



**Auckland
Museum**

NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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March 1982**

Astride Two Oceans – 1982 Lectures

An interesting and exciting series of Institute lectures has been planned for this year, as members will see from their Syllabus card (enclosed). As a theme for the major series of lectures, we have chosen the title 'Astride Two Oceans: the uniqueness of the Auckland Isthmus'. Several lecturers will discuss what it is that makes the Auckland Isthmus unique from their own specific point of view. Leading off the series will be Professor J Grant-Mackie of the University of Auckland, who will examine the geological development of the Auckland area. Members who have visited the 'Auckland Landscapes' installation, for which Professor Grant-Mackie was one of the geological advisors, will know that this area has a fascinating geological past. This lecture, entitled 'Twas not ever thus: Auckland's geological development', promises to be of considerable interest.

Our second lecturer, in April, is Professor J Morton, who will be familiar to many as the front man for the TV series, 'Our World'. Professor Morton is also the author of many books and scientific papers on our world and its life forms. His lecture is entitled 'Isthmus Invaded: the plants and animals between two seas' and will examine what developed in Auckland once its geological development had reached quieter periods.

After plants and animals came man, and our lecturer in May, Lady Aileen Fox, will consider the prehistory of man in the Auckland Isthmus. Lady Fox, who is the Museum's Honorary Archaeologist, has devoted considerable study in recent years to the archaeological sites of Auckland and, in particular, to its volcanic cone fortifications; her lecture will be one not to be missed.

During June and July our evening lectures will take a break, both in time and subject matter: lunchtime lectures not related to the theme will be given. In August and October, more contemporary aspects of what makes Auckland unique will be considered, while in September the Annual General Meeting takes place. Full details of all these events will be given in later issues of the **News**.

We hope that this year's lecture series will prove to be of interest to everyone and that members will give the series their support. You are welcome to bring friends along to these lectures — who knows, they might want to join too.

One final note about forthcoming lectures. Institute members are cordially invited to attend a one-day symposium 'Chemistry and the Undersea World' to be held in the Conference Centre at the University of Auckland on Thursday, March 25. The symposium will demonstrate the opportunities for scientists to be involved in exploring the realm of the sea in understanding and applying marine resources and in combatting and avoiding adverse environmental effects. Further details may be obtained from the Centre for Continuing Education at the University, or phone 792-300, extensions 313 or 9801.

Mrs Sylvia Reed

The death occurred late in December of Mrs Sylvia Reed, the Museum's Associate Ornithologist. Mrs Reed had worked at the Museum for ten years and had been very active in ornithological work throughout the region. The liaison Sylvia maintained between the Museum, the ornithological community and the public at large was a most valued contribution to the work of the Museum. Her courage and devotion to her work during the period of her long illness won the admiration and respect of all who knew her, and especially her colleagues at the Museum, who always saw her smiling and cheerful in spite of her difficulties. She will be sadly missed.

Gallipoli

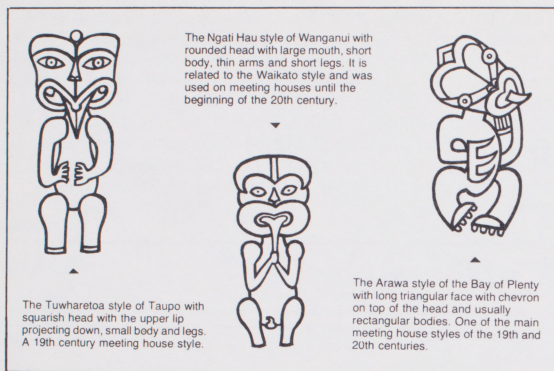


Improvised periscope and sniping rifle at Walkers Ridge, Gallipoli. Photograph from the Museum Library Collection.

The release of the Australian feature film 'Gallipoli' has aroused considerable interest in Auckland. To coincide with the film, John Wadham, the Museum's Curator of the War Collection, has arranged a display of material associated with the Gallipoli campaign. The display, which is in the Museum's war section includes examples of the weapons used, from rifles, swords and bayonets to the jam tin bombs made on the spot by the troops; medals and decorations; paintings and photographs of the peninsula; and a model of the area of the allied landings. Also included are a number of souvenirs, often so avidly collected by soldiers in wartime. Perhaps the most curious of these is the stump of a tree that grew on 'Rhododendron Ridge', worn smooth by the hands of countless soldiers who used it to help themselves up out of the trenches, and much carved with initials. Through these varied objects, some impression can be gained of life and conditions at Gallipoli, so vividly conveyed in the film.

