OTAGO EARLY SETTLERS MUSEUM June 1994 Issue 54

NEWSLETTER

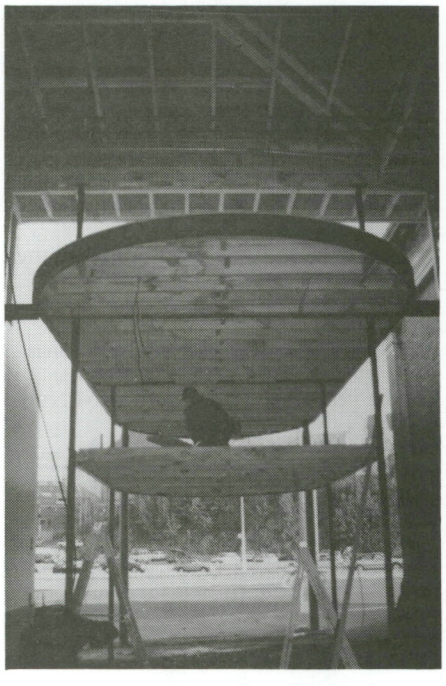
OESM DEVELOPMENT REPORT

After four months of construction and strengthening, Stage 1 of the Development Programme is drawing to a close. The 1907 museum building is now linked to the Bus Station by a striking new concourse.

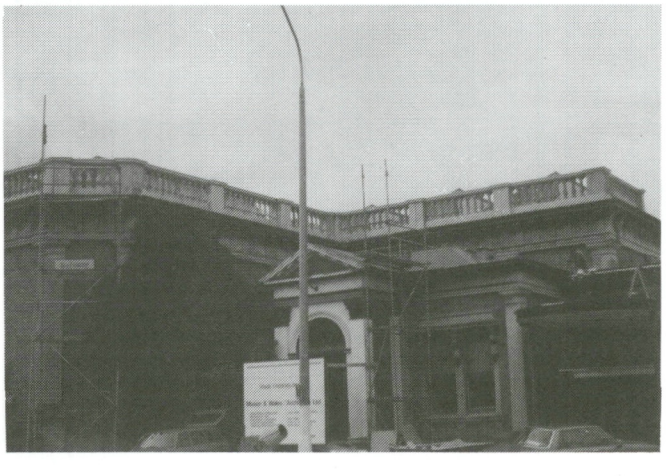
Soon, visitors will enter the museum through the concourse, and move from reception into the 1907 galleries, or into the Bus Station Gallery.

The construction of the link and replacement of balustrades are the visible signs of development. Equally important, however, has been work carried out to strengthen the building structure, install a heating system for the concourse and tower, and refurbish offices.

Once interior finishing of the concourse is complete, an Open Day will be held to promote the museum's newest visitor facility to the public. The date of the Open Day will be advised.



The view from inside the link with the new entrance being framed up.



New cast concrete balustrade has been placed around the building.



The entrance takes shape from the outside.

Kai Tahu Whanui, 1844–1994

The Curator of Social History and the Curator of the Domestic and Technical Collections are working on an exhibition to commemorate 150 years since the sale of the Otago Block.

The exhibition, *Kai Tahu Whanui 1844–1994*, will document the history of the original tribal group, Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe, Waitaha, since 1844.

On July 31 1994 Otago will celebrate one hundred and fifty years since the New Zealand Company purchased the Otago block from local chiefs. This was the beginning of the official settlement of the province, although the first New Zealand Company settlers did not arrive until 1848. The arrival of the settlers was to change for ever the way of life of the Maori. The land sale had been agreed to in the expectation that the new settlement would bring many benefits to the Maori. At first this proved to be the case, the arriving European settlers were heavily dependant on Maori skills and provisions for the first year or two. But, as the number of settlers increased, they became increasingly self-sufficient and



the place of the Maori in the new society less clear.

There were no violent confrontations in Otago between Maori and Pakeha and this has given rise to a feeling of pride that local Maori were so well treated by the colonists. The reality of Maori life in Otago since 1848 has been little known outside Maori circles. Recent publicity about historic grievances has therefore come as an unpleasant shock to many. Our new permanent display *Kai Tahu Whanui 1844–1994* will present the story of the original tribal group, Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe, Waitaha, under the impact of large-scale European settlement. It is not an attack on the integrity of the "Early Settlers" but a re-examination of Otago history from a different perspective. We hope that it will help our visitors understand the complex development of our society in a way that does justice to all the people of our past.



