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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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# ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND DISSERTATIONS ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND 1996-1997

Dorothy Brown  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Auckland

Abstracts from four M.A. theses and two dissertations [formerly research essays] in archaeology completed during the period late 1996 to early 1997 are given below. Copies are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted in the Piddington Room. Xerox or microfiche copies may be made available through the General Library, Auckland University, at cost, plus GST and postage. These are subject to the usual restrictions applying to theses and dissertations, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

## M.A. THESES

Kate HILL. M.A. thesis. 1996. **Raurimu Frontier Town 1900-1925. A Social Archaeological Perspective.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (x) 138 pp., frontispiece, 45 figures, 1 map, 2 tables.

Sites associated with railway construction have received little attention in New Zealand historical archaeology, partly because their transient nature has left virtually no mark in the archaeological record, and partly through poor or lost documentation. In the case of the camps associated with the building of the central portion of the North Island Main Trunk Line, some were to evolve into thriving sawmilling towns. However, the finite nature of this extractive industry and the change from a rail to a road centred transport system eventually condemned many such towns to obscurity.

This thesis aims to reconstruct, through the use of archival evidence and archaeological reconnaissance, the trajectory of the settlement of Raurimu from its origins as a NIMT construction camp to its eventual establishment

as a sawmilling/railway town which, in 1925, was devastated by fire. Situated in the immediate vicinity of the highly publicised Raurimu Spiral, the construction camp embodies the problem of bias inherent in much archaeological or historical research that involves the juxtaposition of the transient and the monumental. Typically, the monument has been privileged at the expense of the mundane.

The thesis considers a multitude of social issues with a specific focus on gender as well as briefly addressing transient communities, the private enterprise which accompanied them, and relations between the co-operative workers and the Public Works Department. As a microcosm of the established town's economic vicissitudes, the Spiral Refreshment Rooms provide the material for a short case study. The destructive and "preservative" role played by fire in the settlement is also considered.

The functional transition from railway construction to sawmilling is found to be paralleled by a physical transition from one locality to another. Indicators of permanence are traced through changes in the occupational base of the population, increasing numbers of women, an increase in permanent housing, and the establishment of Government facilities and community institutions. Finally, a model is outlined for the study of those transient railway construction camps which became sawmilling towns on the central section of the Main Trunk Line.

Ken PHILLIPS. M.A. thesis. 1996. **The Archaeology of the Eastern Bay of Plenty**. Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (viii) 165 (i) pp., 44 figures, 8 plates (including 5 col.), 4 tables.

The prehistory of the eastern Bay of Plenty is analysed on a broad basis using available archaeological data. This data includes the recorded archaeological site inventory, previous archaeological studies including notes on amateur excavations conducted in the 1960s and 1970s by local historical society members, and the artefact assemblages which were recovered from these excavations. Preliminary results from an Archaic site excavated by Rick McGovern-Wilson in 1996 are also presented. Variations in settlement patterns of recorded prehistoric sites are viewed in terms of geographic, economic and social influences. Radiocarbon dates from pa of the eastern Bay of Plenty suggest an intense pa building phase in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Pa of the Ohiwa Harbour have an economic focus on the food resources of

the harbour, with a number of larger and possibly dominant pa protecting horticultural harvests. Information recovered from several excavations is presented in support of an early and widespread occupation of the harbour. Artefacts from those excavations are of a type commonly found in Archaic sites in other parts of New Zealand. The archaeological evidence for the region is used to construct a tentative sequence for the Ohiwa Harbour.

Simon HODGE. M.A. thesis. 1997. **An Approach to Archaeological Resource Management at Sandy Bay.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (xi) 179 pp., 63 figures (including 6 col.).

Archaeology has a number of roles to play, and it is the contention of this thesis that, as a discipline intimately involved with the use and study of information and material culture directly related to extant social groups, archaeological investigation needs to operate in an inclusive fashion which understands and appreciates the needs of such group.

Cultural resource management (CRM) is an integral part of archaeological investigation, and is an aspect of archaeology which should not only create and provide protective legislation, but also build and foster educational data, promote opportunities for archaeological work, and further, assist indigenous groups with data to enhance cultural identity and awareness.