Publications

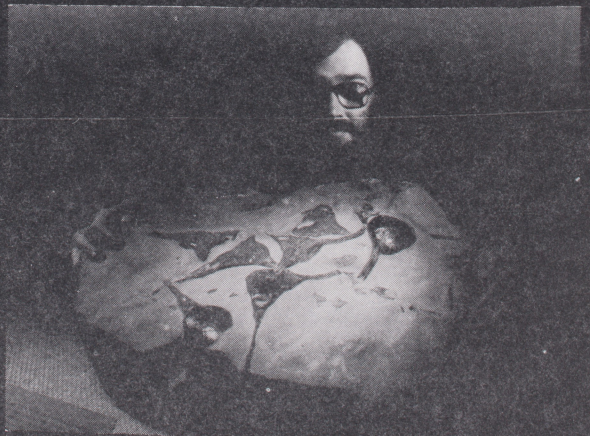
The Museum had recently produced a further number in its series of guide folders to the Museum's collections. Assistant Director, Dave Simmons, has written and illustrated 'Maori Tribal Carving Styles' as an introduction to Maori carving for Museum visitors. To many people examining Maori carving for the first time there can be the distinct impression that all Maori carving is the same, that if you have seen one piece of carving you have seen it all. In simplified form in this leaflet Dave Simmons presents the essential features that distinguish thirteen of the major tribal carving styles that display marked regional variations. If you have wondered how Waikato carving differs from that of Te Arawa, or how Ngapuhi carving relates to Hauraki, then this leaflet will offer you an understanding. Incidentally, the variations that exist between differing tribal and regional styles in Maori art will be a major theme to be shown in part of the redeveloped Maori galleries at the Museum, currently being planned.



Another recent Museum production has been the latest volume of the **Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum**. The Museum's curatorial staff have, amongst their varied duties, a responsibility to carry out research into the objects in the collections they care for. The results of this research appear in many forms, such as in the Museum's displays, in popular publications as well as in scientific papers. Auckland Museum's major contribution here is the publication of its annual **Records**. This series, under the editorship of Entomologist Keith Wise, presents the results of the research of the Museum staff, or of other people carrying out research into the collections of the Museum. The papers are aimed at a scientific audience, but many will prove to be of interest to Institute members.

A Mosasaur for Christmas

One of the more unusual Christmas presents given this year must have been the specimen of fossil mosasaur bones presented to the Museum by Mr W L Moisley just before Christmas. Huge lizards lived in the seas in the New Zealand region 70 million years ago (the Upper Cretaceous period). Mosasaurs were relatives of today's monitor lizards, but were some 13 to 15 metres in length. Mosasaurs used their large sharp teeth to hunt for fish in the Cretaceous seas. Over the last few years, specimens of mosasaurs have been discovered in fossil deposits in Hawkes Bay, adding a new dimension to the New Zealand fossil record. Most of the specimens recovered are still in the process of being studied for scientific description and publication, but Mr Moisley felt that one example at least should be available for public viewing. The specimen has been on view in the Recent Accessions case off the Museum foyer over the holiday period, and has proven to be of great interest to visitors. It will be added to the New Zealand Geology Hall, where it will remain on view to the public.



Photograph: Copyright N.Z. Herald

Volume 18 of the **Records** appeared in December 1981 and contained papers on archaeology in Auckland and the Coromandel, on the Maori people of Queen Charlotte Sound, on plants and shells in the Museum collections, on Australian ants in Auckland and a new damselfly species in the Chatham Islands. Most copies of the **Records** are sent to other institutions in exchange for their publications, thus augmenting the holdings of the Museum Library. Copies are available, however, for sale to individual members of the Institute who may be interested and are obtainable from the Museum Shop or the Library.

A third recent publication will be of less immediate interest to members, unless they read Japanese. As mentioned in the last **News**, one of the results of the visitor survey conducted last year was to show that Japanese visitors are by far the largest group of non-English speaking visitors to the Museum. For this reason, a Japanese translation of the Museum's guide leaflet and plan has been produced. Like the English edition, it is available at the Entrance Desk in the Museum Foyer; if you are showing Japanese guests around the Museum, please ask for a copy.

