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Magazine of the Auckland War Memorial Museum.



The Malawi saurus dinosaur in the new Origins Gallery

New Look Galleries Open

The opening of the six new Pacific and Natural History galleries represents the completion of three-quarters of the new-look Auckland Museum and the culmination of nearly four years' planning and construction work.

The redesign enables the Museum to display much more of its collection than ever before. When the project is fully completed in December 1999, it will contain the largest display areas in the country.

The two new ground floor Pacific Galleries, *Masterpieces* and *Lifeways*, will house Maori and Pacific artefacts, 70 per cent of which have not been exhibited to the public before.

Masterpieces, which opens on 1 January 1999, will focus on Pacific ethnic art, with about 600 artefacts on view.

The *Lifeways* exhibitions of over 1200 artefacts, extends

from the period of contact with European explorers and missionaries to the present day, reflecting the impact of Christianity and even latterday tourism on communities.

In an innovation for the Museum, *Lifeways* will open to the public on 25 January as a "work-in-progress" gallery. The gallery is not due for completion until March, but for about six weeks visitors will have a unique "behind the scenes" view of Museum curators, display technicians and conservators at work as they complete the displays.

The four new Natural History galleries open to the public on 1 January 1999. They include *Origins*, which explores the earth's beginnings; *Land*; *Oceans*, and *Human Impacts*.

Among the new exhibits visitors will be able to look down into a live rockpool; experience a limestone cave

with stalagmites and live glow worms; and view a pair of moreporks on their perch in a four storey high Kauri tree.

Huge dinosaur skeletons that have been specially imported from Canada will give people an insight into the prehistoric creatures that once occupied the North and South Islands. *Human Impacts* will show how the environment has changed since people arrived. It shows introduced plants and animals and the effect they have on the land.

A new Natural History resource centre will offer interactive computer facilities which can be accessed by the public for further information on the exhibits.

The entire Auckland Museum project will be complete when its Maori Natural History and New Zealand Social History Galleries open at the end of 1999.

'The Best of Wearable Art' comes to Auckland

A handbag that doubles as a toaster and shoes built from knives and forks are among the creative works that feature in "Wearable Art", opening at the Auckland Museum in December.

"The Best of Wearable Art" is a collection of 59 outfits that have featured in the annual design show of the same name over the past 10 years and which have been brought together for a travelling exhibition for the first time. The collection includes nine garments from the 1998 awards, held in Nelson in September.

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The Nelson show has become a highlight of the New Zealand design calendar with competing artists using materials as diverse as human hair, car parts, fish hooks, business cards, chicken mesh and vegetable steamers to create works of art that can also be worn as a garment. All of these materials and more are used in the works that are coming to Auckland.

"They are the work of extraordinary artists who are able to look at 40 butter knives or 200 salmon skins or a stack of compact discs and see the makings of a work of imagination and beauty," said Dr Rodney Wilson. "They combine fantasy and fun with inspired execution. Now for the first time this exhibition will give people a rare opportunity to see this amazingly creative and elaborate workmanship up close."

"The Best of Wearable Art" opens on 12 December and runs until 7 March, 1999.

Free entry

No contribution is asked of:

- * children
- * secondary school students
- * tertiary students after 3:30pm (with ID)
- * visitors wishing to visit only the War Memorials
- * visitors with spiritual or family ties to artefacts within the Museum
- * casual visitors after 4pm

Visitors invited to support Museum

The cost of running what is soon to become Auckland's most outstanding visitor attraction will reach \$10 million annually in the year 2000 - and 10 per cent of the funds needed will come from Auckland Museum visitors.

The new "admission by donation" policy, which will be introduced in January 1999, is expected to raise \$1 million - a huge increase from the \$35,000 in donations currently received annually (not enough to pay for a year's worth of lightbulbs in the Museum's new hi-tech galleries).

The Auckland Museum's world renowned collections, including its Maori and Pacific artefacts, are some of the largest in the country and require ongoing investment in their protection, preservation, expansion and presentation. Current operating costs are \$6 million annually but when the new facility is fully operational it will have 1000 square metres more exhibition space than the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa, as well as improved facilities, with operational costs and planned maintenance and depreciation costs increasing accordingly.

Ratepayers will continue to meet about 80 per cent of the yearly running costs from existing levies, with the remainder coming from admission donations, sponsorship and trading operations within the Museum.

From the beginning of next year adult visitors to the museum will be invited to donate \$5 as they enter. Entry fees will still be charged for major exhibitions but visitors who wish to then visit the rest of the Museum won't be asked for a further contribution.

