

## NEW ZEALAND COSTUME & TEXTILE SECTION OF THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM INSTITUTE

### Connecting Cultures Through Cloth

The very successful 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the New Zealand Costume & Textile Section of the Auckland Museum Institute (NZC&TS) was held in March this year.

The Symposium was titled *Migration and Adaptation: Connecting Cultures Through Cloth*. Migration in the New Zealand context could include the initial settling of New Zealand by Maori, more recent arrivals over the past two centuries from various European countries, and the waves of migrants from the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. All these people have brought with them their cultural traditions, personal objects and heirlooms. Lectures and electives explored the role of textiles, cloth and dress in migration and the subsequent adaptation of people to new environments.

Among the numerous events was a tour of Te Ao Turoa Gallery and the ground floor Maori Galleries which highlighted museum Maori textile and fibre collections. Museum and Auckland Art Gallery Curators contributed to the programme, rounding out the experience by drawing on examples from the Pacific Galleries, war collections and the Decorative Arts Galleries. (One of these fascinating talks will be presented to Museum Members by Ron Brownson, Auckland Art Gallery Senior Curator for the August Members' Monday). Delegates were delighted to be some of the first to use the new Museum conference facilities and appreciated the generosity of Museum staff.

It all began in 2001 when Laura Jocic, Tracey Wedge and Angela Lassig approached the Auckland Museum Institute requesting advice and support for their funding application to the Lion Foundation to hold a Costume and Textile Symposium. Each had



a passion for historic and contemporary costume and textiles and all three had connections with Auckland Museum. The application was successful and the first Symposium was held in 2002 at the Parnell Conference Centre and drew together interested people from throughout the country. At the final meeting, the Costume & Textile Section of the Auckland Museum Institute was established and a clear set of aims and objectives proposed, which remain at the core of activities.

The Section aims to:

- 1.1 Promote interest in all aspects of historical and contemporary costume and textiles.
- 1.2 To foster the study of, and research into, New Zealand and international costume & textiles.
- 1.3 To encourage the conservation of costume and textiles in New Zealand.
- 1.4 To foster the spirit of mutual helpfulness among the Section's members.

For a young country like New Zealand, just beginning to value its own history and challenged by a damp climate, these are important aims and 'the spirit of mutual helpfulness among members' has led to interesting opportunities. Last year, Section past Secretary and textile conservator, Tracey Wedge was asked to clean a length of early 19<sup>th</sup> Century embroidered muslin and then to recommend a designer who could incorporate the fabric into a wedding dress. Her friend, John Kite, Section member and past President is also pattern-maker to New Zealand designer, Liz Mitchell. He knew Mitchell loved historic costume and this became the link that resulted in Liz Mitchell designing the wedding dress in Jane Austen style.

Since 2002, the focus has become more national and this is reflected in the name change from Costume & Textile Section of the Auckland Museum Institute to the New Zealand Costume & Textile Section of the Auckland Museum Institute. And now that Dunedin's Dr Jane Malthus has become President and other Dunedin members have taken on the role of the National Committee for the next three years, it is hoped the membership base will widen further. There are also plans to initiate publication of an academic journal.

In addition to Symposia, members enjoy speakers, visits to collections, tours of designer studios and also contribute to the quarterly publication *Context*. The Section welcomes new members and enquiries can be made through the website: [www.costumeandtextile.co.nz](http://www.costumeandtextile.co.nz) or by contacting Tracey Wedge by email at [textileconservator@paradise.net.nz](mailto:textileconservator@paradise.net.nz)

#### WHAT ARE "SECTIONS"?

"The Museum was a great place to have an interest in something and when a group of people formed around an interest, that became a Section," explains John Webster, Secretary of the Auckland Marine Society and Property Supervisor of Ewelme Cottage in Parnell for the past 33 years. John remembers when the Auckland Marine Society (1957), operated as the Nautical Section of Auckland Museum. Members of this group helped in the establishment of the New Zealand National Maritime Museum in Auckland in 1993.

The oldest surviving Section is the Conchology Section of the Auckland Museum Institute (1931). CSAMI interests are all

things molluscan; shell collecting (recent and fossil), conchology and malacology (study of shells and shellfish), and conservation. Members range from amateurs to seasoned enthusiasts. A wide range of books and periodicals, including the magazine *Poirieria* are available from the club library on request. For more information check the website at [http://nz\\_seashells.tripod.com/](http://nz_seashells.tripod.com/) In 1956 the Astronomy Section, the Auckland Astronomical Society, reported in the Minutes of the Auckland Institute's Annual Meeting, that the search for an observatory site and one for the proposed planetarium for Auckland had been pursued with the City Council, without success. Eventually an appropriate site was proposed and the Section helped set up the Auckland Observatory.

