

**MEETING AGENDA
(OPEN SECTION)**

**OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD MEETING
1pm, Thursday 26th February 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
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)
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.	7(2) (a), 48 (1) (d)

	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	
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OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 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 22 December 2025

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
	Otago Conservation Board	Appointed board member
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
	Member	Otago Institute Council
	President	Friends of Otago Museum
	Board Member	Age Concern Otago
	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	NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants
	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	Mosguel 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

26 FEBRUARY 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, Friday 12 December 2025

Graham Crombie Board Room, Otago Museum

PRESENT:

David Hutchinson, Cherry Lucas, Nancy Longnecker, Jeff Wilson, Rachel Wesley, 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)

Pending election of the chair and deputy chair, agenda item 3, the Director opened and chaired the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Lisa Matisoo-Smith

It was moved that *the apologies are accepted.*

Moved from the Chair: Ian Griffin
CARRIED

New board members were welcomed to their first meeting of the Board: Cr Andrew Simms, Cr Bruce Graham, Angela Davis and Barbara Anderson.

The Director acknowledged the good news about highly-respected Ōtākou kaumātua Edward Ellison and Emeritus Professor John Broughton (Te Pae Ārahi o Tūhura – Māori Advisory Committee) each receiving an Honorary Degree this week, Edward Ellison an Honorary Doctor of Laws, and John Broughton an Honorary Doctor of Science.

2. INTEREST REGISTER

The interest register was noted.

3. BOARD ELECTIONS

Election of Board Chair:

The Director called for nominations for the Board Chair.

Nomination: David Hutchinson
Proposed by: Cherry Lucas seconded by: Rachel Wesley

Carried

Election of Deputy Chair

Nomination: Cherry Lucas

Proposed by: David Hutchinson seconded by: Andrew Simms

Carried

Ian Griffin handed over the chair of the meeting to David Hutchinson

Appointment of the Audit, Finance and Risk Management (AFRM) Committee

Nomination: Jeff Wilson

Proposed by: David Hutchinson seconded by: Cherry Lucas

Carried

The Chair asked if any other members were interested in sitting on the AFRM committee.

Nomination: Barbara Anderson

Proposed by: Rachel Wesley seconded by: Bruce Graham

Carried

The terms of reference for the AFRM, Staffing and Executive committees had been included in the Board papers for information.

Staffing committee meets as needed to review the performance of the Director and consists of the Chair, Deputy Chair, and Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee.

Executive committee consists of (as stated in the terms of reference) the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (open section)

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

It was moved that: *the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

Moved by: Cherry Lucas

Seconded by: Nancy Longnecker

CARRIED

5. 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, has been flagged with the Mayor, and will be undertaken next year to fit in with the DCC long term planning process.

Follow up with the DCC to make sure the trees on the Reserve are checked (following recent high winds)

The trees had been checked with the DCC. Remove this action from the register.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards:

38/8/2025 DCC appointee confirmation – Jeff Wilson

18/11/2025 Clutha/CLA appointee – Bruce Graham (confirmed by CODC and Waitaki)

20/11/2025 DCC appointee confirmation – Cherry Lucas, Andrew Simms

2/12/2025 DCC appointee confirmation – Angela Davis

Outwards:

5/11/2025 Letter to the Auditor General requesting BDO as the auditor for the next three years.

5/11/2025 Letter to Minister Upston

Matters arising from the correspondence:

- A response has not yet been received from the Auditor General. If BDO were to be reappointed as the Museum's auditor, the end of the next 3-year period would complete a total of six years, after which the Auditor General would need to appoint another auditor.
- A response has been received from Minister Upston to say that the STAPP loan repayment does not fall under Tourism, and the Museum's letter has been forwarded to Minister Shane Jones who looks after the Regional Development Fund.

The Board suggested that the Director contact Minister Jones about converting the loan to a grant from the Regional Development Fund. It was also suggested that Mark Paterson, Associate Minister for Regional Development be included in the conversation.

It was moved that: the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards correspondence be endorsed.

Moved by: Bruce Graham
Seconded by: Angela Davis
CARRIED

7. TRUST BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board membership report was noted.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The health and safety charts were noted.

9. ANNUAL PLAN 2025-2026 - INSERT MEASURES

The auditor had suggested that, to simplify the audit process, the Museum decide on a set of measures for the current annual plan and future years. The Leadership team have developed a dashboard of measures that align with the annual plan and current strategic plan. The Board are asked to approve the dashboard for insertion into the 2025-2026 annual plan.

The Board discussed the measures and acknowledged that the figures set for this year are a starting point. The measures and target numbers will be reviewed annually to ensure that they are relevant.

It was moved that *the dashboard of measures are endorsed for inclusion in the annual plan 2025-2026.*

Moved by the Chair: David Hutchinson
CARRIED

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports for the 2-month period to 31 October 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 and responded to questions from the Board:

- Congratulations were noted to Charlie Buchan, Marketing Manager, and the Marketing team on winning the 'Excellence in Marketing' award at the Grand South Business Awards event recently.
- The *Gallery Gang* craft exhibition opened on 29th November.
- The Shop has undergone a review. Anne Bridger and the Design team were congratulated on decluttering the shop and filling it with new stock. Amy Taylor from the Disabled Person's Assembly visited the Museum this week to review accessibility in the shop (which had previously been an issue) and was pleased with the changes.
- Visitor numbers are down on last year which follows a trend seen across other organisations in the city. The fall in our numbers is within the margin of error for our counting system, which we are in the process of reviewing to improve its accuracy. Ticket sales to the science centre, events and paid exhibitions provide an accurate measure of attendance to those offerings.

Questions from the Board:

Would it be possible to record the number of enquires made specifically about Pasifika collection items? They are currently categorised under Humanities, Taoka Māori, Natural Science and Conservation. The reports use data from the Vernon system. It would take a disproportionate amount of time to recategorize items to report on categories that are not currently in the system.

The list of presentations, talks and interviews under the collections report did not include interviews given on Otago Access Radio for the Otago Institute podcast series.

Action: Jane to check with the collection team to find out if there are any Museum-related presentations, talks or interviews missing from the October – November report.

The Director's report and verbal updates were noted.

12. KAUPAPA MĀORI

The passing of Anna Gorham was acknowledged. Anna had contributed the weaving on Overlander in the Southern Land Southern People gallery.

Congratulations were noted to the Museum's Curator Māori, Dr Gerard O'Regan, who was one of twelve mid-career researchers to be awarded a prestigious Mana Tūānuku Research Leader Fellowship by Royal Society Te Apārangi. Over the next four years, Gerard will lead groundbreaking research into Aotearoa's precious and fragile Māori rock art, connecting archaeological work with mātauranga Māori, iwi perspectives, and international partners across Polynesia. His research will directly shape a major Māori

rock art exhibition opening at Tūhura in 2027, developed with Canterbury Museum and the Ngāi Tahu Māori Rock Art Trust.

The grant is worth \$1.1 million over four years, equating to 0.8 FTE. It is an honour for the Museum, and Gerard, to have been the only Museum research project selected among the other projects which were all from universities.

13. REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION OF THE OTAGO MUSEUM

For the benefit of new Board members Nancy Longnecker provided some background to the Friends Association and an overview of their purpose.

Friends' events since the last board meeting were:

- A sponsored family friendly book launch at the Museum for Mary Duff's non-fiction children's book 'A Discovery in the Rocks'.
- Monthly Friends in Focus talk by Professor Simone Marshall about Mappa Mundi.
- HD Skinner memorial Lecture by Emeritus Professor Glenn Summerhayes
- End of year celebration included a walkthrough of new features in the science centre.
- Volunteers continue to work on the archives project.
- Eight Friends helped man the Museum's pop-up shop in the Meridian.
- Nancy presented a talk this month at a Gerontology conference on the Well Balanced travelling display. This display was originally produced by Nancy's Science Communication exhibition class in 2015 in collaboration with the Aging Well National Science Challenge, CARE, and the Museum Design team, and displayed over at the Museum over the 2015-2016 summery period.
- Friends council are planning events to mark their 100th anniversary starting in April 2026.

Nancy thanked Museum staff who had helped with their events: Kane Fleury and Felix (book launch), Christine Wierda (end of year celebration), Jane Gregory (liaison between the Museum and Friends).

The Friends' report was noted.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

15. MATTERS IN COMMITTEE

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 BOARD MEETING AND	<i>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</i>	7 (2) (h), 48 (1) (d)

ACTION REGISTER (CLOSED)	<i>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)
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Moved by the Chair: David Hutchinson
CARRIED

Moved into closed session: 2.08pm

Meeting closed: 3.46pm

Next meeting February 2026

Signed by:

.....
David Hutchinson
Trust Board Chair

Date:

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 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 12 December 2025 – 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	
11	12 December 2025	Director's report	Check with the collection team to find out if there are any presentations, talks or interviews missing from the October - November collections report.	Jane Gregory	

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 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	1	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

26 FEBRUARY 2026

AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Submitted by: Jane Gregory, Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

Point 2, Authorities for the Chair, states that the Committee Chair will sign off on the Museum Director's expenses. However, it has always been the Trust Board Chair's role to approve the Director's expenses.

Recommendation to remove point 2, Authorities for the Chair.

2. Executive Committee terms of reference:

Committee membership is stated as being four members including the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board.

Recommendation to include in the Executive Committee membership the Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee and the Mana Whenua representative on the Trust Board.

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE
AUDIT, FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Last reviewed, February 2023

Authority

The Board of the Otago Museum (the Museum) has delegated to the Audit Finance and Risk Management Committee (the Committee) its responsibilities and role in respect of audit, finance and risk management.

The Committee will oversee all aspects of audit, finance and risk management, and ensure risks are defined and analysed, and adequately managed. The Committee should take all necessary steps to fulfil its terms of reference as approved by the Board. In order to fulfil its role the Committee will meet as necessary.

The Committee's role may also include co-ordination with other Board committees, and maintenance of strong, positive working relationships with management, external and internal auditors, legal counsel and other the Committee advisors.

Committee Membership

Membership: Four members, or such other number of members as the Board may determine, of which at least one is a member of the Board.

Chair: A member of the Committee appointed by the Board.

Quorum: Any two people noted above.

Operating Name: Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee.

"The Museum Director and the person responsible for the Museum's finances at the time, as identified by the Museum Director, are required to attend meetings of the Audit Committee as directed by the Chair, and shall have speaking rights but no voting rights."

Terms of Reference

1. General

- a. The Committee shall meet during the year to coincide with key dates in the financial reporting and audit calendar
- b. The Executive Assistant shall act as the secretariat for the Committee and shall circulate agendas and background information prior to Committee meetings to enable full and proper consideration to be given to the agenda items.
- c. The secretary shall minute the proceedings of all Committee meetings.
- d. Approved minutes of the Committee shall be presented to the next meeting of the Board.
- e. All members are entitled to attend meetings of the Committee.

- f. Reasonable notice of meetings and the business to be conducted shall be given to the members of the Committee and all other members of the Board.

