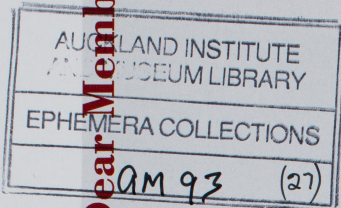


# M

# Q

Magazine of the Auckland Museum Institute.  
Members, friends & volunteers supporting the Museum.



Dear Member

### Message from the Auckland Museum Institute Council President

Nearly a year ago the Auckland War Memorial Museum Act 1996 was passed and changed the way in which the Museum was governed. As a result of this the Auckland Museum Institute became a separate body with its own Rules and Council.

The new Council is responsible for the membership only and has nothing to do with the administration or governance of the Museum. The objects of the Institute are set out in section 14(3) of the Act. In the Rules it states In particular the Institute shall: (a) Support the Museum and Board in achieving the objectives and performing the functions set out in the Act by, amongst other things, providing advocacy and support of the museum and its activities through an active body of Institute members and (b) Function as a learned society.

At the beginning of this financial year the Institute also became financially independent. Our income is now derived only from membership fees, donations and other fundraising



initiatives and we do appreciate support from the Museum Trust Board through their providing office space and some associated services.

You will notice that this issue of MQ differs from recent issues and is now an Institute publication. We were obliged to investigate ways to cut costs for what is an important contact with members, but we are committed to publishing it quarterly to keep you informed of up-coming events and exhibitions, and other items about research activities and achievements of the Museum staff.

The big news for this issue is the *BellSouth Pharaohs: Life and Death in Ancient Egypt* exhibition opening 13 December.

In this issue you will find Notice of the Annual General meeting and the arrangements for the election of five members to the Institute Council, along with details of the Special General Meeting to adopt the new Rules of the Institute.

We hope you find a great deal of interest in your involvement with Auckland War Memorial Museum as a member, and that you will encourage others to join us. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and at the special members' preview of the Egyptian exhibition.

# MUSEUM QUARTERLY

October 1997 Issue 72

Statue of the  
priest of Thoth,  
Djehuty-Min

## BellSouth Pharaohs: Life & Death in Ancient Egypt

Egyptian Art from the National Museum of Antiquities Leiden, The Netherlands.

Opens on December 13 and runs to 8 February 1998.

Admission: \$12 adults,  
\$10 seniors and students,  
\$8 members.

**Preview 'Bell South Pharaohs: Life and Death in Ancient Egypt'**

Friday 12 December between noon and 2pm. Members only (Please bring membership card)

**MEMBERS ONLY**

**Seasonal gifts**

For something a little different to use as an end of year gift or Christmas present, members have the chance to purchase tickets to *BellSouth Pharaohs: Life and Death in Ancient Egypt* at the members' concession rate (\$8 per ticket plus \$1 per order handling). Cheques (made out to Auckland Museum Institute) along with membership number, number of tickets required, phone

number and return address details to: Membership Programme Manager, Noela Gibbons, at the Museum. Offer closes December 12.

The Auckland Museum Institute wishes to thank the Berkeley Theatre Mission Bay and NewVision for their generous sponsorship of our September fundraising screening of the movie 'Microcosmos'.

All additional information about special offers or members' events, please phone Noela Gibbons, Membership Programme Manager, on 306 7044 or fax 379 9956

# BellSouth Pharaohs



Family Stela of Khu

**Ancient Egypt, one of the greatest civilisations the world has ever known, will be the focus of New Zealand's major show this summer.**

From mid-December, the Auckland Museum will present a once in a lifetime opportunity to view magnificent remnants of a bygone area when it hosts a collection of Egyptian antiquities.

The Museum has joined forces with BellSouth to bring in the one-venue exhibition, which will be the first major Egyptian show to be held in New Zealand.

'BellSouth Pharaohs: Life and Death in Ancient Egypt' will feature over 300 stunning artefacts, some of which date back to 4000BC. For its New Zealand visit, the exhibition will be designed by John Parker who created the wonderful ambience for this year's *Bendon Next to Nothing* and *Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award* shows.

The Ancient Egyptians built a civilisation around a complex religion that worshipped over 50 gods, deified kings or pharaohs as living gods, and centred on a belief in an afterlife. It is this ancient belief that life continued after death that ensured the preservation in tombs of many of the objects now highly prized in museum collections around the world and which will feature in the Auckland exhibition.



Statue of Osiris, Ruler of the Realm of the Dead

The artefacts, on a tour that also includes Japan and Australia, are on loan from the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, in Leiden, which houses one of the longest established and most comprehensive Egyptian collections in Europe - over 23,000 items.

The pieces come from the most important sites in Egypt: Thebes, Abydos and above all Saqqara, the necropolis of the ancient capital of Memphis.

**Lecture series: 'The Pharaohs are Coming'**  
 Wednesdays, 7.30pm in Education Centre, entry by East Door  
 \$5, non-members, \$4 members and students

**29 October**  
 Dr Shirley Temm  
 'Life and Times in Ancient Egypt'

**5 November**  
 Dr Anthony Spalinger  
 'Hunting the Papyrus'

**12 November**  
 Dr Paul McKechnie  
 'Two Cultures in Egypt: the Greco-Roman Period'

## Volunteer Vacancies

If you have a curiosity and fascination with Egyptian artefacts and history this is a great opportunity to be a volunteer within the exhibition.

