

# artefacts

lakes district museum newsletter  
summer // january 2014



*Picnic passengers embarking for the launch Thelma - c1940.*

## director's report

**The museum board and staff wish all the Lakes District Museum members a very Happy New Year.** I find it hard to believe that I am entering my 25th year at the museum. It seems like yesterday that I was a fresh faced younger man, thrilled at being given the opportunity to be a custodian of local history. I am proud with what has been achieved over the years in all sorts of areas, but it has always been a team effort. Good things are only achieved with good staff and a big thankyou has to go to all the staff at the museum and the museum run Arrowtown Post Office for all their hard work in 2013.

The museum had a good year in 2013. Financially we are now on more of an even keel with strong admissions and sales. This enabled us to upgrade the museum's toilets, complete the Post Office garden upgrade, start work on new displays, and stage a series of great exhibitions in the gallery. We have recently heard that the museum's education programme contract with the Ministry of Education has been extended until 2016 so that ended the year on a further high note.

One thing I love about the Wakatipu at this time of year is the ability to get out in the hills, either biking or walking, and enjoying not only the magnificent environment but soaking up the atmosphere created by the early settlers and miners. Around every corner there are sluice pipes, water races, piles of tailings and hut ruins. I find myself envisaging what it must have been like living here in the 1860's. It was a hard life but it was still lived in an amazing environment. The hugely successful cycle & walking trails network have been a great addition to the area and have the added bonus of enabling people of different fitness levels access into more remote and beautiful areas, where this sense of history is so palpable.

We are all looking forward to 2014 with lots of things happening. As an introduction, you will notice a new format newsletter with a new museum logo. Thank you for your continued support. We could always do with more members so please encourage friends, relatives and neighbours to join. A strong museum relies on community involvement.

**David Clarke, Director**



## new displays

We were thrilled to receive \$10,000 funding from the SkyCity Queenstown Casino Community Trust to go towards our upgraded music and geology displays. This funding will be combined with the Alma Jack legacy to complete this project. Both of these displays are going to be more interactive and so there has been a lot of background planning work regarding their design. Construction will hopefully start soon with work to be completed mid way through 2014.



*Two boys on Kingston Beach  
c1960's.*





## WW100 commemorations

2014 marks 100 years since the beginnings of World War One. The 'War to End All Wars' had a great effect on the Wakatipu. Like all of small town New Zealand, the loss of the young male population was horrendous. The museum is planning an exhibition opening on Armistice Day 2014, to look at how this community was affected. Information, archives and photographs from our own collection will be combined with newspaper articles from the day, oral histories, diary extracts, letters and the showing of the documentary 'Our Lost War' about Queenstown soldier George Salmond.



## the gallery

The special exhibitions gallery was shut down for over 8 weeks while the toilet upgrade took place. Since then we have had a wonderful exhibition of photographs of Central Otago by Grahame Sydney and at the moment we are showing an exhibition called 'Sign of the Times'. This exhibition is a collection of objects and memorabilia signed by famous people. It was quite a thrill putting it together knowing the objects had been handled by people as diverse as John F Kennedy,



## 150th celebrations continue

One of the highlights in 2013 was the 150th year of the founding of Arrowtown Primary School, Queenstown's St Joseph's School, and St

## archives/collections

The archives room continues to be manned two days a week (Thursday/Friday) and can be utilised by appointment outside these times. Anne Maguire is very busy digitising items, especially lots of new slides from the 1960's, answering research questions and dealing with genealogists. The work is always interesting. Some more oral history recordings have been undertaken and there is a priority to undertake more. We continue to get numerous display items offered from people who are clearing out their houses. It is always difficult for museums to say no, but at the same time we cannot become the community attic and we simply do not have the storage space. We continue to love receiving papers, letters minutes books, diaries and photos (especially

Peters Anglican Church. Education and the church played an important role in the lives of the early farming and gold communities as it continues to do today and it has been important for these institutions to remember their past. The sight of Arrowtown school children arriving at school on foot and horseback, dressed in period costume was very special.

colour slides) Please consider donating items like these rather than letting them end up in suitcases and boxes in wardrobes! We are working with the Queenstown and District Historical Society to provide photographs for a new phone app they are formulating. This app will provide a tour around some of the district's heritage buildings.



## arrowtown post office

The museum operated Post Office made a small financial loss last year. It remains however, an important part of the Arrowtown community. The staff continue to work very hard to keep it viable. The income is supplemented by renting office space to a computer technician and to Dam Good Fruit to run a fruit stall over summer. Board member Ann Bain and her family have organised the Post Office market day fundraiser for the last 18 years and she has announced that this year was her last one. Each year the money raised has paid for things like landscaping, painting, a new floor, and general running costs. Please continue to support the Post Office through using the postal service or by buying gifts.

## wakatipu heritage trust

**Intern programme.** The museum has been heavily involved in a programme initiated by the Wakatipu Heritage Trust. Interns from Otago University have been enlisted to research local heritage sites. The Queenstown Lakes District Council has over 250 protected sites in the District Plan. Many of these sites have not been researched for their social, built or landscape significance. A selection process narrowed down 5 worthy students to look at 10 sites each over the summer holidays and write reports. The museum hosted each student for a week and allowed them use of the archives and transported them to the various sites. It has been a great project and we look forward to seeing the results. Thanks to everyone involved especially the property owners, the students, Ange English, Colin and Janet Verry, Mary-Anne Cameron and Otago University staff.



