



***Wahine* remembered**

Saturday 10 April 2010

To commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the sinking of the *Wahine* on Saturday April 10, the Museum of Wellington City & Sea will be hosting a day of events.

On 10 April 1968 the interisland ferry sailed into a savage storm and sank at the entrance to Wellington harbour. Fifty-one people died on the day and a further two people died from injuries sustained during the sinking. More than forty years on this is still the one of the most significant event in Wellington's recent history.

Museums Wellington Director Brett Mason says 'Being the home of the *Wahine* story is important to the Museum and the city. We take our responsibility for telling the story of this disaster and a place to remember it as a vital part of our role as Wellington's city museum'.

On the day, the Museum is the departure point for two buses provided by Hutt City Council, leaving at 9.30am for their public opening of the new *Wahine* mast memorial at Korohiwa Bay, Eastbourne. With speeches by Ken Scadden, maritime historian, and Frank Hitchens, *Wahine* crewmember, there is also an opportunity for members of the public to say a few words. Buses will return to the Museum at 12.30pm and whilst there is no charge for this service, there is a first in, first reserved policy. With a limited number of seats available, bookings are essential and can be made by contacting the Museum.

The award winning documentary, *The Wahine Disaster* by Sharon Barbour, will screen in the Museum's historic boardroom on the hour from 11am with the last screening occurring at 4pm. This feature length documentary details the tragic events of April 10 1968 and includes moving accounts from both survivors and their rescuers – some of whom had never been interviewed before. It also features animation which illustrates, for the first time, how the *Wahine* came to be one of New Zealand's worst sea tragedies.

The Museum will also be showcasing a *Survivor Art* show in its new gallery space. This unique display features works by survivors Kay McCormick, David Knight, photographs featuring Shirley Hick by Helen Mitchell and a painting by T. W. Parata – a police officer who was on board that fateful day.

The original *Wahine* bell located in the Museum's permanent *Wahine* exhibition space will be rung every half hour from 10am to 5pm, marking the passage of time at sea.

For further information please contact Museums Wellington Publicist Chris Hamilton
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Museum of Wellington City & Sea
Queens Wharf
Open daily 10am to 5pm
Free entry
www.museumswellington.co.nz

The Museum is managed by the Wellington Museums Trust with major funding support from Wellington City Council.