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AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

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Contributors to This Issue

Jeremy Coote is Curator and Joint Head of Collections at the University of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, where he has worked since 1994. Trained as a social anthropologist, with research interests in South Sudan and East Africa, since joining the staff of the Museum his research has focussed on the history of its early collections and, in particular, on identifying the full extent of the Cook voyage collections and researching their history.

Jeremy Uden is Deputy Head of Conservation at the University of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, where he has worked since 2008. Trained first as a biologist, before training as a conservator, he has worked in a number of museums in the UK as well as at Auckland Museum. He is currently the holder of a Clothworkers Foundation Conservation Senior Fellowship (2012-14), during which he is researching and conserving the Cook voyage collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum.

Andrew McAlister holds a PhD from the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand. His 2011 thesis focused on the geochemical and physical analysis of Marquesan basalt artefacts. He is currently investigating the geochemistry and distribution of lithic materials in the Marquesas Islands, the Cook Islands and New Zealand as a means of identifying cultural interaction.

Peter Sheppard is currently Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland. His interests include the archaeology of the Solomon Islands where he has conducted research since 1989. His methodological expertise lies in Archaeological Science with one focus being on the sourcing and study of lithic material culture and its distribution within the Pacific including New Zealand.

Melinda Allen is an Associate Professor in Anthropology at the University of Auckland. She has conducted archaeological research in the southern Cook and Marquesas Islands since 1987. She is currently leading an inter-disciplinary study in the Cook Islands examining palaeoclimate change and the effects on prehistoric populations and their marine resources. This research is supported by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund.

Andrea Bender completed her PhD in cultural anthropology at the University of Freiburg (Germany) and is now Professor of Psychology at the University of Bergen (Norway). She specialises in the interactions of culture, language and cognition, and has conducted extended fieldwork on Tonga. Her current research focuses on numeration systems and on how their culture-specific properties affect numerical cognition.

Te Papa and Polynesian Society Event

The Friends of Te Papa in association with the Polynesian Society hosted a special set of lectures on *Archaeology—New Frontiers of Pacific Research* 12 November 2013 at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Wellington). Recognising that archaeology has played a significant role in developing new understandings of Pacific

cultures and their histories, Te Papa invited members to listen to three illustrated talks by senior archaeologists Atholl Anderson, Janet Davidson and Geoff Irwin. These archaeological *kaumatua* shared their experiences of working in New Zealand and the Pacific, highlighting key discoveries in the region and opportunities for new research.

AGM Highlights

A highlight of the July AGM was the award to Professor Emeritus Geoff Irwin of the Elsdon Best Memorial Medal. Following the formal presentation, Professor Irwin offered the Society, and interested members of the public, a lecture on his extensive research at the North Island lake village site of Kohika (Whakatane). Kohika is famous not only for its remarkable assemblage of well-preserved organic artefacts, but also Professor Irwin's detailed analysis of the settlement's layout, structure and on-site activities. Kohika was compared with other North Island areas where Prof. Irwin has worked, including Poutu in the Kaipara and Ponui Island, highlighting regional variability in socio-political processes across these varied localities.

Also of note, Ethan Cochrane has recently joined the *JPS* editorial team as co-Book Review Editor along with Lyn Carter. Hamish Macdonald and Ben Davies continue to work on the Society's website and the *Journal* has now posted contents from the last five issues. The site also allows for online manuscript submissions for the *Journal*, as well as new registrations/subscriptions. Ben Davies also manages the Society's stand-alone *FaceBook* page.

