



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **University of Otago Anthropology Society: 2019 Review**

**Claire Thorrold** (*2019 UOAS President*)

2019 marked another year full of rich opportunities for students within the Anthropology disciplines, as well as marking the beginning of an outreach to more publicly minded events. The year saw a significant increase in the numbers of undergraduate members involved in the society, which is promising for the discipline and society looking forward to future years.

The AGM was held in November 2018 with positions for the 2019 executive being filled then and in early 2019. The executive for 2019 included Claire Thorrold (President), Rebecca Benham (Secretary), Arthur Grainger (Treasurer), Sarah Dugdale (Events Coordinator), Kayla Martin (Events Coordinator), Alexa Robinson (Social Anthropology Rep), Rebecca Turner (Biological Anthropology Rep), Madison Hickford (Archaeology Rep), Rikki Soliman (Undergraduate Rep), Matt Swieton (Postgraduate Rep), and Jessie Hurford (Staff Rep).

### **Archaeology Week**

The Anthropology Society hosted a number of successful Archaeology Week events, with a focus on offering exposure to more practical and physical aspects of archaeology. The first event of the week was a lithics demonstration by Matt Swieton, who showcased different knapping techniques and explained how understanding knapping processes can help the archaeologist read the evidence left behind from the production of lithics. The next event was a pottery workshop, where participants were invited to create their own pieces of pottery using the techniques and styles demonstrated to them in a brief mini lecture. The final event for the week was a walking tour of historical buildings within the Dunedin centre city and aimed to allow participants the opportunity to explore the rich history of our own city that is often taken for granted.

The events held were curated to offer students and members of the public alike a more hands-on approach to experiencing archaeology as it affects us in New Zealand. All of the events hosted by the Anthropology Society were publicly advertised and aimed towards allowing members of the public and students a chance to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for archaeology while building a stronger relationship with the public outside of the University. This

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was very successful with members of the public being involved in all events, and something that the Society hopes to continue into the future.



*Matt Swieton demonstrating knapping techniques for Archaeology Week 2019.*

### **Excavation**

Alongside Matthew Schmidt and Peter Trevathan, the Anthropology Society ventured into military history with an excavation in the Dunedin Town Belt. This excavation was in an area where a previous military button had been found, and the aim of our excavation was to find evidence of the Royal East Surrey Regiment 70<sup>th</sup> Foot, which had been based in Dunedin in 1861. The investigation gave novice excavators a chance to learn key field work skills while students from the Otago University Field School were able to practice their skills by teaching others. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to get a taste for field work within archaeology, while learning about a different aspect of Dunedin's history.

## **Seminars, Social Events and Field Trips**

The Society was lucky enough to have Hayden Cawte from Heritage Properties give a seminar explaining how he entered the archaeology profession and what a day to day life for a consultant archaeologist looks like in Dunedin. The Otago Museum kindly hosted the Society for a behind the scenes tour of their extensive collections. This offered students a view into all the work museums are responsible for and how it relates to the wider community, while allowing students to see some of the off-display objects and appreciate the grandeur of the museum.

A postgraduate research seminar series was initiated where postgraduate students had the opportunity to present their individual research projects to the department and wider community. This allowed students to practice their presentation skills while encouraging broader involvement and interest in the current research within the department.

Throughout the year a range of other social events were also held. These included the biannual quiz nights which were hosted to raise funds and morale amongst the students. Social events were also held to encourage intermingling between different years and fields of interest and to build camaraderie. Alongside the Classics Society, a cocktail night was run to offer students a chance to have a fun night out and meet some new people.

The Society would like to thank everyone that contributed to, or participated in the various events held throughout the year. I would also like to thank all of the executive team for their hard work throughout the year.

At the end of 2019 the AGM was held, and the 2020 executive announced. We are pleased to introduce the executive, consisting of Sarah Dugdale (President), Bree Wooller (Secretary), Harris Sharpe (Treasurer), Kayla Martin (Events Coordinator), Kerrin Bone (Events Coordinator), Alexa Robinson (Social Anthropology Rep), Madison Hickford (Archaeology Rep), Ruby Mackle (Undergraduate Rep), Arthur Grainger (Postgraduate Rep), and Jessie Hurford (Staff Rep).