"There will be no obligation to make a donation. People who decline will be welcomed politely and warmly. However,

we hope that the experience we will offer in the new Museum will encourage people to make some contribution," says Tom Finlayson, Director of Public Programmes.

The Museum is determined to preserve free access to its educational facilities for children and secondary school students. No donation will be requested from them. In addition, tertiary students arriving after 3:30pm and casual visitors arriving after 4pm will not be asked for a donation. The present \$2 entry fees on the popular children's discovery centres within the Museum will be removed. This is to ensure that these important educational resources remain easily accessible, especially for families on restricted budgets.

In particular, no donation will be requested from visitors, regardless of country of origin, wishing to visit the war memorials or those who have close spiritual ties to objects that their family may have gifted or loaned to the Museum.

A separate admissions policy will operate for all commercial groups, where a \$5 per head booking and service fee will be introduced from the beginning of next year. All our

groups will be asked to book visits two weeks in advance. Tour groups will be met at an assembly point and recommended "custom routes" through the galleries will be available.

New signage outside the main doors of the Museum will clearly explain the admission by donation policy and information will also be provided on the Museum's website.

When the new policy was announced in September by Mr Barry Turley, Chairman of the Auckland Museum Trust Board, he said the Museum was one of Australasia's most patronised cultural and artistic centres with record visitor numbers of 1.1 million for the year ended June 1998. Since Aucklanders represented just under half of total visitor numbers, Mr Turley said it was no longer realistic to expect them to pay all the costs of running the Museum.

In the absence of any prospect of funding from central government, he said the Auckland Museum looked to the highly successful admission by donation system that has been used by the Metropolitan Museum in New York for over 25 years.

Admissions policy clarification

The Auckland Museum was rightly called to task by some members of the public when it announced its new "admission by donation" policy recently.

Tom Finlayson, Director of Public Programmes, said the Museum was anxious that anyone, regardless of race, who has close spiritual ties with objects that members of their family may have gifted or loaned should feel no pressure to make a further donation to the Museum each time they visit.

"In communicating this policy, we placed emphasis on reaching out to those iwi and hapu with particularly strong connections to major loan items in the Maori collection, but it affects equally Pakeha, Polynesian and others with strong spiritual connections to the Museum's collection.

"In trying to make the policy especially clear to Maori, we conveyed a misleading impression which we regret and which we hope is now corrected."

It's in the Can
A big thank you to Mr Newton Wickham who responded to the Museum's request for a can of Toheroa soup in our last issue. "It is a much needed exhibit for one of the new New Natural History Galleries" said Ewen Cameron Curator of Botany.

Museum Library scoops 3M Award for Innovation

The Auckland Museum Library has won this year's 3M Award for Innovation in Libraries for its database of New Zealand's war veterans.

The annual award of \$5000, sponsored by 3M New Zealand Ltd, is made to libraries that find new and innovative ways of providing information and services.

The Museum's Cenotaph database is being developed as the focal point of its Armoury Resource Centre. The Centre opened two years ago with the purpose of informing Museum visitors about New Zealanders' experiences in war.

The database will eventually contain personal service histories, photographs, selected letter and diary accounts, and sound and video recordings relating to over 250,000 New Zealand service personnel.

The Museum is now seeking information from returned servicemen and women who fought in World War II to complete the database.



Detail of the rare Abraham Kirckmann harpsichord in the newly acquired Castle Collection.

Musical Collection is of World Standing

A portable organ that travelled the goldfields in Central Otago last century is one of the more eclectic features of the Auckland Museum's newly acquired Castle musical instrument collection.

But it is some extremely rare violins and harpsichords, among other instruments collected by Wellington identities Zillah and Ronald Castle, that has helped to build a collection of world standing at the Auckland Museum.

The extensive Castle collection of over 450 instruments is one of the largest acquisitions ever made by the museum. The instruments will now be exhibited alongside the Museum's existing collections of ethnographic, Asian and European instruments, including the strongest representation of the latter of any New Zealand institution.

Siblings Zillah and Ronald Castle collected a rare Jacob and Abraham Kirckmann harpsichord, dating from 1781

(similar to one owned by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II). The collection also includes two "exquisite" Klotz violins; a Thomas Cole viola da Gamba; and one of the two surviving 300-year old Thomas Stanesby Snr tenor recorders.

There is also an impressively wide-ranging collection of string and wind instruments, and the collection also traces the movement to recorded music. There is one Stroh viola and one Stroh cello, which were used to make early Edison recordings of violin music, and an early New Zealand-made gramophone.

