

structive communication. This is especially true for research on Rapa Nui. While educating pupils and students, it is important to insure that interdisciplinary thinking is taught and practiced.

Q. *What are you currently reading?*

A. Apart from scientific publications, I am currently reading a German book about the myths, history and characteristics of 50 exceptionally remote islands (J. Schalansky, *Atlas der entlegenen Inseln*). In addition, I am reading the bestselling *Millennium Trilogy* of the Swedish author Stieg Larsson.

Q. *Credentials?*

A. Degree in Biology, University of Kiel, Germany, 1983; PhD in Ecology, University of Kiel, Germany, 2003 Scientific Coordinator at the Institute for Ecosystem Research, University of Kiel, Germany

Q. *Date and place of birth?*

A. November 28, 1957; Berlin, Germany



**CORRECTION:** In RNJ, 23(2):154-169), our Look Back featured a paper by Captain H.V. Barclay R.N., called “Easter Island and its Colossal Statues.” We neglected to provide the correct citation for that paper, so for all of you are panting to know this, we include it here. Barclay read his paper to the Royal Geographical Society on 14 April, 1898, and the paper was subsequently published in an 1899 issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia*, South Australian Branch, Vol. 3:127-137.

## OBITUARIES

### Emeritus Professor Roger Green: Mischievous Raconteur and Mentor 1932–2009

Alice A. Storey\*

Emeritus, Emeritus Professor Green, as he jokingly referred to himself, was lost as an active force in the life of his colleagues, students and family on October 4, 2009 at the age of 77. However, so vibrant were his academic and personal contributions to knowledge, and to his students and colleagues, that he continues to live and work through all of us. I found that after I left Auckland in June of 2009, having just completed my Ph.D., I was already repeating and sharing some of the more important pieces of advice that Roger had given me.

It was perhaps a belated inspiration from Roger himself that Georgia Lee invited me to write a piece in remembrance of him and his contributions to students for the *Rapa Nui Journal*. It was in one of my first correspondences with Roger in which he expressed his admiration for the *RNJ*. I was still an M.A. student at Simon Fraser University, just beginning my journey with the Pacific chicken, when I wrote to Roger and asked for a copy of his paper *Commentary on the Sailing Raft, the Sweet Potato and the South American Connection* published in the *RNJ* in 2001. He replied to my email almost immediately and said he would happily send a copy of the article, but that I should go and discuss the acquisition of an institutional subscription with our library as soon as possible. He stressed that the *RNJ* was a fine publication and should be available for researchers at SFU. That was Roger – always happy to help a student as well as advocate for wider distribution of publications that featured Pacific archaeology.

During Roger’s memorial service at the University of Auckland it was clear that, regardless of his prolific contributions to academic literature (well over 300 papers and publications) and to archaeological method and theory, the investment Roger made to teaching and mentoring is the one for which he is most fondly remembered. As many of his publications are widely available, and his influence in a variety of archaeological investigations has been covered in other memorial tributes, I will focus this piece on some of the lessons and good advice one could only get from talking to and observing the man himself.

By the time I arrived in Auckland in 2005, Roger was already well and truly retired from the more routine aspects of academia, such as faculty meetings and teaching reviews. Instead, he appeared on campus at least once a week to en-

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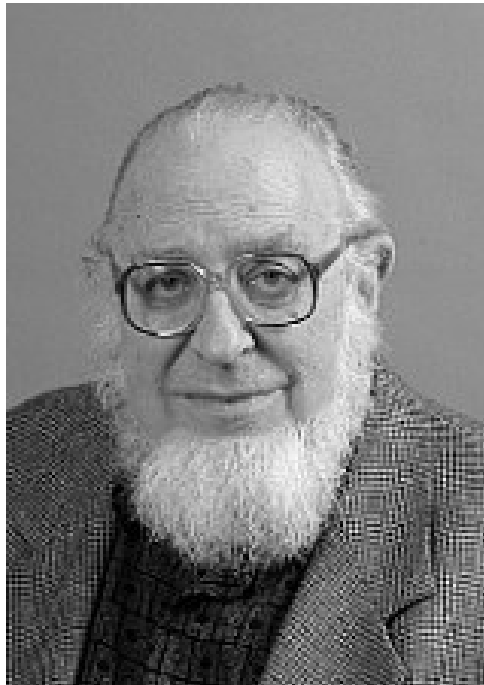
gage in those activities he loved: research, publication, collaboration and supervision. Roger was a voracious researcher. He loved knowing what was on the cutting edge and had already marked and read the most recent issue of *PNAS* before most of us were aware it was out. He examined each new contribution to knowledge carefully and, even more impressively, he took the time to consider others who would be interested and could benefit from the research. He marked each article with the names of those people and made gifts of copies, which one would often find in their mailbox both in Auckland and abroad.

