

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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Frontispiece Kevin Jones and Rod Clough on the 2001 NZAA Akaraoa Conference fieldtrip. Kevin showing his smithing skills at the Okains Bay Museum.

Editorial

Firstly my apologies for the (very) late appearance of this issue of *AINZ*: a combination of end of the year report writing and a month long excavation meant that I dragged the chain somewhat.

This issue contains two papers that discuss important issues: Garry Law on the outputs of archaeological work being done at present in light of the upcoming changes to the RMA, and Patricia Pillay on the representation in archaeology webinar run by NZAA in September that promoted Māori and Pasifika voices in archaeology. A common theme in both of these papers is how results are disseminated and how archaeology engages with people. These are long-standing challenges: the basic issues have been recognised and discussed for decades, but how they are addressed in a changing world requires ongoing adaptability and evolution in the discipline.

While the excavations at Wairau Bar 80 years ago keep being referenced in the media, it is important to remember that more recent work with Rangitāne has seen the Wairau Bar burials reinterred after final study by Hallie Buckley. And in the Waikato Alan Hogg and Warren Gumbley are carrying out collaborative work on Waikato Pa sites that combines archaeological science and mātauranga Māori. Some excellent examples have been set.

Dissemination of results to particular interest groups, the archaeological discipline and the wider public, as always remains a challenge. Traditional publications are often inaccessible behind paywalls and make dry reading to the non-specialist. The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga digital library and websites such as www.academia.edu and www.academia.edu and www.reaserchgate.net provide access to vast quantities of information, but again this sheer quantity can be a barrier for many. It is often to social media that people now turn, with all of the opportunities (ease of access, engagement with many groups) and risks (not peer-reviewed, and the lunatics often make the loudest noise). As Garry Law discusses, the task for us is to work out how to most effectively communicate our findings with all interest groups.

On another subject, one thing that has been mentioned to me lately (by a South Islander) is how nice it is to see so many South Island images on the cover of *AINZ*. If the North Islanders amongst us would like to see some balance, please feel free to send me suitable images (preferably also with an update for the recent fieldwork section).

Peter Petchey