

Fair attracts buyers from far and wide

By JANINE SUNDBERG

THE WEATHER was grey and drizzly, but spirits were high at Saturday's inaugural Ashburton District Antiques and Collectibles Fair, which was held at the Tancred St Sports Hall.

When the doors opened at 10am, a good-sized crowd was already waiting to get in, and by the time the doors closed at 4pm, about 800 people had checked the stalls and displays.

Twenty antique and collectibles traders from around the Canterbury region, selling a great range of quality items, were kept busy during the day and the venue was a browser's delight. Traders seemed to be happy with their day.

A number of the shoppers had travelled down from Christchurch with their list of items destroyed in the earthquakes.

They hoped to be able to replace some of these lost treasures at the fair.

One couple were delighted at having found a "Pink Petunia" English china cruet set and they were also hoping to find an art deco desk set.

Members of the Christchurch Antique Bottle and Collectibles Club had made a really great

contribution to the fair by setting up a variety of displays around the hall.

Christchurch's Ian Spellerberg had brought some of his superb copper and brass dairy cans, including a collection of small flask-shaped brass cans from the Island of Guernsey.

His wife brought part of her collection of glass paperweights.

Other displays featured antique shearing implements, vintage clothing, Crown Lynn pottery, antique vesta cases, and dolls.

The appraisals section of the event went well, with about 100 items looked at during the day.

A member of the appraisal team, Cynthia Tindall, of Cats Whiskers Antiques 'n' Art on East St, was impressed with the quality of items brought in by members of the public.

Items appraised included fob watches, jewellery, art and china, including several pieces of Clarice Cliff "Bizarre" pattern.

Rotary Club of Ashburton coordinator Sharon Amos said the group was happy with the way things had gone, and feedback from stallholders and shoppers had been positive.

POPULAR: A collection of old cream cans.



FRIENDLY CHAT: Norma Galway and Betty Gear talk to Adrienne Stephen.



ANTIQUE: This Crown Lynn display was one of many featured.