

AKAROA CIVIC TRUST

PO BOX 43 AKAROA 7542 NEW ZEALAND

NEWSLETTER – November 2016

Farewell to Gilbert Glausius, Former Chair of Akaroa Civic Trust

Glausius died at home in Merivale on December 29, 2015, in the care of his loving wife of 50 years, Patricia Glausius.

Glausius was born on September 2, 1939, to Hungarian parents George and Suzie Glausius. The family immigrated to New Zealand as the situation in Europe worsened. Glausius attended Cathedral Grammar School and sang with the Christchurch Cathedral Choir, where he became head chorister.

He went on to attend Christ's College, before leaving school to join his father's importing and glove-making business.

In 1967, he married Patricia Paterson, and the couple moved into the Leinster Rd home where they raised six children: Victoria, Anna, George, Christina, Olivia and Michael.



Photo: The Press

Glausius went into business on his own in 1970, running a furniture business called Mobilia, and later entering into a partnership selling flat pack furniture under the business name Cargill Furniture.

As chairman of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO) from 1994 to 2004, Glausius made a big impression on the operation during a difficult time.

"I couldn't have had a more supportive chairman," former chief executive, David Catty said. "He empowered me to do what was needed to continue the standard of performance expected from CSO."

CSO's current chief executive, Gretchen La Roche, had fond memories of Glausius.

"Gilbert would always start concerts with the line, 'I am chair of your orchestra', and that's what he really believed – the orchestra was an asset that belonged to the community, and Christchurch deserved a really healthy and dynamic orchestra of excellence."

Glausius and his wife bought a bach in Akaroa in 1998, spurring him to support the town's arts community. He was chair of the Akaroa Civic Trust, as well as the Orion Powerhouse Gallery.

His support of the International Akaroa Music Festival was well known, and before his death he donated funding for a prize in his name for the most promising performer in the lunchtime concert series.

In 2007, Glausius received a Queen's Service Medal for services to community, as well as a Christchurch Civic Award.

Glausius' health began to deteriorate in 2010 following a stroke during a trip to Australia. He remained at home during the following years, with his loving wife Patricia by his side.

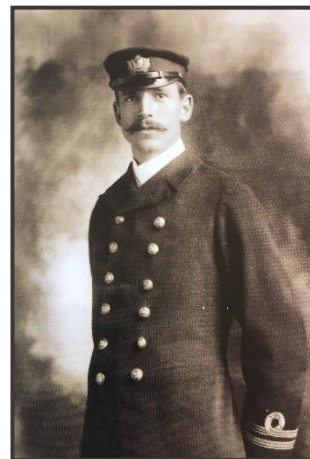
Extract courtesy of The Press, January 9th 2016

Akaroa Civic Trust 47th Annual General Meeting

4:30 p.m. Saturday – 19th November 2016
with Guest Speaker

Wendy Dunlop
discussing

Frank Worsley - The Boy From Akaroa



Special Guest Mayor Lianne Dalziel

The Gaiety, 105 Rue Jolie – Akaroa
Please join us, all are welcome

From Our New Chairman

I'm a relative rookie on the Akaroa Civic Trust, having been a board member for only a couple of years when approached by outgoing Chairman Steve Lowndes to take over the reins. Looking back over some previous newsletters going back to 2002 it is apparent I have various illustrious predecessors, most recently Steve Lowndes (formerly Director of the Akaroa Museum and now Deputy Chair of ECAN – you have our very best wishes there Steve) and before him Gilbert Glausiuss, who sadly is no longer with us, having passed away at the end of 2015. You will see a fine obituary to him in this issue, chronicling his many achievements. Prior to that Rod Naish and Suky Thompson put in some invaluable efforts on the Trust's behalf.

I must pay tribute to Steve Lowndes who was a tireless and articulate Chairman, helping steer the Trust through troubled times in the aftermath of the Christchurch Earthquakes of 2010/11, which placed such a huge strain on Christchurch City Council and its ability to serve its constituents.