~~2. Authorities for the Chair~~

- ~~a. The Chair will sign off the Museum Director's expenses.~~

3.2. Audit

- a. Identify and recommend to the Board the appointment of the external auditors, their remuneration and the terms of their engagement.
- b. Confirm consulting services and related fees provided by the external Auditors.
- c. Enquire of management and the external Auditors about significant risks or exposures and assess the steps management has taken to minimise such risk to the Museum.
- d. Consider in consultation with the external auditors, at the commencement of the audit cycle:
 - the audit scope and plan.
 - the process of the audit to ensure completeness of coverage, reduction of redundant efforts and the effective use of audit resources.
- e. Consider and review with the external auditors, at the conclusion of the annual audit:
 - the adequacy of the Museum's internal controls, including computerised information system controls and security, and any related significant findings and recommendations together with management's responses.
 - the annual Financial Statements and the Statement of Service Performance.
 - the audit of the annual Financial Statements and the Statement of Service Performance
 - the Auditor's Report
 - any significant changes required in the audit plan.
 - any serious difficulties or dispute which management encountered during the course of the audit.
 - any other matters related to the conduct of the audit.
 - significant findings during the audit process and management's responses.
 - any matters considered appropriate, without members of Executive Management or other Museum staff present in the meeting.
 - any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit including any restrictions on the scope of the work.
 - any changes required in the planned scope of the audit plan.
 - the audit management letter prior to presentation to the Board.
 - the Annual Report including the Financial Statements and recommend to the Board for approval and adoption
- f. Meet with the external Auditors at any time to consider any exceptional matters of audit significance that arise at times not already scheduled.
- g. Monitor the effectiveness of the external auditor's performance and their independence and objectivity.
- h. Consider the appropriateness of the Museum's internal audit function (if any).

4.3. Finance

- a. Review the business plan, budget assumptions and the Museum budget prior to Board approval.
- b. Review management accounts, with senior management, during the course of the year to ensure the Museum's financial situation is being adequately managed and report to the Board as appropriate.
- c. Review and approve the Museum's systems of internal control, and changes thereto, with senior management to ensure adequate financial control is maintained during the year.
- d. Monitor the adequacy of measures taken by Museum management to secure and safeguard the Museum's assets and the economical and efficient use of resources.
- e. Review and approve the Museum's accounting policies.
- f. Review and approve the Museum's financial policies, including the Authority to Commit Expenditure and the Investing & Funding Policy.
- g. Review forecasts and the underlying methodology during the year to ensure appropriate financial control of the year-end result is in place..

5.4. Risk Management

- a. To ensure management develop, implement and monitor a risk management process.
- b. To receive and review the conflicts of interest registers.
- c. To direct and supervise investigations into any matters within the Committee's scope, including but not limited to, effectiveness of internal controls and cases of employee fraud or misconduct.

6.5. Investments

Make recommendations regarding investment of Otago Museum Trust Board funds. Such recommendations are to be made in accordance with the general directions of the Board and the Board's Investment Policy.

For clarity the Museum Director, working with the Treasurer, currently has the ability to make decisions regarding investment of up to \$10,000 of Otago Museum Trust Board Funds, on receiving a recommendation from the Board's Investment Advisors (ABN AMRO Craigs), without consulting the Committee. Any such decisions must be communicated to the Committee thereafter and ratified at the next Otago Museum Trust Board meeting.

7.6. Authorities

- a. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board on all matters requiring a decision. The Committee does not have the power or authority to make a decision in the Board's name or on its behalf.
- b. The Committee is authorised by the Board, at the expense of the Museum, to consult with such outside services as it considers necessary for carrying out its responsibilities, provided the Committee takes every step to minimise cost to the Museum.

8-7. Review of the Committee

- a. The Committee will undertake an annual review of its objectives and responsibilities and the extent to which they have been achieved and/or discharged.
- b. The Board and any other person the Board considers appropriate will also be engaged to review the Committee's objectives and responsibilities

9-8. Reporting Procedures

- a. After each meeting the chair will report the Committee's recommendations and findings to the Board
- b. The minutes of all meetings of the Committee will be circulated to members of the Board and to such other persons as the Board directs
- c. The chair will present an annual report to the Board summarising the Committee's activities during the year and any related significant results and findings.

Establishment

The Committee shall be established by a formal Board resolution, in which, also, the Committee's relationship with the Board shall be defined, as outlined in these terms of reference.

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Last reviewed: February 2023

Authority

The Board of the Otago Museum (the Museum) has constituted the Executive Committee (the Committee) to carry out specific responsibilities and roles of the Board as delegated from time to time.

The Committee should take all necessary steps to fulfil its terms of reference as approved by the Board. In order to fulfil its role the Committee will meet as necessary.

The Committee's role may also include co-ordination with other Board committees, and maintenance of strong, positive working relationships with management, external and internal auditors, legal counsel and other the Committee advisors.

Committee Membership

Membership: Four members, or such other number of members as the Board may determine, including the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board, chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee and the Manawhenua representative on the Trust Board.

Chair: Chair of the Board.

Quorum: Any two people noted above.

Operating Name: Executive Committee.

The Museum Director is required to attend meetings of the Committee as directed by the Chair, and shall have speaking rights but no voting rights.

Terms of Reference

1. General

- a. The Committee shall meet as required.
- b. The Executive Assistant shall act as the secretariat for the Committee, unless otherwise directed, and shall circulate agendas and background information prior to Committee meetings to enable full and proper consideration to be given to the agenda items.
- c. The secretary shall minute the proceedings of all Committee meetings.
- d. Approved minutes of the Committee shall be presented to the next meeting of the Board.
- e. All members are entitled to attend meetings of the Committee.
- f. Reasonable notice of meetings and the business to be conducted shall be given to the members of the Committee and all other members of the Board.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Meet as required to address particular matters determined with the delegated authority of the Board
- b. Meet to advise the Museum Director on policy and other matters as requested by the Museum Director

3. Authorities

- a. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board on all matters requiring a decision. The Committee does not have the power or authority to make a decision in the Board's name or on its behalf unless specifically so delegated.
- b. The Committee is authorised by the Board, at the expense of the Museum, to consult with such outside services as it considers necessary for carrying out its responsibilities, provided the Committee takes every step to minimise cost to the Museum.

4. Reporting Procedures

- a. After each meeting the chair will report the Committee's recommendations and findings to the Board
- b. The minutes of all meetings of the Committee will be circulated to members of the Board and to such other persons as the Board directs
- c. The chair will present an annual report to the Board summarising the Committee's activities during the year and any related significant results and findings.

Establishment

The Committee shall be established by a formal Board resolution, in which, also, the Committee's relationship with the Board shall be defined, as outlined in these terms of reference.

The term for the Committee will be defined at the time of its establishment.

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 2026

CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted by: Jane Gregory, Secretary to the Board

Correspondence received:

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

Notes the correspondence.



28 January 2026

David Hutchinson
Chairperson

By email: david.hutchinson@otago.ac.nz, ian.griffin@otagomuseum.govt.nz

Tēnā koe David

AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS: OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

The contract for BDO to complete the audit of your organisation on behalf of the Auditor-General expired with the completion of the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

The Auditor-General intends to renew the appointment and appoint Aaron Higham of BDO to undertake the audit of your organisation on his behalf, commencing with the audit of the financial year, ending 30 June 2026.

The contract renewal term would normally be 3 years. If it needs to be for a different period, BDO will discuss that with you.

I have asked Aaron Higham to contact you and prepare an Audit Proposal for discussion with you and/or your Board. Once the audit arrangements are agreed, that proposal will form part of the auditor's contract with the Auditor-General. It will cover key items including:

- the statutory basis for the audit;
- key staff assigned to the audit;
- the audit hours and fees for each year of the audit (together with explanations and justification for them); and
- the auditor's key expectations of your organisation in relation to the audit.

Once you and the auditor have agreed the terms of the audit, they will ask you to countersign the proposal as evidence of your organisation's acceptance of the terms, and they will send it to me, leaving you a copy for your records.

Below is a link to our report about how auditors are appointed and audit fees set in the public sector. You should find this useful in preparing for discussions with Aaron Higham.

Link - [Appointing Auditors and setting audit fees](#)

If you or your Board wishes to discuss this further, please contact me.

The Auditor-General sets independence standards for auditors acting on his behalf, which include the standards set by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Board. In addition restrictions are placed on additional services that can be provided to Otago Museum Trust Board – and sometimes other entities - over and above the work carried out by BDO on behalf of the Auditor-General. The additional services are generally limited to services of an "assurance nature" and also apply to additional services provided by other offices of BDO, whilst that firm is engaged to audit Otago Museum Trust Board on behalf of the Auditor-General.

If you are concerned that any additional service your organisation expects, or may ask, your auditor to undertake may breach these independence standards, this summary may assist you in discussions with your auditor before approaching them to undertake such additional services.

Nāku noa, nā

Amin Khan
Manager, Auditor Appointments

Mobile: +64 21 244 1416
E-mail: amin.khan@oag.parliament.nz

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



30/01/2026

Ian Griffin JP, PhD, CRSNZ
ian.Griffin@otagomuseum.nz

Dear Ian

Thank you for your letter of 15 January 2026 regarding Tūhura Otago Museum, alongside the Museum's Annual Report. It was an honour to visit the museum in 2024, and I am pleased to see that its profile has grown further since then.

The services Tūhura provides to the local community and to visitors contribute to the vibrant culture of Dunedin, and I thank you for successfully leading the Museum for more than a decade through sometimes uncertain funding environments.

The Government plays a role in supporting the creative and cultural sectors to flourish. In late August 2025, I released *Amplify – A Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand 2025-2030*. *Amplify* sets out the whole-of-government plan for supporting the creative and cultural sectors and seeks to set up those sectors for success in the future, while being deliberate about how we use government funding. The Strategy includes actions setting out how the government will work with sectors to give effect to the objectives of *Amplify*. Some of these actions, such as actions 1.7 (investing for maximum impact) and 2.1 (nurturing talent) are directly relevant to the GLAM sector and the economic, cultural and educational contributions you note in your letter. The actions in *Amplify* were informed by public and sector consultation and aim to support the vision of making New Zealand a creative powerhouse with global reach.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective with me and welcome your insights on how creative and cultural sector and funding frameworks could be improved. It is always useful to hear directly from the sector regarding issues being faced on the ground. As a living document, *Amplify* can be updated in response to changing sector needs and changing government priorities.

My officials at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (the Ministry) are available should you wish to discuss *Amplify*, the opportunities it presents, and how to contribute to it. They can be contacted via consultation@mch.govt.nz.

I look forward to calling in again when I am next in Dunedin. Thank you again for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Goldsmith'.

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 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.

