



Auckland War Memorial Museum

NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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Charities Tax Will Harm Auckland Museum

The Government's proposed tax on charitable organisations will greatly damage the educational, scientific and cultural services provided to the community by the Auckland Museum.

We very seldom ask our Members to become involved in political aspects of the Museum's work. The taxation of charities is potentially so serious however that we do ask for your help. Together with many other members of the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand (AGMANZ), Auckland Museum has urged the Government to consider whether the proposed measure is in the nation's best interest.

"The museums of New Zealand are the result of over 150 years of public spirited generosity by many benefactors," said AGMANZ spokesperson, Stuart Park, Director of Auckland Museum. "Past generations have freely given their time and efforts to museums for the benefit of their fellow citizens, and have given money in trust to provide for the improvement of the country's museums. The Government's proposals will reduce the value of income from such gifts by about one third, and will greatly discourage this generosity and support in future."

Income gained by Auckland Museum from investments given to it by generous benefactors such as E. Earle Vaile, Charles Disney, Dr L. Spedding or Mr W. L. Cooke will be reduced by over one third. Proceeds from the Museum's Shop and Coffee Lounge, or from activities like gaining sponsorship is likely to be taxed at a rate higher than that paid by private companies. At a time when museums are being asked to be more self-reliant by funding bodies, such a tax will be devastating.

The Minister of Internal Affairs Dr Michael Bassett has written to Mr Park, offering an assurance that the



Palisade posts recently installed in the Central Maori Gallery

Government does not intend to harm museums and art galleries. However, until the Treasury produces the promised consultative document which will clarify exactly what is intended, considerable doubt remains.

We would ask that you write to or call your Member of Parliament, or write to the Minister of Internal Affairs to express your concern at the serious effect of the tax proposals. Until details are released, we are uncertain what their effect will be, but information already released suggests that the Museum would have to pay at least \$300,000 in additional taxes in the current financial year.

The charities tax proposals will affect a very wide range of organisations, from museums to arts and theatre groups, the Crippled Childrens' Society, Red Cross and World Vision, the churches and service clubs. Some charities like World Vision have asked their supporters for special donations to

retain a consultant to prepare submissions against the proposals. We are not asking you for your financial support, but we do need your help to draw this concern to the attention of the Government. Please write to your MP.

Volunteer Guides

The important function of Volunteer Guides has long been recognised and appreciated by the Auckland Museum, they give valuable time and welcome many visitors to our museum. A new intake of guides is planned for the near future in order to extend the service we offer to visitors from home and abroad. The extensive training programme offered by the museum involves members of the staff and covers the varied nature of our collections as well as communication skills. Anyone interested should contact the Community Education Officer Mrs Katrina Stamp at the Museum phone 390-443.

Staff News

Julia Gresson recently took up a position in the Conservation Department. The position is a one year post-graduate internship funded by the Cultural Conservation Advisory

Council. Julia undertook a 6 month pre-training internship at both the Auckland City Art Gallery and the Auckland Institute and Museum. At the same time she completed an M.A. in

Anthropology at Auckland University. She was then funded by C.C.A.C. to attend the Canberra College of Advanced Education where she completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in the Conservation of Cultural Material, specializing in the treatment of ethnographic objects and textiles. As part of that course Julia spent three six week periods working in conservation departments of the National Museum of Australia and the Queensland Art Gallery.

