

ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)



C/- Auckland Institute and Museum,
Private Bag,
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND.

1st September, 1966.

A.G.M.A.N.Z. NEWSLETTER NO. 29

ASSISTANT-DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for a full time Assistant-Director for the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Logan Park, Dunedin.

Salary £1,500 - £1,800 per annum according to qualifications with superannuation.

Particulars are available from -

The Secretary,
Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society,
P.O. Box 566,
Dunedin,

Applications close in Dunedin on -

Friday, 30th September, 1966.

GRANTS FROM THE SMALL MUSEUMS FUND

Applications are invited for grants from the Small Museums Fund of £2,000 provided by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council. The purpose of the fund is to assist small Art Galleries and Museums with expert advice and services, subject to adequate contribution being made from local sources.

Grants cannot be made for buildings or other capital purposes.

Suggested projects for grants are :-

1. Expenses of visits by members of staff, either honorary or salaried, to other institutions for training.
2. Expenses of visits by experts to advise and help smaller institutions.
3. Grants for salaries for short-term projects that cannot be carried out by volunteers or existing staff.

Applications should be lodged with the Hon. Secretary before the next meeting of AGMANZ Council on 1.11.66. It will assist Council in approving applications if full estimates of cost are supplied with details of the local contributions to the project.

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE

The N. Z. National Airways Corporation has approved a 10% concession for members attending the 9th Biennial Conference to be held at Invercargill from February 27th to March 1st, 1967, provided at least 10 people travel by their services.

The 10% Convention Discount is only available if a certificate is submitted before travel; refunds cannot be made after full fares have been paid. Certificates will be issued as soon as 10 people have notified that they propose to travel by air.

Please write to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible so that advantage may be taken of this concession. The address of the Hon. Secretary is shown above.

CAPITAL GRANTS

At the Annual Meeting held on 28.4.66 members resolved: That this meeting of the Association affirm and adopt the following statements for transmission to the Minister or Secretary for Internal Affairs :

1. That this Association affirms its belief that (except in the Capital city) the primary responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of museums and art galleries continues to rest with the local community with the exception that, for the capital needs of building programmes, the local community might expect to call on the assistance of state funds granted by way of subsidy on the locally collected amount.
2. That this annual meeting of the Association, having reason to believe that building subsidies cannot be sought from the Kiwi Lottery Fund (because of the absence of a division dealing with such needs) or from the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council (because of its limited funds), seeks clarification from the Government concerning the appropriate channel through which subsidy applications might be made.

The resolution was sent to the Secretary for Internal Affairs who replied on 12.7.66, reference 199/39, as follows :

"Dear Mr. Cooper,

I have received your letter of 2 June setting out the resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting of your Association, in which clarification was sought concerning the appropriate channel through which subsidy applications might be made.

The grants which you have cited were made before the Distribution Committees were set up under the Gaming Amendment Act 1962. Since the Gaming Amendment Act 1963 there has been no provision for a distribution committee for cultural purposes, but the Golden Kiwi Lottery Board of Control was empowered to make allocations to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council. The Council has adequate powers under its statute to make grants to museums and art galleries, and I am not aware of any other source from which grants could be made.

From this information it will be clear that applications for assistance should continue to be addressed to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. Read
for Secretary for Internal Affairs."

On 23.3.65 Mr. G. Gibbes Watson, Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council, advised members at the Napier Conference that the Arts Council was unable to make capital grants owing to lack of funds. Mr. David Peters, Director of the Arts Council, confirmed that this policy was still in force when he addressed members on 27.4.66. Subsequently he advised the Hon. Secretary, in letters dated 28.6.66 and 22.8.66 :-

1. That the Golden Kiwi Board of Control had declined an application from the Arts Council for further funds, and
2. that with the present scale of revenue funding, the Arts Council must re-affirm the statement made in 1965 that it is unable to make grants of a capital nature.

It is difficult to understand why the Government grants capital subsidies in some cases and refuses them in others. Institutions established for sporting, social, and charitable purposes are granted capital subsidies; institutions established for cultural and educational purposes, such as art galleries, museums and libraries, are refused.

