

**Auckland Museum**

*Te Papa Whakahiku*

Number 61

March 1995

ISSN 0111 - 2252

A PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY AUCKLAND MUSEUM

After years of planning, the long-awaited refurbishment of the Museum's galleries and displays is about to begin.

On March 12, galleries on the second floor will close and work will commence on the revitalisation of Centennial Street, the

## **Galleries Close: Refurbishment Begins**

development of new military exhibitions and displays and the restoration of the Zero and Spitfire aircraft.

*Scars on the Heart*, a new exhibition covering the New Zealand Wars, the Anglo-Boer War and World War I will be developed in the East Wing. In this, and in later developments, the stories of New Zealanders in conflict will be told through human lives rather than by displays of guns and knives.

The collections of Centennial Street will, by and large, be returned into a refurbished environment that is similar to

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## **New Membership Officer**

David Bishop, the Museum's first Membership Officer, took up his appointment at the end of January. David, who comes from a background in community recreation with a degree in Parks and Recreation management, has a great enthusiasm for his new role. He believes that the year ahead will be an exciting one for membership. Already a new, attractive package is being formulated which will be of interest to both present and future Members.

Evaluations of this package will be sought but in the meantime, at this planning stage, he is particu-

larly eager to receive suggestions and feedback from Members. "I see your views as the key to a successful membership of the future" David says.

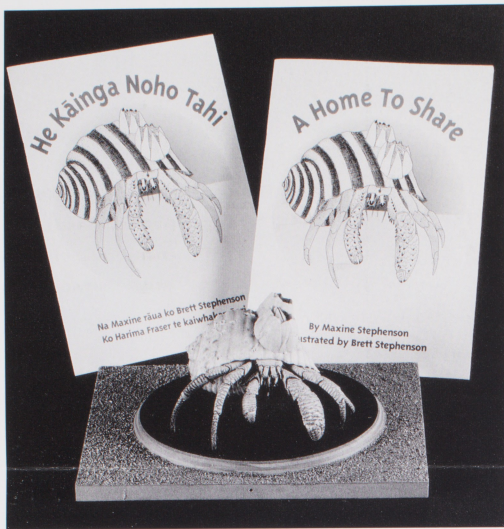
David is at the Museum from Monday to Wednesday and looks forward to meeting as many Members as possible this year. ■

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

### **A Book To Share**

### **Controversial Snake Added To Collection**

**NEWS**



*He Kainga Noho Tahī* is based on an exhibit in *Weird & Wonderful*

The Museum is very proud to be the publisher of an exciting new children's book. *He Kainga Noho Tahī* (*A Home to Share*) was written and illustrated by Marine

natural history facts and concepts. It is particularly timely in view of the Museum's commitment to Te Tau o Te Reo Maori.

*He Kainga Noho Tahī* will be officially launched at the Museum on 7 March and will be available for \$9.00 (GST incl) from Auckland Museum, and other bookshops.

To order please contact: Publications, Auckland Museum, Private Bag 92018, Auckland. ■

## Auckland Institute of Technology is 100

Auckland Institute of Technology celebrates its centennial this year and wants to hear from former students. AIT has made a special request to members who have attended the institute under any of its previous names to provide interesting photos, facts,

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the present format. Both *Scars on the Heart* and Centennial Street are scheduled to open to the public in December 1995.

Subsequent development will see a new exhibition relating to the period from World War II until the present opening in the West Wing in December 1996. In addition, the Spitfire and Zero aircraft will undergo restoration work before their eventual display in new galleries created for the purpose in the lightwells. A new *New Zealand at War* Resource Centre and an Armoury display will eventually occupy what is now the Spitfire Gallery.

The memorial areas will remain open to the public throughout the second floor refurbishment. Access to the World War I Shrine will be by the stairs and lift as usual while access to the World War II Memorial will be by the backstairs. Disabled access will be by lift and through the galleries with an escort. ■

stories or anecdotes. For more information about the celebrations contact 307 9999, ext. 8302.

## ALLSORTZ Prize Winner

The prize pack from the AllsortZ Fun Alphabetical Trail was won by 10 year old Liam Moore of Greenhithe.

## Lottery Board Photographic Project

In December 1995 the Lottery Board received confidential and successful applications from the New Zealand Lottery Board to fund a project to restore the photographic negatives of the Library to the duplication of the negatives.