News from Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum (Honolulu): New Permanent Exhibition

On 21 September 2013, the Bishop Museum re-opened its permanent exhibition space in Pacific Hall (formerly Polynesian Hall) following extensive renovations. The Hall celebrates the peoples and cultures of Oceania and showcases objects from the museum's Ethnology and Archaeology Collections. One floor of the Hall provides visitors with information about the settlement of the region and cultural traditions throughout Oceania. About two-thirds of the objects on display here derive from the Archaeology Collections. These objects were recovered from stratigraphic excavations by prominent Bishop Museum archaeologists such as Kenneth P. Emory, Yosihiko H. Sinoto, Roger C. Green and Patrick V. Kirch. Another notable inclusion in the newly renovated hall is the "How We Know" panel, an interactive display where visitors learn about the tools that archaeologists use to reconstruct life in the past. The Bishop Museum hopes the newly renovated permanent exhibition space will be a focal point for dissemination of knowledge about the Pacific region and related archaeological research (communicated by Dr Mara Mulrooney, Bishop Museum, Honolulu).

The Elsdon Best Memorial Medal

The Council of the Polynesian Society considers possible recipients of this award at the end of each year, but does not make an award annually. "The Medal is for outstanding scholarly work on the New Zealand Māori. The research for which the Medal is awarded may be in the fields of Māori ethnology, social anthropology, archaeology,

prehistory or linguistics.” The Medal is normally presented at the Society’s mid-year Annual General Meeting and the recipient is asked to present a paper on that occasion.

The Nayacakalou Medal

The intention and conditions of the award are as follows (as recorded in the Polynesian Society Council Minutes of November 1991):

The Nayacakalou Medal honours the late Dr Rusiate Nayacakalou for his outstanding ethnological writing on Fijian and Polynesian society and culture. The Medal will be considered, but not necessarily awarded, annually for recent significant publication on the Island Pacific relevant to the aims and purposes of the Polynesian Society and the interests and concerns of Dr Nayacakalou.

The recipient may be asked to present a paper on the occasion of receiving the Medal.

The Skinner Fund for Physical Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology

The Skinner Fund is sponsored jointly by the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Polynesian Society and the New Zealand Archaeological Association. Funds granted range from \$500 to \$1000 and applications normally close in mid-April.

The purpose of the Fund is to promote the study of the history, art, culture, physical and social anthropology of the Māori and other Polynesian peoples, particularly through the recording, survey, excavation and scientific study of prehistoric and historic sites in New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific. For further information, contact The Executive Officer, The Royal Society of New Zealand, P.O. Box 598, Wellington.

Te Rangi Hiroa Medal of the Royal Society of New Zealand

Te Rangi Hiroa, [Sir Peter Buck]) was a pioneer New Zealand social scientist. He qualified in medicine from the University of Otago in 1904 and practiced for 22 years, making major contributions to Māori health. After a brief period in Parliament, he embarked on a career in anthropology, undertaking research on Māori and Pacific cultures. His appointment to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, as Director, and to Yale University, as a Professor of Anthropology, are testimony to the international recognition of his scholarly research and writing.

The Te Rangi Hiroa Medal was established by the Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1996, with the support of Ngāti Mutunga at Urenui, in memory of Te Rangi Hiroa to recognise excellence in the social sciences. It is awarded biennially in rotation in four areas of the social sciences to a researcher who, working within New Zealand, has undertaken work of great merit and has made an outstanding contribution towards the advancement of the particular area of social science.

- Historical approaches to societal transformation and change: this includes appropriate contributions by archaeologists, physical and social anthropologists, historians of all sub-disciplines, and others using study of the past to elucidate important processes of change, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere.

- Current issues in social and cultural diversity and cohesion: this includes appropriate contributions by criminologists, educationalists, geographers, linguists, philosophers, sociologists, social anthropologists, psychologists and others who make major advances in the understanding of current society, both in New Zealand and elsewhere.
- Social and economic policy and development: this includes appropriate contributions by economists, political scientists, demographers, public health researchers, public and social policy specialists and others who make a major contribution to identifying and shaping social and economic trends, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere.
- Medical anthropology: relationship between human behaviour, social life, and health within an anthropological context.

For further information see: http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/Site/funding/MedalsAwards/awards/academy_awards/hiroa.aspx or contact: Manager—Corporate Affairs, Royal Society of New Zealand, P.O. Box 598, Wellington 6140. Email: awards@royalsociety.org.nz