Opening of Te Waipounamu Hall, Henley, 1901

The exhibition will be opened by the Governor General on July 31 as part of a day of special events to mark this historic commemoration. The museum has worked closely with representatives of the three Otago mana whenua runanga (traditional councils) and the DCC 1994 Commemorative Fellow, Bill Dacker, in preparing the Exhibition.

There Are 3 Sides To Every Story

April 21 to August 17, 1994

An exhibition of paintings, photographs and maps tracing the history of Dunedin's Queens Garden reserve.

Queens Garden does not appear on early plans of Dunedin and its existence was not anticipated by the town's first surveyors. The provision of a green and leafy space in the heart of the city was more the result of an opportunity seized.

The extension of High Street and Rattray Street onto reclaimed land created a large triangular site, cut across by Crawford and Cumberland Streets. It is within the intersection of these streets that Queens Garden was formed. Although much of the reclaimed land was eagerly sought for development, the Queens Garden area was held in reserve and remained unused until Dunedin's first railway station was built on the site in 1873. After the station was moved to Lower Rattray Street in 1885, the unused land was made a public reserve known as the Triangle. Despite the appearance of prosperity brought to the city by the post-gold rush building boom, the old railway reserve lay as a scrub covered patch of dirt until 1888. The neglected state of this piece of land prompted the formation of The Amenities Society, a group dedicated to the improvement of Dunedin's parks and open spaces. By 1900, the Triangle had been transformed into a small urban park with a broad expanse of lawn encircled by iron railings, hedges and plantings of native trees.

A new name commemorated the reign of Queen Victoria who had died in 1901 but greater changes were to follow. The Edwardian character of Queens Garden was altered during the 1920s with the removal of the shelter provided by fences and plantings after which increased road traffic intruded on the peaceful atmosphere. This process of modernisation was prompted by the placing of the new war memorial in the centre of the reserve in 1927. Later alterations to the reserve to accommodate the one way traffic system and the demolition of many buildings on Lower High Street further eroded the quality of the space. Despite these serious losses to the integrity of Queens Garden through the changes in its surroundings, the future of the precinct is now secure and City Council proposals incorporating a new square in front of the Railway Station and the diversion of traffic from the area show the potential for the revival. The exhibition offers an overview of Dunedin's urban development over the past 147 years and is intended to focus debate on the future of the old central business district. Tours of the exhibition may be arranged through Val-mai Shaw at the museum.



Telegraph Office and Lower High St, c. 1900

MUSEUM NEWS

ARCHIVES NEWS

The Archives Department has just received, transcribed and indexed copies of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal [APW] Registers for the following Dunedin area schools: George Street 1880-1920, Arthur Street, Albany Street 1916-1920, Union Street 1884-1908, Normal School 1875-1920 and Green Island 1875-1920.

This represents the first fruits of a considerable project arranged by the Dunedin Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists in association with the Hocken Library; further schools will follow. The APW Registers are a gold-mine for family historians. They can provide the following details for each pupil: admission date, name, parent's names, address, birth date, previous school, last day, destination from the school, as well as class and miscellaneous comments. The birth dates, parent's name and previous school/ destination columns can be enormously helpful in reconstituting families and tracing movements into and out of the school area. Our thanks to the dedicated genealogists who transcribed, indexed and checked these records. We have also received further instalments of the Victorian Shipping Index. The new years available are for 1860, 1864 and 1868. This adds to the existing coverage of 1865, 1867 and 1870. Please note, however, that the Indexes will be going away for binding and will not be available for consultation until later in the year.



L. to R. Terri-Belinda Dobson, Anna Cameron and Elizabeth Sharp

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Following the resignation of Jocelyn Cochran last November, the position of receptionist was re-organised to better cover the needs of a seven day operation. The museum now has two part-time receptionists who between them staff the reception desk Monday through to Sunday. This has relieved the pressure on other staff in the administration unit, especially at weekends and Statutory Holidays. Welcome Terri and Anna.

I grew up on a farm in the small rural community of Eastern Bush in Western Southland. The last 5 1/2 years of my life have been in Dunedin, most of this time at University. In 1992 I completed a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Accounting and Marketing. I have just completed the post-graduate diploma in Tourism, and am awaiting the final mark for the dissertation. I am interested in many things - especially the outdoors and various crafts. I feel fortunate to be given the opportunity to work at Otago Early Settlers Museum, and have enjoyed it so far.

Terri-Belinda Dobson

Originally from Whangarei, I moved to Dunedin in 1990 to study at Otago University. I graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English and Drama. During 1993 I worked for the Wellington City Council as an actor on tour to South Island Secondary Schools promoting the hazards of drink driving.

Returning to Dunedin in late 1993, I took up the part-time position of Receptionist at Otago Early Settlers Museum and continue to be involved with theatre around the City.