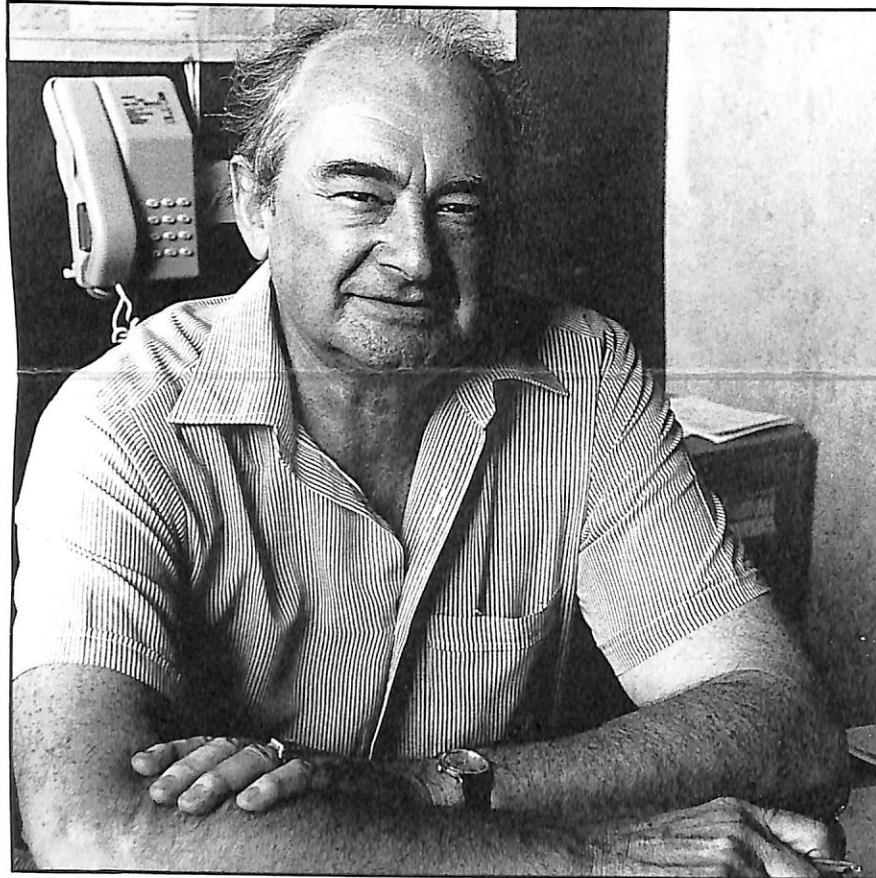
Wendy Johnstone was appointed by the Department of Education as an Assistant Education Officer in September 1987. Mrs Johnstone has had 23 years teaching experience both in N.Z. and overseas. Wendy came to the museum from Sunnybrae Normal School where she had been a senior teacher for 8 years. While at Sunnybrae she was involved in the training of teachers and In-service courses. Since 1980 she has worked closely with the Social Studies Committee developing programmes for use in primary schools in N.Z.

Also new to the Education Department staff is Jorie Zwart. Jorie has been teaching for 19 years including extensive overseas experience. The last 10 years she has been a teacher at Epsom Normal Primary School, involved in teacher training and resource person for science. Jorie has a strong interest in Natural Science especially N.Z. Flora and Fauna.

Jenny Oats joined the museum staff in October 1987 as a technician working in Marine Biology, Ornithology and Malacology. Jenny graduated from the University of Otago with a B.Sc. in 1986 then worked for one year in Otago as a Youth Worker and part-time biology demonstrator at the University. The move to Auckland offered Jenny many new challenges since it is her first venture to the North Island. She continues her interest with youth groups which she comments is very similar to Zoology.

Antonia Phipps recently joined the administration staff assisting Malti Prasad in the Director's Office. Antonia who came from Wellington to join the staff is a keen basketball player and has already been asked to trial for the NZ Juniors team.

Phillip Kite has joined the staff as Tea Person and Cleaner. Phillip has quickly made his mark as a member of the staff and emphasises that since coming to the museum he has found the staff supportive and helpful. Prior to coming to the museum Phillip worked as a Photographers Assistant. Assisting the front desk attendants is Debby Leigh.



Top: Walter Cernohorsky, Auckland Museum Malacologist, who is at present on leave and retires in 1989. Above left: Jenny Oats, Zoology Technician. Above right: Phillip Kite, Tea Person and Cleaner.



Maori carved pipe owned by Rev. Charles Baker

Institute Lectures

This year's programme has been circulated to members and presents a varied timetable. Many of the lectures are linked to the extensive Special Exhibition programme at the Museum.

The first of the lecture series was given by Dr N. Te Awakotuku. Her talk **Hei Tiki: Talisman and Taonga** was well attended and stimulated many of those present to take another visit to the Hei Tiki Exhibition. Future speakers include New Zealand glass artist Garry Nash who recently had a successful series of exhibitions in the USA. Garry will discuss the development of his style and the techniques he has implemented. A collection of contemporary New Zealand glass will be on display in the Applied Arts area.

Ross Jenner will address the special exhibition **Dreams and Schemes**. This exhibition is presented by the Auckland Branch of the NZ Institute of Architects and looks at architectural plans of the past that never came into fruition. Members may be aware that the Auckland Museum building design was selected from a number of competition entries and those NOT chosen could well fit into this exhibition.

