

Museum Quarterly is the official magazine of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. March 2001. Issue 86

## The magic of Manaia

Having recently been appointed to the Museum, the resident Maori group, Manaia, has had an overwhelmingly positive response to its performances. Skilled presentation has brought to life facets of Maori culture and enabled them to share their performances with fascinated audiences from near and afar.

Manaia offer three shows daily – 11am, 12pm and 1.30pm. Each performance consists of a welcome song, poi dance, stick game, weaponry display and the men's war dance, the haka. At the conclusion of each twenty-minute performance, the members of the group

invite the audience to participate in a guided tour around the Maori gallery as well as the opportunity to master the intricacies of a stick game or a poi dance.

Many soon realise how deceptively easy the performers make it look!

The members of the group work under the mantle of the Te Kawautiki-tiki Trust, whose members are of the Ngati Whatua iwi. Each show has six performers in traditional Maori costume.

On behalf of the Museum and the Trust Board, Manaia extends a warm welcome to the wider Museum community. Come and experience the magic of Manaia for yourself.



*Manaia performance in progress.*

## Pasifika Festival 2001 opens at the Museum

Despite rain forcing proceedings indoors, the Pasifika Festival opened on Saturday 7 February at the Museum. This

year the festival has been extended from a one-day event to a two-week programme. The official launch of the ninth

festival was by the Honourable Mr Mark Goshe with speeches by Auckland City Mayor Chris Fletcher and the representatives of the eight sponsors including Auckland Museum.

The Museum marked the festival opening with a Pacific festival the following day. Both events give the Museum a link into the community and an opportunity to spotlight the refurbished Pacific galleries and the upcoming Pacific Pathways exhibition.

Tapa and tivaevae decorated the Museum foyer. There were weaving, jewellery and craft demonstrations in the gallery while Maori,

Kiribatu and Cook Island groups performed throughout the day.



*Performers from Ei Polyneta, a drum and dancing group.*

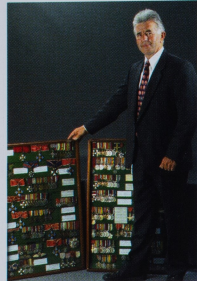
## The Art of Remembrance

Powerful salutes to the past and present, collectively entitled *The Art of Remembrance*, go on display at the Museum from Saturday 10 March. Three of the four new exhibitions honour memories of wartime experiences and the fourth presents how New Zealand artists marked the new century with contemporary medallions.

'The Museum is an important war memorial for all New Zealanders. *The Art of Remembrance* presents interpretations of how we honour, commemorate and remember the experience of those who went to war,' Rodney Wilson explains. 'This exhibition will engage our emotions, imagination and intellect.'

### From Medal to Memory: The Brent Mackrell Medal Collection

An amazing collection of medals, recently gifted to the



Brent Mackrell with a selection of medals he gifted to the Museum.

museum, is the focus of this display in which Auckland War Memorial Museum acknowledges Brent Mackrell, the collector who over a period of 40-odd years created the collection, and also, the medal

recipients and their families who contributed their medals, memorabilia and memories to Brent's collection.

A selection of related memorabilia, uniforms, log-books, photographs and personal papers are included in the display, with the comprehensive range of Orders, Decorations (including a Victoria Cross) and Campaign medals dating from the early 19th century to the present day, representing the wartime experiences of some 300 individuals.

### Poppy's poppies

*'Poppy's for Poppa, poppies for the flower of remembrance... I wanted to look at the poppy, not to change it but to invest it with preciousness ... while preserving the essence of the flower and its symbolism.'*

— Kirsten Haydon, April 2000

This installation by New Zealand jeweller Kirsten Haydon was created in honour of her grandfather who served in World War Two. Kirsten uses the Anzac poppy as her central motif but she also considers the significance of other symbols of remembrance and through her craft explores the personal yet universal narratives conveyed by wartime memorabilia and souvenirs.

### Remembrance

'Remembrance' brings together works by three Auckland artists — Jan Nigro, Stanley Palmer and Michael Shepherd, each of whom had close relatives who served in World War One or World War Two and whose recollected or reconstructed experiences have served as the inspiration for the works shown here.

