



NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum
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COME TO THE MUSEUM EXPLORATION EVENING!

Auckland Museum prides itself on the many educational services that it offers to the community. The Museum Exploration Evening on August 13th is an open evening which will give members and their families an opportunity to become more familiar with some of these activities. There will be walkabout trails prepared by the School Service, Planetarium Programmes, Tours by the Volunteer Guides, as well as a Special Exhibition, **Art of Nature**, prepared by the Museum staff. The evening's events will begin at 7.30 p.m. (note the new time - it's different from that shown on the Syllabus card) and a light supper to conclude the evening will be served at 9 p.m.

The Auckland Museum School Service has prepared Walkabout Trails for the evening and these will be available at the door. Education Officers Wendy Johnstone and Jorrie Zwart have focused the themes for the trails on Shells, Water, Textiles and War. Each trail will take you to several areas of the museum. Trails represent one of the many teaching methods used by the School Service which are used to direct observation in a constructive way.

The Auckland Museum School Service was established in 1929 and since that time has provided rewarding educational programmes for thousands of young New Zealanders. The Service, now headed by Senior Education Officer Struan Ensor, offers a wide range of specially designed programmes for schools based on sound educational theory and syllabus requirements. The programmes also reflect the special nature of Education within a museum. The School Service aims to give a different learning experience to pupils visiting the museum and uses a multimedia



approach. The service emphasises that the Education Officers are interpreters and motivators rather than teachers. This aspect is recognised in the prepared material for schools, parents and pupils as well as in the classroom presentations. Struan Ensor is a strong advocate of discovery learning and the special role this has within the Museum.

Another feature of our family evening is the Planetarium, which will be open, showing a twenty minute programme. Planetarium Lecturer Frank Ives will take you on a voyage of space exploration, introducing Deep Space Objects (Galaxies, Nebulas, Questars and Black Holes), and Planets of our Solar System, as seen from the fly-by missions of the space craft Pioneer, Mariner, Viking and Voyager. Show times will be 7.40 p.m., 8.10 p.m., 8.30 p.m., 8.55 p.m.

Every year the Museum's Volunteer Guides introduce many visitors to the Museum. They provide a very valuable link with the community and for many give new meaning to our treasures. The Auckland Museum Volunteer Guides will be available during the family evening to share with

you their special skills and knowledge. Tours of all galleries will be available, times and topics will be outlined at the entrance. We guarantee that the Guides will be able to show you at least one museum object you have never seen before - do take up our challenge and join a tour.

The Special Exhibition **Art of Nature** will also be open for special viewing. This exhibition has been assembled by Museum staff and represents selected specimens from our collections which have inspired a wide range of artistic interpretations.

We look forward to entertaining and informing you and we hope you will bring family and friends. The programmes have been designed with adults and children in mind, and everybody is most welcome.

RALPH BULMER

The death has occurred in Auckland of Professor R.N.H. Bulmer, a long standing Member of the Auckland Institute and Museum, a former Council member and a good friend of the Museum.

After education at Cambridge and the Australian National University, Ralph Bulmer was appointed as Lecturer and subsequently Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Auckland University in 1958, a position he held until 1967. He was Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Papua New Guinea from 1968 until 1973, after which he returned to Auckland to take up a position as Professor of Social Anthropology.

Ralph Bulmer was a member of the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum from 1962 to 1967, and then on his return from New Guinea he was a member of the Council from 1975 until 1987. He was a keen supporter of the Museum, and took an avid interest in many of its activities.

Professor Bulmer, together with Dr Susan Bulmer, presented to the Museum a series of donations of ethnographic material from New Guinea, especially associated with the Karam people of the Kaironk Valley, amongst whom he worked for many years. These collections are one of the strengths of the Museum's New Guinea holdings, particularly because they were so well documented by the Bulmers.

Ralph Bulmer's enthusiastic interest in the Museum's activities, and his warm and gentle manner will be sadly missed.

