



## Update on Our New Home: CCC Considers Funding

In March, this year we submitted a formal funding proposal for inclusion in the Christchurch City Council Annual Plan process. This was followed by President Peter Rough making a submission on the Council's Draft Annual Plan 2025/26. In late June we were advised that while no capital funding has been granted at this stage, Council passed two important resolutions that keep the door open:

**A32** – That the Council considers and consults on a capital grant for Te Ūaka Lyttelton Museum as part of the upcoming 2026/27 Annual Plan Process.

**A33** – That the Council invites Te Ūaka Lyttelton Museum to make an application to the Strengthening Communities Fund or other grant funding programmes.

With regard to Resolution A32 the inclusion of the phrase "and consults" means that Council plans to include a public question about funding for Te Ūaka in next year's Annual Plan consultation. This strategy worked successfully for the Air Force Museum of New Zealand, which recently secured \$5 million in Council funding following strong public support in last year's Annual Plan survey.

Our task now is clear: after this year's local elections, we will need to brief and lobby both returning and new councillors – and then mobilise widespread public support when the 2026/27 Annual Plan consultation opens. A strong response to the planned funding question could unlock the capital support we need.

We have followed up on Resolution A33 and lodged an application for six projects to be considered under the Strengthening Communities Fund. A decision on our application should be made by Council at the end of August and if successful we will be able to embark on projects that will enhance our collection, build community engagement, and keep the museum's presence visible and vibrant while we work toward a permanent home.

Although the outcome was not immediate, Council's resolutions mark a significant shift: Te Ūaka is now officially in the frame for future Council investment. We will keep the momentum going – and keep you updated as we do.







Valerie Heinz, *Walk Over the Bridle Pass* 1947, 75 cm x 208 cm, oil on unstretched canvas.

## Valerie Heinz Painting Joins Collection

The Lyttelton Museum is delighted to receive *Walk over the Bridle Pass*, a painting by New Zealand artist and teacher Valerie Heinz. Completed in 1947 when Heinz was just 19, this oil on canvas – measuring approximately two metres in length – depicts settlers walking from Lyttelton over the Bridle Path to Christchurch. Though the work is currently rolled and has minor corner damage, its colours remain remarkably vivid.

Valerie Olga Heinz (1928–2022) was born in Greymouth and developed a lifelong passion for tramping, with the lush rainforests of the West Coast being a source of inspiration for many of her paintings. She studied at the Canterbury College School of Art (now known as Ilam School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury) from 1942 to 1948, before continuing her education at London's Regent Street Polytechnic of Art.

Upon returning to New Zealand, Heinz taught at Craighead Diocesan School in Timaru, followed by Waikato Diocesan School for Girls in Hamilton. In 1957, she became head of the art department at Christchurch Girls' High School, where she also established a contemporary art collection – something quite uncommon in schools in those days. Several of her works are in the school's collection, and two are also held by the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū.

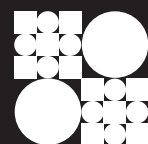
After retiring from teaching in 1985, Heinz continued to be active in the arts and heritage sectors. She contributed to the Christchurch Civic Trust and Sydenham Heritage Trust, held exhibitions, and continued to paint throughout her life. In retirement, she also studied German and theology.

Her evolving artistic style was showcased in a recent retrospective exhibition, *Valerie Heinz – A Retrospective of Treasures*, held at The Chambers Art Gallery and Studio Spaces from 2 to 12 April 2025. It was during this exhibition that Ursula Rack, from our Management Committee, met Janet Wilson, a trustee of Heinz's estate; this meeting led to the gifting of *Walk Over the Bridle Pass* to the Museum.

We are very pleased to welcome this painting into the Museum's collection. We look forward to making it available through our digitised collection online soon.

A small donation supports the big job of running your local museum.

<https://www.teuaka.org.nz/donate>



The framed view of Te Poho o Tamatea.

