



Media release

ServiceIQ 2015 Museum Awards Announced

Biggest, brightest and best!

Air New Zealand 75 Years, WW1 projects by Toitū and Expressions, science explained at MOTAT, Matura and Hawke's Bay social history – in a year full of commemorations and celebrations, an exciting range of exhibitions and projects have been acknowledged at the 8th annual New Zealand Museum Awards.

Te Radar was this year's guest judge and MC of the celebration at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum tonight. With 170 guests, 22 finalists, and 7 Awards, the dinner brought together museum professionals, exhibition designers, supporters and sponsors.

"I am inspired to visit more of Aotearoa's diverse museums and galleries after seeing the fantastic work they do presented in these awards", says Radar.

ServiceIQ, ITO for Museums, Tourism and other service sectors, has sponsored the 2015 Awards and introduced a new award for Visitor Experience.

ServiceIQ Chief Executive Dean Minchington says: "I'm delighted to present these awards, and celebrate the professionalism in this very exciting sector".

Museums Aotearoa Executive Director Phillipa Tocker says that this year's awards are better than ever. "The number of entries and their standard just keeps going up – with the bar getting higher every year, the Awards are becoming even more inspirational. And the best thing is that we can celebrate not only the winners, but all the fantastic work being presented nationally".

The annual Museum Awards are supported by a number of generous prize sponsors. National Services Te Paerangi provide the Most Innovative Public Programme with professional development. Inspired lighting specialists Philips Selecon's travel prize for the Best Exhibition over \$20,000 enables staff travel to see examples of excellence in exhibition design. NZ Micrographic Services, experts in scanning and digital archiving, will provide their services to the winner of the Best Exhibition under \$20,000. "These tangible prizes from sponsors and ServiceIQ help to develop as well as celebrate the winners' achievements", says Tocker.

The Awards dinner was held as part of the Museums Aotearoa's annual conference, MA15 – *Communicating Culture*. MA15 has been hosted by Otago Museum, with generous support from Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Toitū, and other Dunedin cultural institutions including Hocken Collections, Olveston and Larnach Castle. Earlier in the day the record 240 delegates were welcomed onto Otakou Marae, heard an inspiring keynote presentation from UK palaeontologist Dr Phil Manning, and hosted Hon Maggie Barry, Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage. The conference continues on Friday 8 May.

ENDS

*See the full list of category winners and finalists below.
Images are available on request from 12 noon Friday 8 May*

For more information about the awards and MA15 conference, contact:

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MA15 conference programme, keynotes and events at
<http://www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz/ma15-communicating-culture>

For a video of Te Radar on the judging process, see
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4BoW1hKjQc>

New Zealand Museum Awards 2015 (*in alphabetical order by category*)

Best Exhibition over \$20,000 <i>Prize: Travel to \$2,000 sponsored by Philips Selecon</i>	
WINNER	Air New Zealand, Workshop e & Te Papa <i>Air New Zealand 75 Years: Our Nation. The World. Connected</i>
Finalist	City Gallery Wellington <i>Yvonne Todd: Creamy Psychology</i>
Finalist	MTG Hawke's Bay <i>Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan - Travel in Style</i>
Highly Commended	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum <i>Dunedin's Great War</i>
Best Exhibition under \$20,000 <i>Prize: Services to \$1,000 sponsored by NZ Micrographic Services</i>	
WINNER	MTG Hawke's Bay <i>Dr Felkin and the Forerunners: Visions of Utopia, 1900-1930</i>
Finalist	Dunedin Public Art Gallery <i>Wonderwall</i>
Finalist	Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre <i>WWI: Tracing the Footsteps from Trentham</i>
Finalist	New Zealand Maritime Museum <i>Messing about in boats</i>
Best Museum Project <i>Prize: case of wine sponsored by Museums Aotearoa</i>	
JOINT WINNER	Mataura Museum Reinventing the Mataura Museum
JOINT WINNER	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum <i>Journey of the Otagos</i>
Finalist	Havelock Museum Museum Redevelopment – a campaign to free Havelock's history
Finalist	Locales Rangihoua Heritage Park
ServiceIQ Best Museum Visitor Experience <i>Prize: professional development sponsored by ServiceIQ</i>	
WINNER	Waihi Gold Discovery Centre
Finalist	Canterbury Museum Our people at the heart of a world-class visitor experience
Finalist	Click Suite (in association with Museum Victoria) Future Cities
Most Innovative Public Programme <i>Prize: National Service Te Paerangi - \$1,500 expert support or training</i>	
WINNER	Expressions Art & Entertainment Centre World War 1 Regimental Dinner
Finalist	Dowse Art Museum Art + Feminism Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon
Finalist	New Zealand Maritime Museum Sister Anzac
Finalist	Waipu Museum Public Programme 2013-2015
Most Innovative use of Te Reo Māori <i>Prize: book package sponsored by Museums Aotearoa</i>	
WINNER	MOTAT <i>Welcome to the Machine - Nau mai ki te Mihini</i>
Finalist	City Gallery Wellington Johnson Witehira: Toituhi education project
Finalist	MTG Hawke's Bay <i>Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan - Travel in Style</i>

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 ServicelQ

ServicelQ 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.ServicelQ.org.nz

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