investment (re-invested)	0.00
Other Payments	7,662.45
Administration & Other Museum Grants - Closing Balance	480,882.36
<i>Less Forecastwd Spend</i>	68,750.00
Project Ark forecasted remaining spend - 2022-23 year - \$216,401 outside funding to be applied Jun-23	327,741.37
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Funds Available for Administration & Other Museum Grants	84,390.99
Total Closing Balance	
1,090,316.05	
Total Funds Available for Grants & Administration	655,838.87

Forecast Statement

	Forecast Expenditure	Uplifted	Balance
<u>Southland Regional Heritage Fund</u>			
Regional Borer Treatments - towards re Fridgeration unit	32,985.78		32,985.78
Heritage South - towards proposed 2023 annual training opportunity up to - (minutes 23/09/22)	5,000.00		5,000.00
Total	37,985.78	0.00	37,985.78
<u>Administration Fund</u>			
Te Hikoi Southern Journey Ltd - 2022-23 Grant	14,394.00	14,394.00	0.00
Bluff Maritime Museum - 2022-23 Grant	14,084.00	14,084.00	0.00
RMO Charge - April 2021 to March 2022 - up to	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00
RMO Charge - April 2022 to March 2023 - up to	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00
RMO Charge - April 2023 to March 2024 - up to	75,000.00	6,250.00	68,750.00
Total	253,478.00	184,728.00	68,750.00
Total Forecaste Expenditure	291,463.78	184,728.00	106,735.78

ROVING MUSEUM OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

To: Southland Regional Heritage Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday 11 May 2023

From: Johannah Massey

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

To provide an overview of work undertaken by and support provided to various Southland Museums and heritage organisations for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Recommendations

That the Southland Regional Heritage Committee:

1. Receive "Roving Museum Officer Annual Report".

Background

The Roving Museum Officer (RMO) role is funded by the Southland Regional Heritage Committee and Community Trust South. The Southland District Council supports the RMO role by providing an office and the required equipment, a vehicle and payroll and other employee service requirements.

The RMO provides expertise, best practice assistance and training to Southland's Museum and heritage organisations volunteers.

Issues

There are no issues.

Next Steps

Funding for the RMO role has been secured to 31 March 2024. At the next Committee meeting future funding options should be considered.

Attachments

1. Appendix 1 – RMO Annual Report (A4523488)

A4523488

RMO Annual Report



April 2022 – March 2023

Introduction

RMO work has been mainly focused on smaller collection-based projects mainly around Western Southland and in on-going reporting along with involvement in local and regional heritage initiatives including Project ARK.

In addition, in April 2022 the long-awaited remaining Te Puka o Te Waka - Rakiura Museum collection storage shelving arrived on Stewart Island and further packing of the Art collection and 3D objects onto shelves continued in mid-2022. A further wait for available contractors to erect the storage units (since completed) stalled the project but the RMO will return to the island from the middle of May 2023 to conclude this project with museum personnel along with the development and completion of their cloak cabinet.

Further work on the Waikaia (Switzers) Museum Inc. bottle inventory was carried out during April 2022 which aligned with getting the RMO bulk materials stored there ready for upcoming projects. Since then, the RMO has planned and distributed materials from Waikaia. Every time I visit, I am heartened to see a slowly increasing visitation and community engagement accompanied by the consistent gifting of significant material.

Some objects/collections needed to be processed before transport to other museums and the RMO was grateful to the ICC Manager of Museum and Heritage Services for temporary use of a portacom outside of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery / Niho o te Taniwha.

Some assistance was given to Te Hikoi with the RMO attending Te Hikoi collection committee meetings in an advisory capacity and working with the Project ARK team in aligning wider database work with e-Hive/excel templates and guides. Further work on small museum and collection needs regarding Project ARK / regional resourcing into the future will be worked on by the RMO.

From the end of July two days were spent at the Thornbury Vintage Tractor Museum and two with the Otautau & Districts Museum leaving a day a week for other museum projects and office work. The majority of the first three months of 2023 however were focused on other collection-based projects such as the processing of the South Catlins Charitable Trust 'Ericson' fossil wood collection and in organising the 'Hidden Hazards in Collections' workshops held around Southland at the beginning of March 2023.