This subject will be placed on the agenda for the AGMANZ Council Meeting on 1.11.66. In the meantime, members can assist by supplying the Hon. Secretary with details of subsidies sought, or to be sought, for new buildings, additions, and other capital works. This information will provide the Council with up to date figures.

COOK BICENTENARY

The following letter may be of interest to members :

"26 August 1966

Dear Mr. Cooper,

Further to my letter of 17 June I should like to advise you that an augmented Steering Committee has been set up to consider plans for Government participation in the celebrations of the Cook Bi-centenary and to examine proposals for a national memorial to Captain Cook.

For your information the following Departments and organisations are represented on this committee:

Department of Internal Affairs (Convener)
Ministry of Defence (Navy to represent the
three services)

Department of Education
External Affairs Department
Department of Maori Affairs
Tourist & Publicity Department
The Treasury

The Royal Society of New Zealand
The New Zealand Historic Places Trust
The Maori People (to be nominated by the
New Zealand Maori Council.)

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. T. White
for Secretary for Internal Affairs"

IMPORT LICENCING

An address by Mr. Gilbert Docking, Director, Auckland City Art Gallery, to the Annual Meeting of the Association.

The subject of import licencing is of great concern to the public museums and art galleries of New Zealand. I wish to introduce this topic under the following headings :

1. Why import controls have been imposed.
2. A resumé of the history of licencing imports for galleries and museums.
3. The present position.
4. Some proposals.

1. You may wonder why import controls are necessary. New Zealand has come to a stage in its development when the value of goods it is importing exceeds the value of goods it is exporting. To correct this lack of balance and to safeguard the economy of the country, the Government is using a control system called "import licencing". Any person importing goods must apply to the Customs Department for a licence. The Minister of Customs has very considerable powers invested in his position - he may grant or decline a licence to import. He may exempt goods from licencing or withdraw any such exemption. He may even grant a licence without a formal application being made.

All the regulations are designed to give to the Minister of Customs, to the Government, and to the Customs Department in particular, the utmost control over every single item brought into New Zealand - except for goods brought by migrating birds. These creatures have escaped the regulations to date.

2. Now for a brief history of import licencing in relation to the public galleries and museums of New Zealand. In 1958 there was a fall in overseas earnings and the Government of the day decided to tighten control of imports. Otago Museum had a Greek vase (£185) and a bronze horse (£35) coming. The Otago Museum Trust Board was granted a "no remittance" import licence, which meant that the Museum could land these objects, but could not pay for them. A request for reconsideration was refused.

Just at this time the Director of the Auckland City Art Gallery was bringing to Auckland an Impressionist painting by Roderick O'Connor, "The Farm", priced at £262, other paintings and prints totalling £2,184, and several travelling exhibitions, including Rembrandt etchings, Picasso lithographs, and Hiroshima panels. The Town Clerk of Auckland, on behalf of the City Art Gallery, made a lengthy plea in June 1958 to the Collector of Customs for a licence to import pictures and loan exhibitions. Despite his submissions in the interests of the cultural life of the city and nation, a 5 line reply came in August saying that the application was declined and that "there was no reason to vary the previous decision". One begins stuttering just to find words to describe this incomprehensible attitude.

The position was impossible, but personal interviewing, letters, 'phone calls, and press articles finally brought a break in this seemingly impregnable wall. All our galleries and museums are indebted to Peter Tomory for hammering away at this problem. AGMANZ - and here is a fine example of co-operation - was then able to develop the Auckland precedent into a gain for all New Zealand galleries and museums.

A suggestion, made to the Auckland City Art Gallery by the Customs Department, that each gallery and museum be allowed £1,000 a year for imports, was taken up by your Secretary on behalf of AGMANZ. He sought confirmation of this from the Minister and suggested that, as some institutions would need more than £1,000 and some less, latitude in sharing licences might be permitted. In March 1959 the Minister of Customs agreed to allocate funds for imports up to £1,000 for each public art gallery and museum. Furthermore, he approved the pooling of separate licences if all parties confirmed this procedure. By September 1959, 15 eligible institutions had consented to pool their licences, and the Comptroller of Customs had advised Collectors of Customs at the various ports of his approval of the scheme so that member institutions could clear shipments without difficulty. The Comptroller also suggested that, for the 1960 licensing period, it would facilitate the work of the Customs Department if one licence covering the entitlements of all galleries and museums were issued in the name of the Association. By November 1959, the 15 eligible institutions had agreed to the issue of a single licence in the name of the Association, and this was obtained in the following month.

