



**Auckland
War Memorial
Museum**

NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
Private Bag, Auckland. Phone (09) 30-443
Registered at Post Office Headquarters ISSN 0111-994X

**Number Nineteen
September 1984**

Roger Green Honoured

One of our members, Professor Roger Green of the Anthropology Department of the University of Auckland has recently been elected a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences. Professor Green is an American by birth, but has been involved in archaeology in New Zealand and the Pacific for many years. He has been Professor of Prehistory at Auckland University since 1973. Roger was the first James Cook Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, a Fellowship he held at Auckland Museum between 1969 and 1973. He has been a member of the Institute and Museum since 1958, and was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1975. The National Academy of Sciences was established by Act of Congress under Abraham Lincoln's Presidency in 1863. It is an organisation of distinguished scientists concerned with the furtherance of science and its use for human welfare, which acts as an advisory body to the United States Government on request. The Auckland Institute and Museum Council resolved at a recent meeting to tender its sincere congratulations to Professor Green on the award of this high and richly deserved honour.

Letter to the Editor

We don't usually publish "Letters to the Editor" (we don't usually receive any!) but we thought the following letter from an Institute member draws attention to a matter of concern.

"Dear Mr Park

Last night I attended the museum lecture on "Pregnancy by Proxy" by Dr F.M. Graham. This talk was arranged by the Medical Association for our evening series.

What a good lecture it was — illustrating new medical treatments for infertility and stating the need for necessary legislation.

But hardly anybody came! Just two medical doctors, about 15 Museum members and about 20 visitors — for a hall seating 500. An embarrassing state of affairs for speaker, organisers and audience.

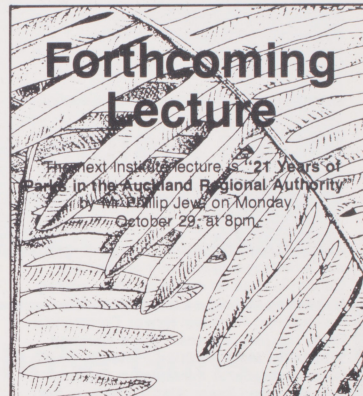
These evening lectures have been an important part of Museum Activities for a long time. It will be a pity if they have to stop because of poor attendances. I hope more Institute and Museum members and friends will come in

the future. Most of these talks are very interesting.

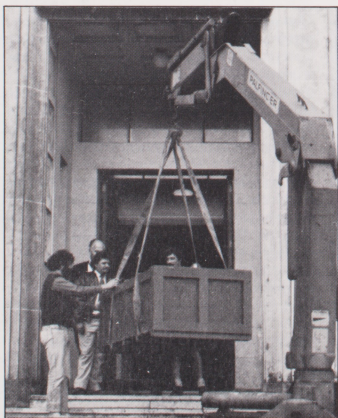
Yours sincerely

David Robertson"

He has a point. Do members have any comments?



New York Exhibitions



(left)
The statue of the goddess Kave leaves the Museum en route to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Museum Conservator Karel Peters accompanied the consignment as courier. Both Karel and Kave arrived safely, we are pleased to report.



As well as our peripatetic conservators, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, another overseas traveller is our Director, Stuart Park. Stuart will be attending the opening of the exhibition "Primitivism in 20th Century

Art" as the guest of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. This show at MOMA is the one to which Auckland Museum has lent the wooden statue of the goddess Kave from Nukuoro in Micronesia. Members will know from an earlier **News** that former staff member Leo Cappel has made a replica of that statue, which is being shown in the Pacific Hall during the absence of the original. Stuart is delighted to be able to attend the opening of the exhibition, especially since Kave, who holds a special place in our affections, is to be featured as a central piece in the exhibition. She is shown on the poster which publicises the exhibition, a limited number of copies of which we hope to be able to have for sale in the Museum Shop.

