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Auckland Archaeological Society 2019 Review

Amanda McIvor

2019 Auckland Archaeological Society President

In 2019, a largely new Auckland Archaeological Society (ArchSoc) Executive Committee ran an exciting and busy event schedule. Across the year, we welcomed 114 members at membership drive events such as Clubs Expo, several barbecues and for the first time, Science Student's Orientation.

To count, we ran nearly 30 events. Following in the footsteps of a successful 2017 and 2018 Executive, we continued a schedule of seminar and movie night events, a t-shirt competition, annual quiz night, New Zealand Archaeology Week activities, volunteering, and occasional field trips. We also added a new schedule of workshop events in semester two.



The 2019 ArchSoc executive.

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March, only myself and Reno Nims renominated from the 2017 and 2018 Executive Team. The meeting was chaired by Amanda McIvor (2018 Vice President), and the following appointments were

made: Amanda McIvor (President), Leteisha Lamb (Vice President), Caitlin Macnay (Treasurer), Jade Guptill (Secretary), Jen Graydon (Movie Nights), Reno Nims, Eliza Macdonald, Lauren Scott (General Executive); Sophie Honnor joined as an General Executive Member in May. We thank all outgoing executive committee members for their work in reinvigorating the Society, particularly Sarah Bradley (2016 Treasurer, 2017 – 2018 President) and Brendan Kneebone (2017 Vice President, 2018 General Executive). The loss of those brilliant outgoing Executive Members did not hamper the 2019 Executive, we quickly formed plans and were off to a flying start. The AGM was followed by an interesting talk by Dr Billie Lythberg, about artists' reflections on the buried waterways of Tāmaki Makarau. At the end of March, we ran our first Movie Night, the exciting lizard-monster-in-a-museum flick, *'The Relic'* (1996), with pizza for all.

April and May were a busy time, with seminars, our annual t-shirt competition, New Zealand Archaeology Week, a Movie Night and a walking tour too. At our April seminar, Zac McIvor discussed the heritage management of the *Daring* shipwreck. In May, Reno Nims won our annual t-shirt competition with his topographic Maungakiekie One Tree Hill design. For New Zealand Archaeology Week, we re-ran our popular Symonds Street Cemetery tour with Dr Heather Battles; assisted with an Anthropology Open Laboratory Afternoon; and hosted a talk by Dr Jeremy Armstrong and Dr Joshua Emmitt on the 'Blood and Money' research project. In May, we also held a fun *'Jackie Chan'*-themed Movie Night. Although the night was a comedy of errors with pizza and DVD mix-ups galore, everybody enjoyed themselves. Later in May, Brent Druskovich guided members around Maungawhau Mount Eden and Epsom. And finally, at our May seminar, Professor Peter Sheppard discussed the role of the Solomon Islands in the earliest settlement of Oceania. A very busy time!

In June, we hosted an end of semester Anthropology Social Event. Visiting director Devi Snively and Hood Fellow Professor Agustin Fuentes screened the short-film *'Bride of Frankie'*, followed by an informative discussion. We are especially grateful to Dr Nicolas Malone for helping organise this night for all.

In May-June, through a combination of fundraising efforts by the Executive and sponsorship, we raised a substantial fund of \$1450 toward a subsidy for students to attend the 2019 Annual New Zealand Archaeological Association Conference. This included \$300.00 raised from the sales of Reno Nims' fantastic t-shirt design, of which we sold 74 t-shirts and hoodies, providing us with \$709.51 profit. We are particularly grateful for all the support we received during our fundraising efforts. Although no students chose to access this fund in 2019, it will be

available to students in 2020. I believe it important that the Society supports its student members to attend Conference, as this provides opportunities to explore the status of archaeology in New Zealand and network with archaeologists and students. Without some form of subsidy, many students cannot access the Conference.



Brent Druskovich guiding society members around Maungawhau Mount Eden.

In semester two, we launched a regular series of student workshops for the first time, on topics useful to students going into further study or the workforce. In conjunction with the New Zealand Archaeological Association, we hosted an ArchSite workshop lead by Emma Brooks, the ArchSite coordinator. We organised four combined workshops led by senior anthropology students on topics useful to students going into further study or the workforce: R and Excel (Reno Nims, Patricia Pillay), Freeware GIS and NVivo (Matthew Barrett, Claire Black), and thesis formatting (Sarah Bradley). Additionally, we hosted a workshop led by Dr Simon Bickler on archaeological legislation and processes of authorities and consents.

Between July and October, in addition to regular workshops, the Executive ran seminars, movie nights, a walking tour and the annual Anthropology Quiz Night. In July, the film 'Zardoz' brought confusion and entertainment to all at our futuristic-themed Movie Night. At our August seminar, we enjoyed a discussion

by PhD Candidate Sarah Karstens on community engagement in bioarchaeological research. We also accompanied Professor Harry Allen and the anthropology department on a schools outreach walking tour of Maungakiekie One Tree Hill.

In September, the Executive hosted a Graduate Panel Event featuring six graduate speakers discussing tips and personal experiences about further study, volunteering or working: Rebecca Ramsay (Auckland Council), Nick Keenleyside (National Maritime Museum), Matthew Barrett and Caitlin Smith (Auckland University PhD Candidates), Rowan McBride (Waikato University PhD Candidate), Sophie Faber (Recent BA Hons graduate). That month, we also hosted an exciting walking tour of North Head led by David Veart.

At our October seminar, Dilys Johns discussed her conservation treatment of waka in satellite locations. Finally, we wound down the year with the Annual Anthropology Quiz Night, won by a coalition of ArchSoc and Social Anthropology Society Members. Members of the Anthropology Department were incredibly supportive in assisting with funding and promoting this event, and it was a fun night for all.

The Committee is grateful for the support we have received from our membership, the professional community and the anthropology department. This support takes many forms – from presenting at events, assisting or supplying equipment, sponsorship, to simply coming and enjoying our events. I would also like to thank my executive for their hard work this year, particularly Reno Nims who has been on the committee since 2017, and Leteisha Lamb for her support. If anyone would like to join the Society in 2020, or wishes to discuss paid or volunteer opportunities or workshops for our student members please contact aklarchsoc@gmail.com.