

From the President's Desk

Since my annual report (a copy of which is enclosed for those unable to attend the AGM), work at the museum is as follows:

- The introductory video is nearing completion
- Work on the loops for the TVs has commenced
- Commissioning of the data projector and audio system is being finalised
- Construction of the domestic radio and Awarua ZLB sections is expected to be completed shortly

The next steps are:

- Identifying items for displays
- Designing, manufacturing and installing the graphics (subject to finance)

Paul McKay



The Museum has registered with Telecom Foundation's Givealittle, which we hope may provide some finance from outside sources.

Please help us by sharing the link:

www.givealittle.co.nz/org/Awarua

Financial Report | Clifford Shirreffs

The Statement of Financial Performance and Financial Position as at 31 March 2014 was presented and accepted at the AGM on 15 May. For those unable to attend the meeting, a copy of these statements is included with this newsletter.

GRANTS

Since the AGM, payment of \$19,947.94 has been requested from the Lotteries Grant Board (LGB) for the recently installed lighting track. LGB will also pay for the glass and cabinets, which are presently under construction.

By mid-June, when work on the audio/visual systems is complete, the Southern Trust money will have been expended and their audit report will be returned.

As we were unable to spend the Te Papa grant for educational material by the 26 June deadline, \$5,750 has had to be returned, with the understanding that we will reapply for funding in their next financial year.

Additional grants or funding sources will have to be sought for the approximate \$35,000 shortfall to finish the project.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2014/15 have been set as follows: Single \$25, Couple \$40, Family (same house) \$50.

Your account or receipt is also enclosed. If paying by Direct Credit, our Westpac A/c number is: 03-1745-0077525-00.

DONATIONS

We have recently received donations from some Members. Thank you. Your receipts are also enclosed.

Operations Committee Report | Paula McKenzie

MEMBERS DAY | MAY 24

Well, what can I say? The weather nearly stole the show; proof once again that there are some things in life over which we have no control. The weather is definitely one of them. With the power off and not expected to be restored until 3.30pm, I thought Paul, Clifford and Brendon Sparks looked very composed when Cheryl and I arrived on site at 1.30pm! But we needn't have been concerned because the trusty electricity department restored the power just in time for our event to proceed, albeit in reverse.

Our visitors were able to have a look around the museum with a cuppa and sammy in hand before proceeding to the theatre for the film screening.

And how amazing the theatre looks. The result of Brendon's vision to replicate his grandfather's theatre would have made the late Warren Sparks proud. Check out the video link on the Museum's Facebook page to the former Sparks Vintage Theatre to see where the vision began.

When everyone was seated, Paul gave a welcoming speech and I briefly outlined how the picture show would proceed. *God Save the Queen* was played (even I can remember having to stand for that when I went to the pictures as a child).

The introductory video created by Dave Asher was very informative and entertaining, and our youngest guests giggled and laughed their way through the slapstick-comedy black-and-white skits that followed. The film on the Kingston Flyer



Members check out the theatre before Theatre manager and projectionist Brendon Sparks begins the film screening.

would definitely tick all the boxes for the train enthusiast – it is amazing to think that steam used to meet steam at Kingston. What an era!

All in all, it was a very successful first outing for the theatre. Well done team. And even though there were a couple of hitches courtesy of the power outage, Paul entertained everyone superbly with his Irish and Scottish jokes.

Thanks everyone for pulling together to ensure that our Members Day was such a success.



The Operations Committee is seeking people with a few hours to spare every few months to volunteer for roles ranging from front of house to cleaning when the museum opens.

For an application form, please contact Cheryl: Home 03 2184532 | Mobile 027 225 2424 | email wcgibson@xtra.co.nz

ORAL HISTORIES

We were delighted to have Seona Craig visit the museum recently.

Seona is a volunteer with the Southland Oral History Group and has kindly offered to help us record oral histories for the museum.