



AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

# NEWS

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## *Weird & Wonderful*- a special place for children and families

Following the incredible success of the Children's Discovery Centre and its theme of *Skeletons from our Cupboards* last Christmas, another Discovery Centre will open on January 3 in the Special Exhibition Hall and remain open to the public throughout January. Admission will be free.

Under the theme of *Weird & Wonderful*, the Centre will cater specifically for families and children and is sure to be as action and activity-packed as last year's centre which, at peak times, attracted as many as 250 adults and children per hour. A wide range of hands-on activities is being developed, including craft activities such as dinosaur making. Special discovery boxes for children will contain weird and wonderful collection objects for handling and closer study using equipment including a video microscope. A new Children's Club with an exciting range of membership benefits will be launched at the same time. The whole focus of the Discovery Centre and Club will be for children to learn, while having fun.

### ***Weird & Wonderful* Open Evening For Members**

Discover the joys of learning through fun and see what is in store for children in the Discovery Centre before it opens to the public. A special Members open evening will be held on Thursday 16 December from 7 to 9.30pm. A choir will be singing in the main foyer and you can also look at other areas in the Museum. Refreshments will be available. Entry by Main Door.

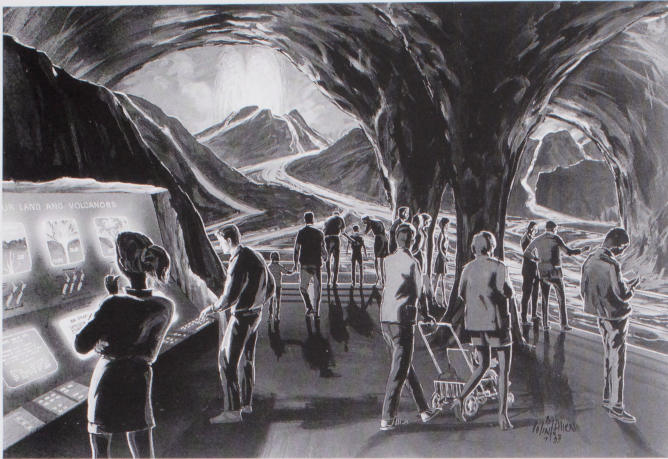


Last year's popular Children's Discovery Centre with its theme *Skeletons from our Cupboards*.

### **SKELETONS WANTED**

Numerous animal bones for children to handle and study are needed for the Museum's Children's Discovery Centres opening in January and May 1994. If Members have access to any clean bones of farm or domestic animals (cows, sheep, dogs and cats) please contact Brian Gill, Land Vertebrates Curator at Auckland Museum, phone 309-0443.

## DEVELOPMENTS



An artist's impression inside the active volcano.

### RAPID PROGRESS ON REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT FLAGSHIP EXHIBITION

#### CALTEX SPONSORSHIP

The Museum is delighted that Caltex Oil (N.Z.) Ltd will be the major sponsor for its *Volcanoes & Giants* exhibition, with Television New Zealand as a subsidiary sponsor. Manager - Corporate Affairs of Caltex Oil (N.Z.) Ltd, Peter Hazael says that sponsorship of the exhibition follows Caltex's objective of working in closely with the community.

"We know from our experience that any natural science exhibition or display linked with our prehistoric past is going to be a big hit with parents and children. We are very pleased to have this opportunity to participate with the Auckland Museum in this exciting event."

In recognition of this sponsorship the exhibition will be known as the *Caltex Volcanoes & Giants* exhibition. In addition to their financial sponsorship, Caltex will be promoting the exhibition through their retail outlets in the northern region.

#### EXHIBITION PROGRESS

Work on the development of this ground-breaking exhibition is speeding up, requiring a large time commitment from many staff. Curatorial staff are selecting objects for display and writing labels and the Display Department is working on design. Other exciting designs have been presented for a Children's Discovery Centre to open in May 1994, to coincide with the opening of the exhibition. Conservators, administrators and support staff are all fully involved in the overall development. Gallery space in the former Maritime Hall has been cleared of its former displays in preparation for exhibition construction.

*Caltex Volcanoes & Giants* exhibition deals with the big stories of New Zealand's natural history: the volcanic past of these islands and the highlights of our unique biological evolution. As an introduction to the history and geology of Auckland's volcanoes, visitors will enter through an

exhibit entitled *Inside the Volcano* - a fabricated (and apparently still active) lava tube, such as are common in the Auckland volcanic field.

