

MEETING AGENDA
(OPEN SECTION)

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD MEETING
1pm, Tuesday 28th April 2026
Graham Crombie Board Room, Tūhura Otago Museum

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Resolution to exclude the public:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 (1) for the passing of this resolution
MINUTES OF THE LAST OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST	<i>To enable, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities;</i>	7 (2) (h), 48 (1) (d)

BOARD MEETING AND ACTION REGISTER (CLOSED)	<i>That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies</i>	
HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT	To protect the privacy of natural persons; That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies	7 (2) (a), 48(1) (d)
FINANCE	To enable, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies	7 (2) (h), 48 (1) (d)
DIRECTORS REPORT	To protect the privacy of natural persons; To enable, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies	7 (2) (a), 7 (2) (h), 48 (1) (d)
KAUPAPA MĀORI	To protect the privacy of natural persons	7 (2) (a)
OTHER BUSINESS	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies	7(2) (a), 48 (1) (d)

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD**28 APRIL 2026**

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members will recognise and declare potential conflicts of interests to allow open and transparent discussions. Managing those interests may involve purely the declaration, or in some circumstances, that the member leaves the room for that discussion.

Changes to interests are to be notified to the Secretary as soon as practical, and recognised during the meeting as they become relevant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the meeting:

Notes and amends the attached interest register as necessary.

Otago Museum Trust Board

Interest Register 26 February 2026

Name of Trustee	Role	Nature of Interest
Jamie Adamson	Deloitte	Partner
	Board member	Athletics Otago Inc
	Member	Council for Otago Medical Research Foundation
Barbara Anderson	Otago Institute	Chair
	Orokonui Ecosanctuary	Life member
	Geography Dept, University of Otago	Husband's employer
	Sustainable Investment portfolio	Highgate partners
Angela Davis	Startup Dunedin Trust	Deputy Chair
	Collective Strategy Ltd	Director and shareholder. Involves contract work for DCC and the University of Otago.
	Distill NZ Ltd	Director and shareholder
Bruce Graham	None	
Prof David Hutchinson	Employee	University of Otago
	Member	Marsden Fund Council
Prof Nancy Longnecker	Employee	University of Otago
	President	Friends of Otago Museum
	Member	Green Party Aotearoa New Zealand
Cherry Lucas	Trustee	Otago Farmers Market
	Member	Otago A & P Society
	Trustee	Henderson Lucas Family Trust - Residential Dunedin Property
	Member	Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
	Member	Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)
	Member	Dunedin Chinese Garden Advisory Board (Council Appointment)
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)
	Member (alternate)	Grow Dunedin Partnership (Council Appointment)
	Member	Mosgiel Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)
	Member	Te Poāri a Pukekura Partnership (Council Appointment)
Zone 6 representative	LGNZ	
Member	Taieri Airport Trust	

Lisa Matisoo-Smith	Employee	University of Otago
Andrew Simms	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Limited
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Auckland Limited t/a Andrew Simms Motor vehicle retail
	Director	Stephen Duff Motors Limited t/a Andrew Simms Dunedin - Motor vehicle retail
	Director	Three Diamond Automotive t/a Ralliart NZ - Race car preparation
	Director	Cambridge Finance Limited - Financial Services
	Director	The Landseer Group Limited - Investments
	Director	Otago Motorhome Centre Limited - Motor vehicle retail
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Henderson Limited - Motor vehicle retail
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Moorhouse Limited - Motor vehicle retail
	Director	Minaret Property Investments Limited - Property Investment
	Trustee	The Newfoundland Trust
	Trustee	The Moturata Trust
	Member	Taieri Trails Group
	Member	Taieri Cricket Club
	Member	Mosgiel AFC
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)
Rachel Wesley	Associate Investigator	Coastal People: Southern Skies CoRE
	Member	New Zealand Archaeological Association
	Deputy Chair	Te Pōari a Pukekura Trust
	Member	Māori Heritage Council
	Curator Māori	Tūhura Otago Museum
	Member	Mana Whenua Advisory Panel, Aukaha (1997) Ltd
Jeff Wilson	Partner	Findex
	Member	Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
	Director	Brighton Boat Hire Limited
	Member	Otokia Creek & Marsh Habitat Trust

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Minutes of the previous meetings to be reviewed and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the meeting:

Confirms the minutes of the last meeting.

MINUTES
(Open Section)

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD MEETING

1pm, Thursday 26th February 2026

Graham Crombie Board Room, Otago Museum

PRESENT:

David Hutchinson, Cherry Lucas, Nancy Longnecker, Jeff Wilson, Barbara Anderson, Angela Davis, Bruce Graham, Andrew Simms

IN ATTENDANCE:

Deloitte:

Jamie Adamson (Deloitte)

From Tūhura Otago Museum:

Ian Griffin (Director)
Jane Gregory (Secretary to the Board)
Anne Bridger (Head of Finance)

1. APOLOGIES

Lisa Matisoo-Smith and Rachel Wesley

The apologies were noted.

2. INTEREST REGISTER

The interest register was noted.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (open section)

There were no amendments to the minutes of the last meeting.

It was moved that: *the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

Moved from the Chair: David Hutchinson
CARRIED

4. ACTION REGISTER

The Director to prepare a submission to DCC's next Annual Plan flagging that we will be asking for a contribution to some capital projects

The action was noted and has been flagged with the Mayor. The Director will liaise with the DCC as part of their long term planning process.

Check with the collection team to find out if there are any presentations, talks or interviews missing from the October – November collections report.

This was checked and records updated accordingly.

5. TRUST BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board membership report was noted.

6. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

When the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee met in December they had recommended changes to the terms of reference for some of the Board's committees. These proposed changes were presented to the Board for approval.

1. Audit, Finance and Risk Management (AFRM) committee terms of reference:

Point 2, Authorities for the Chair: this point states that "The Chair will sign off on the Museum Director's expenses". This implies that the AFRM committee chair signs off on these expenses, when in fact, it is the Trust Board Chair that has that authority.

It was moved that: *Point 2, Authorities for the Chair, is removed.*

Moved by: Jeff Wilson
Seconded by: Cherry Lucas
CARRIED

2. Executive Committee terms of reference:

Membership of the Executive Committee is stated in the terms of reference as being "Four members, or such other number of members as the Board may determine, including the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board".

The AFRM committee recommend that two other roles should be on the Executive Committee: the Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee, and the Mana Whenua representative on the Trust Board.

It was moved that *the membership of the Executive Committee is increased to four people: the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board, the Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee, and the Mana Whenua representative on the Trust Board.*

Moved by: Nancy Longnecker
Seconded by: Cherry Lucas
CARRIED

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards:

28/1/2026 Office of the Auditor General – appointment of BDO as auditor

30/1/2026 Hon Paul Goldsmith - Amplify – A Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand 2025-2030

The inwards correspondence was noted.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The health and safety charts were noted.

Incidents reported continue to trend lower than in previous years. Management have already carried out an in-depth investigation to identify causes. Findings were that the trend is across all areas of the Museum and no single cause. A theory is that many causes have been mitigated as they occur, leading to lower repeat incidents. The Board will continue to monitor incident reporting levels.

9. DRFT ANNUAL PLAN 2026-2027

The AFRM committee had reviewed the draft Annual Plan 2026-2027 and draft budgets, which now include the result of recent grant applications, bringing the budgeted loss after depreciation to \$16,971. There had been robust discussion at AFRM regarding the budgets to understand cash flow in relation to upcoming capital projects. Auditable measures have been reduced from 48 to 18.

The Board congratulated the team on a good piece of work.

It was moved that *the draft annual plan 2026-2027 is circulated to contributing local authorities.*

Moved by: Bruce Graham

Seconded by: Jeff Wilson

CARRIED

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports for the 2-month period to 31 December 2025 were noted and would be discussed in more detail in the closed session.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director highlighted key points from his written report:

- The Director's report starts with a new dashboard reporting on progress towards achieving our measures. The team have done a lot of work to get to this point, and feedback from the Board would be welcome.
- The summer exhibition, *Gallery Gang*, received 100% good feedback.
- The Photography competition this year was extended to the whole country resulting in the number of entries doubling. This created good exposure for the Museum across the country. The exhibition opens on 2nd April.
- Tonight's BA5 hosted at the Museum has had 180 acceptances.

The Director's report and verbal updates were noted.

Key points in response to questions from the Board:

- Regarding the annual plan measures, the Friends volunteer on projects other than the Archives project. Jane will follow up with the Accounts team to check the data reflects this.
- The Ruby Jones exhibition has also received good feedback and related merchandise in the shop has sold well. Leftover craft materials from the Gallery Gang exhibition will be packaged as merchandise for sale in the shop at the next school holidays.
- Well done on the new Museum-branded stationery products in the shop. They connect well with the Museum and are appealing.

- The team working on the Photography competition were commended for their work which has put Dunedin on the map this year.
- Tūhura won National Museum of the Year in NZ, which was a coup seeing as it was judged by people from the UK.

12. KAUPAPA MĀORI

Gerard O'Regan's research grant is due to start on 1st July. The grant will allow Gerard to work four days a week on rock art for the exhibition and a book. Gerard's role as curator Māori will be back-filled. The grant is a tribute to Gerard's work in the rock art field.

Matariki Ahuka Nui opening for the City has, since its inception, been held at the Museum with manawhenua support and a \$20,000 grant from the Dunedin City Council. The DCC contribution funds the breakfast and projections. The Museum contributes a similar amount. We will have refreshed projections this year. Matariki will be on 10th July.

13. REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION OF THE OTAGO MUSEUM

Nancy Longnecker highlighted key points from her written report:

- This year is the 100th Anniversary of the Friends Association, the oldest such association in the country. A programme of events for the anniversary is planned for this year and the excitement is building. The Friends council members have been researching the history of the Friends through the Museum archives, Hocken library, the Friends' own records, and by speaking to past members. Some fascinating facts have been discovered and these will be shared in an exhibition to be launched on 23rd April, and a book, which will be published later this year.
- Other events for the anniversary include a series of podcasts for Otago Access Radio.
- Thanks were noted to Museum staff for their help: Craig Scott, Moira White, Gareth West. The Friends council are grateful for their help and, realising they are busy, are trying to do as much of the work themselves.
- The Friends council has a good range of demographics which now includes four members under 40 years old. These members are doing wonderful work on the book and design, and have helped to expand promotion of the Friends through the University departments and campus.

The Friends' report was noted.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

15. MATTERS IN COMMITTEE

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UPDATE FROM HEAD OF PHILANTHROPY	<i>That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies</i>	48 (1)(d)
MINUTES OF THE LAST OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD MEETING AND ACTION REGISTER (CLOSED)	<i>To enable, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities;</i> <i>That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies</i>	7 (2) (h), 48 (1) (d)
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Moved by the Chair: David Hutchinson
CARRIED

Moved into closed session: 1.32 pm

Meeting closed: 3.40 pm

Next meeting 28 April 2026

Signed by:

.....
David Hutchinson
Trust Board Chair

Date:

DRAFT

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A record of actions from the last meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the meeting:

Reviews the actions as required

**OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD
ACTION REGISTER
From meeting 26th February 2026 – Open Section**

Item number	Date of OMTB meeting	Item	Action reference from minutes	Who responsible	Action completion due date/status
5	29 April 2025	Action Register	Prepare a submission to DCC's next Annual Plan flagging that we will be asking for a contribution to some capital projects	Director	

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

BOARD MEMBERS - RECORD OF TERMS SERVED ON THE BOARD

Submitted by: Jane Gregory, Secretary to the Board

Executive Summary

This report records the date that each Board member was appointed to the Board, the number of terms served and when their appointment is due for renewal.

Some organisations have agreed to operate a staggered appointment process that is out of synch with local authority elections. A staggered appointment process helps the Board to achieve continuity of skills and knowledge and reduces the risk of a loss of a large proportion of members at one time.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board **notes** the report.