A special invitation for members to bring family and friends to a Museum Exploration evening involving the Volunteer Guides and Education Service, to be held on Saturday August 13th. Discovery activities and trails are planned and the evening promises to be both enjoyable and informative. The **Art of Nature** exhibition will also be open. We do hope you will come and enjoy this evening with us.

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Small personal items actually owned and used by famous people can evoke an intimate sense of history. Within the last few months, the museum has received some interesting small footnotes to history.

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Continuing Education at the Museum

The University of Auckland Continuing Education Department course New Zealand Decorative and Applied Arts: Museum Series began in May. The course given by Dugald Page addresses 4 major exhibitions mounted by the Museum. For each of these exhibitions a slide lecture seminar takes place to discuss and explore the exhibits in context of their intention, idiosyncratic interpretation, media, process and craftsmanship. The four Saturday seminars involve the following exhibitions:

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NZ Contemporary Furniture
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New Years Honours

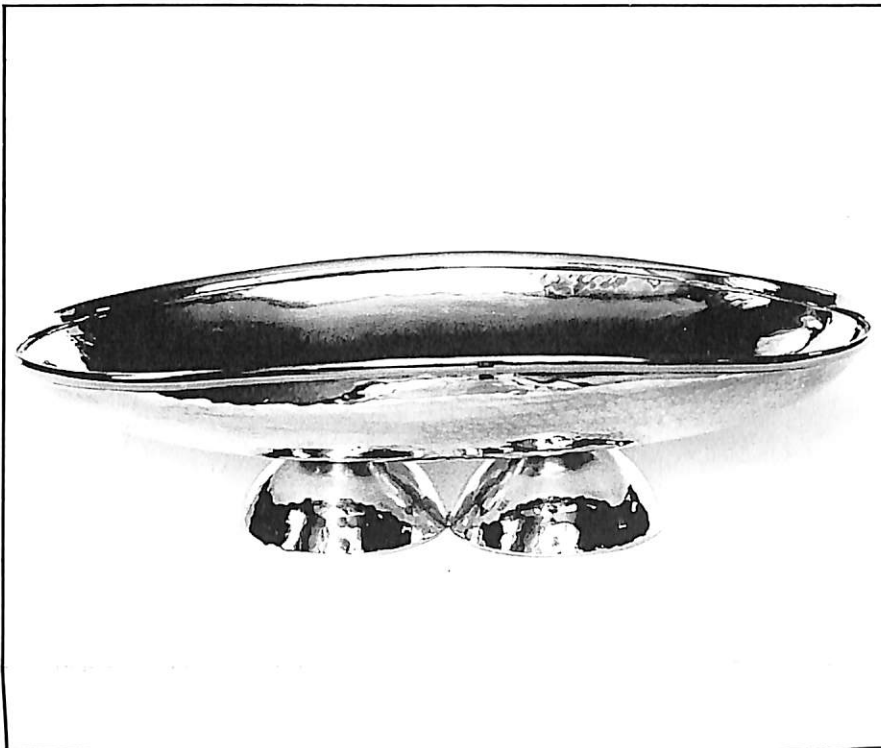
Once again, members of the Institute and Museum have been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen, and our congratulations are extended to them. Neither was honoured specifically for his work for the Museum, but one is a current and one a former member of the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum.

Present Council Member Dr Michael King was honoured with an **OBE** for his services to literature. Dr King is a former journalist and university lecturer, an historian and a prolific author, with many books to his credit, several of which have drawn on the resources of the Auckland Museum Library. Professor Ernest Searle was a Council member between 1960 and 1971, and a former staff member of Auckland Grammar, Auckland Secondary Teachers College and the Geology Department of the University of Auckland. He is co-author with Archaeologist Janet Davidson of the Museum booklet on **The Volcanic Cones of Auckland**. Dr Searle was honoured with the Queen's Service Medal for community service.