Antarctic Fieldwork

Recently, our Marine Biologist, Brett Stephenson, returned from fieldwork in Antarctica, where he joined the University of Auckland summer programme for 1981-82, in a study of Ross Sea fishes. Because of seasonal ice cover the sampling stations were confined to fishing holes and tide cracks in the McMurdo/Cape Royds area, with collections being taken by line fishing, trapping and dredging. Though much of the fishing programme relied on returning live material to the sea, a collection of study specimens were retained for the Auckland Museum.

The team began its studies during an acclimatisation period, working daily from the comparative comfort of Scott Base. Only later, after they sledged up the Ross Sea, about 30 km to Cape Royds, did many of the continent's widely-known attributes become fully apparent. As well as reporting on the research programme, Brett describes vividly the magnificent vault-like ice caves at the seaward end of the Erebus ice tongue; slithering over smooth blue ice and gazing through the purple hues at ice crystals lit by shafts of light from above; outside, the Weddell seals, Skuas and Adelie penguins became wildlife companions. Constant daylight for 24 hours gave plenty of time to explore (and little to sleep). Naturally, opportunities were taken to visit the nearby historic sites and huts, including Scott's 1910-1913 **Terra Nova** Expedition hut at Cape Evans, and Shackleton's 1907-1909 **Nimrod** Expedition hut at Cape Royds. The party also took time to carry out the annual census of birds nesting at Cape Royds Adelie penguin rookery, and collect minute land insects (Collembola) from local sites.

Fred



Student Service

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Fred Butler Quilts



From March 6-28, as its contribution to the Auckland Festival, the Museum will be mounting a particularly colourful and interesting special exhibition. The Fred Butler collection of quilts and rugs represents 30 years of one man's life's work, commencing at about age fifteen. When arrangements for this exhibition were being made early last year, it was hoped that Fred (who claimed to have visited Auckland Museum only once before — in 1919!) could be enticed from Thames to our showing. However, this was not to be as he suffered a series of strokes and died, aged 79, in January this year.

Quite apart from the variations in size, colour, technique and pattern exhibited by the 25 quilts and rugs, they have the additional interest of being a record of commercial fabrics available during the period 1920-1950. The larger quilts measure upwards of twelve square metres and consist of some three thousand individual patchwork pieces. In addition to the quilts and rugs, the Museum's exhibition will include some of Fred's 'raw material' such as wool prepared for French knitting. There will be a small photographic record of the material as installed in Fred's house at the time of his death, and some views of Fred taken after the disastrous Thames flood of 1981, which his collection of quilts fortunately survived unscathed. This is an exhibition which will be of great interest.

Student Community Service Programme

The Museum has been fortunate to be able to employ seventeen students over the summer vacation under the Labour Department's Student Community Service Programme.

A wide range of work was undertaken in a number of departments, from cataloguing commemorative medals, plant specimens, Maori artefacts, shells and photographs, to helping brighten up both the Museum's displays and its administration entranceways. We hope that for many of them their work at the Museum will prove to be useful experience in furthering their careers as well as providing them with an income over the vacation.

Earthquakes

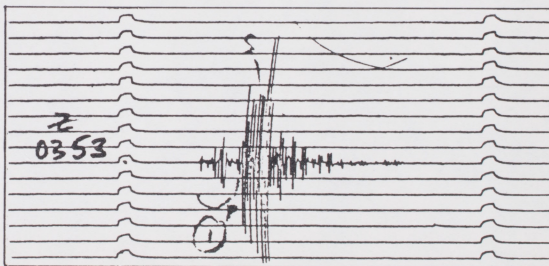
Many visitors to the Museum's 'Auckland Landscapes' installation stand and watch the needle on the seismograph, hoping they might see an earthquake. Small boys amongst them may even tap the glass, hoping to see the effect register on the graph (forlorn hope, since the sensor for the machine is buried deep in the Museum basement!) If you are one of these patient watchers, then you may have been lucky and observed an 'event' register on the machine late last year, when 'earthquakes' were occurring with great regularity.