Representative Organisation	Board member	Month/year started on Trust Board for this organisation	Number of complete 3-year terms served in this role	Current 3-year term	Reappointment due date	Status	Notes and additional representative positions held
Manawhenua	Rachel Wesley	October 2020	1	2023-2026	October 2026	Confirmed	
University of Otago	Lisa Matisoo-Smith	June 2021	1	2024-2027	June 2027	Confirmed	
Association of the Friends of Otago Museum	Nancy Longnecker	July 2025	0	2025-2028	July 2028	Confirmed	Also served two terms as OI representative June 2019 to June 2025
University of Otago	David Hutchinson	February 2011	5	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	Also served one term as OI representative 2008 to 2010
DCC	Cherry Lucas	February 2023	1	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	Also served two terms as DCC representative 1996 to 2001
DCC	Jeff Wilson	September 2024	0	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	
DCC	Andrew Simms	December 2025	0	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	
DCC	Angela Davis	December 2025	0	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	
Contributing Local Authorities	Bruce Graham	December 2025	0	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	
Otago Institute for the Arts and Sciences	Barbara Anderson	December 2025	0	2025-2028	November 2028	Confirmed	

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD**28 APRIL 2026**

CORRESPONDENCESubmitted by: Jane Gregory, Secretary to the board

Outwards:

5/3/2026 Condolences – family of Neville Peat MNZM

RECOMMENDATION

That the AFRM committee:

Notes the correspondence

The Peat Family
c/- P.O. Box 5013
Dunedin 9054

Sincere condolences to the family

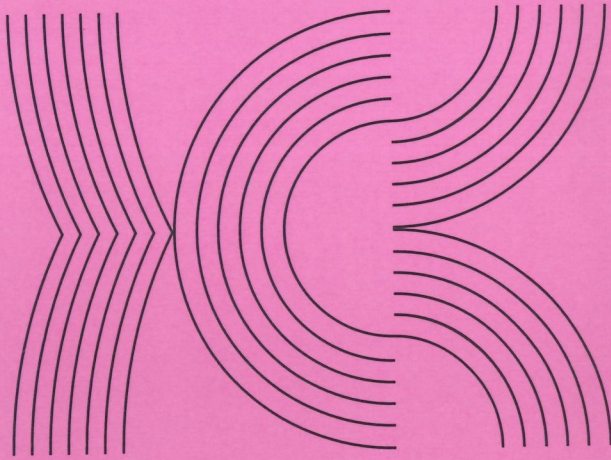
for
Gina

5 March 2026

We were saddened to hear of Neville's passing this week. Neville had a long association with Otago Museum, serving as a Trust Board member from 2014-2016 following his appointment by the DEC, and also contributing to the Museum in a personal capacity.

Neville wrote much of the text for the (as it was then) New Southern Land, Southern People gallery, and produced an accompanying booklet. He also wrote the booklet Otago Museum Collected Stories.

We extend our sincere condolences to Neville's family. Neville was a thoughtful and caring person who contributed greatly to Otago and will be deeply missed. Otago Museum Trust Board and Staff.



TŪHURA

Otago Museum

Artificial flower(s) #2
Gift of Kathleen Fountain, Tūhura Otago Museum Collection, G88.296

This item is part of the dress and textile collection.
Artificial flowers were used as decorations on women's hats,
and to adorn garments such as a jacket lapel or dress.

Designed and printed in Dunedin, New Zealand
Otago Museum Trust Board © 2026



0 645567 195334

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

REPORTS: HEALTH AND SAFETY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached are regular health and safety charts showing the number of visitors compared to the number of health and safety incidents reported.

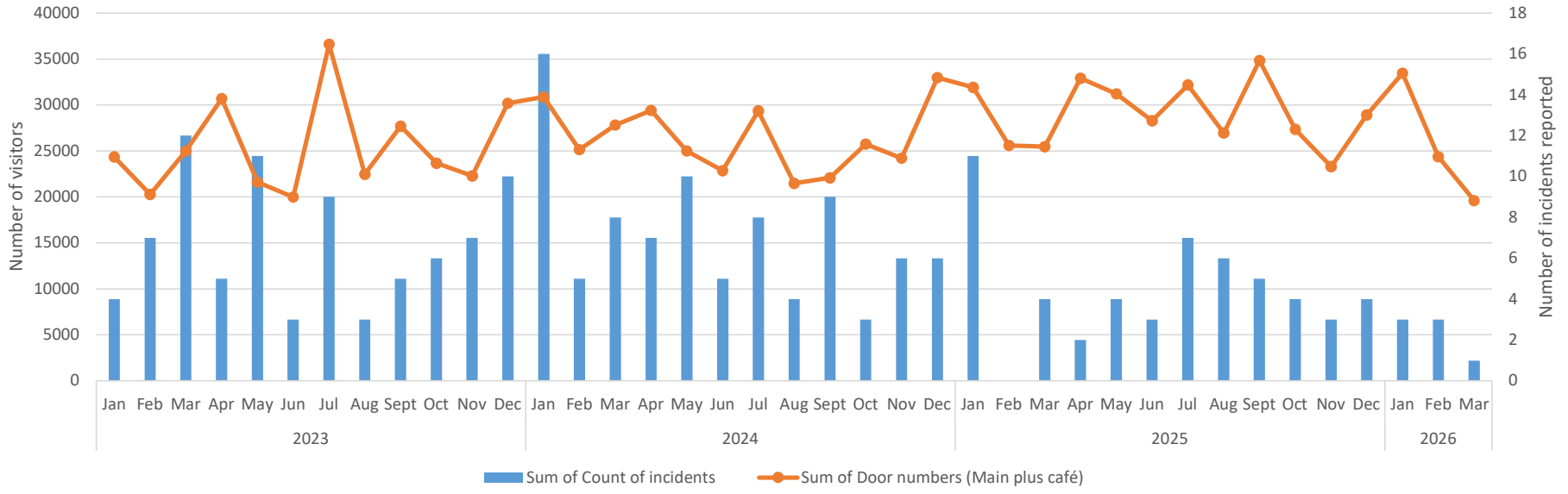
RECOMMENDATIONS

That the meeting:

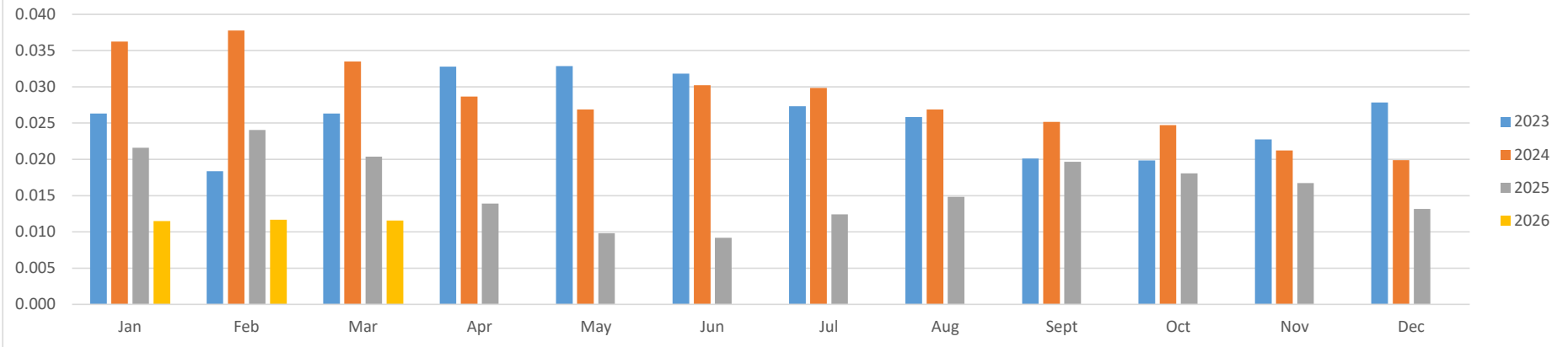
Notes the reports.

Number of Health and Safety Incidents* Compared to Visitor Numbers

* includes hazard observations, near misses and incidents



3 month rolling average
Ratio of health and safety incidents compared to visitor numbers



OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jamie Adamson, Deloitte

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides a financial overview of Tūhura Otago Museum operations during the period and current financial position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the meeting:

Notes the Treasurer's report

TŪHURA

Otago Museum

Otago Museum

Treasurers Report

For the period ending 28 February 2026

10 April 2026

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1. Profit & Loss Summary

The YTD operating loss after depreciation was \$60,491 (budgeted loss: \$326,995, last year profit: \$21,265). This is made up of:

- A YTD loss from Core Operations and Business Units after depreciation of \$200,735 (budget loss: \$546,452).
- Investment Income & net Special & Trust Fund revenue of \$261,226 (budget: \$219,457).

2. Core Operations

Core Operations include standard Museum cost centres including exhibition & creative Services and marketing costs; exhibition costs; projects; property services; IT & communication costs; education; sleepovers and holiday programmes and science engagement.

Trading Activity

- The YTD profit before depreciation from core operations was \$287,399 which is more than budget and lower than last year (budgeted: profit \$94,399; last year: profit \$327,691).
- **Revenue** is \$4,316,931 (budgeted: \$4,277,633; last year \$5,139,399).
- **Wages** are \$2,421,840 (budgeted \$2,505,304; last year: \$2,750,929).
- **Direct costs** were \$812,805 (budgeted: \$954,243; last year \$1,398,933).
- **Indirect costs** are the Museums general overheads and include costs such as audit & accounting, bank fees, power, insurance, rates, phones, printing & stationery etc. These costs are \$794,888 (budgeted: \$723,686; last year: \$661,846).
- **Depreciation expense** was \$714,906 compared to budget \$773,333.

3. Business Units

Business Units include the commercial operations of the Museum - Museum Café; Toitu Café; shop; tours; venues; planetarium; Tropical Forest and Tuhura.

Trading Activity

- The YTD net operating profit from business units was \$226,773 (budgeted: \$132,482; last year: \$149,153).
- **Revenue** was \$1,364,773 which is \$195,672 lower than budget (\$1,560,445) and lower than last year (\$1,466,105).
- **Wages** were \$553,227 (budgeted: \$683,163; last year: \$551,785).
- **Direct costs** were \$584,774 (budgeted: \$744,800; last year: \$765,167).

4. Investment Revenue and Special & Trust Funds

YTD Results

- YTD investment revenue of \$261,226 (budgeted: \$219,457; last year: \$244,131).
- Special & Trust Funds total \$11.9m but a significant portion of these are “restricted” funds that have specific instructions attached by the donor as to their use and what they can be specifically spent on. Restricted reserves are not available to fund general operational costs but have been tagged by the donor for expenditure on specific items, usually associated with the Collection.

5. Balance Sheet Analysis

The Museum balance sheet indicates a strong position with \$25.8m of net assets. This is represented by:

- \$12.9m of Property, Plant & Equipment (which excludes the value of the collection),
- Other investments (shares and fixed interest bonds) of \$11m,
- STAPP Loan of \$1.2m
- and net working capital (debtors less creditors) of \$1.7m.

However, the balance sheet position does not accurately reflect the cashflow difficulties ahead when considering future operational and capital expenditure requirements and the amount of Special & Trust funds that are restricted.

5.1 Debtors

Below is an analysis of the aged debtors.

	28 February 2026		31 December 2025	
	\$	%	\$	%
Current	74,199	42.6%	68,056	37.3%
1 Month	568	0.3%	15,004	8.2%
2 Months	-	0.0%	0	0.0%
3 Months +	99,534	57.1%	99,534	54.5%
Total	\$174,301	100.0%	\$182,593	100.0%

5.2 Creditors

Below is an analysis of aged creditors. The Museum generally pays all creditors on the 20th of each month.