## Old Friends and New

Apart from Sections, there are other people involved with the Museum via the Institute. Most recently the Institute has worked with the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics & its Applications (NZIMA), jointly promoting two lectures in March with another two planned for October.

The Institute has also met with members of the Friends of the Art Gallery Council and work has begun to offer some member events on a reciprocal basis. In April, Institute members were offered Gallery members' prices and invited to attend Mary Kisler's lecture series at the Art Gallery which began in May. (This offer was for the first 20 Institute members who registered and was advertised by email).

Then there is the relationship the Institute has built with the *New Zealand Geographic Magazine*. Institute members are now invited to subscribe for a 15% reduction on the recommended subscription price. (Phone (09) 307 0399 or email [publisher@nzgeographic.co.nz](mailto:publisher@nzgeographic.co.nz) to take up this offer and quote your membership number and expiry date).



And the Royal Society of New Zealand is the oldest "Friend", having been the Institute's parent organisation since 1867 in the Institute's capacity as Auckland Branch. That relationship enables Auckland Museum Institute members to take up half price RSNZ pass-through membership at \$38 (Contact the Administrator).



All current Institute members are now invited to subscribe for a 15% reduction on the recommended subscription price.

## Conservation Week 6-12 August 2007

Conservation Week is a week of activities and action for the environment coordinated by the Department of Conservation in the first week of August each year. This August we are able to offer a number of lectures that loosely connect with the theme of conservation. Historically, the Institute has promoted this area, as can be seen from the Abstract of the Annual Report of the Auckland Institute delivered by Mr D Petrie, FLS, President, in the Chair in 1896.

"Soon after the last annual meeting the Council received a communication from the Government asking whether the Institute would undertake the management of the island... As the proposal to reserve the island emanated from the Institute, and has always had its active support and sympathy, the Council at once stated their willingness to undertake the work... Mr. R. H. Shakespear has been appointed curator, and left for the island early in the month of January..."

"A visit of inspection has proved that most of the rarer birds known to inhabit the island still linger thereon, in some cases in fair numbers... Fortunately, wild cats and other vermin appear to be scarce, and there is every probability that the island may for many years afford a secure home to species that have either disappeared or will shortly disappear from the mainland."

*Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, (1896). Volume 29: <http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/>

## Special Lecture for the whole family — ages 10 and up!

### PLEASURABLE KINGDOM: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good



**Jonathan Balcombe, PhD**  
Senior Research Scientist, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, Washington, D.C.

**SUNDAY JULY 29TH, 2PM AUDITORIUM  
FREE WITH ENTRY DONATION  
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED, PHONE 306 7048**

Dr Jonathan Balcombe was born in England, raised in New Zealand and Canada, and has lived in the United States since 1987. He studied biology at York University and Carleton University in Canada before earning his doctorate in ethology

(animal behaviour) from the University of Tennessee. He has published many scientific papers on animal behaviour, humane education and animal research, and is the author of the widely acclaimed book *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good* (Macmillan, 2006). In his spare time he enjoys biking, piano, nature-watching and trying to understand his two cats. In this colourful presentation, Dr Balcombe surveys the rich landscapes of pleasure to be found in the animal kingdom. Combining rigorous evidence and amusing anecdote, the author shows that creatures from birds to bats to baboons, feel good thanks to play, touch, food, anticipation, comfort, aesthetics and more. He also explains how our acknowledgement of positive feelings in other animals has important ethical ramifications for our relationship to them.

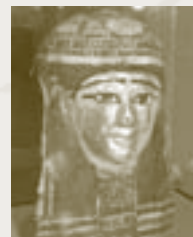


## EGYPT: BEYOND THE TOMB

### Museum Lecture Series in Association with Centre for Continuing Education

**\$18 PER LECTURE (\$13.50\*) OR \$36 FOR THE SERIES (\$31.50\*) PLUS ENTRY \$6 TO THE EXHIBITION. BOOKINGS: CCE 0800 864 266**

One view of the afterlife in ancient Egyptian thought and religion was that it was another country, similar to their own Nile Valley, but one filled with obstacles, demons and dangers. These contributed to a mythology of the afterlife that drew aspects from the art and the language. The three facets of the religion – mythology, art and language – were all inextricably entwined in the Egyptian funerary rites, rituals and beliefs, and all can be seen in the painted coffins and funerary accoutrements of the ancient Egyptians (see the Seasonal brochure or Museum website for details). You may choose to attend individual lectures or register for the series.