I suppose that Akaroa, having the distinction of being 75 kilometres away from the city centre, disdains the idea of being treated as just another suburb of the city, because we can never be that – physical barriers of terrain will always attest to that. We are probably the city's most squeaky wheel, and we do demand our grease!

The Civic Trust, established in 1969, exists first and foremost as a society dedicated to the preservation of the beauty and history of Akaroa and its surrounding areas. In other words, we are guardians of our heritage, both natural and built environment. Any civilized community takes account of the preservation of its worthy past when contemplating an adventurous future. Even Henry Ford who famously remarked "history is bunk" also proclaimed "in order to move forward, first you have to look back".

Continuing with a Detroit analogy, since I have just returned from there, it was revealing to note the sentiments from heritage advocates faced with saving the treasure laden Detroit Institute of Arts with one of the finest collections of art in the world "cultural institutions are an essential part of any great community – they are anchors essential to the civic pride of that community".

We have heard criticisms in the press recently about the shabby appearance of our little town of Akaroa, and the Civic Trust has been, and will continue to be, at the forefront of those campaigning to have the special case for Akaroa heeded. We are a heavily patronised cruise ship tourist town, like it or not, and personally I feel that a substantial part of the revenue earned from mooring fees from these ships (over \$800,000 last year) should be ploughed back into Akaroa community needs, such as the Health Hub. Thankfully the Museum, always a major attraction for out of town visitors, is on course to reopen its closed galleries.

Looking back over the previous newsletters there are necessary themes occupying the Trust's efforts – The Gaiety, French Farm House, ADAAC (Akaroa Design & Appearance Committee), the CCC District Plan (always a time consuming task, so thank you Jan Cook), to name a few.

Over the years I've sometimes heard people grumbling that the Civic Trust is a handbrake on much needed development. That's not a realistic criticism. The Trust seeks to act as a watchdog to ensure that stakeholders – City Council, developers and others, stick to the rules.

We are a tiny body of local volunteers committed to the preservation of heritage aspects of life on the Peninsula – a theme dear to many people's hearts. That's why we have so many loyal and devoted members – both here in Canterbury and further afield. Thank you to all of you for your continuing support.

My thanks also to all the board members for their selfless contribution to maintaining the Trust's ideals – a great effort all round.

Michael Norris 2016

District Plan Review

Following a process that has run for more than 2 years, the review of the District Plan is almost complete with the release of most of the Decisions by the Independent Hearings Panel.

The review required the amalgamation of the Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula District Plans. The process has been very challenging and frustrating with Council staff struggling to understand rural and small town Banks Peninsula. The Government imposed strict time constraints for the review, leaving the Council

little time to consult with property owners and the community.

The Council generally attempted to ‘roll over’ the provisions of the BP Plan, but in many instances important details were overlooked or misunderstood. The Hearings Panel has been receptive to submissions from the community providing they are informed and well reasoned. Decisions for the Commercial, Residential, Rural and Open Space Zone on Banks Peninsula generally follow the existing Banks Peninsula District Plan, with the Panel recognising that there are differences between the City and the Peninsula and that the BP Plan resulted from a very extensive community process. Protections for biodiversity, landscape and coastal values remain in place.

Of particular frustration to the Trust has been the Council’s refusal to recognise the Akaroa Historic Area in the new Plan, because it considered that it had not been adequately assessed. The Akaroa Historic Area was registered by Heritage NZ in 1999, but registration does not in itself confer any protection – this must be provided for in the District Plan. In 2004 the Council (then Banks Peninsula) agreed to a variation to the District Plan to provide clearer protection for the Akaroa Historic Area and to tidy up some small anomalies. Since then the Trust has been involved in numerous meetings, discussions and workshops on this subject and the Council has produced a staggering array of studies and reports. The Trust was therefore dumbfounded by the deletion of the Akaroa Historic Area from the District Plan, especially as there had been no consultation with the Trust, or the community, about this.