This was a great step forward, but difficulties still continued. In 1960 only £5,000 was used of the £15,000 licence. Owing to the complete lack of licences in 1958 and the protracted negotiations in 1959, the importing of works of art, antiques, etc., for galleries and museums had ceased and overseas touring exhibitions had been abandoned. Peter Tomory visited Europe and England in December 1960 and January 1961 to arrange a new series of tours and make purchases. There were accumulated purchase funds at the Auckland City Art Gallery, in the Mackelvie Trust, at the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum (Leo Bestall Memorial Fund) and so on. AGMANZ tried to obtain an extra licence of £10,000 for 1961, being in fact the unused balance of the 1960 licence, but the Minister of Customs flatly refused the request. When a licencing year concludes a new beginning is made. The old licence is cancelled.

In 1964 the Government imposed a cut of 10% in all licences and the Customs Department, despite protests, reduced the pool licence held by AGMANZ from £15,000 to £9,000. Since 1959-60 the number of institution members (and the number of members using the licence) had risen considerably, and the tempo of importing and touring exhibitions had steadily increased. Early in the 1964 licencing year it was necessary to appeal to the Customs Department for help and the Collector at Auckland restored the pool licence to £13,500.

In the 1965 licencing year Auckland City Art Gallery "rocked the boat" by using the Watson Bequest of £4,600 to establish a Gothic Art collection. The Gisborne Art Gallery and Museum also caused a wobble or two by using the Miller Bequest of £3,000 to buy paintings in England, and so on. The pool licence of £13,500 proved inadequate and the Customs Department agreed to issue an extra £7,000 to be charged against the 1966-7 licence. This brought a pool licence for 1965-6 up to £20,500, (and all of it was used by members before the year ended on 30.6.66. Ed.)

4. What can be done to overcome the perpetual problem of import licencing as it applies to works for New Zealand public galleries and museums? One proposal is:

- i. that import control be virtually waived on works for public collections.
- ii. that all proposed purchases be registered with AGMANZ.
- iii. that in the event of the running total reaching £20,000, AGMANZ seek further approval from the Minister of Customs before purchases above the total of £20,000 are finalised.
- iv. that costs of travelling exhibitions be met from a separate licence in the name of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council ... (The Minister has approved the last suggestion but declined the others).

Another proposal is that the New Zealand Government put into effect Article IV of the Unesco 1950 Free Flow Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials. As the title indicates, this Agreement was designed to make it easier to import educational, scientific and cultural materials in the interests of intellectual progress, international understanding and peace. We are told:

- i. that the New Zealand Government is a party to the Agreement.
- ii. that the application and interpretation of it comes within the province of the Comptroller of Customs.
- iii. that, in very general terms, New Zealand honours its undertakings by completely exempting a wide range of educational, scientific and cultural imports from Customs Duty, and
- iv. most printed matter is exempted from Import Control but, unfortunately, paintings and other objects likely to interest museums and art galleries do not enjoy exemption and are excluded from New Zealand's part of the Agreement...

Can anyone explain why works of art and objects for museums and galleries are excluded from New Zealand's part of the Agreement? Surely the basic aims in acquiring these works and objects are : educational, scientific or cultural, and the total enrichment of the national heritage. No New Zealand agent is making a profit out of these transactions. The objects bought are not of an ephemeral nature. They are not for resale...

When the Agreement was drafted in 1950, it was recognized that removal of customs charges and easing of foreign exchange and licencing controls did not eliminate all the obstacles to the international circulation of educational, scientific and cultural materials. Accordingly, a special Article IV was included under which contracting States undertake that they will as far as possible:

- a. Continue their common efforts to promote by every means the free circulation of educational, scientific or cultural materials, and abolish or reduce any restrictions which are not referred to in the Agreement.
- b. Simplify the administrative procedure governing the importation of educational, scientific or cultural materials.
- c. Facilitate the expeditious and safe customs clearance of educational, scientific or cultural materials...