Southland's small museums are not only about the items which they preserve and interpret but the communities they represent.

Otautau & Districts Museum

Previously Suzie Best (Collection Manager at Otautau Museum) had been engaged to carry out a complete cataloguing project of the collections of that museum and as RMO I was able to supplement materials already purchased for their project and to assist with the housing of collections and packing training for Otautau museum volunteers.

However, with Covid restrictions and narrowing timelines and a realization that it would not be possible to achieve the contracted target Suzie's project was halted and the RMO is now working with their excellent volunteers two days a week where possible until they have their collections packed and stored and will assist with pest control and the set-up of their refurbished collection storage space/s over time.

The Otautau & Districts Museum committee have undertaken major work on the building and are functioning within the limitations of an older wooden building – in this case a Category II listed courthouse and I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the committee and in particular Chair Tania Beck.

Otautau museum (like many of our museums housed within older buildings in Southland) has an issue with borer beetle in its building fabric and with the collections being at risk Suzie had been tasked with removing the collections from the museum to a shipping container so that the building can be fumigated while the collections were protected. Some items that may have active borer beetle damage have been wrapped and will be frozen as part of a regional approach to integrated pest management.



The Otautau & Districts Museum has a large collection of textiles including uniforms from the Otautau Pipe Band.

On the left are sporran from the uniforms that include full pipe band regalia.

It is the intention of the Otautau Museum, that once the collections have been fully accounted for, to put some of this material on display.

They would like to utilize the current courthouse space for this purpose with adjoining rooms used for collection processing, research and storage where appropriate.

Otautau Museum features in the August 2022 First Edition with an article on the museum building and collection work and a significant object connected to the Otautau branch of the M.U.I.O.O.F.



RMO and volunteers Robyn and Jane working on storage of the pipe band collection at the Otago & Districts Museum. Photograph by Otago & Districts Museum Chair Tania Beck, September 2022.



During Heritage Month March 2023 the Otago Museum hosted an open day where they showcased what they were doing and why.

An excellent presentation of archival methods and materials was showcased for visitors over a weekend.

Otago Museum is currently closed to the public because the collections are being fully catalogued into their CMS and stored into more appropriate spaces within the Category II listed Otago courthouse.

Maintenance on the building has also been carried out and a report on the building is on their 'to do' list before they move ahead with any significant display work within the building.

Waikawa Museum

Work was continued on the photograph collections and begun on the exterior storeroom collections. Waikawa has a significant generalised collection that is housed in a conglomerate of wooden buildings and is a priority for the RMO with regard to assisting with collection care and packing – in particular with the textiles and taonga collections where appropriate.

This work will be ongoing and after work at both Otautau and Thornbury Museums has eased off it is the intention of the RMO to spend significant time with this museum.



Textiles currently on display at the Waikawa & Districts Museum Inc.





Original photographs from the collections of the Waikawa & Districts Museum were housed and given locations and packing of the generalized collections in the exterior storeroom was begun. At bottom right is an undamaged maritime decanter from the 1883 wreck of the 'Taratua' off Waipapa Point – New Zealand's worst civilian maritime disaster.

An area of focus for the RMO with the Waikawa & Districts Museum Inc., because of a concomitant vulnerability, is the textile collections and it is intended that over time the cataloguing, storage and display of this significant collection can be improved. The RMO is looking at a regional approach to the treatment of some of the at-risk textile collections and items of significance.



Once liaison with the museum has occurred and permission granted textiles displayed in two large display cases will be treated and remounted with the locally made cases refurbished. It is hoped to involve a textile conservator as part of a larger regional project.



The Waikawa & Districts Museum Inc. is one of our last 'original' museums, with hand-written labels and the appearance of a lot on display. Visitors love this museum and one of the past museum members noted that their 'point of difference' was staying as they were and I'd have to agree although over time we might incorporate archival materials and supports if required on display.

