



## Science gallery and planetarium among stand-out winners in 2016 New Zealand Museum Awards

Embargoed until 9pm on Wednesday 18 May – please do not approach the winners for comment before this time.

Science, weavers and WWI were themes at the centre of winning exhibitions and museum projects in this year's New Zealand Museum Awards, sponsored by ServicelQ.

The winners were announced tonight [Wednesday 18 May] and Otago Museum claimed several top honours including two categories and a special award.

Otago Museum won the Metropolitan Taonga Māori Award for the exhibition *Hākui: Women of Kāi Tahu*, its Beautiful Science gallery – which lets people explore science, seasons and landscapes using laser-activated technology – won the Metropolitan Science & Technology Award and its new planetarium won the Philips Selecon special award.

Judges described the science gallery as: “Beautiful and exquisite, this exhibition is about Otago Peninsula in all its glory.”

“Otago Museum brought the academic science community to the local community, delivering a stunning exhibition on all levels. This addition to Otago Museum is an exceptional example of art and science coming together on a magnificent scale.”

Auckland War Memorial Museum also took out two award categories, winning Best Museum Visitor Experience for *Gallipoli in Minecraft* and being named joint winner in the Metropolitan Social History category for its *Taku Tāmaki* exhibition and programme. Te Papa was joint winner for *Gallipoli: The scale of our war*, co-created with Weta Workshop.

Commenting on the Minecraft exhibition, the judges said it was “a clear winner”.

“Gallipoli in Minecraft was cutting edge, exciting and accessible. Both educational and innovative in its use of technology, this exhibition provided a simply fabulous experience for visitors.”

New Zealand's newest museum – Te Kōngahu at Waitangi – was recognised as joint winner of the Best Museum Project along with Kaiapoi Museum.

“The much awaited museum at Waitangi is a wonderful example of expert design, project management and building ... [it] reflects the Waitangi story for international and domestic visitors alike.”

Exhibitions and programmes from the regions also drew high praise from the judges, including the WWI-focused *The Horses Stayed Behind* from Whanganui's Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua which was commended as a unique way to explore the subject and for the gallery team's huge commitment to community engagement.

“A beautiful and well-thought out exhibition that engaged with a wide audience.”

Museums Aotearoa Executive Director Phillipa Tocker says the breadth of talent and originality in the country's museums and galleries is something all New Zealanders can take pride in.

“The originality in the stories being told in our galleries and museums is a reflection of the rich narratives that exist in our communities. I hope these awards remind people to take advantage of what’s on offer – these wonderful opportunities to be entertained, educated and challenged.”

This year’s judging panel comprises University of Auckland’s Dr Michelle Dickinson, New Zealand Portrait Gallery acting director Helen Kedgley, Tauranga City Council’s Cultural Heritage Manager Dean Flavell and Dr Bronwyn Labrum, Head of New Zealand and Pacific Cultures at Te Papa.

“We really appreciate the continuing support of ServiceIQ, our wonderful ITO supporting workplace training in museums and across the service sector,” says Tocker. “Without their sponsorship we would not have been able to grow the awards programme to recognise the wide range of museum and gallery achievement.”

Auckland artist John Reynolds made the trophies for this year’s winners. The [full list of finalists](#) was announced last month.

This week has also seen New Zealand hosting the first Museums Australasia Conference #MA16 <http://ma16.org.nz/>

<b>ServiceIQ 2016 New Zealand Museum Awards winners</b>	
<i>Award category</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Regional Art	<b>Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui</b> for <i>The Horses Stayed Behind</i>
Regional Science and Technology	<b>Te Manawa Museum</b> for <i>Sunlight – Ihi Kōmaru</i>
Regional Social History	<b>Pātaka Art + Museum</b> for <i>We Built This City: Porirua 50 Years Young</i>
Regional Taonga Māori	<b>Waikato Museum</b> for <i>E Ngā uri Whakatupu – Weaving Legacies: Dame Rangimarie Hetet and Diggeress Te Kanawa</i>
Metropolitan Art	<b>Auckland Art Gallery</b> for <i>Lisa Reihana, in Pursuit of Venus [infected]</i>
Metropolitan Science & Technology	<b>Otago Museum</b> for <i>Beautiful Science Gallery</i>
Metropolitan Social History (Joint winners)	<b>Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa</b> for <i>Gallipoli: The scale of our war</i>  <b>Auckland War Memorial Museum</b> for <i>Taku Tāmaki</i>
Metropolitan Taonga Māori	<b>Otago Museum</b> for <i>Hākui: Women of Kāi Tahu</i>
ServiceIQ Best Museum Visitor Experience	<b>Auckland War Memorial Museum</b> for <i>Gallipoli in Minecraft®</i>
Most Innovative Public Programme	<b>City Gallery Wellington</b> for <i>Poi E/Thriller flash-mobs to support Candice Breitz exhibition</i>
Best Museum Project (Joint winners)	<b>Pearson &amp; Associates</b> for <i>Kaipoi Museum</i>  <b>Waitangi Museum</b> for <i>Te Kōngahu - The Museum of Waitangi</i>
Individual Achievement Award	<b>Michelle Sim</b> for establishing the now 300-strong Emerging Museum Professionals (EMP) network to support and develop tomorrow’s museum and gallery leaders
Philips Selecon Award	<b>Otago Museum</b> for <i>Perpetual Guardian Planetarium</i>

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

Penelope Jackson

[arthistorian@outlook.co.nz](mailto:arthistorian@outlook.co.nz)

027 291 6095

### **About Museums Aotearoa**

Museums Aotearoa is the professional association for New Zealand's public museums and art galleries and those who work in and support them.

New Zealand museums and public galleries care for more than 40 million items relating to New Zealand's history, culture and creativity. Generating in excess of 1000 public exhibitions and publications and attracting well over 12 million visits each year, museums and galleries are ranked as a top attraction for New Zealand's overseas visitors.

New Zealand museums are actively focused on enriching their communities by enhancing the quality of their facilities, collections, programmes, products and services.

<http://www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz>

### **About ServiceIQ**

ServiceIQ is the industry training organisation (ITO) for the aviation, hospitality, retail, travel, tourism, museums and wholesale sectors.

We're all about empowering and motivating people to provide great service. This helps businesses remain competitive and New Zealand to be internationally recognised as a great place to live or visit. It also gives people working in our industries valuable skills and knowledge along with nationally recognised qualifications.

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