



AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

NEWS

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exhibitions

TREASURES and VISIONS

16th December 1992 - 7th March 1993

This year's Christmas exhibition will be a show with an exciting difference. As its title suggests, the show will be a display of stunning treasures and exciting visions: the former to reflect the Museum's impressive past, and the latter to suggest its future. The exhibition will be the first taste of the Auckland Museum Development Project, and will provide the public with some suggestions of things to come. It will present examples of new display approaches and the interactive technology necessary to take the Museum into the 21st century.

At the heart of **Treasures & Visions** will be a diversity of objects from the Museum's rich storehouse. Some items have not been previously exhibited, for reasons of space and fragility. Included are artifacts associated with Captain Cook, some of the earliest and most remarkable natural history specimens collected in this country, the world's smallest bird's egg and the largest seed.

The biggest item of all will be one of the Museum's most familiar features - Rajah the Indian elephant. Since closure of the Geology Hall, Rajah has been out of the public eye, and he is about to return. Now approaching his 56th year of service, Rajah is showing his age. His deterioration is irreversible thus his days at the Museum must be numbered. **Treasures & Visions** may well be his swansong. A relic of Auckland Museum's rich and colourful past, Rajah will be a fitting introduction to an exciting future.

The Exciting Proposal

As we move into the 21st Century, visitors will experience many new and exciting exhibits. **Treasures & Visions** provides viewing and interactive opportunities with computer simulations, a microvoyager, computerized "virtual reality", and other technological wizardry!

Videos, architectural plans, as well as curators will be on hand to describe the proposed improvements, which will enhance the present educational and recreational qualities of Auckland's most popular attraction.

PHOTO: Silver Model of the Museum made by A. Kohn and presented to Sir James Gunson in 1925 by the people of Auckland. One of the 'treasures' to be displayed in the Treasures and Visions exhibition.

Skeletons from our cupboards

With younger visitors in mind, **Treasures & Visions** includes an Activity Centre 'Skeletons from our Cupboards'. The centre will include fossils, skeletons, bugs, beetles and shells, and allow a degree of hands-on exploration not previously available in the Museum.

Treasures & Visions will open to the public on Thursday 17 December and run through until 7 March 1993. The Activity Centre will open on the public on Saturday 2 January and remain open until the end of January. Members are advised that a number of exhibition related events will take place during January and February which will be announced in the news media.

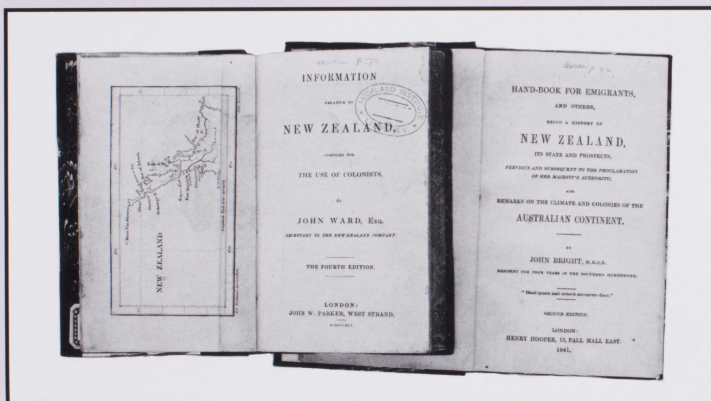
HAS THE 'DUCHESS' ARRIVED?

...is said to be the first question

asked of the pilot who met the *Jane Gifford* in the Hauraki Gulf on 8 October 1842. She had completed a four-month, non-stop voyage from Greenock, and those on board were anxious to learn the whereabouts of the *Duchess of Argyle* which had sailed from the same port ten days ahead of them. Many on the two ships must have questioned the wisdom of emigrating —297 people living in close proximity on the *Duchess* (138 feet, 667 tons) and 255 on the *Jane Gifford* (120 feet, 558 tons). Robert Graham's *Journal*, tells of children dying of dysentery, storms, a near mutiny, as well as less dramatic day-to-day occurrences.

Passenger lists give the youngest on board either of the two ships as [Boy] Forsyth on the *Jane Gifford* who was two months old. Of the adults whose ages are listed, the eldest men were Robert Crawford, 40, on the *Duchess*, George Scott and Peter Connor, both also 40, on the *Jane*. Two widows emigrating with their families on the *Duchess*, Mary Laurie and Elizabeth McLiver were 42.