A deputation consisting of the incoming President, Dr. R.R. Forster, Mr. Gilbert Docking, and the Hon. Secretary, met the Minister of Customs, Mr. Shelton, this morning (27.4.66) and submitted these two proposals. Mr. Shelton advised that he could not agree to the request for a pool licence of £20,000, or to waive licencing on works for public galleries. The Government had exempted books from licencing because of the strong representations received; a similar case had not been made at the time for the exemption of gallery and museum imports. He would approve a pool licence for 1966-7 of £12,150, being 85% of the original licence of £15,000. The advance of £7,000 would be waived, and a separate licence would be granted to the Arts Council for touring exhibitions.

The Minister has treated AGMANZ generously, but another difficult year lies ahead. Furthermore, the basic problem has not been solved... The buying procedures and aims of public art galleries and museums are not

the same as those of importers buying for the retail market.

An agent importing firecrackers from Hong Kong has his headaches no doubt but he knows his financial resources, his sources of supply, his market, and when Guy Fawkes' Day will be held. Gallery and museum directors find that their funds for buying overseas fluctuate greatly; bequests can double their purchasing power overnight. Their international market is highly competitive and works of art are noted for their rarity; certainly they are not mass-produced. The path of purchasing a rare Greek vase or a 14th century Florentine panel is fraught with unexpected difficulties, resulting just as often in a cul-de-sac and cancellation of negotiations, as in a successful outcome. The procedure of buying, with approval of large committees to be sought and press publicity focused on each acquisition, usually makes the purchase a protracted affair; negotiations often take longer than 12 months and cannot be fitted neatly within the import licencing year.

* * * * *

The following letter was received from the Minister of Customs in June 1966 and will be considered by the Council of AGMANZ on 1.11.66 :-

"Dear Dr. Cooper,

Since I met the delegation consisting of Mr. G. C. Docking, Mr. R. Forster, and yourself on 27 April, I have given further consideration to the several matters raised concerning the importation of works of art for art galleries and museums. I will not recapitulate the points which arose during the course of the interview but will confine this reply to the decisions on the questions raised.

In the particular circumstances, I agree that it is reasonable to waive the charge of £7,000 against your Association's 1966/67 entitlement. I have informed the Comptroller of Customs accordingly, and the 1966/67 licence will therefore be issued for the full amount.

Consideration was given to whether it would be advisable for my Department to assume responsibility for control of the grant, but because of the specialised knowledge needed it has been decided that it is preferable that your Association continue to make the distribution to best advantage, particularly as your members appear to have been satisfied with the use to which the licence has been put.

However, the delegation of the sole responsibility to you as Secretary would seem to be somewhat needlessly burdensome and in addition your decisions could place you in an invidious position. In these circumstances I suggest that your Association set up a permanent sub-committee to assist you to deal with requests for the importation of works of art against your allocation under item code 89.44, such committee to determine priorities and complaints, and other relevant matters which may be delegated or referred to it by the Association. Only in instances where it is clear that your Association is not competent to decide should any matter be referred to my Department.

In view of the funds position it is not possible for the grant to be increased, and so the licence issued to your Association for 1966/67 will total £12,150 only, that is, 85% of your 1965 licence, in terms of the allocation shown in the schedule.

"Nevertheless, some relief will be afforded you as in future the requirements of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council will be treated as a separate issue; as its claims for funds are not for the acquisition of works of art, but merely for exhibition in various centres throughout the country, it is conceded that the charges incurred by the Council cannot reasonably be deemed to be legitimate charges against your licence, which is intended for the purchase of works of art for permanent retention in New Zealand.

The issue of special licences to the Council will be considered on its own application for grants to cover the costs (which it is understood will be mainly for freight and insurance) incurred in bringing travelling art exhibitions to New Zealand; but it must be clearly understood that no arrangements for the shipping of collections or exhibits to New Zealand are to be made unless and until a valid licence is held.