The Trust, working with the Rod Donald Trust and Department of Conservation, presented the Panel with strong evidence from Dr John Wilson, Suky Thompson and Jan Cook. The Panel’s decision is that the evidence supported the identification of the Akaroa Historic Area and the inclusion of rules requiring consideration of the heritage values of the area. While the Trust is relieved that the Akaroa Historic Area will be recognised in the new Plan this simply takes us back to the existing situation, with no improvements to fix the ‘gaps’ that had been identified in 2004. For example; whether the size of Akaroa Historic Area should be extended and whether there needs to be a buffer zone around the Akaroa Historic Area (this might have helped to avoid

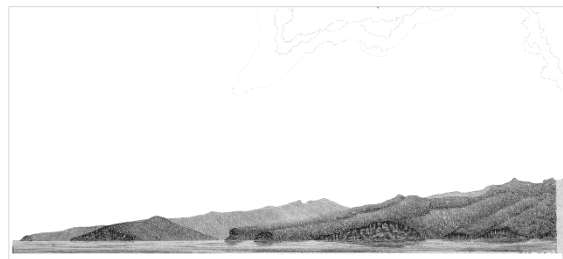
the proliferation of “fish tanks” behind the Gaiety).

The Council’s lack of interest in the Akaroa Historic Area has been most disappointing, and somewhat perplexing given the huge importance of Akaroa’s history and heritage buildings and the fact that this has assumed even greater significance with the loss of so many historic buildings in Christchurch and Lyttelton. Heritage New Zealand was also disappointingly complacent about the situation. The Council’s actions ignored the huge volume of work that has already been done in relation to Akaroa’s heritage values, and created a great deal of unnecessary work and expense for the Trust. We will continue to lobby the Council to improve protection for Akaroa’s historic heritage and would like to especially thank all those who gave their time and expertise to support the Trust’s submissions.

Jan Cook

Ngā Taenga mai Arrivals – a new long-term exhibition at Akaroa Museum

A new exhibition, Ngā Taenga mai Arrivals, has opened at Akaroa Museum, just in time for the summer season. This is the first of the new exhibitions to be completed since Museum buildings have been repaired and strengthened and is the first major change in displays for more than 20 years.



Ngā Taenga mai Arrivals covers Banks Peninsula history up to the end of the 1850s. The Museum worked in collaboration with Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu to develop the content relating to the lives of Ngāi Tahu and earlier iwi on Banks Peninsula. Their relatively undisturbed 700-800 year occupation was disrupted by new arrivals in the decades between 1830 and 1850, bringing unprecedented change.

Museum visitors will be able to learn about the simultaneous histories of the whaling industry, the failed French colony, naval occupation, the

arrival of Pākeha settlers, the Ngāti Toa raids, the Treaty of Waitangi and the struggle by Ngāi Tahu to get a fair deal for their land.

Developing this new exhibition gave Akaroa Museum the opportunity to bring some important taonga back to Akaroa. Canterbury Museum lent a number of objects from the collection of Louis Vangioni, including significant Maori taonga and settler objects. All have strong connections to Akaroa and Banks Peninsula and to local families.

The Friends of Akaroa Museum contributed substantially to the project, donating more than \$20,000 and commissioning a contemporary photograph by Mark Bently Adams for inclusion in the exhibition. Following a commitment from Council in June to fund the refit of the remaining two-thirds of exhibition space, the Museum will proceed with this work in the early part of 2017. It is the Museum's intention to fully re-open again by June 2017, bringing to a conclusion a five year, post-earthquake programme of repair, strengthening and rejuvenation.

Lynda Wallace, Museum Director

Banks Peninsula, Water and Climate Change

Several years ago the Trust identified climate change as a looming issue both globally and for the Peninsula.

Since then the effects have become increasingly apparent. We have fewer Southerlies and more weather from the North and Nor'west. We have high tides which get higher and higher and the average temperature increases month on month, year on year*.

Banks Peninsula is an ancient landform. It is at least 12 million years old and was an island volcano long before the Alps were formed. The Canterbury Plains owe their existence to this island, which acted as an anchor to hold alluvial shingle in place.