If the journey tested the courage and endurance of these first Scottish families, so conditions on arrival in Auckland must have demanded all their resilience — "small though their numbers were, there were not any people to employ them." (John Logan Campbell). "As farming is rather at a standstill there is little enough for these emigrants to do. Many of them are huddled



together in the Courthouse, near which there is a sort of sentry box provided for them to cook their victuals in; being government emigrants they are employed at first about the roads and drains of the town." (Edward Ashworth, *Journals 1841-1845*).

The Museum Library is marking the sesquicentennial of the ships' arrival with a display which runs until 28 November. Included are photographs of passengers — George Webster, William Culpan, John Finlay, William Thorburn, Robert Graham and Ellen Joiner (nee Meehan), who was possibly the last survivor. She died in January 1926.

There are also: John Logan Campbell's letter of 24 October 1842 to his father mentioning mail received from home via the *Jane Gifford* and the *Duchess of Argyle*; and some of our contemporary books. Two of these, John Bright's *Hand-book for Emigrants and Other, Being a History of New Zealand...* (London, H Hooper, 1841), and John Ward's *Information Relative to New Zealand, Compiled for the Use of Colonists* (4th ed. London, J W Parker, 1841), are shown in the photograph accompanying this article.

Barbara Spiers

recent accessions

Lucy Goffin Waistcoat

A recent visitor to New Zealand, Lucy Goffin, has been described as textile artist, sometime potter, box maker, embroiderer and quilt designer. Her work has encompassed major public commissions, collaboration with fashion and theatre designers and private commissions such as her bespoke waistcoats which have become one of her trademarks. In 1988 the Victoria and Albert Museum purchased a major work for inclusion in the 20th century collection of the textile department. In addition to enhancing the Museum's extensive collection of embroidered textiles, acquisition of this waistcoat strengthens a growing collection of waistcoats, the earliest of which date from the early 18th century.

Angela Lassig

Indian silk waistcoat with machine and hand stitched detail and sandalwood buttons, designed and made by Lucy Goffin in England in 1989.



Accessions

Lucy Goffin Waistcoat

to New Zealand, has been described as a sometime potter, a crocheter and quilt maker. Her work has encompassed public commissions with fashion designers and printers such as her belts which have been her trademarks. In 1989, she and Albert Muller produced a major work for the 20th century textile department. Enhancing the Museum's collection of embroideries, acquisition of this piece strengthens a growing collection of waistcoats, the earliest date from the 18th century.

Angela Lassig

Waistcoat with machine and hand embroidery detail and sandalwood buttons, designed and made by Lucy Goffin in England in 1989.



Banks' Florilegium Prints purchased by the Museum

The library has purchased 10 prints from *Banks' Florilegium*, a collection of 743 magnificent copper plate engravings illustrating the flora collected on the *Endeavour* Voyage. Sir Joseph Banks had commissioned the plates at his own expense but did not have them published. Shortly before his death in 1820, he bequeathed the entire collection to Robert Brown his curator/librarian, who passed them on to the British Museum (Natural History) in 1827. There they remained for over 150 years. In 1980 Alecto Historical Editions (London) under the aegis of the British Museum, decided to publish all 738 extant engravings. The project took a total of nine years to complete and has been hailed as probably the finest botanical publication of the 20th century.

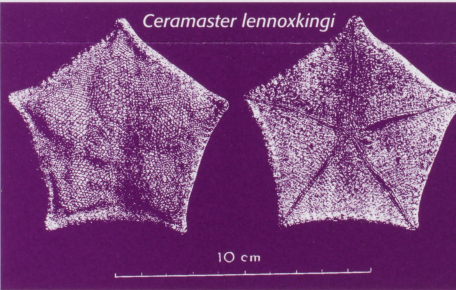
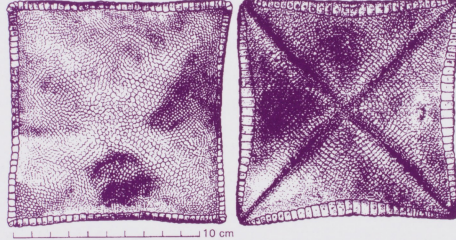
These prints were bought with money from the Members' Library Purposes Fund. With the four the Library already holds, they are the only prints in a public collection north of Wellington.