Lottery Board Grants

Those of you who play Lotto or who "invest" in the Golden Kiwi will be pleased to know that even if you haven't won a fortune, some of the proceeds from your losses are put to good causes. The New Zealand Lottery Board has recently announced the grant of \$75,000 from its Art Galleries and Museum Scheme to support the major capital redevelopment of the Maori Gallery and the Maori Carving Store at the Auckland Museum. This continues the support given by the Lottery Board to an earlier stage of this project, which is enabling Auckland Museum to display and store adequately its nationally important collection of Maori art and artefacts. Apart from Lottery Board grants, Auckland Museum receives only minimal support from central government in carrying out what is arguably partly a national responsibility. Accordingly, our grateful appreciation is recorded to the New Zealand Lottery Board.

The Lottery Board also subsidises the Museums' Liaison Officer's position at Auckland Museum, as well as at National, Canterbury and Otago Museums. We are grateful that that support has been continued for a further year.



New Acquisitions

The first contemporary New Zealand hollow ware silver has been bought for the applied arts collection with funds kindly donated by the B.H. and S.W. Picot Charitable Trust. Hand made by Auckland jeweller Alan Norrell, the bowl is a fine example of contemporary handcrafted silver.

Other recent acquisitions, purchased

with funds from the Disney Art Trust include studio jewellery by Paul Annear, Roy Mason and Warwick Freeman all of whom belong to the national jewellery group 'Details'.

These pieces will be on display in the Jewellery showcase on the stair landing leading to the Applied Arts Galleries in the next few months. The Museum has an active collection policy in the area of New Zealand Studio jewellery and other applied art.

Raupa Archaeology

Vaile Archaeologist Nigel Prickett was in the field excavating at the Raupa site, Paeroa, in January and February. The excavation was funded by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust with some support from Auckland Museum. The Department of Anthropology of the University of Auckland, provided most of the necessary equipment and other logistic support. The Department also ran a Field School in conjunction with the Raupa excavation, under the overall direction of Professor Roger Green.

Raupa was a voluntary excavation with twenty or more volunteers on site at any one time. Participants came from Holland, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States as well as New Zealand. Accommodation was at the Te Pai-o-Hauraki marae, Paeroa, with excellent facilities close to the site.

Excavations were aimed at opening up more of the area immediately surrounding the large house found in

the 1987 season and also at excavating the earlier occupation level over a wider area than was opened last year. 164 square metres were excavated to depths of up to 2 metres.

Among interesting structural finds was a length of major palisade defence and associated earthworks at the north end of the site. Also found were cooking areas, post holes from a number of buildings, and a small clay pit for which we do not yet know the purpose.

Portable artefacts include adzes, patu muka, nephrite pendants, fragments of nephrite chisels, a fragment of a stone patu onewa (two other pieces of which were found last year), and several pieces of worked bone including fishhook and bird spear point fragments. One of the most interesting finds was the charred remains of a wooden bowl which had been thrown into a shallow pit along with some flax plaiting and a tagged cloak, also preserved only through having been burnt. These are now at the Anthropology Department laboratory, University of Auckland, undergoing conservation.

30 Days in the USA

Earlier this year Auckland Museum's Curator of Display, Richard Wolfe, undertook a study tour of the United States. Sponsored by the Institute of International Education this trip provided for 30 days at selected centres throughout the country. The programme was as extensive as it was interesting, and Richard here describes certain features of it.

Of traditional museum display galleries, my choice as the most spectacular was uncontestably at Washington. Two recent additions to the Smithsonian's family of museums are underground facilities housing the arts of Asia and Africa. The latter, the National Museum of African Art, was showing "Patterns of Life: West African Strip Weaving Traditions", a temporary exhibition that I initially mistook for a permanent gallery. It consisted of an interior entirely custom-built to show to maximum advantage 36 examples of African textiles. Each weaving was mounted on a flat panel recessed into false walls which were curved to evoke African architecture. The visitor thereby experienced what could best be described as a textile tunnel. On account of its atmosphere and effectiveness, all subsequent textile galleries were found somewhat wanting. Auckland Museum visitors may recall that a similar example of this strip weaving technique, in indigo blue, was shown in our own **Material World** special exhibition some two years ago.

Downtown Houston, Texas



Santa Fe proved to be particularly interesting, a sharp contrast to our concept of a typical American city. The endless "big" sky, the landscape, the adobe-style architecture and the Indian pueblo village at nearby Taos provided a surfeit of memorable images. The museum of New Mexico consists of four separate institutions, all showing different aspects of the multicultural southwest. Perhaps the most remarkable of these is the Museum of International Folk Art, the largest of its type in the world. Based on a huge personal collection this museum illustrates the folk art

of many cultures in miniature dioramas. The density, diversity and colour of these assemblages is such that I can only suggest that it has to be seen to be believed.

