



NZ Museum Awards 2013 Finalists Announced

12 April 2013

You don't have to have a museum to win museum awards – just creativity, innovative thinking and lots of hard work. Two museums without buildings were among the five winners of the 2013 NZ Museum Awards announced last night. Other winners are also committed to taking their museums into their communities with innovative projects that focus on youth, environmental sustainability and enhanced access.

"Shoe-string budgets and limited professional staff do not mean that exhibition quality, imagination, experimentation and engagement need to be sacrificed", said the selection panel of Greg McManus, Jane Legget and guest judge Tim Walker. The Fashion Museum won the small museum exhibition award for *Home Sewn* – a pop-up exhibition that then toured to three museum venues. "*Home Sewn* shows us what can be done when a passionate individual with an enterprising spirit and boundless imagination draws in support from many quarters."

Also without walls – at least temporarily – the Christchurch Art Gallery has not let earthquakes stop their exhibition programme. *Outer Spaces* won the art and design category for continuing to commission and deliver challenging, apt and engaging projects across the city. 'You don't have to be open to bring art to the people', said Jenny Harper, Director of Christchurch Art Gallery.

Reaching beyond their walls, The Kauri Museum has been taking sustainability very seriously. Not only are they saving money by reducing their energy use, the museum is also off-setting its carbon emissions by planting trees – kauri trees of course. Their commitment to sustainability has them the first museum carbon neutral certification in the world through the CarboNZero programme.

The judges were impressed by the range of public programme projects entered this year, so opened up a new category. The finalists all include community engagement, responsiveness and collaboration as essential elements, and these came together with great effect in Auckland Museum's *URBANLIFE* project. This youth outreach project generated a series of engaging interactions between the museum, its collections and young people from communities across Auckland, bringing in new energy and broadening access to the institution.

As in 2012, the awards considered some significant museum development projects, a category won by the transformational redevelopment of Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. Not only doubling its physical size to exhibit more of the extensive social history and transport collections and create collection stores which are the envy of many museums, Toitū has skilfully incorporated a diversity of interpretive techniques, and rebranded while retaining its special character.

'With so many amazing entries, the judges had to reject some great project to select only 5 winners from the 16 finalists', says Phillipa Tocker, Executive Director of Museums Aotearoa. 'We are very proud to be able to share their success, and promote the hard work and outstanding achievements of museums around the country.'

The New Zealand Museum Awards were celebrated in Hamilton as 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 winners and citations follows

For more information about the awards, contact:

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MA12 conference programme, keynotes and events at

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

New Zealand Museum Awards 2013 Winners

Finalist	Project
Auckland Museum	project: URBANLIFE
Christchurch Art Gallery	exhibition: <i>Outer Spaces</i>
Fashion Museum	exhibition: <i>Home Sewn</i>
The Kauri Museum	project: Achieving CarboNZero Certification
Toitu	project: Redevelopment

Details of awards categories, winners and citations follow

New Zealand Museum Awards 2013

Project Achievement Award Exhibition Excellence – Small Museum

*presented for an outstanding new exhibition project
that contributes to best practice in the museum
sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and demonstrates
excellence, relevance and vision*

prize kindly sponsored by NZ Micrographic Services

winner

Fashion Museum

for

Home Sewn

Home Sewn reminds us of the skill and creativity in homes throughout New Zealand. To a soundtrack of rustling paper patterns and sewing machines, New Zealanders followed fashion in their own way, and this selection of garments and associated family photographs, the contents of sewing boxes and women's magazines, evokes both nostalgia and admiration, filling a "gap in of NZ fashion history".

Initially a pop-up exhibition, then shown in three museum venues, *Home Sewn* shows the sector what can be done when a passionate individual with an enterprising spirit and boundless imagination draws in support from many quarters.

Even more impressive is the lasting legacy of a book of the same produced through a mainstream publisher.

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New Zealand Museum Awards 2013

Project Achievement Award Innovation / Environment / Technology

*presented for an outstanding innovative project
that contributes to best practice in the museum
sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and addresses
environmental sustainability and/or technological solutions*

*prize kindly sponsored by
National Services Te Paerangi*

winner

The Kauri Museum

for

Achieving CarboNZero Certification

Demonstrating an outstanding commitment to understanding its energy use
and impact on the environment, and then doing something about it,

The Kauri Museum is the first museum in the world
to be certified carbon neutral.

An ongoing programme of kauri planting helps offset carbon emissions
from the museum, as well as providing opportunities
for education and marketing.

A world-leading sustainable museum operation.

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New Zealand Museum Awards 2013

Project Achievement Award Public Programmes

*presented for an outstanding new museum programme
that contributes to best practice in the museum
sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and demonstrates
community engagement, responsiveness and collaboration*

award kindly sponsored by ServiceIQ

winner

Auckland War Memorial Museum

for

URBANLIFE

Building on a tradition of museums working with community youth leaders,
Auckland Museum's URBANLIFE Youth Outreach project
generated a series of engaging interactions between the museum,
its collections and youth
from communities across Auckland.

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New Zealand Museum Awards 2013

Project Achievement Award Significant Project

*presented for an outstanding new significant project
that contributes to best practice in the museum
sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and demonstrates
excellence, relevance and vision*

winner

Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

for

Redevelopment Project

This transformational project is on a vast scale. A bold initiative, planned over an extended period to fulfil ambitions to bring extensive social history collections together with a large transport collection, the old Otago Settlers Museum has doubled in size.

A sensitive design combines a well-loved museum building with an Art Deco bus station, respecting the special character of each while creating a thoroughly modern museum. The team has skilfully incorporated a diversity of interpretive techniques to tell the stories of Dunedin's many settler communities, and the new facilities, which include collection stores many will envy, ensure that staff and visitors will enjoy this renewed Dunedin landmark

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New Zealand Museum Awards 2013

Project Achievement Award
Exhibition Excellence – Art

*presented for an outstanding new exhibition project
that contributes to best practice in the museum
sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and demonstrates
excellence, relevance and vision*

prize kindly sponsored by Philips Selecon

winner

Christchurch Art Gallery

for

Outer Spaces

The Christchurch Art Gallery has continued to commission and deliver
an exemplary programme of challenging,
apt and engaging projects across the City.

Outer Spaces was so good it almost makes a compelling argument
for a 'less infrastructure/more art' investment model
for contemporary art.

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