Square Starfish Breaks Common Rules for Symmetry

Animals of the phylum Echinodermata have a regular five-sided or five armed (pentamerous) body arrangement. Recently the unique square example shown above was collected by Dave Paterson from Simonvich Fisheries at a depth of 522 m off the Auckland islands. Shown below is the species as it normally occurs. This was first described from New Zealand by D G McKnight in 1973 as *Ceramaster lennoxkingi* and was named after



Assistant Librarian, Gordon Maitland, inspecting one of the engravings from *Banks' Florilegium*



the then commanding officer of HMNZS *Endeavour* from which it was collected. Our square specimen is much larger than all previous records of normal *Ceramaster*, so that being a mutant hasn't interfered with its lifestyle. These starfish live in cold, upper bathyal depths

(500-950 m). When collected, they have a bright reddish-orange upper surface and cream underside colouring. Colour, however, is meaningless in the deep water environment inhabited by these animals as red light has already been filtered out of the spectrum of natural light reaching these depths. This is an effective means of camouflage. Our brief search of scientific records has

failed to provide any previous information about square starfishes in New Zealand waters, but collectors report seeing other specimens. Five-sidedness is a very strong genetic attribute of all echinoderms and this break in the classical tradition is highly uncharacteristic.

notices

BOTANICAL COMMISSION

The Auckland Botanical Commission is holding a meeting on Thursday 10th October at the Botanical Museum.

largely through the efforts of the collector, Miss L. J. ...

The Society of Plant Lovers is holding a meeting on Thursday 10th October at the Auckland Botanical Museum. The meeting is no longer ...

The Museum is holding an evening meeting in the Lecture Room (entrance) on Thursday 10th October. The meeting is no longer ...

Monthly Notices of the Botanical Commission is followed by a meeting on Thursday 10th October.

Topics this year include the flora, tropical aquatic plants, the botany of the "Gondwana" (Australia), the geology and rana ...

Monthly Notices of the Botanical Commission is followed by a meeting on Saturday 11th October at places such as Pureora Forest.

The Museum Society with its currently President Cameron, and Jack Mackintosh. The Bulletin is ...

Museum Society and sample collection can be made by members ...



HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES for Children & Young Adults

Past-times and Fossil Fun

A series of natural history programmes for children. A simple guide to prehistoric animals, plants and other things found in NZ. Sessions will include 'hands-on' activities involving breaking rocks open, specimen study and making casts.

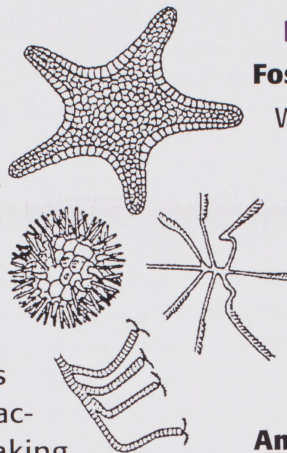
Sessions are limited to 25 participants and are suitable for young people aged 8 upwards.

Booking in advance with payment is essential. Please fill in the attached form (on reverse).

Time: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Cost: \$5.00 per session or \$20.00 for 5 sessions .

Venue: Auckland Museum School Room

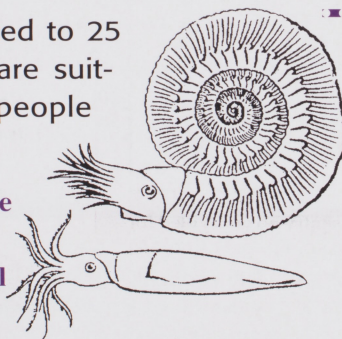


Date : Monday 25 January
Fossil Clues to Prehistoric Life.

What are fossils? What do they tell us? Discover the clues hidden in fossils and learn about 'golden oldies' - the oldest fossils and where they are found.

.....
Date: Tuesday 26 January
Fossil Plants, Fish, Reptiles and Amphibians.

More about 'winged weirdos', marine monsters and modern day plants.



Date: Wednesday 27 January
Fossil Invertebrates.

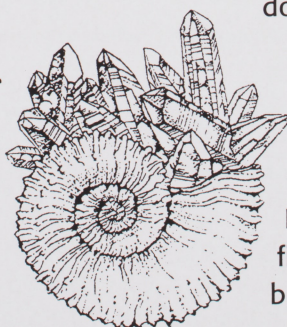
Simple celled critters, corals, shells, worms and oddballs.

.....
Date: Thursday 28 January
Records in Rocks.

Pre-cambrian to present - up and down with the odd uninvited visitor that intruded.

.....
Date: Friday 29 January
Fossil Hunting.

Famous fossickers - what we can find out from our own neighbourhood today.