I trust that the above concessions, despite the fact that they may be rather less than you had hoped for, will enable you to make more effective use of your licence.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Norman Shelton
Minister of Customs."

FELLOWSHIP

At a meeting of the Council of the Association held on 26th April 1966, Mr. Peter Tomory was elected to a Fellowship. The Fellowship of the Association is a title of merit awarded by Council to members who have exhibited outstanding qualities of Museum leadership and ability.

TOUR OF U.S. MUSEUMS

AGMANZ is usually asked to nominate one member each year for the annual tour for foreign museum professionals sponsored by the American Association of Museums in co-operation with the U.S. Department of State. Nominations are required by October 1 or as soon thereafter as possible. Details of the 1967 tour are not available yet, but it will be held in May - June 1967, cover West Coast States, and culminate in the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums. Participants are guests of the American Association and the State Department during the tour. (Full details of the 1966 tour will be found in Newsletter 24 of November 1965.)

Already two members have asked to be nominated for the 1967 tour. Will any other member who wishes to be considered by Council when the nomination is made, please advise the Hon. Secretary urgently.

MUSEUM NEWS

WHANGAROA:

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gates, Totara North, have begun a small museum of local, historical material in the old Saies store. They have been advised to form a public committee to own and administer the Museum.

WAITANGI:

In 1965 the Treaty House received 50,120 visitors. The attractive 8-page, illustrated guidebook, price 1/6, serves as a numbered admission ticket.

RUSSELL:

The Russell Centennial Museum is raising funds for an extension to house the growing collection. Visitors in 1965 totalled 9,541. The population of the town and district is 600.

WHANGAREI:

A site development plan for the Civic Centre, including a new Museum and Art Gallery, was published in May 1966 and drew some criticism as the cost of the Municipal Building, first suggested as £98,000, is now estimated as £424,000. The present Museum in Cafler's Avenue and the Clapham Clock Collection in John Street attracted a total of about 17,000 visitors in 1965.

DARGAVILLE:

The collection of the late Captain Cecil Vause has been displayed in the Dargaville Museum. It contains many photographs of ships and old identities of Northern Wairoa, reference books from Poutu Lighthouse, and relics from the sailing ships that used the Kaipara Harbour.

MATAKOHE:

The Otamatea County Council received two objections to the application for a £5,000 loan to extend the Otamatea Kauri and Pioneer Museum. The first objector gave no grounds; the second urged the Council to send worthwhile exhibits to Auckland and dump the junk in the nearest gully. The Council decided to go ahead with the application. The "junk" attracted 70 tourist parties and 3,850 visitors in 1965.

AUCKLAND INSTITUTE & MUSEUM:

On 1.6.66 the Nuffield Foundation awarded £1,500 to Dr. A. W. B. Powell for a biological study of Northland forest remnants. Mr. K. A. J. Wise is to study insect populations. On 15.6.66 the Council of the Institute & Museum decided to use a £1,000 Auckland Savings Bank grant to modernise the growing entomological department under Mr. Wise's care.

At the Annual Meeting held on 27.6.66 honorary life membership was conferred on Mr. W. B. Dixon Stroud of Pennsylvania, who has given about £4,600 to support Dr. Powell's research on turrids, and the title "director emeritus" was conferred on Sir Gilbert Archey for his eminent service to the Museum. The President, Mr. S. G. Brooker, announced that a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. John Seabrook had been set up to raise funds for an auditorium to seat 500.

Messrs. Milne & Choyce's Centennial Street Scene was opened on 15.8.66. After 6 months at Milne & Choyce, the Street Scene, a £7,000 gift to Auckland City, will be moved to the Museum. The Street Scene was a co-operative effort by the staffs of Milne & Choyce and the

Museum, and a full account of it will be given later.

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY:

In July 1966 a 16th century oil painting by Paris Bordone was stolen from the Gallery. Following an anonymous 'phone call, the oil was found undamaged in St. Paul's Church. The Keeper of the Gallery, Mr. Hamish Keith, expressed gratitude to the press and broadcasting for their co-operation in giving publicity to persuade the thief to return the picture.