Cultural resource management needs to be viewed as a mutually inclusive aspect of archaeology as a whole, complete with a body of relative theory, rather than as a mutually exclusive section of academic archaeology as it is at present.

This thesis attempts to confront issues that are apparent in the field of cultural resource management and archaeology, while at the same time providing a large fieldwork component which may be applied by local indigenous people and archaeologists.

Additionally, this work looks at ways in which archaeology and archaeological information can be applied within the realms of education.

Moira A. JACKSON. M.A. thesis. 1997. **Archaeology, CRM, GIS and Pouto Peninsula, New Zealand.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (vii) 199 pp., 29 figures (including 27 col.), 5

appendices.

The physical, natural and archaeological landscape of Pouto Peninsula is examined and illustrated through a GIS (Geographic Information System). The continually changing geomorphology of some parts of the peninsula is problematic; in its western area there are no visible sites at all (in comparison with the eastern and central areas), and further inland (in the central area) many archaeological sites have been modified and destroyed by geomorphological processes, thus archaeological reconstruction of the past is difficult. Traditional and ethnographic accounts establish that on the west coast people set up temporary camps when local resources such as toheroa were being harvested.

The connection identified by Irwin (1985) in his *Land, Pa and Polity*, between the Redhill soils and the southeastern pa of the Pouto Peninsula is re-examined at a regional level using a GIS buffering technique. The relationship between pa and freshwater is similarly investigated. Issues relating to the accuracy of archaeological site locations arising from the use of GIS are discussed.

Museums with collections of artefacts from the peninsula are identified and inventories included. Andreas Reischek, a somewhat infamous "collector" of artefacts, spent several months in the wider Northern Wairoa district in the late 19th century, and his activities during this period are outlined.

CRM practices and outcomes on Crown Forestry Land are investigated. There is a current claim before the Waitangi Tribunal in relation to the Pouto Peninsula, and much of the information in this these forms part of the "evidence" of Te Uri O Hau O Te Wahapu, in terms of land use in the past and the management of "cultural resources" such as *wahi tapu* and *taonga*.

## DISSERTATIONS

Josephine A. LANE. M.A. Dissertation. 1996. **Ethno-Historic Stone Tool Use in Melanesia. An Annotated Bibliography and Reference Index.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (v) 172 pp., figure, appendix.

This bibliography has been created to assist in the conducting of research into stone tool use in Melanesia. Data was collected on a number of aspects

including type of tool, type and source of raw material, task/s, how a tool was used, who made it, who used it, method of manufacture, myth and legend, and movement/trade of stone and tool forms. An "other" category was used to cover those associated areas not included in the above. The main ones were other tool materials, e.g., shell; worked stone ornaments, stone tools as valuables, the reuse of prehistorically worked stone, the indigenous reaction to metal, and the effects of technology change.

Areas of interest encountered during research were the form and pattern of foreign contact, trade and settlement, prehistoric use of stone, and the change in stone implement manufacture and use over time, the effects of technology change on social and political structures including gender relations.

The bibliography and reference index was compiled as a database in Paradox for Windows 4.5, and can be made available on disk [from the author] for research using a computer instead of the printed copy.

Christy J. WARR. M.A. Dissertation. 1996. **The People Behind Plates: Using New Zealand Historical Ceramics to Determine the Socioeconomic Status and Occupation Type of the Past Occupants of Miners Bay, Kawau Island.** Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 1 page abstract, (viii) 106 pp., 7 figures, 2 tables, 5 appendices (including 32 coloured plates).

This dissertation deals with the issue of socioeconomic status in artefacts. The author has used New Zealand historical ceramic artefacts to determine the socioeconomic status and occupational type of the past residents of Miners Bay, on Kawau Island, as compared to historic Auckland sites. Historical ceramics have been used a great deal in other countries such as the United States to determine the socioeconomic status of past occupants of a site, but in New Zealand this topic is still in its infancy. Through this dissertation the author hopes to show that using historical ceramics to determine the socioeconomic status of the past occupants is a valid endeavour.