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL LECTURE

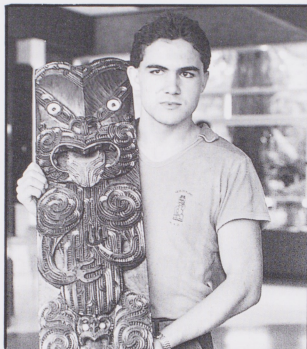
Wednesday 7 September 1 p.m.
Lest They Forget: The Making of War Memorials by Professor K.S. Inglis

Professor Inglis is professor in the History Department, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra. He is one of the general editors of the recently published eleven volume series *Australians: an historical library*, the major effort by historians to mark the Australian bicentennial. Professor Inglis will be visiting New Zealand as a University of Auckland Foundation Visitor and we are fortunate that he is able to address us during his visit. He is noted for his work and interest in War Memorials and his lecture promises to hold special interest for members.

MODERN TRADITIONAL MAORI ART

People naturally expect a museum to be interested in old things, but sometimes they are surprised to learn that museums also collect modern material.

As the holder of one of the world's most important collections of early Maori carvings, the Auckland Museum also takes an active role in the continuation and development of this art into the modern world. Carvers, scholars and students coming to study our collection need to have access to examples from all periods. As part of this function in documenting this continuation, Auckland Museum has recently purchased some modern traditional carvings produced by students of the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute at Rotorua.



Maori Arts and Crafts Institute trainee carver, Michael Machitt of Te Whanau-a-Apanui with his Arawa style carving purchased for the Auckland Museum.

This school has been a major influence in the revival and development of Maori art since Sir Apirana Ngata set up its predecessor at Rotorua in 1928.

During their training, students at the Institute are taught to carve in various tribal styles. From an exciting range of such works held at the school, Museum ethnology staff selected three panels to illustrate the present state of the art. To supplement this selection, the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute very generously donated a fourth panel to the Museum.

At the time of the **Te Maori** exhibition in Auckland, the museum hosted **Maori Art Today** and **Te Ohonga**, special displays of modern traditional and contemporary Maori art. Now, as a further task, the museum is involved in defining its role in collecting modern contemporary-style Maori art.

Roger Neich.

MUSEUM DATES TO NOTE

Forthcoming Institute Lectures:

Monday 5 September 1 p.m.

Trends in Contemporary New Zealand Furniture by Colin Slade

Monday 19 September 8 p.m.

The **Annual General Meeting** followed by **Education in Museums** by Katrina Stamp

Tuesday 25 October 1 p.m.

Studio Pottery as seen by Chester Nealie

BILL LAXON M.B.E.

We were delighted to learn that Museum Vice-President Bill Laxon was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mr Laxon's MBE was awarded for community service, reflecting the contribution he makes to a number of community organisations. We know that this recognition includes his service to the Auckland Institute and Museum, where Bill is a long time member of the Council and chairman of its Finance Committee. Bill is currently Vice President, and is also a member of the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board. He is a keen maritime historian, and a frequent Saturday morning user of the Museum Library in pursuing his researches.

The Council's congratulations have also been extended to Institute Members Captain J.C. Henley M.B.E. and Mr H.J. Keys Q.S.M. who were honoured by the Queen in June.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum will be held at the conclusion of the 120th Annual General Meeting on Monday September 19th 1988. The business of the meeting will be the election of a representative of the Members on the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board, in terms of Rules 2b and 8d. A vacancy exists on the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board following the death of Graeme Frater, reported in the last **News**.

STAFF

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STAFF NEWS

We welcome Angela Lassig, the new Assistant Curator of Applied Arts. Angela studied Fine Arts, History and English at the University of Queensland where she gained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983. The following year she completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies at the University of Sydney. Angela was then appointed as an Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney, working on one of the exhibitions planned for the new Powerhouse Museum which opened earlier this year. Angela worked for three and a half years on the Powerhouse Museum's major decorative arts exhibition, **Style**, which examines stylistic change in the decorative arts from the early 18th century to the present day.



Angela's interests are varied and include early music and tramping. She is keen to develop an exhibition dealing with the work of New Zealand craftspeople from 1840 to 1940. This, she says, will involve much investigative research especially in the location of existing examples of work in public and private collections.

