

THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM INSTITUTE AND THE RSNZ

Learned Societies: Then and Now



The Auckland Museum Institute began as a result of the New Zealand Institute Act 1867, and was originally called the Auckland Institute. Proponents of the Act thought establishing scientific institutes would speed the process of identifying mineral resources such as gold and coal, thereby contributing to economic growth. The Act, however, broadened this scope by requiring these institutes to provide “a public museum and laboratory and a public library” and to promote “by means of lectures classes and otherwise”, “the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of art science literature and philosophy”. Nonetheless, there was a geological focus in the early days, as the address of Auckland Institute President of the time, F. Whitaker, Esq. reveals:

Of what service, for instance, may I ask, would not a competent knowledge of geology, mineralogy, and chemistry have been to many of us? It is not long since that some mineral specimens were brought to Auckland by men who were impressed with the belief that they had made a great discovery. They were persuaded that they had found quartz and gold, and, led on by delusive expectations, had expended time and money in explorations... A tyro in mineralogy could have told them that the supposed quartz was carbonate of lime, and the supposed highly-valuable gold, nothing more valuable than delusive iron pyrites. (Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand Volume 1, 1868)

In both the Institute Rules and the Auckland War Memorial Museum Act 1996, the Auckland Museum Institute is described as a “learned society”. Although this may sound anachronistic today, the term linked Institute activities to a familiar model; that of the Royal Society of London.

The Royal Society of London was formed in 1660 by twelve natural philosophers who had been meeting for informal discussions about the ideas of Francis Bacon. After a lecture by Christopher Wren, the architect of London’s St Paul’s Cathedral, they formed the Royal Society of London and Wren became a foundation member. 129 years later the Royal Society hired James Cook to travel to Tahiti to record the transit of Venus, a trip that led to European rediscovery of New Zealand. (Incidentally, Institute Members may be aware that there is a stone in Auckland Museum’s North Lobby, which was brought here from England and bears Christopher Wren’s mark).

The Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1933, formed the RSNZ from the New Zealand Institute, the Auckland Institute, and the other connected societies which became constituents and branches of this new organisation. Consequently, the Auckland Museum Institute is now also Auckland Branch of the RSNZ.

With this illustrious history in the background, the Auckland Institute Rules defined its “learned society” activities as the promotion “of research, appreciation and popularisation of science, literature, history and the cultural expressions of the peoples of the Auckland Region, New Zealand and the Pacific and in more general terms, the rest of the world.” Lofty aims, but still part of the underlying vision of the Auckland Museum Institute and the RSNZ – especially today, with the advent of digital communication technology.

A recent investment in video conferencing and connection to the

Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN) by the RSNZ means that national RSNZ meetings involving people spread around New Zealand will increasingly be conducted in a virtual environment. This is a priority to the RSNZ which has recently adopted a CarboNZero certification plan, involving reduction of greenhouse gas emissions particularly related to air travel. KAREN also offers the opportunity to link simultaneously to local Universities and Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) and internationally, via the UK equivalent JANET network.

New RSNZ Chief Executive, Dr Di McCarthy writes: “We believe that the quality and availability of this technology is increasing rapidly and there will be many benefits to the Royal Society and its branches and constituents. Through our links to the Royal Society in London we plan to establish a Virtual Visitor programme which will see us joining, for example, live presentations by distinguished UK scientists. The first one we are planning is the delivery of the Bakerian Lecture early in 2008 by ex-pat Professor Robin Clark FRS who was recently awarded The Royal Society’s prestigious Bakerian Medal.”

Di looks forward to the challenges and opportunities her new role presents. In particular, she is keen to see the profile and reputation of the RSNZ enhanced both at a national and international level, and believes New Zealand science and scientists are among the best in the world.

