



NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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NGA TUPUNA GALLERY OPENS



Above: The Director, Stuart Park welcomes the Manuhiri. Staff and visitors attend the ceremony.

Auckland Museum has the finest collection of Maori art and artefacts in the world and in 1981 the Museum embarked on a project of redevelopment in order to do justice to the magnificent collections. The final section of the redevelopment of the Maori Gallery displays was completed and opened to the public

on December 22nd 1989.

The new gallery **Nga Tupuna** completes the project following the opening of **Nga Mahi** in 1986 and **Nga Kahurangi** in 1987. The new exhibition features over 300 items from all the Maori tribal groups of New Zealand, arranged according to tribal origin.

This is the first ever permanent Museum exhibit to show the art and history of each tribal group separately. All too often museum visitors have been given the impression that Maori art is a single style, and all tribal groups had the same history. This exhibition shows the range and diversity of styles used by different tribal groups from throughout New Zealand, and contains objects significant in the history of different tribes.

Some of the objects will be familiar to members as over one third of the objects in the highly successful international exhibition **Te Maori** were borrowed from our collection.

Although the Museum has a large collection of magnificent textiles we can only show each example for a short period of time, for the preservation of the textiles themselves. We will be changing the particular piece on display regularly, so that the light doesn't do too much damage. The textile item now on display is an important historic dogskin cloak. The other kahurangi, the carvings in bone, stone, and wood are better able to stand the effects of light, though again we have been careful to keep the brightness of the light down to a suitable level.

The Museum's approach to the displays, to the taonga and to the descendants of those who made them has changed somewhat over the nine years of the project. Especially in this third stage, we have been greatly assisted by a Maori Advisory Panel for the Gallery. Our thanks to Ngahua Te Awakotuku, Te Aue Davis, Taini Drummond, Paki Harrison, Te Aniwa Hona, Sir Kingi Ihaka, Bob Jahnke, Sir Hugh Kawharu, Laurie Nicholas, Pumi Taituha, Irirangi Tiakiawa, Reverend Tawhao Tioke, and Ngapo Wehi. The Museum has drawn strength from their support, their guidance and their wisdom as our Panel.



Ceanothus puniceus

BANKS' FLORILEGIUM: illustrations of New Zealand plants from 1769

March 3 - 25 1990

Banks' Florilegium consists of 738 botanical engravings which record the plants collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Carl Solander and drawn by Sydney Parkinson on Captain Cook's first voyage round the world 1768-1771. The historic plates, bequeathed by Sir Joseph Banks to the British Museum, are exceptionally fine examples of the engravers art and depict some of the first plants to engage the scientific attention of European voyagers in the Pacific Ocean, including the very first plants of New Zealand and Eastern Australia to be gathered and studied by Europeans.

The failure to publish the plates during the eighteenth century has long been regarded as one of the tragedies of science. However, in 1980 a project was embarked on to print, in full colour, the engravings for the first time from the original eighteenth-century copperplate.

The exhibition *Banks' Florilegium: illustrations of New Zealand plants from 1769* comprises some forty plates selected from the original 183 New Zealand plates. Each plate represents an exquisite example of the printers art. The scientific accuracy of the plates

has long been recognised and appreciated by world experts. The plates have kindly been loaned by the private owners of the only Auckland held set of the New Zealand plates. The exhibition will also include some of the actual plant specimens collected by Banks and Solander, depicted in the engravings, from the Museum's own collection.

60 YEARS ON

In the last issue of the Museum News a number of staff contributed articles that outlined the growth and development of their departments over the last 60 years. Lack of space prevented publication of all the articles submitted, hence during this year the remaining articles will be published. A number of Members have expressed interest in the overall work of each department and we hope that the articles will provide an insight into progress and change.

BOTANY DEPARTMENT

The work of the department is centred on the herbarium, a collection of pressed and dried plant specimens based on T.F. Cheeseman's personal herbarium begun in 1870. He collected perhaps 10,000 specimens during his 50 years as Curator of the Museum and this collection had probably grown little when the Museum moved into the present building in 1929. Apart from the enormous growth in size of the Museum's herbarium to over 188,000 specimens, there have been two major developments which would render it unrecognisable to those using it even 10 years ago. The first concerns the physical storage of the specimens, and the second a management system to record them.

