



# Auckland War Memorial Museum

# NEWS

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## Welcome New Readers

This issue of the **News** is to be distributed to a wider audience than ever before. The Museum Council discussed last year ways of improving our communication with the local authorities who provide the majority of the Museum's annual income. Council members felt that the **News** would be an excellent medium for keeping local authority members in touch with goings on at the Museum, so we wrote to Town and County Clerks in the Auckland region, asking if they would like copies. The response was rather overwhelming, with some three hundred

copies being asked for. In fact, the response was such that we were caught a little unawares, and found we had not printed enough copies to supply the demand. We've now increased the print run, and this issue will be sent to all those who wanted a copy. We're delighted to have you councillors as new readers, and trust that you will find the **News** both interesting and informative.

The **News** now has a circulation of nearly 2500. These go to our 1900 members, mostly in Auckland but also elsewhere in New Zealand and overseas; to the local authorities mentioned above; to the local authorities mentioned above; to libraries in the region; to museums, art galleries and sister institutions through New Zealand; and to the Museum's eighty staff, keeping them informed about the various activities of "their" Museum.

## Kave Poster

Readers will be aware from previous **News** that Auckland Museum's statue of the goddess Kave from the Caroline Islands has made a considerable impact in the United States on her exhibition tour, first in New York and now in Detroit. As we mentioned last issue, the Museum of Modern Art's Curator Walter Rubin has described Kave as

the greatest piece of tribal art in existence, which is perhaps why she was chosen for use in the poster for the exhibition. Director Stuart Park felt very privileged to be able to attend the opening of the New York showing last September, as the guest of the Museum of Modern Art. He reported that the exhibition "Primitivism in Twentieth Century Art" was most impressive, and Kave was given a central and most prominent display position. Stuart considers himself immensely fortunate to have been able to visit the show, which was an experience he would have liked to have shared with other Aucklanders (but MOMA could only send



one plane ticket). However, he was able to obtain a very limited number of the magnificent exhibition posters, and these are now on sale in the Auckland Museum Shop. If you'd like to own a Kave all your own, and share vicariously in the pleasure of this major exhibition, get along to the Museum Shop quickly, since no more copies will be available after this shipment is sold.

## Council Vacancies

Council is empowered in the event of a vacancy occurring amongst those places filled by representatives of members of the Institute and Museum, to appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting. Following the death of David Robertson, Council has been considering the question, and an appointment is likely to have been made by the time you read this (but after the time we are writing). We'll tell you more about it in the next issue. David's death also left vacant the chairmanship of the Conservation Committee, which considers a wide range of conservation issues which affect the Museum and its interests, and advises Council on appropriate courses of action. Council has been pleased to be able to appoint Joan Robb to the position. Joan is a well known biologist, a former Associate Professor in the Zoology Department of the University of Auckland, and a member of the Institute and Museum Council since her election as a

representative of the members of the Institute in 1977.

Another vacancy on Council has occurred recently.

Councillor S F Smythe has been a Northcote Borough Councillor, who was elected in 1983 to represent Northcote and Devonport Boroughs and the Cities of Birkenhead and East Coast Bays on the Museum Council. Unfortunately, pressure of his many duties caused Stephen Smythe to have to resign his seat on the Northcote Council, which automatically results in his resignation from the Institute and Museum Council. Stephen has made a very useful contribution to the work of the Museum during his term with us, and the Museum Council has expressed its gratitude to him for his service.

The Museum Act requires that this vacancy is filled in the same manner as it was originally, so an election is currently underway, involving the four local authorities concerned. Each is entitled to make one nomination for the position, and if more than one nomination is received, the individual councillors of each authority will vote to determine the representation.

John Seabrook's death caused a vacancy on-

the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board. Three members of the Board are appointed by Council under the terms of the Auckland Museum Endowment Act 1882, with the other three being elected by the members of the Institute and Museum. Since Mr Seabrook was a Council appointee, Council was able recently to fill the vacancy by appointing Mr W A Laxon to the Trust Board. Mr Laxon has been a members' representative on the Council since 1979, and is currently chairman of the Finance Committee. Bill is a lawyer with Brandon, Brookfield, Towle and Beyer; Council was sure his experience in commercial law would be of benefit to the Trust Board.

For all of you who have been confused or amused by all this talk of representatives, Council, Trust Board, Acts and their interrelationship, we can only apologise by saying that the structure of the Institute and Museum and its controlling authorities is indeed a complicated one, reflecting a long development over the years since the Museum was founded in 1852. What is important is that it works, providing the Museum with an effective and widely representative administering body.



Second Lieut. John Seabrook in Royal Flying Corps uniform, WWI. (Museum Library Photograph).