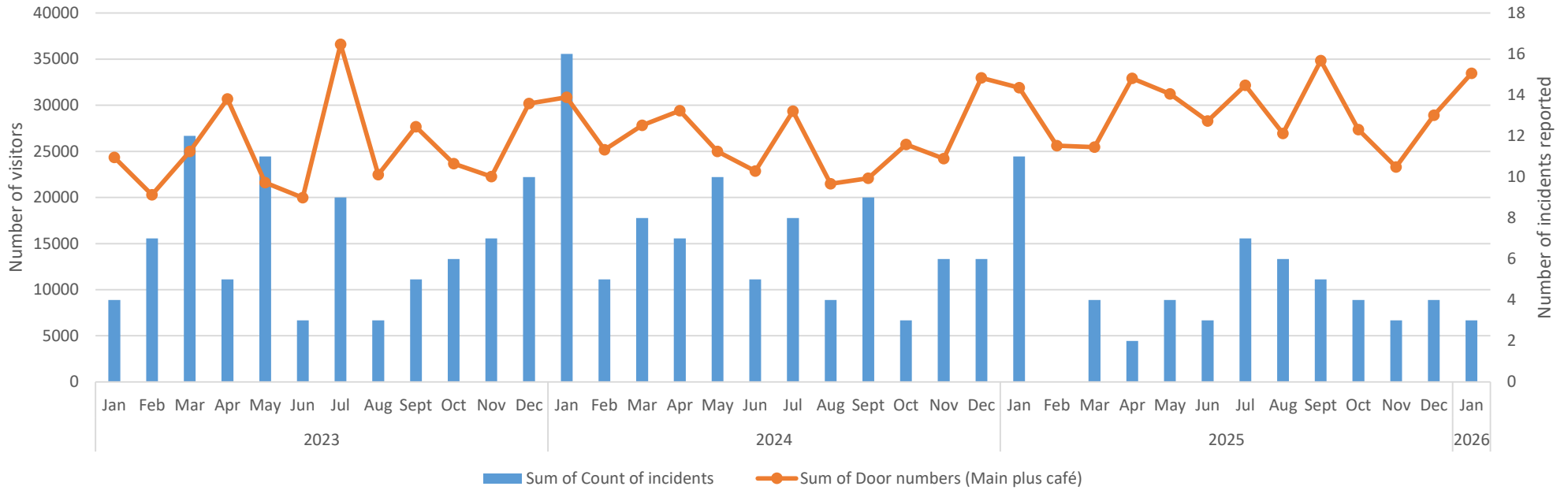
RECOMMENDATIONS

That the meeting:

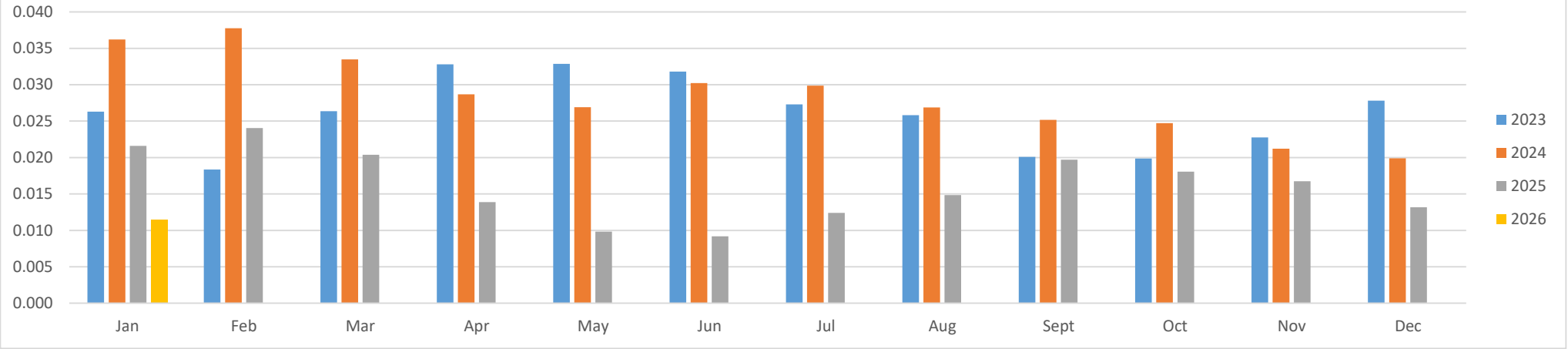
Notes the reports.

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

26 FEBRUARY 2026

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2026 - 2027

Ian Griffin, Museum Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annual Plan process

It is a statutory requirement for the Museum's draft annual plan to be sent to contributing local authorities (CLA) by the end of February to allow CLAs three months to consider the plan and provide feedback by 31 May.

The attached draft Annual Plan 2026-2027 requires the Board's consideration and approval to circulate the CLAs by the end of this month.

As in previous years, Ian Griffin will offer to meet with each district mayor and chief executive to discuss the draft Plan and if they wish, to present to their council.

The draft Annual Plan will be circulated as a separate document.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

Approves that the draft Annual Plan 2026-2027 is circulated to contributing local authorities and the Mayor of Queenstown Lakes District Council for feedback by 31 May 2026.

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 2026

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jamie Adamson, Deloitte

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides a financial overview of the 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 31 December 2025

5 February 2025

Contents

1. Profit & Loss Summary	3
2. Core Operations	3
3. Business Units	4
4. Investment Revenue and Special & Trust Funds	4
5. Balance Sheet Analysis	5

1. Profit & Loss Summary

The YTD operating loss after depreciation was \$7,346 (budgeted loss: \$220,203, last year profit: \$107,319). This is made up of:

- A YTD loss from Core Operations and Business Units after depreciation of \$210,890 (budget loss: \$384,796).
- Investment Income & net Special & Trust Fund revenue of \$203,544 (budget: \$164,593).

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 \$152,673 which is more than budget and lower than last year (budgeted: profit \$95,843; last year: profit \$299,419).
- **Revenue** is \$3,263,279 (budgeted: \$3,208,225; last year \$3,776,191).
- **Wages** are \$1,853,887 (budgeted \$1,874,927; last year: \$2,072,862).
- **Direct costs** were \$658,916 (budgeted: \$694,733; last year \$911,287).
- **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 \$597,804 (budgeted: \$542,721; last year: \$492,623).
- **Depreciation expense** was \$532,987 compared to budget \$580,000.

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 \$169,424 (budgeted: \$99,361; last year: \$132,395).
- **Revenue** was \$1,079,674 which is \$90,660 lower than budget (\$1,170,334) and lower than last year (\$1,201,140).
- **Wages** were \$450,030 (budgeted: \$512,372; last year: \$426,493).
- **Direct costs** were \$460,221 (budgeted: \$558,600; last year: \$642,252).

4. Investment Revenue and Special & Trust Funds

YTD Results

- YTD investment revenue of \$203,544 (budgeted: \$164,593; last year: \$197,265).
- Special & Trust Funds total \$11.9m but a significant portion of these are “restricted” funds that have specific instructions attached by the doner as to their use and what they can be specifically spent on.

5. Balance Sheet Analysis

The Museum balance sheet indicates a strong position with \$25.7m of net assets. This is represented by:

- \$13m 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 \$1.5m.

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.

	31 December 2025		31 October 2025	
	\$	%	\$	%
Current	68,056	37.3%	101,602	41.5%
1 Month	15,004	8.2%	30,458	12.5%
2 Months	-	0.0%	12,938	5.3%
3 Months +	99,534	54.5%	99,534	40.7%
Total	\$182,593	100.0%	\$244,531	100.0%

5.2 Creditors

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

	31 December 2025		31 October 2025	
	\$	%	\$	%
Current	195,849	99.9%	298,804	100.0%
1 Month	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
2 Months	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
3 Months +	136	0.1%	136	0.0%
Total	\$195,985	100.0%	\$298,940	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 31 December 2025 the balance (including capitalised interest) was \$1,150,083.

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OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 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

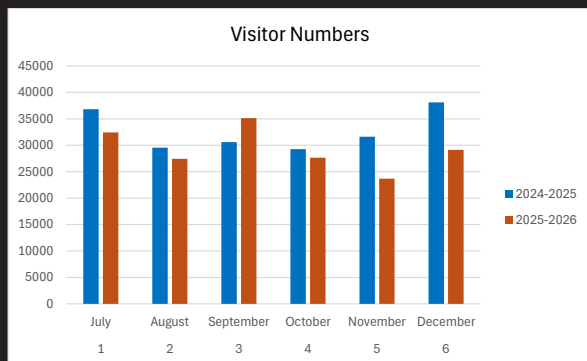
That the meeting:

Notes the Director's report

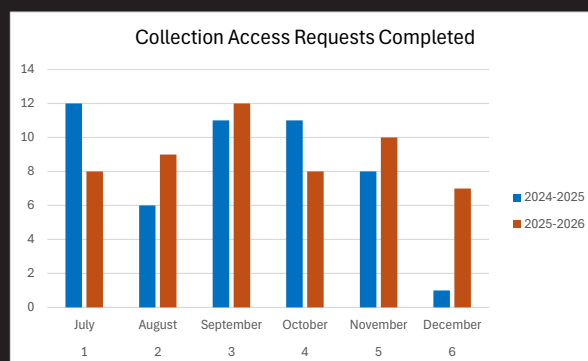
Annual Plan Goals



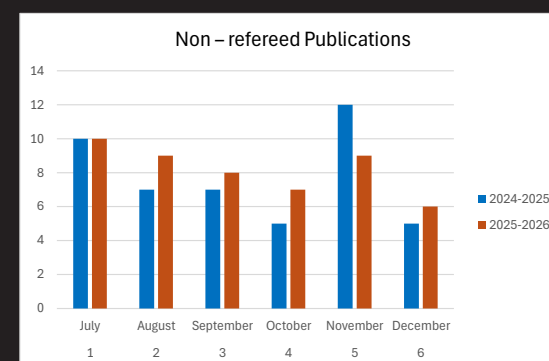
Visitor Numbers
Target: 300,000
YTD Total: 175,405
Prior Year YTD: 195,959



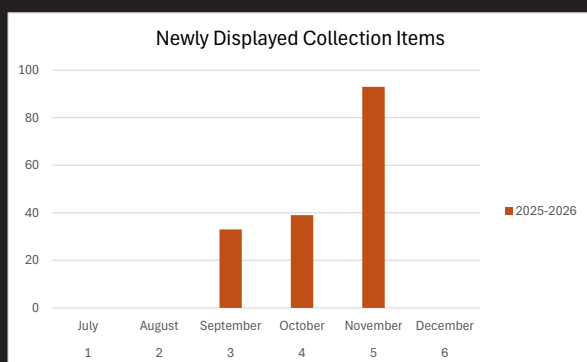
Collection Access Requests Completed
Target: 75
YTD Total: 54
Prior Year YTD: 49



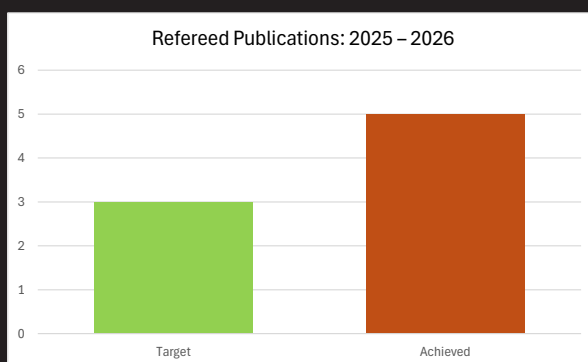
Non – refereed Publications
Target: 150
YTD Total: 49
Prior Year YTD: 46



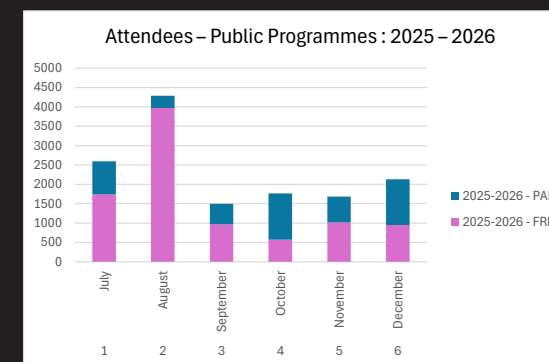
Newly Displayed Collection Items
Target: 250
YTD Total: 165