## education programme

Since beginning my position as the Education Officer at the Lakes District Museum, it has become busier and busier with 1788 students visiting the Museum since the 29th July 2013. It has been fantastic to receive support and visits from schools near and far. The month of October was the busiest month, as I worked with Arrowtown School to coordinate LEOTC programmes to help their students celebrate the 150th anniversary of Arrowtown School. Bookings keep rolling in for 2014, which should mean we will easily reach our annual target of 3000 student visitors which was set by the Ministry of Education. 2014 will be an exciting year, as the Shadows of Shoah exhibition and a WW1 exhibition will be displayed for the majority of the year, this will hopefully be the cornerstone of some unique education programmes. The work that our Educators Wendy and Denise have provided was highly appreciated as their experience and knowledge helped support my fairly fresh knowledge. I have been very happy with the work that has been accomplished during my time here, and I'm looking forward to learning and achieving more in the New Year, especially now that we have learned from the Ministry of Education that our contract will be extended until December 2016! **Amy Taylor**

## in brief

**POST OFFICE GARDEN –** What a picture the gardens around the Post Office have been looking. This landscaping designed by board member Philip Blakely and undertaken with funding from the museum and developer of the Post Office precinct Chris James, have made this area very attractive.

**AGM –** We had another successful AGM with many of the existing board being re-elected. Keith Milne and Russell Heckler are new members. Thanks to George Ellingham for his service over the last few years. He was always willing to lend a hand and very capable with a hammer.

**NEW CYCLE AND WALKING MAP –** Our new walking maps for Arrowtown and cycling map for the Wakatipu is proving to be really popular.



**NEW MUSEUM BROCHURE –** We have been working on a new museum brochure. This will also contain a new museum branding. Whilst we found the old brochure a good marketing tool, we have been asked for one that contains more information about the district's history and about the museum itself. It should be ready in February/March.

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**June:** NZ Photographer Laurence Aberhart Exhibition  
**August–October:** Shadows of Shoa– A Unique and compelling Multi-Disciplinary Holocaust Exhibition



**November:** WWI Commemorative Exhibition– 'A War to End all Wars' (Depending on funding)

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**  
The winner of a signed Grahame Sydney photograph was **Ingrid Hanrahan** of Geraldine. Thanks to Grahame for his generosity in offering a photograph as a museum fund raiser.



**NEW TOILETS**  
It is hard to get too enthusiastic about toilets, but we are thrilled with our new toilets and cleaner's room. We have been waiting a long time for them. They now come decorated with historic photographs and are lovely, spacious and easy to clean. Thanks to the Central Lakes Trust, Community Trust of Southland for funding assistance, Bamford McLeod Construction, all the sub-contractors and designer Karl Day.





## staff picks

As usual we have a fantastic array of books in the bookshop. We are regularly told by visitors, coach drivers and interested locals that we have the best selection of local history, natural history, and children's books around, all in an easily accessible space. So do come in for a look and remember your 10% discount.

We have many new children's books. One of the most popular children's books being **'This Old Ram'**, he played ONE, he set out to have some fun'... And he does! While he chases ewes, slides around the milking shed and scares pukeko chicks you will have a real chuckle at the cheeky illustrations in this lovely book. The old ram causes all sorts of trouble for a long suffering farm dog but of course all is put right in the end. Bright, colourful and packed with cabbage trees and sheep, this is a very kiwi take on the classic counting song. Great fun to read and sing with your little ones. *Jane*



**'One Little Fantail'** by Anne Hunter is a delightful new rhyming and counting book. This introduces young readers to several New Zealand native birds both in English and Maori. Once again Dave Gunson has illustrated this book in beautiful bold pictures of the birds. The other recommendation is 'In the garden – Explore & Discover the New Zealand Backyard'. This suits a wide range of ages as is a beautifully illustrated and very informative book for curious minded children when they explore their own gardens. *Glenys*



The museum is very proud of its involvement with assisting local residents to produce and sell local histories and memoirs. A recent one is **'But That's Another Story'** which is a self-produced autobiography by well known local man, William (Bill) Duncan Forsyth. Bill has long established roots to the Wakatipu via his Glenorchy and Skippers descendants and spent his early life in Queenstown. His 1930/40 recollections of this time are most interesting. He goes on to tell his life story working mainly in the wool industry. It's a great yarn by a very energetic businessman, culminating with his retirement job running historic tours into his beloved Skippers. *David*



Art books are a popular seller. A new one is **Moments in Time** – Ralph Miller – Artist. I had no idea what a unique artist Miller was. His family started a signwriting firm, Miller Studios in Dunedin. He died at the tragically young age of 37, robbing New Zealand of a great talent. His works depict everyday people getting on with their lives. Many works depict his war years in the Pacific but it is his Dunedin scenes that attract attention. The works are cartoon like in one sense but convey movement and a sense of fun. He clearly influenced the late Lindsay Crooks who we exhibited many times in the museum gallery. *David*



**The Luminaries** – Eleanor Catton. Don't be put off by the size of this book, it is a real page turner. Catton creates vivid and memorable characters who tell an intriguing murder mystery tale, set in the 1860's gold rush era. This story has that wonderful combination of a rip roaring plot, plus astounding writing. It is a gem fully deserving of its Booker prize win. A must read. *Wendy*



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