



Museum Quarterly is the official magazine of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. March 2000. Issue 81

Five-year transformation completed

At dawn on 18 December 1999 Auckland War Memorial Museum's five year long refurbishment project came to a triumphant end.

In a moving ceremony representatives of Maoridom – Ngati Whatua and Iwi whose taonga the Museum holds – moved through the darkened building blessing the new displays and the treasures they contain. In each gallery lighting was turned on as the displays were blessed. As the Museum was awakened all those who had gathered outside in the early hours of Saturday morning began to flow into the Museum for their first sight of the new displays.

What greets all visitors to the Museum is a wonderful range of new galleries on the ground floor. And they are

literally full of wonders.

The magnificently restored Maori Court, with its splendid reinstated glazed ceiling now contains a completely redeveloped display of our Maori treasures. More taonga are on display than before, and in cases and settings which present them much more effectively. Importantly, the exhibitions were developed by teams led by Maori and involving Maori throughout the process of displaying and interpreting the treasures of their culture.

On the first floor is the new gallery Te Ao Turoa which presents a Maori understanding of the natural world. This is a first for any New Zealand museum. Te Ao Turoa now forms a fitting first stage on visitors' exploration of our



New Zealand natural history galleries which opened at the beginning of 1999.

Elsewhere on the ground floor other fascinating stories await the visitor. City Gallery tells the story of Auckland's roller-coaster ride towards its current dominant position as our largest city. The stories here are not just those of urban growth; a Peoples Wall presents the stories of Aucklanders whose origins lie in nations and cultures scattered across the face of the globe, and of course our own kiwi garage is a story in itself.

Wild Child Gallery tells other stories, those of kiwi children and of the ways in which their lives were constrained by controls of adults and state. But there was always space between them, and Wild Child's tree house allows visitors to catch a sometimes surprising glimpse of this world of imagination and freedom. A welcome relief after becoming re-acquainted with the school dental "murder house."

Other unexpected delights are also revealed with the opening of the new galleries. These include the beautiful

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Come and celebrate with us...

On Saturday 18 March the Auckland War Memorial Museum will be holding an all day Festival to introduce the public of Auckland to the results of our on-time, under-budget refurbishment programme – three floors of exciting and innovative galleries.

On 18 March the galleries and exhibits will come alive for visitors with a programme of "living treasures" inside and outside the building. This will include cultural performances and hands-on demonstrations, military displays, discovery activities for children, street performers, food stalls, a mystery celebrity MC and a special welcome from the Prime Minister to kick-start the proceedings.

People are encouraged to bring their families and discover the treasures and tales awaiting them in the newly renovated Museum. This special day is both a celebration of the completion of the 5-year, \$43 million refurbishment programme, and a thank you to the people of Auckland for their enthusiasm and continuing support during this time.

The day will begin at 10am with a Maori greeting and a formal welcome by the Prime Minister, and end after sundown with a special performance.

Admission will be FREE to all visitors on this day, so find your way up to the Auckland Museum on 18 March and be a part of the celebration.



FIVE-YEAR TRANSFORMATION COMPLETED
(continued)

and sometimes off-beat Castle Collection of musical instruments; Civilisations, which displays objects from many ancient cultures, and a display of New Zealand furniture from colonial times to Humphrey Ikin.

But for many who visit the Museum, especially after the last five years of dust, noise and closed galleries, the greatest delight will be the Museum as a whole. As the final temporary partitions came down in mid-December, and the Museum could at last be seen in its entirety, it became obvious how splendid the whole Museum has become. The five years of the refurbishment project have at last delivered a Museum worthy of Auckland.

Much of the work done during the project was structural, not visible to someone walking through the galleries. Seismic strengthening has been carried out, air-conditioning installed, services renewed, additional galleries and a new lift have been provided. These developments, necessary but unglamorous, underpin the new Museum. The cleaned and restored exterior provides not only a magnificent showcase for our exhibitions, it also contributes to the preservation of one of our greatest treasures, the magnificent Museum building itself.