Angela took up her position at Auckland Museum in May.

Library Assistant Geraldine Molloy has been accepted by the Wellington College of Education Library School for Library Certificate studies. Geraldine has been given study leave by the Museum and will be going to Wellington for the first of three six week study blocks in September. We wish her well.

FIRE AT WAGENER MUSEUM

Auckland Museum offered assistance immediately on receiving news of the terrible fire at the Wagener Museum at

Pukenui, Houhora Harbour, in Northland at the end of June. A deliberately lit fire had resulted in burning, smoke and water damage to the Museum's extensive and important collections. Our offer of help was enthusiastically received and Julia Gresson and Karel Peters of Auckland Museum's Conservation Department went to assist with the cleaning, conservation advice, and assessment of the damage.

Karel Peters reports that 'after hastily rearranging their private commitments, the two staff swung into action'. Packing, cleaning and water absorbing materials together with recording equipment and tools were packed into the recently purchased museum van. Although they had arrived at Auckland Museum that morning for a normal day's work, by 10.30 a.m they were on the road to collect their belongings and hastily ordered supplies and drive north to Pukenui.

The fire was lit in the centre of the Wagener Museum building. It was contained there by the swift action of the Owner/Curator, Mr Eric Wagener, and the ready availability of breathing apparatus. However, some important objects were lost. These included a rare pianola and an antique piano. Some Victorian glass oil lamps were also shattered by the intense heat. Many porcelain objects also broke but the major damage was due to smoke and the deposit of molten plastic from window screens on objects near the seat of the fire.

Practically all of the many hundreds of objects in the Museum were covered in soot and needed to be cleaned, which was a major task. The collections range from insect collections, butterflies and birds, to colonial objects, firearms, Victorian textiles, farm implements and Maori artefacts.

Two days were spent assisting the museum staff and volunteers in cleaning some of the more delicate artefacts and more difficult to clean objects. Advice to the volunteer workers on how to clean the objects and store the European textiles was required. Objects requiring major conservation treatment were packed and brought back to the Auckland Museum for further assessment.

The Wageners were fortunate that the fire was contained within minutes of its being lit and that breathing apparatus was available otherwise it could have been a total loss. The smoke was so thick within one or two minutes that nobody could have entered to extinguish the fire.

Auckland Museum was pleased to have been able to help our friends at this, the northernmost museum in New Zealand. Our help was much appreciated.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the Rules of the Auckland Institute and Museum, four representatives of the Members on the Auckland Institute and Museum Council retire from the Council at the Annual General Meeting. Accordingly, nominations are hereby called for the four representatives of the Members on the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum. The retiring members, Dr Peter Brook, Professor Hugh Kawharu, Dr John Rogers and Mr Fergie Schischka are all eligible for nomination for re-election.

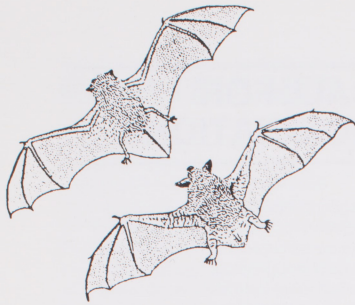
There is no prescribed form for nominations, but nominations must be in writing, and must be made and seconded by people who are current financial members of the Auckland Institute and Museum. The nominee, who must also be a current member, should signify acceptance of the nomination. For the guidance of voters, nominees should include brief particulars of their experience and suitability for office, to be distributed with the voting papers.

Nominations should be forwarded to Mr G.S. Park, Secretary, Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland. They must reach him no later than 4 p.m. on Monday August 22nd, 1988.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 120th Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum will be held at the Museum on Monday September 19th 1988 at 8 p.m. Business will include the consideration and adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (to be distributed to members before the meeting), the setting of an increased subscription rate for the 1989 - 1990 year and the declaration of election of the President, Vice-President and four representatives of the Members on the Institute and Museum Council, as well as General Business.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Museum's Community Education Officer Mrs Katrina Stamp will talk on **Education in Museums**.



