



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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1st New Zealand Archaeology Week

The first New Zealand Archaeology Week was held from 1-7 April and saw over 40 events organised around the country, including walking tours, talks, special exhibitions and educational programmes. Many in the archaeological community participated and the week was well received: most events attracted from 30-150+ people. The NZAA is seeking feedback about the Archaeology Week and would welcome any comments. Please email archaeologyweek@nzarchaeology.org to leave any feedback or request information about getting involved next year. A full list of the events is still available on the NZAA website (www.nzarchaeology.org), and a few of these are described below to give a flavour of the variety of experiences that were available.

The NZAA would like to thank the Archaeology Week Area Coordinators as well as everyone who participated in the week or helped out in any way. We could not have undertaken Archaeology Week 2017 without your involvement.

Auckland

The Auckland Archaeological Society (ArchSoc) and the Auckland University Anthropology Department, hosted a series of public activities including a public talk at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, a laboratory open day and an archaeology themed movie night. The final event was a 'mock' excavation at the University of Auckland's Anthropology Simulated Excavation Training Site (ASETS).

Those who came along to the archaeological site were given the opportunity to participate in excavating (fake!) human remains and other artefacts. ArchSoc committee members, along with biological anthropology post-graduate students Victoria Trow and Rebecca Alley, provided advice on excavation techniques and the protocol for working with human remains. Those who participated learnt how to identify and excavate bone and other artefacts in an archaeological context. The day was a success and captured the interest and imagination of everyone that attended, especially the kids! (*Brendan Kneebone and Sarah Bradley*).

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Talking through the excavation process at the AnthSoc mock dig.



Getting stuck in.



(Fake!) human remains.

Thames

In Thames Graham Robinson led a guided tour of four historic wharf sites along the Thames shoreline, and in May (a little outside Archaeology week, but still included in the overall programme) a series of events commemorated the 175th anniversary of the visit of *HMS Tortoise* to Te Karo Bay to collect kauri spars for the Royal Navy. There was a lecture series in Tairua, followed by a wreath-laying at the grave of AB William Samson who was drowned in May 1842 when a ship's boat capsized. The grave is now maintained by the Royal New Zealand Navy, which led the commemoration event. A set of new interpretation panels outlining the *HMS Tortoise* visit was also unveiled at the site of the Te Karo Bay camp.

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Wreath laying at the sailor's grave during the HMS Tortoise commemoration (Dave Wilton).



Unveiling the new interpretation panels at Te Karo Bay (Dave Wilton).

Wellington

In Wellington there were a number of events, including a Wellington walking tour of places of archaeological interest, with Mary O’Keefe and Victoria Grouden acting as guides, and Bruce McFadgen presented a lecture ‘*Up, Down and Getting Soaked, the archaeology of earthquakes and tsunamis in the 15th century.*’



Mary O’Keefe guiding the Wellington archaeology walk (Kathryn Hurren).



Bruce McFadgen presenting his lecture on the archaeology of tsunamis and earthquakes (Kathryn Hurren).

Christchurch

In Christchurch Melissa Reimer from Heritage New Zealand organised a series of short presentations on archaeology and heritage, *'Quick Fire Stories: Our Heritage Unearthed,'* held at Canterbury Museum. Katharine Watson, Hamish Williams and Jessie Garland (Underground Overground), T.J. O'Connell and Elsa Koenig (OPUS), Joseph Hullen (Ngai Tahu) and Hatesa Seumanutafa (Canterbury Museum) all participated. Subjects included the excavations at John Robert Godley's house in Lyttelton (Kat Watson), 'drainspotting' (Hamish Williams) and the weirdest artefacts we've found in Christchurch so far (Jessie Garland). In Lyttelton Luke Tremlett and the Lyttelton Port Company ran a very popular walking tour of archaeological sites that have been recently discovered and investigated.



Luke Tremlett guiding the archaeological tour of Lyttelton (Annthalina Gibson).

At South Library Jessie Garland put together an exhibition of artefacts from a range of sites in Christchurch, focusing on how European material culture changed from the 1850s to the 1890s. Chelsea Dickson curated another exhibition at Christ's College, featuring some of the artefacts and stories unearthed during the post-earthquake work at the school. Underground Overground also curated an online exhibition called 'Why We Dig,' which is still available (<https://underoverarch.wixsite.com/whywedig>) and featured

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archaeologists talking about how they got into archaeology and why they think it's important.

Display of archaeological material from Christ's College (Chelsea Dickson).

Dunedin

In Dunedin public lectures were given by Richard Walter and Glen Summerhayes, there was an Archaeological Activity Day at the Otago Museum and an open day at the Otakou Marae on the Otago Peninsula. Visitors to the latter event could view the waka

that was recently found on the Peninsula, and is now undergoing conservation treatment under the direction of Dily Johns.



Practising plate reconstruction at the Otago Museum Archaeological Activity Day (Otago Museum).