Auckland Museum now has its three storeys and three stories complete. The second floor tells the story of all New Zealanders' involvement in war and armed conflict. The first floor tells the story of this land's natural history. The ground floor tells the stories of the waves of people who have inhabited the Pacific and New Zealand. It has taken five years to complete this transformation. The result – for all to see – has been well worth the effort and the wait.

With completion of the refurbishment project we have taken a great step forward in achieving the Museum's vision of being the hub of our culture; a museum Auckland can be proud of, a Museum that is a part of every Aucklanders' life.

Rajah – the rogue elephant

The story of Rajah is a colourful one. It's the story of an elephant who, when alive was considered a rogue, even dangerous; but who in death has become one of Auckland Museum's most loved exhibits.

Rajah's story begins in the 1930s when the Auckland Zoological Park bought the 13-year-old Indian elephant from the Hobart Zoo in Tasmania for £100. Unfortunately, he soon displayed a bad temper and began spitting on the public. Unlike the better-natured elephants at the Zoo, Rajah was never trusted with giving

rides to children.

Contrary to popular belief Rajah never killed a zookeeper, nor injured anyone, but the Zoo was fearful that he could become dangerous. So in the early morning of March 9, 1936 he was shot by a keeper who was experienced in big game shooting.

The Auckland Museum taxidermist, Mr C.W. Dover, spent the next seven months preparing Rajah as a mounted exhibit. The task was a momentous one – Rajah was 2.8 metres tall and weighed 4000kg, and when his skin

was removed it weighed 500kg and was up to 50mm thick.

From October 1936 to March 1994 Rajah was one of the Museum's most popular exhibits. However during his 56 years on display he had begun to deteriorate – the metal in the supporting framework had rusted and the grease in his skin had oxidised. Not to mention the fact that some of the chemicals used in his preparation were now considered hazardous!

In March 1994 Rajah was removed from the Museum and loaned to a prop hire company – Hollywood Props for a career in the theatre. It is believed he was never actually hired to make an appearance!

In 1998 Auckland Museum's new taxidermist David Weatherley became aware of the existence of Rajah and championed his return home. The rarity of elephant skins would provide David with a unique restoration challenge, as it had been believed that Rajah was beyond repair.

Rajah's painstaking restoration took ten weeks and even involved the cleaning of each individual elephant hair!

Rajah's story has now come full circle. The quintessential wild child has returned to the Museum for us all to enjoy – back on permanent display in the new Wild Child gallery.



A skip down memory lane

Presenting a history of childhood in New Zealand over the past 150 years, Wild Child is one of Auckland Museum's newest galleries. With mirroring themes of freedom and restraint, the gallery explores the patterns of play and routine that transformed the wild colonial child of the 1880s into the cherished modern child of the 1950s.

Wild Child is grouped into three important areas of influence on the New Zealand child – the Home, the Schoolroom and the Wild Space in between.

In the wild spaces, children played without restraint and their home-made toys – knucklebones, hoops, spud guns and peashooters – are on display along with some of the games and outdoor pursuits

that have become part of the fabric of New Zealand childhood. Remember hopscotch? Dominating this space is a towering treehouse and Rajah, Auckland Zoo's famous naughty elephant of the 1930s – tempting you to take "the ride of your life"

The Home and Schoolroom areas recreate the life that children led under first parental and then teacher control. From chores around the home and the fantastical lolly shop for spending pocket money; to the familiar school milk and "murder house" scenes of schooldays, New Zealand visitors will find themselves taking a walk down memory lane.

Today's "Cyberkids" are best represented by their bedroom spaces. With their money and

different possessions around them, could this really be the last refuge of the "wild child"?

Wild Child was designed and developed by a team led by historians Margaret and Professor James Belich.



"The murder house".

Auckland Museum Institute



INSTITUTE NEWS

March 2000

Events

All of this programme is at the Museum, 7.30pm, with entry via the front entrance.