	28 February 2026		31 December 2025	
	\$	%	\$	%
Current	211,752	97.5%	195,849	99.9%
1 Month	5,225	2.4%	-	0.0%
2 Months	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
3 Months +	136	0.1%	136	0.1%
Total	\$217,113	100.0%	\$195,985	100.0%

5.3 Equity Analysis

The museum has a number of investments in both New Zealand and overseas equities. Although the investment portfolio has continued to be impacted by the volatility of the global environment, rolling 12-month returns have returned to positive figures.

5.4 Loan

The STAPP loan of \$1,065,000 was received during May 2021 and is repayable within five years. There are no repayments required for the first 24 months which were interest free, after which interest has been charged at 3%. As at 28 February 2026 the balance (including capitalised interest) was \$1,155,248.

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OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by: Ian Griffin, Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The written Director's report provides a record of activities undertaken by the Museum teams within the reporting period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

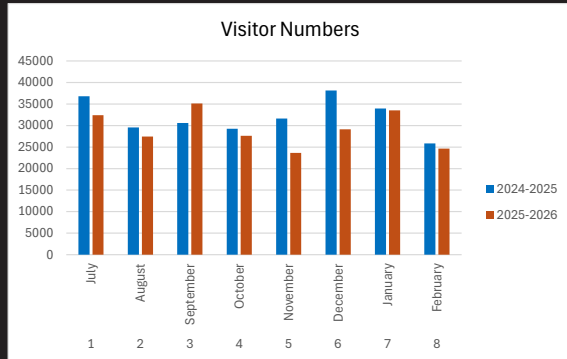
That the meeting:

Notes the Director's report

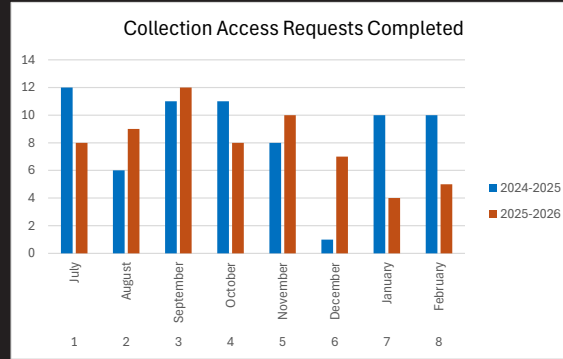
Annual Plan Goals



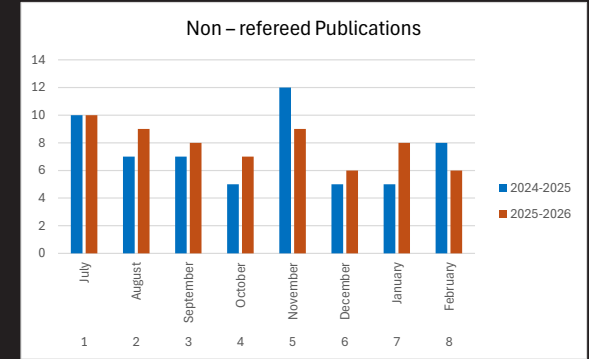
Visitor Numbers
Target: 300,000
YTD Total: 233,588
Prior Year YTD: 255,785



Collection Access Requests Completed
Target: 75
YTD Total: 63
Prior Year YTD: 69



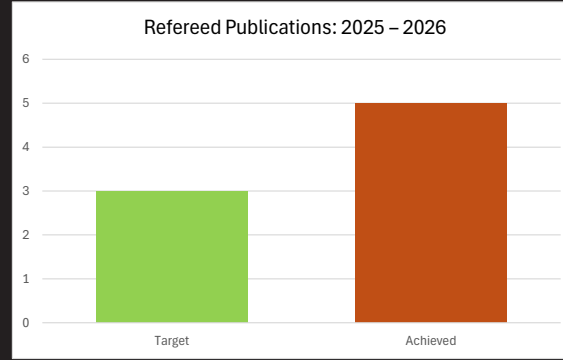
Non – refereed Publications
Target: 150
YTD Total: 63
Prior Year YTD: 59



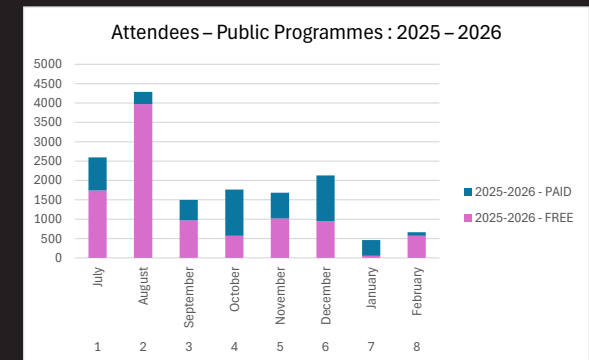
Newly Displayed Collection Items
Target: 250
YTD Total: 165



Refereed Publications
Target: 3
YTD Total: 5



Attendees – Public Programmes
Target: 30,000
YTD Total: 15,075
Prior Year YTD: 16,206



Annual Plan Goals



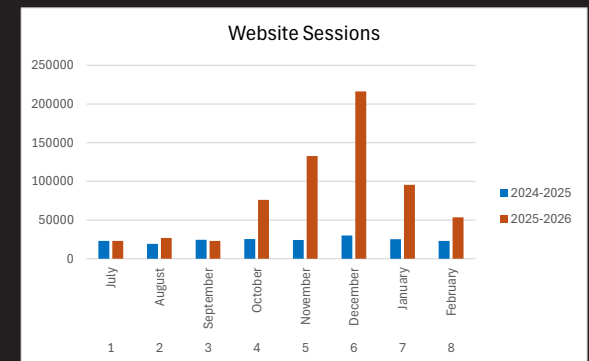
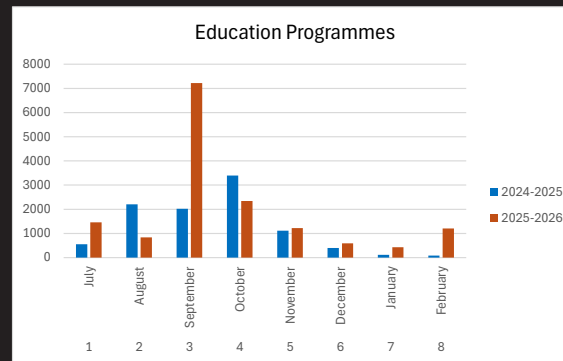
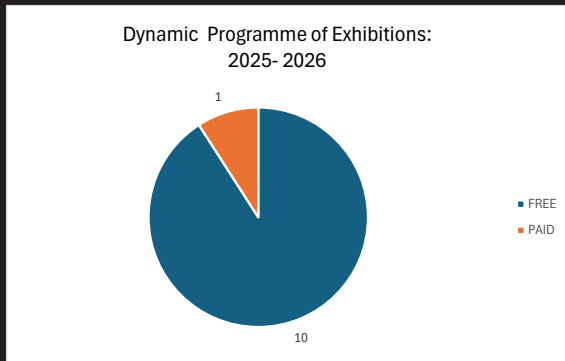
Dynamic Programme of Exhibitions
 Target: 10
 YTD Total: 11
 Prior Year YTD: 14



Education Programmes
 Target: 5,000
 YTD Total: 15,307
 Prior Year YTD: 9,883



Website Sessions
 Target: 305,000
 YTD Total: 646,887
 Prior Year YTD: 194,256



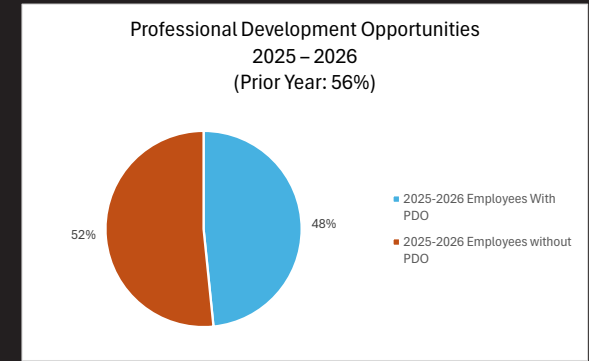
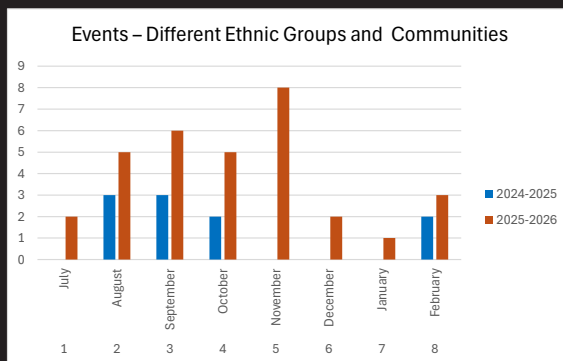
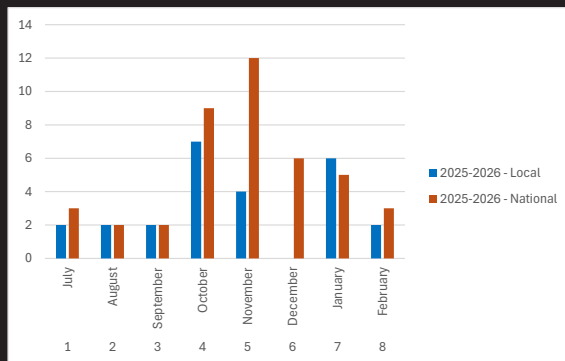
Media Stories
 Target: Local – 40 National – 10
 YTD Total: Local – 25 National – 42



Events – Different Ethnic Groups and Communities
 Target: 20
 YTD Total: 32
 Prior Year YTD: 10



Staff Professional Development Opportunities
 Target: 50%
 YTD Total: 48%



Annual Plan Goals



Volunteer Hours

Target: 2,000
YTD Total: 1,003



Non- Levy Income

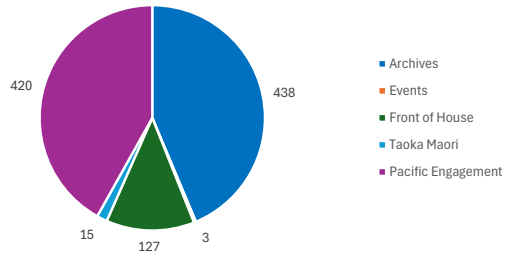
Target: 40%
YTD Total: 39%
Prior Year YTD: 47%



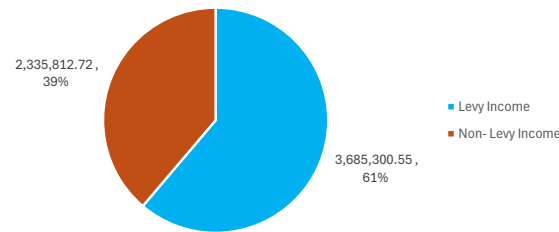
Professional Services Provided

Target: 5
YTD Total: 6

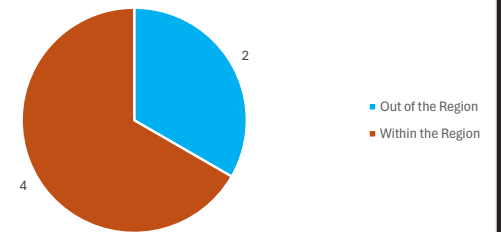
Volunteer Hours : 2025 – 2026
(Prior Year: 2,305)



Proportion of Non – levy Income : 2025 – 2026
(Prior Year: 46%)



Professional Services Provided : 2025 – 2026
(Prior Year: 7)



OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD MEETING

Director's Report

For the period 1 February 2026 to 31 March 2026

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's been one of those quietly industrious stretches at the museum, the kind where most of the real work hums along out of sight, while the rest carries on above for all to see.

The Tangata Whenua and Tangata Moana redevelopments are moving along, though not in the straight line you might expect from blueprints and project plans. Here, progress is as much about building trust and friendships as it is about ticking off milestones. It's heartening to see both projects gathering momentum, buoyed by the goodwill of the community and, for Kā waka o kā tai toka, a timely bit of outside support.