Refereed Publications
Target: 3
YTD Total: 5



Attendees – Public Programmes
Target: 30,000
YTD Total: 13,952
Prior Year YTD: 14,300



Annual Plan Goals



Dynamic Programme of Exhibitions

Target: 10
YTD Total: 11
Prior Year YTD: 11



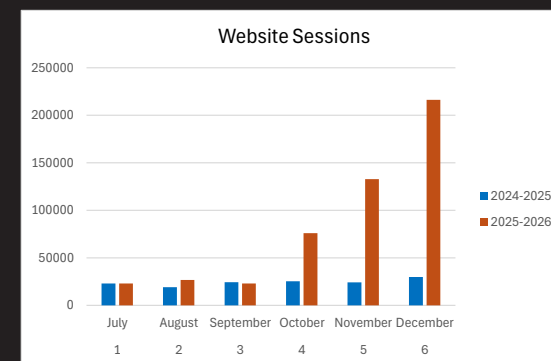
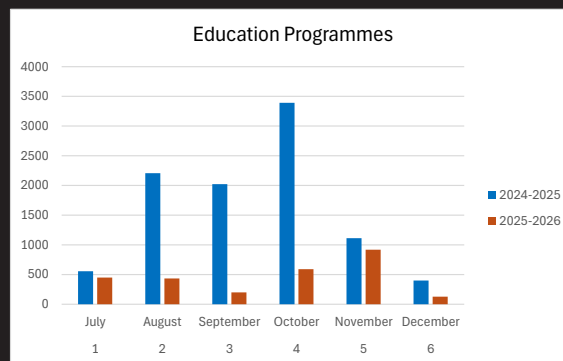
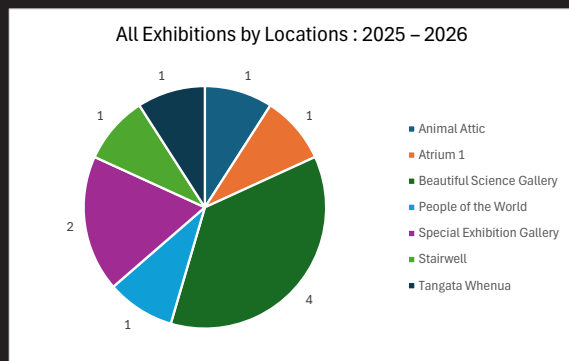
Education Programmes

Target: 5,000
YTD Total: 2,717
Prior Year YTD: 9,687



Website Sessions

Target: 305,000
YTD Total: 497,896
Prior Year YTD: 146,010



Media Stories

Target: Local – 40 National – 10
YTD Total: Local – 11 National – 18



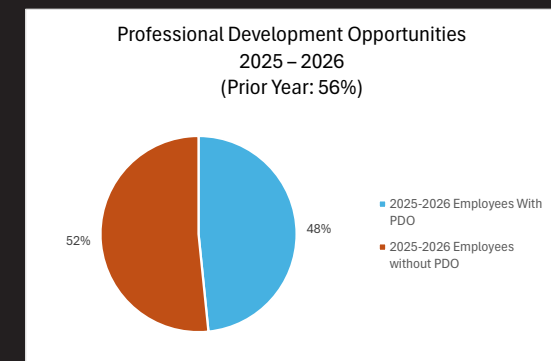
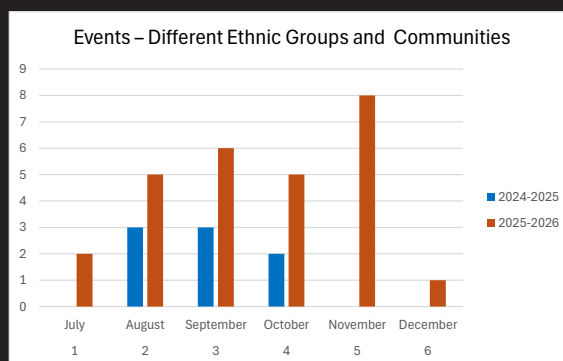
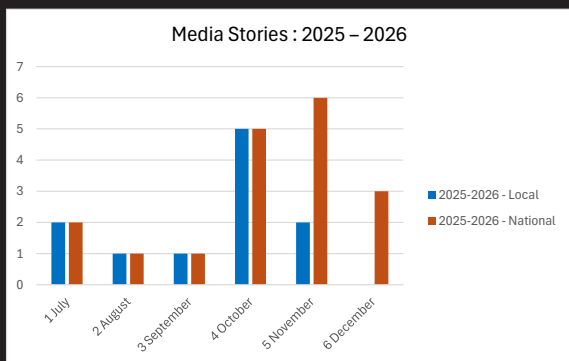
Events – Different Ethnic Groups and Communities

Target: 20
YTD Total: 27
Prior Year YTD: 8



Staff Professional Development Opportunities

Target: 50%
YTD Total: 48%



Annual Plan Goals



Volunteer Hours

Target: 2,000
YTD Total: 935



Non- Levy Income

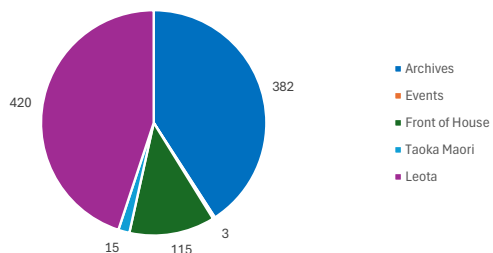
Target: 40%
YTD Total: 40%
Prior Year YTD: 48%



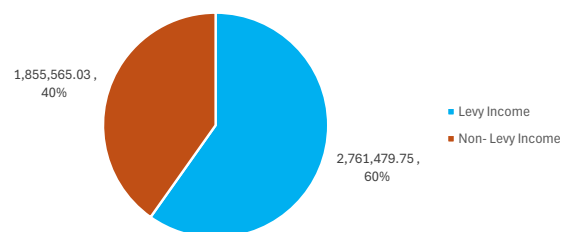
Professional Services Provided

Target: 5
YTD Total: 6

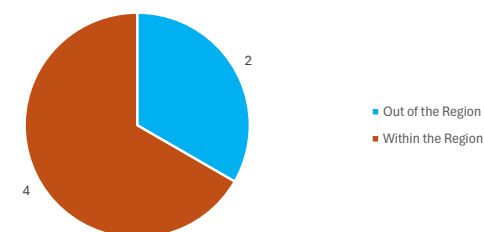
Volunteer Hours : 2025 – 2026
(Prior Year: 2,305)



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 December 2025 to 31 January 2026

DIRECTORS REPORT

There is something quietly encouraging about a museum in motion.

Over December and January — months when Dunedin alternates between sunburn and southerlies (though mostly southerlies this year!) — Tūhura has been full of life. Children ran through *Gallery Gang's* crafted worlds. Families packed the kids' Christmas Concert. The *Ruby Jones* exhibition reminded us that empathy, like science, can be carefully constructed and shared. More than 2,000 people joined us at public events in December alone. Visitor feedback for *Gallery Gang* was unequivocal: 100% enjoyment. That statistic is rare in any line of work.

Behind the scenes, however, the deeper work continues.

Gerard O'Regan's success in securing a Mana Tūānuku Fellowship — the only museum awarded nationally — is significant. It reinforces Tūhura's position not simply as a keeper of taoka, but as a vigorous research institution grounded in kaupapa Māori and international scholarship. The successful Coastal Peoples Southern Skies expression of interest and the developing waka research collaboration further strengthen that trajectory.

The Pacific Cultures Gallery refresh is approaching its mid-year opening. Carpet is down; cases are planned; community consultation is ongoing. It is a concrete expression of partnership rather than a presentation. At the same time, over 5,000 new collection records were digitised during this period, 45,000 revised, and thousands of archive records were uploaded — the invisible though essential infrastructure of knowledge.

Summer also tested our agility. Departures from our Outreach team required staff retraining and adaptation. Cruise cancellations affected attendance. Yet our teams delivered: 466 outreach engagements in December, 377 in January, successful MFAT-supported science equipment heading to Samoa, and second-generation Goliath stick insects thriving in quarantine — proof that care and continuity matter.

Commercially and reputationally, the period was strong. The Photography Competition attracted over 9,300 entries — nearly double the usual level — supported by \$21,500 in sponsorship and a national DOC partnership. Media coverage has already exceeded annual targets. Marketing performance indicators are ahead of schedule. David Hutchinson's Cook Strait swim not only raised funds for our sprinkler upgrade but also amplified the message that protecting collections requires community commitment and, ideally, government investment.

Our Facilities team progressed critical maintenance, from roof leaks to fire systems and new firewalls — work that rarely makes headlines but underpins everything.

Taken together, this period illustrates a museum that is busy, creative, research-active, financially alert, and community-focused. There are pressures — staffing transitions, capital needs, tightening sector funding — but there is also momentum.

Museums endure not because they stand still, but because they adapt without losing their centre.

This report reflects that balance.

Ian Griffin
Director

My media work for the Museum:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/summer-days/audio/2019018857/summer-stargazing>

<https://theplatform.kiwi/podcasts/episode/sunspots-solar-storms-nasa-heading-for-the-moon>

<https://www.odt.co.nz/opinion/chairman-shouldn't-be-swimming-sprinklers>

I also continue to write my weekly Skywatch Column in the Otago Daily Times, the most recent of which are linked below.

https://www.odt.co.nz/search/results/skywatch?sortby=published_at%20DESC

KAUPAPA MAORI

The major development in kaupapa Māori has been Gerard O'Regan securing a Mana Tūānuku fellowship through the Royal Society Te Apārangi. Twelve of these fellowships were awarded across the NZ research sector for 2025 with Tūhura being the only museum successful among those. Notwithstanding the end of year break, attention has been focused on preparing for staffing reconfiguration to backfill Gerard's other responsibilities, and programming for the rock art research and exhibition that are part of the fellowship. In December an expression of interest to the Coastal Peoples Southern Skies CoRE was also advised as having been successful and a full research proposal to investigate southern waka has been prepared.

TANGATA MOANA

The Pacific Gallery redevelopment continues to be a focus with a new mid-year opening date now confirmed. Coordination for an opening event is being initiated. Over this period a funding application to the Green Foundation was developed to support research critical to the development of a comprehensive Pasifika relationship and engagement strategy for the Museum. The research addresses understanding local Pasifika interests and aspirations as well as relationships with those communities on the different motu that taoka held by Tūhura are directly related to. Work has also continued with the videographer on finalising the film record of the Faiva o Samoa 2025 tātau event.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH**Access requests completed**

	Image/data	Item/physical
Taoka Māori		1
Humanities	3	1
Natural Science	1	2
Other		

Details:

- A small group from the Friends of Otago Museum Association who are working on the Association's 2026 centenary celebrations visited to look at collection items in storage that might be used in the display case or the book they plan.