Other major exhibits include full-scale animated reconstructions of New Zealand's own dinosaurs, discovered and identified from fossil evidence only in recent years. There will be models of a Mosasaur and Plesiosaur in an undersea environment, an ancient giant penguin and an animated moa/giant eagle group. The 2nd century AD Taupo eruption - the biggest volcanic explosion of the modern era - will be dramatically depicted. Casts of a fossil giant ammonite and other ancient sea creatures will be seen by the general public for the first time.

*Caltex Volcanoes & Giants* exhibition will be very different from traditional museum displays in glass cases. The exhibition space will have a constructed display environment with built-in cases for objects where needed. Models and animated reconstructions, video presentations, computer interactives and sound will enliven the important natural history stories being told. ■



Sculptor Kate Lang with the yet to be painted life-size model (1.5 m) of a 30 million year-old New Zealand giant penguin, to be featured in the *Caltex Volcanoes & Giants*.

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Japanese 37mm on Mono Island 29 October 1943 W1031.4.

## FEATURES

### MAORI ARTEFACTS ON LOAN TO NORFOLK ISLAND

A special exhibition opening in the Norfolk Island Museum in early November commemorates the bicentennial anniversary of the enforced visit to Norfolk Island by two Maori chiefs from the Bay of Islands. Fourteen selected Maori artefacts from Auckland Museum will travel on loan for display in the exhibition, curated by Richard Wesley, Director of the Norfolk Island Museum.

In a misguided attempt to teach the Norfolk Island convicts to dress the local flax for ropes and clothing, the two Maori chiefs, Tuki and Huru, were kidnapped in 1793 by H.M.S. *Daedalus*. It soon became apparent that being males of chiefly rank they knew little about the technical details of flax working. However, Lieutenant-Governor King recognised their status and knowledge of cultural matters, taking them into his home as honoured guests for the seven months of their stay. Although Tuki and Huru were terribly homesick, they made good use of their time on Norfolk. They taught some Maori language and customs to King and his officers and in return they learned some English and became familiar with European farming and gardening techniques.

In a fascinating exercise in cross-cultural education, Tuki and Huru constructed a large map of the northern part of the North Island in chalk on the floor of the study in Government House. This map was then transferred to paper and annotated by King with geographic and cultural information supplied by his Maori teachers. The geographical features depicted on the map can



Richard Wesley, Director of the Norfolk Island Museum, at Auckland Museum with Te Aroha Papa, a cultural ambassador. Photo courtesy NZ Herald.

be matched with a modern map but it also contains further culturally-coded information about tribal relationships, the relative importance of different places and the path of spirits to Te Reinga.

During their seven months on Norfolk, King and his Maori guests became firm friends, establishing a relationship of goodwill and mutual respect that continued to guide Maori-Pakeha interaction in the north for many years afterwards. When King personally returned Tuki and Huru to North Cape, he left them with many gifts, including seeds, pigs and gardening tools. Two Maori basalt hand clubs were presented to King by a local chief in recognition of his status.

As part of the November celebrations of these events on Norfolk, these two patu are expected to be handed back to the Maori delegation for return to New Zealand. Other celebration highlights include cultural performances, rugby league and possibly netball games between New Zealand Maori, Australian Aborigine and Norfolk Island teams. ■

### REMINDER OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded of the 125th Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute & Museum to be held at 8pm on Monday 15 November 1993. When nominations closed for the election of Members' representatives on the Council two nominations had been received for the two vacant positions. Accordingly, Dr Rod Bieleski and Ms Lorraine Wilson will be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting. Other business will include consideration and adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (included with this newsletter). After the meeting, Museum staff will give a special presentation on the Museum Redevelopment Project. Please enter by West Door.

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LECTURE

The final lecture in celebration of the centennial of women's suffrage is a highlight of the lecture series this year.

**Date: Thursday December 2 at 1pm**

The speaker is Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard who will speak on the theme of:

**Women: A Vision for the Future.**

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## POUNAMU TOUCHES CANADIAN HEARTS

Pounamu Ventures, the resident performing Maori cultural group at Auckland Museum, recently performed to enthralled audiences in major Canadian cities, on radio and television. During a two-week tour the 13-member group performed the traditional Maori challenge, chants, stick games, poi and action songs in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and at the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver.

The depth of the cultural experience brought tears to the eyes of their audience. "They didn't realise we were so spiritual" says Brita Wehi, who helped lead the group with husband Wi. "Their hearts were touched and we saw some of them cry".