## Obituaries

The Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum recently received with sadness news of the deaths of three members or former members of the Council.

### Jack Seabrook

Mr John Seabrook died on 8th January 1985. Mr Seabrook joined the Institute and Museum in 1939, became a Life Member in 1956 and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1964. Mr Seabrook served in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, and was awarded the Air Force Cross. He was active in the fundraising for the erection of the War Memorial Museum after World War One, and served as a member of the Auckland War Memorial Committee to raise funds for the additions to the Museum building to commemorate the province's dead of World War Two; he was also Chairman of the Citizen's Committee to raise funds for the Auditorium to complete the project in 1969.

Mr Seabrook was appointed to Council in March 1956, and served continuously as a Council member for twenty-three years; he was President from 1960 to 1964, and was subsequently Vice-President for nine years. He was Chairman of the Finance Committee throughout his Presidency, and the passing of the Auckland War Memorial Museum Maintenance Act 1963 was a personal triumph for Mr Seabrook, whose leadership and efforts in approaching local authorities had contributed greatly towards the support necessary for the success of the Bill. The 1963 Act laid a secure foundation for the museum's finances for fifteen years, and is the base from which the Museum's present empowering Act was developed. Mr Seabrook retired from the Council in 1979. He had been elected to membership of the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board in 1963, and he still occupied that position at his death.

In Jack Seabrook, Auckland Museum has lost one of its staunchest and longest standing members.

### David Robertson

David Robertson died suddenly on 27th January 1985. David became a Life Member of the Institute and Museum in 1952, and was elected to Council in 1967. He had served on Council continuously since that time, taking a full and active part in the affairs of the Institute and Museum. He had been Chairman of the Conservation Committee of Council since 1970, and was a hardworking participant in that and the Institute Committee. He was one of the first group of volunteer guides to be trained at the Museum, and his regular and enthusiastic presence as a guide and at Council will be sadly missed.

### Mr Henry Campin

A former member of Council, died on 3rd January 1985. Mr Campin served as a Local Authority representative on the Auckland Institute and Museum Council for twelve years from 1963 until 1974. Mr Campin was a former Chief Inspector of Police who, as a New Lynn Borough Councillor was four times elected as one of six representatives of metropolitan local authorities on the Museum Council. His work in the interests of the Museum is remembered with gratitude.

## Volunteer Guides

The Museum's loyal and hardworking group of volunteer guides have been very busy over the summer coping with our large influx of visitors. They were particularly busy coping with busloads of tourists from several cruise liners which called at the Port of Auckland over the summer, but they've also been guiding much smaller parties of interested visitors, from New Zealand as well as from overseas. We can't overwork our guides, and we have also had a lot of interest from people wanting to train as guides. So here's your opportunity.

The next training session for Volunteer Guides at the Museum will be held on Saturday mornings at 9am, starting on Saturday, 27th April and running for twelve



## Institute Lecture

The first lecture in the annual series we arrange for members and the general public will be the 1985 Rutherford Lecture of the Royal Society of New Zealand, to be held in the Museum Auditorium at 8 pm on Tuesday, 16th April.

The Rutherford Lecture is given every three years. The Rutherford Lectures were established by the Royal Society of New Zealand to honour the life and work of the late Sir Ernest Rutherford, the distinguished New Zealand physicist. The Lecturer this year is a distinguished British physicist, Professor R.J. Elliott. The title for the lecture is Computing in Physics, Theory or Experiment. Professor Elliott is a recognised authority in this field, and in addition is a very good lecturer. Do come along and listen to this distinguished scientist.

The next lecture in the series will be given on Monday 27th May, again at 8 pm in the Auditorium. The Museum's Marine Biologist Brett Stephenson will be discussing and showing slides of his fieldwork in the Antarctic. Brett spoke late last year to a group of the Museum's Volunteer Guides and they were so enthusiastic about the interest in his talk, and the excellence of his slides that we made him an irresistible offer to address our meeting in May.

Full details of the remainder of the year's programme, and your Syllabus card will be mailed to you shortly.

weeks. Would-be guides will be offered training in a wide range of museum subjects, so that they are equipped to guide anywhere in the Museum. Training sessions will last about an hour and a half, with curators for each section of the Museum discussing the displays and providing information and suggestions for further reading. We don't assume any special knowledge in those we train (though if you have a specialist interest you're doubly welcome) — all we ask is an enthusiasm for the Museum and for guiding, and a commitment to participate as fully as possible in the training programme, and to offer yourself as a guide periodically after you've completed the course successfully (which we're sure you will). You can enrol for the training course simply by coming along to the Museum (entry through the front door) on Saturday, 27th April, or if you like you can write to the Museum Director, Stuart Park at the Museum (Private Bag, Auckland) before the course, telling a little about yourself and your interests. We look forward to seeing you, and any friends or acquaintances who are interested.