High density storage

In the early 1970s it became apparent that the existing wooden shelves with generous aisles and work areas amongst them would very soon be overflowing with specimens. A small bank of mobile steel shelving installed as a trial effectively allowed a doubling of the storage capacity on the floor area used, mainly by reducing the space wasted by fixed

aisles. Since then, two large banks of mobile steel shelving have been progressively installed, and fixed steel shelving fitted on the end walls, filling the entire herbarium vault with modern, purpose built shelving for the plant specimens.

These days, herbaria use a internationally standardised sheet size of 265 x 420 mm. Unfortunately, Cheeseman used a much larger sheet size of 315 x 485 mm for his collection, and the herbarium boxes traditionally used at this Museum were sized to accommodate the Cheeseman specimens, even though they constitute only some 5% of the collection, and then are predominately native species. As the herbarium is divided into two sections - native and foreign/adventive/cultivated - the decision was made to rehouse the latter section in new boxes designed to accommodate the international standard herbarium sheet. Thus, not only do the mobile steel shelves allow a doubling of storage capacity on the existing floor area, but the most recent bank of shelves designed to house the new, smaller boxes for the foreign/adventive/cultivated collection holds twice as many boxes of specimens as the similar sized bank housing the native collection. The end result is a herbarium vault filled to capacity with shelving, and room for at least a few year's expansion for the first time in 20 years.

Regrettably, a catalogue of the herbarium collections has never been maintained. The actual labels on the specimens are the only record of the collections, and as the collections are ordered according to their scientific names, it is impossible to extract information by locality or collector without a mammoth physical search of the specimens. We also regularly send specimens on loan to researchers worldwide, and must fully document these collections before they are despatched. With such a large collection and a very small staff, it became imperative that existing manual means of managing the collection be updated.

AKILLES takes us towards the 21st century

At the end of 1988 the Botany Department installed a microcomputer to assist with the running of the herbarium. A general-purpose database package was chosen and a system devised to print herbarium labels, keep track of

IAN THWAITES

Ian Thwaites, Librarian for 17 years, retired on the 17th November after a moving retirement was room.

Ian's popularity which he was the large attention and friends and present staff are coming consist share the occ mother and to



Ian Thwaites, Times and Juliet Hawkin

loans, and maintain a catalogue of accessions. For the technically minded, the equipment is a WYSEpc 286 model 2112 with 1 megabyte of random access memory, a 1.2 megabyte diskette drive, and 80 megabyte hard disk, a Star NX-1000 dot-matrix printer and a Star Laser printer. The software package is Advanced Revelation.



Clianthus puniceus

After a 2 month period of intensive development and a further settling down period of revision and enhancement the system is now fully operational. It produces labels on the laser printer in less time but to the same standard as an electronic typewriter, prints reminder notices for borrowers as their loans become overdue (a chore that is all too easily neglected when it must be done manually), and maintains a catalogue that can be interrogated on any field or combination of fields recorded on the herbarium label.

The system has been given the acronym AKILLES from **AK**, the internationally recognised designator for the Auckland Museum herbarium, **I**nformation, **L**abels, **L**oans, **E**lectronic **S**ystem and is the first step in keeping up with some of the interesting developments in the application of computers in herbaria overseas. For example, a system recently developed in the UK for Agricultural Scientific Services, Edinburgh and code-named ALICE (wonder why ALICE?) has been described as 'a taxonomically intelligent database'. AKILLES cannot be described as 'taxonomically intelligent' but perhaps within the next ten years something better will be devised. Doubtless the new system will be called PARIS!

Anthony Wright & Jack Mackinder

OPEN EVENING MARCH 24TH

Auckland Museum will have a special Open Evening on March 24th 1990. Members along with the general public are cordially invited to join us at 7.30pm the 24th March 1990 to view the gallery **Nga Tupuna**.

The evening will also provide an opportunity for visitors to see a number of new displays in the Museum and observe the progress that has been made in the general upgrading of the Museum. The new displays include, **150 years of New Zealand Silver** located in the Furniture Hall, **Celebrations**, displayed in the recent accession case on the ground floor, and, **The Treaty of Waitangi** display located in the main foyer. The evening will also be the final opportunity for members and the public to view the exhibition **Banks' Florilegium: illustrations of New Zealand plants from 1769**, in the Special Exhibition Hall. This exhibition closes on the 25th March.

The Museum Shop will be open to enable visitors to make purchases, and light refreshments will be served in the Supper Room. Do come and share the evening with us.

WINSTON CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

Justine Olsen and Gordon Maitland have been granted Winston Churchill Fellowships for 1990.

