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NZAA Council Update

Work on finalising the tripartite agreement for the Site Recording Scheme with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Department of Conservation (DOC) continues. Council is also in the process of establishing a memorandum of understanding with DOC. This document lays out a framework for cooperation between the two organisations, and sets out areas where the two organisations can collaborate and/or support each other with regards to the protection of archaeological sites.

In ArchSite news, Mary O’Keeffe has now started as central filekeeper, and can be contacted at centralfilekeeper@archsite.org.nz. Karen Grieg has recently been appointed as the ArchSite Board chair, replacing Russell Foster. The Board now consists of Karen, Warren Gumbley (NZAA representative), Alex Jorgensen (NZAA Council representative), Vanessa Tanner (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga representative) and Sven Grabow (Department of Conservation representative).

NZAA has recently made submissions on the proposed resource management reform and to the National Climate Change Risk Assessment. Rebecca Ramsay has been working on a project with Eagle, using ArchSite data to examine the affects of sea level on archaeological sites. NZAA has also recently written to Richard Foy (Chief Archivist, Archives New Zealand), Tracey Martin (Minister of Internal Affairs) and Grant Robertson (Minister of Finance) to express concern about the proposed changes in reading room hours at Archives New Zealand. The responses received from Richard Foy and Tracey Martin indicated that there is unlikely to be a change to this policy.

Andrew Coleman (HNZPT chief executive) attended the last NZAA Council meeting, in response to a letter from Council expressing concern about the increasing requirements being placed on the section 45 archaeologist named in archaeological authorities. It was confirmed at the meeting that some of these requirements would be amended (as notified in the recent HNZPT Archaeologists’ Newsletter). There were also discussions about how the two organisations could work together to better promote archaeology and with regard to the upcoming curriculum changes. These discussions have continued in the Heritage Leaders’ Forum (quarterly meetings between HNZPT, HPA, ICOMOS and NZAA).

Planning for Archaeology Week is well underway, as is planning for this year’s conference.