

The Museum of Wellington City & Sea
is the capital's social history museum.

The Museum's role is to preserve,
present and promote the history of
Wellington – harbour, city & sea.

**Public Zoo – celebrating 100 years
of Wellington Zoo**, is open until 13
May 2007.

Public Zoo was made possible through
sponsorship from the Community Trust
of Wellington and support from Classic
Hits FM.

The Museum's next feature exhibition,
**Alfred Mabel & Charles – a portrait
from Hills Hats to Waiata Poi**, opens 2
June 2007.

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

Queens Wharf

Open daily (except Christmas Day)

10am to 5pm

Free entry

For exhibitions and events see
www.museumofwellington.co.nz

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From chimp tea-parties to conservation

A new exhibition at the Museum of Wellington City & Sea celebrates 100 years of Wellington Zoo and its progress from place of chimp tea-parties to one of conservation.

Public Zoo is an environment where you can re-capture the excitement of a day at the Zoo and reflect on changing attitudes to Zoos and animals.

The exhibition leads visitors from the entertainment of the chimp tea-party & elephant ride to today's focus on conservation and education. A short film by recent graduates of The Film School, using archival and new footage, accentuates the changing attitudes.

"*Public Zoo* is a cross-fusion exhibition incorporating contemporary art, design, history and interactive activities" says curator and exhibition designer, David Waller.

The space is bold and exciting. Black & white striped curly pillars loom over a green Astroturf island with horns, skulls and animal skins.

"We document the history then use various elements to explore what Zoo's are about. The contemporary art explore themes of animal behaviour, enrichment and imagination." says David Waller.

Evocative black-and-white images by Wellington photographer Andy Morley Hall are enhanced with a commentary by Edy MacDonald, an animal behaviour expert from Wellington Zoo. Curious sculptures by Wanganui artist Andrea du Chatenier explore how humans adorn themselves as animals.

Visitors are free to explore their own interpretations on a wall where they can create and name their own animals. The interactive area can occupy busy hands and minds and the seating boxes contain a surprising quiz.

Public Zoo was made possible through sponsorship from the Community Trust of Wellington and support from Classic Hits FM.

Karen Fifield, Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Zoo, is thrilled with how the exhibition explores the various elements, from historical facts to animal behaviour.

"The Public Zoo exhibition is a fantastic way to celebrate the Zoo's centenary and explore the interaction between people and animals, which is an integral part of Wellington Zoo's history."

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