The seismograph at the Museum is part of a network of such machines operated throughout the country by the Geophysics Division of the DSIR. The Museum sends the graphs from the machine here to the Geophysics Division in Wellington, where they are monitored and interpreted by their geophysicists. The Museum instrument is the only one in the Auckland volcanic field, and its results are therefore watched with some interest. Dr John Latter of the Division was intrigued to note a small 'earthquake' register on the graph on Wednesday, November 25, since it looked very like the sort of shake registered by small volcanic earthquakes at Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and White Island. He was further intrigued, however, when other similar 'earthquakes' were recorded the following Saturday, then the next Wednesday, the next Saturday, the next Wednesday, and finally the last on Saturday, December

12. Volcanoes do not usually run to such a regular schedule! Nor do they usually work an eight hour day — the events occurred either mid-morning or just before 5 pm.

Dr Latter's conclusion is that these events were all probably man-made explosions that occurred within 10-15 km of the Museum. There, at present, the mystery remains, though it seems possible that underwater blasting for construction work in the Tiri channel off Whangaparaoa may have been responsible.

So all you seismograph watchers, don't abandon hope — you may yet see an 'earthquake'.



Know Your Museum

For several years, the Museum has been offering, in conjunction with the Workers' Education Association, a series of talks entitled 'Know Your Museum'. These have been very popular with both institute members and the general public, who want to find out a little more about the Museum, its collections and the work of its staff. For about an hour each week during the winter term, a member of staff describes the part of the Museum he or she is responsible for, the work done in it, and provides an opportunity for close inspection of the activities of that particular department. The group is restricted in size, in order to allow participants to visit parts of the Museum not ordinarily open to the public, which are able to accommodate only small groups.

The talks are given at 1 pm on Tuesdays for ten weeks in June, July and August. Early notice is being given now, to allow members who would like to take part to plan ahead and because the next **News** may not be out sufficiently in advance. Details of precise dates and enrolment procedures are not yet available, but those interested will be able to obtain the necessary information in **May** (no

enquiries before then, please), from either the Workers Education Association, 21 Princes St, Auckland 1 (phone 732030) or from the Museum.

Zero Repairs

Whilst most full-scale historic aircraft in Auckland are to be seen at MOTAT, Auckland Museum has two aircraft displayed in its military history section, a Mark XVI Spitfire and a Mitsubishi Zero, the famous Japanese fighter of the Second World War. This plane, of the same type that attacked Pearl Harbour in 1942, is a considerable rarity, since only two complete examples are known to survive anywhere in the world, one in Virginia, USA, and our one in Auckland. It has been of concern to Museum staff, however, that the canopy over the cockpit had been improperly secured at some stage during its restoration after World War II, with the result that it looks out of alignment, and was also a security risk. A team of aircraftmen from the RNZAF spent a recent Saturday at the Museum working on the Zero canopy, securing it properly and adding a flange so that it can be locked. The general appearance of the aircraft is much improved and the Museum is very grateful to the men of the Air Force for their assistance.

Research Grant

Museum Entomologist, Keith Wise, has received a research grant from the Scientific Research Distribution Committee of the Lottery Profits Board of Control. His research project involves the study of the insect fauna of forest remnants in northern New Zealand, and is a continuation and an extension of a study undertaken in the 1960s. The grant has been used to purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle which will be used to allow access to some of the more remote forest remnants, as well as providing transport for the whole project. The Museum is very grateful to the Scientific Research Committee for their support.



The Brambley Collection of artefacts from Manukau South Head has now been catalogued into the Museum's Archaeology Collection. The work was done by Brett Peacock who was employed under the Labour Department's Project Employment Programme. Brett also drew the most important items of the collection for publication in the Museum **Records**.

Among the dozens of illustrations is this side-hafted adze made of basalt. Such items are rare in New Zealand and are generally considered to be of some antiquity, dating to the so-called "Archaic Period". There are three such adzes in the Brambley Collection which, together with the wealth of other material, makes this the most important Archaic assemblage of the greater Auckland region.

News From The Front — The Library's Armed Services Collection

For many years one of the most popular sections of the library for members, the Armed Services Collection continues to provide information for research purposes as well as satisfying the needs of the general reader.

The Armed Services Collection consists of several thousand books, pamphlets and other types of material relating principally to New Zealand participation in both World Wars and in other conflicts. On the open shelves are, in addition to New Zealand items, hundreds of titles about naval and military history, weapons, and medals and badges, just to name a few topics. A great deal of material is also kept in the stack areas — for example, copies of some unbound military newspapers such as the NZEF Times and Eighth Army News.

