



**Auckland Museum**

*Te Papa Whakahiku*

Number 60

November 1994

ISSN 0111 - 2252

A PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY AUCKLAND MUSEUM

Since the appointment of the new Director Dr Rodney Wilson, and the Museum Council's July resolution to proceed with the redevelopment project, significant progress has been made in planning for the Museum's new displays. Dr Wilson has tabled preliminary drawings showing the layout of planned displays and consulta-



### World War II Home Front - Can You Help?

During World War II volunteer first aid workers were equipped with emergency kits like this one which belonged to Mr Pelham of Orakei, Auckland. The kits were put together by the individual workers but the cost of the contents, estimated at 35 shillings, was carried by the Emergency Precautions Scheme.

The kit is a recent addition to a small but significant collection of objects relating to World War II Home Front activities. We would like your help in developing this collection. If you have any objects, photographs, ephemera, postcards, documents or other information relating to World War II home front activities and experiences please call Rose Young, History Curator, phone 309-0443. ■

*Emergency Precautions Scheme First Aid Kit, World War II. Presented by Mrs E J Pelham; W3449 - W3473.*

## Towards New Displays

tion is now in progress to ensure the most effective use of the unique spaces within the Museum and its inner courtyard.

Staff Project Teams have been put together to plan various aspects of the Museum's redevelopment. Amongst these are three teams of staff and outside experts who will plan overall display and interpretation in the Museum's three key disciplinary areas of War Memorial, Natural History and Human History. A fourth team will be making recommenda-

*continued next page*

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Governance**

**New Staff**

**Museum Booked Out!**



**Important New Acquisition**



tions on the re-presentation of the Applied Arts Collections.

Although there will be significant cross-referencing between the disciplines, three major zones featuring New Zealand and Pacific History, the landscape and ecology of New Zealand, and the history of New Zealand in conflict, will be developed. These will complement the Maori Hall and Applied Arts galleries.

The first new display to open will be Stage I of New Zealand at War, part of the War Memorial section being developed to commemorate the end of World War II fifty years ago.

Major new Special Exhibition areas are also being planned. These will provide improved facilities and allow for a much more intensive and energetic exhibitions programme in the future. During the next year or two this programme, like much else, will be affected by the refurbishment, but Museum visitors can look forward to a very exciting exhibitions future. ■

## Redevelopment and Refurbishment Proceeds

As preparations for building refurbishment, renewal of essential services and new construction get

underway a team has been recruited to assist the Museum directorate with design and planning.

Carson Project Management will continue as consultant project managers, with John Wilson heading the professional team, assisted by David Wilkie in the position of Assistant Project Manager.

Noel Lane, of Noel Lane Architects, has been engaged as project architect and is now reviewing the concept proposals and such issues as circulation, security and fire protection.

Quantity surveyors Rider Hunt Holmes Cook will provide estimating and cost planning services. Further design consultants will be appointed as necessary.

As designing of the main redevelopment proceeds, plans are being made also for work to begin next year on such tasks as the cleaning of the front foyer and the improvement of the front basement rest rooms. Upgrading of the Museum's fire detection systems is being carried out to required standards and all potentially harmful PCB components have been removed from fluorescent lights throughout the Museum. The new paintings and drawings storeroom facility is nearing completion and will greatly improve the storage of and access to this collection. ■

## Governance

During the past twelve months the Museum has worked with the Institute, the Territorial Local Authorities, Maori interests and others to develop new legislation aimed at streamlining and modernising the Museum's governance structure. The draft legislation is now in the final stages of referral and approval, and will make its way to Parliament at the end of the year. In the meantime, an operating company, Auckland Museum Enterprises Limited, will provide interim management of the Museum's redevelopment until the new structures are in place. ■

## Notice to Readers Library Closure

The Museum Library will be closed between Monday 5 December 1994 and Saturday 17 December 1994 inclusive. It will reopen at 1 pm on Monday 19 December.

During this time the Library staff will undertake collection management tasks which have not been possible during opening hours.

We apologise if this closure causes any 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.



## Museum Booker

A huge number of children and adults will be in the Auditorium, so the Discovery just some of the Museum on the Children's Writing Festival. Sunday 11,000 people will have an experience of organisers and queued to have sign their books. Listen to Margie Cowley and writers and the Community Education Katrina Stamp Festival organisers. Day, is confident in success with comes a regular

ce

twelve months  
ked with the  
ial Local Au-  
ests and others  
ation aimed at  
derminising the  
ce structure.  
is now in the  
l and approval,  
y to Parliament  
. In the mean-  
company, Auck-  
prises Limited,  
management of  
elopment until  
re in place. ■

## Readers closure

Library will be  
day 5 December  
7 December 1994  
open at 1 pm on  
er.

the Library staff  
lection manage-  
ve not been pos-  
g hours.

is closure causes  
to our members  
ers, but it is es-  
ent running and  
Library's collec-  
to return Library  
d there will be a  
the ground floor  
on area near Re-



Story teller Apirana Taylor in  
*Weird and Wonderful*.

