



NEWSLETTER: January 2017

Kia ora koutou, Members & Supporters

We're starting the new year with energy and enthusiasm: Farewell Spit-Onetāhua is the theme of our stunning summer exhibition, and the Whalery was completed before Christmas. The Whale isn't far away, and there are lots of visitors around. It's a great mix for summer!

Accessible Whalery—and Abel Tasman anniversaries

We were delighted that Dutch Ambassador Rob Zaagman and his wife Monique joined us again on Sunday 18 December, as part of Abel Tasman 374th anniversary events. On the preceding day they were also part of a planning dinner for the 2017 major anniversary. The group included iwi representatives and Mayor Kempthorne (TDC) as well as DOC, museum, research, and community participants.

Rob and Monique (*shown*) were also the first members of the public to enter the new whalery, for which access had been approved just 36 hours earlier!

They have made a firm commitment to return to Golden Bay/Mohua for the 375th anniversary on 18/19 December 2017, and Tasman District Council is working with Grootegast council for an official visit during the year. Other known activities are DOC's plans for refurbishing the Tasman Monument site above Ligar Bay, plus new books and displays at various locations.

Details of these events to follow.



Highlight of our summer exhibition is Chris Finlayson's stunning mural of 'Morninglight' crashing through the wall, sponsored by Farewell Spit Eco Tours. At the exhibition opening on 21 October, kaumatua John Ward-Holmes described Paddy Gillooly of the long-established business as the rangatira of Farewell Spit-Onetāhua.

THANKS!

Community support keeps us going in our ongoing funding and other challenges. We especially note our appreciation of:

- **Support for our White Elephant stall** on 6 January, through donated goods and purchases. Our stall raised \$1000, which is a great help towards the cost of running the museum.
- **A donation from *The GBWeekly***, which meant we could purchase a health and safety compliant **ladder**. This will keep staff and volunteers safe as they do work around the museum.
- **Arthur Pearson**, for many years of service as our Sunday volunteer. Arthur recently retired and we miss him greatly.

Recent Donation: Alec Webber memorabilia

In early December, Australian writer Pauline Webber brought her uncle Alec Webber's suitcase of memorabilia to donate to the museum.

Alec (born in 1921) lived with his mother (Nina) and step-father (Herbert Stade) in a Tarakohe Cement Works cottage, and grew up in Golden Bay/Mohua. His diary tells us of a young man's life following the usual mix of work, mates, movies, dances, reading books, and love.

In 1941 Alec was called up for World War 2 service and he went to England and then Canada to train as a pilot for the air service of the Royal Navy. His brief period of active service began in 1942, but lasted less than a year. Sadly, Alec was among the 514 men killed on 15 November 1942 when *HMS Avenger* was torpedoed by a U-boat, with only 12 survivors.

This collection of modest possessions is a poignant reminder of a young man's life cut short by war. However, his 1941 diary provides a good insight into life in a remote rural area and the excitement of going overseas. Even the small suitcase that contains the items was that given to him by his parents, and appears alongside Alec in a photo taken in Canada.

We greatly appreciate donations such as this, which help develop our local history collections.



Waitui Goldfields Trip: Are you interested?

This Upper Takaka goldfield site is on private land, and a trip (using private vehicles) may be arranged at short notice.

Please let Penny know if you're interested: phone 524-8112 or email griffith.penny@gmail.com

Happenings

- **Board changes:** *Leigh Gamby* resigned in October following his and Carole's decision to leave Golden Bay/Mohua. They will both be greatly missed by the community, and we thank Leigh very much for his input. We warmly welcome *Grant Knowles*, recently elected to the Golden Bay Community Board, as our TDC representative.
- **Whalery completion:** Construction was completed in early December and we thank TDC for financial help with unexpected last-minute costs of the ramp handrails, and for employing Nelmac to do the landscaping. Builder Steve Chamberlain donated a heat pump and the space feels very welcoming. We look forward to having the pilot whale skeleton in place, and acknowledge Alan McLean's work on this.
- **Lonely Planet guide:** We were shocked to find that our entry had been omitted from the new edition. It turned out to be one of many surprises for the Blenheim-based contract writer, and resulted from editorial changes made in Australia without consultation. We have written to the publisher in London expressing our concern.

About Us & Our Services

Our Staff (*staff are part-time; available Monday to Thursday, 9am-3pm*)

Karen Johnson: Museum Services Manager;

Sally Gaffney: Archivist & Collections/Exhibitions Assistant;

Rohan Maheno: Administration Assistant.

Our Board: Clive Bird, Geoff Rennison, Jenny Treloar, Pat Ballard (Sec'y), Penny Griffith (Chair/Acting Treasurer), Robin Manson, Robin Riley.

TDC rep.: Grant Knowles. The Board meets monthly (but not in January)

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Please Note: Research enquiries are by appointment only. Exhibition area displays open 10-4 Monday-Saturday; 12-4 Sunday.

Closed Good Friday & Christmas Day.

Donations & Membership:

We rely on **donations** for the continued running of the Museum, to top up our grant from Tasman District Council.

As a registered charity we issue tax credit receipts for donations over \$5. That means you could get back 33% of your donation!

Payments can be made online to the Golden Bay Museum Society Inc BNZ bank account: 02-0764-0063386-97

(Please include your name in 'Reference' and email your details to: goldenbaymuseum@xtra.co.nz so we can send your receipt)

OR post with a cheque to: 73 Commercial Street, Takaka 7110

& now on Give-a-Little: givealittle.co.nz/org/goldenbaymuseum

We enjoy adding new **members** to our growing list; please encourage your friends to join us, too. A growing membership list gives our grant applications a stronger case. Membership fees are currently \$20 single; \$25 joint/family. You receive 10% discount on Museum publications plus other benefits, such as invitations to openings.



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