These geologies are as different as chalk and cheese. This means that the only fresh water available to us is what falls on our heads. There is no subterranean connection to another supply.

The relative infrequency of Southerly weather has resulted in less rain fall overall, even if downpours occur from time to time. This is a trend which will become more and more

apparent and we must begin to adapt, sooner rather than later.*

Valuing water is the first thing. I don't mean monetary value but its intrinsic value as a vital resource. Our drinking water supplies have always been precarious and can only become more so when you consider the demands put upon the supply. We need stock water for our farmers, we need water for everything.

We should be nurturing all our streams by fencing and planting every significant waterway*. We should manage our water consumption and use water storage as much as possible.

The Tonkin & Taylor report on sea level rise, commissioned by the Christchurch City Council in 2013, uses projections made in 2009. Since then the rate of sea level rise has doubled to 4mm per annum.

The report highlights the impact on low lying coastal environments and, despite being a very conservative document, makes very sober reading.

Inundation will not only effect the lower lying coastal settlements of Banks Peninsula but it will impact on access. We should start to lobby Transit New Zealand about the status of Highway 75 and the Christchurch City Council to assess the magnitude of these issues and get them in the Council's Long Term Plan.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research publication "Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change - Pathways to Change" 2010-2025 identifies the four steps needed to get some action; Awareness and Acceptance: Assessment: Planning the Way Forward: Implementation.

We've taken a long time to make the first step, so now is the time to take the next, and the next, with a degree of urgency. The changes to our climate, which are now a matter of record as much as projection, will not happen in a comfortable, linear way. Change will be erratic, accelerated and implacable.

Have a look at the monthly website; www.stateofourclimate.com.

It's time to adapt.

Steve Lowndes

*Metservice Historical Data.

*Christchurch City Council: Water Supply Strategy 2009-2030.

*The Banks Peninsula Zone Committee of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy has funds of \$500,000 over the next five years to subsidise fencing and planting.

Steve Lowndes is a former Chairman of the Akaroa Civic Trust and now has been elected to serve on the Board of Environment Canterbury (ECAN) where he has been appointed as Deputy Chair. We wish Steve well in his new and important role and know from our experience what a great job such an able person with his peninsula roots will be able to do.

Update on the French Farm House

Further work to stabilise the French Farm House is underway. Props have been installed to slowly bring the studs and first floor joists back into alignment. Once these have been secured re-piling can begin. Improvements to the drainage around the building have helped to keep it relatively dry inside over the winter. While some roofing iron has been lost due to storms, it appears that the original wooden shingles that remain in place under the iron are still quite effective in keeping out rainwater.



Photo: Malcolm Duff

Last year the Trust received \$1400 from the Community Board to install an information sign at the House. However changes to the Heritage provisions of the District Plan were then notified, which meant that any sign within a 'heritage setting' would require a resource consent (at a minimum cost of \$1500).

The Trust has made submissions and attended numerous meetings, mediations and hearings in relation to this and as a result the Heritage chapter now permits 'interpretive' signs up to 1.2 m² in size.

The Trust is working with the property owner and Council to provide a small parking area so that the public will be able to more easily and safely view the house and the sign.

Jan Cook

Reopening the Gaiety

The Gaiety is not new at coming close to closure or demolition. Each time over the years the powers making these suggestions have had to be dissuaded from action by members of the Akaroa community. After the quakes such an occasion arose again. Christchurch City Council had closed The Gaiety because she did not reach their new building code standards. Without major work she could not open again.

CCC had to be persuaded that since The Gaiety Trust refurbishment about 12 years earlier, The Gaiety had again become central to community life and was much loved and much used by locals and out of towners alike. After much inspection, discussion and pleading the Council voted in 2014 to put approximately \$700,000 into the required repair and strengthening.



Photo: Victoria Andrews

Investigation uncovered more work and more cost than they expected with much of the original construction needing to be replaced before strengthening could take place.