The RSNZ has identified five current strategic priorities: the provision of expert advice; science direction, funding and career structure; education; communication of science, and business interaction. Di believes the activities of the branches are key to helping the Society achieve these objectives. In fact, just two months after she became CEO, Di met with the Auckland Museum Institute Council, an indication of her determination to strengthen relationships with RSNZ Branches. At that meeting, Di’s enthusiasm and extraordinary ability were immediately obvious. Her previous role was at the University of Auckland as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunities), Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, and Professor of Psychology. She has degrees in Mathematics, Music and Experimental Psychology and, in an academic career spanning some 25 years, she has served on a number of University of Auckland committees. She was also a professorial representative on the University Council and was a recipient of a University Distinguished Teaching Award. For the past 10 years, she has served on the board of the Deafness Research Foundation, and chaired its Scientific Committee. She is currently also a Trustee of the Northern Cochlear Implant Trust and Pindrop Foundation.

Dr Di McCarthy has a particular interest in encouraging the young to pursue science as a career. “The RSNZ has an important role to play both with regards to our responsibility to the next generation and in informing the public of the value of science to our economic and social health and wellbeing.”

Today, the RSNZ, Auckland Museum and the Auckland Museum Institute are still working together to extend the reach of art, science, literature and philosophy, bringing people into contact with quality information and providing ongoing opportunities for debate and discussion.



events and updates

Looking Back on 2007

The last year has been very full. The Institute programme of Members' Mondays, behind the scenes events, previews and 21 lectures, has been responsible for more than 4,000 visits to the Museum. Many members have experienced first-hand the problems associated with this success as they negotiate queues and delayed lecture start times. In trying to streamline processes it was decided to issue tickets. For Professor Peter Gluckman's lecture, tickets were posted and over 100 phone calls made to warn people about a last minute notification of road closure. Despite our best efforts the lecture was still delayed due to over-zealous road wardens. We thank everyone for their patience and hope to resolve these issues in the New Year.



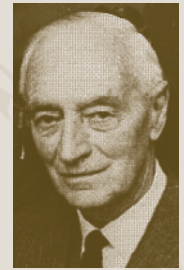
Prof. Lord Robert Winston in the Events Centre

The obvious highlight of the year was the Professor Lord Robert Winston Lecture, attended by 640 people and held in the Events Centre in August. The Auckland Museum Institute partnered with the Liggins Institute and Hood Fellowship for this event. Another highpoint was the Archey Lecture delivered by UK Professor Ian Stewart in October, who spoke to 165 High School students in a lecture entitled, "The Pattern of Tiny Feet". Students from Northcote College, Selwyn College, Otahuhu College, Mt Albert Grammar and Homeschoolers could be heard discussing the Central Pattern Generator in fish, elephants and horses as they exited the Museum Auditorium. For most, this was their first experience of a lecture-style environment and international speaker and we hope to see them here again. Some schools have been bringing students to evening lectures as well, including Rangitoto College and Corran School. Interestingly, in Section 2.1,v, of the Institute Rules, one Object of the Institute is to: "inspire the interest of all, especially the youth, in their history and the world around them". So these new, younger contacts are particularly encouraging.

This year the Institute celebrates its 140th Anniversary. We continue to benefit enormously from the past and also look forward to what lies ahead in 2008 and beyond.

More About the Archey Lecture

The Archey Lecture is named in memory of Sir Gilbert Archey, who was born in Marygate, York, England in 1890 and emigrated to New Zealand with his family at the age of two. In 1913, he gained an M.A. with honours in zoology from Canterbury College. During the First World War he served with the New Zealand Field Artillery and was appointed an O.B.E (military) in 1919. Archey was Auckland Museum Director for 40 years, from 1924-1964, overseeing the move to the present building which opened in 1929. He was active in the Royal Society of New Zealand, becoming a Fellow in 1932 and RSNZ President from 1942-43.