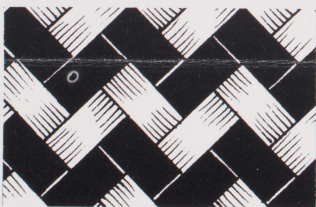
The Museum Council has been pleased to offer Stuart some additional financial support which will enable him to travel to New York a little earlier. This will enable him also to attend the opening of the exhibition **Te Maori**, the travelling exhibition of the art heritage of the Maori people, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Since Auckland Museum is the largest single contributor to this exhibition, Council felt it most appropriate that the Museum should be represented at the opening.

Council Elections

As Members have already been advised, when nominations closed on August 20th, only two nominations had been received for the two vacancies on the Museum Council. Professor Ralph Bulmer and Mr Dick Sibson were both renominated to the positions from which they were retiring, and no other nominations were received, so they will be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting. Our congratulations to them. This result means that the Council of the Institute and Museum will remain unchanged in membership for the 1984-5 year. Members of the Council are: President: Russell Thomas; Vice-Presidents: Graeme Frater, Sheila Weight; Past President: Lindo Ferguson; Representatives of Members of the Institute and Museum: Peter Brook, Ralph Bulmer, Mary Clark, Harold Coop, Bill Laxon, Murray Print, Joan Robb, David Robertson, John Rogers, Fergie Schischka and Dick Sibson. Representatives of Local Authorities: Murray Bennett, H.L. Bioletti, R.J. Grant, Bill Haresnape, K.G. Hyland, Sefulu Ioane, Ian MacKinlay, Ian McKinnon, Colleen McMurchy, Peg Phillips, Marie Quinn, John Rosser, Stephen Smythe, and Alice Wylie.

Maori Plaiting Patterns

Special Display Assistant Mick Pendergrast, who's helping with the work on the Maori Gallery, is quite an expert on Maori plaiting and netting techniques (we showed him making a net in the last **News**). Coromandel Press has just published Mick's **Raranga Whakairo: Maori Plaiting Patterns**, which is now available at the Museum Shop, as well as in the Library. Also available in the Shop are a series of cards incorporating some of the designs — we illustrate one here.



The book is a fascinating record of the plaiting patterns and techniques used by Maori kit makers in many parts of the country. Mick has carried out extensive field work to record and document the work of these skilled craftspeople. During some of this field work he collected kits for the Auckland Museum collection, many of which are included in the book. It is envisaged that the book will be an invaluable resource for kit makers now and in the future, but additionally one exciting aspect is that these fascinating designs are presented in a way that makes them available to people working in a wide range of crafts — already several keen knitters on the Museum staff are exploring the possibilities in that medium.

Grinding Ahead

Display work in the Maori Gallery has been literally "grinding ahead" recently. The first artefact in the new display area has just been installed (the Moriori displays mentioned in the last **News** and this one are adjacent to the new area, not part of it). The hoanga (sharpening stone) is possibly the largest and certainly the heaviest single object to be displayed in the West Gallery. We don't have precise estimates (huge! was all those who moved it would say), but it's about 2 metres in diameter by half a metre thick, and probably weighs a tonne and a half. Previously shown in the central gallery next to the house **Hotunui** the stone has probably not been moved since it first came into the Museum in 1928. The recent shift was masterminded by the Display department, with assistance from the carpenters of Hayden and Rollett, the contractors undertaking the construction of the Gallery. Although only a short journey in distance, the move took two days and involved two flights of steps. These were overcome by means of timber levers and rollers — the staff involved now firmly

believe that this is how the Egyptian Pyramids were built. The hoanga was used by the old-time Maori to sharpen stone tools. Its surface is deeply scored by grooves resulting from the sharpening of myriad adzes and other tools. Originally from Matata in the Bay of Plenty, the hoanga was placed in the Museum for safekeeping by the Arawa people in 1928. The huge stone will now become a focal point of the new gallery. From the seating which will be provided around its octagonal base visitors will be able to view, in comfort, many of the other features of the Gallery. While the shifting operation aroused considerable interest from members of the public in the Museum at the time, one comment was particularly noteworthy. Unaware of the significance of the hoanga, one small lad confessed to the straining Display Department staff that he thought its deep grooves were "claw marks made by bears"! We are confident that the completed display of the stone will remove any such misapprehensions.



