

## **Celebrating two for free!**

### **Joint Museum Open Days Sunday February 26 2006**

Two unique Wellington-based facilities, the New Zealand Cricket Museum and the Colonial Cottage Museum, offered a hugely successful family day out on Sunday (February 26). There was a feast of free activities, while entry fees were waived for the day.

At the Colonial Cottage Museum in Nairn Street, visitors experienced a taste of mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century living as the cottage came to life with craftspeople, musicians and artists. Visitors were also able to tour the cottage's heritage garden with organic gardener Hannah Zwartz, make pikelets on the coal range and enjoy Devonshire teas.

Across town at the Basin Reserve, cricket aficionados visited for guided tours of the museum and the historic plaques around the Basin Reserve perimeter, viewed the Long Room in the RA Vance Stand, and enjoyed a drinks break. Younger cricketers were also catered for with activities in the indoor nets during the afternoon, kindly arranged by Cricket Wellington.

John Gilberthorpe, Chief Executive of the Wellington Museums Trust, says that both facilities had some very special treasures to show and experiences to offer. "There was a great turnout to both museums and excellent feedback; evidence that many Wellingtonians enjoyed a very pleasant family day out."

Highlights of the day included:

#### Colonial Cottage Museum

- Garden tours with Hannah Zwartz
- Devonshire teas
- Spinners, embroiderers and other craftspeople in action
- Artist in residence, old-time music
- Children's activities from the period
- Pikelets on the coal range

#### New Zealand Cricket Museum

- Tours of the museum and historic plaques on Basin Reserve perimeter
- Activities for young cricketers at the indoor nets
- Visits to the Long Room in the RA Vance Stand
- New displays: the origins of cricket, and New Zealand cricket in the 1970s and 1980s
- A drinks break – refreshments available

### **Background**

New Zealand Cricket Museum at the Basin Reserve is based in the Old Grandstand and houses a wealth of national cricket treasures and archive material.

Colonial Cottage Museum, 68 Nairn Street, was built in 1858 and is central Wellington's oldest identified building. It has been preserved and furnished to provide visitors with an experience of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century living.

The Wellington Museums Trust manages the Colonial Cottage Museum as well as the City Gallery Wellington, Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Wellington Cable Car Museum and Capital E, with major funding from the Wellington City Council. The Trust also manages the New Zealand Cricket Museum jointly with the New Zealand Cricket Museum Trust.

**For more information**

John Gilberthorpe, Chief Executive, Wellington Museums Trust  
ph 471 0919, johng@wmt.org.nz

[www.nzcricket.co.nz](http://www.nzcricket.co.nz) (follow the link to the museum)  
[www.colonialcottagemuseum.co.nz](http://www.colonialcottagemuseum.co.nz)