In April 2016 The Friends of The Gaiety were relieved and overjoyed to be able to invite Christchurch Council and the tradesmen involved to a typically local Oddfellows Night, celebrating The Gaiety's reopening, giving thanks to the Oddfellows who opened their hall for the community in April 1879 and to CCC for recognising her importance to Akaroa and putting the work in to keep her alive.

The Gaiety is now feeling stronger than she has ever been and looking splendid, well ready for many more years in her rightful place as the centre of community life.

Dale Thomas

Akaroa Civic Trust AGM 2015

Keynote Speech, Christchurch Mayor
Lianne Dalziel, 21 November 2015

Thank you for the invitation to attend the AGM.

May I acknowledge Trust Chairman Steve Lowndes and members of the Trust, Cr Andrew Turner, representatives of the Akaroa Wairewa Community Board.

I have had a special day here today and I thank everyone who has helped make that happen.

The most poignant moment was the wreath-laying at the French Flag. I read my letter to Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, which I sent on Monday to share our sorrow as a city and to offer our solidarity and support. I spoke of the special relationship Akaroa had with the first French settlers arriving here 175 years ago on Le Compte de Paris.

The tragedy that was played out in Paris only a week ago reminds us how quickly our world can change and how the things which we have always taken for granted can be snatched away.

In many respects we have experienced the same sense of loss in Christchurch during and after the earthquakes.

The difference though is that the earthquakes were natural, even though some of the disastrous impacts were man made, but in Paris there was nothing natural about acts designed to instil terror in the hearts and minds of people; nothing to give meaning to meaningless acts of violence.

We have seen the people of Paris come together in the wake of the tragedy and we in our part of the world know how important that is.

Our communities came together after the earthquakes to look after each other and also to help other badly affected communities – the Student Volunteer Army and the Fanny Army mobilised incredible support.

There is still sadness for what has been lost.

Much of what defined Christchurch – gave us our identity - was found in our built and natural heritage. The latter was largely untouched – the Garden City survived.

But most of our built heritage has been damaged or lost altogether. These were precious buildings that gave us a collective sense of belonging, and connected us to those who came before. They gave us our sense of place. We knew where we were – now we feel lost – familiar landmarks have gone.

This has made what has been retained and that which can be restored all the more precious.

Banks Peninsula falls within the Christchurch City boundaries, but lines on maps don't create connected communities. Akaroa is right on our city's doorstep. But I believe we in the city have taken it for granted. Coming here to a small but bustling vibrant environment after the earthquakes gave us from the city a sense of everything being alright.

We are extremely fortunate that Akaroa survived the earthquakes relatively intact. It has become a place that grounds us with its familiarity and an unbroken link to our natural, cultural and built heritage. We must never take it for granted again.

As a council we are committed to the restoration of the heritage buildings that remain, but there are enormous challenges in the wake of the scale of damage.

It isn't always the easiest option or the quickest one to repair and restore treasured heritage buildings. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that it can be frustrating, difficult and costly, often throwing up unexpected challenges but this doesn't alter our commitment and our resolve - it just tests our patience endlessly - not to mention our budget.

But here in Akaroa things seem so much more achievable than they do in the city.

And that largely comes down to the commitment of the Trust to preserve the beauty and history of Akaroa. I had the privilege of presenting the Trust with a Civic award last year in recognition of the outstanding contribution you have made. So let me work through the progress.



Trevor Bedford, Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Angus Davis at the Orion Powerhouse Gallery, venue for last year's AGM of the Akaroa Civic Trust. Photo: Victoria Andrews

When I was invited to come here there was a hope that this meeting would be held in the Gaiety Hall.

This has been an example of what I would call the avoidance factor. There is one thing about restoration when the damage is obvious, but another thing about preservation and conservation when it is not. As you will know the existing building structure contained a high proportion of timber framing that was either borer infested, rotten and non-compliant. This means the stage wall has to be deconstructed and rebuilt. This also requires new foundations being reinforced with screw pile support to protect the rear wall from settlement due to the close proximity of the stream.