Bats in New Zealand

Many people do not realise that small bats occur in New Zealand. This is partly because in our case these creatures are restricted to areas of heavy native bush, rather than adapting to modified habitats, and becoming more noticeable, as they have in other countries.

The mammals, being advanced animals, evolved relatively late. By the time they began to spread across Gondwanaland, the area we now call New Zealand had already separated from that ancient supercontinent. New Zealand's isolation is believed to be the reason why we have no native mammals except the seals and whales that could swim to our coastal waters and the native bats that could fly here.

Mike Daniel, a DSIR scientist, and John Hill, from the British Museum (Natural History), have recently published the results of their study of the systematics (classification and relationships) of New Zealand short-tailed bats. For this study they examined preserved bat specimens from New Zealand museums, including Auckland Museum, and from the British Museum (Natural History) in London.

For a long time New Zealand was thought to have two species of bat - the short-tailed bat *Mystacina tuberculata*, which has no close relatives overseas, and the long-tailed bat *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*, with close relatives in Australia. Daniel and Hill demonstrated that in fact we have three species. They distinguished two species of short-tailed bat - the "ordinary" sort, which retains the name *Mystacina tuberculata*, and the newly recognised larger species *M. robusta*.

However, the bad news is that *M. robusta* is apparently now extinct. Subfossil bones show that it once occurred widely in New Zealand, but the last living populations were on two small islands off Stewart Island. None have been reliably reported since 1965, and they are believed to have been eliminated by ship rats which reached the islands in the early 1960s.

Mystacina tuberculata is still widespread in heavy native bush. Hill and Daniel found marked geographic variation within New Zealand and so they divided the species into three subspecies or geographic races. In July 1963 a Mr Gerrard presented to Auckland Museum seven bats that were found in a hollow rimu tree (from the Kaimanawa Forest Park near Lake Taupo) when it was taken to a sawmill at Turangi. One of these specimens has now become the holotype of a new subspecies called *Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia*, and the other specimens are paratypes.

Whenever a new species or subspecies is described, the author sets aside one specimen to be the holotype, or unique representative. It has extreme importance in taxonomy - the branch of science concerned with describing and naming the animals and plants around us. Other, additional specimens are nominated as paratypes and these have considerable but lesser importance. Museums take great care with their type specimens. They are regarded as the property of international science.

Mike Daniel kindly presented Auckland Museum with additional bat specimens including types of another new subspecies - *Mystacina tuberculata aupourica*, from Northland. We now have nearly 50 specimens of New Zealand bats, which appears to be the largest single collection in the world!

Brian Gill

CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND JEWELLERY

Contemporary applied art is an important collecting area for the Museum in that it reflects current artistic and social values. New Zealand jewellery by the Details Group is one of several areas being

collected. The handcrafted stone, bone, and metal jewellery pieces are highly individual and show contemporary international influences as well as New Zealand cultural associations.

Challenging the traditional concepts of design and symbolism in jewellery the works no longer suggest the social and economic status of the owner (traditionally seen through the use of precious metals). The works provide contemporary statements through a variety of materials and form, and the wearer benefits from the highly individual pieces. A shift towards less expensive materials, semi-precious and man-made, has occurred. The forms are frequently dictated by the nature of the material used. Roy Mason's mother-of-pearl necklace expresses a great sensitivity to the material. Elena Gee, in her necklace illustrated, selects paua and turquoise for their natural shapes and colour to complement and contrast against adjacent forms. Much of the work is identifiably of New Zealand origin through the choice of indigenous materials. In this way our cultural heritage is evident. New Zealand jade, paua, and bone are frequently used by some jewellers intentionally expressing our place in the South Pacific. The whalebone used for the Koru Disc by Owen Mapp originated from a beached whale at Muriwai. The Koru design refers strongly to links with Maori culture. Paul Annear allows the texture and natural colorations in jade to be expressed in his necklace, a reminder of the Maori use of jade.



Necklace, Paua, turquoise, silver, shell and silk thread, by Elena Gee.

By collecting New Zealand contemporary jewellery in Auckland Museum, we can be assured that these works will be preserved to remind us of our past while they become treasures of the future. Justine Olsen.

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.