## Gallipoli Photos

A most important and other material campaign has been made by Mr Fenwick, Assistant Services for the Division at Gallipoli the first boat of the at Gallipoli on 1915. The material sixty stereoscopic negatives, of Gallipoli a most detailed and represent the photographs of collections. Mr Fenwick's copy of his father's an important source aspects of the campaign had for many years made by Colonel Fenwick delighted and made this most significant gift.

## Whiteheads on Lillies Barri

Auckland Museum association with the 1980s and the Museum and agitating for its bird sanctuary, the period when the Austrian naturalist catch specimens (Island!) Now Dr Ornithologist, has of Whiteheads c

The Whitehead bird restricted to be confused (Silvereye) which widespread. The



## Gallipoli Photographs

A most important collection of photographs and other material related to the Gallipoli campaign has recently been donated to the Museum by Mr C Fenwick of Christchurch. Mr Fenwick's father was Lt Colonel P C Fenwick, Assistant Director of Medical Services for the New Zealand and Australia Division at Gallipoli. Colonel Fenwick was in the first boat of New Zealanders to go ashore at Gallipoli on April 25th 1915, and he served there until invalided off sick on June 15th 1915. The material donated includes some sixty stereoscopic photographs, with their negatives, of Gallipoli and Egypt. They give a most detailed view of life in Anzac Cove, and represent the most detailed collection of photographs of Gallipoli in the Museum's collections. Mr Fenwick also presented a copy of his father's ANZAC Diary, which is an important source for understanding aspects of the campaign. The Museum has had for many years a model of Gallipoli made by Colonel Fenwick, and we are delighted and most grateful to be able to add this most significant donation to the earlier gift.



Godley Terrace, the headquarters dugouts of the New Zealand and Australian division. The officers' mess is on the left, with the table set for tea.

## Whiteheads on Little Barrier

Auckland Museum has had a long association with Little Barrier Island. During the 1980s and earlier the Auckland Institute and Museum administered the island after agitating for its purchase by the Crown as a bird sanctuary. (Ironically, this followed a period when the Museum had employed Austrian naturalist Andreas Reischek to catch specimens for the Museum on the Island!) Now Dr Brian Gill, the Museum Ornithologist, has started a long-term study of Whiteheads on Little Barrier Island.

The Whitehead is a sparrow-sized native bird restricted to North Island forests and not to be confused with the White-eye (or Silvereye) which is common and widespread. The Whitehead is extinct north

of Hamilton except on Little Barrier Island where it is the commonest species. Elsewhere it is restricted to Kapiti Island and dense forests of the central North Island mountain chains. The study on Little Barrier involves catching Whiteheads in mist-nets and marking them with individual combinations of coloured leg-rings. The marked birds are then released and observed.

This banding programme received a boost from the co-operation of Dick Veitch, local Wildlife Service Officer (and a life member of the Institute and Museum). In August last year Dick arranged to catch 30 Stitchbirds on Little Barrier for transfer to Kapiti Island. With 60 mist-nets in operation and 15 people in attendance this was perhaps the most intensive mist-netting effort ever attempted in New Zealand forest. In just two days nearly 400 birds of all species were caught and 72 Whiteheads were marked and released. Our photo shows Brian Gill (left), Dick Veitch (right) and an assistant processing birds at the main banding station. Dick is holding a male Stitchbird.

A grant to the museum from the New Zealand Lottery Board Scientific Research

Distribution Committee enabled an ornithologist, Ian McLean, working with Brian Gill, to spend October 1984 to January 1985 on the island studying the breeding of Whiteheads. After a season of painstaking searching some 50 nests have been found and another 70 Whiteheads, including young birds, were banded. Much new information on this little-known species has now been collected including proof that Whiteheads breed communally — extra birds help the breeding pair to raise the young. This is an unusual phenomenon which currently attracts great interest among ornithologists. Future work will focus on the nature and extent of communal breeding in Whiteheads. We'll keep you informed as the project proceeds.

## Conservation Survey

Museum Conservator Gerry Barton has been appointed Regional Co-ordinator for New Zealand by the Working Group of Ethnographic Materials of the Conservation Committee of ICOM (the International Council of Museums).

The aim of the Working Group is to develop a programme which ethnographic conservators around the world can relate to and in which they can participate. To this end the Regional Co-ordinators are compiling a survey of ethnographic museums and of those working in the field of ethnographic conservation in each region. The surveys are to be published in the Working Group's first newsletter in 1985. From this material and from a more comprehensive survey to be undertaken later, an international programme specifically related to conservation problems of ethnographic materials will be launched.



