



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES.

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Despite the wet and cold weather throughout New Zealand over the summer holidays, considerable archaeological activity was undertaken. The Council of the Archaeological Association through the NEWSLETTER is happy to publish reports on such activity. The Council also welcomes notification of pending and current archaeological investigations : some affiliated groups and individuals have been known to show Council this courtesy in the past. The following brief contributions have been received and will be subject to more complete reports in future Newsletters.

Mr. Wilfred Shawcross writes : ' The main activity of the Auckland Society this year was its excavations at the Ongari Pa. However, prior to the Christmas work, there had been a number of site recording trips to various islands in the Hauraki Gulf, organized by Janet Davidson. There were also three weekend schools on Archaeology. Two of these were run by Roger Green, one at Hamilton and the other at Whangarei and they were concerned with site recording. The third school was run by Wilfred Shawcross at Kaitiaki and was concerned with archaeological techniques and aims. The two weekend schools in the North suggest that there is considerable interest in that area and that results of fieldwork may soon be expected too.

The excavations at Ongari lasted from December 9th to January 17th, and thirty seven people were engaged upon them. The site is little more than a mile from the well known site at Kauri Point and its particular interest lies in its well documented final occupation. It is a considerably larger site and its earthworks more complex than the Kauri Point one and will need at least another season's work for completion, by when it should be possible to give an indication of the age of the Kauri Point sequence. In spite of the unusually poor weather the work was able to continue with few interruptions, while the rigours of the camp life were relieved by the use of some wooden buildings which were most generously made available.

While the Society was working at Ongari, Molly Nickolls and Anne Leahy were able to visit Poor Knights Island with the assistance of a group from Whangarei and report the existence of interesting stone structures. Much further afield, Roger Green is now working in Samoa, carrying out site surveys and excavations. Finally, Wilfred Shawcross presented a paper at the Science Congress in Canberra (ANZAAS) and later worked on an excavation in New South Wales."

Owen Wilkes writes : " The major project of the Canterbury Museum Archaeological Society for this summer was a month's excavation at Wairau Bar. The principal aims were to elucidate the stratigraphy, carry out exhaustive midden sampling and excavate a pit. A hundred foot long series of squares dug in from the lagoon edge of the Boulder Bank showed two distinct periods of occupation, with differing orientation of structure patterns and middens. Several varieties of intrusions were recorded, including cache pits and postholes some with post butts in place. A further sixty foot series of squares were dug to try and relate stratigraphy to the burials found early in Wairau's excavation history. No burial intrusions were found but again two occupation layers could be

distinguished. At present Canterbury Museum Society members are sorting and cleaning the midden collections.

Earlier this summer several small parties worked at South Bay, Kaikoura, excavating a late occupation layer and dwelling pit."

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Dave Simmons, with a party of members, led into the Pacific to the Chatham Islands. The group was sponsored by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the Otago Museum and the Canterbury Museum, and its purpose was to record and collect dendrographs. Site recording was also undertaken.

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The Wellington Archaeological Society, under the direction of Bruce McFadgen carried out investigations of a 'working-floor' near Foxton. The excavation provided the first unequivocal proof of moa-hunting in this part of Horowhenua.

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The Otago members, under the direction of Les Groube, had a summer dig in Southland. No details have been leaked to the North. Peter Gathercole is at present in Pitcairn Island recording the evidence of Polynesian occupation.

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Mr. T.R. Price continued his investigations of the swamps at Poukawa (Vol. 6 no. 4 Newsletter). Clear association of man and moa has now been demonstrated. A full report on this work is being held over for a later Newsletter.

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The cover of Volume 7 of the Newsletter was designed by Wilfred Shawcross. It is a reproduction of one of the combs found in the swamp at Kauri Point. (See Newsletter Vol. 6. no. 1.)