



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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EDITORIAL

At the conclusion of 13 years of publication we again provide a culminative index for the delight of serious researchers in the literature. Whilst this reveals an impressive number of papers, it is still a sad reflection that it represents only a fraction of the record of work done in the Pacific. T. Stell Newman in Hawaii and Garry Law in New Zealand have searched the literature and compared the discrepancy between the number of excavation reports and the number of excavations whose records remain in note form, if at all. Archaeologists may feel that the research value of their excavations is minimal; archaeologists fail to realize that the value is absolutely nil if there is no publication. The NEWSLETTER provides a readily accessible outlet for reports, even if only preliminary and the conclusion tentative. The value of the NEWSLETTER is to be judged by the value of these reports rather than the mode of printing: a short report is more valuable than none: the accessible typewriter is of more value than the economically unattainable typesetter.

Despite its unceasing efforts, the Council of the N.Z. Archaeological Association has been unable to obtain any clear statement from members of work being done or proposed. It is not possible, therefore, for the editor to supply any summary of work throughout the year however valuable or salutary such a summary may be in the following years.

Dr Green writes:

"Recently a review of the NZAA Newsletter on its tenth year of publication appeared in Mankind. In it Lampert (1970: 241) observed that archaeologists working in the South Pacific but based in other countries than New Zealand are not likely to be contributors 'unless the homely guise of Newsletter is shed in favour of a journal of international status'. If this accurately reflects their attitude, I find it sad, but not a basis for change in the Newsletter. Such a transformation would be extremely difficult and Mr Lampert obviously neither appreciates the extent of financial subsidy in addition to subscriptions required to support an international journal, the amount of expert staff time required to produce one, nor the

meagre resources of the NZAA, or of archaeology in New Zealand, which are in fact available to be channelled into such an effort. Moreover, some of us who are not so concerned with journals of international status enjoy being numbered among its more regular if somewhat homely contributors. Indeed we have been guilty of encouraging students and colleagues over the years to join us and submit papers on Samoan, Fijian, and even Hawaiian archaeology. By this means current reports on work in progress as well as summaries of final reports in preparation, not easily published elsewhere, have appeared fairly quickly. In the Western Samoan Project this has meant that many of the major outcomes of our research in Samoa have appeared in the Newsletter before the detailed reports have been published in final form, and one hasn't had to wait, for instance, until the publication of the volumes on Archaeology in Western Samoa to find out something of what they may contain. The same could be said for a number of New Zealand and Fijian projects, and also holds for one in Hawaii. In short, the Newsletter, as it is, plays an important and dual role. On the one hand it provides a good vehicle of publication for those in New Zealand desiring to report on their research (especially students and amateurs seeking to gain some experience and confidence) and on the other hand it provides the non-status oriented professionals among us an excellent, if not always fully exploited, outlet for summaries of data that many archaeologists in the South Pacific find useful in keeping abreast of developments in the field prior to their full publication elsewhere."

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