#### The Hieroglyphs of Ancient Egypt

WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 7.30-9PM AUDITORIUM

#### The Mythology of Ancient Egypt

WEDNESDAY 25 JULY, 7.30-9PM AUDITORIUM

#### The Art of Ancient Egypt

WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST, 7.30-9PM AUDITORIUM

\* members, students or unwaged

## The Lucy Cranwell Lecture for 2007 — Auckland Botanical Society

### Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1845-1923)

Ewen K Cameron

Curator of Botany, Auckland Museum

THURSDAY AUGUST 2, 7:30PM AUDITORIUM  
DONATION REQUESTED  
SPONSORED BY THE AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY AND AUCKLAND MUSEUM



Thomas Cheeseman

Ewen Cameron will discuss Cheeseman's many botanical accomplishments including how he assembled his magnum opus: *Manual of the New Zealand Flora* (1906, 2nd ed. 1925) which was not totally superseded until 2000. He will also look at Cheeseman in the context of his era and the way in which he was strongly supported by the botanists at Kew Gardens in London at the time.

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## INSTITUTE MEMBERS TRAINING COURSE

### Learning how to access Museum Information Resources — the New Website

6TH JULY 9.50AM IN THE NORTH FOYER  
ENTRANCE VIA THE SMALL WOODEN DOOR ON THE NORTH (FRONT) SIDE.

A programme has been developed to help members access computer and information systems in the Museum. The last session of the series will help members navigate the new Museum website. Phone Alison Barnett on 306 7070 ext 883 to book.



## RSNZ Leonard Cockayne Lecture

### Birds in Paradise — the Role of Birds in Shaping New Zealand's terrestrial biodiversity

Dr William G. Lee

Landcare Research, Dunedin

WEDNESDAY 8 AUGUST, 7.30PM, AUDITORIUM  
\$10 FULL PRICE AND \$5 MEMBERS, BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED, PHONE 306 7048

The native birds of New Zealand are highly unusual in several respects.

They have dominated terrestrial ecosystems for millions of years in the near absence of mammals, and have evolved some extraordinary life-history features.

Furthermore, the magnitude of post-settlement extinctions amongst native birds (about half of all terrestrial bird species) has drastically changed the character of the entire New Zealand biota. We now have a reasonable understanding of the range of species and life-history traits of indigenous birds, along with the factors that caused their extinction or decline. The reasons for the success of a subset of introduced bird species are also becoming clear. Dr Lee will examine the interaction between birds and the environment during the history of New Zealand, and discuss the role of birds in ecosystem processes, their effect on plant and vegetation development, and on other animals.



## Whale Tales of the South Pacific and the Bahamas

Nan Daeschler Hauser

President and Director of the Center for Cetacean Research and Conservation, Principal Investigator of the Cook Islands Whale Research Project, Director of the Cook Islands Whale Education Centre, Rarotonga.

WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST, 7.30PM AUDITORIUM  
WHALE STRANDING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION IN THE PICTORIAL GALLERY OPEN FROM 6.30PM  
\$10, \$5 MEMBERS.  
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED 306 7048

Nan Hauser works in Rarotonga where she has undertaken studies on the biology, behavior, and ecology of a variety of cetaceans for the past 10 years. Her work includes documenting populations of bottlenose dolphins, spotted

dolphins, sperm whales, dense-beaked whales and many other species in the Bahamas. She was a key player in the creation of a two million square kilometre whale sanctuary in the waters of the Cook Islands.

Nan will talk about her travels to remote places over the last 15 years (with her three children in tow as research assistants) to study the whales of the Cook Islands and the Bahamas and their underwater behaviour, genetics, population identity, acoustics and strandings. She has fought



for the survival of cetaceans and her moving stories will explain why whales are in more trouble today than at the peak of whaling.

## Hochstetter Lecture

The Hochstetter Lecture is given in each RSNZ branch by a New Zealand earth scientist who is undertaking or has recently completed a major, and as yet unpublished, study.

### Environmental Change — A View From Downunder

Professor Paul Williams PhD, ScD  
School of Geography, Geology and Environmental Science, University of Auckland

TUESDAY 21 AUGUST, 7:30PM AUDITORIUM  
SPONSORED BY THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM INSTITUTE  
DONATION REQUESTED, PHONE 306 7048.

Prof Williams has undertaken pioneering research in high resolution paleo-environmental reconstruction from speleothems (stalactites, stalagmites and flowstones) and leads a major ongoing Foundation for Research Science & Technology (FRST)-funded research programme studying the palaeoclimate record found in New



Zealand tree-rings and cave deposits. Using data from caves in Waitomo, Hawkes Bay, Nelson, West Coast and Fiordland, from the present time back to the Last Glacial Maximum, his research is now producing some extremely interesting results, showing that we do not always follow the rest of the world.