FIELD TRIPS

Ancient Life Off the Coast of Gondwana

- FOSSILS AT PORT WAIKATO

Leaders: Mike Eagle and Bruce Hayward, Auckland Museum.

Travel south to 150-200 million year old rocks around Port Waikato. Here we will stop at a number of localities to fossick for ancient marine bivalves and snails that lived on the seafloor off the coast from the large supercontinent of Gondwana. We also expect to see the bullet-shaped fossil remains of prehistoric squid called belemnites and, if we are lucky, the coiled shells of extinct nautilus-like ammonites.

Limited to 35 participants. Booking essential.

Date: Sunday 14 March 1993.

Transport: By minibus, departing rear of the Museum at 9.30am prompt.

Cost: \$25.00

To Bring: Own lunch, wet weather gear, rock hammer.

Museum Field Trip to Muriwai

- ANCIENT UNDERSEA VOLCANOES AND THE MAINLAND GANNET COLONY

Leaders: Bruce Hayward and Brian Gill, Auckland Museum

At Muriwai we will have the opportunity of viewing two of Auckland's natural treasures - the Muriwai pillow lavas and the Muriwai gannet colony.

We will look at the internationally famous pillow lava flows that are exposed in the cliffs. These were erupted onto the floor of the ocean approximately 16 million years ago. With close examination we will see how they were formed and how they flowed down submarine canyons on the eastern flanks of the ancient Waitakere Volcano.

We will also visit the gannet colony to see the later stages of nesting. This is one of the few places in the world where gannets nest on the mainland.

Date: Sunday 4 April 1993

Transport: Own transport to Muriwai, or meet at rear of Auckland Museum at 9.30 am for those wishing to car-pool.

Cost: \$8.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child.

To Bring: Own lunch, wet weather gear, sun hat, sun block, binoculars or telescope, camera, footwear for a 2 km walk around the coast.

To register for a field trip/s or course please complete the following and send to:
Community Education Officer, AUCKLAND MUSEUM,
Private Bag 92018, Auckland. Phone: 309 0443.



Field Trips & Holiday Programmes

Please tick the field trip/s or course you wish to attend

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Ancient Undersea Volcanoes and the Mainland Gannet Colony
Date: Sunday 4 April 1993 Cost: Adults \$8.00, Children \$2.00

Ancient Life off the Coast of Gondwana
Date: Sunday 14 March 1993 Cost: \$25.00

Holiday Programmes: Past-times and Fossil Fun
Dates: Monday 25th Tuesday 26th Wednesday 27th
 Thursday 28th Friday 29th January
Cost: \$5.00 per session or \$20.00 for 5 sessions

BOTANICAL SOCIETY COMES HOME TO MUSEUM

The Auckland Botanical Society came into being on Thursday 28 October 1937, at an inaugural meeting held in the Library of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The gathering was brought together largely through the enthusiasm of the Museum Botanist, Miss Lucy Cranwell.

The Society has remained active since then, offering plant lovers monthly evening meetings and field trips. For many years Bot Soc has met at the University of Auckland, but changes to the University's School of Biological Sciences mean that a suitable meeting room is no longer available there.

The Museum has much pleasure in welcoming the Auckland Botanical Society "home" for its monthly evening meetings. These will be held in the School Room (entry by West Door) on the first Wednesday of the month. Members gather from 7.30 pm for announcements, displays and viewing of members' slides, followed by a speaker from 8.00-9.00 pm, then supper. Topics this year have included the Waitakere adventive flora, tropical forests of the Solomon Islands, native aquatic plants and exotic invaders, aspects of the botany of Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji, the "Greening of Gondwana" (400 million years of plant fossils in Australia), the growth and ecology of kauri, and pohutukawa and rata regeneration.

Monthly field trips are held usually on the third Saturday of the month. Occasional longer trips to places such as the North Whangaroa Harbour block, Pureora Forest and Mayor Island are also organised.

The Museum continues to have strong links with Bot Soc with its Collections Manager, Anthony Wright, currently President, its Acting Curator of Botany, Ewen Cameron, a Vice-President, and its Botany Technician, Jack Mackinder, the Editor of the Bot Soc Journal and Bulletins.

Museum members are welcome to join Bot Soccers and sample their regular activities. Further information can be obtained by phoning any of the three staff members mentioned above.

ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEEDS A VOLUNTEER(S)

The Entomology Department needs help to transfer a large number of pinned insects from old to new storage cabinets. The work is painstaking, handling delicate and fragile specimens, and it is important that the person has a steady hand with small objects and good eyesight. An interest in insects would be an advantage but is not essential.

