



**Auckland  
War Memorial  
Museum**

# NEWS

Auckland Institute and Museum  
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## ELECTION OF COUNCIL

Two members of Council complete their three year terms on Council this year. Accordingly, nominations are hereby called for the election of Councillors elected by members of the Auckland Institute and Museum to fill two vacancies on Council. Nominations must be in writing and be signed by the nominator, seconder and nominee, all of whom must be financial members of the Institute. Nominees are invited to forward, with their nominations, brief biographical details to be circulated with the voting papers for the information and guidance of members. This should include

name, address, occupation, posts held and other relevant qualifications. Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary, Mr G.S. Park, by August 20th 1984.

The two retiring members of Council are Prof Ralph Bulmer and Mr Dick Sibson. Both are eligible for re-election.

This call for nominations comes quite early, to meet **News** deadlines and to comply with the Rules. However, please do not put off making a nomination now and forget to do so later nominations can be made and received at any time from now until August 20th.



## Polynesian Society

Enclosed with this copy of the **News** is a leaflet describing the work of the Polynesian Society, and particularly its publication, the **Journal of the Polynesian Society**. The Journal is a leading forum for the publication of articles relating to the history, ethnology, archaeology, anthropology and linguistics of the New Zealand Maori and other Pacific peoples. Many of our members are already members of the Society, but anyone with strong interests in these areas who is not already a Polynesian Society member will find much benefit in belonging.

## Free Guided Tours

You may think that you know the Museum well, and that you're quite happy looking around it on your own — you may even take pleasure in showing visitors and friends from out of Auckland your Museum. Fair enough. But we would like to issue a challenge. Next time you come to the Museum, or bring your visitors, take a free tour with one of the Museum's volunteer guides. Since it's all free, we can't offer you your money back, but we can guarantee that our well trained and informative guides will tell you at least one thing (and probably dozens) about the Museum and its collections that you didn't know before, or help you enjoy your visit more fully. Guided tours leave from the Museum foyer in the mornings and early afternoons most days, though if you want to make sure you can book a free guide by phoning the Museum.

As well as our fully trained guides who are currently offering tours, we're also nearing the end of the training course for our second intake of guides. They've been meeting with staff and other guides on Saturday mornings for a couple of months, and are now nearly ready to join the team of qualified guides we have. Our photo shows Curator of Birds Brian Gill conducting one of the training sessions.





## Staff News

There have been a number of changes to Museum staff in recent months.

Senior Attendant Bruce Fletcher retired at the end of June. Bruce has been Senior Attendant since 1978, having joined the staff as Attendant in 1973. Bruce's kindly efficient manner will have been experienced by many members as they have used the Museum over these years, and we are sure members will wish to join the Council and other staff in wishing him a happy retirement. Colin Whyte has been appointed to the position of Senior Attendant to replace Bruce, and Jack Watson has been appointed Deputy Senior Attendant. Other adjustments to the attendant staff have seen Eric Fraser rejoin the attendants after several years of nocturnal duty as one of the Museum's night security staff, those important but little seen members of the Museum team who help ensure the safety of the building and the collections twenty-four hours a day. Graham Taylor has replaced Eric on the night shift, and Bill Davidson and Bruce Cottrell have joined the attendant staff to keep its numbers up to full complement.

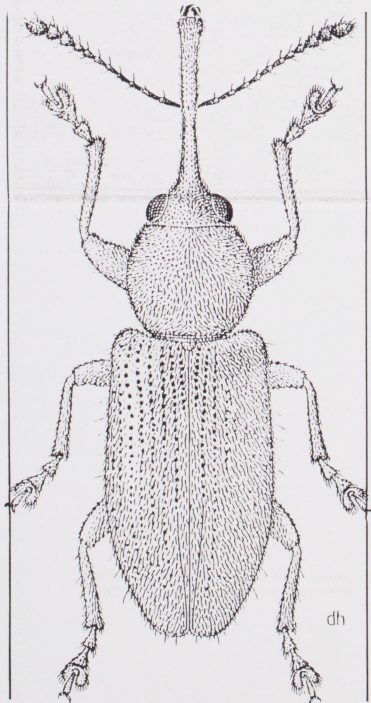
Another retirement earlier in the year was Mrs May Eichler, Coffee Lounge Manageress since 1969. May was quite an institution in this institution, and we have been delighted to see her visiting from time to time since she retired. Mrs Cathy L'Amie has taken over this demanding position in the Coffee Lounge. We've been watching the ham sandwiches to ensure their high standard has been maintained under the new management (it has, we can report), but regular coffee lounge patrons will have



Julia Gresson repairing a beaded snake made by Turkish prisoners during World War I.

noticed several alterations and improvements. We wrote in News 13 of Maintenance Man Harry Rowe, an important figure in keeping the Museum going. Harry has now retired, to keep Waiheke Island going, and we have been pleased to welcome Paul O'Donnell in his place. As well as these, there are several other new faces at the Museum. Virginia Bennett has joined the display team to fill a vacancy, and Mrs Mari Lees is the new voice (it's Glaswegian, she tells us) on the switchboard, as well as being the new face in Reception. Mary Kiddie is relieving as Director's Secretary during the maternity leave of Gaye Powell, proud mum of Jerome.