The Gallery has purchased a 12th century sculpture, 'Christ in Majesty', costing £2,000, for the growing Gothic Art collection.

MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT & TECHNOLOGY, WESTERN SPRINGS:

In July 1966 the Museum began an illustrated 4-page monthly newsletter for members and others interested. It would need a whole issue of AGMANZ Newsletter to describe the many activities in progress. Another official opening ceremony will be held on 3.9.66 when the Minister of Education, Hon. A. E. Kinsella, will open the new photography and printing sections.

WAIHI ARTS CENTRE AND MUSEUM:

The Arts Centre and Museum will be extended in the near future to allow for the display of additional mining exhibits. About 1,300 children visited the Museum last year and three worksheets are in use dealing with life in Waihi in the early 20th century, the goldfields, rocks and minerals, and methods of extracting gold and silver from quartz.

HAMILTON:

The Waikato Museum is negotiating to have regular visits of primary and intermediate school pupils from early in 1967 as part of the educational programme. Since the Museum opened in December 1965, there has been a flood of donations and items catalogued now total 10,000. The Hamilton City Council has granted the Museum the use of the second half of the top floor of the William Paul Hall (another 5,000 square feet), and further displays are in preparation.

GAVIN GIFFORD MEMORIAL MUSEUM, TE AWAMUTU:

Mr. H. A. Swarbrick retired in May 1966 after 26 years as President of the Te Awamutu Historical Society. Under his guidance the Jaycees built the present Museum building in Teasdale Street. Members at the Annual Meeting of the Society appointed Mr. Swarbrick patron, an honour rarely bestowed. The new President, Mr. James Mandeno, said that the collections have continued to grow and, unless proposed civic centre plans come to fruition in the near future, consideration will have to be given to an extension of the present building.

TAUMARUNUI:

The Borough Council decided in July 1966 to set aside £250 per annum to establish a Library Building Fund, and to solicit support from other local authorities. The proposed building is to include facilities for storage and exhibitions of historical artifacts of the town and district.

NEW PLYMOUTH:

Taranaki Museum has received enough pieces of colonial furniture to make it likely that the second room at the Gables will be opened this year.

On 19.5.66 the Taranaki Education Board appointed Mrs. D.E. Wharehoka as part-time Education Officer at the Taranaki Museum. Mrs. Wharehoka taught before her marriage at Moturoa School, New Plymouth, and Central School, Waitara. School visits to the Museum now average 150 pupils a week.

WAIOURU:

An Army Museum has been established at the Army Schools, Waiouru Camp, to collect and display military uniforms, weapons, badges and medals, historical books, documents and photographs, etc. As the Museum is for training purposes, public viewing must be by prior appointment. The Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee is Lieut. A.J. Aiken.

WAIROA:

In June 1966 a meeting of the Wairoa Historical and Cultural Group was held to form a Maori Museum. The building will probably be commenced in 1967 and will incorporate old traditional panels, and carvings made on the site; the effect to be that of a meeting house blending old and new. A display of artifacts has been made in the Wairoa Centennial Library to arouse interest in the project. The Chairman is Mr. D.A. French, Awamate R.D., Wairoa.

NAPIER:

The Hawke's Bay Art Gallery & Museum attracted 21,621 visitors in 1965. The volunteer education service gave lessons on the Maori and early Hawke's Bay to 60 classes totalling about 2,000 pupils. Discussions have been held with a view to the appointment of a part-time Education Officer to work with the present volunteer service.

Miss M.F. Bowman gave £1,000 and an anonymous donor £300 to the Building Fund for additions to the Museum.

HASTINGS:

An appeal by the Museum of Agriculture and Industry has been most successful and many early farm implements have been received. The most promising item is a complete range of cider-making equipment from a Whakatane farm. The Museum is to contain sections on apiculture, arboriculture, horticulture, silviculture, viticulture, ecology, geography, rural customs, fishing, husbandry, processing, marketing, rural aviation and transport. The address of the Secretary, Mr. C.A. Young, is P.O. Box 862, Hastings.

