

From the President's Desk

Hello Members

Work is continuing on the various displays and much more will be required in the coming months. For example, we need to tell the stories associated with each bay, arrange and build the graphics, then display the appropriate artifacts with their captions. Unpacking the artifacts in the storage container will take place in the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, the museum site has been grossly overgrown with weeds and a lot of effort has been put into cleaning it up.

The Project Team recently visited Te Hiko Museum at Riverton, where we were welcomed by Dave Asher and Steve Logie. We viewed their whole operation, including how the graphics and articles combine, sounds and lighting, and the stories and the captions. On the recommendation of Dave Asher and Judith Taylor, South Island Museum's Development Officer for Te Papa, the Project Team plans to visit the Owaka Museum in early May. Owaka has a volunteer base of 30.

Judith visited our museum last month. During the action-packed visit, we discussed the fit-out and displays, stories, captions, lighting and cabinets, collection management policy, resources and cataloguing. Thank you, Judith.

In early December 2012, when making an application for funding, we were required to have a Secretary. Clifford Shirreffs kindly accepted the position (on a short-term basis), which allowed us to lodge the application. Thank you, Cliff.

For approximately 24 months I have been dealing with NZ Post regarding a centennial stamp to mark the occasion of the Awarua Radio Station, and continually got evasive answers.



ON SITE: (From left) Judith Taylor, South Island Museum's Development Officer for Te Papa, Paul McKay and Ian Donaldson, of Teamwork South, planning the fit-out.

Lester Price contacted me last month to say he, too, was dealing with NZ Post trying to arrange for a five-stamp issue. I told him our museum would support him in his efforts because a set of five stamps was more likely to succeed, and that we would let our application lapse. Lester is also captioning some of our photographs with the names of those pictured. Thank you, Lester.

A Power Point presentation will be made to the councillors of the Invercargill City Council on April 23 to further unite and cement our links with the council and to establish the future planning and development of the Heritage Park. The presentation will also allow us to see where the museum fits into the overall picture as well as updating councillors about our project.

We will be seeking to establish if the council can assist us with funding and, if not, the likely places to explore to obtain our objectives.

Paul McKay

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Awarua Communications Museum Inc will be held in the board room of the Community Trust of Southland, Don Street, Invercargill, at 7.30pm on Thursday 2 May 2013.

Please use back door entrance.

Members a plate please.

Theatre News – Brendon Sparks

Graphic artist Jacqui Byars, of Gore, is finalising the graphic that will cover the entire back wall of the Auditorium. When installed, it will create the illusion of depth and will be spectacular.

Financial Report | Clifford Shirreffs

Funding Applications

Since September's newsletter we have continued to submit grant applications with some mixed results. We have been successful with the following applications:

- The Southland Regional Heritage have granted and paid us \$30,000 for scenic art and mannequins. We have now been granted a total of \$80,000 from this source. Thank you!
- Te Papa have paid us a grant of \$5,750 for educational resources.
- Southern Trust have awarded us \$30,000 for audio/visual equipment. This grant has yet to be uplifted.
- Lion Foundation have paid us a grant of \$5,000 towards our introductory video.

Our previously approved grant of \$50,142 from the Lotteries Grant Board, Environment & Heritage for display cabinets and display lighting, has yet to be uplifted.

However, our applications for major funding from Stout Trust and minor amounts from NZ Community Trust, Southern Victorian Trust and Pub Charity have been unsuccessful.

Continued Fundraising

Since the last newsletter and up to end of our financial year on March 31, members' fundraising has resulted in profits of: metal sales \$975, Trade Me sales \$616 and miscellaneous sales \$35. We have also received a \$5,000 donation. Grateful thanks go to everyone who has assisted with our ongoing fundraising.

Another pie and biscuits sales fundraiser is under way. Total sales and profit is as yet unknown. Again, thanks to our local members who have purchased or sold items.

The Final Step

The total project cost is now \$625,787 with funding of \$99,787 required before completion. Of the deficit \$56,685 is required to complete the building programme and \$63,102 to complete the display fit-out programme.

Subscriptions

Accounts will be sent to all members who do not pay their subscriptions at the forthcoming AGM. Prompt payment would be appreciated. Thanks in anticipation.



Hard Yards:
A big effort was put in to spruce up the grossly overgrown museum site.