

Museum Quarterly is the official magazine of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. September 2000. Issue 83

A New Zealand museum first

Auckland Museum's Te Ao Tūroa (Maori Natural History) Gallery is an international first. Displaying the knowledge and understandings of New Zealand's unique indigenous natural world as seen through the eyes of Maori, there is no other exhibition like it in the world.

The 'origins' theme of the gallery presents a Maori view of the creation of the universe and of the two primal parents – Rangī-nui (the sky father) and Papa-tu-a-nuku (the earth mother). Rangī-nui is portrayed as a Maori star map featuring, for the first time, the genealogically ordered names of major stars and constellations of the southern sky. Beneath lies Papa-tu-a-nuku, represented as Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland). Visitors can stand between the two realms and experience the creation of Auckland's landscape, trace

the routes of the first canoes and recount the ancestral deeds and stories from its earliest Maori settlers up to today's inhabitants, Ngāti Whatua O Orakei.

Also featured is a map showing the origins of the plants and animals that were transported to Aotearoa by the early Pacific voyagers.

The gallery then spirals outward to focus upon the four 'environmental realms' of importance to Maori – *Rongo* (the personification of cultivated foods, particularly kumara) featuring a stone garden; *Haumia* featuring native food plant species – the bracken fern and the ti (cabbage tree) to illustrate Maori approaches to ecology and cultivation; *Tangaroa* which includes fresh water and marine displays; and *Tane* the personification of forest, trees, birds and insects.

Like the sky, these too are ordered by whakapapa (genealogies) in order to organise, classify and explain the complex environment in which Maori have lived for 1000 years.

Completing the gallery of Te Ao Tūroa is a trio of pou (carvings) representing the three tribes associated with Maori governance (Taumata-a-Iwi) of the Museum – Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whatua O Orakei and Tainui.

While the Ngāti



Take a journey into the natural world of Maori in the new Te Ao Tūroa (Maori Natural History) Gallery.

Whatua O Orakei and Tainui pou date back to pre-European contact, the third pou (Ngāti Paoa) hewn by master carver Tu Karamaene (John Coromandel, pictured below with Helen Clark) is a unique example of modern carving. This pou was blessed with a

tapu lifting ceremony on Thursday 22 June. It is a majestic carving, hewn entirely with stone tools and it is a great credit to John's spirit, artistic ability and perseverance. It is also a wonderful new acquisition for the Museum's collections.



Museum alive!

An air of activity has descended over Auckland Museum in recent months. The Living Treasures programme of demonstrations, performances, tours and lectures – think belly dancers, Maori weaving, African drumming, origami or taxi-dermy – and a bonanza of school holiday events – involving Police dogs, dinosaur making, Ronald McDonald, and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics – ensure Museum visitors of all ages are kept



constantly entertained, educated and fascinated.

Living Treasures Day is the third Sunday of every month and the next school holiday programme will take place between Saturday 23 September and Sunday 8 October.

Why not come along and rediscover the Museum? It's not the way you remember it.



World War II remembered

One of Auckland Museum's most important roles is that of a War Memorial. It is therefore fitting that on Tuesday 24 October the Museum will be the venue for a meeting and reconciliation between World War II New Zealand fighter pilots and their Japanese counterparts.

Around 20 World War II

Japanese Zero pilots are visiting New Zealand as part of the formation of a friendship society between the two groups of veterans. This move towards a closer relationship has been set in motion by Professor Nobuya Kinase, a former Zero pilot trainer, who has visited the Museum on a number of previous occasions, including a

stint as guest speaker at the Real Treasures Real Tales Festival in March of this year.

Members of the New Zealand Fighter Pilots Association and the Pacific Fighter Pilots Association will host the October meeting.

A wreath laying ceremony in the World War II Hall of Memories followed by speakers from both New Zealand and Japan will mark the occasion. The pilots will all have the opportunity to explore the Museum's acclaimed Scars on the Heart galleries and visit the fully restored Spitfire and Zero aircraft.

The Auckland War Memorial Museum is a living testament to the courage and conviction of the thousands of New Zealand men and women who



Professor Kinase, on his visit to the Museum to present his uniforms for display in the Zero gallery.

gave their lives for their country over the last hundred and sixty years,' said Museum director Rodney Wilson.

'It is therefore fitting that it host remembrance and reconciliation activities such as this meeting of pilots who began on different sides of the war but now appropriately want to move forward in the spirit of a new millennium.'