Taos Pueblo, New Mexico



One intention of my tour was to view as wide a range of museums as possible. Thus it was particularly eye-opening to be able to see behind the scenes at such mammoth institutions as the Metropolitan (New York), the National Gallery of Art (Washington) and the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago). Although the display and exhibition staff in these number 40 or more, many aspects of their work were reassuringly similar. In fact I am now convinced that the technological gap between us has narrowed, if not altogether disappeared. Kiwi ingenuity is still a handy attribute, but the main difference is simply funding. One institution obviously well endowed in this respect is the Metropolitan itself. It has recently gained a whole new wing devoted entirely to 20th century Art, made possible by Lila Acheson Wallace, co-founder of the Reader's Digest. In view of the size of this extension to the Metropolitan, adjacent Central Park must be feeling rather threatened.

Chrysler Building, New York



Mindful of Auckland Museum's increasing need to modernise its archaic natural history galleries I was particularly interested in

developments in this area. At the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, I was able to observe the construction of an installation concerned with the origins of life on Earth. This was a fairly conventional approach, as was that at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, where the traditional habitat diorama is being modified. The glass fronts are being removed and the foreground allowed to creep into the gallery, to provide the visitor with a greater sense of involvement. But the most remarkable development in this field is currently well underway at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque. Because this institution lacks a sizeable permanent collection, it needs to consciously "construct" displays. Thus, lengthy walk-through galleries describe various periods in the earth's history, illustrated with specimens, visual presentations and spectacular reconstructions of such things as ice caves and volcanoes. This combination of sound, fibre-optics, smell and other display techniques has produced a spectacular environment.

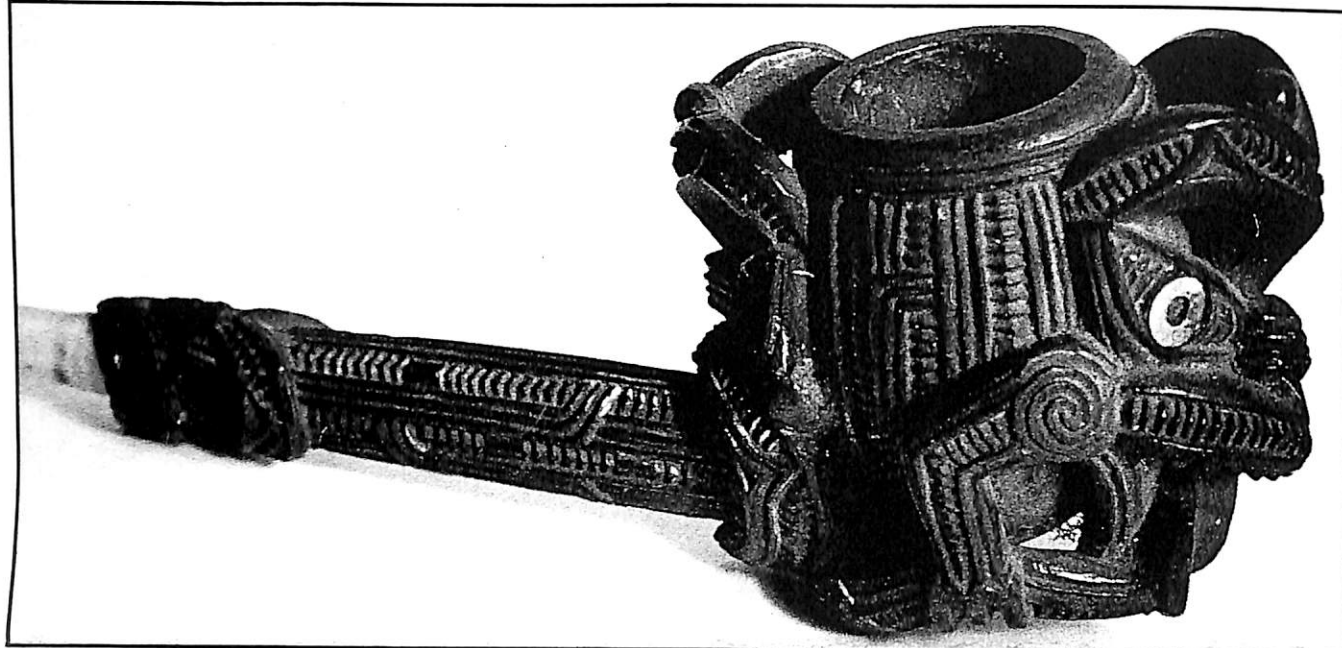
Superman's 50th birthday at the Smithsonian