Roger also had an encyclopaedic knowledge of published research – in several languages – and in his ‘retirement’ referred to himself as a Research Assistant who helped to ferret out details applicable to the research of so many of his colleagues. It wasn’t that Roger felt we weren’t capable of doing the research – he would never have bothered investing in lazy scholars – instead he felt we were devoted to new discoveries and he contributed to that creative process through stoking the research furnace. For many of the new theories, paradigms and discoveries made in the last decade or more, he was an important behind-the-scenes figure. If one were to include all the papers that acknowledged contributions and support from Roger among his already impressive list of publications, a dedicated library would have to be opened to house the collection.

Considering that Roger took the time to know the name of each new graduate student who entered the department, as well as something about them, and how he read and researched prolifically **and** also found work to keep many students employed one may wonder if he could possibly have found time to do anything else. He most certainly did. Even in the weeks before his death, Roger was working on publications and ensuring that the things he knew he couldn’t personally finish were entrusted to people who could. Roger believed that it was a responsibility to make data and theories available, not for personal prestige or to meet criteria for publication based salary hikes, but to contribute to what he called the ‘Discussion’. Roger believed that scholarly knowledge was an evolutionary process and that if one did not contribute bits to the whole then that process could not take place. He also believed that we should know and acknowledge all the contributions to that conversation. As a result he was an ardent advocate of using historical records, explorers’ journals, oral traditions, early dictionaries and old forgotten theories in the development of new research perspectives.

He encouraged each and every one of us to contribute to long standing discussions and led by example.

However, Roger took the ‘Discussion’ much further than publications and public talks. Roger infused personality and life into that conversation by being invested and engaged in it. This usually took the form of phone calls, which came regardless of time zone or continent (just about dinner time), to discuss your research, what he had learned about it since the last call and how excited he was about its progress. He also shared his enthusiasm for new ideas he was engaged in and the work of others in a range of disciplines. These calls could last hours when Roger was particularly excited and *always* required a well-stocked pad of blank paper, several pens and a waiting bowl of hot water for the cramp you would invariably get in your hand from furiously writing. Luckily, these intensive, fact-loaded discussions were interspersed with personal anecdotes and stories. Roger was a mischievous raconteur and when one took the time to get past the numerous titles (Professor, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, among others), they were rewarded with a friend, cheerleader and sounding board. Roger was always genuinely interested in the research of his colleagues and students, and that was perhaps one of his most generous gifts to all of us.



Roger Green photo by Hamish Macdonald

In the past few months I have found myself repeating to colleagues and students some of the most valuable things that Roger taught me. These include the insights that other students will teach you much more during your undergraduate years than your Professors ever will. The idea that not getting the answer you wanted or expected

can be taken in two ways: as a failure or as an opportunity to learn. Roger clearly showed that the second option was always the one that would yield unexpected rewards. He showed us through numerous influential examples that one should always seek to collaborate with experts outside your discipline to achieve the best results. It is not shameful nor an indication of ignorance to ask for help and advice from others, but a strength to seek out expert input to enrich your own knowledge base. Every one of those now famous Green collaborations was an opportunity for Roger to learn something new.

Roger radiated the gleeful exuberance that comes to those blessed enough to pursue a career that they love. Being a researcher, a teacher, and a collaborator was what Roger excelled at and it made him rich in spirit, generous with his time and a joy to collaborate with. That sort of atti-

tude is contagious and anyone who has had the pleasure to meet some of the scholars Roger influenced early in his career can clearly see how that enthusiasm was embraced and has passed down through the academic generations.