Staff News

We wrote in the last **News** of several departures and arrivals of members of the Museum staff. One we didn't mention, because we were waiting to obtain the accompanying photograph, was the retirement of John McCaw and his replacement by Juliet Hawkins. John McCaw was the earliest serving member of the current museum staff, except Director Emeritus Graham Turbott, having begun his work at the Museum in 1954. John was Artist—Technician to the Museum Education Service, involved in making and distributing to schools artefacts, models and display materials designed as an adjunct to the Education Service's work with children at the Museum. The Museum now distributes display material to over 400 schools throughout Auckland city and province from Te Kao to Opotiki to Turangi and Te Kuiti involving over 1500 individual loans each year. Almost all of these were the work of John McCaw. The responsibility for continuing this scheme, and assisting the further development of teaching materials for use by

visiting school classes now falls to John's replacement, Juliet Hawkins. Juliet holds a diploma in graphic design from the Auckland Technical Institute and comes to us after working for four years in ceramic design with Ceramco. She has settled in rapidly to her work at the Museum, and is already producing some very useful material. Our photo shows Juliet at work in the Museum's Hall of Man, sketching artefacts for illustrations to be used in teaching materials. Mention was made in the last **News** that the director's Secretary Gaye Powell was taking maternity leave following the birth of her son Gerome. Gaye has now decided that the lad requires rather more of her time than she had anticipated, so she will not be returning to work at the Museum, in the meantime at least. We're all very sorry to see her go, and hope that it will be possible for her to rejoin the Museum staff at some future date. Gaye's place has been taken by another Gaye, Mrs Gaye Nicholson. We're delighted to welcome her to the Museum.

Matron Blewett Badges

The Museum was as a bequest from Blewett her nursing badges as a New Nurse, a New Zealand Nurse, and importantly, received her nursing badge number 1 — Maori nurse to graduate Auckland Hospital. It is delighted to be able to give its quite extensive nursing badges, both civil

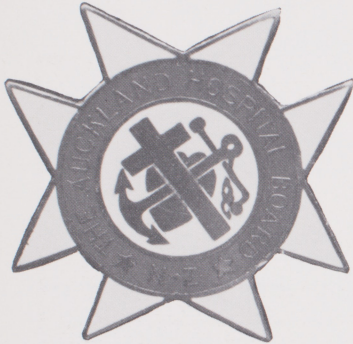


Conservation Conference

In August, both the Karel Peters and overseas to attend conferences. The papers to the ethnographic Conservation Conference of the Council of Museums in New Zealand. Gerry will be discussing the conservation work being done on redeveloped Maori polychrome Maori artefacts. We describe the conservation work on the Moriori dendrology in the Chatham Islands. The conservation work is the result of a project carried out in Auckland. The redevelopment of the museum and the preparation of the exhibition. While overseas, we also visit other museums to see their facilities to keep their collections. We are also looking at developments in museum storage.

Matron Blewett's Badges

The Museum was proud recently to receive as a bequest from the late Matron Annie Blewett her nursing badges. These are her badges as a New Zealand Registered Nurse, a New Zealand Registered Midwife, and importantly, her badge as a nurse who received her nursing training at a nurse who received her nursing training at Auckland Hospital. This badge is marked with the number 1 — Matron Blewett was the first nurse to graduate after training with the Auckland Hospital Board. The Museum is delighted to be able to add these badges to its quite extensive collection of medals and badges, both civil and military.



Conservation Conference

In August, both the Museum's conservators, Karel Peters and Gerry Barton left to travel overseas to attend conservation conferences. They will both deliver research papers to the ethnographic section of the Conservation Committee of the International Council of Museums, ICOM. Gerry will be discussing the work he has been doing on red overpainting of polychrome Maori carvings, while Karel will describe the conservation treatment of the Moriori dendroglyphs (tree carvings) from the Chatham Islands. Both research papers are the result of conservation work being carried out in Auckland Museum as part of the redevelopment of the Maori displays, and the preparation of artefacts for inclusion in the exhibition **Te Maori**. While overseas, both Karel and Gerry will also visit other museums and conservation facilities to keep themselves abreast of new developments in conservation, and to look at museum storage techniques.