Wednesday 15 March

Trouble under the Long White Cloud: Suicide in New Zealand. Simon Hatcher, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, University of Auckland

Simon describes the problem of suicide in New Zealand, and it has changed over the years, how people think about the causes of suicide and what we can do to prevent it.

Tuesday 21 March

Fashion Lecture

The Museum's wonderfully rich dress collection will again be used to illustrate a second lecture on fashion by Angela Lassig, the Assistant Curator of Applied Arts at the Auckland Museum.

A New World: European Fashion in the 20th century.

'Out with the old, in with the new' could be the catchphrase of our century of fashion. A look at the impact of war, new technology and lifestyle change on the dress of our century.

Thursday 23 March

The magic of native plants in garden landscapes.

Rob Lucas, Open Polytech, Wellington (co-hosted by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and the Auckland Museum Institute). Photographer and author Rob Lucas is a strong advocate of the use of New Zealand plants but insists that they be used appropriately and with proper attention to their place in the landscape. He will outline his connection with and interpretation of our New Zealand landscape and will make a plea for the imaginative use of native plants.

Tuesday 4 April

The Heavenly Kingdom. Alma Hromic. The recent conflict "the war-that-was-not-called-a-war" waged upon what remained of

the country once known as Yugoslavia has been a case where history has boiled over, engulfing the region in the sort of conflagration difficult to believe in the dying days of the 20th century. "The Heavenly Kingdom", a talk illustrated by medieval and modern literary quotations as well as shocking pictorial material, provides a cross section of that history which illustrates the roots of the present conflict and establishes its place in the history of the world in a way which has rarely been seen until now. Alma is a scientist and writer – she is the author of four books (poetry, fiction and an autobiography) – and is a well-known literary critic in Auckland.

Tuesday 11 April

Out of the Woodwork – the Art and Life of Jane Brenkley.

Richard Wolfe. Talk to be followed by a brief tour of the Jane Brenkley exhibition. Richard's interest in the overlooked areas of our art history resulted in his 1997 book *All Our Own Work: New Zealand's Folk Art*. This led to the opportunity to curate the Jane Brenkley exhibition at the Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre, Hastings, in 1999. Richard has written eight books – two more are in progress – including two children's books illustrated by his wife Pamela. He has also published a great deal on New Zealand art, popular culture and museological matters.

Wednesday 10 May

Crimebuster bugs. Trevor Crosby. The use of insects and their larvae to provide clues to help solve crime is a fascinating aspect of work done by the

Curator of NZ Arthropods, Landcare (Auckland). The talk will demonstrate how insects, particularly blow flies, provide such forensic clues through an understanding of their biology. Some recent New Zealand examples of the successful use of the "biological clocks" of developing maggots to determine the probable time of death in homicide cases. This lecture is held in conjunction with "Whodunnit? The Science of Solving Crime" exhibition (see below for special members preview).

THIRD QUARTER PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13 June

The use of leeches in plastic surgery – facts and fallacies. Dr Tristan de Chailin, Middlemore Hospital, Auckland.

The Volunteer tradition alive and well at the Museum

Volunteer contributions to the efficient functioning of the Museum are immeasurable. The most visible are the volunteers who participate in the front of house interaction with visitors. Less obvious are the volunteers who work in the departments, collating thousands of individual specimens for future reference and research. Many of these volunteers made significant contributions to the new natural history galleries. They are our unsung heroes. Without them the galleries wouldn't look as impressive as they do. Would you for instance like to clean the bodies out of three hundred mud snails? Noel Gardiner did. When the model maker ran out of time, seven "past retirement age" volunteers made a trip out to Piha to collect real rocks for the exposed rocky shore model climbing round the back of Lion Rock and carrying back a few rocks each. The most difficult

job went to the volunteers who cooked and ate three crayfish, three dozen mussels, and one paddle crab, carefully preserving the shells in the process. Regular marine section volunteers designed displays for some cases. Fiona Thompson designed the echinoderm banner case, Nancy Smith the gastropod and bivalve banner cases. Rae Snedden and Peggy Town prepared the specimens. The late Jim Goulstone provided land snails for the land gallery. Other volunteers such as Mike Eagle and Margaret Morley were given short-term contracts. The galleries are now resplendent in items from their personal collections that just happened to be better than the ones that were available. On those last urgent days before opening, others joined Margaret, Nancy and me gluing specimens on the models, an exacting and physically demanding job. The gallery would