The addition of the works for the stage walls and foundations now mean that we expect to hand over the facility at the end of March 2016. Staff are investigating if a Certificate of public use can be obtained to enable the planned celebrations on January 30th may go ahead. It is important to say that the Stage will not be complete by then and will have to be sectioned off.

I believe that the celebration should proceed if that's what the community wants. But there is an option of waiting for the moment that the Gaiety can be celebrated in its full glory. It's over to you.

The Akaroa Museum has had all the earthquake repairs and strengthening completed and handed back to Lynda Wallace and the team. I really appreciated the opportunity to visit them with the Friends of Akaroa Museum this morning.

The roof replacement and new environmental control system will ensure the artefacts will have a safe and purpose built environment for the enjoyment of the thousands of tourist visitors that pass through the doors of this establishment each year. I was thrilled to see the just over 11,000 visitors last year more than doubled to over

25,000 in the year just gone. The effect of removing the charge is clear.

What truly inspired me though was the presentation about how visitors will experience the collections in the future. The story it will tell of the people, this place and the connections between them will be inspiring and I can't wait for the re-opening.

I should also take the opportunity to offer congratulations to the Banks Peninsula War Memorial Society on their commitment and resolve to restore the War Memorial in Akaroa. I'm sure it was a very proud and special day for the Society and for the people of Akaroa when the Governor-General unveiled the memorial last month and acknowledged the sacrifice of those with connections to the communities here.

The documentation and scope of works for the Akaroa Court House have been completed. This means we are all ready for work to start April 2016 at the completion of the current tourist season and should take approximately eight weeks.

Another important tourist attraction, the Akaroa Customs House has had the design works completed and is about to go for Resource consent. Construction will start in Feb 2016 and be completed April 2016.

The Akaroa Coronation Library is currently open and being used by the public. The scope of works will not only cover making good earthquake damage but will also review the energy efficiency of the building. This work is due to start in Feb 2016 and last for 12 weeks.

Detailed design documentation and scope of works has been completed for Akaroa LE Cottage and this will also be ready for work to start in April 2016 at the completion of the current tourist season. Resource and Building consents will be applied for in January 2016 and the works at that point will also be tendered for main contractor's services.

The Akaroa Weighbridge is the same in that detailed design documentation and scope of works have been completed and ready for work to start April 2016 at completion of the current tourist season. As this is maintenance only to the building Resource and Building consents are not required. Procurement and tendering of the works will be completed in January 2016.

The Akaroa Service Centre design drawings have been updated in line with the requests from the local community board and Staff. The plan is for all external works, crack repair and painting to the exterior and the replacement of the roof to be completed prior to April 2016 so we get a clear weather window for roof replacement. On completion of the exterior works we will start on the EQ repair and interior service centre fit out expected start date May 2016 and be completed toward the end of 2016.

This may have sounded like a Facilities Rebuild update and it was. When I first came over here as Mayor, I met one of the Council staff who showed us through the facilities we couldn't otherwise access. And that was the Council's Project Manager, Richie Moyle. He came to give me an update on Thursday in preparation for today.

Can I say that I have been impressed with his professional commitment to his work here, but what is even more striking is his personal passion for these important parts of history and what they mean to this and future generations.

Councillors may make decisions, but it's people like Richie who make things happen and when there are delays, they feel just as disappointed as the community.

So I have commented on the built heritage, but I am reminded every time I come here, of the outstanding landscapes that make up the natural heritage and also give us our sense of place.

I became much more aware of the extent of that during the District Plan Review, a process which made me realise that bringing two plans together – one largely urban, the other rural – was not one that benefitted from the fast track process.

It is now in the hands of the Independent Hearings Panel, but I wish I knew what I didn't know at the start of the process. To be honest I would rather have had a statutory process rather than a process governed by an Order in Council we did not have the opportunity to properly negotiate with the Crown. It has created a real misalignment with our communities who feel that their voice has been lost.

This came to a very public head with the Coastal Hazards chapter but other issues have been drowned out by the focus on that aspect of the DPR.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has emerged as the voice of reason and she has offered us a way of engaging our communities in discussions about what our coastal environments will face in the future and how we prepare for that.