Archey contributed papers to many learned journals and publications; titles include *South Sea Folk* (1937 and 1949); *Sculpture and Design, an Outline of Maori Art* (1955); and *The Moa, a Study of the Dinornithiformes* (1941). (Members may be interested to know that the New Zealand primitive frog, *Leiopelma archeyi*, commonly called Archey's frog and one of only four belonging to the ancient family *Leiopelmatidae*, was named in his honour.)

In the Second World War, Archey became Lieutenant-Colonel attached to the British Military Administration in Malaya. The following excerpt gives insight into the staffing issues faced by the Museum during Archey's military service.

Staff: The Director, Dr. Gilbert Archey, has served throughout the year as Lieut.-Colonel in the 4th Battalion, Auckland Regiment. Mr. A. W. B. Powell has, in addition to his regular duties, continued his appointment as Acting-Director and served as an officer in the Home Guard. Mr. V. F. Fisher, ethnologist, is serving overseas in the New Zealand forces in the South West Pacific, and Mr. R. A. Scobie, former Education Officer, continues to serve in the 8th Army, Middle East Forces. During the year Miss Joyce Bartley, recorder and typist, was accepted for New Zealand Air Force duties. (*Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society*, Volume 73, 1943-44 <http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_73/rsnz_73_01_000330.html>)



The Institute seal appeared around 1927-28 and the motto *Whaowhia* means "filled" as a treasure house is filled or a mind stored with knowledge. The design was probably Archey's work, although there are other possible designers or co-designers such as A.W.B. Powell of L.T. Griffin. Archey was awarded an honorary D.Sc. in 1941, appointed a C.B.E. in 1958, and knighted in 1963. He died in 1974.

2008 Fazioli International Piano Recital Series

In 2008, Auckland War Memorial Museum is proud to present another exciting series of Fazioli Piano Recitals with leading international artists. This year will see top pianists from Germany, Great Britain, Russia and Lithuania performing on Auckland Museum's magnificent Fazioli piano, with a diverse series of programmes including works by Shostakovich, Beethoven, Liszt, Rachmaninov and Chopin.

PREMIUM RESERVE: (LIMITED AVAILABILITY) SINGLE SEATS: \$65/ \$60 MEMBER, SEASON SEATS \$240/\$220 MEMBER.

GENERAL RESERVE: SINGLE SEATS \$45/ \$40 MEMBER, SEASON SEATS \$160/ \$150 MEMBER.

TO BOOK AND FOR FULL PROGRAMME DETAILS PLEASE CALL OUR BOOKINGS LINE ON 09 306 7048



lectures

MEMBERS WILL NOTICE THAT PANEL DISCUSSIONS ARE CHARGED AT \$15 AND \$10 (MEMBERS) TO OFFSET THE HIGHER COSTS OF HOSTING A GROUP OF PANELISTS. WE HOPE MEMBERS WILL ENJOY THIS NEW FORMAT. THE POPULARITY OF INSTITUTE LECTURES HAS LED TO NEW PROCEDURES. SEATS MAY NOW ONLY BE BOOKED WITH PAYMENT OR WILL BE HELD FOR ONE WEEK FOR CHEQUE PAYMENTS. TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE TILLS. DOOR SALES MAY BE AVAILABLE BUT CANNOT BE GUARANTEED. LATE ENTRY MAY BE DENIED AT THE LECTURER'S REQUEST.

Beyond the Faith Versus Science Debate

PANEL DISCUSSION
SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 2.30PM AUDITORIUM
\$15 AND \$10 MEMBERS,
BOOKING RECOMMENDED ON 09 306 7048 OR
BOOKINGS@AUCKLANDMUSEUM.COM

In Darwin's theory of natural selection scientists found a way to explain what had seemed inexplicable – and had previously been addressed within religious and indigenous belief systems. The passion surrounding evolutionary science has continued unabated in some circles and the arguments on each side of the "faith divide" have been promoted with equal determination.

In this discussion, Jewish, Christian and Maori view points will be explored by a panel of scientists and a theologian, who will look at the relationship and compatibility between scientific practice and religious/cultural belief.