Hidden Hazards in Collections

In early June 2021 Picric Acid – a ‘potential’ major hazard¹ was identified on display² at the Waikawa & Districts Museum Inc.

This incident was one of several up and down the country as these occurrences are often catalysts for identification clusters but was a prompt for the RMO to begin work on a basic resource for our small museums on the main potential hazards in their collections. It was also intended that the RMO and conservator Laurence Le Ber visit each of the museums and check with them for any obvious hazards and carry out basic training and give guidance where required.

This is work that will be done into the future but, in response to this and a wider identified Otago / Southland regional need, Nyssa Mildwaters (then Conservation Manager at Tūhura Otago Museum) gained funding for the development of a hazards in collections project with a series of workshops to be delivered to the GLAM sector throughout Otago and Southland alongside the launch of an online Hidden Hazards portal³.

The RMO provided some small assistance with this Otago Museum initiated project, supported by the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund and presented by Martin Bainbridge (Tūhura Otago Museum Project Manager with a background in Health & Safety), the aim of which was to help galleries, libraries, archives, and museums identify hidden hazards within their collections and assess the risks they may pose along with practical advice on how to mitigate and manage those risks within collections with links to further expert advice and help.



Picric acid in the form of a powder in a tin at right as part of a WWI medical kit visible on display at the centre of the photograph on the right. The fire brigade was called and the area cordoned off with the museum evacuated and shut until the issue was dealt with by the NZDF Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit based in Christchurch.

¹ Picric Acid – a highly volatile compound when degraded but previously used as a wound dressing turns up in our museum collections from time to time most often in medical kits from around 1915 and was on display at Waikawa as part of a WWI medical kit.

² Around 2015 we had checked the collections of our small museum for this hazard but the tin on display read ‘Picric Acid’ and immediate action was taken resulting in the New Zealand Defence Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit based in Christchurch called in to assess the situation and dispose of the substance safely. As RMO I would like to commend the volunteers of the Waikawa & Districts Museum for their action in dealing with this issue.

³ <https://hiddenhazards.otagomuseum.nz/>

Workshops were held around Southland from From the 6th to the 10th of March with the main workshops held in Invercargill and Gore and additional targeted workshops for Project ARK personnel at Riverton and SMAG tailored to the various collection types and concerns.

The main aim for me was that at the end of the sessions staff/volunteers would be able to recognise hazards within their collection and know how to handle items appropriately and protect themselves, their particular institution and would be familiar with legislative requirements for their institution/society etc. if they weren't already and would know where to go and whom to ask if they needed more information.



Workshops presented by Martin Bainbridge were attended by Project ARK staff and Te Hikoi volunteers and staff of the museum (top left) and by staff in the portacom outside the Southland Museum and Art Gallery (below). The SDC catered for the event at Te Hikoi museum, Riverton and Gore and Invercargill generously provided venues.



Workshops were also held at the Invercargill Public Library and were attended by ICC archive, He Waka Tuia art Gallery and SDC Health and Safety staff.

Te Puka o Te Waka / Rakiura Museum

The collections of Te Puka o Te Waka / Rakiura Museum not on display (inside and/or outside) are now housed in the new museum storeroom with lockable compactable shelving units, vertical slot housing and textile and map bolster units.

The RMO assisted the museum committee in planning additional shelving and storage units for the collections not already housed and in April and again in July 2022 visited to house the vulnerable framed art collection and to train the volunteers so that they might continue packing their collections.

There was a delay in the delivery and assembly of additional and storage units shelving because of staff and material shortages but as at the end of July 2022 all of the units – shelves, drawers and racks have been delivered and installed. It is intended that the RMO to make several week-long visits to working alongside committee members and volunteers in getting their collection storage completed.

Often when travelling to museums the RMO is given objects/collections to transport and in April I was honoured to take the geological samples collected by Russell Beck in the 1960s back to Rakiura, including a significant specimen of beryl found by Russell Beck in 1968.