- Te Rūnanga o Waihao members (25) visited taoka from their South Canterbury takiwā held by Tūhura.
- Rosalie Elliffe, MA student at the University of Otago, was sent an image of the interior of Otago Museum in 1878
- Cité de la Préhistoire d'Orgnac, Ardèche, Southern France, was sent an image of the Egyptian vessel, E44.446, for use on the introductory panel for an exhibition on prehistoric funerary contexts, and the catalogue
- Jaymie Oliver, a post-graduate student in the Classics Programme, University of Otago, was given permission to publish the coin, E2017.390, in a book chapter they are writing on on the visualization of Sulla's victory in the Roman civil war
- David Elliot, local artist and author, received images of VT2434 Queensland Grouper fish mount on display in Animal Attic and an image of VT3327 glycerin-preserved shark stomach and intestines prepared by former curator TJ Parker, for inspiration towards artwork
- Simon Richardson visited the museum to photograph bird nests and native butterflies for inspiration towards artwork
- Yolanda Vogel visited the natural science bird collection over multiple days to view our comparative materials for species identifications



Left: E2017.390 Silver denarius, 82 BC. Tūhura Otago Museum Collection

Right: E44.446 Egyptian ceramic vessel. Gift of Lieut. Col. Fred. Waite; Tūhura Otago Museum Collection



VT3327 glycerin-preserved stomach and spiral intestines from Broadnose sevengill shark prepared by Thomas Jeffery Parker in 1890. Tūhura Otago Museum Collection

Loans

Outward loans sent:

- OL2026-1 Loan of tunnelweb spiders to Te Papa Tongarewa for taxonomic research by Shaun Thompson and Phil Sirvid

Inward loans received:

-

Other loan activity:

- Taoka loaned to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery for the Tairaroa exhibition, including whānau taoka on deposit with Tūhura, have been returned.
- Selections have been confirmed and preparations are underway for taoka to be loaned to the redeveloped Cromwell Museum.

Collections item records

	This period	Financial year to date
New/digitised:	5,071	11,500
Revised:	45,879	72, 623
Imaged:	839	5651

Details/Highlights:

- A large number of archive records (approx. 4,500) were uploaded this period.
- Inventories are ongoing.
- Cataloguing of pinned insects is continuing.

Acquisitions and Deaccessions

	Acquisitions	Deaccessions
Humanities/Taoka Māori	1	

Natural Science

6	
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Details/Highlights:

- A Mild-Red dress
- Three samples of tree gum from Hampden Formation
- Skull of bottlenose dolphin from Oreti Beach, collected by Llyod Esler in late 1990s
- Two stoat skulls
- Animal bones from Butchers Dam area, including penguin humerus collected in early 2000s by DOC staff
- Animal bones and stones collected from Cannibal Bay in 1960s by Philip Stratton Boyes
- Lichen samples from Maungatua, collected by Sue Heath in 2005

Enquiries

	Public Enquiries	Item Receipts
Humanities	10	2
Taoka Māori	3	
Natural Science	4	5
Conservation		

- Enquiries include: antique Chinese bell; items made by Manawatū Knitting Mills; teacup and saucer id; Surat shipwreck artefacts; textile conservation; cigarette lighter associated with the first Bryd Antarctic expedition; a Shinto shrine; propellor fragment and helmets for sale; Spider crab on display in Animal Attic; museum Moa display; Spider identification; Moth identification; SY Aurora taoka; Dordogne artefact identification and advice.
- Kaupapa Māori enquiries include: Haimona Rakiraki Tewhatewha; Peter Morrison on a historic toki find from Karitane; collegial advice to Canterbury Museum on a potential Schoon related acquisition.

Protected Objects Act

- An expert examiners report is in preparation for the Ministry of Culture and Heritage on a proposal to export two taoka Māori.

Publications & Social Media: On the collection

	Internal researcher	External researchers
Peer reviewed Research publications/papers	3	1
Blogs		
Other	8	1

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

- Harris, Anthony. Giants from distant isles. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 6 December 2025, p. 7

- Harris, Anthony. Hoverflies may replace honeybees as crop pollinators. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 13 December 2025, p. 8
- Harris, Anthony. Tacking hornets for eradication goal. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 20 December 2025, p. 9
- Malthus, Jane. December 2025. Windows to Fashion Design History and Inspiration: Three New Zealand Designers of the 1970s. *Scope: Art & Design* 28; <https://doi.org/10.34074/scop.1028011>
- White, Moira. December 2025. Exhibition review: The Six Yards Sisterhood: deconstructing the Sari in Aotearoa. *Scope: Art & Design* 28; <https://doi.org/10.34074/scop.1028004>
- Kerr, D. S., Gillum, J. E., & Fleury, K. (2025). The New Zealand genus *Tetrachaetus* (Diptera: Dolichopodidae): synonymisation of *Tetrachaetus bipunctatus* and *T. simplex*. *New Zealand Entomologist*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00779962.2025.2597528>
- Harris, Anthony. Freshwater clams threaten ecosystem. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 17 January 2026, p. 10
- White, Moira. January 2026. Stitched status: a donation of Chinese buzi. *Context* 48: 50-54
- Malthus, Jane. January 2026. Jane Austen (1775-1817) materialises at Tūhura Otago Museum. *Context* 48: 55-62
- White, Moira. January 2026. Hautāmiro (2025): Mataaho Collective at Dunedin Public Art Gallery. *Context* 48: 71-76
- Harris, Anthony. Sandflies enjoying soggy summer. *Otago Daily Times*, Nature file, Weekend Mix, 24 January 2026, p. 10

Publications by external researchers:

- Isno, Leina. January 2026. Reconnecting Through Time: Discovering our Vanuatu Heritage at Tūhura Otago Museum. *Context* 48: 8-18
- Weisler, M., Bolhar, R., Chazine, J-M., & St Pierre, E. January 2026. Geochemistry of Stone Tools Reveals the Crossroads of East Polynesia. *Archaeology in Oceania* <https://doi.org/10.1002/arco.70016>



Front and back covers of *Context* #49 with images from the articles by Dr Jane Malthus and Leina Isno, both showing objects from Tūhura Otago Museum's collection.

Collection team contributions to projects, exhibitions and programmes

Collection based projects:

-
- Work has been ongoing preparing the meteorite for display.
- Work has also begun clearing freezer backlog material.
- Processing of the items for the Pacific gallery including photography, inventory and data updates is ongoing.
- A research programme EOI to Coastal Peoples Southern Skies was successful for a project 'Kā waka o kā tai toka, Canoes of the southern tides' and a full proposal was prepared in collaboration with University of Otago Archaeology and Computer Sciences.

In house exhibitions, programmes and gallery projects:

- The list of objects from the collection for the iD2027 exhibition has been compiled and photography completed
- Work on the Japanese boro exhibition for May 2026 continues
- A Ghanaian funeral cloth from the Vanderburg Family Collection has been put on display in People of the World as a rotation in Dress for Success



Detail from L2008.906, Ghanaian funeral cloth. On loan from Vanderburg Family Collection

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

- Reviewing of IFFTI 2026 full papers completed (MW).
- Facilitated Striped Dolphin Dissection at Invermay facility with Suzy Flack from Kati Huirapa Ki Puketeraki, Karen Stockin from Massey University Auckland, and students from the University of Otago on 2 December.
- Tūhura Natural Science and Taoka Māori collections data and images featured in Save the Kiwi Trust internship project "Historical movement and cultural importance behind kiwi", <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f3a200dd152d4a8683f5e915fe3a7625>
- Marcus Richards led a field trip on 20 Jan to Haugh's Quarry in Hakataramea Valley with Kane Fleury, On Lee Lau, and University of Otago Geology staff and students to shoot footage for a documentary production about New Zealand geological record and penguin fossils.
- Kane Fleury and Marcus Richards have been assisting the Waitaki UNESCO Geopark and Vanished World centre in Duntroon by review exhibition content and lists of research that have been conducted within the geopark over the last 5 years.
- Gerard O'Regan supported Te Rūnanga o Moeraki with archaeological monitoring for earthworks at the Takiroa rock art site, Duntroon.
- 'How to Dig a Better Hole', by Nic Low was published in *NZ Geographic* describing the Moeraki coastal erosion archaeology collaboration by the University of Otago and Tūhura in support of Te Rūnanga o Moeraki. It includes interviews with Gerard O'Regan and photographs of taoka by Kane Fleury.
- Rachel Wesley and Tāne Tāmaiti supported a site visit to Millers Flat with Aukaha, Heritage New Zealand, and whānau, surveying potential umu (ovens) and other archaeological features.
- Gerard O'Regan contributed to an online January meeting of the international Rock Art Network with a focus seeding Polynesian rock art connections.
- A 23 January workshop in Bluff by Te Rūnanga o Awarua exploring ideas of a marae based whare taoka was contributed to by Gerard O'Regan and Tāne Tāmaiti.
- The next development of the Otago Daily Times 'Toitū te Whenua' series on Otago Māori placenames (some of which play in the Tangata Whenua Gallery theaterette) was supported by Gerard O'Regan with an on-site interview at Tūtakihikura, Moeraki.

- An article peer review for the journal *Alternative* (published by Ngā Pae o Te Maramatanga, University of Auckland) was provided by Gerard O'Regan.
- The archaeology stream of the University of Otago's introductory programme for college students was provided a tour of Tangata Whenua and special viewing of selected taoka Māori.
- On Lee Lau visited the Chatham Islands to support a University of Otago Ecology field course (ECOL314) and dropped off insect pinning supplies for an upcoming Bugs exhibition at the Chatham Islands Museum.



Suzy Flack, Karen Stockin, Jim Fyfe (left to right) with measuring Striped Dolphin which live stranded in Warrington in 2017. This is the southernmost occurrence record for the species. Photo by On Lee Lau.



Marcus Richards (far right) walking into scene for documentary production about New Zealand penguin fossils. Photo by On Lee Lau.

Archives

- Much of December and January were spent conducting research and gathering records for three large enquiries.
- The first was a request from a member of the public for records related to the provenance and acquisition of a number of our classical artefacts, many of which were purchased using the Willi Fels memorial fund around 1946.
- The second was an internal request for records related to our Egyptian collection from the 1940's. Much of this collection was sourced for us by Lieutenant Colonel Waite
<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4w1/waite-fred>
- The third major enquiry was a request from Amber Aranui at Te Papa for 82 pieces of correspondence from the H.D Skinner collection between Otago Museum and international institutions related to the trade and exchange of Māori taonga.
- In December an afternoon tea was held for the archives digitisation volunteers, unfortunately I didn't take a photo!

Honorary curators, volunteer and internship activity

- Sam Crawford has continued a Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering initiative collating and photographing a collection of lithic taoka from Tiwai Point.
- Steve Kerr continues to work on taxonomic work associated with flies and has published a synonymisation paper.
- Bruce McKinley has finished a gap analysis of the ornithology collections at Tūhura.
- Rosi Crane continues historical research work into the town belt.
- Jane Malthus has been working on the content of the information package that will be made available to the iD2027 exhibition participants
- It was with much sadness that we learned of the death on 30 January 2026 of Melville Carr, our Honorary Curator, Philately.

Public talks

Title	Date	External Audience	Delivered by
Māori rock art one of a dozen research areas to get \$1.16m funding boost. https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/581723/maori-rock-art-one-of-a-dozen-research-areas-to-get-1-point-16m-funding-boost	12 December 2025	Radio New Zealand, national news interview.	Gerard O'Regan

Conservation

Remedial

- Undertook treatment on approximately 8 objects selected for the upcoming Tangata Moana exhibition, including removal of deteriorated mounting materials and minor stabilisation to ensure safe display.

Projects

- Wet store project Top-up and Step-up
- Integrated pest management
- Testo environmental check
- Galleries deep clean

- Pacific culture gallery object going through

Training

- Xiaoya Zhou participated in the conservation volunteer programme at Brancepeth vintage building, led by Emily Fryer's conservation team, learning about and assisting with furniture cleaning and conservation.

