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LGOIMA

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Request from:	Janna Sherman – Hokitika Guardian
Information requested:	Hokitika Museum collection information
Response by:	Barbara Phillips, Chief Executive

26 May 2025

Janna Sherman
Hokitika Guardian

Via Email: janna.sherman@hokitikaguardian.co.nz

Dear Janna

Official information request for Hokitika Museum collection information

I refer to your official information request dated 16 May 2025 for a breakdown of the Hokitika Museum items sent to the Westland Industrial Heritage Park, what items were returned and what was disposed of.

You have asked for the following information regarding the excerpt from the Westland Matters newsletter dated 15 May 2025 which advised that:

“A number of items belonging to the Hokitika Museum have been assessed by our volunteers for display. Many were beyond repair and had to be disposed of, some have been returned to the Museum for display, and some will be retained for restoration and display at the Park.”:

1. What items were sent to the park?

In 1997, a range of items were sent to the Westland Industrial Heritage Park for storage. There is no definitive list of what was transferred at that time; however, the types of items identified by Hokitika Museum Staff include:

- Timber panelling from the Carnegie Building (from earlier refurbishments)
- Doors, windows, and fire surrounds from local buildings
- Industrial mining equipment
- Clock tower bell system components
- Agricultural and industrial tools
- Strops, barrels, and saddlery
- Wooden water pipes
- Signage from forestry and local businesses

2. What items were returned?

No items stored at the Westland Industrial Heritage Park have been returned to the Hokitika Museum.

3. What items were disposed of?

A small number of items were assessed as being beyond repair and were disposed of in accordance with the Museum's Collection Policy. These items included two fire surrounds, an organ that had deteriorated significantly, sections of timber panelling, and four metal items that had corroded beyond repair.

4. How much of the original Hokitika Museum collection has been maintained for future display?

The original Hokitika Museum collection has been retained and remains either in storage at the Westland Industrial Heritage Park or within the Museum's Drummond Hall. The collection is available for future conservation and restoration, exhibition, research, and educational use.

5. How much was damaged (volume/percentage wise or an estimated value if known please)?

Approximately 10 items were identified as being damaged beyond repair. These included wall linings from the second refurbishment of the Carnegie Building, two fire surrounds, an organ, and four corroded metal items. A full condition assessment of all items stored at the Westland Industrial Heritage Park has not been undertaken, so an overall percentage or volume of damage cannot be accurately provided.

6. Was any of this due to inadequate storage over the period the Hokitika Museum has been closed?

No, the items damaged (see question 3) have been in storage at the Westland Industrial Heritage Park for 28 years, from 1997 to present day. No additional items have been placed in storage at the Westland Industrial Heritage Park since that time.

There will be no charge in supplying this information to you.

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If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



Barbara Phillips | Chief Executive
BP/MB