Our collections and research are still the backbone of the place. The digitisation work keeps rolling on, quietly impressive, and it's matched by the steady hum of scholarship and the way artists, researchers, and schoolkids keep finding new meaning in old things. Most of this happens out of the spotlight, but it's what gives the museum its weight and purpose.

If there's been a highlight, it's the way people have come through the doors. Outreach has been lively and well-met, and Children's Day proved we can still pack the place when we set our sights on it. The events calendar is heading the right way, and the Hutton Theatre, now spruced up, is already starting to pay its way.

The Photography Competition is worth a special nod. With over 9,000 entries, it's become something of a national happening, thanks in part to a smart partnership with the Department of Conservation. It's not every day you see nearly 10,000 people connecting with the museum at once, even if most are doing it from their own patch of the world.

Of course, museums have their quirks. The planetarium is showing its years in ways that aren't always charming, and the sheer size of what we're trying to pull off—exhibitions, building projects, the daily business—means there are a few tight spots here and there.

Still, the overall picture is a good one. The museum feels lively and sure of itself, looking outward while quietly tending to the steady work that keeps everything else afloat.

Media interest in space has had a modest resurgence following the launch of the Artemis lunar mission, and I have found myself doing a number of interviews across radio and television as a result. It would appear that, in the absence of a readily available spaceflight expert, the media have been prepared to rely on my rather distant past association with NASA—now some two decades ago—which I suspect says as much about newsroom deadlines as it does about my current relevance. That said, it has provided a useful opportunity to position the Museum in the national conversation and to connect contemporary space exploration with our public programmes.

Ian Griffin
Director

My media work for the Museum:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2019029465/astronomer-dr-ian-griffin-discusses-artemis-launch>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2019029892/astronomer-drian-griffin-discusses-artemis-ii-mission>

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/breakfast/episodes/s2026-e50>

<https://www.odt.co.nz/tag/skywatch>

KAUPAPA MAORI

Timelines and key steps for the redevelopment of the Tangata Whenua Gallery have been determined with a gallery closure projected at mid-2027 and a reopening in late 2028. A key focus has remained arranging Taoka Māori staffing to facilitate this, the Māori rock art exhibition and maintain current community service demands through backfilling Gerard O'Regan's curatorial role over the four-year RSNZ Mana Tūānuku Research Leader fellowship. The \$295,000 application to the Coastal Peoples Southern Skies CORE for Kā waka o kā tai toka, Canoes of the southern tides was successful. This will see waka in southern museums 3D modelled and digitally reconstructed to inform southern waka revitalisation. It will also include archaeological excavation of waka remains on the western coast of Rakiura. Planning for Matariki Ahuka Nui 2026 is underway, and support has also been provided in initial liaison with the Department of Conservation towards re-homing mokomoko (jewelled geckos and Otago skinks) at Tūhura.

TANGATA MOANA

The Pacific Gallery, Tangata Moana, redevelopment remains the focus, and tikaka for the mid-year opening is now coordinated. The Green Foundation have confirmed generous support of \$80,000 over two years towards research that supports the development of Tūhura's Pasifika relationships and engagement strategy. The research framework is being put in place to ensure processes around the opening of Tāngata Moana are captured. Tūhura also maintained a presence at the Moana Nui Festival with a fanau orientated stall of activities developed for the Gallery Gang exhibition alongside a University Zoology team researching Pasifika invertebrate names.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

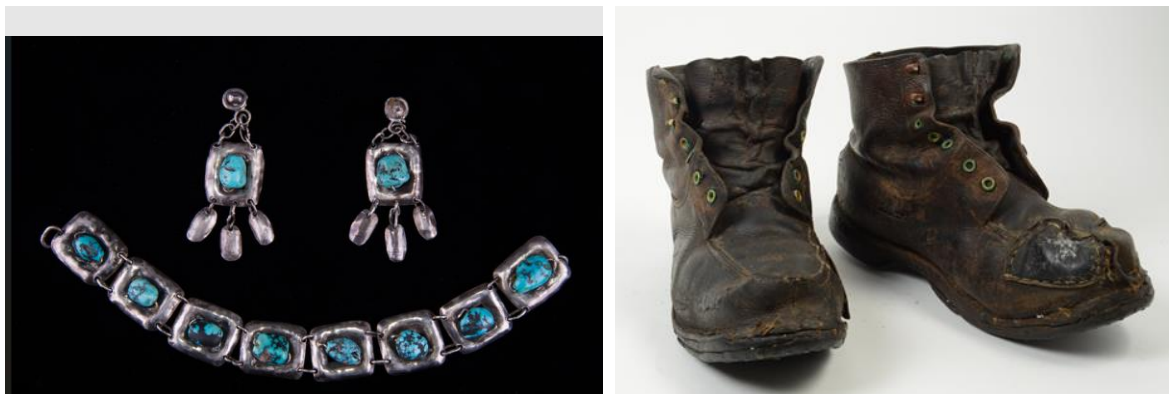
Access requests completed

	Image/data	Item/physical
Taoka Māori		1
Humanities	1	3
Natural Science		1
Other		

Details:

- Images of a small group of SY *Aurora*-related objects were sent to Port Chalmers Maritime Museum to use on a display panel
- Rick Morris visited to look at jewellery made by his grandmother, Edith Morris
- Artist, Ngaroma Riley, and her aunt, Elizabeth Riley, both descendants of Dr F.R. Riley, visited on 23 Feb to look at the Riley Collection, which comprised taoka Māori, Humanities and Natural Science items

- Jane McEntyre and her class from Tokomairiro High School visited on 16th March to look at the Tallaburn Waka Huia and other Waka Huia from the collection as part of their NZQA studies.
- Fashion designer, and weaver, Amber Bridgman, (Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe, Waitaha, Rabuvai and Aboriginal descent), the wahine behind KAHUWAI, a Māori-owned and operated clothing and traditional Māori arts label, visited on Friday 27 March to research a group of 1960s-1970s garments featuring Māori-inspired motifs, and 19th century garments with full skirts.



Left: Silver and turquoise earrings and bracelet made by Edith Morris. F54.154-55. Gift of Charles Brasch; Tūhura Otago Museum Collection

Right: Pair of leather boots with EW pierced on tongues, brought to Dunedin on the *Aurora* and said by Lieutenant Stenhouse to have been made at Cape Evans by one of Robert Falcon Scott's Terra Nova party. D16.48. Gift of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition; Tūhura Otago Museum Collection. Photograph by Kane Fleury

Loans

Outward loans sent:

- OL2026-4 Loan of 2 Otago skink specimens to Te Papa Tongarewa for research and photography.
- OL2026-5 Loan of 3 spiders to Te Papa Tongarewa for taxonomic research.

Inward loans received:

- None

Other loan activity:

- Crab specimens on display at SLSP on loan from Otago University's Geology Museum are temporarily being returned for study. They will return to being on display at OM shortly.
- Taoka Māori loans for the new Cromwell Museum have been processed and packed ready for transfer, and the hoe (paddle) 3D modelled for the follow-up loan replacement with a replica.
- Historic taoka Māori loans with Tairāwhiti Museum (Gisborne) and Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira have been researched and in the process of extended.

Collections item records

	This period	Financial year to date
New/digitised:	556	12,056
Revised:	21,652	95,310
Imaged:	68	5,719

Details/Highlights:

- Taoka Maori collection updated to include new sub-Departments for easier searching in Vernon and online
- Many Archives records updated for making them available online
- NS record updates include making a digital Collection for Brian Patrick Collection, to make them more easily sorted online. This will be done for other collectors at a later date
- Pinned butterfly collection continues to be digitised
- Inventories are ongoing
- This period includes condition reporting and movements for Pasifika gallery work

Acquisitions and Deaccessions

	Acquisitions	Deaccessions
Humanities/Taoka Māori	4	
Natural Science	2	

Details/Highlights:

- A collapsible opera hat
- Two pairs of gloves
- A jacket made from a 19th century paisley shawl
- Swinburn Creek Moa skeleton – a well-preserved skeletal leg donated by Otago University’s Geology Museum. Collected by Marcus Richards as a student.
- Chatto Creek Moa skeleton – near-complete well-preserved skeleton including skull donated by Otago University’s Geology Museum. Collected by Marcus Richards as a student.

Enquiries

	Public Enquiries	Item Receipts
Humanities	13	2
Taoka Māori	2	
Natural Science	7	1

- Enquiries include: local furniture manufacturer; Maireener shell necklace; collection of old engineering tools and drawing aids; the garments Kate Stevens West referenced in *Taurewarewa* (2022); F54.114 - lion/dog figure; Spider identification, NZ mantis collections; collection items associated with the Seacliff Asylum; offer of Lionel Terry writings; cased watch by early 20th century Dunedin firm; Chinese(?) fabric c. 1930s; Polynesian masks; information about a lamp in the collection; historic photographs of gold dredges; advice for Museums Central Otago re digitising cassettes and eHive assistance; packing butterfly specimens; fossil identification; rock identification; snail identification; kakapo display
- Kaupapa Māori enquiries include: any files from Margery Blackman relating to early Kai Tahu weaving; Archaeological Images of Wāwāhi-Waka (Pigeon Island); a kākahu previously been received has been offered for donation and is currently evaluated.

Protected Objects Act

- Kane Fleury received a request for assessment of a fossil shark tooth of *Carcharodon hubbelli* for export to an overseas museum, to determine if it was appropriate under the act. Marcus Richards has published on this species, providing expert advice that Kane agreed with and relayed.

Publications & Social Media: On the collection

	Internal researcher	External researchers
Research publications/papers	3	1
Blogs		
Other	11	

The following is a reference list of recent publications on the collection by internal researchers:

- Harris, Anthony. Insect world also feeling effects of climate change. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 7 February 2026, p.10
- Harris, Anthony. Fossils reveal climate impact on wildlife. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 14 February 2026, p.9
- Clowes, C.D., Crampton, J.S., Bland, K.J., Raine, J.I., Boyes, A.F., Campbell, H.J., Crouch, E.M., Crundwell, M.P., Hudson, N., Kennedy, E.M., MacFarlan, D.A.B., Morgans, H.E.G., **Richards, M.D.**, and Sagar, M.W., 2026. New Zealand Geological Timescale 2025. *New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics*, 69(1), p.e70012.
- Harris, Anthony. Aussie hitcher makes itself right at home. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 21 February 2026, p.8
- Harris, Anthony. As climate warms some bugs spread. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 28 February 2026, p.8
- Harris, Anthony. Parasitic wasps make it a bad day to be a spider. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 7 March 2026, p.26
- Harris, Anthony. Legless females hard to recognise. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 14 March 2026, p.8
- Marama Muru-Lanning, Richard Benton, Michael Reilly, Gerard O'Regan, Paul Diamond. Whakamaumahara: Tribute to Dame Joan Metge. *Waka Kuaka | Journal of the Polynesian Society* Vol. 134 No. 4 (2025): 429-432
- Harris, Anthony. Small world of New Zealand's pseudoscorpion species. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 21 March 2026, p.10
- Richards, Marcus. When you have an itch to scratch. *Otago Daily Times*, Cool and Collected, Weekend Mix, 21 March 2026, p.2
- Rawlence, Nic, Fleury, Kane and Pearmain-Fenton, Manaia. Extinction too knotty for blame game. *Otago Daily Times*, Opinions, 20 March 2026, p.9
- Harris, Anthony. Chaste fish doing fine. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 28 March 2026, p.9
- O'Regan, Gerard. 'Ross Hemera', in *Te Ahikaroa Artists & Stories of Dunedin Public Art Gallery*. Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin.2026

Publications by external researchers:

- Leese, Benjamin E., Bond, Alexander L., Montaña-Centellas, Flavia A., Starking, Melissa D., and Burgio, Kevin R. Additional records of the extinct Carolina Parakeet *Conuropsis carolinensis*. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, 145(4) : 324-346.
<https://doi.org/10.25226/bboc.v145i4.2025.a1>, Published 10 Feb 2026

Collection team contributions to projects, exhibitions and programmes

Collection based projects:

- Bruce McKinlay and Kane Fleury have been dealing with freezer back log processing jobs with the movement of significant bird specimens into a processing pipeline of either study skins or skeletal processing.

