



NZ Museum Awards 2013 Finalists Announced

9 April 2013

Energy saving, environmental concerns and engaging public programmes are a feature of the 2013 NZ Museum Awards. Winners will be named from among 16 finalists at a gala dinner in Hamilton on 12 April celebrating the sixth annual national museum awards.

Museums have been recognised for energy saving, with both Auckland Museum and The Kauri Museum undertaking certification projects. Also innovative is Click Suite's interactive technology table providing individual access to the vast archives of the National Library.

The 'development project' category, new in 2012, has two finalists this time – the multi-million dollar Toitū Otago Settlers Museum redevelopment, and Raglan & District Museum's more modest New Beginnings.

In other categories, it is not surprising that small museum exhibition finalists have a community focus. Mercury Bay Museum's *History of Fishing* and Te Awamutu Museum's *We love Eels* explore local interests in social and scientific contexts. The Fashion Museum, which has no collection and no permanent premises, engaged with domestic craft throughout the country with its touring exhibition *Home Sewn*.

The art exhibition category also brings in local and specialist communities, with City Gallery Wellington's Samoan tatou being undertaken in the gallery, and CHritchurch Art Gallery taking their programme into *Outer Spaces* while their gallery is closed.

The selection panel, Greg McManus, Jane Legget and guest judge Tim Walker, was impressed by the range of entries, particularly from smaller institutions. The awards categories are deliberately left up to the judges, and this year they were keen to recognise the community and environment focussed projects. 'It is very pleasing to see that environment has become a feature of the innovation category', says Phillipa Tocker, Executive Director of Museums Aotearoa. 'We are delighted to see this kind of project entered by large and small museums.'

The judges said that the entries gave them plenty of food for thought. 'We are delighted to see such a varied range of high quality entries. Museums and galleries are continuing to produce excellent project and exhibitions, reaching out to their communities,' said Phillipa Tocker, 'the announcement of the winners on 11 April will be a wonderful celebration of their achievements.'

The New Zealand Museum Awards dinner in Hamilton is part of Museums Aotearoa's MA13 conference, *Leading Museums*. The awards programme is grateful for sponsorship from National Services Te Paerangi, Philips Selecon, NZ Micrographic Services and ServiceIQ.

full list of finalists follows

New Zealand Museum Awards 2013 Finalists

Finalist	Project
Auckland Art Gallery	project: Learning Centre Project
Auckland Museum	project: URBANLIFE
Auckland Museum	project: Energy and Environmental Project
Christchurch Art Gallery	exhibition: <i>Outer Spaces</i>
City Gallery Wellington	exhibition: <i>Sui faiga ae tumau fa'avae</i>
Click Suite	project: Lifelines
Dowse Art Museum	exhibition: <i>Arcade</i>
Dunedin Public Art Gallery	exhibition: <i>Sound Full</i>
Fashion Museum	exhibition: <i>Home Sewn</i>
Mercury Bay Museum	exhibition: <i>The History of Fishing Display</i>
Museums Wellington	project: Capital Connections
Raglan Museum	project: New Beginnings
Te Awamutu Museum	exhibition: <i>We Love Eels</i>
The Kauri Museum	project: Achieving CarboNZero Certification
Toitu	project: Redevelopment
Whangarei Art Museum	project: Runway Shows for Charity

For more information about the awards, contact:

Phillipa Tocker

(64 4) 499 1313 or (64) 21 606 135

phillipa.tocker@museumsaotearoa.org.nz

MA12 conference programme, keynotes and events at

<http://www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz/Site/conference-2013/programme/default.aspx>