



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Auckland Archaeological Society (Archsoc) Year in Review**

### **Sarah Bradley and Brendan Kneebone (2017 Archsoc President and Vice-President)**

Last year was a busy year for the Auckland Archaeological Society (ArchSoc). In March, ArchSoc held the Annual General Meeting, where Gareth Walter (2016 President) opened the proceedings and a new executive committee was elected for 2017: Sarah Bradley (President), Brendan Kneebone (Vice President), Patricia Pillay and Catherine Zimmermann (Co-Secretary) and David Greig (Treasurer). In addition, Amanda McIvor, Sherie Crosby, Sophie Faber and Reno Nims were appointed as general committee members. PhD candidate Reno Nims also presented his research on the reanalysis of archaeological fish remains from coastal northwest North America. For the first time in the 60 year history of the Society, ArchSoc showcased at the University of Auckland Semester 1 Clubs Expo.



*Figure 1. Showcasing ArchSoc at the Clubs Expo.*

On display were (fake) artefacts, and a sand box full of obsidian to dig for, which sparked interest in what we do. Despite being washed out for a day or two with the classic Auckland weather, the Expo was a success with over 100 members (re)joining the society, many of whom who were new to Archsoc.

In April, ArchSoc and the University of Auckland supported New Zealand Archaeology Week with a range of events including an archaeology-themed movie night, an open day for the archaeological laboratory and an on-campus excavation at the Anthropology Department's simulated excavation training site (Figure 2). Students and families with small children enjoyed the day excavating and uncovering (fake) human remains. Later in April, Dr Matt Felgate presented on the 'formative' period of early Tamaki Māori in Auckland and archaeological models of societal change.



*Figure 2. On-campus excavation to celebrate NZ Archaeology Week*

In May, Dr Josh Emmitt, presented his PhD research on settlement patterns in middle Holocene northeast Africa using the Neolithic pottery of Egypt. In the same month, the annual ArchSoc T-shirt competition got underway with a Star Wars themed design eventually being declared the winner and our regular archaeology themed movie nights began. Dilys Johns, of the National

Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Conservation Laboratory, gave an interesting talk in June on conservation and the protection and preservation of fifteenth to nineteenth century canoes in satellite facilities around the country.

Also in June, a contingent of Archsoc members headed down to Thames for the annual New Zealand Archaeological Association conference. This was a great few days filled with interesting talks, networking opportunities and socialising – with excellent presentations from some of our members, and Brendan Kneebone taking out the student poster award. Unfortunately, the first annual beer pong championship between Auckland and Otago students went the way of the Otago Anthropology Society, and with them, the Golden Shovel trophy; which we are told is currently proudly on display in their department. The rematch is scheduled for December, on our home turf.

In July, ArchSoc showcased the Society again at the University of Auckland Semester 2 Clubs Expo, gaining even more new members. At our August seminar, Joss Piper-Jarrett and Robert Brassey, from the Auckland Council, presented on the statutory role of the council in managing archaeological sites under the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991. In the same month, ArchSoc held an anthropology games night with the Social Anthropology Society. Later in August, Professor Judith Littleton gave a fascinating talk on the work undertaken since 2014 at Roonka, the largest Aboriginal cemetery in South Australia and the involvement of the Aboriginal community in this work. In September, members of the ArchSoc Executive and University of Auckland staff, planned a full outreach day for Richmond Road School in Ponsonby with several learning stations including a sand-pit excavation, cave painting, bioanthropology, lithics, pottery refitting and shellfish (Figures 3 & 4).

In early October, ArchSoc hosted a panel style event with former and current post-graduate students from the University of Auckland, who gave tips and advice to current students on the possible avenues for continuing study and working in archaeology in New Zealand. Laura Dawson (Clough and Associates), Mary Kienholz (Auckland Council), Tom Barker (Auckland Museum) and Darby Filomoehala (Archaeological Research Institute, Hawai'i) all gave interesting and helpful pointers, along with the University's own Matt Barrett, (PhD candidate) and Brendan Kneebone (MA candidate). At the end of October, we hosted the Anthropology End of Year Party and the Annual Quiz, which was a great way to end the academic year. The Golden Trowel was awarded to the team 'Teen Titans Go', consisting of Dr Ethan Cochrane, Dr Bruce Floyd, Associate Professor Judith Littleton and students Darby Filimoehala and Sherie Crosby (Figure 5).



Figure 3. Matt Barrett at Richmond Road School discussing NZ lithics



Figure 4. Sophie Faber at Richmond Road School discussing the finer points of profile drawings



*Figure 5. Teen Titans Go, winners of the Annual Quiz*

Looking ahead, the 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held in mid-March, where we will present our new Constitution and elect the 2018 executive committee. The Society has many activities planned for the year including on-campus and off-campus events such as our regular seminar style evenings, movie nights, a quiz night, field trips and site tours, as well as activities for New Zealand Archaeology Week in April and our annual t-shirt competition.

We are also interested in creating partnerships with archaeology professionals and institutions to discuss volunteering opportunities and internships for our student members. If anyone would like to join the Society this year, or wishes to discuss volunteering or outreach opportunities, please send us an email ([aklarchsoc@gmail.com](mailto:aklarchsoc@gmail.com)).