In house exhibitions, programmes and gallery projects:

- Gallery Gang collection items were de-installed at the end of the exhibition
- We hosted visits from representatives of Niue, Tahiti (Society Islands) and the Cook Islands communities to review draft case layouts and labelling for Tangata Moana
- Sunday 1 March was the last day *Absolutely Agnes* was on display in People of the World. The collection items were deinstalled on Monday 2 March
- Object selection and label writing was undertaken for the Robert Falcon Scott-related collection items that will be on display during the time the Antarctic Heritage Trust's Scott Discovery Hutt virtual reality experience is here
- Work on the Boro exhibition of Japanese textiles that will go on display in PotW in May continues
- Much work has gone into assisting the Association of Friends of the Otago Museum in their centenary celebrations. This includes photography, provision of information, fact checking and label-checking
- Labels are written for the Takapō meteorite which will go on display
- A timetable for the closing, infrastructure works and redevelopment of the Tangata Whenua Gallery has been confirmed.

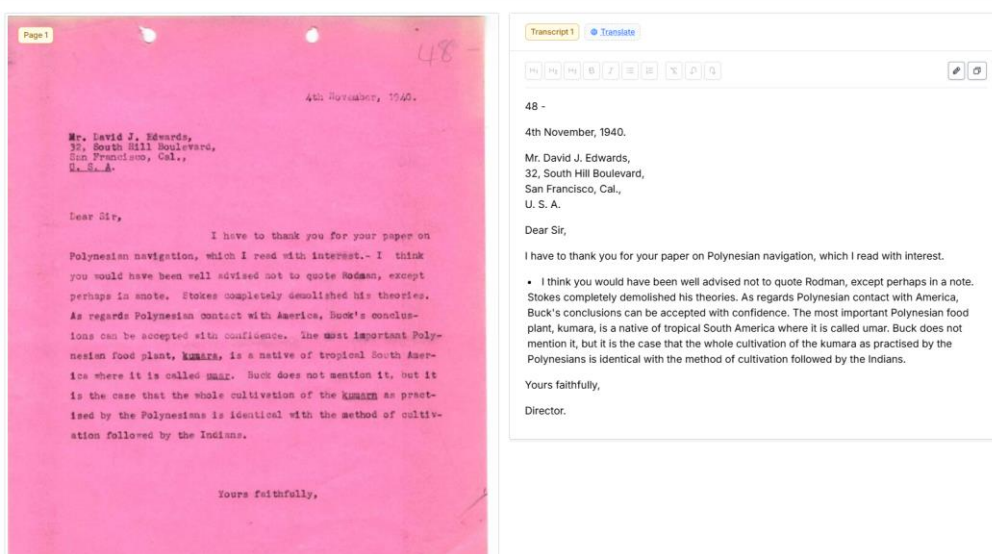
External projects (e.g.: Industry networks, partnerships, community work and events)

- The University of Otago archaeological field school excavation at Tūtakahikura, based at Moeraki marae and incorporating a 5 day 'kaitiaki workshop' for rūnaka workers from across Te Waipounamu, was supported by Gerard O'Regan, Rachel Wesley and Tāne Tāmāti.
- A 3-day wānaka of the Southern Archaeology Group was hosted in partnership with the University of Otago Archaeology Programme, with funding support from Coastal People Southern Skies CORE. Wānaka facilitators were Gerard O'Regan, Rachel Wesley and Assoc. Prof. Tim Thomas. This reviewed the current status of archaeology south of the Waitaki and identified priorities for theoretical and research development.
- A 2-day hui on kaupapa Māori exhibitions across Kāi Tahu's takiwā was hosted and very well received with both in-person and on-line participation from across Te Waipounamu. Gerard O'Regan was the hui convenor which focused on sharing understanding of current kaupapa so that the different museums and rūnaka can understand the island wide context in which their respective developments sit, including Tūhura's Tangata Whenua redevelopment.
- Tūhura made a submission on the Arms Bill currently before Parliament, supporting the Museums Aotearoa paper
- Bug Day on 14 February was organized by museum events and front of house teams to champion the Black Tunnelweb Spider for the Bug of the Year 2026 competition. There were also bristlebot workshops and information/activity stalls run by University of Otago volunteers
- Attended the Centre for the Book's World Book Day lecture (MW)
- Attended the mass commemorating the 110th anniversary of the death of Rev. Arnold Spencer-Smith in Antarctica and the 8th annual Spencer-Smith lecture (MW)
- Attended the Welcome to the Arts Fellows (MW)
- Archivist Gareth West was a guest on the Friends of the Museum Podcast- Friends Forever.
- Marcus Richards and Kane Fleury have been helping the Vanished World Centre in Duntroon, part of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark, with their revamp of their display spaces.
- Kane Fleury wrote and produced signage for the Kyeburn moa footprint site that is now at the junction of Kyeburn –Ranfurly Rd (state highway 85) and Waipiata-Kyeburn Road

- Kane Fleury, On Lee Lau and Marcus Richards attended the opening of the Kyeburn Moa Footprints display panel on Sunday 29th March in the Maniototo. This sign was a project between Kane and the Kyeburn community.
- Kane Fleury worked with Alan Tennyson from Te Papa and Nic Rawlence from University of Otago on a fossil dig at St Bathans on the Manuherikia Fauna.
- An rūnaka and forestry site visit to newly found rock art in the Herbert Forest, North Otago, was supported (GO'R).
- A meeting of the NZ Archaeology Association's Sustainable Storage forum to evaluate sector survey results was contributed to (GO'R)
- A University Archaeology Programme seminar by Dr Reno Nimms, Portland State University's Repatriation Coordinator, entitled *Strategies for the Repatriation of Ancestors and Legacy Archaeology Holdings*, was hosted (made open to the public in the Barclay Theatre).
- A meeting with *Te Karaka* magazine editor, Adrienne Anderson, has confirmed a proposal for series of taoka related articles in this tribal publication.

Archives

- Work concluded on preparing the digitised H.D Skinner correspondence records for upload onto Vernon and onto the new website. Over 12,000 records were checked and converted into a format suitable for display online.
- Trials are underway to use Optical Character Recognition software to speed up the cataloguing of scanned correspondence records.



Honorary curators, volunteer and internship activity

- After spending the summer overseas, Professor Emeritus Glenn Summerhayes returned to Dunedin in late February
- Dr Jane Malthus continues to be involved with iD2027 plans and work with the Eden Hore Collection.

Public talks

Title	Date	External Audience	Delivered by
Not always white: coloured wedding dresses as fashion and anti-fashion	1 February 2026	Ashburton Museum & Art Gallery	Jane Malthus
1925 Exhibition Centenary - The Women's Section, 1925-1926	2 February 2026	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum	Moira White
Rock Art in the Waitaki	6 February 2026	Waitaki District	Gerard O'Regan
The worlds' rarest whale	13 February 2026	University Club Dunedin	Kane Fleury
"What's that Spider"	14 February 2026	Tūhura Otago Museum	Cody Phillips
"Her Majesty was most anxious to send something for the exhibition"	16 February 2026	Tūhura Otago Museum	Moira White
"The Animals Came in One by One" How specimens were acquired through curators' friendships and contacts	17 February 2026	OM Friends in Focus	Rosi Crane
Augusta Emerita: The Evolution of a Roman Colony and Provincial Capital	24 February 2026	U3A - Steeped in Time: Archaeology in the World	Dan Osland
1925 Exhibition Centenary - Seen at the Exhibition	2 March 2026	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum	Jane Malthus
Early Colonisers for Northern Sahul	3 March 2026	U3A - Steeped in Time: Archaeology in the World	Glenn Summerhayes
Holocene Transformation and Expansions out of Near Oceania	10 March 2026	U3A - Steeped in Time: Archaeology in the World	Glenn Summerhayes
Dolichopodidae: A review of long-legged flies in NZ	25 March 2026	Otago Entomological Society	Steve Kerr
Treasuring Māori Rock Art in the Waitaki	27 March 2026	University Club Dunedin	Gerard O'Regan
Eden in Dunedin	31 March 2026	Home Science class reunion	Jane Malthus

Conservation

Remedial

- Undertook some minor treatments on taoka to be displayed in Tangata Moana

Projects

- Completed condition reporting for all the taoka going on display in Tangata Moana
- Topped up ethanol in the Wet Store containers
- Helped with Gallery Gang de-install
- Helped with *Absolutely Agnes* deinstall
- Helped with installation of collection items in the Tūhura Photography Exhibition

- Helped with re-installation of items from *Absolutely Agnes* that are on long-term display in People of the World
- Condition reported and boxed taoka Māori that will be going on loan to the Cromwell Museum
- Condition reporting for Natural Science outward loans to Te Papa
- Monthly Waiau taoka water change

Preventative conservation

- Swapped out pest traps in Humanities storage areas

Training

- Trained Events team members in IPM practices

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND FRONT OF HOUSE

Holiday Club Program

The Explorer's Club Holiday Programme will run during the Easter school holidays.

Sleepover Programs

Term 1: 16 Sleepovers from 11 schools

Term 2: 10 Sleepovers from 4 schools

Term 3: 8 Sleepovers from 4 schools

Term 4: 14 Sleepovers from 7 schools

We have rotated from Sal's Pizza for our sleepover catering to the local Biggies Pizza. The reception has been extremely positive from students, adults and staff alike.

Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC)

The Education team has now received and signed the new one-year contract from the Ministry of Education under the Local Histories Education grant. This contract will run through to the end of the year, at which point the programme will be put out to tender under the Ministry's new contracting round.

Student visits by District

February Total: 525	4 weeks	March Total: 1025	4 weeks
DCC	296	DCC	743
Waitaki	19	Central	69
Southland	20	Waitaki	36

Canterbury	68	Canterbury	77
Queenstown	97	Clutha	53
Gore	25	Gore	25
		Rest of NZ	22

A table recording student number participation follows.

Please note, these numbers include multiple programmes by the same class on the same visit, excluded from the Ministry's criteria for student counting, to be reported in Milestone Reports. This table does not include numbers from non-applicable institutions or adults. Planetarium numbers for Education programmes are replicated in the Planetarium report.