Museum memberships

The Museum has recently published a new membership brochure. The family of membership options available to Museum supporters is now clearly set out, and a single initial point of contact for new membership enquiries has been established within the Museum's administration area. The brochure is also featured on the Museum website: www.akmuseum.org.nz

Two new membership opportunities have been added to the Auckland Museum Institute's general membership programme, and the Microsoft Dinomites Club child and family based membership.

The first, Museum Circle, offers Patron and Benefactor level membership. The Museum Circle has been formed from a foundation membership of individuals and families who supported the Museum through the 'Names in Stone' campaign. The other is the MuseumNet service (being launched on 30 September 2000), a low cost electronic membership providing news, information and periodic special offers for people who do not wish to have the same level of involvement as provided by the Institute, Circle and Dinomites.

Obituary

Lucy May Cranwell, MA, DSc, FLS (Lond.), FRSNZ, 1907-2000

Dr Lucy Cranwell was an internationally renowned botanist and palynologist (expert on fossil pollen and spores) who began her career at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in 1929. She continued her work on Gondwanan pollen and Hawaiian peat right up until her death at Tucson, Arizona on 8 June 2000.

Lucy was born on 7 August 1907 and grew up in Henderson. In 1929 she graduated with an M.A. in botany from the University of Auckland, and was appointed botanist at the Auckland Institute and Museum three months before the new building was opened in the Domain. Her accomplishments included setting up the new natural history galleries, care of the herbarium, service to the public through identifications, radio talks, preparing native flower shows, popular talks, and regular newspaper columns and producing a movie film "Heart of kauri". She once recalled to me how much she enjoyed those Museum years.

During her 14.5 years as Museum botanist, Lucy was a keen collector of flowering

plants and seaweeds. Over 4000 Cranwell specimens still exist in the Museum herbarium. With her close botanical friend and University classmate, Lucy B. Moore (d. 1987), the "two Lucys" carried out pioneering fieldwork in remote areas of New Zealand during the 1930s. Mt Moehau, Mt Maungapohatu, Mt Taranaki, Mt Hikurangi, Mt Pirongia, Hen and Chickens Islands, and Poor Knights Islands were some of the areas they surveyed. Lucy published 15 scientific papers and co-authored two books during these Museum years: "The Botany of Auckland" and "Food is where you find it". The latter was written for Second World War airmen and others cast away on remote Pacific Islands.

Dr Cranwell's life-long study of fossil pollen began in 1935 when she attended the Sixth International Botanical Congress at Amsterdam and was invited by Lennart von Post of Stockholm, founder of pollen analysis, to study New Zealand fossil pollen. Their joint, highly influential paper in 1936 on vegetation history with climate interpretations was a new type of approach for the southern hemisphere. This was the turning point of her career.

In September 1943 Lucy married Major S. Watson Smith of the US Army, an archaeologist, and moved permanently to

America in February 1944. Their son, Benjamin, was born in 1947. After working at Harvard University Lucy became a Research Affiliate in palynology at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, where she lived since 1954. There she earned international recognition for her work, mainly on Antarctic plant microfossils, including southern beech.

Her achievements include the Loder Cup (1937), Fellow of the Linnaean Society (1937), Bishop Museum Fellowship (1938), Fellow of the Royal Society of NZ (1944), Hector Medal (1954), DSc (1959), Hon. DSc (1992) and Fellow of the Auckland War Memorial Museum (1999). Several living and fossil plants are named in her honour.

Despite her absence for over 56 years, Lucy maintained strong links with Auckland, through colleagues, family and various institutions and societies who all benefited from her close association and generosity.

Lucy is remembered affectionately for her strong and warm personality, love of New Zealand and the outdoors, and as an energetic and pioneering botanist with a readiness to share her knowledge. She leaves a wonderful legacy behind her.

— Ewen Cameron



A travelling chiropodist, Peking. (Thomson 1871/1872)

Unseen China

China – her land and her people – has long been the subject of fascination for the western world.

The 19th century British explorer John Thomson loved China and in his empathy for the people, their politics, society and religion, he showed a remarkable ability to per-

and exoticism implied in the work of earlier writers and illustrators.

Auckland Museum is proud to be hosting an exhibition of photographs by John Thomson, gifted to the Museum in 1999 by the British Council.

Accompanying this powerful photographic record will be a

selection of artefacts and costumes from the Museum's Chinese collections including ivories, carpets, musical instruments, robes, jewellery, ceramics, shoes and bronzes. Visitors will also see the return of the huge temple bronzes that once graced the



suaide them to pose for him.

During the 1860s and 1870s Thomson travelled through China capturing the ordinary and humble aspects of Chinese life on film, without foregoing the dignity, character

entranceway to the ground floor Asian Hall.