## Te Maori

As well as Kave, another Auckland Museum object is also featuring on posters in America at the moment. The face from the Pukeroa gateway is being used as the principal image promoting the exhibition **Te Maori**, which recently opened in St Louis after its successful season in New York. Stuart Park tried to obtain copies of this poster for sale here too, but only a handful were available — one has pride of place in the Director's office, and another hangs in the corridor near the Council Room.

Council has recently agreed to a request to extend the tour of **Te Maori** for a further four months in the USA to allow an additional showing in Chicago, after St Louis and San Francisco. The request was not agreed to

lightly, and permission was only given after satisfactory assurances were received that all the security, insurance, conservation and handling requirements for Chicago would be of the same high standards as have prevailed at the other venues. The request from the Field Museum, one of the greatest ethnographic and natural history museums in the world, was conveyed to the Museum through the New Zealand Government Committee which has had oversight of the exhibition from the beginning. The Committee advised the Museum that the necessary consents to the extension of the tour had been obtained from the relevant Maori tribal groups, and this was also an important factor in Council's approving the extension.

No decisions have yet been made concerning the showing of **Te Maori** in New Zealand after its return from Chicago. It is strongly hoped that once formalities for the

Field Museum have been finalised, the Government Committee will turn its attention promptly to making the necessary arrangements for the New Zealand tour.

One final point about **Te Maori**. We've all been pleased to see how successful it was in New York. The exposure it received at the Metropolitan Museum, in the American newspapers and broadcasting media, and in magazines like **Time** and **National Geographic** has raised high the mana of New Zealand, the Maori people and the lending museums. But it's worth noting that the exhibition itself was viewed by 208,000 visitors in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. During the same period that **Te Maori** was in New York, 226,000 visitors came to Auckland Museum, and saw our major collection of Maori art and culture (minus of course the fifty-one pieces which we lent to **Te Maori**).

## Zero Study

The Museum continually receives visits from scholars and scientists from all over the world, coming to pursue their research by studying objects in our collections. These studies are usually concerned with the natural history, ethnology or archaeological collections, but recently we had a visit from a rather more unusual study team. Flight Lieutenant Wayne Scholz and Flight Sergeant Dennis Doggett are members of the Mitsubishi Zero Restoration Team of the Royal Australian Air Force, based at the RAAF School of Technical Training at Wagga Wagga in New South Wales. As a spare time project, the Zero Restoration Team is involved in a major project to restore to original condition a Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero aircraft, using components from three wrecked aircraft which have been recovered in recent years from Pacific Island battle sites. Their restored aeroplane will be displayed at the Australian War Memorial Canberra. Even using the three wrecks, however, some parts are still missing, and so the team arranged for Messrs Scholz and Doggett to spend several days in Auckland, closely examining the World War II A6M3 Zero in Auckland Museum. Our aircraft is almost complete, and is potentially in a flyable condition. The Australians were thus able to study important details at first hand, measuring and photographing many aspects of the aircraft. They examined especially those parts lacking from their own machines, and recorded details which will enable them to make replica parts to complete their Zero.

As is often the case when experts come to work on the Museum collections, we benefited considerably from the visit. Firstly, the two airmen examined the Zero closely, and were able to report that it is basically in very good condition with minimal and superficial corrosion only. They were able to comment on one or two missing parts of our



*Auckland Museum's Zero after its discovery at the edge of Japanese Kara airfield on Bougainville Island. It was tested by New Zealand ground engineers and flown north to the RNZAF HQ. Later it was shipped to New Zealand on USS Company "Wahine".*

plane, and suggest ways in which these missing parts (such as the pilot's seat, and covers for the undercarriage) might be obtained. They also suggested a way of solving a longstanding puzzle. Following up clues given by the Australians, local Zero researcher Peter Lewis was able to determine that the one in Auckland Museum is composed in fact of two original machines. Presumably, aircraft shortages during the War led the Japanese to put together parts of two damaged planes to make one operational aircraft. Just when this happened is not currently known. As well as these specific benefits, the visit enabled Auckland Museum staff to co-operate

closely with the visitors, and the goodwill created will inevitably be of value in the future.

Because of continuing high interest in the Zero from our many visitors, and in particular from Japanese visitors, the Museum has recently produced a postcard of the aeroplane. We expect this will be in keen demand, especially since its caption has been printed in both English and Japanese. This is another example of the bilingual labelling that has been introduced in parts of the Museum, because the Japanese represent the largest group of non-English readers who visit the Museum.

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 of the Museum.