Feb 26 & Mar 26	Y 0-3	Y 4-6	Y 7-8	Y 9-10	Y 11+	TOTAL
Total	128	647	76	474	225	1550
Target	1350	1650	1500	1050	450	6000
% of Target	9.5%	39.2%	5.1%	45.1%	50%	25.8%
Adult Total	290					

Outreach

February:

Date	Location	Event	Engagement Numbers
Saturday, 7 February 2026	Dunedin	George Street Market Pop Up	200
Sunday, 15 February 2026	Dunedin	Wal's Party in the Park Pop Up	400

Total: 600

March:

Date	Location	Event	Engagement Numbers
Sunday 1 March 2026	Dunedin	Children's Day	130

Sunday 8 March 2026	Dunedin	Children's Day (Stadium)	100
Thursday 12 March 2026	Dunedin	Food Truck festival	300
Saturday 14 March 2026	Dunedin	South Dunedin Street Festival	600
Saturday 21 March 2026	Dunedin	OUSA Whanau Day	80
Saturday 28 March 2026	Dunedin	Moana Nui	800
Sunday 29 March 2026	Dunedin	MS Otago Fundraising Day	Cancelled - Weather

Total: 2010

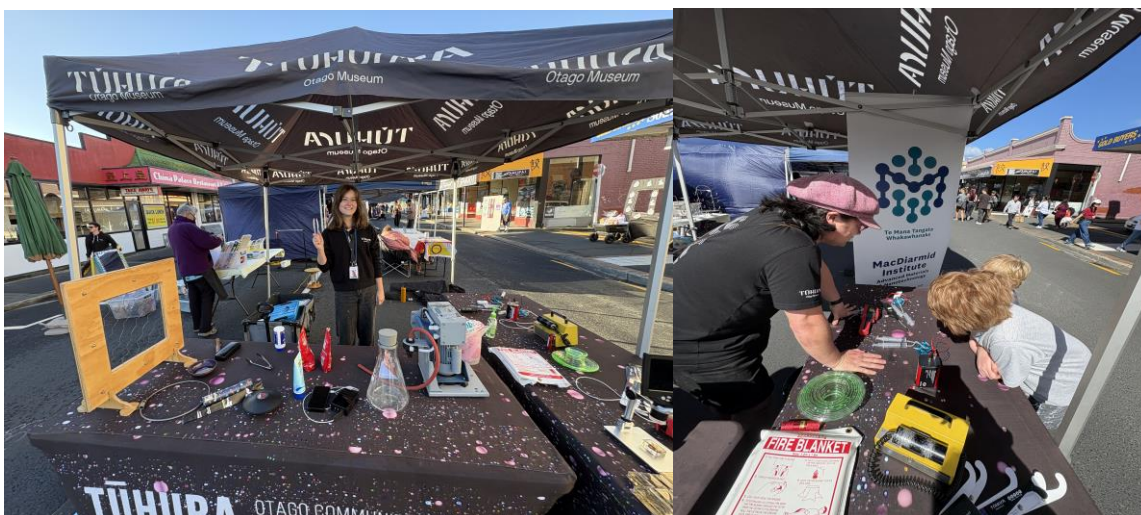
The Outreach team attended two events during February. We took our pop-up activations to the popular George Street Market on 7 February and Wal's Party in the Park in Mosgiel on 15 February.

On 1 March, for Children's Day at the museum, Steve performed two well-attended science shows, both of which were a great success. The sessions were engaging and energetic, with strong audience participation and very positive feedback from families.



Steve performing for Children's Day on Atrium 1

Our Outreach team has been actively engaging with the community through a range of external events, including Children's Day at the Stadium, the Food Truck Festival at St Clair, the South Dunedin Street Festival, OUSA Whānau Day, and Moana Nui. These events provide valuable opportunities to connect with diverse audiences and share our programmes beyond the museum walls. Notably, the South Dunedin Street Festival saw a strong attendance of around 600 people, with great engagement at our activities.



Steve and Lizelle at our Pop-Up at the South Dunedin Street Festival

Living Environments

In mid-February, we hosted a site visit from an officer representing the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA) as part of the final stage of our accreditation process. The visit was highly successful, with the officer noting the organisation and cleanliness of our facility, allowing the assessment to be completed several hours ahead of schedule.

She also commended the diverse and engaging habitats provided for our animals across all species, as well as the depth of knowledge demonstrated by our staff.

We anticipate receiving confirmation of our accreditation in the coming months, once the final report has been completed and submitted.

A Transitional Facility application has been submitted through MPI, with the anticipation that we will be receiving some native Jeweled Geckos in the coming months to care for indefinitely.

Science Centre

We have identified several outdated and partially non-functional Science Centre interactives that will be repurposed and provided to Te Manawa, rather than being discarded or placed into offsite storage.

A new light-based memory game has arrived and is set to be installed in the Science Centre along with a sports science-based interactive game called Multi Ball.

Public Engagement in the Tropical Forest & Tūhura Science Centre

In February and March, we printed 300 Tropical Forest trails and 200 Tūhura Science Centre trails. First Flight Butterfly Releases attracted 408 adults and 233 children during this period.

Visitor Experience

Our Front of House trails continued to be popular this period. We printed 200 Bug Day Trail booklets, 200 Moa Trail booklets, and 400 Pride Trail booklets, our brand-new trail created especially for March

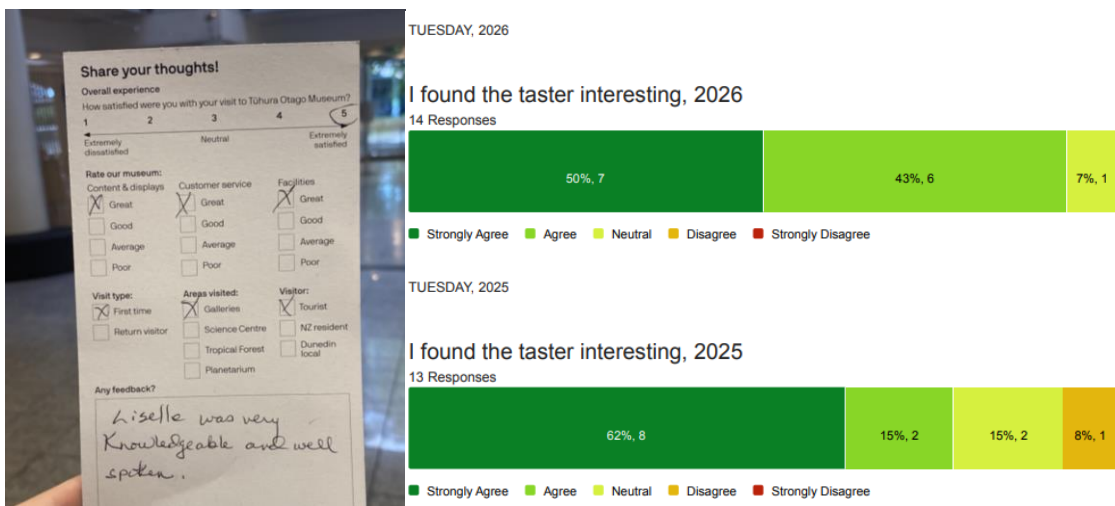
celebrating NZ Pride month. For O-Week we created a new Scarfie Safari Trail, printing 150 booklets. Two of our Front of House casuals also staffed the tent for Tent City out the front of the museum, which had a lovely long line!

Looking ahead to April, we are working on a Wild Trail to coincide with Wild Dunedin. Alongside this, we are developing some additional experiences for Wild Dunedin including a new Gardener Talk and an updated ocean-themed Science Show.

We're well into cruise ship season. Despite some cancellations due to bad weather and strong winds, we've had 51 groups through, totalling 1333 people.

Hands On Otago programmes came through the museum this period with excellent feedback from participants. Highlights included: "Attending inside the planetarium was the best experience as we got to view very fascinating things," "It was really fun exploring all the different parts of the museum and the planetarium as well," "The activities had variety and overall was fun and informing," and "It was the perfect taster for my very last taster."

The team have been receiving lovely public feedback from visitors. Some examples: "The 2pm Tour/talk was absolutely brilliant" and "Lizelle was very knowledgeable and well spoken."



EVENTS

Public Events

February and March 2026 delivered a varied and largely successful events programme, with a combined total attendance of 2,522 visitors across both months.

February recorded a total attendance of 664 across six events. Free events drove the majority of engagement, particularly Bug Day, which attracted approximately 500 attendees to Tūhura and was the standout success of the month. In partnership with the Entomology society we hosted stalls, talks and workshops throughout the day. A Pilot Drops In: The Kiwi with 19 Lives also performed well with 72 attendees and was very well received by attendees including internal staff. Paid events and workshops saw more modest numbers, with film screenings and niche workshops generally drawing

between 6 and 22 participants. The Lens in Nature workshop was the first of its kind at Tūhura - a local artist Denise Richards developed a mindful art workshop inspired by Tūhura's Nature Gallery.

March saw significantly higher overall attendance, reaching 1,858 across ten events. This growth was largely driven by Children's Day, which attracted 1,150 attendees and represents the single largest event across both months. This year Children's Day was comprised of free science shows, crafts, popcorn and a new gallery trail. Our Pyjamarama was planned in conjunction with our Ruby Jones exhibition with a "storybook" theme. As this did not fall in school holidays, we saw lower numbers than some of our other Pyjamarama events (360 attendees), however the activities in the gallery were some of the best to have been offered in the history of the event. We had very positive feedback from attendees and great participation in activities and children loved performances from a magician and Rainbow Rosalind.

We hosted a comedy show (Motion Sickness) as part of Fringe Festival in Dunedin which had 106 paid attendees, demonstrating the value of partnership events and festival participation. Paid events overall showed improved performance compared to February, though attendance remained variable, with some screenings and workshops attracting smaller audiences. We had planned a number of events as part of Pride Month in partnership with Dunedin Pride but two of these were cancelled due to low bookings.

The events team have been planning further programmes and offerings for 2026 with preparation for Aprils and plans underway for Nanofest and July school holidays and consideration of programmes for the possible September exhibition underway. Our newest team member Daniel has been planning a raft of workshops and activities for Music Month in May. We are excited to have welcomed our newest team member Hamish Marchant to the events team in March who has come from an event management and hospitality background. We welcomed 5 new casual event hosts to the event team with a team training session in early March with all event hosts. We are excited to have such a dynamic and engaged casual team working across both public and private events at Tūhura.

FEBRUARY			
Date	Title	Attendance	Entry
13-Feb	A Pilot Drops In: The Kiwi with 19 Lives	72	Free
14-Feb	Bug Day	500	Free
14-Feb	Bristlebot Workshop	47	Koha
20-Feb	A Lens in Nature (Art for Busy People)	6	Paid
14-Feb	When Harry met sally	17	Paid
20-Feb	Indiana Jones	22	Paid
Total:		664	

MARCH			
Date	Title	Attendance	Entry
01-Mar	Children's Day	1150	Free
25-Mar	Yoga with the Butterflies	36	Paid
20-Mar	Pyjamarama	360	Paid
07-Mar	Parasite	31	Paid
08-Mar	Drag Story time	65	Free
11-Mar	Call Me By your name	44	Paid
26-Mar	The Birdcage	7	Paid

27-Mar	Pulp Fiction	52	Paid
28-Mar	Soap Carving Workshop	7	Paid
18/19-Mar	Fringe Festival: Motion Sickness	106	Paid
Total:		1858	

Private Events

As anticipated, we saw a moderate number of bookings in February and March – most of which were smaller business meetings across the Hutton Theatre and Annex building. We hosted 15 events in February with 702 recorded attendees, and 11 events in March with 831 recorded attendees.

Since rolling out our increased venue pricing in January we have not yet had any negative feedback or seen any impact on bookings thus far. We have been receiving extremely positive feedback from visitors and event attendees since the completion of the Hutton revamp, including an upgrade to the speaker system based on ongoing feedback about issues with audio towards the back of the auditorium. We anticipate a larger uptake of bookings in this space and more viable revenue generation from events in the Hutton Theatre moving forward.

Highlight commercial events in February included a 200+ person workshop in the Hutton in February, Tūhura's first BA5 since 2021 in February for 120 guests from the business community and a 58 person wedding reception in our Beautiful Science Gallery. In March we saw higher average attendees to events with a special reunion event for 120 guests and a number of talks and seminars for over 100 guests. We had lovely feedback from a group hosting a service in the space on a Sunday towards the end of the month.

Planetarium

We have seen strong attendance in the Planetarium over this off-peak period, with approximately 800 tickets sold to standard shows each month. Night Sky Live continues to stand out with almost two thirds of admissions; we have been scheduling multiple screenings each day due to popularity. Without any new content available we tried to diversify our weekend schedule by adding a session of Amazing Universe and Capturing the Cosmos each weekend, with reasonably strong results given only 6 total screenings of each in the month. These shows previously screened in 2024 or earlier at Tūhura but we have seen reasonably strong attendance comparative to other licensed shows that have been showing for longer (i.e. We are Aliens).

Planetarium events continue to perform well, with strong attendance to Indiana Jones, Pulp Fiction and Parasite special screenings during this period.

We hosted a Drag Storytime event for families in the Planetarium as part of our March Pride Month programmes, with over 60 attendees to this special event.