Volunteer Guides

Members will know of the successful Volunteer Guide scheme at the Museum. Our first intake of trainee guides successfully completed their training at the end of last year, and are now very experienced in guiding visitors around the Museum. A second group of trainees recently completed the training course arranged by the Museum staff, and were presented with their distinctive Volunteer Guides badges at a very informal "graduation" ceremony at the Museum. These latest guides have now entered fully into the guiding programme, and like their

earlier colleagues may now be seen hard at work guiding in the Museum. Guides are available at the Museum almost every day — to be certain you can book a tour by phoning the Museum a few days in advance. Tours are very flexible in length and subject, being tailored very much to the wishes of those being guided. Our photograph shows new Guide Robyn Mills receiving her badge from Museum Director Stuart Park. Robyn, who described herself as "just a housewife" when she started the training course can now add "Museum Volunteer Guide" to her list of accomplishments.



What Are Those Guns ?

Some of you may already know, but we suspect that many people are as ignorant as the Museum's Director was about the origin and history of the two guns below the Cenotaph at the front of the Museum. John Wadham, the Museum's curator of Military History told the story of the guns to a recent training session for the volunteer guides, and we're delighted to be able to print it here to let you in on the secret.

In 1909, the New Zealand Government offered to pay for a "First Class Battleship of the latest type" to aid the British Navy in its attempts to counter the growing menace of the German navy. It must have been quite an effort for the infant colony to raise the cost, but the ship was built, and launched in 1911 as H.M.S. **New Zealand**. When the cruiser visited New Zealand in 1913 she was given a tremendous welcome, with civic dinners and the presentation of numerous plaques and other gifts.

H.M.S. **New Zealand** took part in every action in the North Sea during the First World War. In the Battle of Jutland in 1916 she was hit by a German 11 inch shell, on one of her gun turrets, the only hit she received during the whole conflict. Mr F.W. Ablett, who was with the ship from the time of her commissioning until the end of the War, presented the Museum with the base plate of that shell in 1966.

When the ship was scrapped in 1921, following the Washington Naval Treaty, New Zealand was offered the armament. The heavy guns were declined, but the fourteen 4 inch guns were accepted. Two of these were mounted in front of the Museum shortly before the opening of the building in 1929. They were placed on the grass banks immediately across the road from the entrance, and can be clearly seen in many photographs of the opening of the building, now in the Museum Library.

Just ten years later, in 1939, they were removed, refurbished, and brought back into operating condition for use in the Auckland Harbour defences being mobilised after the outbreak of the Second World War. They were apparently installed at Narrow Neck to guard the approaches to the City. In 1951, they were offered back to the Museum, and were eventually mounted in their present position on either side of the car park.

As well as these guns, the Museum has a number of other objects on display related to H.M.S. **New Zealand**. There is a scale model of the cruiser, dog collars of its mascot Pelorus Jack, the base plate of the shell presented by Mr Ablett, a cap ribbon, three silver plaques presented to the ship's engine room by the City of Auckland in 1913 and a searchlight from the ship.

So now you know.

AGMANZ

The Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand is the professional organisation which represents New Zealand's museums and their personnel. Auckland Museum has been a member of the Association since its inception in 1948, and many members of staff and Council past and present have belonged to AGMANZ. The Association is involved in supporting and improving the work of New Zealand's museums in many areas of their work. It assists the Minister of Internal Affairs in advising the Lottery Board of Control on grants for capital development of museum buildings. AGMANZ organises and administers the only professional museum training scheme available in New Zealand, to allow museum personnel to raise their professional standards. It publishes a quarterly magazine, with news and articles of professional interest.

At its Annual Meeting in April, the Association elected Auckland Museum Director Stuart Park to the position of President of AGMANZ. Our congratulations are extended to him, and also to Sherry Reynolds, our Museums Liaison Officer, who was elected to the Council of the Association. Sherry has also been appointed recently to the Board of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, where we are sure her experience with museums and historic places throughout the north and her active interest in historical heritage will be of greatest benefit to the Trust.