Margaret Morley at work on the Oceans Gallery.

not have happened without them. The generosity of the volunteers continues. Margaret is currently designing the content of the mollusc drawers while Nancy is agonising over the extra protection and labels for the estuary and open sandy beach models. Noel Gardiner has returned to preparing items in the collection for accessioning and Fiona is busy trying to identify obscure seastrays. They are all there, ready to help if needed. *Glennys Stace, Oceans Gallery Co-ordinator*

Tuesday 20 June

Geological development of the SW Pacific. The 2000 Hochstetter Lecture (Geological Society of NZ). Dr Peter Ballance, Auckland University.

Tuesday 11 July

The Information Technology Revolution! What will Alter its Progress? 2000 Rutherford Memorial Lecture. Professor Michael Kelly FRS, FREng, University of Surrey.

Special preview

Friday 28 April, 12-2pm

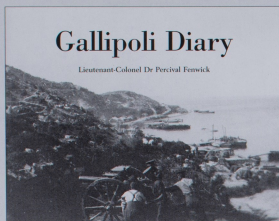
A special members only lunchtime walk-through preview of "Whodunnit? The Science of Solving Crime" exhibition at the Museum. "Whodunnit?" (29 April-23 July 2000) is an interactive exhibition about forensic science aimed largely at children and families, and is supported by the New Zealand Government through the Science and Technology Promotion Fund. Drinks and nibbles will be served.

Field trip

The 5th of March field trip by bus to the Mahurangi Peninsula led by Gordon Ell was very much enjoyed. The 30 participants explored the rich heritage of the area including the history of transport and communication by sea around Warkworth and Sandspit. The Warkworth lime kilns and the Museum and nearby bush walk were highlights. Many thanks go to Gordon Ell.

Sunday 7 May

Matakohe Kauri Museum. A



Gallipoli Diary

Lieutenant-Colonel De Percival Fenwick

In early April the Museum (in association with David Ling Publishing) will publish the personal diaries and photographs of Percival Fenwick, Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services at Gallipoli. The diaries and photographs are from the Library collection and provide a remarkable and moving first-hand account of conditions on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

day out for all the family with lots to see and do at this fabulous museum. A special guided tour by Matakoho Museum staff is included in a discounted \$6 per person charge. Travel, depending on interest, will either be by bus or carpooling, leaving Auckland at 9am. Bring a picnic lunch or alternatively food is available at the Museum. Please RSVP Byrdie Ayres on 309 0443 x883 if you are interested so that transport can be organised accordingly.

Other items

APPOINTMENTS

Late last year Mr Gordon Ell was re-appointed, and Dr Mere Roberts was newly appointed, to the Museum Trust Board for two years. The other current Institute appointees are Mr John Coster and Ms Anne Grace. Ms Glenys Stace and Ms Priscilla Thompson (staff representative) are new

members of the Institute Council.

INSTITUTE WEB PAGES

Keep an eye on the Museum www.akmuseum.org.nz and Royal Society www.rsnz.govt.nz websites for links because the Institute will soon have its own webpages up. The pages will include downloadable membership forms and other documents. Importantly the pages aim to be the place to find information about "What's on?" in Auckland in the sciences and the humanities.

LIBRARY CLOSURE

The Library will be closed from 1 April 2000 until February 2001 (for details see MQ). Members wishing to learn more about the proposed renovations and changes are welcome to contact Library staff. Submissions on the plans close on the 1 April. If there is sufficient interest a meeting with Institute members may be arranged to explain the

changes in detail. Please indicate your interest to Byrdie Ayres on 309 0443 x883.