As a Council we will continue to engage with you as residents and as the Akaroa Civic Trust.

As she said there is no rush!

I am going to side-track onto one other issue. I know some of you made a submission on the Representation Review. The submissions that we received were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping Banks Peninsula distinct from the urban wards and this is the proposal that we will be referring to the Local Government Commission. We have combined the two community boards though, but with four subdivisions for voting.

Just to give you the timeline -the Council publicly notified the final proposal on Friday (20 November) and it will be open for appeals and objections for a month. The final proposal will then be referred with all appeals and objections to the Local Government Commission, which will hold hearings in Christchurch early next year. It will make its final determination by 10 April 2016.

The Representation Review process has highlighted the real challenge of a merger between a large urban council and a small district council.

In conclusion, thank you for the invitation to come. I love Akaroa and its importance to Christchurch has been reinforced by our experience.

It is a wonderful community – with all the characteristics of a community - people, place and the connections between them.

If there is one thing I've learned it's the importance of building social capital – that's what the Civic Trust, the Akaroa Museum, the Friends of Banks Peninsula and all the other groups have done.

Your commitment to preserving the character of your unique township is ensuring the preservation of the social and cultural fabric for future generations.

And no council could do it without you.

Akaroa's Historic Post Office Restoration

Scaffolding has been removed to reveal Akaroa's freshly painted Post Office. The unusual colour scheme was selected by Christchurch City Council staff after examining paint scrapings taken from the building.



Photo: Victoria Andrews

The downstairs area will be used by staff as the Akaroa Service Centre. The Council is seeking expressions of interest in the newly earthquake repaired building from community groups interested in leasing space upstairs which will be available in September 2017. Community groups should contact the Akaroa Service Centre for further details.

Frank Worsley - Polar Hero

Wendy Dunlop will be guest speaker at the Civic Trust's AGM, speaking about the life and achievements of local hero, Frank Worsley.

Wendy Dunlop grew up in London living in a street just around the corner from Ernest Shackleton's home – Wendy's interest in Shackleton's Expedition resulted and in 1995 Wendy had an article published in the New Zealand Geographic magazine on Frank Worsley. Wendy's interest in Frank Worsley launched her career as a free-lance writer.

Frank Worsley's story appeals on many levels and to any age group; a lively lad born and schooled at Akaroa, the Dux of Fendalton School, a naval cadet with his home port at Lyttelton, a lifetime of extraordinary adventure to the remotest parts of the world and a family who were some of the city's earliest settlers.

Worsley's recollections of early Canterbury included an obvious fondness for Christchurch and Akaroa where he learned to sail and respect the natural environment. He lamented the clearing of land for farming and the change to the harbour which was once "almost over hung

with heavy bush." On his various expeditions he frequently sketched the landscape and animals he encountered, just as mesmerised by the polar environment as any explorer before or since.



Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans Antarctic expedition of 1914 is considered one of the greatest survival stories ever told. Frank Worsley's superior navigational skills and seamanship were pivotal in returning 28 men to civilisation and Shackleton knew it. Many of those men downplayed their super-human roles in deference to Shackleton's leadership, but Worsley was the genuine local hero.

Local links to Frank Worsley include a sculpted bust on the Britomart Reserve near the main wharf, his birth place on Rue Balguerie, his father's farm site on the Curry Reserve above Rue Grehan and a collection of personal items in the care of Akaroa Museum. Worsley's Polar medal, war service medals, OBE, ship's whistle and World War I ensign will soon be on display again in the Museum's refitted exhibitions.

The 2016 Board

The board elected at the AGM in November 2015 consisted of Jan Cook, Deputy Chairperson, Lynda Wallace, Victoria Andrews, Steve Carswell, Steve Lowndes, Chairman, Mike Norris, Treasurer, Meri Robinson, John Wilson, Hugh Waghorn, Rodney Laredo, David Epstein, Rosie Davidson, Secretary, Marie Haley and Margaret Chaney, Patron.

New members and donations are always welcome.