

Museums Aotearoa is pleased to announce the winners and finalists of the New Zealand Museum Awards for 2010, proudly sponsored by Story Inc. The Awards celebrate individuals and organisations who achieve excellence in New Zealand museums and art galleries.

The New Zealand Museum Awards are open to individual or museum members of Museums Aotearoa.

Three Awards were presented at a celebration dinner in New Plymouth on 15 April 2010.

SELECON AWARD FOR EXHIBITION EXCELLENCE

For a team or organisation for an outstanding new exhibition/s and/or visitor programme that contributes to best practice in the museum sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and demonstrates excellence, relevance and vision particularly in lighting design.

The winner will receive a generous prize package from Philips Selecon Ltd, giving one person the opportunity to visit designers/exhibition experts in Melbourne, Australia.

WINNER: **Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu**
Brought to Light

FINALISTS: **Museum of Wellington City and Sea**
10 Years in Wonderland

The Air Force Museum of New Zealand
History Gallery Redevelopment Project; Horizon to Horizon

INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For an individual or team who has made an outstanding contribution towards innovation, particularly through the use of technology, in the museum sector in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For the winner of the Innovation Achievement Award, National Services Te Paerangi will arrange a workshop or similar presentation with the winning museum

WINNER: **Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery**
The Miniatures: An Adventure in the Bren Collection

FINALISTS: **Locales / Te Papa**
Colossal Squid interactives and website

Canterbury Museum
3D Digital Binocular Station

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For an individual who has made an outstanding contribution, initiative or development that has led to the improvement of an organisation or the wider museum sector in Aotearoa New Zealand.

WINNER: **Thérèse Angelo**

Citations for winners and finalists follow.

Selecon Award for Exhibition Excellence – 2010 winner

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

Brought to Light

Brought to Light is an ambitious project that presents a considered coherent redevelopment for the display of the Gallery's permanent collection.

This is most definitely not "just a re-hang". Instead, *Brought to Light* draws on the collection's strengths, curatorial expertise, the Gallery's spaces and a clear vision that combines local art stretching from early Maori times to the present with a selection of international highlights to create a coherent and engaging visitor experience with local and international appeal.

This experience has been integrated into comprehensive planning processes, providing a model of high standards and good practice as well as a rewarding experience for both first time and regular visitors.

Selecon Award for Exhibition Excellence – 2010 finalist

Museum of Wellington City and Sea

10 Years in Wonderland

This exhibition is an exuberant celebration and showcase of the Museum's collections and the central role that they play in the Museum's mission, which demonstrates the Museum's high production values.

Objects, audiovisuals, lighting and layout are combined to captivate and entertain visitors while providing insights into the nature and role of the Museum's collecting activities and focus.

The use of digitised collection information provides an additional layer of access and meaning, accessible both in the exhibition and through the Internet.

Selecon Award for Exhibition Excellence – 2010 finalist

The Air Force Museum of New Zealand

History Gallery Redevelopment Project; Horizon to Horizon

This redevelopment represents a major shift forward for the presentation of a national collection and the stories of the people whose courage and skill sustain our Air Force past and present.

By significantly modifying an existing exhibition space, and integrating careful thematic planning and high standards of presentation; the Museum has widened its appeal and access for all visitors while retaining the enthusiasm and support of its traditional audiences and key stakeholder groups.

Innovation Achievement Award – 2010 winner

Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery

The Miniatures: An Adventure in the Bren Collection

This project is an imaginative and innovative approach to a historic collection, which has made it not only accessible but also relevant, and is highly inventive in its approach to display, narrative and interpretation.

The decision to partner with writer Stephanie Johnson was inspired and has resulted in an experience that is witty and engaging, and quite different in design and execution from conventional displays of miniature collections in museums. The graphic design aspect of the project is of very high quality, and does indeed, along with Stephanie Johnson's magical narratives, create "a world of imagination and adventure".

Innovation Achievement Award – 2010 finalist

Locales / Te Papa

Colossal Squid interactives and website

This project is an outstanding example of communicating an important natural history event to the widest and broadest audience, and achieving unprecedented levels of engagement and interest.

The interactives at Te Papa brought the event to life and provided context and narrative with innovative technology and design, and the website set a benchmark for creating a huge body of interest in an event of national and global significance.

Innovation Achievement Award – 2010 finalist

Canterbury Museum

3D Digital Binocular Station

The 3D digital station project is an outstanding exemplar of the intelligent and inventive convergence of historic narrative and modern technology. The result is a rich visitor experience providing an enhanced understanding of taonga, and an innovative approach to providing context that is authoritative but completely memorable for the museum visitor.

The intuitive nature of the technology is impressive, and produces an integrated experience that is not at all intrusive or inappropriate for the taonga whose stories it tells.

Individual Achievement Award 2010 – winner

Thérèse Angelo

In recognition of an outstanding record of achievement in many dimensions, all related to the wider heritage domain. Her career to date has bridged libraries, archives and museums, but the museum sector has benefitted most from her dedication, professionalism, strategic thinking, energy and generosity.

During some 20 years service, Thérèse has flown up through the ranks, to lead the Air Force Museum as Director since 2002. Throughout this period she has contributed unstintingly to the museum sector's development through exemplary service to Museums Aotearoa (chair 2005-2007, board 2003-2005), actively building the credibility of the ATTO museum qualifications, mentoring students and supporting smaller museums. Her many contributions have been recognised in the archives sector, and honoured by both the NZRAF and the Defence Forces.

As the Air Force Museum celebrates the opening of its revitalised history galleries, it is timely that the museum field proudly acknowledges Thérèse with the 2010 Museums Aotearoa Individual Achievement Award. The Air Force motto is *Per ardua ad astra – through adversity to the stars*. As our museums and art galleries face arduous times, it is inspiring to have Thérèse Angelo as a role model. We can all learn from following her progress as she takes the Air Force Museum into a new decade.