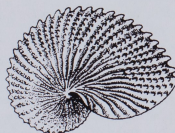
DISCOUNT AT BB'S CAFE AND THE MUSEUM STORE

Some members have enquired about the members' discount at the cafe. The cafe kindly offers discounts on hot beverages. The discount does NOT apply to food or cold drinks.

The Museum Store provides a 10% discount to members.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If possible please renew your membership on the first notice as this reduces administrative costs. Please remember that membership automatically lapses if not renewed within three months of the due date, so do be prompt. Should you know of other people interested in the Museum perhaps you would like to give a gift subscription or suggest that they contact the Institute Administrator for information on becoming a member. Your continued support is much appreciated. Byrdie Ayres can be contacted on 309 0443 x883 Monday through Thursday.



JOIN THE CONCHOLGY SECTION!

The "Shell Club" has a long association with the Museum and was started by the late Dr Powell in 1930. Meetings are currently held every second Tuesday of the month in the staffroom at the Museum. Entry is via the Administration entrance (rear of the Museum) between 7.15 and 7.45pm. Members bring in recent finds or exchanges and help is given with identifications and on where and how to look.

Monthly speakers cover a wide range of topics such as the scientific aspects of shells, marine biology, land snails and conservation topics. Field trips are also arranged throughout the year. Visitors or those interested are most welcome. For further information phone Glenys 415 9930 or Margaret 576 8323.

Ewen Cameron

Auckland Museum moving online

By the end of March 2000 the Auckland Museum will have a new marketing and information tool to help deliver our mission of the "gathering and sharing of knowledge" – an extensive new Internet site.

The site –

www.akmuseum.org.nz – has been designed to educate, inform and entertain, covering areas as diverse as:

- Permanent and temporary exhibitions
- Stuff for Kids, including access to the popular Dinomites Club
- Resources for Schools and Teachers

- A Calendar of Events
- Access to popular products from The Museum Store
- How to become a Museum Volunteer
- A media room containing press release and latest museum images
- General information about the Museum to help you plan a visit.

The internet site will allow interested surfers from all over the world to take a journey inside the finest museum in New Zealand and discover more about the treasures and tales that await them when they next visit.

Library closes for refurbishment

The Library and Pictorial Collections of Auckland War Memorial Museum will be closed for public access from Saturday 1 April 2000, for a complete refurbishment.

"The renovations will provide researchers with more comfortable and modern facilities in the Reading Room, upgrade storage and security for the collections, improve access to the Library from the Museum's second floor galleries and create a gallery for the display of items from the Museum's pictorial collections," said Janice Chong, Manager, Library Services.

While it is planned that the Library will not reopen until February 2001, staff will not be idle during the 11-month closure. They will be busy cataloguing collections (much of this work made possible through the generosity of Institute members through the Library Purposes Fund), undertaking cleaning and conservation work on collections (with funds from the Waldo Heap bequest and from a generous sponsorship from New Zealand Insurance), and collection assessments in a number of areas.

MQ

From the Director

Five years is a long time. Especially for a Museum that has been a construction site while also attempting to maintain and improve its service to its visitors.

Auckland War Memorial Museum's five year long refurbishment project is finally over, and the Board and Staff go into a new year, a new century, a new millennium with a new emphasis and focus on improving programmes and services.

On behalf of the Board and the Management Team I want to thank all the Staff, Consultants and Contractors who have produced such a spectacularly beautiful and exciting Museum. The accolades we have received on comments cards, in visitors books and by personal testimony speak eloquently of the quality of the "new" Museum.

It would be remiss of me not to thank our long suffering public, teachers and tour operators who have persisted in their support for their Museum despite some pretty awful conditions at times. I hope that you feel that your patience has been rewarded.

When the refurbishment project was first scoped it excluded certain maintenance works. With deferred maintenance funding from our contributing Local Authorities, and a grant from the Getty Grant Program of Los Angeles, we have been able to include most of that additional work during the currency of the refurbishment programme.