Lenny Bloksberg, Ph.D., CEO/CTO & Founder/ Inventor of SLIM Search, Auckland. Leonard has a Ph.D. Genetics, and has been professionally active in biomedical research since 1980. He is a devout Jewish scientist who has studied both classical and molecular genetics and combines this with a Talmudic study of the creation story in the Torah.

Neil Broom, Ph.D., Professor of Materials Science in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Auckland. His research spans the engineering, biology and medical disciplines and as a scientist and theist Neil has a longstanding interest in the interface between the philosophy of science and religion.

Dr Nicola Hoggard-Creegan studied mathematics before doing a Ph.D. in theology at Drew University, NJ. She chairs TANSAs (Theology and the Natural Sciences in Aotearoa), a group which sponsors science and theology dialogue, with a grant from Metanexus.

Dr. Mere Roberts is of Tainui (Ngati Apakura, Ngati Hikairo) descent. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. Zoology and a post graduate certificate in medical parasitology. Mere is a committee member of Nga Kaihautu Tikanga Taiao (the Maori Advisory Committee to ERMA), directly involved in debates over the genetic modification of organisms and she also contributed to some of the display in *Te Ao Turoa* (Maori Natural History Gallery) at Auckland Museum.

Being a New Zealander

PANEL DISCUSSION IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE RSNZ
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 7PM AUDITORIUM
\$15 AND \$10 MEMBERS
BOOKING RECOMMENDED ON 09 306 7048 OR
BOOKINGS@AUCKLANDMUSEUM.COM



Each year the Council for the Humanities confers two Humanities Awards to winners of their writing competition for Year 12 and 13 secondary school students. The Awards are sponsored by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, the RSNZ and Te Whaingā Aronui: The Council for the Humanities. In 2007 the topic was "Being a New Zealander..." and as the New Year begins, the Museum Institute has invited a group of thinkers/writers to discuss this further. Thoughts from the floor will be invited.

Panelists include: Gilbert Wong, senior journalist and until recently an editor and senior feature writer for The New Zealand Herald who now works for the Human Rights Commission; Rod Oram, Contributing Editor for Unlimited, Columnist for the Sunday Star-Times and Adjunct Professor in the New Zealand Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Unitec. Te Ahukarama Charles Royal (B.Mus(Hons), M.Phil, PhD), composer, writer and researcher who uses his extensive research skills and experience to inform his creativity which involves traditional Maori knowledge or matauranga Maori. One of the judges of the competition will also participate.

(For more on the award and winning entries: <http://www.rsnz.org/news/releases/humanities07.php>)



Metazoa: A Look at Recent Digital and Interactive Art in Europe

PRESENTATION BY ARTIST ANGELA MAIN
WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 7PM AUDITORIUM
\$10 AND \$5 MEMBERS
BOOKING RECOMMENDED ON 09 306 7048 OR
BOOKINGS@AUCKLANDMUSEUM.COM

Angela Main, an interactive installation artist, will discuss her new work for Auckland Museum, *Metazoa*, which enables participants to experience interactive new media exploring the "animal within" in a life-sized game. The subject of this work is an abstract notion of evolution and the concept of the inter-relatedness of all animals. Angela will position this in relation to her experience of electronic art museums in Europe and recent contemporary art events.



New Lecture Booking Policy

The Institute would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the 2007 programme. Due to the popularity of Institute lectures, accommodating everyone has led to unacceptably late starts. Therefore, a new policy has been developed. Seats will now only be reserved with payment. For those who prefer, payment can be made at the tills. Arrangements can also be made to post a cheque and seats will then be held for one week. In addition, it has been found that even when seats are prepaid, people's plans change and they may decide not to come at the last minute, so immediately prior to the beginning of the lecture, any empty seats will be given to those waiting. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated as we work to make lectures available to the greatest number of people while still starting on time.