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

On a personal level I found American hospitality to be unflagging. Interest in New Zealand was considerable and I am convinced there is potential for increased cultural exchange. This feeling was underlined by a chance meeting with a Navaho weaver, Pearl Sunrise, who had recently returned from working with Maori weavers in New Zealand. It was a pleasant surprise to encounter someone there who was obviously familiar with our exhibition **Te Aho Tapu**.

A substantial report on this trip will shortly be available in the Museum Library. Finally I would like to thank all those who made the trip possible, particularly Vivienne Barnett of the American Centre, Auckland, and the Director and Council of this Museum for granting me study leave.



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Overdue Library Books

A great deal of Library staff time has been given to tracing overdue books. Over the years the number of overdue books on issue to Members has reached alarming proportion. Although we have now managed to retrieve many of these titles, this matter remains a serious problem. One likely result of this situation is that even more library books will have to be designated reference only. It is not possible for our library to function satisfactorily if large numbers of important books are taken out of circulation for long periods of time. Members are reminded that the ability to borrow books is a privilege of membership. The Rules provide for the removal of this privilege if a Member does not return borrowed books promptly. We would ask for your cooperation over this matter.



"Rites of Passage III" by Sandra Black, Australia, winner of the Fletcher Challenge Pottery Award 1988 at Auckland Museum.

Graeme Frater

The death occurred in April of a longstanding friend of the Museum, Graeme Frater.

Graeme became a Member 43 years ago. In his long association with the Museum he served in every office of the Institute and Museum. He was elected to the Council in 1963, and

the Fellowship of the Art Galleries and Museums Association at a Council meeting held prior to the Annual Meeting. Fellowship of AGMANZ recognises the contribution made by individuals to the advancement of museums in New Zealand, and is limited to thirty Fellows. Other Fellows of the Association have included two former directors of Auckland Museum, and three former Assistant Directors. Assistant Director Sherry Reynolds was elected as a Vice President of AGMANZ at the election of officers held at the Annual General Meeting.

Special Lecture

On July 21 the Museum will be fortunate to welcome Dr Geoffrey Martin, Keeper of Public Records, London. Dr Martin has held posts at Carleton University, Ottawa, Merton

served as Chairman of the Finance Committee until his election as President in 1973. During his Presidency from 1973 to 1976, a number of significant achievements were attained in the Museum. Graeme became a Vice-President in 1976, and held that position, as the last "Old Rules" Vice-President until his retirement from the Council in 1986.

Mr Frater was elected as a Members' representative on the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board in 1982, a position he still held at the time of his death. Graeme was elected to Honorary Life Membership at the Annual General Meeting in 1987, in recognition of his long and valued service to the Museum.

As one of the authorised Council signatories, Graeme was a regular signer of cheques for the Museum, having signed many thousands of cheques in the course of that duty. This was just one of the many ways in which he actively participated in the affairs of the Museum, sharing his enthusiasm for many of its fields of activity, guiding it with his specialist knowledge of the investment field, and generally being a thorough friend of the Museum.

Graeme was strongly supported in his love of the Museum and in his work for it by his wife Tally. To her and all their family the Museum has extended its deepest sympathy.

College, Oxford and was Professor of History at Leicester University from 1973-1982. A distinguished historian and archivist, Dr Martin has publications in mediaeval administrative history, mediaeval and modern urban history, the history of transport and English topography.

However we will be welcoming Dr Martin for his expertise in a quite different field. His special interest is in the history of the War in the Pacific and his address on July 21 will be titled **Aspects of the War in the Pacific, 1941-1945**. Recently there has been a great upsurge of interest in war history, particularly in such subjects as the activities of American Forces in New Zealand. In view of our Museum's strong collections of militaria and our important books and periodicals collections the Auckland War Memorial Museum is an especially appropriate venue for Dr Martin's address.

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 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 of the Museum.