Education programmes continued to draw a high number of attendees to shows, with 163 students and teachers in February and 728 in March attending shows in the Planetarium.

We are excited to have secured some low-cost and gate-share license options for upcoming content, with new Planetarium shows set to screen in May, July and September. We also have re-signed a contract to screen Pink Floyd which had continued to profit and draw strong numbers before the previous license expired in 2024.

The Planetarium continues to experience a range of technical difficulties due to the age of the equipment; we have been experiencing regular issues with the cove lighting and audio in recent months as well as lagging likely due to the age of the servers.

Planetarium (Public Admissions)		
Product	Quantity Recognised	Net Revenue
Amazing Universe - Adult - Amazing Universe	27	\$265.22
Amazing Universe - Child - Amazing Universe	4	\$20.87
Amazing Universe - Concession - Amazing Universe	26	\$177.39
Amazing Universe - Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) - Amazing Universe	1	\$34.78
Capturing the Cosmos - Adult - Capturing the Cosmos	31	\$278.72
Capturing the Cosmos - Child - Capturing the Cosmos	15	\$65.97
Capturing the Cosmos - Concession - Capturing the Cosmos	17	\$149.57
Capturing the Cosmos - Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) - Capturing the Cosmos	5	\$117.39
Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival - Adults - Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival	6	\$53.04
Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival - Child - Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival	4	\$20.87
Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival - Concession - Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival	1	\$10.43
Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival - Family (2 Adult & 2 Children) - Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival	16	\$121.74
Night Sky Live - Adult - Night Sky Live	735	\$6,028.04
Night Sky Live - Child - Night Sky Live	110	\$469.36
Sub Total for Planetarium (Public Admissions)		
Night Sky Live - Concession - Night Sky Live	160	\$1,156.17
Night Sky Live - Family (1 Adult & 3 Children) - Night Sky Live	28	\$156.52
Night Sky Live - Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) - Night Sky Live	224	\$1,486.96
Parasite - General Admission	31	\$404.35
T.Rex - Adult - T.Rex	90	\$853.86
T.Rex - Child - T.Rex	53	\$285.54
T.Rex - Concession - T.Rex	17	\$104.35
T.Rex - Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) - T.Rex	64	\$447.83
We Are Aliens - Adult - We Are Aliens	5	\$46.09
We Are Stars - Adult - We Are Stars	2	\$26.09
We Are Stars - Child - We Are Stars	2	\$8.70
Sub Total for Planetarium (Public Admissions)		1,674 \$12,789.84

Feedback

"Thank you indeed for the wonderful service and catering you provided for our team today. We are really very grateful for your support, and everyone raved about the excellent food, and the venue was perfect.

Thank you very much, and please can you kindly pass on our gratitude to your service team as well."

"Thank you for the opportunity to see the museum, planetarium and butterfly house. To be honest, I was unprepared for such a varied and valuable resource to your city. The imagination shown in the hands-on area to demonstrate scientific principles to kids as well as the cool room with the refraction glasses was refreshing (including the video-game nod to kids of the late 1980's at the back of the room).

The open exhibit approach in the nature and anthropological sections, compared to most natural history museums was as welcome as a modern zoo compared to the rows of cages in the zoos of my youth.

I also want to thank the attention of both the front desk as well as the young lady who brought us the refraction glasses, who took care of us during our stay.

My only regret was our inability to spend more time in the museum.”

“Thanks so much for hosting us on Thursday night, your team were so helpful and accommodating and we really appreciated all their hard work.”

“Thank you very much. One happy little boy. We really enjoyed our day yesterday 😊”



Left: Storybook Workshop
Centre: Daniel dressed up for Pyjamarama
Right: Our Moa made a comeback at the BA5 in February



Left: 2026 Events Team!
Right: Children's Day Science Show



Left: Events Team at Pyjamarama – Rachel, Jessica, Daniel and Hamish
Right: The new Hutton Theatre

EXHIBITIONS AND CREATIVE SERVICES

Exhibitions and displays currently open:

- *The Gallery Gang – Your ultimate crafty family exhibition (below)* – closed 8 February 2026. It received 12860 visitors over its 10-week activation and had an overwhelming response. We are currently developing craft packs to sell in the shop utilising any leftover materials. **The exhibition has also been shortlisted for Internation Exhibition of the Year at the Museums and Heritage Awards**, the “Oscars of the Museum world”.
- *Soft Lines – Illustrating Empathy with Ruby Jones* runs in Beautiful Science gallery until 12 April.
- *A Peep Show of Birds* – runs until 2 May 2027.
- *Absolutely Agnes – A Hallenstein Family Legacy* closed 1 March.
- *Heavenly Pop Hits: The Legacy of Martin Phillipps* ongoing display in People of the World Gallery

In Development:

- Pacific Cultures Gallery refresh is nearing completion. Mount making is underway, digital hardware has been ordered and onsite. Object layouts are being finalised with communities. Opening 6 June.
- 27th Tūhura Photography Competition and Exhibition – Competition had an overwhelming number of entries. Exhibition 2 April – 19 July 2026
- *Hīkoi o te taoka – Hoiho* - In partnership with the Otago Peninsula Restoration Alliance, life-sized fiberglass penguins will be painted by national artists and toured nationwide to raise awareness and funds for the endangered Hoiho, with their final display highlighting both the artists’ work and the conservation message at the museum. 16 April 2026 – 10 May 2026.
- *Boro: Timeworn Textiles of Japan*. Drawn on from the substantial collection of New Zealand artist Pip Steel. The exhibition has recently been shown at Pātaka Art + Museum in Porirua, Aratoi, Masterton and the Whanganui Regional Museum. Opening 22 May 2026 in People of the World Gallery.
- *Friends Forever: 100 years of generosity, connection, and shared curiosity* display on Atrium Level 2 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Friends of the Museum – July 2026
- *Dinosaurs – Surviving Extinction*, opening 5 September 2026 until 17 January 2027 in Special Exhibition Gallery. This show will be ticketed.

- *Handkerchiefs (title tbc)* showcase People of the World Gallery opening November 2026
- Taku Rau Tikumu opens in Beautiful Science Gallery, December 2026.
- *Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au - 40 Years of Creativity & Wellbeing at Artsenta* in Beautiful Science Gallery September 2026. This exhibition celebrates 40 years of Artsenta by exploring how creativity fosters connection, identity, and wellbeing. It positions Artsenta as a living, flowing entity—like a river—shaped by people, place, and time.
- *EXTENSION* – a collaboration with iD Fashion Dunedin. Emerging and established designers are being invited to select an item from the museum’s textile collection that inspires them and create a response to it. Final curatorial selections have been presented to designers. The curatorial team will then make a final selection on participants. Artist agreements are being prepared. Opening in the Special Exhibitions Gallery 12 March 2027. This will feature designers from around the globe, and some significant well-known names. The exhibition has the potential to tour nationally and internationally.
 - *Tohu Whēnua, Tohu Ora*, the Rock Art collaboration with Canterbury Museum ongoing.
 - Project planning underway for Tangata Whenua redevelopment.
 - Beautiful Science gallery will be closed for three weeks from 16 May to undergo maintenance and repainting

Design:

- Museum Shop refresh work is ongoing, extending the range of Museum related products.
- Design services for upcoming programmes and events, including collateral, marketing and supporting materials, including O-Week, gallery trails
- Assisting with design work to support the BA5 event
- Ongoing collateral for Marketing, flyers, adverts, signage etc
- Charge out projects completed for Otago Regional Council and Australasian Registrars Committee
- Finalising the display of the meteorite in Southern Land, Southern People, being installed in April
- Annah has been working with the DCC on a museum-themed design for the barrier along the Albany St Cycleway project.
- Installed new signage and vinyl in the Hutton Theatre
- Facilitated short term licence agreements with Museums Victoria and Auckland for screenings of XYZZY in their Planetariums.
- Working with Otago Polytechnic Communication third-year Design students as part of their course, to develop ideas for museum paper-based shop merchandise, and activations for the Dinosaur exhibition. Initial ideas were pitched, with feedback given, and then refined ideas to be presented in April for further development.

MARKETING

Overview

February and March were a highly productive and strategically important period for the Marketing team. Activity across fundraising, media, partnerships, exhibitions, and digital channels delivered strong results while also enhancing the museum’s national profile and long-term positioning. The

period reflects a balanced approach between immediate outcomes and broader brand and advocacy objectives.

Fundraising and Advocacy

A central focus was the campaign supporting Board Chair David Hutchinson's Givealittle fundraiser for the museum's sprinkler system. Marketing led the campaign strategy, execution, and media engagement, contributing to \$28,814 raised publicly.

The campaign's impact extended beyond direct fundraising. It generated significant national media coverage and public engagement, effectively highlighting the museum's lack of national funding and building wider awareness of this issue. This visibility led to two additional private donations of \$5,000 and \$10,000, with both donors now engaged through the museum's philanthropy programme.

Sponsorship and Partnerships

During this period, Marketing secured \$19,000 in sponsorship for the 2026 Photography Exhibition, with contributions from The Opera and the Royal Albatross Colony. These partnerships supported both exhibition development and prize offerings.

A notable achievement was the establishment of a new partnership with the Department of Conservation through the introduction of the Wild Aotearoa category. This collaboration significantly expanded the reach of the competition, with DOC promoting the initiative across its national platforms. Given DOC's highly selective partnership approach, this represents a meaningful step in positioning the museum as a credible national partner. Early engagement indicates strong potential for future collaboration.

Photography Competition and Exhibition

The Photography Competition and Exhibition was a major highlight and demonstrates the impact of a coordinated marketing approach. The campaign delivered record participation, with 9,372 image submissions, nearly double previous entry levels.

The newly introduced Wild Aotearoa category attracted 5,717 entries, reinforcing the success of the DOC partnership and the campaign's national reach. The scale and growth of the competition now position it as a significant photography event within New Zealand, contributing to both audience and brand visibility.

Exhibitions and Programme Support

Marketing continued to play a key role in supporting exhibitions and outreach. The Ruby Jones Exhibition achieved strong national media coverage and audience interest, while the Gallery Gang Exhibition was successfully delivered through its final phase with strong promotional support.

In addition, Marketing supported key activations such as OUSA Tent City and ongoing events programming, ensuring consistent audience engagement across a diverse range of offerings.

Awards and Recognition

The museum received significant recognition during this period. Tūhura Otago Museum was awarded New Zealand Museum of the Year in a national business awards programme. In addition, the internally developed Gallery Gang Exhibition was named a finalist in an international exhibition award in London.

These achievements reflect the strength of the museum’s design and marketing teams, and how well they work together to benefit community and audience, while also contributing to the museum’s national and international reputation.

Media and Communications

Media coverage across February and March was strong and consistent, spanning local, regional, and national outlets. Coverage focused on key narratives including the sprinkler fundraising campaign, museum funding advocacy, major exhibitions, and the Photography Competition.