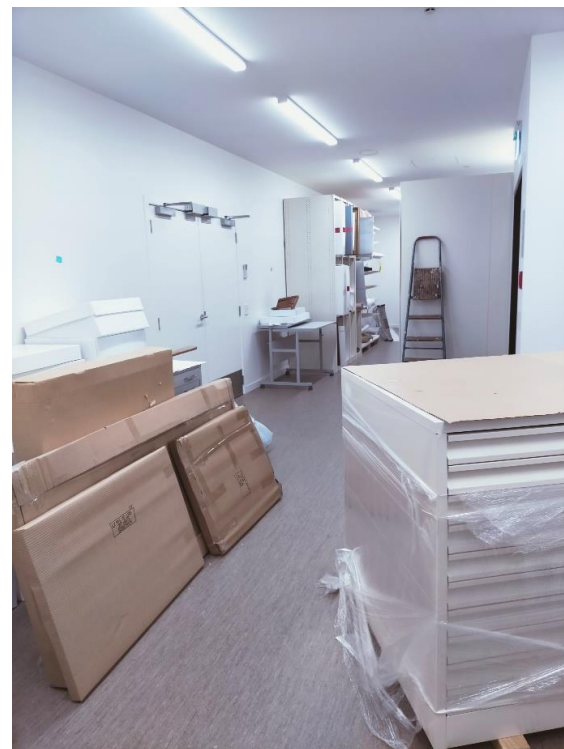


Geological samples from the collections of Russell J. Beck taken to Rakiura Museum by the RMO in April 2022. Written on the largest specimen is "1st piece of Beryl found since McKay's first reports. Golden Bay, Stewart Island. 1968". Beryl was discovered on the Island in 1889 by McKay, then the location was lost. It was rediscovered by Russell J. Beck in 1968⁴. The beryl crystals are rare, six sided prismatic crystals, very small, bluish green to colourless, translucent to transparent, and fracture easily.

⁴ See Beck, R.J. (1971) Stewart Island Pegmatites. *The New Zealand Lapidary Journal* No.5, 13-17 and Railton, G.L., Watters, W.A. (1990) *Minerals of New Zealand*, New Zealand Geological Survey Bull. No. 104.



In April 2022 shelving arrived and the RMO continued housing some of the more at risk/vulnerable collections such as the framed stretched canvas paintings. It was intended that training be carried out with the volunteers at this time but it was a peak time for Covid infections on the island.

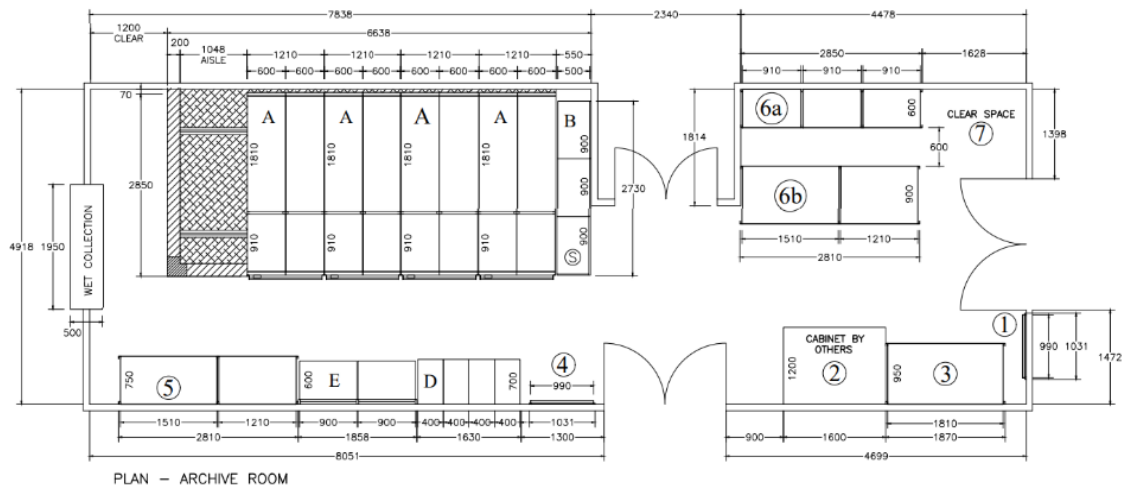




The RMO returned in July 2022 to continue the work and shortly after leaving the shelving installation, delayed because of Covid (shortage of materials and people along with a backlog of jobs) occurred. The new units include more heavy-duty shelving for generalized collections, racking for longer items such as whaling implements and drawer units for the storage of their larger flat items such as maps and textiles.