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND FRONT OF HOUSE

Holiday Club Program

The Explorer's Club Holiday Programme will run during the final week of January, providing care and engaging activities for children in the lead-up to the start of Term 1.

Sleepover Programs

Term 1: 16 Sleepovers from 11 schools

Term 2: 9 Sleepovers from 3 schools

Term 3: 4 Sleepovers from 2 schools

Term 4: 12 Sleepovers from 6 schools

Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC)

The Education team will be receiving a new one-year contract from the Ministry of Education under the Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC) 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:

December Total: 261	3 weeks	January Total: 25	0 weeks School Holidays
DCC	129	Central	7
Clutha	36	DCC	18
Southland	16		
Canterbury	80		

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.

Dec 25 & Jan 26	Y 0-3	Y 4-6	Y 7-8	Y 9-10	Y 11+	TOTAL
Total	0	136	100	0	50	286
Target	1350	1650	1500	1050	450	6000
% of Target	0%	8.2%	6.7%	0%	11.1%	4.8%
Adult Total	58					

Outreach

December:

Date	Location	Event	Engagement Numbers
Saturday, 6 December 2025	Wyndham	Wyndham A&P Show	300
Friday, 12 December 2025	Dunedin	Meridian Mall Pop Up	20
Saturday, 13 December 2025	Clutha	Milton A&P Show	100
Monday, 15 December 2025	Dunedin	Meridian Mall Pop Up	20
Tuesday, 16 December 2025	Dunedin	Meridian Mall Pop Up	26

Total: 466

January:

Date	Location	Event	Engagement Numbers
Sunday 18 January 2026	Dunedin	Brighton Gala	298
Saturday 24 January 2026	Dunedin	Taieri A&P Show	25
Thursday 29 January 2026	Dunedin	Light Painting (internal)	54

Total: 377

Locations visited by Outreach across Aotearoa and Otago:



Externally Funded Projects

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Last year, four of our team members visited Samoa with our Far From Frozen showcase, supported by MFAT. At the conclusion of this project there was approx. \$14,000 underspend in this fund. We sent a proposal to MFAT suggesting that we use this money to put together some science kits to send to the *Imagine Science Centre* in Samoa, with whom we had forged a strong relationship during our time there. MFAT was supportive of this proposal, so Front of House team members Diana and Emma spent time researching appropriate science equipment to gift them.

We are pleased to say that this pallet of science equipment is now on its way to Samoa, estimated to arrive mid-February. Diana and Emma are compiling a digital guide for the *Imagine* team, outlining the gear and ideas for related demonstrations. The gear consists of telescopes, microscopes, GoPros, water testing kits, and other materials to aid the science centre in their outreach programmes or to donate to local schools.

Other Engagement & Outreach Activities

Though a few of our Outreach team moved on from their role at the Museum recently, we are continuing to offer outreach at schools and community events across Otago and beyond. Some of our Front of House staff, and our Education Officer, have expanded their capabilities, and have been trained on delivering our popular shows and demonstrations.

During December we ran a science pop-up stall in the Meridian Mall to support our pop-up shop. This was aimed at taking advantage of families visiting Santa in the Mall. However, as a lot of children were still at school, engagement numbers weren't as high as we'd hoped.

During this period, we attended three A&P shows: Taieri, Milton, and Wyndham. Though the weather wasn't always on our side, we managed to entertain and educate a few great crowds. Wyndham was a particular success; though a bit out of our way, we engaged with an estimated 300 attendees, and immediately following the event the organiser reached out to lock us in for next year.



Diana impressing spectators with a nitrogen cloud at Wyndham – always a crowd favourite!

2026 kicked off with a bang in the form of Brighton Gala Day. Always a great day out, we reached an estimated 300 attendees.

Unfortunately, the recent Taieri A&P Show wasn't such a success; though we gave it our best shot, the terrible weather kept the crowds away and eventually forced our sodden team to call it a day around lunchtime.

Rounding off January, we supported an in-house Light Painting Photography event by displaying a range of light-related science demonstrations.



Steve Ting displays a range of science demonstrations about Light, at a recent in-house photography workshop.

Though we have reached the end of A&P season, we have our name down for several other upcoming community events in Dunedin. We hope to expand our team in order to replace the recently departed outreach superstars, and to ensure that we are still able to support these events going forward.



Left: Steve braving the weather at Taieri A&P Show

Right: Ashley at the Meridian Mall doing what he does best: educating young minds!

Living Environments

Achieved a successful second-generation hatching of Goliath stick insects, with 36 nymphs currently thriving.

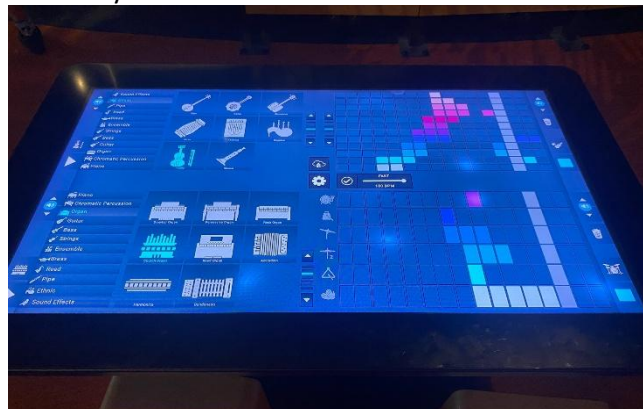
At the time of writing, ZAA accreditation documentation had been submitted, reflecting our commitment to maintaining a high standard of animal welfare and care across the facility. A site assessment visit is scheduled for 12 February.



Baby goliath stick insect nymphs in quarantine

Science Centre

The refresh remains ongoing, with several new interactive installations now in place. These include colour-changing light panels; an X-ray table featuring real diagnostic images generously provided by the Wildlife Hospital; a music generator; a “colour-your-own” hot air balloon activity; Arca Arcade gaming consoles; and a touchscreen interactive highlighting the importance of polar ecosystems and ocean health. Remaining installations scheduled for completion in the coming weeks include an interactive electrical circuit, and a multi-ball exhibit focused on sport science and coordination. Updated signage for these new installations is underway.



Two new interactives connected to the Human zone of Tūhura
Left: Hot Air balloon interactive, right: Music interactive



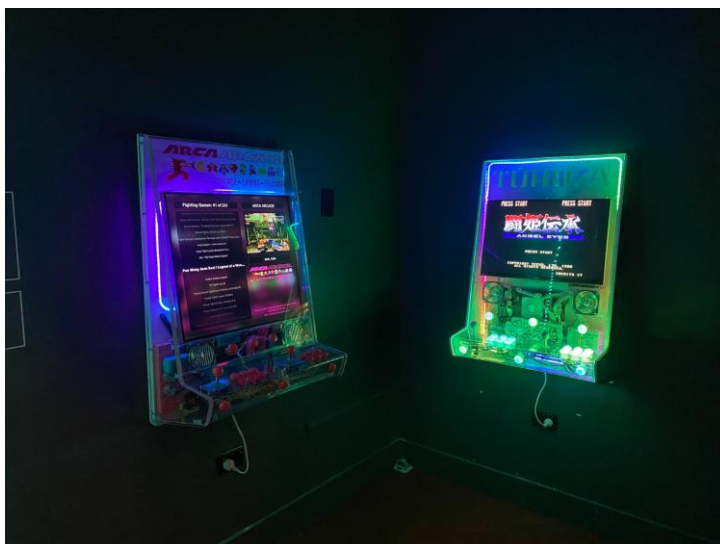
New interactive connected to the Light zone of Tūhura



X-ray table in biozone



New interactive installed in biozone – large vinyl signage about ocean science and penguins to be installed around it



Arca Arcade game consoles installed in science centre with see through consoles so visitors can see the internal workings of the system

Public Engagement in the Tropical Forest & Tūhura Science Centre

In December and January, we printed 600 Tropical Forest trails and 400 Tūhura Science Centre trails. First Flight Butterfly Releases attracted 848 adults and 710 children during this period, the increase because of our Christmas and New Year holidays.

Visitor Experience

We printed 450 Elf Hunt booklets with elves placed around the galleries just for the festive season, 1st to 24th December.



Our Marine Mammal trail continued to be popular with 600 printed during this period.

We are now well into cruise ship season, though unfortunately many ships have been cancelled due to bad weather and strong winds. We're halfway through the cruise season timewise, with February

looking to be our busiest month. Despite the cancellations, we have had 28 groups through, totalling 761 people.

January saw both Hands On and Science Academy programmes from the University of Otago come through the Museum, with excellent feedback from participants. Highlights included: "I LOVED exploring the museum, and improving my speaking skills," and "I loved the science comm teachers, they were all so lovely and inclusive."

The team have been enjoying working in The *Gallery Gang* exhibition and receiving lovely feedback on all the activities.

EVENTS

Public Events

December was a delightful month, with a focus on family-friendly Christmas events that drew strong audiences to Tūhura and attracted over 2,000 attendees to our events programme. We saw great interest from choirs, with many local groups performing throughout the month.

Highlights included our first Kids Christmas Concert, featuring three local children's performers and welcoming over 400 attendees across the morning. After our event was organised and promoted, the Council scheduled a larger event with similar performers in the Botanic Gardens. Unfortunately, their event was heavily impacted by weather, which contributed to our strong audience numbers, as our concert was held the following weekend.

Instead of our usual Halloween Pyjamarama, this year we hosted a Christmas themed Pyjamarama. The team's contribution in developing engaging, educational, and beautiful activations within our gallery spaces resulted in one of our most successful Pyjamarama events to date.

Our Christmas workshops proved very popular, with both the Snow Globe Making and Gnome Making workshops selling out. We also saw sold-out sessions of our adult Christmas film screenings – Love Actually and The Holiday – with a lovely atmosphere and positive feedback from both audiences.

As in prior years, we delivered another successful Heritage Christmas Bus season, with buses departing from Tūhura. This has become a staple community offering, with visitors enquiring about tickets as early as October and three out of five nights selling out to capacity.

We welcomed the opening of the *Ruby Jones* exhibition, which received excellent feedback, along with a lovely opening event where attendees made cards with Ruby herself. Following this, Tūhura delivered a sold-out storybook-making workshop in January, with an incredible and creative response from participants.

Our new Events Officer, Daniel, had an excellent start in his role after joining the team in November. He developed and delivered photography-focused offerings to support the Tūhura Photography Awards submission period in January, achieving great results at both a public talk and a light-painting workshop. He also delivered an after-hours adult event in support of our *Gallery Gang* exhibition, which sold out and received wonderful feedback from attendees.

We launched the first of our Planetarium Film Nights in January with a sold-out Back to the Future screening. We also continued our Mesmerica screenings, which achieved mixed results and will conclude in February.