These artists draw upon remembered and recounted personal narratives in order to understand the nature of old wars, to examine the parallels between life at home and life at war, and to explore the nature of memory and history. In each case, the work evolved after the death of the relative, reminding us that war does not just affect those that took part but makes a lasting impression on the next generation as well.

### Millennium medallions

A medallion is a large medal, an object of art that is portable, intimate and tactile. It expresses in small scale something about the artist and

the world in which he or she lives.

Justine Olsen has selected 29 New Zealand artists working in different media to exhibit medallions. Sculptors, jewellers, painters, printmakers, potters, glass artists and artists working on mixed media have contributed works.

The subject of the millennium has been chosen for artists to contemplate and express their own thoughts.

'They all see this moment in time as a critical point to reflect on the human condition. In time these works will take on the archaeological nature of ancient coins while serving to remind future society of the thoughts and artistic endeavours of New Zealand artists of today.'

Justine Olsen, former Curator of Applied Arts, Auckland Museum, has curated this exhibition for the City Gallery Wellington with the support of Creative New Zealand.



(Top): Gallipoli: Bronze plaque by Stanley Palmer, 1992. (Above): 1914-15 Star, World War One.

## MQ

## From the Director

On 2 July the Museum will completely reopen the Library. On 31 March 2001 the first exhibition in the new gallery for Pictorial Collections, which now provides entry to the Library, will be opened.

With the exception of the renovation of the southern lift, this brings to an end all the refurbishment work of the Museum; both the Stage I works and the additional deferred maintenance programme which has been running in tandem with Stage I during the last three years.

The 'new' Library is a wonderful transformation. The character of the old Reading Room has been preserved, along with the 1920s bookcases, but this has been complemented by new dark timber furnishings, panelled walls and a dramatic sweeping lowered ceiling which houses air-conditioning ducts and lighting.

Readers will have much greater comfort. There is a new room for access to rare collection items, new technology is available, there is a locker room for readers' bags, a new meeting room is available and there are four computers for access to Museum databases.

Library users will no longer approach the Library via the old southern stairwell and lift but will instead arrive from the Level Two galleries and 'Hall of Memories'. They will pass through a handsome new gallery which will show changing exhibitions from the Museum's rich Pictorial Collections, arriving at the Reader Services Desk at the entry to the Library. Once again, Noel Lane Architects have done a grand job of reconciling function and heritage, and of harmonising period and contemporary elements in the design.

Elsewhere the Library has been upgraded as well. A comprehensive refurbishment of storage and staff areas has occurred and new efficient storage systems will greatly improve access to the collections. The Library staff have toiled long and hard to achieve these improvements for their customers and their collections, and must be thanked for their labour and patience.

T.L. Rodney Wilson  
Director

## Tapa through time

Written about and collected by Cook in the late eighteenth century, tapa is a Pacific craft with a deeply intriguing history.

Used as sheets, bedding, insect netting, room dividers, pennants, wrap-around garments, capes and turbans, its purpose has always been widespread. Perhaps the most important historical role for tapa, though, was its use in ceremonies such as weddings, funerals and commemorations. This purpose remains paramount to this day, as the



ceremonial exchange of tapa, tivaevae and fine mats is a primary means by which Polynesians create and reinforce social relationships.

After colonial invasion and availability of commercial cloth threatened tapa production earlier this century, the growth of tourism and visitor interest has spurred the art-form once again. The exhibition traces tapa's fascinating journey through time and around the Pacific.

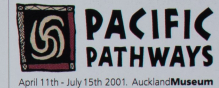
## Pacific Pathways

Pacific Pathways, a major exhibition on at the Auckland Museum from 11 April to 15 July, is a tribute to the skills and spirit of Pacific weavers, tivaevae and tapa-makers. The exhibition and accompanying events programme present the diversity, complexity, ingenuity, spirituality and vitality of their precious handwork.

On display is a rich array of patterns from around the Pacific, including tapa, stitched and quilted tivaevae, plaited mats, piupiu, hats and baskets. The fragility of many of the materials dictates that these treasures can only be displayed for short periods. Pacific Pathways is a wonderful opportunity to view a wide range of Pacific and Maori patterns.