Most of these collection pieces date from the period between 1870 and 1910 during the final years of the Qing dynasty, which ended with

Halloween banquets

Steel yourselves for a feast of frightening food served by wicked witches and warlocks on and around All Hallows Eve in the year 2000.

Don a costume and spirit yourselves along to the Auckland Museum to enjoy devilish delights in a fully themed banquet hall until the stroke of midnight.

Banquets run between Friday October 27–Tuesday October 31, from 7.30pm nightly.

Banquet: \$60 per head (minimum booking 10 people).

For all enquiries and bookings contact Nancy Crawford. Phone: (09) 306-7086, fax: (09) 379-9956. Private Bag 92018, Auckland. ncrawford@akmuseum.org.nz

MQ

From the Director

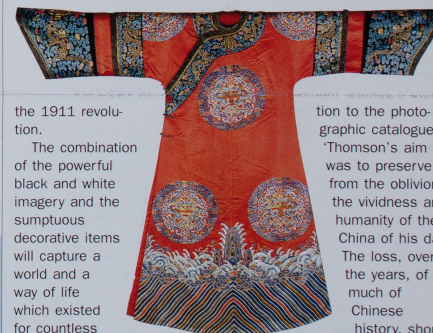
In early August the Museum's tiny Goldie portrait of Ngati Whanaunga kuia Hera Puna was stolen from its display in the Maori Gallery. With one notable exception, the media responded very positively and very supportively. Discussion took place about the adequacy of Museum security.

I would like to assure readers of MQ that the Museum maintains a high level of physical and electronic security throughout its exhibits, and that the Museum's staff are vigilant in attending to security. More can be done however, and some additional measures and precautions have been immediately implemented. Planning for the Museum's second stage of development was already addressing the Museum's ongoing security needs at the time of the theft.

The real issue is the relationships of trust that surround museums. On the one hand the Museum has a duty of trust to its funders, donors, benefactors, iwi and others who have made collections available to us, or on whose behalf we discharge a range of kaitiaki or guardian responsibilities. The Museum is very alert to that responsibility of trust and guardianship.

On the other hand there is the trust that museums bestow upon their visitors. Accessibility to the collections and enjoyment of them, and security, tend to be at opposite ends of an access/care continuum. More access, lower security. More security, less access. New Zealand museums have enjoyed a trustworthy relationship with their visitors and have tended to be able to enhance access as a result. I hope that the recent Tissot painting theft from Auckland Art Gallery, the Mongolian helmet incident at Canterbury Museum, and the Goldie theft at our Museum are not signs that the relationship we enjoy with our visitors is changing. Vigilant we must be – and we can do more – but it would be a shame if accessibility to the collections and enjoyment of them were to be seriously changed as a result of greatly more onerous security.

T.L. Rodney Wilson
Director



the 1911 revolution.

The combination of the powerful black and white imagery and the sumptuous decorative items will capture a world and a way of life which existed for countless centuries and disappeared for good in the early decades of the 20th century.

William Schupbach, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine who are custodians of the Thomson archive, wrote in his introduc-

tion to the photographic catalogue: 'Thomson's aim was to preserve from the oblivion the vividness and humanity of the China of his day. The loss, over the years, of so much of Chinese history, should make

Thomson's photographs even more precious now than he could ever have hoped.'

The Unseen China exhibition runs from Saturday 28 October until Sunday 18 February 2001 in the Decorative Arts Gallery on the first floor.

What's coming up

Living Treasures Day

Sunday 17 September, Sunday 15 October, Sunday 19 November

Living Treasures Day happens every third Sunday of the month at Auckland Museum. The galleries come to life with activities, demonstrations and performances. Regular attractions are Maori weaving, Tongan lei making, Chinese fortune telling, actors in historical role, and children's activities. Spicing up the programme are new and exciting features, including belly dancing, African drumming, a living statue of Queen Victoria and Sudanese Henna Artistry. Museum staff complement the programme with gallery tours, lectures and demonstrations. All day Museum-wide.

Maori Weaving Demonstrations

The following Saturdays: 23 September, 7 and 28 October, 7 and 25 November
Maori Gallery, 1pm-4pm

Mason Handprints

24 June-8 October
An exhibition celebrating the work of William Mason, New Zealand's most successful designer of textiles and wallpapers. Decorative Arts Gallery West on the first floor.

Mason Handprints Gallery Talks

These will take place in the Mason Handprints Exhibition on the first floor.
Saturday 16 September: Ingrid Dubbelt, textile designer and niece of William Mason will discuss the production techniques of her uncle.
Saturday 30 September: Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, design historian and critic will discuss Mason's significance as a designer in New Zealand design history.