December					
Exhibition Opening	12-Dec	Ruby Jones Exhibition Opening	65	FREE	
Public talk	12-Dec	Q&A with Ruby Jones	54	FREE	
Workshop	13-Dec	Ruby Jones Card Making Workshop	18	FREE	
Live Performance	14-Dec	Waitati Warblers	51	FREE	
Christmas Event	18 - 21 December	Heritage Christmas Bus Lights Tour	772		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	16-Dec	The Holiday	51		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	18-Dec	Love Actually	51		PAID
Live Performance	6-Dec	Kids Christmas Concert	430	FREE	
Live Performance	6-Dec	Rhythmix	66	FREE	
Live Performance	7-Dec	Dunedin Rock Choir	62	FREE	
Planetarium Event	7-Dec	Mesmerica	29		PAID
Workshop	20-Dec	Snow Globes	45		PAID
Interactive Performance	13-Dec	Murder at the Museum	18		PAID
Workshop	13-Dec	Gnome Workshop	75		PAID
Planetarium Event	13-Dec	Mesmerica	15		PAID
Planetarium Event	14-Dec	Mesmerica	14		PAID
Family Fun	19-Dec	Christmas Pyjamarama		FREE	
Planetarium Event	31-Dec	Mesmerica	89		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	20-Dec	The Grinch Who Stole Christmas	21		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	20-Dec	The Grinch	36		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	21-Dec	Home Alone	45		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	21-Dec	Home Alone – Lost in New York	23		PAID

Live Performance	20-Dec	City Choir	87	FREE	
			2117	9	14
January					
Workshop	16-Jan	Storybook Making Workshop	15		PAID
Workshop	17-Jan	Glitter Slime Workshop	116		PAID
Public Talk	24-Jan	A Lens In Nature (Simone Jackson)	78		PAID
Photography Workshop	29-Jan	Light Painting Workshop	54	FREE	
Exhibition Workshop	30-Jan	Gallery Gang After Hours	40		PAID
Planetarium Event	16-Jan	Mesmerica	64		PAID
Planetarium Event	24-Jan	Mesmerica	120		PAID
Planetarium Film Screening	30-Jan	Back to the Future	51		PAID
			538	1	7

Commercial Events

During this period, 13 events were delivered across six venues, attracting a total of 492 attendees. Activity was concentrated in December, particularly between 9–12 December when four events were hosted across consecutive days, reflecting strong seasonal demand.

Meetings and seminars accounted for 10 events and 262 attendees, continuing to form the core of venue usage. Two banquet events generated 190 attendees, demonstrating the strong audience impact of larger-format functions, while one exhibition opening contributed a further 40 attendees. Although meetings dominate in volume, banquet events deliver significantly higher attendance per booking.

Theomin Balcony was the most utilised space, hosting six events. The Atrium delivered the largest single function, a 150-person conference dinner. Barclay Theatre and Hutton Theatre supported mid-sized events, and three bookings utilised multiple venues, demonstrating operational flexibility.

Education and Business/Corporate clients each delivered four events. Associations and unions generated the highest total attendance, driven by the conference dinner, alongside two Government bookings and one exhibition opening. Overall, the period reflects steady meeting demand and continued opportunity for growth through larger-scale events.

Our new Events Guide and pricing structure was rolled out in January, with increases and clearer pricing for venues and events. The most significant increase is to our Hutton Theatre which has recently undergone an upgrade.

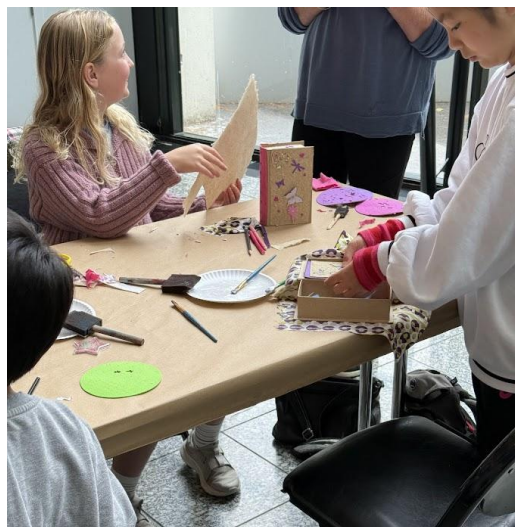
Venue	Name of Event	Start Date	PAX total	Event Type	Customer Type
Theomin Balcony	University Retreat	2/12/2025	20	Meeting/Seminar	Education
Barclay Theatre	Professional Clinic	6/12/2025	70	Meeting/Seminar	Associations and unions
Theomin Balcony	Meeting	9/12/2025	5	Meeting/Seminar	Government
Atrium	Conference Dinner	9/12/2025	150	Banquet	Associations and unions
Theomin Balcony	Christmas Function	10/12/2025	40	Banquet	Business/corporate
Multiple Venues	Board Meeting	11/12/2025	12	Meeting/Seminar	Business/corporate
Multiple Venues	Ruby Jones Exhibition Opening	12/12/2025	40	Exhibition/trade show	Other
Hutton Theatre	Meeting	18/12/2025	80	Meeting/Seminar	Government
Ted McCoy Room	Tertiary Meeting	27/01/2026	4	Meeting/Seminar	Education
Theomin Balcony	University Meeting	3/02/2026	27	Meeting/Seminar	Education
Multiple Venues	University Planning session	4/02/2026	30	Meeting/Seminar	Education
Theomin Balcony	Meeting	10/02/2026	4	Meeting/Seminar	Business/corporate
Theomin Balcony	Focus Group	10/02/2026	10	Meeting/Seminar	Business/corporate

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."

"Just letting you know that Philip had some great feedback regarding specifically the Annex spaces saying ""how tidy and clutter free the spaces are" and "how they're such a great canvas to make a great event in!"



Storybook Workshop in support of Ruby Jones



Gallery Gang After-Hours Event



Christmas Pyjamarama

EXHIBITIONS AND CREATIVE SERVICES

Exhibitions and displays currently open:

- *The Gallery Gang – Your ultimate crafty family exhibition (photo below)* – large scale makerspace activities for the summer holiday period. We developed cute characters to represent each of the Museum’s permanent galleries, and the activities will encourage visitors to go and explore the wider museum spaces in more detail. Closes 8 February 2026.



Gallery Gangs exhibition



Ruby Jones exhibition

- *Soft Lines – Illustrating Empathy with Ruby Jones* (above right) in Beautiful Science gallery 12 December 2025 – 12 April 2026. Merchandise for this show has gone particularly well.
- *A Peep Show of Birds* – runs until 2 May 2027.
- *Absolutely Agnes – A Hallenstein Family Legacy* is leaving People of the World in March.
- *Heavenly Pop Hits: The Legacy of Martin Phillipps* ongoing display in People of the World Gallery.
- *iNDx* art exhibition in Beautiful Science Gallery, closed 7 December. 12,652 visitors.

In Development:

- *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 - April 2026

- Pacific Cultures Gallery refresh ongoing, but with an end in sight. Carpet has been installed. Working through design and case layouts. Content and draft labelling is well underway in consultation with the relevant communities. Opening scheduled for end of May.
- 27th Tūhura Photography Competition and Exhibition – Competition 5 December 2025 – 3 February 2026. 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 at the Museum, highlighting both the artists' work and the conservation message. 16 April 2026 – 10 May 2026.
- *Boro: Timeworn Textiles of Japan*. Drawn 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.
- *Dinosaurs – Surviving Extinction*, opening 5 September 2026 until 17 January 2027 in Special Exhibition Gallery. This show will be ticketed.
- Discussions underway for an exhibition in Beautiful Science Gallery centred around Tikumu.
- Artsenta 40th anniversary display in Beautiful Science Gallery September 2026, focusing on their history but also the impact of creativity on mental health.
- Planning underway for a collaboration with iD Fashion Dunedin for a show which has the potential to tour for early 2027. Past emerging and established designers are being invited to select an item from the Museum's textile collection (a sample selection has been decided to choose from)
- *Handkerchiefs (title tbc)* showcase People of the World Gallery opening November 2026
- *Tohu Whēnua, Tohu Ora*, the Rock Art collaboration with Canterbury Museum ongoing.

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 from Planetarium to school holidays, O' week and After Dark
- Assisting with installation of new activities in the Science Centre. Planning for the introduction of new signage when the content is completed.
- Ongoing collateral for Marketing, flyers, adverts, signage etc.
- Annual Plan design completed.
- Planning for the display of the meteorite in Southern Land, Southern People.
- Organised additional uniform stock to be printed.
- The Pacific Cultures Project team met with Barabara Makuait-Afitu from Lagi-Maama.
- Completed design and production of the Emergency Response Plan flip charts.
- The team attended a webinar run by the Alliance for Immersion in Museums, sharing ideas and visitor findings from large digital immersive projects.
- Met with JourneyPal to discuss the implementation of audio guides into the galleries.

MARKETING

Overview

December and January were, as expected, very busy summer months for Tūhura Otago Museum. With school holidays beginning later in December, early December was comparatively quiet. However, unsettled weather over the holiday period contributed to strong visitation numbers, as visitors sought

indoor, family-friendly experiences. Overall, the Museum enjoyed excellent summer engagement and attendance.

Exhibitions and Events

Marketing played a key role in promoting and selling out a number of Christmas events across December.

We also worked closely with Design and Exhibitions teams on the creation and launch of *The Gallery Gang's Big Adventure*, generating strong media interest and community engagement and contributing directly to the development of the exhibition itself by writing signage and assisting with installation. A special acknowledgement goes to *Gallery Gang* creators and Tūhura exhibition designers Shanaya Cunningham and Annah Taggart for their outstanding mahi in delivering this exhibition.

The *Ruby Jones* exhibition was also created from scratch by the Marketing and Design teams. This involved coordinating content, exhibition design, opening events, promotion, and associated programming. The exhibition was a strong success across visitor engagement, media coverage, and commercial outcomes.

Visitor Feedback and Evaluation

Visitor surveying conducted over the summer period produced exceptional feedback for the *Gallery Gang* exhibition:

- **100%** of respondents said they enjoyed or really enjoyed the exhibition
- **96%+** said they would return
- **100%** said they would recommend the exhibition to family and friends
- **97%** felt the exhibition was priced correctly

Notably, 40% of attendees heard about the exhibition through word of mouth, highlighting visitor advocacy as the most powerful form of advertising. Several respondents also commented that families had returned multiple times.

Commercial Performance and Brand Impact

Merchandise for the Ruby Jones exhibition has almost completely sold out. Both the *Gallery Gang* and *Ruby Jones* exhibitions generated high levels of activity throughout summer, alongside strong local and national media coverage.

From a brand, community, and commercial perspective, Marketing considers these to be two of the strongest exhibitions delivered in recent years. Both were low-cost to produce, enhanced the Museum's brand, were commercially viable, and received outstanding community feedback.

Photography Competition

Marketing launched the 2026 Photography Competition during this period. A total of \$21,500 in sponsorship was secured from local partners, alongside a significant national collaboration with the Department of Conservation. This partnership, and the introduction of a new category for entrants from across Aotearoa, markedly elevated the Museum's brand visibility and competition awareness on a national scale.

As a result, the competition received over 9,300 entries, almost double the usual number. This represents a major success for both the competition and the Museum, with the competition continuing to grow in scale, reputation, recognition, and quality.

