

November 5, 2009

## Ten years in Wonderland – how curiouser!

It's an eccentric little gem of a museum crammed with curios, stories and artefacts from Wellington's rich history. It turns ten years old this month, so what better way to celebrate than with a most curiouser and curiouser party!

The Museum of Wellington City & Sea celebrates ten years of being Wellington's own museum with its birthday exhibition, **10 Years in Wonderland – an exhibition of the inner world of your museum**. With unusual objects from the museum collection on display, this quirky and whimsical exhibition takes you into a wonderland of hidden treasures. There is also a weekend of fantasy-fuelled fun on Wellington's waterfront on **Friday November 27 and Saturday November 28** with special museum opening hours of **10am to 10pm** on the Saturday, giving you every chance to join in.

This museum tells the intriguing stories of Wellington's social, cultural and maritime history. Housed in the historic Bond Store on Queens Wharf, the original architecture is the perfect home for the remarkable exhibitions of precious objects and memories of Wellington's wonderful past.

It is a museum for Wellington – the city, the sea and its people. And we are all invited to the party.

The party promises to have something for everyone of all ages and interests, from the sublime to the ridiculous. Madder than a Mad Hatter, some might say.



The weekend of Wonderland kicks off on **Friday 27 November with the first 50 visitors to the museum receiving their very own wonderland cupcake and birthday beverage. From 12pm – 4pm** you can join in with the **Curiosity Roadshow**. This will be New Zealand's very own version of *Antiques Roadshow*, providing a great opportunity for the public to bring along their curios and artefacts to have them appraised by the experts from Dunbar Sloane. Who knows what treasure could be unearthed from the family curio cabinet?

**On Saturday 28 November from 10am – 1pm** kids of all ages can celebrate with the **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**, a family-focused event with Fifi Colston where children can create their own wonderful hats and cupcake necklaces. There will also be games and activities with the crew from Classic Hits.

For the competitive there is **Play The Game on Saturday from 2pm – 5pm**, featuring a giant chess game and bridge matches with the Wellington Chess and Bridge Clubs in attendance. Plus there is a special guest appearance from chess Grandmaster Gawain Jones, one of only two in New Zealand. He's calling for all challengers – and will play against as many at once as can be handled.

The 1933 classic film **Alice in Wonderland** (starring Cary Grant and Gary Cooper) is presented with a delicious twist, screened with a hilarious live re-voicing from comic actors, and with a psychedelic musical score performed live. Screening **outside under the Queens Wharf sails at 9pm on Saturday**, Alice's trip down the rabbit hole will take on a whole new dimension!

And rounding out the weekend of wonderment is **The Storybox Project** - a self-contained audio-visual masterpiece that tells the story of Wellington's very own museum spliced with Alice in Wonderland. Storybox runs continuously from **8.30pm – 12am Friday to Sunday**.

Full programme and details next page

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## **The Museum of Wellington City & Sea's 10th Birthday *10 Years in Wonderland***

### **FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER**

Curiosity Roadshow

12pm - 4pm. Dig out your treasured items and bring them in for an appraisal by the experts from Dunbar Sloane

The Storybox Project

8:30pm – 12am. Large scale multimedia installation in a shipping container on Queens Wharf.  
(also Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th)

### **SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER**

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

10am - 1pm. For the kids. Bring your lunch and join the Wonderland crew and crafty expert Fifi Colston for games and activities including spot prizes, hat and badge-making and a birthday cake!

Play The Game

2pm - 5pm. Join members of the Wellington Chess Club and the Wellington Bridge Club and try your hand with these century-old games or watch the masters at work (including British chess grandmaster Gawain Jones).

Alice in Wonderland

9pm - 10:30pm. Outdoor screening of the 1933 classic film on a giant cinema screen with live performances by actors and musicians. Bring a cushion and settle in!

**10 Years in Wonderland**

**10am to 10pm**

**An exhibition of the inner world of your Museum**

***[www.museumswellington.org.nz](http://www.museumswellington.org.nz)***