Maori culture is a major attraction for Canadians visiting New Zealand and the tour served to generate more interest. Audiences particularly enjoyed the traditional use of Maori weaponry, including the taiaha.

Pounamu Ventures was approached by Air New Zealand and the New Zealand Tourism Board to tour Canada. Pounamu Director Bub Wehi says the success of the visit may lead to the creation of a permanent touring group.

Auckland Museum is believed to be one of the very few museums in the world to complement its static display of artefacts with a live display of the local culture. ■



Pounamu Ventures perform a traditional Maori poi dance at Auckland Museum.

## LEST WE FORGET:

### THE SOLOMONS CAMPAIGN 1942-1944

by Sheila Gray, Volunteer Guide

**GUADALCANAL, VELLA LAVELLA, TREASURY ISLAND, NISSAN ISLAND.** These words are inscribed above west and southwest windows at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The cool and open aspect of the windows belies the steamy, claustrophobic jungle environment in which the actions they commemo-

rate took place. There, visibility was measured in yards or feet and men lived in suffocating heat and perpetual twilight beneath the jungle canopy. Malaria was endemic.

From the New Zealand base in New Caledonia, the Third Division commanded by Major-General H. E. Barrowclough, moved 1,000 miles north to Guadalcanal in the southern Solomons. As part of the Allied 'bypassing' strategy to re-take the Solomons, they were to execute three amphibious landings on islands and atolls deep inside enemy controlled territory.

**VELLA LAVELLA, 17 September - 9 October 1943.** Exhausted American troops had already driven most of the Japanese into the north of this mountainous island, so the New Zealand landing on the south coast was unopposed. Combat teams fanned out from bays round the east and west coasts to close the net on a small area in the northwest. Progress was slow. In torrential rain, the forest floor became a fetid bog. Skirmishes with enemy stragglers were fierce, and some hard lessons were learned: grenades could bounce back off the green walls of fleshy leaves and tangled vines.

Nevertheless, by 18 October a new airfield on the island was operational. Vella Lavella was the vital stepping-stone towards the next Allied objective - The Treasuries - 73 miles further north and within 18 miles of Bougainville's entrenched perimeter defences on Shortland Island.

**THE TREASURY ISLANDS, 25 October - 26 November 1943.** Mono, the largest of the Treasury Islands, is a multi-peaked cone blanketed with heavily timbered forest to the water's edge. A beach barely 30 feet wide near Falamai, the main village in the south, was the only possible site for an amphibious assault. A radar station was needed on Mono, and an airfield on Stirling Island - an unoccupied crescent of coral opposite Falamai. Between the two islands lay Blanche Harbour - a sheltered stretch of deep, island-studded water ideal for a motor-torpedo boat base.

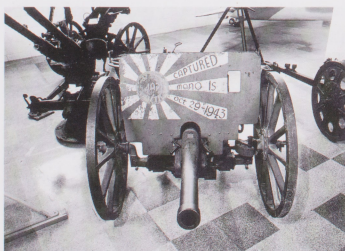
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Planning for the opposed landing - the first by New Zealand troops since Gallipoli, was meticulous and detailed. New Zealand fighter aircraft provided an umbrella of protection against Zero fighter attacks while guns, ammunition and supplies were man-handled ashore from 31 landing-craft. Heavy fire from Japanese positions on the commanding slopes above inflicted damage and casualties until silenced by a patrol led by 2nd Lieut. L.T.G. Booth. He was awarded the Military Cross.

One of those mountain guns, still hot when captured, is on display in Auckland Museum with photographs of Russell Clark's emotive paintings of Mono and other memorabilia from the Solomons campaign including the Zero fighter, and relief battle maps and photos of Nissan Island - the Allies' next target.

**NISSAN ISLAND (Green Islands) 15 - 27 February 1944.** Nissan is the largest of the Green Islands, a remote and waterless coral atoll only 4 degrees below the Equator. Midway between the Japanese occupied territories of Rabaul (New Britain) and Buka, the capture of the Green Islands proved to be the coup-de-grace of the Solomons campaign. A 5,000 foot fighter airstrip and a parallel strip for heavy Liberator bombers built on Nissan by the Americans brought enemy targets far north of the Equator within reach.

The achievements and significance of the Third Division's Olympian hop, step and jump through the Solomons received little publicity at the time. We do well to remember. ■



Japanese 37mm anti-tank field gun captured on Mono Island by New Zealand troops on 29 October 1943. Presented by N.Z. Army; W1031.4.

