

From the President's Desk

The past six months have been a busy time at the Museum.

The Awarua ZLB and Domestic Radio (pictured right) sets have been finished, with life-like mannequins taking centre stage.

The security camera system is operational, thanks to Brendon Sparks; while Clifford Shirreffs and Robin McNeill have installed an alarm system.

Clifford has cleaned, labelled and placed the 30 radios and horns, which were selected for display by Peter Lankshear, in the Perspex-fronted shelving units in the Domestic Radio section.

The glass-topped display cabinets are on site.

Filming of the Telephone Exchange and Awarua ZLB loops is complete. The loops will be screened on TVs in their respective areas of the museum.

The No 1 transmitter in the display room has been painted by Clifford, the valves have been installed and it has been covered front and rear with Perspex. The No 2 transmitter has been moved into the shipping container.

Discussions with the Southland Museum and Art Gallery are ongoing regarding items they have in storage that we wish to display in our Museum. However, we are finding it difficult to meet their strict humidity and temperature criteria.

A red telephone box, renovated by Arthur Williams, has been shifted into the museum and headway is being made with the wiring to make it interactive with other devices.

Considerable progress has also been made on the graphics/interpretation panels and signage.

A big thank you to all the people involved in getting the museum to this stage.

Paul McKay

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 7 May 2015

@ 7.30pm

**Awarua Communications Museum
1276 Bluff Highway, Invercargill**



Financial Report | Clifford Shirreffs

Since the last newsletter, grants for interpretation panels have been received from Southern Trust for \$9,300, Southland Regional Heritage for \$5,000 and ILT Foundation for \$5,000. The remaining monies from the \$50,142 Lotteries grant have been received. Most of this money has been spent on lighting, display cabinets and glass. Any money not used will be returned with the accountability report, which is due in late June. Unfortunately, using any unspent money for another purpose is not an option.

Accountability/audit forms have been returned in relation to grants from Southland Regional Heritage for the Domestic Radio and Awarua ZLB static sets and to Southern Trust for digital projector etc, TVs and spotlight speakers.

Donations received totalled \$17,673, including \$225 from Givealittle and \$2,921 from the Southern Movie Makers Inc. Grateful thanks are extended to everyone who has made a valuable contribution.

The fundraising efforts of Arthur Williams, Paul McKay and Brendon Sparks has resulted in \$2,539 from Trade Me sales and \$355 from scrap metal sales.

Annual Financial Statements will be presented at the 2015 Annual General Meeting.



ILT Board member Mike Mika presenting Paul McKay and Clifford Shirreffs with \$5,000 from ILT Foundation.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following message applies to you **ONLY** if an **X** appears in the box immediately above.

If you wish to attend the forthcoming AGM or be eligible for an Executive position in our organisation, your 2014/15 subscription must be paid. Rates are: Single \$25, Couple \$40 and Family (same house) \$50.

Payment can be made to 03-1745-0077525-00. Please use your name as a reference.

Theatre Report | Brendon Sparks



The finishing touches are being made to the Theatre.

The sound equipment has been tweaked by Peter and the restored stained-glass window, which once graced the former Regent Theatre, has now been installed by Jim in the Projector Room and has been backlit thanks to Robin.

New masking (the black borders around the screen) is being made by Fussy Fit, who are donating their labour for free; while a poster board (sneak peek at left) has been erected on the wall outside the Projector Room.

Arthur has been helping to construct a ticket booth in preparation for photographing so the image can be incorporated into a wall graphic.

Thank you to everybody for their help.

Operations Committee Report | Paula McKenzie

April 2015 – isn't it amazing how time flies? I remember (which seems only a few years ago) waiting impatiently for the school bell to ring so I could put on my gumboots and get outside to play with my dog. And now, here I am helping my grandchildren put on their gumboots so they can play outside! What happened to the years in between?

I'm sure this is what you all must be thinking about the Museum this past year. I can't believe it has been nine months since our Members Day. At that stage, we were looking at flinging the doors open to the public later in the year.

Our Project Team has been working tirelessly this past year and the Operations Committee and numerous volunteers have been working quietly alongside them. The idea being that once the building/fit-out side of the project is complete, the two committees will blend into one to manage the day-to-day running of the museum.

Recently, we were lucky to have a visit from Linda Te Au and Rebecca Smith, from the Invercargill Public Library, to advise the best way to catalogue and protect our archives. We are really grateful for their assistance and ongoing support. During the coming months, we will put together a team to work on this project. Please call me if you would like to be involved. It sounds like a good winter project to me!

We also have a team, led by Gordon Duston, working on Oral Histories. If you or a friend would like to be involved in this project, please call Gordon on 03 213 1403. I think he is keen to get a few people trained soon. What a fun project to be involved with.

Last month, Warrick Lowe and his colleague Dan Burt, from Venture Southland's marketing department, visited the Museum. Warrick has very kindly put together the bones of a Marketing Plan for us. They both have some great ideas. Again, we are so lucky to have such a pool of talent that we can call on to steer us in the right direction. After all, none of us has put together a museum before and many minds are better than one.

We recently added another talented person to our ranks. Rex Johnson has kindly offered to be our Website Project Co-ordinator. He will manage the growth of the website, along with Cheryl, myself and the next person whose arm we can twist . . .

Speaking of twisted arms, thank you Pauline and Tinneke for your wonderful help cleaning display exhibits. That was a great example of many hands making light work. And the baking was delicious, Pauline.

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Part of the Awarua ZLB set, with the life-like mannequin.

Operations Committee Report | Paula McKenzie

Continued . . .

The landscaping of the car park area has started. Cheryl and her team of Pat, Terry, Steve, Mike, Butch, Pauline and Frances have flexed their muscles during the past month or so to remove numerous ute loads of soil and garden waste in preparation for weed mat to be laid. In addition to that, the car park has been sprayed, the fence repaired and the gate hinges modified.

Brendon and Arthur have been sorting and categorising the thousands of items in the Archives Room ready for cataloguing into eHive. eHive is an online cataloguing system that was recommended to us by Owaka Museum. We have done quite a lot of research and also met with David Luoni, Gore District Council's heritage projects co-ordinator, who told us all about it.

Arthur and Brendon, we really appreciate you going the extra mile on this for us. Your expertise in this field is invaluable. In other words, you are a priceless pair! I also hear that Rebecca has been pitching in. Thank you all so much.

We are really keen to have more helpers on board. If you and a friend could spare a few hours every now and then, you're just the people we need! There is nothing technical involved (we have techno geeks who do that) and you will have a lot of laughs. We will show you what to do so you needn't worry about being thrown in the deep end. As I said, none of us has put together a museum before – it's all new to us as well. Just call or text me on 027 434 6777 or email mb.pamckenzie@xtra.co.nz if you want more information.

We are aiming to be open on Sundays from 11am to 3pm and during weekends of significance, eg when there is a major event at Bluff, Burt Munro Challenge, etc. Otherwise the museum will be open by appointment only.

Be in touch, hopefully soon . . .



The restored telephone box, which is being wired to make it interactive with other devices in the museum.

Light Relief

A young lawyer died. Upon arriving at the Pearly Gates, the 32-year-old protested that there must be a mistake because he was far too young to die.

The listening angel went away to look into the matter.

A few minutes later the angel came back. "I'm sorry, Sir, but I am afraid there is no mistake. We calculated your age by how many hours you billed your clients and you're at least 96."