## Rāpaki Schoolhouse Reopens

On 10 May 2025, our Vice President Rachel Jefferies represented Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum at the official reopening of Rāpaki School hosted by Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke. Nathan Pōhio – our Vice President and Ngāti Wheke representative – MC'ed the event. It was a moving celebration including whānau reflections and memories.

Rāpaki School educated generations of local tamariki for 70 years. The school was opened as Rāpaki Native School on 5 November 1876. It is one of only two remaining Native school buildings in Te Wai Pounamu.

Native schools were a system of primary schools established by the New Zealand government primarily for Māori children, with the initial aim of Europeanising Māori. These schools played a significant role in the education of Māori, but also sparked controversy due to their assimilationist policies and impact on te reo Māori and Māori culture.

Rāpaki Kaumātua Donald Couch shared a rich history of the school, captured in a commemorative booklet distributed at the event. Stories include the return of a Ngāti Wheke piupiu presented to long-time teacher Evelyn Hastings on his retirement in October 1922.

"Over a hundred years later in 2023 his descendants – great grandchildren and great great grandchildren came from Auckland, Dunedin and Australia and returned the piupiu to Rāpaki. The taonga is now temporarily but safely kept in Te Puna o Waiwhetū the Christchurch Art Gallery. Evelyn Hastings is buried in Te Whare Karakia Urupā Rāpaki." Once Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum has a new building, we hope the piupiu will be held there.

Although the school officially closed in 1946, the building has remained an important community space for the hapū.

Now, after a \$700,000 restoration that included seismic strengthening, the addition of a new toilet and shower block, and slight relocation of the building due to coastal erosion, the schoolhouse begins a new chapter.

The new site offers a stunning view of Te Poho o Tamatea, the mountain that gazes on Rāpaki and which can be seen from inside the schoolhouse through a new picture window. The result is both practical and beautiful – a building that supports the needs of a thriving 21st-century hapū.

The reopening of Rāpaki School is a wonderful heritage success story. Ngā mihi nui, congratulations to all involved!



**AGM  
Notice**

## You're Invited: AGM 2025

Join us for our Annual General Meeting on Sunday **31 August at 2pm**, at Trinity Hall, Lyttelton Recreation Centre, 25 Winchester Street.

We're delighted to welcome Nathan Pōhio, Vice President and Ngāti Wheke representative, as guest speaker.

Join us for an update on museum developments and future plans. Elections will be held for positions on the Society's Management Committee. New Society members are warmly welcomed.

Afterwards, stay for informal networking and a chance to connect with fellow members. We look forward to seeing you there!

Woman sitting on wall at Lyttelton waterfront. Te Ūaka The Lyttelton Museum ref 12460.1





Group of four people, two men and two women. Te Ūaka  
The Lyttelton Museum ref 8755.1

## Membership Matters

It's annual membership subscription time again! Joining the Lyttelton Historical Museum Society is a great way to support local heritage and connect with your community.

**Annual membership runs from 1 April to 31 March:**

**Individual: \$30**

**Senior (65+) / Unwaged: \$20**

**Couple/Family: \$40**

We're excited to be reconnecting with our members – our newsletters are back, and we're looking forward to sharing more regular updates with you. Your support and involvement helps shape the Museum's future.

As a member, you'll receive newsletters (also available on our website), 10% off Te Ūaka merchandise, voting rights at the AGM and special meetings, invitations to events and workshops, and opportunities to join committees and contribute to projects.

### How to join or renew:

Visit [www.teuaka.org.nz/get-involved](http://www.teuaka.org.nz/get-involved) to complete the online form and pay securely.

### Prefer to pay another way?

Bank transfer: Lyttelton Historical Museum Society 03 1596 0008031 00 (Please give your name in the particulars field).

**Cash payment:** If you wish to fill out a hard copy form and pay in cash, you can do so at the Cabin on the Museum site (35 London Street). Please email [info@teuaka.org.nz](mailto:info@teuaka.org.nz) to arrange a time to meet a Committee member there.



[www.teuaka.org.nz](http://www.teuaka.org.nz)



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