The \$100,000 project will enable the collection of the photographic negatives of the Library's Photographic Herald and the

These images are extremely unstable based film material commonly used in the 1950s but which is at the end of its

Although the special vaults are unstable material being targeted at a point where they benefit from. Instead, they are Technician T. supervision of photographer Krzysztof

Using large copying equipment initiated project images from destruction.

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## Lottery Grants Board Funds Photographic Project

In December the Museum received confirmation of its successful application to the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board for funding which will enable the Library to continue urgent work on the duplication of photographic negatives.

The \$100,000 Lottery Environment and Heritage grant will enable the conservation of at-risk photographic images from three of the Library's major collections of negatives: Sparrow Industrial Photography, the *New Zealand Herald* and the *Auckland Star*.

These images are contained on extremely unstable cellulose acetate based film material which was commonly used in the 1940s and 1950s but which has now reached the end of its stable 'shelf life'.

Although the Museum has a special vault for cold storage of this unstable material the negatives being targeted have deteriorated to a point where they would not benefit from specialised storage. Instead, they will be duplicated by Technician Tracey Wray under the supervision of Museum Photographer Krzysztof Pfeiffer.

Using large-format, high-quality copying equipment this Library-initiated project will rescue unique images from imminent and certain destruction. ■



An example of degraded acetate negative film showing buckling, blistering and channelling of the image surface.

## Controversial Snake Added To Collection

A *Boa constrictor* which attracted much media attention following its discovery outside an animal welfare centre in Whangarei, has been presented to Auckland Museum. The snake, which had been smuggled into New Zealand, was killed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and is now being chemically fixed for addition to the Museum's

reptile collection.

The boa, a native of South America, is a juvenile less than a metre long and is the first boa in the Museum's reptile collection. This new acquisition will be stored pending an ensuing court case, and then exhibited in the *Weird and Wonderful* Discovery Centre. ■

The controversial boa is held beside another snake.



The Museum's new Public Programmes staff have taken up their appointments. Assistant Director **Jenny Cave**, Exhibitions Manager **Priscilla Thompson**, Marketing Manager **Scott Elliffe** and Membership Officer **David Bishop** were welcomed in January and are approaching their new roles with enthusiasm.

**Victoria Bell**, a popular Library Assistant for the past ten years, has taken maternity leave, while **Angela Henty** has resigned from the Library to devote time to her two children.

School Service Education Officer, **Karen McKay**, leaves in March to take up a position with the Department of Conservation. She has been appointed Conservation Officer at the Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre. Although her work will be primarily with

## New Information In The Asian Hall

During the last year efforts have been made to interpret the displays in the Asian Hall more effectively, in particular by the provision of background information about these important collections.

The Japanese displays have been extensively revised and one case is now devoted to porcelains. This includes a group of pieces by the important Japanese porcelain decorator, Kinkozan. Another case shows something of the beginnings and background on the Mingei, or Folk Art movement, an important source of inspiration to many New Zealand potters. ■

## Field Trip

### Country Churches and Halls of South Auckland

**Leader:** Dr Nigel Prickett

**Date:** Sunday 23 April

**Time:** 9.30 am - 5.00 pm

**Cost:** \$25.00

An opportunity to visit such gems as St Brides, Mauku Victory Hall, the Selwyn churches of Drury and Bombay, Pukekohe East Church and Ramarama Hall.

**Transport:** By bus from Auckland Museum departing promptly at 9.30 am and returning by 5.00 pm.

**Please bring:** Own lunch, comfortable walking shoes and wet gear.

**Mauku Victory Hall**



## Staff News

animal care and management, Karen expects to liaise with the Education staff in producing resources and displays for public.

**Margaret Cameron** will be relieving Education Officer until the end of 1995. She has been Education Officer at MOTAT for the last twelve years and has considerable experience in preparing education publications and working with school groups of all ages.

Auckland Museum's Curator of Ethnology, **Roger Neich**, returned recently from two months at the British Museum. While there he was involved in the preparation of a catalogue for the

Maori collections and in the selection and planning for *Maori*, a major exhibition scheduled to open at the Museum of Mankind in late 1996. At the end of its London run this exhibition of around 2,400 items may travel to New Zealand and be displayed at the Auckland Museum and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Working on the same project, Ethnology Assistant **Mick Pendergrast** left for London at the end of February. He will spend the next two months working on the Maori cloak and fibre collections of the British Museum. ■