A number of locally made instruments in the collection are part of New Zealand's musical heritage, including some early 20th century violins.

Zillah and Ronald Castle started their collection before the Second World War, initially as part of their interest in reviving performance of Baroque and Renaissance

music. Eventually, they extended their collection from the English medieval period to represent the development of musical instruments through to the present century.

The Castle collection will go on display early next year in a new musical instrument gallery on the ground floor of the Museum.

Temporary home for Maori Artefacts

As part of the refurbishment programme the Museum has opened a temporary Maori gallery, Nga Tupuna, in its Decorative Arts wing.

The gallery will allow visitors to see some of the Museum's Maori artefacts collection while the central Maori Court is closed for work from December to July 1999. The east and west wings of the Maori Court will open towards the end of next year.

MEMBERS

Please note that space is limited for these events and you should contact the Membership Officer to make a reservation.

Members interested in Japanese culture might like to join Professor Leims, lecturer at Auckland University, for a discussion on **Kabuki and Noh theatre**. Professor Leims will be speaking on **30 November at 3.30pm**.

Professor Leims' lecture will be followed by an afternoon of sushi making on **4 December at 3.30pm**. There will be a small charge of \$5.00 to cover the cost of ingredients.

Members are invited to search their families involvement with **World War I and II at the Museum's Armoury Resource Centre**. Heather Stone, Manager of the Armoury, will be present to answer questions and provide valuable insight. This event will take place on **8 December at 2.00pm**.

Members have the opportunity to preview **The Best of Wearable Art** from the **Montana New Zealand Wearable Art Awards**.

This is a selection of the top garments from ten years of the annual awards held in Nelson. The preview will take place on **10 December at 7pm**.

Field Trip, Sunday 13 December "Kauri milling heritage of the Southern Waitakeres"

Members are invited to join Bruce Hayward on a trip to Huia and Whatipu exploring the 19th century relics of the kauri industry. This will be a full day (9am - 5pm) mini bus trip. Bring lunch and sturdy footwear. Members cost: \$25. Book with the Membership Office by **Monday, 30 November 1998**.

To coincide with the opening of the **Natural History Galleries**, Members are invited to take part in a tour, conducted by John Early, Curator of Entomology. This will be an informative insight into aspects of the new galleries. The tour will take place on **8 February 1999 at 2.00pm**.

Remember, bookings are essential for these events. For more information please contact the Membership Officer, Fiona Amundsen. Phone 306 7044.

Obituary

With sadness we record the death of Mrs Brenda May on 7 October, aged 81.

A life member of the institute, Brenda was recently elected a Fellow of the Entomological Society of New Zealand, an honour which she appreciated. For the last five and a half years she was a volunteer in the Botany and Entomology Departments.

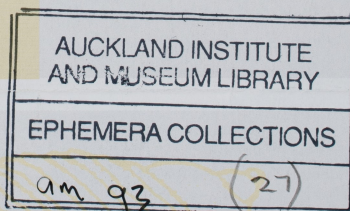
Brenda spent her first 18 months at the Museum checking moss names and specimen labels for the herbarium and was only a few days away from completing a four-year reorganisation and

curation of New Zealand weevils in the Entomology collection. The entomology work was the culmination of a painstakingly detailed examination and identification of almost 5000 specimens. This was a group of beetles to which Brenda had devoted most of her working life as an entomologist with the DSIR at Mt Albert.

The Museum has lost a truly talented and loyal friend, but her work in the Botany and Entomology collections remains as a memorial to her knowledge and dedication, along with her many scientific publications.

We extend our sympathy to her husband Vic - a Botany volunteer - and the family.

John Early
Curator of Entomology



Institute Council News

An election for Council members was not necessary, as the number of nominations received equalled the number of vacancies on the Council.

The new members of council are Pat Dale, John Packer, Chris Patterson, and Lawrence Taylor. Jack Grant-Mackie, Geoff Grenfell, and Jennifer Lamm stood again.

The new rules of the Institute allow for two staff representatives, elected by the Museum staff, on Council. They are Rocky Adams and Brian Gill.

They all join continuing Councillors Hugh Grenfell, Dinah Holman, John Morton, Jan Riddick, and Dave Simmons.

Trust Board Appointments

The new appointments by Council to the Trust Board are John Coster and Anne Grace who replace Dick Bellamy and Lorraine Wilson. Together with Rod Bielecki and Gordon Ell they are the four Institute appointees on the Board for the coming year.

For your information

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Hours 10am to 5pm daily

Open every day except
Good Friday and Christmas
Day

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