Justine is intending to undertake a museum internship in the USA followed by a study tour of decorative arts collection in museums. Gordon's Fellowship will enable him to travel primarily to the USA and undertake in-depth research into the care and management of archival photographic collections.

It is unusual for two Churchill Fellowships to be awarded to one institution and our congratulations are extended to both Justine and Gordon. The Fellowships will provide valuable opportunities for these staff to gain additional knowledge and skills overseas and apply this to the future development of the collections in their care.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Enclosed with this issue of the **News** is the Special Exhibitions Calendar for the first half of 1990. You will see that a full and varied programme of exhibitions has been arranged for this year. Together with the recently completed Maori Gallery displays, we are trying to represent a full range of aspects of New Zealand culture and history, in keeping with the various anniversaries of this sesquicentennial year.

Because several exhibitions tentatively planned for 1990 had to be rearranged or cancelled quite late in 1989, it was not possible to send this Calendar out with the last **News**. We have however, included the first half of the 1990 exhibitions on the Calendar, so it provides a complete record, even though "**Antipodean Dreams**" will have finished before you read this.

The Museum notifies all its exhibitions to the news media, who regularly report on events at the Museum. In addition, information about current exhibitions and forthcoming events can be obtained on the Museum's 24 hour information line, phone 773-932.

STAFF APPOINTMENT

Mr Bob Renner joins the staff of the Auckland Museum in the recently created position of Executive Officer. Mr Renner was previously employed as the Mount Eden Borough Council Treasurer since 1976 which has given him considerable financial and management experience that is well suited to his present position at the museum.

Mr Renner's duties will include coordination of a number of different support services for the operation and growth of the Museum. The position of Executive Officer also carries with it responsibilities as a member of the senior executive group.

Mr Renner is married with two teenage children and has a wide range of interests including designing and building free flight model aircraft. He has strong links with the far north having received his secondary education at Taipa DHS and Kaitaia College.

NEW ACQU

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The Museum be able to p collection of Mesozoic m by Mr Trevo They are fro site in inland the recent d Zealand's fir Crabtree is c palaeontolo fossils from a stream-bed The fossils a shattered ro down on site cutter and b chisel. They over difficult workshop M of the hard n carbide grin specimen in the remaini protecting th lacquer as it

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He joins the staff of the Museum in the recently vacated position of Executive Officer. He was previously employed by the Dunedin Borough Council since 1976 which has given him considerable financial and administrative experience that is well suited to his present position at the Museum.

His duties will include a number of different responsibilities for the operation of the Museum. The Executive Officer also has administrative responsibilities as a senior executive group.

He is married with two children and has a wide range of interests including building free flight models. He has strong links with Taupo having received his education at Taupo DHS College.

NEW ACQUISITIONS.

Fossil Collection.

The Museum has been fortunate to be able to purchase a large collection of fossil remains of Mesozoic marine reptiles extracted by Mr Trevor Crabtree of Napier. They are from the Mangahouanga site in inland Hawkes Bay, famous for the recent discovery there of New Zealand's first dinosaur bones. Mr Crabtree is one of a team of amateur palaeontologists who have collected fossils from a remote and rugged stream-bed during the past decade. The fossils are embedded in shattered rocks which are broken down on site with a portable rock cutter and by hammer and cold chisel. They are carried out on foot over difficult terrain. Back in his workshop Mr Crabtree removes more of the hard matrix using a tungsten carbide grinder. He then bathes the specimen in dilute acid to dissolve the remaining matrix, carefully protecting the fossil with a layer of lacquer as it is exposed.

The specimens acquired by the Museum are bones and teeth of extinct marine reptiles called plesiosaurs and mosasaurs. They lived in shallow seas throughout the New Zealand region in the late Cretaceous period (65-95 million years ago) towards the end of the age of dinosaurs. The fossil remains of these reptiles - some large and

very spectacular - have been found at several sites around New Zealand. Most specimens are in the Canterbury and National Museums, and Auckland Museum is pleased to be able to fill a gap in its collections with material from the northern North Island. Some of the specimens may be displayed permanently when the

natural history galleries are redeveloped.

Mr Crabtree intends to use the proceeds from the sale of his fossils to pay for helicopter time to bring out more specimens.

Brian Gill



Mr Crabtree holding one of the fossils he has collected and extracted. Photo: J. Oats.