The job needs to be done fairly promptly. If possible we would like someone who could start immediately and spare 20 hours or more per week, but would consider 2 people who had less time to devote to the job.

Enquiries and application forms are available from John Early (Entomologist) at the Museum, ph 309-0443.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Library and Administration areas will close at 1.00 pm on Thursday 24 December 1992 and will reopen at 9.00 am (1.00 pm for the Library) on Monday 4 January 1993. The whole Museum will be closed on 25 December.

LIBRARY CLOSURE

The Museum Library will be closed between Monday 30 November 1992 and Saturday 12 December 1992 inclusive. It will reopen at 1.00 pm Monday 14 December 1992.

During this time the Library staff will undertake collection management tasks (in particular, the rehousing of the photograph negative collections in the new cool-rooms) which have not been possible during opening hours. We apologise if this closure causes an inconvenience to our members and other Library users, but it is essential for the efficient running and maintenance of the Library's collections. If you wish to return Library books for this period there will be a "book returns" bin on the ground floor of the Administration area near Reception.

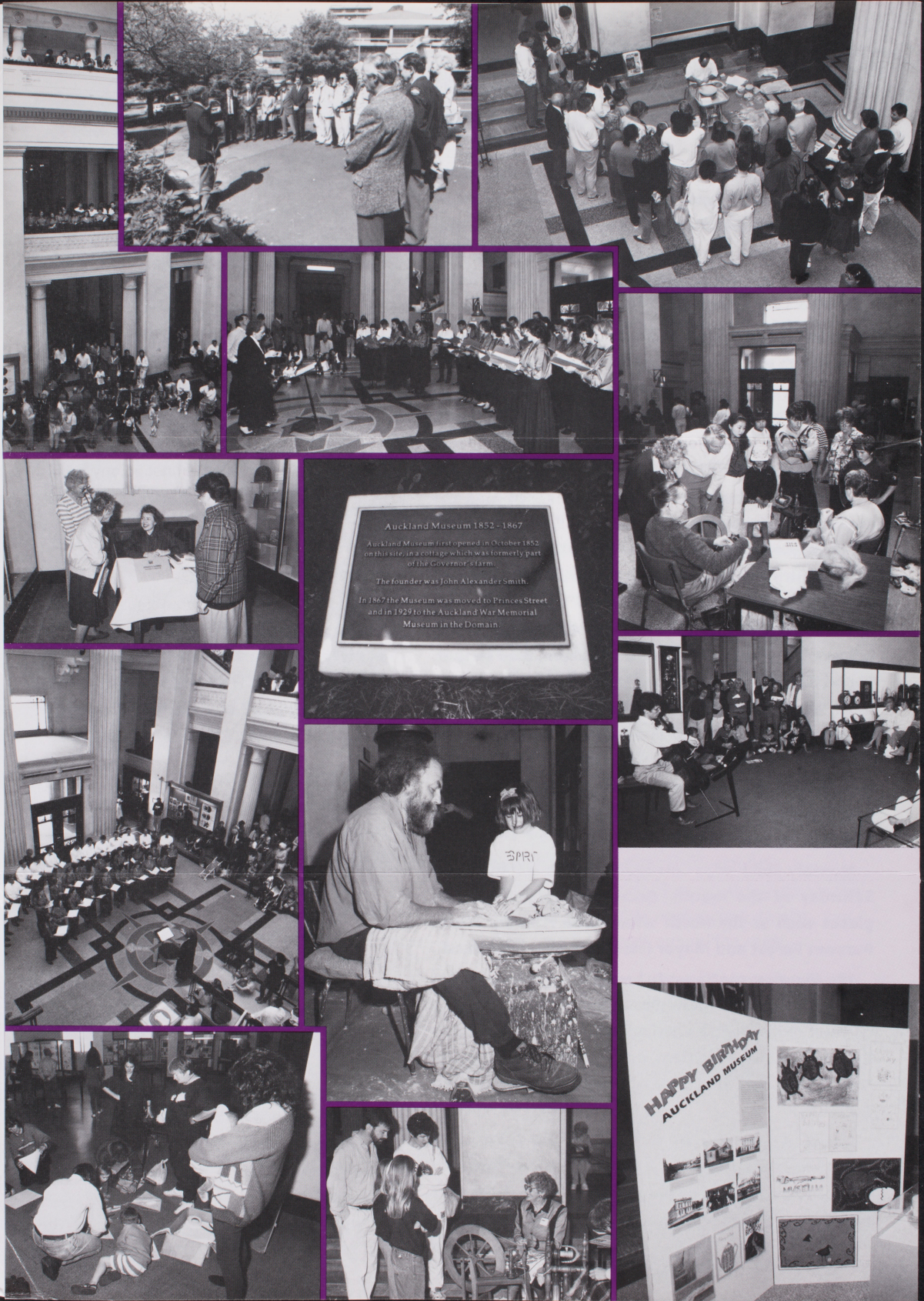
Accessions

Lucy Goffin Waistcoat

to New Zealand, has been described as a sometime potter, a crocheter and quilt maker. Her work has encompassed public commissions with fashion designers and printers, such as her beanie hats which have become trademarks. In 1989, Angela and Albert Muller commissioned a major work for the 20th century collection of the textile department. Enhancing the Museum's collection of emblems, the acquisition of this waistcoat, the date from the 19th century.

Angela Lassig

Waistcoat with machine and hand detail and sandalwood lined and made by Lucy Goffin in England in 1989.



exhibitions

Medallion Exhibition Small Worlds:

11 December 1992 -
4 February 1993
Logan Campbell
Gallery

This exhibition brings together the work of contemporary New Zealand and international medallic artists including a small selection from the Museum's collection.



The Tea Cosy Show

31 October - 1 February
1993

Since the mid 19th century, women have made an extraordinary variety of objects associated with "a nice cup of tea" or "a real good cuppa".

The tea cosy is probably the most visible of these objects, the teapot often taking pride of place as the centre of the tea ceremony.

The cosies in the exhibition have been drawn from the Museum's own collections and from the private collections of a number of generous lenders including Mrs June Nelson and Mrs Sheila Weight.

Tea cosies have been made in almost every conceivable craft technique, a great variety of which can be seen in the exhibition. Apart from the embroidered, crocheted, knitted, appliqued and quilted cosies [to name just a few techniques!], is a pair of woven flax cosies which were made by Maori women about 1910. One of these features feathers of the albino and brown kiwi which have been incorporated as part of the weaving process.