The Interim Committee for the Conservation of Cultural Property (which is quite a mouthful) has placed three conservation interns at the Museum for a period of three months to gain experience before they pursue other conservation training. Greer Olsen has completed her time with us, while Julia Gresson and Heather Todd are turning their hands to a wide range of conservation tasks. We are also receiving assistance in that department from Bettina Hemberger and Matthias Mohr, two anthropology students from Marburg in Germany, who are visiting New Zealand for several months prior to undertaking study for a higher degree. We're grateful for their help.



## Institute Lectures

The Institute lectures held already this year have attracted good attendances. In part this is due to the inherent interest of the topics and the quality of the lecturers, but it may also have resulted from the fact that members were circulated directly before some of these lectures, as well as being advised through the medium of the **News**. This individual mailing is of course both time consuming and expensive, and for these reasons was discontinued about seven years ago in favour of less frequent reminders, which came to be incorporated in the **News**. The success of the experiment this year however, does suggest that we should resurrect the practice in spite of the expense. Comment from members would be welcomed.

The next lecture in July, of which you will not receive separate notice other than this **News**, has the intriguing title "The Lost World Still Alive: a telling story of pollen feeders". Dr G. Kuschel recently retired from the Entomology Division of the DSIR after 20 years studying insect systematics, and particularly a group of weevils. What makes a group of weevils of such interest will be revealed in the lecture, but we can say that it involves a fascinating story of the survival of life forms from the Mesozoic era. The widespread present day distribution of a

group of weevils which inhabit the cones of conifers is linked through fossil forms from the Triassic and even Jurassic periods, over 160 million years ago.

In August the annual lecture arranged in conjunction with the Auckland branch of the Medical Association will take place, on August 27th. This year's lecturer is Dr F.M. Graham, Senior Lecturer in the Post Graduate School of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at National Women's Hospital. Dr Graham is involved in the investigation and treatment of infertile couples. His title is "Infertility and Pregnancy by Proxy".

At least one in ten couples have difficulty in achieving a pregnancy. The last ten years have seen a spectacular increase in our knowledge of reproductive physiology, the application of which has enabled treatment of infertility to become reasonably successful. This increase in success from treatment together with the almost total lack of babies for adoption has given rise to a great increase in demand from infertile couples for treatment of their, until recently, hidden disease. The areas of artificial insemination by donor semen and in vitro fertilisation raise many moral, ethical and legal issues that need assessment by society. Dr Graham's lecture will cover briefly the broad field of infertility, and then discuss more fully these more controversial areas, considering their positive and negative aspects. The lecture promises to be a most stimulating and informative one, and all members and friends are cordially invited. Remember, August 27th at 8pm in the Museum Auditorium.

## Maori

Good progress is being made in the redevelopment of the museum in the first, west wing. The principal contractor is their sub-contractor, well, under the supervision of the display staff and the curator. Work is well in hand and in particular the installation of the first display construction work is some time yet before the public (you'll hear about it through the "portal" barrier around the

The first of the new displays is the case showing the Mori people and in particular Hatitimatangi, the sculpture which Mori are still displaying to politicians and to us. We've done our bit to see that the Mori display links the Pacific displays and it's now.

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World War I.

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## Maori Gallery

Good progress is being made with the redevelopment of the Maori Gallery displays in the first, western end of the gallery. The principal contractors Haydn & Rollett and their sub-contractors have been progressing well, under the supervision of museum display staff and our consultants JASMaD. Work is well in hand by the museum's curatorial, display and conservation staff to install the first displays as soon as construction work is complete. It will be some time yet before this area is open to the public (you'll hear all about that, don't worry) but you'll be able to see how it progresses through the "portholes" we've left in the barrier around the work.

The first of the new displays to be completed is the case showing the material culture of the Moriori people of the Chatham Islands, and in particular the remarkable sculpture of Hatitimatangi, the only Moriori wood sculpture which exists. The history of the Moriori is still distorted by New Zealand politicians and bigots, but in this case we've done our bit to set the record straight (again). The Moriori display is in the corridor which links the Pacific Hall and the new Maori displays and it's available to be seen right now.

Some interesting preparatory work is being undertaken by two special assistants for the Maori displays. In museum collections, some items do not survive because of their large size or their fragility. Maori sea fishing nets are poorly represented in collections because of both size and fragility, but they were of course an important aspect of the culture of people who relied heavily on kai moana. Mick Pendergrast, a man skilled in Polynesian basketry and netting techniques, has been making a reproduction section of a fishing net for one of the display cases, and effecting repairs to other nets and traps in our collections.

Other museum objects often lack important parts, or have come to pieces over time. Dante Bonica has been making a number of artefacts for the display, for example lashing together the parts of composite fish-hooks. Museums always try to show original and authentic artefacts, and we will certainly be doing that, but we believe the reconstructions and replicas being made will help our visitors better to understand the original objects on display.