One significant project in that programme remains to be completed this year and early next however – and that is the Library. On Saturday 1 April we will close the Library to all but essential and critical services as we treat and move collections, restore the Library spaces, introduce mechanical services, build a new gallery for Pictorial Collections (linking the Library with the second floor galleries and Hall of Memories) and restore the elegant Reading Room.

Again we ask for a little patience from Library users as we complete this additional task. In return for that patience, we will deliver to you a better Library, beautiful new reader spaces, and our first gallery for displaying some of our remarkable Pictorial Collections.

In the meantime, join us on March 18 for our Festival Day, thanking Aucklanders for their generous support of all that has happened. And tell your friends, neighbours and visitors to the City what a splendid "new" Museum we have. Best kept secrets are all well and good – but we are not especially anxious to be one.

T.L. Rodney Wilson
Director

Katie Reynolds (nee Pickmere) (1910-1999)

Katie died on Christmas morning. She spent most of her life in Whangarei where she was for many years the acknowledged local botanist. In 1973 she was awarded the Loder cup for her contributions to Northland botany and conservation.

Katie greatly assisted Lucy Cranwell (Curator of Botany) with Auckland Museum's popular Cheeseman Memorial Spring Flower Shows during the 1930s. Katie, helped by her mother, picked plant material from their large Whangarei

garden and railed it down to the Museum. She then stayed with Lucy Cranwell and Lucy Moore in Parnell and helped with the show. Each morning the plants were arranged and each evening they were disassembled into large barrels (borrowed from the breweries) filled with water. The process was repeated each day. In this way the plants were kept fresh for all ten days of the show. In 1938, during Lucy Cranwell's study leave in Hawaii, Katie and Betty Molesworth ran the Cheeseman Flower Show. Katie

loved the sea and was a competent yachtsman, she and her father took the "two Lucies" out to several Hauraki Gulf islands on scientific trips during the 1930s.

She will be remembered as a self-taught botanist with an intimate knowledge of the native plants of Northland that she actively sought to protect. Katie was a great communicator and shared her knowledge with people of all ages over several decades.

Ewen Cameron



Kiwi sporting legends gather on the steps in front of Auckland War Memorial Museum before the 1999 ALAC Sports Awards of New Zealand hosted by the Halberg Trust, on 17 February. All finalists in the Sports Champion of the Century, this illustrious group includes Dame Susan Devoy, Sir Peter Blake, Bert Sutcliffe, Sir Richard Hadlee, the 1987 World Cup winning All Blacks, John Walker and the eventual winner Peter Snell. A unique venue was created especially for this event and the America's Cup Ball, held the previous Saturday night. The purpose-built "glasshouse" was erected in the Domain in the front of the Museum, offering the 1200 guests spectacular views of the Waitemata Harbour and the Museum which was breathtakingly lit for the evening.

What's coming up

Darcy Lange: Maori Land Project

25 Feb–9 April

Over the last twenty years video artist Darcy Lange has been recording events and developments surrounding Maori land issues.

Now he has given much of this archive to the library of the Auckland Museum, and this two-monitor display will present a selection, chosen by the artist, from that archive.

This exhibition will be located on the ground floor between Civilisations and The Castle Collection.

The Whale & Dolphin Adoption Project Seaweed 2000 Lecture

Tuesday 14 March

Nathalie Patenaude will talk about her ongoing research into the population and genetic status of the New Zealand southern right whales, currently being pushed to the verge of extinction as a result of whaling. Nathalie conducts her work at the remote Auckland Islands, a recently declared World Heritage site.

Kirsty Russell will give a lecture on the plight of the North Island Hector's dolphin, recently officially listed as a threatened species. In addition to its extreme rarity, the Hector's dolphin is the world's smallest marine dolphin. An urgent management plan is required to attempt to save these irreplaceable little mammals.