The clear space is where the previously mentioned moveable cloak unit will go although the shelving/drawer units may be moved closer to the racking as indicated in the original plans – this is to avoid damaging any objects on the racking or on the cloak unit when the cloak unit moves in and out of the display space.



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for more information
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Hydestor plan for additional storage furniture at Te Puka o Te Waka / Rakiura Museum

Some of the larger objects such as whale bones need to be raised from the floor and will be housed on heavier duty units (6b in the above plan). Longer items such as whaling implements and agricultural tools can also be housed with some of them supported and suspended on racking with every space available being used. 'Cabinet of Others' (2) in the above illustration refers to this purpose-built cloak storage unit that will be able to be moved from storage to display as required.

The museum redevelopment was a catalyst for the arrival of several significant collections and taoka/taonga. Of particular significance was a cloak inwardly loaned to Te Puka of Te Waka by the Topi Whanau⁵ and advantage was taken of a finally executed long-planned Maori cloak cleaning workshop with textile conservator Tracey Wedge being brought over to the Island at the same time to assess the Topi cloak for display and storage.

It was decided that this precious taonga was too fragile to go on display suspended in the new museum but a moveable storage and display unit was discussed and a prototype drawn by Stephen Davies after discussions with the committee and Topi whanau representatives. It is planned that this be completed in 2023. The installation of this storage / display unit and the cloak/s will also allow for regional textile assessment and work that the RMO is planning across several museums such as Rakiura, Waikawa and Te Hikoi.

This metal and Perspex/glass prototype with cloak drawers and purpose-built trays to support the cloaks will be built locally. It is intended that it match the display cases already at the museum and that it is both moveable and accessible as required by whanau.

⁵ This whitau (flax fibre) and wool-embellished korowai woven in the 1850s for the paramount chief of Ruapuke, Topi Patuki was presented to Mayor Ott when the first tram started running in Invercargill [1912]. It was then returned to the Topi whanau by the Ott family in 2011 after they heard of the death of several Topi family members in the Foveaux Strait 'Kotuku' fishing disaster in 2006.

Switzers (Waikaia) Museum Inc.

The RMO was based at Waikaia assisting the museum committee in a collection transfer and beginning work on their bottle collection from 2021⁶. Since then, only several days have been spent over time with the museum as nearly all of the RMO bulk supplies are now housed there and the RMO has needed to focus on other projects in the region.

However, when on-site the RMO has been involved in several significant acquisitions or research visits. For example, the receipt of the illuminated testimonial of John Nugent Wood (Snr). This item although in comparatively good condition for its age needed to be reglazed and backed with archival materials before it went on display and the RMO assisted the committee in applying for funds for this and a framed letter to the mother of Norman Christie who was killed in WWII. The testimonial is also to be featured in an edition of the SDC 'First Edition' publication.

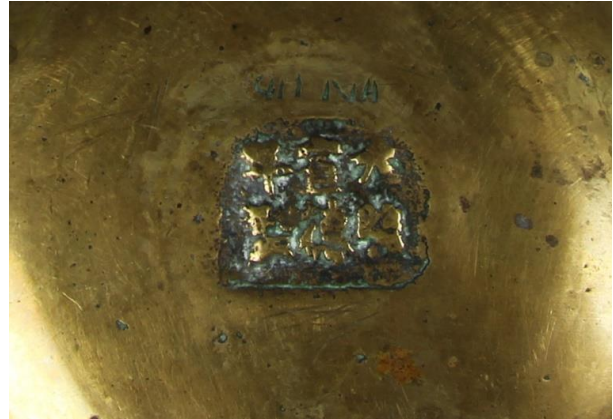


Framed illuminated testimonial of John Nugent Wood (Snr) – to be sent for re-glazing with UV resistant museum glass before it can go on display. “The Switzers (Waikaia) museum continues to receive significant material that aligns with their collection management policy and is evidenced by the museum’s display themes.

