

## **WWI Exhibition to Close with a Day of Literature**

A day of remembrance and literature will mark the closing of the Otago Museum's immersive, interactive exhibition *Who Cared? Otago Nurses in WWI* on Sunday 31 January.

The Museum ran a poetry competition from 28 September through 11 January to complement *Who Cared?*, inviting entrants to write a poem inspired by their visit to the exhibition. Vincent O'Sullivan, New Zealand Poet Laureate 2013–2015, judged the competition and will announce the winners at the closing event, followed by a reading of the winning entries. *Lives We Leave Behind* author Dr Maxine Alterio will also attend the closing event, reading excerpts from her novel and from WWI nurses' memoirs.

The exhibition was created in collaboration with third year Design (Communications) students at Otago Polytechnic. It has drawn steady crowds throughout its run, with over 29,000 visitors plunging into the immersive experience of a WWI field hospital. Visitors can watch the nurses tell their stories, hear the patients' conversations, smell the lavender in the sleeping quarters and pick up the nurses' tools, diaries and other possessions. By exploring each part of the hospital, visitors learn the histories of three nurses: Addie, Penny and Louisa.

"The postcards we created with New Zealand Post have gotten an incredible response," says Head of Design Craig Scott. "Over 1,500 people have sent a postcard to Addie, Penny or Louisa to find out what happened to them after the war. It tells us that people leave the exhibition feeling invested in the characters, and hopefully moved by the stories they've experienced."

**For further information please contact:**

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*Who Cared? Otago Nurses in WWI* closing events

Free, Sunday 31 January

1pm: exhibition talk

2pm: poetry and memoir readings; announcement of poetry competition winners