Tiritiri Matangi — Members' Field Trip

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH Meet at Pier 4, Quay Street, Auckland 8am. Back at approximately 5pm. Please contact Membership staff on: 306 7070 exts: 737, 733 or 883 for more details or to book.



PRICE WILL BE \$200 PER FAMILY — 2 ADULTS AND UP TO 3 CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE, \$75 PER ADULT, \$70 PER SENIOR/STUDENT, \$40 PER EXTRA CHILD, CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE. THE PRICE INCLUDES THE FERRY RIDE AND A DONATION TO THE ISLAND.

Tiritiri Matangi is one of the most successful conservation projects in the world. Unwanted predators have been eradicated, and the once-pastoral island has been replanted with native trees. Rare native animals have been returned to its now-safe and restored habitats including some of New Zealand's most endangered birds in the wild; the takahe, kokako, saddleback and hihi or stitchbird. Museum Curators and an Island Guide will accompany members to the island and there will be a variety of walks available depending on fitness and the age of accompanying children.

Direct Credit Membership Subscriptions

For members who wish to direct credit Institute membership subscriptions or donations, please deposit into the following bank account: BNZ, Newmarket Branch, Auckland Museum Institute 020192 0409854-00

Make sure your name and membership number are included in the description so the deposit can be properly tracked. It would be helpful if you then email notification that the deposit has been completed. Email: jbramley@aucklandmuseum.com

Auckland Museum Library News

Extended service

The Museum Library is very pleased to announce that from 12 January 2008 it will be open on Saturdays from 10am until 5pm and provide a full service from the Library and Pictorial collections. We hope these extra hours will prove attractive to members and to the general research public.

Recent Acquisition

The Museum Library has purchased at auction a document something akin to an autograph book. It was compiled on five sheets, between about 1848 and 1852, by Colonel Robert Henry Wynyard, soldier and administrator and Superintendent of Auckland Province. The more than 100 signatures include notables of Auckland in that period and members of the 58th Regiment with which Wynyard served in New Zealand.

The Library hopes to use the document as the basis of an exhibition about the Library's collections, linking signatories with related manuscripts, publications, maps, paintings, photographs and ephemera.

Auckland Museum Records Volume 44 (for 2007) has just been published.

It's a substantial volume again this year with five articles covering entomology, marine ecology, palaeontology, botany and historical bird specimens. Four new species are described as a contribution by the Museum to a better understanding of our past and present biodiversity. The paper on Pacific grasses has an ethnobotanical component with lists of local plant names from various Pacific islands.

Copies of the Records will soon be available in the Library, Shop and in the many departments that hold sets (see library catalogue).

New Website

The Museum has relaunched its website. Institute pages can be found at: <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/friends>

members' mondays



MEMBERS GATHER AT THE ATRIUM INFORMATION DESK AT 2.15 PM FOR A 2.30PM START. (DUE TO REFURBISHMENT, THE MAORI PERFORMANCE GROUP WILL BE IN THE AUDITORIUM UNTIL 2PM AND SO MEMBERS' MONDAYS WILL BE A LITTLE LATER).

THERE WILL BE NO MEMBERS' MONDAY IN DECEMBER

JANUARY 21ST NUCLEAR FREE: PROTEST PHOTOGRAPHY BY GIL HANLY

Claudia Pond-Eyley will discuss her documentary "No Nukes Is Good Nukes" which she both directed and produced and which will be screening as part of the Nuclear Free photographic exhibition. Eyley is a well-known New Zealand artist who was active in the anti-nuclear movement depicted by Hanley's photographs, appearing in some of them.

FEBRUARY 25TH ARTS OF ASIA

Applied Arts Curator, Louis Le Vaillant will spend time with members in the recently opened permanent *Arts of Asia Gallery*, explaining the selection, importance and context of the objects.



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EMAIL ENABLES US TO LET YOU KNOW OF THE MANY HAPPENINGS IN THE MUSEUM THAT ARE OFFERED AT SHORT NOTICE.