Shell Bulletin

Auckland Museum has recently published a further volume in its **Bulletin** series. "Systematics of the Family Nassariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda)" is the result of several years' research into this shellfish family by the Museum's Malacologist Walter Cernohorsky. The book sets out the basic classification of the shells, based on Walter's examination of literally thousands of shells, in the collections of Auckland Museum and other museums worldwide.

The monograph has been keenly awaited by shell specialists throughout the world, since Walter's work on this subject is widely renowned. Council members had the opportunity to examine the work at a recent meeting, and were warm in their praise of this important work. The **Bulletin** is not designed for a popular audience (the results of scientific work like this are conveyed to a general public through the Museum's displays and other publications), but members who would like to see a copy may do so in the Museum Library. Members who do wish to purchase a copy may do so either from the Library or from the Museum Shop. The Museum is very grateful for a grant from the New Zealand Lottery Board which has greatly assisted in the publication of this **Bulletin**.

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.

Ka-Hatitimatangi eneti — behold Hatitimatangi

The Moriori display has now been installed, as the first of the new displays in the Maori Gallery — we showed a photograph of it in **News 18**. In pride of place is the Moriori god figure, to whom we can now give the name **Hatitimatangi** (right).

In the late 1860s Tapu Te Hirawanu, a Moriori elder, wrote down much material on Moriori traditions for Samuel Deighton, a captain in the militia guarding Te Kooti and the Hauhau prisoners. Tapu's manuscript which is now in the Turnbull Library in Wellington is written in Moriori and Maori.

Study by Ethnologist Dave Simmons has shown how Tapu Te Hirawanu describes Hatitimatangi as the great god of the Moriori. His task was to care for the spirits of the Moriori while they were alive and to guard their spirits after death whether this occurred peacefully or suddenly. He thus had a place in the funerary ritual of the Moriori. Hatitimatangi as a name describes the function of the god. It means "the life force standing in the wind", a sort of catcher in the sky.

The wooden figure in Auckland Museum is the only wood sculpture known from the Chathams. It was originally removed from a cave in Tupurangi near Owenga by James Ritchie. We can however compare it with Moriori pumice carvings of skeletal figures and with the skeletal moai kavakava figures used in funerary rituals in Easter Island.

You may think the Moriori people no longer exist. Te Rehe, also known as Tommy Solomon, was often referred to as "the last of the Morioris": he died in 1934. However, his grandson visited the Museum recently and was shown the Moriori display during its construction. Other Moriori descendants have been in touch with the Museum and Ethnologist Dave Simmons as part of the renaissance of Moriori culture which is occurring in the Chathams.



Subscriptions

A gentle reminder to Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions. We'd love to hear from you soon.

Museum Shop and Coffee Lounge

Those of you who visited the Museum Shop a few weeks ago would have noticed that all was chaos. The Shop has been undergoing a period of refurbishing, to replace worn out fittings such as the carpet. The Museum Council was also concerned to ensure that the Shop facilities keep abreast of the changing needs of Museum visitors, and therefore made provision to carry out some other improvements at the same time. Shop Manager Myra Alexander and her staff had rather a difficult time, trying to keep the Shop open as much as possible so as not to disappoint would be customers, whilst still allowing the contractors to carry out their tasks without hindrance. We're pleased to be able to report that all is now restored to normality, and judging by the comments we have received you share our opinion that the

alterations have been a great improvement. Council has also made provision to carry out some alterations and refurbishing in the Museum Coffee Lounge. These have now been planned in detail, and will take place in October. At that time the Coffee Lounge itself will be closed, but Lounge Manageress Cathy L'Amie and her staff will be offering a near normal service in the Auditorium Supper Room. Both the Shop and Coffee Lounge provide a very important service to Museum visitors, as well as making a valuable contribution to the Museum's annual income. We're sure that the improvements being made will help them continue this good work. Make sure you visit both next time you're at the Museum — we particularly appreciate Members' support for these facilities.