## Staff News

A regrouping of Museum staff into the three operational divisions of Collections, Public Programmes and Finance/Administration has led to the creation of three Assistant Director's positions. Two of these have been filled by the internal appointments of **Anthony Wright** (Collections) and **Steven McLean** (Finance/Administration). The Public Programmes position will be filled by **Jennifer Cave** who comes to the Museum from the position of Director, Capital Discovery Place, Wellington. Jenny has experience in many of the Public Programmes disciplines and will contribute valuable skills to Auckland Museum's redevelopment.

Within Public Programmes, a division devoted to exhibitions, education, marketing, publications, membership, fundraising and special activities, three key positions have been created.

The position of Marketing Manager will be filled by **Scott Elliffe** who comes to the Museum from CM Research Associates. He brings broadly based marketing skills and experience and has a strong background in market research and evaluation.

**Priscilla Thompson**, presently Director of Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre, has been appointed Exhibitions

Manager. Priscilla has a wealth of experience and looks forward to using her talents "in a challenging, changing environment".

The new Membership Officer will be **David Bishop**, a young man with a degree of energy and flair much appreciated by past employers.

A Maori Liaison Officer, whose responsibilities will reach across all Museum operations, will soon be appointed. This position will be critical in maintaining the Museum's Iwi relationships as well as developing Maori oriented programmes and services and ensuring a Maori perspective in all of the Museum's endeavours.

Staff who have joined the Museum recently include Customer Assistance Officers **Veronica Brand**, **Eddie Fowke** and **Chris Ho** (part-time) and Custodian **Michael Sprott**. They bring a wide range of experience and skills much appreciated by the Museum.

### Honorary Life Member

At the Annual General Meeting on 21st November Commodore **Len Stanners** was elected an Honorary Life Member of Auckland Institute and Museum. Len, the Honorary Curator of Musical Instruments, began his long and valuable career with the Museum in 1985. In 1990 he offered his services to the Department of Applied Arts on a full-time basis and since then has continued to support the Museum in the generous manner recognised by this honour.

## Museum Booked Out!

A huge mural in the foyer, crowds of children and parents packing the Auditorium, stories coming to life in the Discovery Centre - these were just some of the scenes at Auckland Museum on the Open Day of the Children's Writers and Illustrators Festival. Sunday 25 September saw 11,000 people visit the Museum for an experience that thrilled both organisers and visitors. Children queued to have their favorite authors sign their books, sat on the floor to listen to Margaret Mahy and Joy Cowley and were entranced by story tellers and the art of the illustrators. Community Education Officer, Katrina Stamp who liaised with the Festival organisers to plan the Open Day, is confident that its overwhelming success will ensure that it becomes a regular event. ■



*Inlaid earthenware  
bread plate designed by  
A W N Pugin.*

## Important New Acquisition

An important Gothic Revival style bread plate designed by A W N Pugin (1812-1852) and made by Minton in or about 1848 has been acquired by the Museum's Applied Arts department. This plate is Pugin's earliest tableware design for Minton and has special significance as possibly the only known dated example.

Pugin, the English architect, designer and writer, was significant in the revival of medieval gothic design in architecture and the decorative arts. His association with Minton began in the early 1840s when Herbert Minton produced a number of his designs for inlaid tiles which were directly influenced, in design and manufacture, by medieval tiles. The bread plate is also decorated in this manner, using a technique called encaustic which involves the inlaying of coloured clays. ■

## Inventory of Archey Collection Completed

Malcolm Ross, employed in the Library under the Task Force Green scheme, has completed an inventory of the Sir Gilbert Archey Collection of negatives and transparencies of ethnographic subjects. The emphasis of the collection is on Maori and Polynesian traditional material culture with the majority of the 1760 negatives relating to the



*Early Maori canoe prow in an unfamiliar setting - from the Archey Collection of negatives.*

## New Book Published

Of interest to all who have wondered about the origin of the birdcalls heard in our backyards and gardens is *New Zealand Songbirds*, just published by Godwit Press. Comprising a cassette audiotape of the calls of 25 New Zealand birds and an accompanying booklet, it includes many of the birds most likely to be heard in our towns and cities. The booklet was produced by two Museum staff - Brian Gill, Curator of Birds wrote the text and Juliet Hawkins, Artist-Technician with the Museum School Service provided the illustrations. *New Zealand Songbirds* is available from the Museum Shop. ■

Auckland Museum's own collections. Built up by Sir Gilbert from 1924 to 1972, the collection was transferred to the Library after many years in the Ethnology Department where it was continually drawn on for publication. ■