Another highlight was the visit over Chinese New Year from a multi-generational Chinese family who had come to visit an ancestor buried at the Waikaia cemetery. While visiting the museum several of the family members assisted in translating Cantonese characters on items that had recently come into the museum and pointed out one of the men in the photo murals on the wall as being a neighbour of their ancestor when gold mining in the 19th century.

⁶ Switzers (Waikaia) Museum Inc. intends to re-create the bottle story in the area attached to the bottle-house and work has begun by the committee on securing the bottle structure while the RMO has started inventorying the collection. After this initial work themes and stories will be developed and new displays planned and designed.

What began as a novelty for the community has become a comparatively significant icon and probably the last of its type (i.e. a bottle house that visitors can go into) in Australasia.



Other recent acquisitions to the Switzers (Waikaia) Museum Inc. are (at top left) a Chinese cooking pot (previously referred to as an incense burner) reputed to be from the Waikaia Chinese gold seeking community along with a rice bowl 'in the style or in honour of' a Ming dynasty rice bowl. Our visitors were able to translate the characters on the base of the bowl into a reference to the time of "Xuande Emperor" who was in power from 16 March 1399 – 31 January 1435. Because of a comparative crudeness in the workmanship, we believe it to be a copy, or a work done in the style of the period but more work will be done on this.

As with many of Southland's small volunteer-run museums the effects of Covid are still lingering for Switzers Museum but it is heartening to see their visitor numbers slowly rising in late 2022 – early 2023 with both national and international visitors making their way to Waikaia and the first bus tours in 3 years occurring.

Switzers (Waikaia) Museum Inc. is always innovative and responsive to community needs and in seeking funding and support opportunities both inside and outside of their area. Their research room for example is currently being used as a temporary classroom while the Waikaia school is being refurbished.



Tup Stirling with his father Wattie Stirling's flying uniform at left and Mairi Dickson at right displaying the cap for ANZAC Day.

In 2021 one of the 'old Gully cemetery' families cut ties with the area gifting a significant Victorian period 'hair work' and the uniform (including the flying suit) of Lancaster bomber pilot Flight Lieutenant Walter (Wattie) Stirling DFC. Above left is Wattie's son Tup Stirling as he said his final goodbye to these items.

Switzer's (Waikaia) Museum Inc. was honoured to look after these items and displayed Wattie's entire uniform for ANZAC Day 2023. The museum applied for SRHC funding for a correctly sized mannequin on which to display his flying jacket (seen below with a dress jacket) and other items have been installed in pull-out drawer units.





The summer dress jacket on the left was worn by Wattie when he was married while the shorter woollen jacket would have been worn under a flight suit. The stripes on the jackets indicate his flight lieutenant status. The suit in the drawer has the ribbons for the NZ defence medal and the DFC – distinguished flying cross (purple/white striped).

Thornbury Vintage Tractor Museum

In 2022 I began work with the 'Thornbury Vintage Tractor Club' museum. Ostensibly to begin inventory work on the Turnbull corner I will also be assisting where needed with the displays in their main museum where they are telling the story of agriculture in Southland starting with Captain Howell at Flint's Bush in the 1850s through the various aspects of farming.



Part of the Thornbury Vintage Tractor Museum complex – the 'John A. McKenzie' museum.



Part of the Turnbull corner collection in the John A. McKenzie shed at left and a shed with mainly ploughing implements at right.

There are several 'museums' in the complex named for prominent and past members of the club. The Turnbull corner in the John A. McKenzie Museum shed holds mainly tractors but this section has been used to house material gifted by Mrs Pat Turnbull.

Pat and her late husband Derek farmed at several places around Murihiku/Southland including Stewart Island and with family connections to Wild Bush and Tihaka (Ti Haki) for example the Turnbull collections, once housed in the Sherwood Forest Museum at Tussock Creek have been distributed to several museums including Te Hikoi, Switzers (Waikaia) Museum, Rakiura Museum and Thornbury.