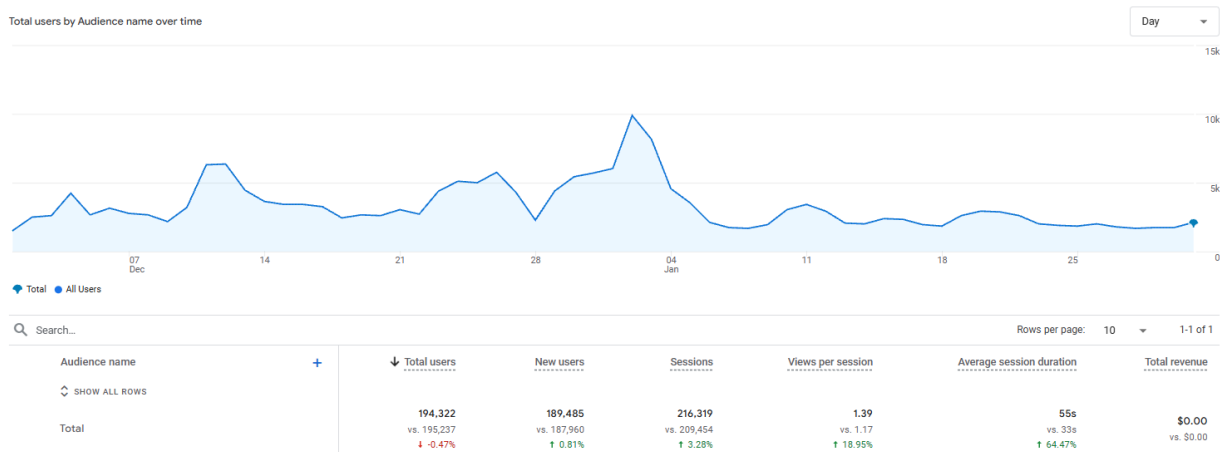
Retail and Pop-Up Shop

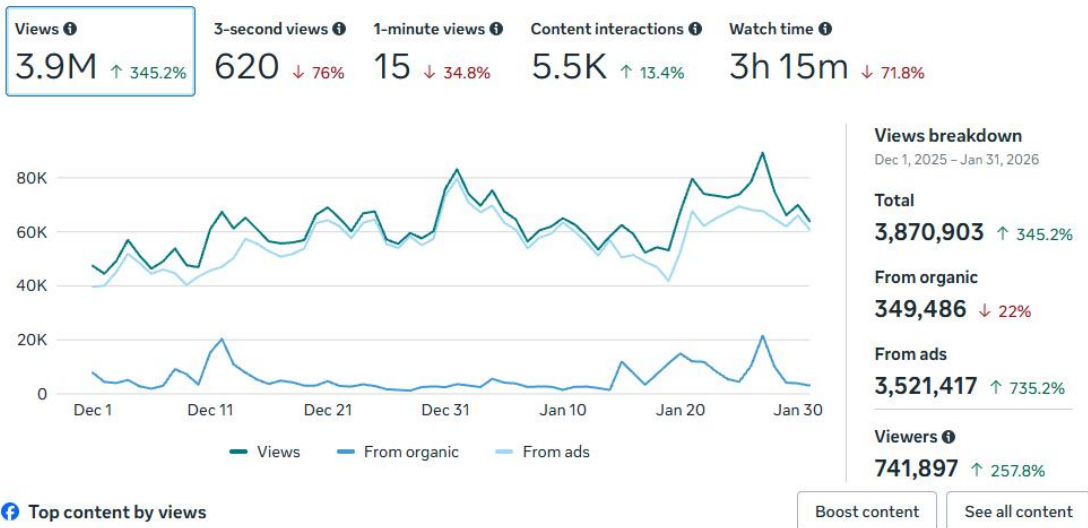
Marketing secured a prime location for the Museum’s Christmas pop-up shop at Meridian Mall at a very low cost. Marketing also promoted the pop-up extensively, contributing to the successful clearance of a significant amount of older stock.

Digital Performance and Campaigns

Website traffic and social media engagement were extremely high over this period. This was driven by the popularity of the summer exhibitions, national exposure through Department of Conservation collaborations, and the campaign around Board Chair David Hutchinson swimming the Cook Strait to raise awareness and funds for the Museum’s urgently needed sprinkler system.

Marketing led the campaign and press coverage for David’s swim, which has raised over \$8,000 to date and achieved strong local and national media exposure. The campaign successfully highlighted the Museum’s funding needs and the importance of investing in capital infrastructure to protect the collection. Marketing partnered with Emerson’s Brewery to help amplify this mahi.





Top content by views



Big news for Māori rock art! Massive...
Fri Dec 12, 4:26pm
19.2K views, 305 likes, 27 comments, 19 shares



Ruby Jones Illustrating Empathy ...
Sat Dec 13, 10:58am
37.0K views, 572 likes, 21 comments, 22 shares



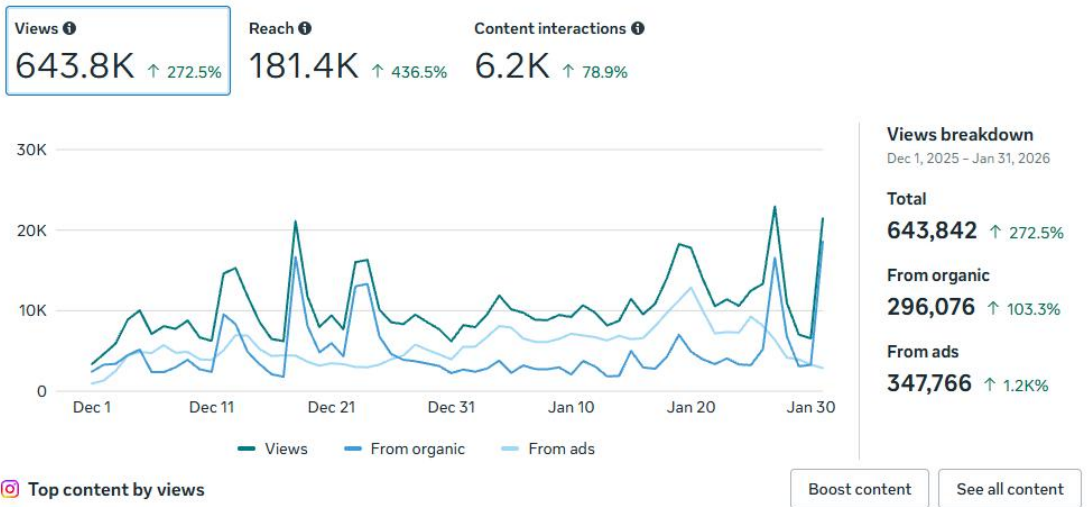
Meet Kahuwai - the tunnelweb spider. Sh...
Thu Jan 22, 2:33pm
18.6K views, 131 likes, 28 comments, 11 shares




Dunedin's favourite Christmas Lights Bus...
Fri Dec 12, 11:01am
13.8K views, 75 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares




Want a fun job where you're at the heart of...
Tue Jan 20, 4:43pm
15.9K views, 38 likes, 1 comment, 6 shares




Top content by views



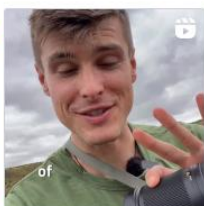
Only TWO days left to enter the Tūhura Ota...
Fri Jan 30, 10:23am
44.6K views, 1.1K likes, 4 comments, 49 shares



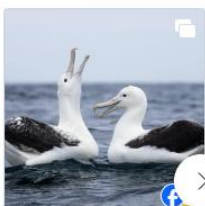
It's summer, the perfect time to get...
Wed Dec 24, 1:16pm
40.9K views, 160 likes, 0 comments, 35 shares



Aotearoa, it's your turn! For the first tim...
Fri Dec 19, 8:19am
37.3K views, 206 likes, 4 comments, 110 shares



Are you a keen photographer? Make...
Sat Jan 17, 2:04pm
23.9K views, 457 likes, 13 comments, 58 shares



Final call! This is your last chance to...
Sun Feb 1, 2:39pm
24.0K views, 468 likes, 2 comments, 11 shares

Key Results Indicators (KRIs) – Performance Monitoring

Marketing has continued to actively monitor and report against the team’s Key Results Indicators (KRIs) for the year.

Across social media platforms, the Museum has achieved a 3.5% increase in audience growth, exceeding the annual target of 2%. This reflects strong content performance, high engagement driven by summer exhibitions, and effective national partnerships.

In earned media, Marketing set a target of 40 local/regional stories and 10 national stories for the year. To date, these targets have already been exceeded, with:

- 56 regional/local media stories
- 22 national and international media stories

These results demonstrate strong momentum in earned media, increased national and international visibility, and effective storytelling that resonates with both local communities and wider audiences. Targets have been met and surpassed well ahead of schedule.

Science Centre Enhancements

Marketing has also been working with Science Centre and Living Environments Coordinator Samantha Edwards-Ingle and Senior Designer Annah Taggart to develop new interactive elements for the Science Centre. This work focuses on refreshing the space, removing dated elements, and strengthening the commercial offering. New interactives and updated signage are currently in progress, with delivery planned over the coming months.

FACILITIES, ASSETS AND TECHNOLOGY

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

- Ran a fire drill for the Museum
- Ran a fire drill for the Annex
- Deinstalled the *Gallery Gang* exhibition
- Painted wall in Pacific Cultures gallery
- Installed 4 new displays in Tūhura science centre
- Fixed 2 x roof leaks
- Replaced 3 x lights in Animal Attic
- Annual BMS service
- New carpet in Pacific Cultures gallery
- Installed new wood on wall in Hutton.
- 4 x lift inspections.
- BWOFF inspection’s for Museum.
- Small A/V update in the boardroom
- New firewalls ordered

END OF REPORT

OTAGO MUSEUM TRUST BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 2026

KAUPAPA MĀORI

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

26 FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by: Nancy Longnecker, Friends' President

The Friends has an active council of ten members that meets monthly. Jane Gregory continues to provide indispensable liaison between the Friends and Museum staff.

The Friends' Council has been very busy:

- Friends are organizing our finances, which includes a client agreement with Craig's Investment to invest reserves and future-proof the Association of Friends.
- We're researching the history of the Association of Friends, using materials found in the Museum archives, in the Hocken, on various drives and servers, and in the cupboard in the Friends Room. This has been fascinating. The Association's history will be documented in:
 - Our anniversary exhibition: *Friends Forever –100 years of generosity, connection and shared curiosity*, launching 23 April;
 - A book about the Association's first 100 years, with the working title of *Conversazione*;
 - Gallery trails for children and adults to discover things in the galleries associated with the Friends; and
 - A radio broadcast series of conversations on OAR, Otago Access Radio, that will remain available as podcasts.
- The purpose of the Friends is to support the Museum, not to be a burden on staff. In recognition that Museum staff are busy with many projects, Friends volunteers are researching the Association's history, with feedback from the collections team; and we have a talented designer working on the projects, with feedback from the Museum's Design team.
- I'd particularly like to acknowledge humanities curator Moira White (who is a life member of the Friends); curator Merryn Chynoweth who is taking photos of collection items for the exhibition and book; Head of Exhibitions and Creative Services, Craig Scott; and Archivist, Gareth West for their feedback and support.
- The Friends are building our membership to increase our ability to make an anniversary donation of something significant to the Museum.
- The Association of Friends will host social events over the year for Friends and invited guests. The Trust Board will be invited to all of our anniversary events. Please note the exhibition launch on **23 April 2026** in your diary.
- Our first sponsored *Friends in Focus* this year will be Dr Rosi Crane at noon on Tuesday 17 March in the Barclay Lecture Theatre: *The Animals Came in One by One*.

Nancy Longnecker
President, Friends Association

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board

Notes the report from the Friends' President.