A number of teapots from the Museum's collection will be displayed with the cosies as well as a selection of pattern books featuring tea cosy designs.

music

Oriana Consort Madrigal Singers

Will perform at the Auckland Museum on: Saturday 21 November and Saturday 19 December at 2.30pm in the Insect Gallery. The group will sing English, French, Italian and Spanish Madrigals.

publications

FOOD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

The Museum has reprinted *Food Is Where You Find It*, a fascinating booklet originally published in 1943 as part of Auckland Museum's contribution to the war effort during the Second World War. The reprint has been produced with the generous support of Lucy Cranwell Smith, who with Dr Baden Powell was one of the two Auckland Museum staff responsible for the text and some of the illustrations. Other original contributions were made by Capt J E Green, Sgt Donald Peters and Cpl W T Grimm of the US Marine Corps, who were then stationed in Auckland. The booklet was designed to provide basic survival information for military personnel who might have to fend for themselves on a Pacific Island, through being shot down or separated from their comrades. It is focused on the resources of the Solomon Islands, which was the principal theatre of war at the time. It illustrates plants, fish and other marine creatures which are good for food, as well as those that are harmful and should be avoided.

The suggestion of a reprint arose from the observance of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of US forces in New Zealand. The reprint has attracted a lot of interest, both in New Zealand and from former US service personnel in the United States.

lectures

Tuesday 15 December
1992, 1pm

Small Worlds: Historic and Contemporary Medallions

Lecture by: **Jim Wheeler**
Medallic Artist, Auckland

notices

AUCKLAND MUSEUM GEOLOGY CLUB

This group has been formed to encourage the study of geology in and around Auckland. New members are invited.

Next meeting is Tuesday 1st December, 7.30pm in the Museum School Room, entry West door, where Bruce Hayward will give his illustrated lecture on: "New Zealand Building Stones".

Next field trip is to Whatipu on Sunday 6th December.

Enquiries to: Bruce Hayward,
Auckland Museum.

Auckland War Memorial Museum was erected in the Auckland Domain in 1929 and extended in 1960 as the Memorial to those from Auckland Province who died in the two World Wars. It is administered by the Auckland Institute and Museum, whose origins go back to the first Auckland Museum of 1852. Auckland Museum News is issued free to members of the Institute and Museum, a group of friends and supporters to the Museum. Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, Phone 0-9-309 0443.