ANTIPODEAN DREAMS: DECORATIVE ART OF NEW ZEALAND

During January and February the exhibition **Antipodean Dreams: Decorative Art of New Zealand** was extremely well attended and delighted visitors from both New Zealand and overseas. The exhibition, which provided an historical view of New Zealand decorative art, gave the public an opportunity to examine and appreciate our artistic traditions. Reflecting on the changing perceptions of the way New

Zealanders viewed their own country, the exhibition specifically included work which identified with the land and its peoples.

Our land has over the years provided a constant source for material used in the decorative arts. Changes in the use and imagery occurred as a result of fashion, industry and other factors. One such example of the changing use of materials was the kauri gum floss worked to imitate a blonde plait, made during the late 19th Century. Contemporary use of New Zealand materials such as bone, stone, and shell were three more examples included to represent the way crafts people have consciously used material of the land.

The adoption of flora and fauna in decorative art was also examined. One significant work borrowed for the

exhibition was the concert harp made by Kim Webby in 1987. He chose to carve the native clematis vine on the pillar of the instrument.

The cultural interaction between the Maori people and those of later arrival was explored using specific examples for comparison. The Maori waka huia made in the early nineteenth century was compared with later examples of less traditional form and style. The most recent example was 'Papa Huia Leaping Temple Cat Dreams of Flight' by Alan Brown in 1989.

Curated by Justine Olsen and Angela Lassig, **Antipodean Dreams**, was developed in response to the historical occasion of 1990, as part of the Commonwealth Festival of the Arts.

Justine Olsen

IAN THWAITES' RETIREMENT

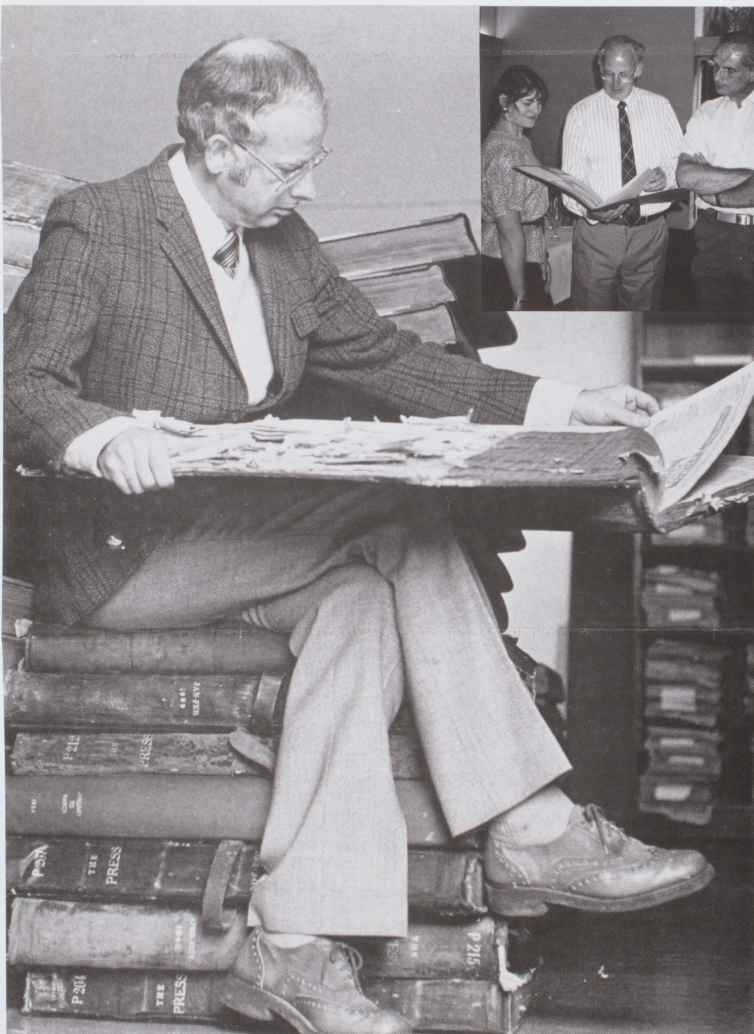
Ian Thwaites, who ably served as Librarian for 19 years, has taken early retirement. He left the museum on the 17th November on a high note after a moving occasion to mark his retirement was held in the supper room.

Ian's popularity and the respect in which he was held was attested by the large attendance of colleagues and friends among the past and present staff and volunteers, some coming considerable distance to share the occasion with Ian and his mother and to bid him a happy

retirement. Tributes were paid to Ian by the Acting Director, Sherry Reynolds, Director Emeritus, Graham Turbott, and a number of people representing different groups who had a particularly close relationship with Ian. These tributes included an original poem by Janice Maitland and a bagpipe solo by Don McGillivray.