Training will be provided by Auckland Museum staff to ensure you are equipped to answer questions with confidence and knowledge. You would be located within the exhibition itself ensuring visitors are able to ask questions if they are inspired by their surroundings.

If you are interested phone **Jan Pickering, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 309 0443 extension 720.**



Visitors enjoy the Compaq Day of Discovery Open Day

## Open Day

Members enjoyed the additional benefit of free entry to the Spiders exhibition when about 7,700 Aucklanders turned out to enjoy the Compaq Day of Discovery at the Museum on Sunday 14 September. All departments brought workspaces front of house to give an idea of what's involved in the preparation and mounting of displays in the refurbishment process, and the Discovery Trail led visitors through some behind the scenes areas for a glimpse. **Paul Price of Meadowbank was the winner of the Compaq Presario computer competition and 10 lucky people won a year's membership.**

Maree Johnston with the bones of the unusual Kagu of New Caledonia



**News**  
**from the departments**

While on a private visit to Europe in August, **Brian Gill**, curator of Land Vertebrates, attended the 3rd World Congress of Herpetology in Prague, Czech Republic.

Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians, and Brian presented a poster paper summarising his research into the seasonality and distribution of records of turtles and sea-snakes in New Zealand, 1880 - 1996. The herpetology congresses are held every four years and of the more than 700 participants from around the world, there were 12 from New Zealand and 53 from Australia.

In July, Botany technician, **Doug Rogan** represented the Museum at a meeting of 'Curators of Biological Databases' at Landcare Research, Lincoln. The meeting discussed a number of issues including access to collections, data format and exchange standards and Global Biological Information Facility (GBIF - an OECD proposal).

Auckland Museum has the largest herbarium database in New Zealand (currently 121,000 records) and it is important that we play a leading role in the management and curation of such databases.

The meeting was attended by about 30 people from many different backgrounds and it was interesting to note that Auckland Museum was the only institution present without e-mail access. The next conference is likely to be held at Auckland Museum in July 98.

The Museum has been very fortunate to receive several sets of bones of the rare and unusual **Kagu** (*Rhynochetus jubatus*) of New Caledonia, presented by **Gavin Hunt** who studied the bird in the field. The Kagu is a rail-like bird about the size of a Takaha, and is one of the national emblems of New Caledonia. It is such a distinctive bird that it is placed in a family of its own (the *Rhynochetidae*). The bones are important for our reference collection for comparison with the extinct New Zealand Adzebill (*Aptornis*) - another rail-like bird in a family of its own.



At the beginning of August we welcomed BB's Coffee and Bake to the traditional cafe spot in the main foyer of the Museum. Franchise holder Mark Smith has generously provided Members showing their card a flat rate of \$1.70 on all hot drinks and 10% discount on food purchased.

Take a BB's break next time you're in the Museum and check out the changes in the refurbished foyer. The pillars are freshly painted, the new Information Desk is prominent in its central position with the re-positioned access ramp behind, and across the foyer, the Museum Store offers special gifts for special occasions and a comprehensive selection of books and cards. Members showing their card receive 10% discount on all purchases made in the Store.

Members renewing in August and September went in a draw to win a \$50 voucher redeemable at the Museum Store. The lucky winner was Miss M Jenkinson of Glen Eden. Congratulations!

[LAT 36°52'S. LONG 174°47'E.]

**THE MUSEUM STORE**

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND MCMXCVII

## Notice of Meetings of the Auckland Institute & Museum

### Special General Meeting

**Monday 8 December 1997** Education Centre, Auckland Museum, entry East Door. Special General Meeting at 7.30pm to confirm the minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Institute held on 21 July 1997 and to adopt the new rules of the Auckland Museum Institute. Copies of these minutes and/or rules are available on request and will be available at the meeting.

### Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting immediately following the SGM. To receive President's report together with the balance sheet and income and expenditure account for 1996-97 and to set membership fees.

Please bring your membership card to sign in at these meetings.

**MEETINGS**

**1968**

## Museum Tours



**Pompallier House in Russell**

New Zealand Historic Places Trust is inviting Auckland Museum Institute members in **Russell** over the summer to visit Pompallier, a working 'factory' of 1842 with a demonstration of tanning and printing of the period being undertaken. Show your membership card for the special entry rate of \$2, between 29 December 1997 & 31 January 1998 (closed 1 January). Early planning has begun for Members' tours to MONZ in **Wellington** and to **Sydney** to visit some of the fine museums there. Those interested should register promptly so that final details may be decided.

### Egyptian Events

The Ancient Egyptian theme carries over to Auckland City Library where there is to be an exhibition of Treasures from the Special Collections Unit. Maps, illustrated books, manuscripts and photographs will be displayed in the heritage area on the second floor between 1 December 1997 and 21 February 1998.

### 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 Good Friday and Christmas Day

**Admission is free**  
Charges for Special exhibitions may apply

**Donations welcome.**

Free guided tours are available for groups on most days.

For information on Membership ring 306 7044

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



**Auckland Museum**  
Te Papa Whakahaia