Dante Bonica (above) and Mick Pendergrast (centre) preparing material for the redeveloped Maori displays. (Below): The recently completed Moriori case



## Apology

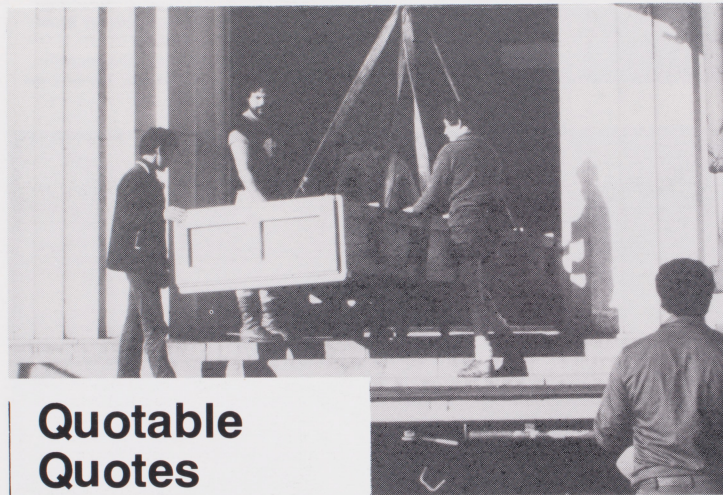
We must apologise for the very poor quality of the photographs in the last issue of the **News**. We try hard to produce good quality photos for members' interest, though the offset printing method used means they're always a little muddy. However, our printer let us down rather badly in the last issue, and our tight production deadlines meant we were unable to demand that the issue be printed again before distribution. We'll expect a much better result this time.





## Te Maori

As members will know from **News 16**, Auckland Museum is loaning many major objects from its collections for the exhibition **Te Maori** to be shown in the United States over the next eighteen months. The objects, together with those from the eleven other New Zealand museums involved, were flown to New York in three couriered shipments during June. We are happy to report that all the objects travelled safely and are now in New York being prepared for the opening of the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on September 10th. The lending museums, as owners and trustees for the objects, were naturally anxious to see that the best possible care was taken of these irreplaceable items of our heritage. We are grateful to the American Federation of Arts, and especially its Registrar, Carol O'Biso, for their meticulous care in making arrangements for the packing and shipment of the artefacts, and to Air New Zealand and New Zealand Express for their careful handling of the consignments.



## C.H. Worth Fund Grant

In 1979 Mrs L.E. Worth was killed on Mount Erebus. In her will she left a bequest to the Museum to commemorate the service in World War One of her late husband Conrad Haviland Worth. The form of the memorial was left to the Museum Council, which resolved to create the C.H. Worth Memorial Fund, and to use the income from the Fund to support research by staff of the Auckland Institute and Museum into the natural history and human history of New Zealand and the Pacific. The results of such research should be capable of being presented in a form suitable for publication in the **Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum**, our annual scientific publication, or some similar scientific publication, where the source of the grant would be acknowledged.

The committee which administers the fund has now resolved to make its first grant. Two thousand dollars has been awarded to Museum Botanist Anthony Wright, in support of research work carried out during 1983 into the botany of northern New Zealand. Mr Wright has been undertaking extensive fieldwork and plant collecting, in examination of particular taxonomic problems as well as to amplify our understanding of the natural distribution of some plants. Members had the opportunity to hear him report on some earlier northern fieldwork in the Three Kings Islands at the June Institute lecture, and will have an idea of the range and scope of his interests. Congratulations are recorded to Anthony on the award, as well as our gratitude to Mrs Worth's generosity in making this bequest.

## Quotable Quotes

Heinemann Publishers have embarked on the production of a Dictionary of New Zealand Quotations, under the editorship of Harry Orsman and Lauris Edmond. They are seeking suggestions from members of the Institute and Museum of memorable quotations for inclusion in the book. Quotations can be drawn from any source which shed light on New Zealand experience. These could include quotations which amuse, instruct, record and explain. Heinemanns will pay \$2.50 for each quotation that they use in the book, to the first supplier of the quotation in a well referenced form. Further details can be obtained from the leaflets available in the Museum Library. Enquiries and correspondence should be addressed to The Editors, Heinemann Dictionary of New Zealand Quotations, Freepost 559, Northcote, Auckland 9.

## Allan Highet

By the time you read this, the General Election will be over, and the new Government duly elected. Whichever party has won, however, one good friend of museums will not be back in Parliament. Along with museums and other cultural organisations throughout New Zealand, we must record our appreciation of the advocacy of the arts and culture by the retiring Minister of Internal Affairs and for the Arts, Mr Allan Highet. Mr Highet's work for all facets of cultural activity in New Zealand has been unstinting, even in the face of opposition at times from his colleagues. Whoever has succeeded him in these roles has been set a high example to follow. Thank you Allan.

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.