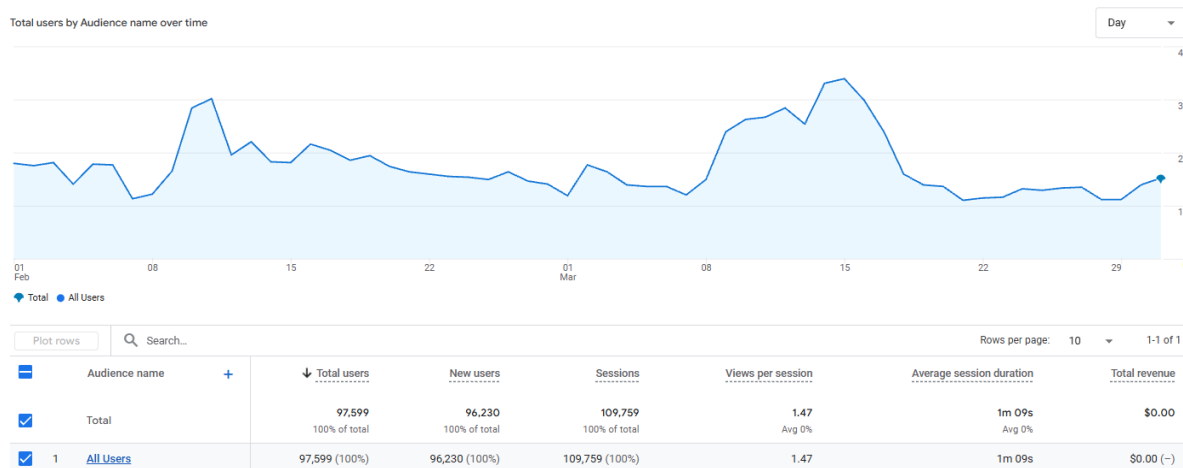
High-profile exposure, including national television and major print publications, has reinforced the museum’s visibility and supported audience growth, while also strengthening its position within broader cultural and public discourse.

02/02/26	National	RNZ	Ruby Jones Exhibition	https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/culture-101/audio/2019021264/acclaimed-kiwi-illustrator-ruby-jones-launches-first-solo-exhibition
03/02/26	National	NZ Herald	Ruby Jones Exhibition	https://www.nzherald.co.nz/viva/culture/ruby-jones-first-major-exhibition-traces-her-journey-from-childhood-sketches-to-time-cover/premium/67JERI4I25ADBOH335LHR2H2IE/
04/02/26	Regional	ODT	David Swim	https://www.odt.co.nz/opinion/chairman-shouldn%E2%80%99t-be-swimming-sprinklers
05/02/26	Local	The Star	Events	https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/open-rehearsal-attract-new-members
10/02/26	Regional	ODT	Museum	https://www.odt.co.nz/opinion/councils%E2%80%99-services-are-there-enrich-all-our-lives
11/02/26	Regional	ODT	Photography Competition	https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/photo-competition-entries-nearly-double
11/02/26	National	The Post	Ruby Jones Exhibition	https://www.thepost.co.nz/culture/360942654/article-episode-12-ruby-jones
16/02/26	National	Science Media Centre	Bug of the Year	https://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/2026/02/16/which-aotearoa-bug-is-best-in-the-news/
19/02/26	Local	Star	Childrens Day event	https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/children%E2%80%99s-day-returns-t%C5%ABhura-family-fun-filled-festivities
19/02/26	Local	Star	Ride	https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/pride-month-schedule-offers-diverse-mix
20/02/26	National	Daily Encourage	David Swim	https://dailyencourager.co.nz/swimming-bravely-against-the-tide/
21/02/26	Regional	ODT	Award	https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/t%C5%ABhura-wins-%E2%80%98museum-year%E2%80%99-award
02/03/06	National	Seven Sharp	David Swim	https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp/episodes/s2026-e25
03/03/26	National	Your Ex Magazine	Wild Dunedin	https://gayexpress.co.nz/2026/03/2-x-double-passes-to-wild-dunedin-wild-night-masquerade/
03/03/26	International	International Fire Suppression Alliance	David Swim	https://www.ifsaglobal.org/swimming-for-fire-suppression-how-a-new-zealand-professor-is-raising-funds-for-fire-sprinklers-at-tuhura-otago-museum/

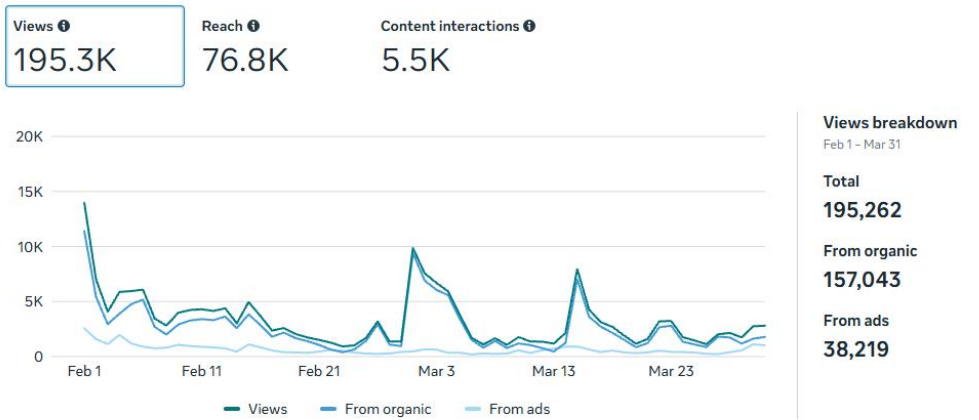
10/03/26	National	The Conservation	Moa Article	https://theconversation.com/to-help-save-nzs-native-species-we-must-move-past-the-extinction-blame-game-276954
13/03/26	International	Bath Newseum	Exhibition Award	https://bathnewseum.com/2026/03/12/baths-in-running-for-award/
15/03/26	Local	Star	Moana Nui Festival	https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/pasifika-artefacts-made-interactive
18/03/26	Regional	ODT	Event (Fringe Festival)	https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/sensory-stimulation-and-wry-commentary
20/03/26	Regional	ODT	David Swim	https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/museum-chairman%E2%80%99s-fundraising-efforts-new-sprinklers-continue
22/03/26	Local	Star	Outreach	https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/ms-fundraiser-moving-event
22/03/26	Regional	ODT (The Mix)	Cool and Collected	https://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/when-you-have-itch-scratch
26/03/26	Local	Star	Friends of the Museum	https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/friends-still-supporting-100-years
29/03/26	Regional	ODT	Penguin statues	Penguin statues draw attention to hoiho plight Otago Daily Times Online News
29/03/26	Local	OAR	Friends of the Museum	https://tinyurl.com/OMS30MarchFF

Digital Performance

Digital performance remained strong throughout the period. Website traffic was driven by a combination of events, exhibition openings, and Photography Competition activity.



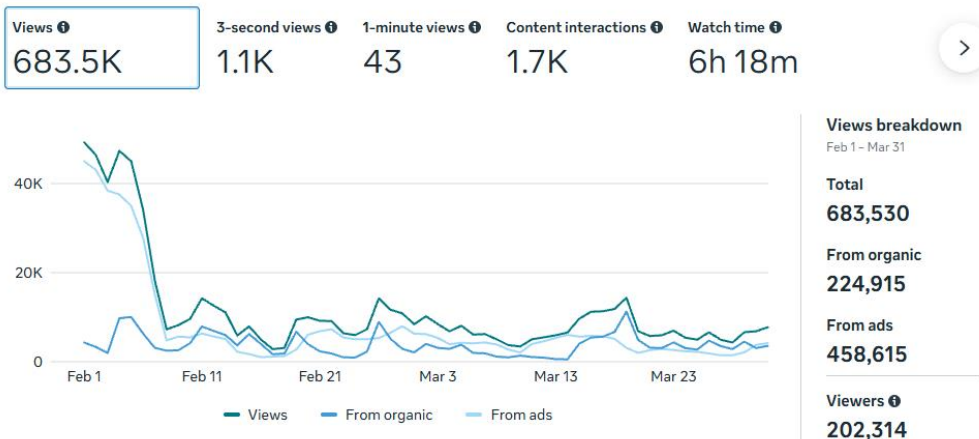
Social media channels showed high levels of engagement, particularly in relation to the David Hutchinson campaign, the Ruby Jones Exhibition, Gallery Gang, and the Photography Competition. This reflects continued growth in audience connection and the effectiveness of content across key platforms.



Top content by views

Boost content See all content

<p>After Dark is back and we are going full neo... Thu Feb 19, 2:45pm 18.6K views 73 likes 2 shares 48 comments</p>	<p>Wild Dunedin NZ Festival of Nature... Wed Mar 4, 5:08pm 12.3K views 142 likes 1 share 43 comments</p>	<p>Dunedin has a quiet way of producing... Mon Mar 16, 9:01am 10K views 271 likes 10 shares 3 comments</p>	<p>Happy Articulate week to all those who... Tue Feb 10, 2:19pm 7.3K views 155 likes 8 shares 4 comments</p>	<p>Ruby Jones' first major exhibition, Illustratin... Thu Feb 26, 2:18pm 5.9K views 60 likes 2 shares 3 comments</p>
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Top content by views

Boost content See all content

<p>After an incredible eight hours in the... Fri Feb 6, 5:47pm 34.2K views 338 likes 6 shares 6 comments</p>	<p>Public Talk The Extraordinary Story ... Tue Feb 10, 2:49pm 10.1K views 31 likes 8 shares 3 comments</p>	<p>The best kids' event in town is on tomorrow... Thu Mar 19, 3:57pm 8.7K views 34 likes 0 shares 19 comments</p>	<p>We were saddened to hear of Neville Peat's... Thu Mar 5, 7:36pm 9.0K views 153 likes 0 shares 1 comment</p>	<p>A huge shout-out to the brilliant designer... Thu Feb 5, 12:09pm 8.8K views 141 likes 8 shares 14 comments</p>
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Internal Projects

Progress has continued on key strategic initiatives. The Tangata Moana gallery content is now in its final stages, with significant input from the Marketing team. The museum's website redevelopment is also nearing completion, with only final integrations remaining before launch.

Summary

Overall, this period demonstrates strong marketing performance across both strategic and operational areas. The team has successfully leveraged campaigns, partnerships, and media to deliver measurable outcomes, while also strengthening the museum's national profile, advocacy position, and future growth opportunities.

FACILITIES, ASSETS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Facilities and IT teams are working on or have completed the following projects:

- BWOFF for Annex
- Remove gallery gang walls
- Paint walls in SEG
- Install photography exhibition
- Service lifts
- HVAC inspection
- Paint walls in people of the world
- Start upgrade of house at offsite
- Start clean-up of 1877
- New firewalls installed
- New backup tape library installed
- Looking at new security awareness training software
- Looking at updated visitor counting solution

END OF REPORT

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

KAUPAPA MĀORI AND TANGATA MOANA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main kaupapa has been included in the Director's report. A verbal update may be given.

RECOMMENDATION

None

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

28 APRIL 2026

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by: Professor Nancy Longnecker, Friends' President

- The Friends' membership continues to grow. Increased membership improves our ability to support the Museum.
- Friends are planning a significant donation to the Museum as part of our 100th anniversary celebration. We are in discussion with Museum staff about the specifics.
- The Friends of Tūhura have invested in the Quay Street Socially Responsible Investment Fund with Craig's Investment Partners to improve long-term management of the Association of Friends' reserve funds.
- The Friends Council continues to research the history of the Association of Friends:
 - **Friends Forever** is a **radio series** of conversations with Friends and Museum staff. Otago Access Radio broadcasts it on Thursdays at 12:30pm, repeated on Sundays at 7:30pm, and provides links to episodes at: <https://oar.org.nz/shows/friends-forever/> and other podcast platforms.
 - Launch of our **anniversary exhibition: Friends Forever –100 years of fascination, connection, generosity** will now happen mid-year.
 - We are producing a **book** about the Association's first 100 years.
 - We're providing **gallery trails** during the winter school holidays for children and adults to discover things in the galleries that are associated with the Friends.
- We run a monthly series of **talks, Friends in Focus**, that are open to the public at no charge. These are held in the Barclay Lecture Theatre, usually midday.
 - Marcus Richards, Museum collections technician and scientist presented *Glacial Erratics Need Friends Too* in our April *Friends in Focus* series.



- Brian Miller will speak at noon, 26 May, talking about the impact of the great Dunedin exhibitions on cultural institutions in Otago. The first donation to the museum from the Association of Friends comprised purchases of armaments from the British Court at the 1925/26 South Seas Exhibition.



- *Fun fact:* The 1925/26 exhibition at Logan Park attracted 3.2 million visitors in just over five months! Proceeds allowed the council to build the Dunedin Town Hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board

Notes the report from the Friends' President.