Each item in the collection tells a story. The makers, mostly women, have worked

with materials close at hand: mulberry tree, pandanus, harakeke (flax), pingao, kiekie and plain-dyed cotton fabrics. The dividend of their toil is the joy of creation, the satisfaction of using passed-down knowledge and the pleasure implicit in their designs and things well made.



April 11th - July 15th 2001. Auckland Museum

The cultural values of these dedicated Pacific weavers, tivaevae and tapa-makers are central in the Pacific Pathways Event Programme. Demonstrations, seminars, lectures and cultural performances are planned throughout the exhibition as well as school holiday activities for children.

## New staff

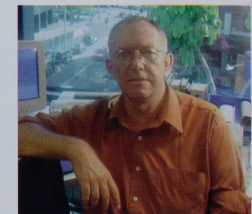
We are pleased to advise the wider Museum community of three new key appointments to the Museum — Mrs Cecilia Gully as Head — Interpretive Services, Mr Bruce Ralston as Manager — Library Services and Mr John Haydn as Exhibitions Manager. All three took up their appointments on 26 February.

Cecilia needs little introduction as we welcome her back to us after her time at Auckland University's Davis Law Library. While initially training as a librarian and as a lawyer, Cecilia has worked in a range of areas, including as a Volunteer Coordinator and Armoury Manager here at the Museum. She has expertise in information and knowledge

management expertise.

Bruce has a strong background in library management through his work at the Alexander Turnbull Library and Auckland Libraries and joins us at the end stages of our Library refurbishment and the upcoming opening of our 'brand new' library.

John brings a wealth of experience to the Exhibitions Manager role, having worked as a business manager, architect, part-time lecturer and in a variety of project design and management roles. John will be responsible for planning and managing the Museum's temporary and special exhibitions programme and involvement in the delivery of collection based long-term exhibitions.



Cecilia Gully and Bruce Ralston.

## Library progress update

Patience and perseverance are two key virtues Library staff could not have done without throughout the course of the refurbishment project. However, they are delighted to announce that they are finally able to see the 'light at the end of the tunnel' and are excited about the new possibilities the refurbished Library will offer.

At this stage, Coles, the construction contractors are expected to vacate the Library by 23 March, having addressed all the remaining construction issues. A further three weeks work will then be spent finishing the varnishing of the early shelving. This will then permit the return of books from their current off-site storage locations. A mammoth task in

itself, the reshelving is not expected to be completed until after Easter and this activity will take place in parallel with the security tagging of all books in the Library. The final step is to update all library catalogue records to reflect the new location of stock.

The Library reopens with full services on Monday 2 July. By that time all the essential material will have been returned to the building; electronic and security control of the Reading Room items will be in place; operational and other policy prepared; and staff trained in new procedures, electronic resources and appropriate referral. From the middle of May limited services will be provided at specific times to targeted groups. These groups will include Museum staff and post-graduate researchers. This period will also be used to test and refine our service and procedures.

For further information or queries regarding access please email Bruce Ralston on [bralston@akmuseum.org.nz](mailto:bralston@akmuseum.org.nz)



The dramatic sweeping ceiling.

# What's coming up

## Pacific Pathways

11 April–15 July 2001  
(See page 3 for details)

Prices are as follows:  
Adults – \$8, children – \$4,  
families (2 adults/2 children) –  
\$20, concession – \$7.50  
(Seniors and Students)

Prices are inclusive of the  
admission donation.

## Pacific Pathways Exhibition Programme

There will be a full programme of events accompanying the Pacific Pathways exhibition. This will include demonstrations in the making of the textiles on display, such as tapa and tivaevae. The exhibition will be further brought to life by performers from throughout the Pacific, adorned with colourful costumes similar to those on display, and a vibrant and stimulating lecture series will complement the show. For our younger audiences, there will be opportunities to make prints in the galleries and an additional artifact interpretation service for school groups. A Teacher Workshop will also be held.

For more information on these events please contact Natasha Beckman (x738) or Lucinda Blackley (x737) at the Museum. School Group

enquiries should be directed to Sarah Ross (x722).