Ian was appointed to the position of Librarian after the retirement of Miss Enid A. Evans and came with extensive experience of library work having held the post of Senior Reference Assistant at the General

Assembly Library and previously Assistant at the Alexander Turnbull Library and the Victoria University Library. Ian further developed the library's collections and strengthened its reputation both at home and abroad as a research library of importance. He developed a strong rapport between the library and historical societies and small museums as well as with private individual researchers. Ian also built up a strong force of goodwill in the community that has greatly benefited the Museum.



Ian Thwaites, Librarian sits on part of the 2½ tonne consignment of the Lyttelton Times and Christchurch Press, 1981.

Juliet Hawkins, Ian Thwaites, and Tim Whitman at Ian's farewell function.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

At the Annual General Meeting, Mrs Alice Wylie was elected to Honorary Life Membership of the Auckland Institute and Museum, on the recommendation of the Council. We offer her our congratulations.

Mrs Wylie has been a local authority representative on the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum since she was elected as a representative of the southern metropolitan local authorities in 1973. Her first Council meeting was in September 1973. She has been a local authority representative ever since. Mrs Wylie has been a regular attendee at meetings of the Council and its Committees, and staunch supporter of the Museum, its activities and its ambitions. Her membership of the Auckland Savings Bank Trust Board, and her chairmanship of its grants committee also stood the Museum in very good stead during this time.

As far as we are aware, no local authority representative on the Council has served for longer than Mrs Wylie (except perhaps the Mayor of Auckland, an ex officio member between 1928 and 1979, and no local authority representative on the Council has previously been honoured with Honorary Life Membership.

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 to the Museum.

INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES AND MUSEUM PROGRAMMES

The programme for the year has not yet been finalised, but members can look forward to a interesting and worthwhile programme. The response to the 1989 programme was most rewarding and we look forward to your continued involvement during 1990.

**Wednesday 21st March
1990 1pm.**

THE NATURALISTS OF THE ENDEAVOUR

Professor John Morton

An eminent New Zealand Zoologist, John Morton will focus his address on the remarkable scientific achievements of those on board the *Endeavour* and reflect on the importance of their work to our knowledge of the natural history of New Zealand.

**Thursday 5th April 1990
1pm**

A NATION WITHIN A NATION, THE STATUS OF TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR THE FOURTH WORLD PEOPLES.

Angela V. Russell.

**Legislator, Montana House
of Representatives. U.S.A.**

Ms Russell is a native American Indian (member of the Crow Tribe), who is involved on a number of social programmes in the USA. She is visiting New Zealand to participate in Hui Manawhenua, an international meeting of indigeneous people and advisors to mark the 150th year of the Treaty of Waitangi. Auckland Institute and Museum acknowledges the support given by the United States Information Service in arranging for Ms Russell to address members during her brief visit.

**Tuesday 24th April 1990
1pm.**

POLYNESIAN REGALIA: THE CHIEFS AND THE SEA

**Dr Steven Hooper
Director, Sainsbury
Research Unit, University
of East Anglia, England.**

Dr Hooper is visiting New Zealand as 1990 Auckland University Foundation Visitor. He is presently attached to the Anthropology Department of Auckland University. Dr Hooper's address to members will compare personal adornment from different areas of Polynesia using slides of a number of objects from the Auckland Museum collection.

**Tuesday 29th May 1990
1pm**

LECTURE TO BE GIVEN BY THE JUDGE OF THE FLETCHER CHALLENGE CERAMIC AWARD.

For obvious reasons the name of the judge cannot be advertised until after selection of the winners and exhibition items has been made. However, we can say that the lecture on this date will be delivered by an internationally prominent ceramic artist who will discuss their own work and recent developments.

The Fletcher Challenge Ceramic Award is considered a prestige award and entries are received from all over the world. The exhibition draws a great deal of public attention and both members and the public who regularly attend this annual event will find the lecture of great interest.



MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM

During 1989 students from the Auckland University Music Department delighted members and visitors to the museum with their performances. We are pleased to announce that the concerts will continue during 1990 and take place 12noon-1pm on the first Sunday of each month beginning on the 1st April 1990. Arranged by Coral Bognuda, Senior Lecturer and teacher of the cello, each concert offers a range of music including solo performance as well as chamber and choral groups. The concerts are free and held in the Furniture Hall.