## CHANGES TO WAITEMATA HARBOUR COMMUNITIES SURVEYED

During the past six months, staff from the Museum's marine department have begun a project to resurvey the Waitemata Harbour benthic communities. Their purpose is to determine how harbour communities have changed since Dr Powell, Conchologist at the Museum, undertook a dredge survey of the animal communities in the bottom sediments of the Waitemata Harbour almost sixty years ago. He surveyed the area from the upper harbour to the channel between Waiheke and Ponui Islands, with some stations also dredged around the Noises Islands.

The project has been divided into several stages, each centering on a different area of the harbour. This year's survey is of the seafloor between the Harbour Bridge and Rangitoto Beacon. In all, 72 stations have been selected for study and six are being monitored bimonthly for 12 months to study seasonal changes.

Results of the project and any changes will provide base-line information by which future changes and human impacts can be assessed. Powell's stations have been resampled, together with a number of new sites that give a more comprehensive coverage for mapping the communities.

Good progress has been achieved on sorting and identification of the material collected with the assistance of temporary marine technician Greg Motu, funded by a Lottery Science grant.



Curator of Marine Invertebrates Bruce Hayward sieving a dredge sample to remove the animals from the sediment.

## OFF TO THE BEACH!

Weather permitting, New Zealanders will soon be taking to the beaches for their summer holidays. This annual migration is the subject of a new book by Curator of Display at Auckland Museum Richard Wolfe and co-author Stephen Barnett. *At the Beach* is the latest foray into kiwi culture by the pair who wrote *New Zealand! New Zealand!* and curated the exhibition of the same name at Auckland Museum in 1990. From surfboards to sandhills, baches to bathing beauties and toheroa to TT2s, *At the Beach* documents the colourful story of New Zealanders beside the sea. The book is generously illustrated and is the result of considerable research, much of it necessarily spent lying around on beaches! *At the Beach*, published by Hodder & Stoughton, will be available from the Museum Shop in mid-November at a price of \$34.95.

## EXHIBITIONS



Catholic Netball Courts, Mountain Road; 1945

### CATHOLIC WOMEN CELEBRATE SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

The history of the Catholic Church in New Zealand is filled with stories of achievement by women across a wide range of activities. To celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage, the Catholic Caring Foundation is inviting everyone to participate in a special event at the Auckland Museum from 20 to 29 November - the week marking the 100th anniversary of the first votes by women and the annual appeal of the Foundation. The main events will include an exhibition depicting the life, work and creativity of Catholic women over the years; a Catholic business women's cocktail party and a celebrity debate - "Convent Girls can do Anything!". The Exhibition is free with a suggested donation of \$2. For further information, please contact the Catholic Caring Foundation, Pompallier Diocesan Centre, Phone 378 4380. ■

### COURIERPOST ROYAL DOULTON EXHIBITION DELIGHTS VISITORS

The *CourierPost Royal Doulton Exhibition* closed at Auckland Museum on October 31, concluding its national tour organised by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and the Canterbury Museum.

Thousands of visitors, from school children to senior citizens, have enjoyed this stunning exhibition and participated in a varied range of assorted public programmes.



Personality Cathy Campbell at the launch of the *CourierPost Royal Doulton Exhibition* which was officially opened by Dr Ross Armstrong, a Director of New Zealand Post Ltd.

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 of the Museum.

**Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland, Phone 0-9-309 0443.**

## STAFF NEWS

Peter Hughes has been appointed to a newly created position of Manager Museum Services, on an initial one-year secondment. Peter previously held the position of Librarian which has been filled by the appointment of Janice Chong to the position of Acting Librarian for the term of Peter's secondment.

Anthony Wright's previous title of Project Director (a two-year secondment) has been renamed Executive Director Redevelopment to reflect his overall leadership role in the Museum's redevelopment.

Juliet Herrick has been appointed to the position of Botany Technician after working as a temporary technician since February. Mike Clearwater, who was the Acting Botany Technician, has left to study for a PhD at Edinburgh University.

## NOTICE TO READERS LIBRARY CLOSURE

The Museum Library will be closed between Monday 29 November 1993 and Saturday 11 December 1993 inclusive. It will reopen at 1pm on Monday 13 December 1993.

During this time the Library staff will undertake collection management tasks (in particular, the rehousing of the photograph negative collections in the new coolrooms) 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.