## Art of Remembrance

10 March–27 May 2001 (See page 2 for details)  
Anzac Day brings people together to remember those who fought for our country. As the numbers of those who fought are diminishing, memories of those wars are now conveyed through the medals, souvenirs and memorabilia left behind or through the recollections of the descendants who pass the stories on to others. From 10 March to 23 May a suite of exhibitions on Levels 2 and 3 take up the theme of Remembrance.

## Living Treasures Programme: Live Days

The next Living Treasures Day is **Dinosaur Day** on Sunday 18 March. Dinosaur Day will be a very BIG, activity-filled day at the Museum. Events include Dinosaur Origami, Fossil Making, Dinosaur Badge Making, Screening of the popular documentary 'Walking with Dinosaurs', Talks by New Zealand dinosaur expert Joan Wiffen and resident paleontologist Mike Eagle, Dinosaur Storytelling, Dinosaur Trails through the galleries

# Sad task for Bird Curator

With the burgeoning human population, and attendant pressures on the natural world, species are becoming endangered and extinct at an increasing rate.

Twelve per cent of the world's species of birds are now threatened. Destruction of habitat is the main threat to bird populations, but at the individual level it is estimated that around the world more than a million birds a day are killed by cars and domestic cats.

A Hawaiian bird called the Kauai O'o (*Moho braccatus*), a

honeyeater like our Tui, has just been officially declared extinct. Accordingly, the Curator of Land Vertebrates, Brian Gill, has moved our single specimen from the main collection to a special cabinet reserved for extinct species.

The museum's specimen was collected by G.C. Munro on the island of Kauai on 17 January 1893. It is part of our important collection of Pacific Islands birds. Sadly, Museum's are becoming increasingly important as places to see species no longer able to be seen in the wild or in zoos.

# Store focus on Sally Govorko

Sally Govorko is New Zealand's leading exponent of hand-painted scarves and shawls. Her love of silk and colour led Sally into the world of scarves after a twenty-year career as a clothing designer and retailer. The distinctive hand-painted scarves are an expression of that career in designing and creating. The colours of her scarves range from soft, subtly hues to a rich vibrant intensity. Special techniques ensure they will not run with washing and will retain their vibrancy and



Sally Govorko's scarves.

timeless appeal.

Sally works from her garden studio in Auckland and sells her scarves worldwide. She has also exhibited throughout New Zealand as well as Australia and the USA.

The Museum Store now stocks a range of Sally Govorko scarves. Do come in and see these works of art in person!

and an appearance by the Museum's own dinosaur Wetasaurus!

The following Living Treasures Day will be **Art of Remembrance** on Sunday 22 April, just prior to Anzac Day, and will also form part of the public programmes for the **Art of Remembrance** exhibition which will be showing in the Decorative Arts gallery at the same time. **Art of Remembrance** Living Treasures Day will highlight the War Memorial function of the Museum for all the family, through poignant readings and talks, interactive workshops and music.

## DISCOVERY CENTRE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

7 April–22 April 2001

Check out what's happening in the Discovery Centre these school holidays:

We've got great activities running each day of the school holidays in the Discovery Centre. They include:

### Monday

Explorer – paper doll fun.  
Spoon Puppets – dress a spoon girl

### Tuesday

Ice goggles – make some groovy glasses. Cup coasters – design a cup-mat.

### Wednesday

Penguins – make a penguin pen-holder. Food whizzers – make a spinning top.

### Thursday

Badge making – make a badge. Paint a plate – paint a teeny plate.

### Friday

Antarctic Experience – paper doll fun. Spoon puppets – dress a spoon girl.

### Saturday

Penguins – make a penguin pen-holder. Food whizzers – make a spinning top.

### Sunday

Badge making – make a badge. Paint a plate – paint a teeny plate.

Each activity costs \$2 or just \$1 for Dinomite members. No booking necessary – just pop into the Discovery Centre!

**PLUS:** The Discovery Centre will be running a great range of holiday craft activities throughout the holidays. These run for two hours and cost \$6 each (\$5 for Dinomite members). Bookings essential. Details available from 30 March.

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 Christmas Day and Anzac Day morning.  
For information on Membership ring 09 309 0443 x883.  
Website: [www.akmuseum.org.nz](http://www.akmuseum.org.nz)

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