NORSEWOOD:

In the first Annual Report of the Pioneer Museum Society the Chairman, Mr. J.A.N. Halford, said that 3,000 people had signed the visitors' book and school parties from Waiaruhe, Ashhurst, Norsewood and Dannevirke South had visited the Museum. New activities included a spinning circle, a TV documentary film, and the provision of simple country teas for tourist parties.

WANGANUI:

The Wanganui Public Museum has suffered a series of losses; thieves broke open the showcases on two occasions in July 1966 to steal pistols, and have also taken several small sums of money.

WELLINGTON:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum, held in May 1966, the Chairman of the Building and Finance Committee, Mr. E.R. Toop, advised that only two possibilities had been found for a new National Art Gallery: one was the site of the Skyline restaurant at the top of the Cable Car; the other was to make extensive additions to the present buildings.

On 21.7.66 Dr. R.A. Falla, Director of Dominion Museum, began retirement. Dr. Falla was a foundation member of AGMANZ and served it well as Chairman of Council during the first year, President 1948-9, Council Member 1949-58, Vice-President (Museums) 1959-62 and Council Member 1962-66. Dr. Falla retired from the Council of the Association at the last Annual Meeting and his quiet, authoritative contributions will be missed. Dr. R.K. Dell has been appointed Acting-Director.

MURCHISON:

The Murchison District Historical and Museum Society plans to open a small museum in 1966 to display material relating to the early settlement of the district and a photographic record of the 1929 earthquake damage. The Secretary is Mrs. M.C. Monahan, Murchison.

WESTPORT:

Councillor Mrs. Farrell advised the Westport Borough Council in July 1966 that the Westport Community Centre had agreed to make room available to house a small historical museum.

REEFTON:

The Black's Point Museum Committee, formed early in 1966, has obtained old photos from Reefton's Penfold bookshop, goldmining equipment, and other exhibits. The old Wesley Church has been painted inside and work is under way on display stands. Larger items will be set up outside and a picnic area will be made in the vicinity. The Museum Committee has had full support from the Inangahua County Council. Three committee members are raffling an ounce of gold from an old claim to raise funds for the Museum.

GREYMOUTH:

The R.S.A. War Museum, to display weapons, clothing, badges, medals, photographs, etc., is expected to open in 1966 at 181 Tainui Street.

HOKITIKA:

The West Coast Historical Museum is raising £10,000 for an extension to the building to house and display the growing collection.

CHRISTCHURCH:

Canterbury Museum held an 'at home' in July 1966 for members of 28 local authorities. More than 300 guests came to the Museum from as far as Ashburton and Amuri.

HORNBY:

Mr. M.A. Connelly, M.P., President of the Association of Friends of the Museum of Science and Industry, Canterbury, told the Annual Meeting in May 1966 that the recently opened Museum at Hornby was only a pilot scheme. Already offers of exhibits far exceeded the space available and the Association held an option on 64 acres at Ferrymead for a more comprehensive Museum.

AKAROA:

A Friends of the Langlois-Eteveneaux House Museum Association has been formed to collect old family records, books, furniture, china, plate, clothing etc., relating to the settlement of Banks Peninsula.

BURNHAM:

A Medical Corps Museum has been established at Burnham Camp, 18 miles from Christchurch. As the collection is primarily for training, prior appointment must be made to view it.

TIMARU:

Pioneer Hall, the South Canterbury Historical Society's new £43,000 Museum in Perth Street, Timaru, is octagonal in shape and provides 10,400 square feet of space for display and storage. Interior display panels are demountable, and grey glass windows will keep natural light to a minimum. From an office in the foyer the supervisor will have most of the public space in view. There is a meeting room with tea-making facilities, and workrooms with large double doors for the entry of large exhibits. Numerous points have been installed for concealed lights and floodlighting. There is an archives room to house a filing system prepared by Mr. J.B. Hamilton and based on the national grid of South Canterbury. The Society hopes to have assistance from Canterbury Museum in the display of its exhibits.

WAIMATE:

At the May 1966 meeting of the Historical Society it was reported that many visitors had inspected the Museum last month including several parties of school children and busloads of tourists.