There are some important organic items among this collection and along with inventorying this material the RMO will be assessing display needs. The inventory will be carried out in e-Hive template format that will be useful should the museum wish to develop a digital collection management system in the future.



Part of the significant wool sample collection shown at right of the image as part of the Turnbull collection gifted to the Thornbury Museum.



The RMO will be assisting with some aspects of display such as fitting out the immigrant/settler woman's trunk on the ground in the left-hand image. Textile prop items given to the museum will be housed in here using the trunk as a display case using archival materials and protecting them as much as possible.

Some research and design work is also being worked on as and where required. The displays are beautifully object and image rich with the design and build work carried out by the volunteers along with graphic designer Jaqui Byars and incorporating the brilliant wording of the late John Gordon, well known for his work on iconic NZ television programmes such as Country Calendar and A Dog's Life.





“At the Southland A & P Show in early December, you’d be pretty embarrassed if you hadn’t got your swedes in yet” – a sentiment familiar in the rural South even though the date of the show was recently changed. This museum and in particular this overview of farming display has great educational potential and will also appeal to anyone involved in or with memories of farming in the South.

Other

South Catlins Charitable Trust

In 2015 I worked with the South Catlins Charitable Trust and the late Russell Beck on specimens for the Tumu Toka Curioscape project. The Ericson collection of fossilized wood came back to Southland from Canterbury Museum but only a few specimens are on display. They were stored with the RMO for several years but with relocation of RMO resources and materials they were repacked and inventoried at the beginning of 2023 for their return to the Curio Bay area.



Specimens were removed from the original old board boxes they had remained in since their departure from the Canterbury Museum, surface cleaned and packed into archival boxes and crates.

I would like to thank the Manager, Museum and Heritage Services Wayne Marriott for allowing me to process (inventory, image and pack) this collection of over 300 specimens in one of the portacombs outside Niho o Te Taniwha / The Southland Museum. The collection has been repacked into archival containers and safely returned. I will be assisting trust members with the display of some of this material in the near future.



Most of the collection was wrapped in tissue and packed into boxes with an accompanying inventory with locations but some of the more fragile items were housed in cushioned layers in HDPE crates.



Working from this space also allowed me to finish several smaller projects for museums that did not have the available room at that time, to transition some items away for conservation and to work safely on some important taoka such as a piupiu from the Bluff Maritime Museum (above right).

I also briefly reconnected with volunteers of the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society who are in the process of planning their museum redevelopment and seeking to resolve the issue of the storage and display of their significant collections.

The SBHS Museum inventory project partially funded by the SRHC was begun by Paula Haines-Bellamy after an initial project scoping visit. The museum is looking forward to the collection being fully captured and the RMO is lending display mannequins/archival materials for collection care where required.

Some assistance was given to Te Hikoi with the RMO attending Te Hikoi collection committee meetings in an advisory capacity and working with the Project ARK team in aligning wider database work with eHive/excel templates and guides developed by Project ARK Collections Coordinator Sarah Robinson.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the Southland District Council for their continued support of this position and the Switzers (Waikaia) Museum Inc. in allowing me to store my bulk archival materials and museum resources at their museum. I would also like to thank SMAG for allowing use of their Portacom for my processing of several regional collections / objects.

I would also like to recognize Community Trust South and the Southland Regional Heritage Committee in providing this opportunity for the smaller mainly volunteer museums around Southland through the establishment of the Roving Museums Officer position and their strategic approach that signals an ongoing commitment to the preservation of Southland's moveable cultural heritage (museums).

The ongoing assistance and support of Jim Geddes (professional supervisor) and Jared Cappie (SDC support) has also been greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge all of the volunteers/workers/committee members in Southland's smaller museums who continue to care for their community's heritage and share our 'Southland' stories.

Kia ora koutou,

Jo Massey - Roving Museum Officer (Southland Regional Heritage Committee)
April 2023

Mō tātou, a mō ngā uri kei te heke mai
For us, and, for the generations to come



Pupils of the Waikaia School in their temporary classroom - the research room of the Switzers (Waikaia) Museum Inc. - while their school around the corner is refurbished.