Jane Brenkley: A Path Through the Bush (1882–1973)

18 March–4 June

"Jane Brenkley is acknowledged as one of New Zealand's most stimulating furniture decorators, illustrators and diarists. She has gained a substantial, although somewhat restricted following for her work. She has a prominence within the visual arts community for her truly unique and

intuitive vision. Richard Wolfe is correct when he states that this exhibition has the potential to 'provide due recognition of the achievements of a truly visionary artist'." Louis le Vaillant, Curator of Applied Art, Auckland Museum.

Curated by Richard Wolfe for the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust, the exhibition includes carved and painted domestic furniture, sketchbooks, paintings, needlework and albums. These items are testament to the prodigious talents and output of this true original, as well as a recognition of the distinctive approach of this country's self-taught and intuitive artists, and their alternative to the traditional way of looking at things.

Embroidery displays from the Collections

1 April–2 July

Two small displays of embroidery will be presented to coincide with the major conference Embroidery 2000, being held at the Aotea Centre in early April.

The first, "Embellishments", presents five stunning examples of embroidered garments from the Applied Arts collection and will be located in the Logan Campbell Gallery on the first floor. The other, entitled 'Love from Len', presents a selection from the History collection of momentos of war sent home by New Zealand troops, including the eponymous Len, and will be on view outside the Armoury Information Centre for Scars on the Heart on the second floor.

Anzac Day

25 April

5.30am–6.30am: Dawn Ceremony of Remembrance – Cenotaph

11am–12 noon: Citizen's Service – Cenotaph

12 noon: Museum Opens

12.30pm & 3pm: Performances based on letters from the front and war poetry –

World War II Hall of Memories (approx 15 mins duration)

12pm–5pm: Scars on the Heart – a selection of war artifacts will be available for the public to handle and learn about 12pm–5pm: Historical War films being shown

Admission to the Museum on this day is free to all visitors.

Whodunnit? The Science of Solving Crime

29 April–23 July

Whodunnit? is an exhibition that invites participants to solve a crime using modern forensic techniques. Supported by the Government of New Zealand, through the Science and Technology Fund, the exhibition incorporates scientific and technological skills and activities to give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at the work involved in the detection and solving of crime.

April school holidays in the Discovery Centre

Fun 10-minute activities will be running in Weird and Wonderful and Treasures and Tales from

10am–12 noon and 1.30–3pm every day of the holidays (8–25 April). The cost is just \$2, or \$1 for Dinomites.

Monday: Bridge Making, Light Pictures. **Tuesday:** Postcards, Finger Puppets.

Wednesday: Wand Making, Egyptian Rubbings. **Thursday:** Make a Turtle, Face Painting.

Friday: Badge Making, Paper Poppies. **Saturday:** Wand Making. **Sunday:** Make a Turtle, Crazy Specs.

We will also be running a range of great two-hour workshops which will be advertised at the beginning of April. See your Dinomite magazine for details. Extra free workshops are run exclusively for Dinomite members. These include "Behind the Scenes Tours" of the Museum, and Computer workshops.

The **Dinomites Club** is the Auckland Museum's discovery club for children. Benefits include discounts, a magazine and prior notification of Museum school holiday programmes.

Sand Mandala bestows peace blessing

Recent visitors to the Auckland Museum were held spellbound, watching visiting Tibetan monks create a Chenrezig Sand Mandala for World Peace and Compassion.

A Sand Mandala is a three-dimensional religious picture made of coloured sand, which is laid grain by grain, in a strictly religious design. The team of three monk "artists", from Sera Je Monastery in India, took ten days to create the work of art.

Mandalas are unique to the Tibetan culture. The particular one constructed was a Chenrezig, the Tibetan Deity of Compassion, whom the

Tibetans believe has the ability to help all things at times of need and give protection from natural catastrophe.

Upon its completion, the Mandala was dismantled at a ceremony performed to release the merit that had accumulated during its creation. The sand was then taken to Okahu Bay and released into the waters of the Waitemata Harbour as a blessing for world peace.



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.

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