While I will miss Roger and his phone calls immensely, I also know that in a way he is still present. There are many lessons he taught me that I haven't fully realized yet and that I will only acknowledge when I paraphrase Roger when making comments to students. Advice such as, 'Your thesis is not your life's work' or, 'You are *learning*; no one expects you to be perfect or all-knowing, but to make the effort to learn more about the topic every day' or my favourite, 'It is a *draft* of a paper; there are still infinite opportunities to improve it.' Roger showed me that the student – teacher relationship is fluid, with both parties having expertise and opinions to contribute but also something to learn. Roger will be there every time I get excited about a new piece of the puzzle – whether it is directly related to my own research or that of a colleague or student. His legacy will live on because he was a mentor, and for those of us to whom he freely gave his time and his tuition it is now ours to pass it on. That is what he cleverly taught us to do when we thought we were learning something else.

Roger Curtis Green: A Tribute and  
Celebration. A Special Memorial at the  
*Fale Pasifika* of the University of Auckland  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

*Steve Fischer*

It was a cool, breezy, sunny Friday afternoon as Valerie Green, in pensive gratitude, watched as over one hundred friends, colleagues, disciples from throughout New Zealand and the world gathered inside the University of Auckland's vast *Fale Pasifika*—the high circular Samoan-style meeting house just below the office from which, over the course of more than fifty years, her late husband Roger Green transformed Pacific archaeology and linguistics. Upon entering the cavernous structure, all of us, mental pallbearers each, succumbed doubly to the occasion's solemnity as the School of Music's Post-Graduate String Quartet pined into an emotional rendition of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. Soon, a formal Maori *karanga* (welcome) rang out, whereupon Simon Holdaway of the Department of Anthropology greeted all those assembled. Peter Sheppard then delivered the first tribute of the day and began introducing each of the many speakers whose eulogies sanctified the next three hours. Linguist Andrew Pawley, a colleague since 1958, delivered the rich paean of the senior scholar, followed by Dame Anne Salmond and the Samoan artist Fatu Feu'u, who then introduced a West Samoan choir whose village of Poutasi, district of Falealili, Western Samoa, had recently been devastated by a tsunami; the poignancy of their song and own suffering touched all. Further tributes followed, all

of them moving, at times even tearful, yet punctuated, too, with anecdotal humor: from Geoff Irwin, Géraldine Sand, Janet Davidson, Lisa Matisso-Smith, Marshall Weisler, Melinda Allen, Robin Torrence, and Roger Green's young nephew Ryan Lang. Tributes from abroad were read out: from Jack Golson (who had welcomed Roger Green at the University of Auckland in 1958), Jane Kelley, Peter Bellwood, Lawrence Foana'ota, Pat Kirch, Matthew Spriggs, and Richard Walter. Audience tributes then followed, with closing music. Afterwards, many lingered over light refreshments, chatting in muffled tones, recollecting our own special moments with the Pacific's leading archaeologist, consoling with Valerie Green while expressing lifetimes of gratitude. Seldom come such days as this. Roger Green was himself an island of a man, one who dedicated his entire professional life to the Pacific he loved so well. And as we wandered silently away from the *Fale Pasifika*, back to Waiheke, to Christchurch and Dunedin, to Canberra, to Hawai'i and France, we knew Roger Green will never truly be gone. For each of us was carrying inside us that living legacy only the great can bestow.

**Knut M. Haugland**

*Thor Heyerdahl Jr.*  
*Chairman of the Board, The Kon-Tiki Museum*

*Reidar Solsvik*  
*Curator, The Kon-Tiki Museum*

***Fair winds and following seas, Knut!***

Knut M. Haugland has lowered his final sail. As the last of the Kon-Tiki crew he reached his final shore on Christmas Day, 92 years old, and with him the Kon-Tiki Expedition becomes part of history. Knut, who in the service of king, country and friends had challenged fate more often than most, was finally permitted by those same whims of fate to sign off after a full life. It is therefore with wistfulness and not grief that these lines are written. Knut knew how to take full advantage of his generously allotted time; not a moment went to waste. It is with gratitude and respect that we here at the Kon-Tiki Museum remember him.

It is with sober recognition that we note that two chapters of Norwegian history have now finally come to a close. His exploits during the Second World War belong to the first. These are described in vivid detail in the biography of his life, *Operatøren* ("The Operator"), which was published last year. These exploits earned him the position as one of the most decorated soldiers of all times in Norway. Knut was an essential part of the heavy water raid in Vemork, which stopped Hitler from getting the atom bomb. This is not just part of Norwegian history, it is part of world history, and is depicted in a series of books and films. But it was his Morse code contact with London from his hiding place above the Women's Clinic in Oslo, which ended with Knut shooting his