Music in the Museum

A programme of performances and lectures relating to the Castle Collection on the first

Sunday of every month. These take place in the APEC Room from 3:30pm.

Sunday 1 October: Harp and flute recital by Yi Jin and accompanist.

Sunday 5 November: Hurdy Gurdy maker Greg Whitcombe will give a talk and performance.

Natural History Series

This series of three lectures will examine aspects of the new Natural History galleries. These take place in the APEC Room from 3:30pm.

Sunday 12 November: Dr Carol Diebel, Auckland Museum Marine Curator, 'Open Oceans'.
Sunday 19 November: Dr Tasha Black, Auckland Museum Geology Contract Curator, 'Geology of the Auckland Region'.

Sunday 26 November: Dr John Early, Auckland Museum Curator of Entomology, 'Moas and Tuataras of the Insect World'.

The Ancient Civilisation Lecture Series

Sunday 24 September: Dr Elizabeth Rankin, 'From Athens to Auckland: looking at Ancient Greek Art today'. APEC Room at 3.30pm.

Battle of Passchendaele Commemorations

Sunday 15 October

Armistice Day

Saturday 11 November
11am Commemorative Ceremony. Public are invited to lay a rose of remembrance in the WWI Sanctuary.

Unseen China Exhibition

28 October - 25 February 2001

Featuring John Thomson's extraordinary photography from 19th century China, alongside a selection of artefacts and costumes from the Museum's Chinese collections. Decorative Arts Gallery West on the first floor.

Unseen China Programme

Sunday 29 October, 3:30pm:

Museum Store highlight

Ian Fish, one of New Zealand's premier craftsmen woodturners, has worked with wood for the last 25 years and seriously with woodturning for approximately 10 years. Ian's philosophy is that wood can be seen not only as a utensil but also as a substance from which art objects can be made - art that you can feel, hold, smell, admire or just put salad in.

Ian Fish is almost exclusively a turner of bowls, platters, and hollow forms and works from his home in Birkenhead, Auckland.

The Museum Store stocks a wide range of Ian Fish bowls

and platters made from traditional New Zealand woods such as Kauri, Pohutakawa, Puriri and Rata. They are in a variety of shapes and sizes to suit any ornamental or household purpose. The handcrafted wooden bowls have been treated with a natural vegetable oil and soft paste wax to give a clean, bright finish.



Cantonese Opera in the Education Centre

Saturday 4 November, all day:

Chinese Fortune Telling in the Decorative Arts Gallery.

Saturday 18 November: Peter Chan, talk on Chinese ceramics in the APEC Room.

Schools Holiday Programme Highlights

23 September-6 October

The Travelling Tuataras

Tuesday 26 September
Performing storytheatre with songs, music and stories from Aotearoa.

Agent Ani & Wetasaurus Rex

Thursday 28 September
The two Dinomites favourites pop in to say hello.

How do they do that?

Monday 2 October, 1-3pm
Meet David Weatherley,

Auckland Museum's Taxidermist and find out how he does his 'stuff'.

Yes! We Had Dinosaurs

Wednesday 4 October
Mike Eagle shows some new Dinosaur finds from Australasia and takes you on a tour of the Dinosaur exhibits at the museum.

There are also 10-minute activities every day of the holidays in the Discovery Centres, including: badge making, puppet fun, skeletons, lanterns, paint a pot, and much more.

For information on any of the above events or activities, please see our website at www.akmuseum.org.nz or call our Infoline on 09 306 7070 x738.

Pukaki - A Comet Returns

Auckland Museum's Director Maori, Paul Tapsell, has recently launched his new book: *Pukaki - A Comet Returns*.

The book, which Paul has been working on since 1994 for his thesis, records the life and transformation of Pukaki, an ancestral father of Ngati Whakaue of Te Arawa - from

mortal rangatira to carved ancestor at Ohinemutu, from curiosity on display at the Auckland Museum to national icon in the *Te Maori* exhibition - climaxing with his return home to Rotorua in October 1997.

Pukaki - A Comet Returns is available in The Museum Store and in all good booksellers nationwide.

For your information. Auckland War Memorial Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, New Zealand.
Telephone 09 309 0443 - InfoLine 09 306 7067 - Facsimile 09 379 9956. Director Dr TL Rodney Wilson.
Hours 10am to 5pm daily. Open every day except Christmas Day and Anzac Day morning.
For information on Membership ring 09 309 0443 x883.
Website: www.akmuseum.org.nz

For information on exhibitions, public programmes or events ring the InfoLine: 09 306 7067.