Anna Cameron

APPEAL SPONSORS

The OESM Development Appeal Committee thanks longstanding and recent sponsors

Cadbury

NEW ZEALAND Lottery Grants Board

air new zealand the pride of the pacific

TRUST BANK OTAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

Waipori Power GENERATION LTD

Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Limited

PORT OTAGO LIMITED

DUNEDIN ELECTRICITY

Dunedin Amenities Society
Todd Foundation

Yarrow South Charitable Trust
Forsyth Barr

J & L Callis Charitable Trust
John Edmond Ltd.

Elizabeth Sharpe
MONZ Trainee: Collection Management Unit

Elizabeth Sharpe started work at the Otago Early Settlers Museum in late January, replacing Terri Elder who is now the Collection Manager at Nelson Provincial Museum. Elizabeth will be working in the Collection Management Unit until October 1994.

For the past five years she has, for the most part, been travelling and working overseas. However, in 1991, she worked at OESM for two months, collating and reporting on the Seacliff collection. Elizabeth's museum connections started at Canterbury Museum in 1982 where she worked for five years as a general technician. This broad experience base was useful in her later appointment at Ferrymead Historic Park as its first ever curator. Her main areas of interest in the museum world are collection management and the 1900-1920 period of technological and social development in New Zealand Society.

Stephen Munro
Taskforce Green, Collection Management Unit

Stephen joined the staff in February 1994 for a six month period. He is playing a major role in the construction of storage and exhibition areas, and the relocation of collections as part of the redevelopment programme.



Otago Early Settlers Association Donation to the Appeal

The OESA has recently donated a total of $19,000 to the Appeal from the estates of L G Anderson, I M B Maclean and I R Wallace; and a total of $2,580 from OESA members who had added donations to their subscriptions

Val-mai Shaw
Public Programme Officer

This new position has been filled by Val-mai Shaw who was a receptionist at the museum for four years before spending time in England in 1993. We welcome Val-mai back to the museum. Elsewhere in this newsletter, she describes some of the programmes with which she has already been involved.

The Purple, White and Green

An exhibition about the Suffragette Movement in London 1906-1914 from the Museum of London

Until 31 July 1994

This exhibition is a contribution to Women's Suffrage Year 1993. The exhibition describes and evaluates an unstudied aspect of the Women's Social and Political Union's (WSPU) suffrage campaign.

The WSPU joined the forty year old British women's suffrage campaign in 1903. Founded in Manchester by the Pankhurst family, its style is best described by its motto 'Deeds not Words'.

This exhibition focuses on the designing, the merchandising and marketing of the union's political message. The Suffragettes were entrepreneurs and cunning business women. The purple, white and green scheme was devised by Mrs Pethick Lawrence, treasurer and co-editor of the Suffragette's weekly newspaper 'Votes for Women'. In 1908 she explained the tricolours symbolism - "Purple, as everyone knows, stands for the royal blood that flows in the veins of every Suffragette, the instinct of freedom and dignity ....., white stands for purity in public and private life ....., green is the colour of hope and the emblem of spring".



Editorials in the Suffragette's newspaper stressed the importance of wearing the colours - "The colours enable us to make that appeal to the eye which is so irresistible. The result of our processions is that this movement becomes identified in the mind of the onlooker with colour, gay sound, movement and beauty". Fashion and politics was a powerful new element introduced to the campaign and so far untried. Suffragettes were encouraged to wear the colours at all times especially at large demonstrations.

The business world quickly became aware of the purchasing power of middleclass Suffragettes, and supporters could buy Mappin and Webb jewellery, bicycles, and tea sets bearing a logo designed by Sylvia Pankhurst. Cigarettes, soaps, chocolate and birthday cakes appeared all bearing the votes for women slogan.

The exhibition examines the largely unrecognised merchandising and image building skills of the Suffragettes who turned fashion and consumerism to brilliant political advantage.

The exhibition is made up of display panels of photographs and information. The artefacts which accompanied the original exhibition in London did not travel to New Zealand.

The exhibition was curated by Dianne Atkinson who also wrote the exhibition catalogue. The exhibition was on display at the Museum of London from 1992-1993, the National Library, Wellington 1993, and now the Otago Early Settlers Museum.

The Barron Letters

When Frances Marr brought some old letters from Belfast to Dunedin, she never anticipated the interest they would arouse at the Archives Department.

"I hadn't imagined that you'd be bothered with them" she said. "It was just that they were from Dunedin and as I was going there, I thought I would take them along and ask someone for an opinion".