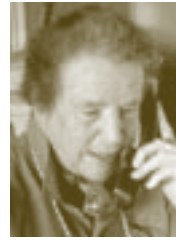
THE COUNCIL OF THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM INSTITUTE  
GIVES NOTICE OF A  
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING  
FOR INSTITUTE RULES CHANGE  
(IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES 14.2 AND 19.1)

2pm Saturday July 21st, 2007

At last November's Council election, it became clear that the rules governing election procedures need updating. The Institute Council proposes the following amendments to the Rules and believes these changes will address this issue and also ensure that all votes are eligible. The Rules require a Special General Meeting for any changes. This will not be a lengthy meeting, and tea and coffee will be served in the Members' Lounge afterwards.

The Rules changed are explained below:

- 5.9 Each voting paper shall be **signed by the voter and** posted or delivered by the voter in a sealed envelope marked "Voting Paper" to be in the hands of the Secretary 3 days before the Annual General Meeting. ~~The voting paper shall be valid only if the voter has signed his or her name within the flap of the envelope but not on the voting paper.~~
- 14.1 the amendment would be the addition of the darker bold text.
- 5.9 Each voting paper shall be signed by the voter and posted or delivered in a sealed envelope to be in the hands of the Secretary 3 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 14.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be convened by circular or advertisement. It shall be the duty of the Council to distribute to all members **(by post or electronically) at least 16 days** prior to this meeting a report of the proceedings for the previous year, together with a balance sheet and income and expenditure account.



**VOLUNTEERS**  
Introducing  
Angela Caughey!

Angela Caughey was one of those who responded to the Volunteer Job Descriptions in December's *Institute News* and she has taken on the task of keeping in touch with members

by phone. Over the last couple of months Angela has been phoning new members to make sure they are aware of their member benefits and also contacting past Institute members. Welcome back to those who have returned. Angela enjoys the few hours per week required as a break from her other life as an author of four books, including; *The Interpreter – The Biography of Richard "Dicky" Barrett* (1998) and *Pioneer Families – Settlers of Nineteenth-Century New Zealand* (1994). You may have seen these or some of her other titles in public libraries.

**NUMBERS** Changes to membership numbers and what it all means

When the Institute issued new cards to all Life Members this year, many were surprised at the change to their membership number. Previously, another system-generated number was used but this was not, in fact, the membership number. Our records have not changed and still hold all membership histories but using the membership number has streamlined some data processing. Lounge access card numbers, however, are completely random.

members' Mondays : PLEASE BOOK BY CALLING 306 7048  
OR EMAIL BOOKINGS@AUCKLANDMUSEUM.COM



MEMBERS GATHER AT THE NEW ATRIUM INFORMATION DESK AT 1.50PM FOR A 2PM START.

**JUNE 25TH CROWN LYNN IN THE MUSEUM COLLECTION**

Valerie Monk's richly illustrated book *Crown Lynn, a New Zealand Icon* was published in November last year by Penguin. Valerie will give an overview of the history of the Crown Lynn factory and will then speak about individual pieces displayed in the Encounter gallery.

**JULY 30TH WHALE STRANDINGS – PICTORIAL GALLERY.**

Come and meet Tom Trnski, the Museum's new Marine Curator direct from his previous post at the Australian Museum, Sydney and Jan Young, photographer, who discuss Jan's Whale Stranding photographic exhibition in the Pictorial Gallery.

**AUGUST 27TH THE RAREST PACIFIC BOOK: ALEXANDER SHAW'S BOOKS OF TAPA SAMPLES PUBLISHED IN LONDON DURING 1787**

Ron Brownson, Senior Curator of New Zealand and Pacific Art, Auckland Art Gallery

On the three Pacific voyages undertaken by James Cook, a large number of tapa samples were collected in Tonga, Hawaii and Tahiti. As these painted textiles have been hidden from light for over two centuries, they are in remarkable and pristine condition.



AUCKLAND MUSEUM  
INSTITUTE CONTACT:

ALISON BARNETT, ADMINISTRATOR PHONE: 09 309 0443 X 883 FAX: 09 379 9956  
EMAIL: FRIENDS@AUCKLANDMUSEUM.COM POST: PRIVATE BAG 92018 AUCKLAND  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON EVENTS BY EMAIL PLEASE CONTACT US WITH YOUR ADDRESS.  
EMAIL ENABLES US TO LET YOU KNOW OF THE MANY HAPPENINGS IN THE MUSEUM THAT ARE OFFERED AT SHORT NOTICE.

