

Quaky Cat – Christchurch Gives Back

In the April school holidays, local children made cards to send messages of support to Christchurch after the big February quake. Youth Librarian, Nimita Collins read the story “Quaky Cat” by Diana Noonan and Gavin Bishop which was about a cat experiencing the first September 2010 earthquake. The children used a plaiting technique to make pictures of Quaky Cat for their cards and then wrote messages of support inside. Nimita sent these off to Christchurch City Libraries with a letter wishing them all the best.

Imagine our surprise, when a parcel arrived from the illustrator Gavin Bishop who resides in Christchurch. He wrote he was delighted to see our cards on display at Christchurch South Public Library and thought we might like a signed art print of Quaky Cat from the book for our Library.

Gavin is a very well-known children’s author and illustrator whose distinctive ink and watercolour illustrations feature in many classic NZ picture books. We have had the picture framed and it will be hung in the Library as a permanent reminder of what both our communities have experienced.

Another addition to services from the library is a study table, suitable for groups to utilise alongside the other facilities. This is for the use of study groups and Library staff would appreciate advance bookings.

Museum Matters – A Step Forward

Another step forward in the development of the Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum was taken this month with the arrival of museum management software to catalogue and identify our collections. Currently, the Museum holds 20,000+ items (mainly photographs) and the only way we can tell you anything about any given item, is to hope the Museum Curator can identify where it is. As the collection grows by about 3,000-5,000 items a year, it is not surprising that this has become more difficult.

The new software, called Vernon, will allow staff to give each item a unique number, which means long-term we will be able to locate the item and information about it, at the click of a button. After the records are loaded onto Vernon, each photograph will go into protective coverings to store away for long-term conservation. Museum staff have had their initial training on the new software and are excited to get this long planned project under way. It is going to be many years work to get everything online, but the advantages of being able to quickly answer customer questions will make the journey invaluable for future generations.



Rangiteaorere Samuel with the Kawerau Library's new signed illustration of Quaky Cat.