The letters were written by an ancestor, William H.Barron, who came to Otago in 1860, was successful in business and represented Caversham as a Member of Parliament from 1879 to 1890. They cover the years 1867 - 91 and are addressed to the writer's father in Scotland who apparently was unemployed during this period. In most letters, William Barron refers to the remittance which he is enclosing to assist with his father's maintenance. He also comments on his father's schemes to find work, suggesting that he seek a gardening job in the village in preference to trying to start a business.

Research Librarian, Tania Connelly, regards the Barron letters as a great acquisition. "Any sequence of letters is always something of a find" she said. "These are doubly interesting in that they were written by a distinguished Otago man who is already represented in our collection. We had photographs of William Barron and of his home [The Willows, Caversham] and family. We also had some of his Parliamentary papers. These letters however, give us an insight into his private circumstances. They provide the kind of background genealogists dream of, yet owners of such material frequently consider it too trivial to offer to a museum. We are grateful that Miss Marr left the assessment to us."

Tania Connelly
Research Librarian

Silver and Furniture

The Domestic Collection has recently benefitted from the generosity of two donors who have gifted items to the museum. Some fine examples of late 19th century English silver were bequeathed to the museum by Mrs. Marie King and these included a large sterling silver tray and electroplated cake basket, coffee pot, spirit kettle, water jug and teapot. The OESM silver collection contains a variety of highly significant ceremonial items including presentation cups, shields and trays but comparatively few household pieces. Mrs. King's gift has considerably strengthened the museum's holdings of domestic silver and the pieces have been on display in the new acquisitions case since March drawing much admiration from the public.

Mrs. Enid Sontag presented the museum with household items of a different era and of equal interest. When she and her husband moved into their new house in Tolcarne Avenue in 1936, they had a suite of dining furniture made in fashionable Jacobean style but incorporating stylised Maori carvings on the seat backs. This approach to the Maori decorative arts was a feature of the times and similar motifs may be seen in architecture of the same period. The suite is a most important artefact from the point of view of New Zealand nationalism and the museum is most grateful to receive it. Mrs. Sontag also gave an Art Deco Chesterfield suite, rimu bedroom furniture and a selection of Deco light fittings also from the house.



Dining chair from Enid Sontag Collection



Silver coffee pot donated by Mrs. Marie King

MUSEUM AND SHOP NEWS

Thanks !

The museum extends its thanks to all volunteers and Community Taskforce Personnel. Their input into all aspects of the museum's work is invaluable.

Weekend Volunteers Needed

The museum is in need of volunteers to add to its list for Weekend (especially Sundays), and Statutory Holiday reception duties. The work involves the usual reception duties of dealing with the public, answering the telephone and also the recording of monies received for admission and shop sales using an electronic cash register. A staff member is always present and will assist with an initial training period. Volunteers will then be able to handle these tasks competently.

The hours are 1.00 - 5.00pm and your turn will come approximately once every eight weeks. If you (or any members of your family, e.g. sixth and seventh formers looking for some unpaid work experience) are able to help, please ring the museum (477-5052) and ask for Barbara.

Public Programme Officer

Part of the work associated with this newly created position lies in the organising and conducting of guided tours, within and without the museum. We have had adult tourism students, English language students, tour groups from conferences and cruise ships, international service groups, access training groups, and long term hospital stay groups, all with different needs and expectations. One of the most interesting tours was with a group of mature students studying to be social and community workers. We spoke briefly of the social effects of the 1860s gold rush on this small Scottish town of Dunedin, then, from Dowling Street steps, looked down onto the
Maclaggan Street of today, comparing it with photographs of the rather more notorious Maclaggan Street of the 1860s.

OESA NEWS

Learn How To Research Your Family History

Mrs Heather Bray, past chairperson of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, will conduct a class for members of the Otago Early Settlers Association on family history research, in the Archives and Research Department of the Otago Early Settlers Museum, on Sunday afternoon 3 July. The class will be repeated on the Sundays following in July, if required. The time taken will be three hours, from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm, and each class will be limited to ten people.

If you wish to take part, please telephone OESM receptionist Anna or Terri to book your place.

Housed in the Archives and Research Department is the library of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists; access to this library by members of the OESA is welcomed.

The course will be very basic and will include:

- How to get started on family history research.
- Where to get started, using Dunedin resources, especially OESM.
- What you can look for and find in these resources.

SHOP NEWS

Church Building In Otago
by Hardwicke Knight, publ. 1994

Price to members: $44.95 +p&p 2.00 [local]
3.00 [S. I.]
4.00 [N.I.]

The Maid Servants Scandal
by Olive Trotter, publ. 1993

Price to members: $13.45 + p&p 80c