The range of publications is fascinating. One source of information is the troopship or unit magazine, usually with a suitably appropriate title such as the Waitemata Wobbler and the Masseydonian Stretcher. The library also collects miscellaneous items of ephemera of which propaganda leaflets, post-cards from the troops, concert programmes and war posters are familiar examples. Another kind of publication is the educational handbook, like those produced during World War II by the New Zealand Army Education Welfare Service.

Published items form only part of the Collection however. In the Manuscript Room can be found diaries and letters of New Zealand service personnel, invaluable sources for the military historian. Examples are the papers of the late Rev. Chaplain Major Robert McDowall, relating to life in a German P.O.W. Camp during World War II, and the Memorandum Book kept by Private Alexander Whisker, who served with the 58th Regiment during the First New Zealand War in the Bay of Islands. Paintings and sketches form another medium through which the realities of war can be portrayed. Very different in their emphasis for example, are the paintings of the Official World War I New Zealand artists George Butler and Nugent Welch, both of whom depicted the battlefields of Europe. The routine and boredom of military life are accurately shown in the works of Harold Knight, who served with the 2NZEF in the Middle East.

Naturally the increased price of books and other library materials means that in practice fewer items can be purchased for the Collection. However so far a combination of judicious book selection and generous donations from members has maintained depth in our holdings. Current acquisitions policy is to purchase mainly items which assist research into the Museum's collections and fields of interest. For example, with the continuing assistance of David Corbett, Hon. Curator of Medals and Badges and John Wadham, Curator of War Relics, a comprehensive range of reference works on medals, badges and weapons is being built up. Similarly, a microfilm set of 58th Regiment Muster Rolls is being ordered — an invaluable resource for the military historian and the genealogist.

For over 50 years Aucklanders have generously donated war records, both published and unpublished to the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Last year for example, several hundred books were received from two members, Mr Peter Warren and the late Mr Peter Mathews. The increasingly heavy use made of the Armed Services Collection by television, radio and drama researchers, authors and others underlines the importance of this material, and is an accurate reflection of the many important donations received from our members. We hope that members will be encouraged to use this Collection and to donate items for it — the Librarian would be delighted to talk to any members who have material they may wish to dispose of.



SYLLABUS 1982

Supplement to Auckland Museum News 9
March 1982

Auckland Institute
and Museum

SYLLABUS 1982

All lectures in the Museum Auditorium at 8pm (entry by West Door)

Astride Two Oceans: the uniqueness of the Auckland Isthmus

Monday, March 29th	Prof. J.A. Grant-Mackie, University of Auckland 'Twas Not Ever Thus: Auckland's geological development
Monday, April 26th	Prof. J.E. Morton, University of Auckland Isthmus Invaded: the plants and animals between two seas
Monday, 31st May	Lady Aileen Fox, Auckland Museum Tamaki makau rau: archaeology and Maori traditions in the Auckland Region
Monday, 30th August	Annual Medical Association Lecture, on aspects of health in the Auckland region
Monday, 27th September	Annual General Meeting, followed by a film on the birdlife of Auckland
Monday, 1st November	Dr M.A. Taylor, University of Auckland The people of Auckland: a computerized view of contemporary Isthmanians
Lunchtime Lectures	12.30pm in the Museum Auditorium (entry by West Door or Main Door)
Wednesday, 30th June	Prof J.D. Saunders, University of Auckland Industrial Design in New Zealand
Wednesday, 28th July	Members of the Museum staff Treasures of the Museum

ASTRONOMICAL SECTION

Hon. Secretary: Mr O.H. Skarsholt, 203a Godley Road, Titirangi, Auckland 7.
Meets in the Auckland Observatory, One Tree Hill Domain, 1st Wednesday at 8 p.m. (Public Night, Observatory, every Tuesday, 8-10 p.m.)

CONCHOLOGY SECTION

Hon. Secretary: Mrs P. Town, 9 Otakau Road, Milford, Auckland 9.
Meets in the Museum on 3rd Thursdays at 8 p.m.

MARITIME SECTION

Hon. Secretary: Mr R.J. Hawkins, 3/48a Vauxhall Rd., Devonport, Auckland 9. Ph 453-448