NASEBY:

At the Annual Meeting of the Maniototo Early Settlers' Association in July 1966 it was stated that reconstruction work would permit further extensions to the Museum. The Naseby Borough Council had ceded another section to the Museum for extension and the Maniototo County Council had given support. The Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council had made a liberal grant and the Ministry of Works had given supervision. During the warmer months consideration would be given to the appointment of a part-time caretaker.

ALEXANDRA:

The District Historical Association has raised funds for a new Museum building, 60 feet x 30 feet, of concrete blocks. The present small Museum has been very popular since the Haast Pass Road was opened.

ARROWTOWN:

The Lakes District Centennial Museum attracted about 25,000 visitors in 1965. An admission charge of 1/- was introduced in October 1965 to provide funds to open the Museum earlier for bus tours and

to extend the present building.

DUNEDIN:

During the spirited controversy regarding the appeal of Otago Museum for an increased rating revenue, opponents claimed that the Government should make a more realistic contribution because of the use made of the Museum by school groups, and that the Museum should do more for small museums in the province. Apparently an increasing number of local authorities realise however that there is no merit in holding the Museum to a starvation budget.

INVERCARGILL:

In June 1966 the Southland Museum Trust Board decided to approve in principle the appointment of a part-time Education Officer, to ask the City Council for approval for works necessary to provide temporary accommodation, and to ask the Southland Education Board for representation on any committee appointed to select an officer.

Also in June 1966 the Museum held a successful Museum Week to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of the first Annual Meeting of the Southland Museum Trust Board. The programme included concerts, an arts workshop, a display of Japanese children's art, lectures by Drs. Forster and Duff, photographs, plans and a lecture on the Manapouri Power Project, an astronomical evening and a rally of vintage cars and cycles. Visitors in 1965 numbered 28, 537.

NATIONAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The first two Annual Reports of the Council contain several matters of interest to members :-

Report for Year Ended 31. 3. 65, p. 45. The Oceanography, Limnology and Fisheries working party recommends that a Marine Systematics Section should be established in the Dominion Museum to carry out basic research on marine organisms which is essential for applied work.

p. 46. The working party recommends that the Freshwater Entomological Unit at Canterbury Museum should be strengthened...

(There does not seem to be any statement in the Report that the Advisory Council has taken action on the two recommendations.)

Report for Year Ended 31. 3. 66, p. 6. The Council has also set up a working party to consider ecological research. This working party is expected to report in the near future. The establishment of this working party arose from a request from the Minister of Science for a report on ecological research. The Council realised that a field such as this involving some seven Government Departments, all the museums and universities, and various other organisations required a detailed examination by an expert group. The Council hopes to be in a position to make firm recommendations on all aspects of ecology during the coming year.

(In April 1963 AGMANZ recommended to the Minister of Science that the Advisory Council should include specific representation of other organisations, particularly universities, as it seemed to be for Government Research only. In view of the tasks the Council is tackling it seems a pity that AGMANZ's recommendation was ignored).

THE ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN EDUCATION

A sub-committee of the Australian Unesco Committee for Museums is holding a seminar on this topic at the Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney, from 26th to 29th September 1966. The purpose of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for discussion on the present and future role of museums in education and to demonstrate the contribution museums can make to educational programmes.

Mr. T.A. Hume, Director, City of Liverpool Museums, and Dr. R.C. Cooper, Hon. Secretary of AGMANZ, have been invited to participate, their expenses being covered by a grant from Unesco. Major N. Z. Museums and Galleries have been invited to send representatives.

A report on the seminar will be circulated in a future Newsletter.

RESEARCH IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Most of the important archaeological work done in New Zealand so far has had to be on a 'do it yourself' basis, the costs being paid by the diggers themselves...

Workers going to the Pacific Islands can obtain support from the National Science Foundation of the United States. But in New Zealand... the field worker is forced to pay out of his own pocket for the privilege of advancing archaeological knowledge...

An application for a Golden Kiwi grant for a further expedition to the Chatham Islands last year had been turned down...

From a report of the April 1966 meeting of the Otago Museum Trust Board, as reported in the Otago Daily Times.

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for election at the next Council Meeting:

The Museum of Transport and Industry (Inc.), P.O. Box 862, Hastings.
The Army Museum, Waiouru Camp.