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NZAA Council Update

Much of Council's last meeting (via Zoom) was spent on a planning session for the new strategic plan, as NZAA's current strategic plan runs out this year. It is hoped to be able to present a draft of the new plan at the AGM. Some time was also spent on covid-related matters (the Council meeting took place shortly before we went into lockdown), including deciding to run Archaeology Week as an online-only event and brainstorming how that might work. The decision was also made to cancel conference entirely for 2020, rather than simply postpone it until later in the year. Various matters with regards to HNZPT policy were discussed, and feedback was provided on their draft amended guidelines for reviewing authority conditions and gazetting archaeological sites. There was also some discussion of the Walton Fund applications and decisions made about who would be awarded funds. Other matters discussed included the need to review the code of ethics (this review will be aligned with a review of the constitution, after the new Incorporated Societies Act has been passed), the proposal for an indigenous archaeology workshop to be held in Auckland later this year and a s.45 questionnaire that HNZ and NZAA are preparing. We also discussed the work that Rebecca Ramsay has been doing on developing a climate change policy for NZAA.

Since the meeting, I am happy to report the tripartite agreement between NZAA, DOC and HNZPT is finally ready for signing – and should in fact be signed by the time you read this.

I would like to add NZAA Council's thanks to all those who participated in Archaeology Week this year, particularly our content partners and the volunteers who did all the social media posting – Kathryn Hurren, Laura Dawson and Patricia Pillay.

Katharine Watson
NZAA President