



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

## Editorial

SWAN SONG

Dear Fellow-diggers,

I have resigned as editor of the Newsletter. No man should monopolise the job for ever. The Newsletter is now on a firmer basis, and also as my own Museum work seems ever increasing, I'm handing over to others.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to the Newsletter in the past, and to appeal to all those members who promised contributions but who have not yet written them, to let the other Editors in their respective centres have them as soon as possible.

I wish you all a successful year of Archaeology.

R.J. Scarlett.

## Editorial note from Dunedin

The preservation of important sites, and salvage measures at those threatened, remain vital questions in New Zealand. Members will be pleased to know that the submission of a list of important threatened sites to the National Historic Places Trust is now in its final stages of preparation. This is based on the surprisingly few replies received to a circular sent out after the last A.G.M. If the information reflects the current position accurately, it would appear that the most serious threats exist in the Auckland area, some in Taranaki and a few others elsewhere. The Auckland list included 173 sites '... of which no physical remains exist today' as an index of past destruction, 17 sites '... which, if economic necessity demands their despoliation or complete destruction, it is vital that the invaluable information they contain be rescued by some programme of salvage archaeology' and 34 sites which could profitably be recorded if time, effort and finance allowed. This shows the magnitude of the problem in that area. The Auckland University Archaeological Society carried out very extensive fieldwork to make its list as complete as possible. What is the position, elsewhere - for example, on the East Coast and in Canterbury?

But the number and character of the replies to our circular may also indicate that we are asking a lot from our members at the moment. They are required to collect information about endangered sites, to carry out site recording for the Scheme, to test the Artifact Record forms, to take part in excavations and to come to conferences. All the weight of our activity must be, and is, concentrated at the local level, where all these activities, formulated nationally, have to be translated into local terms and applied as successfully as possible. Plans for handbooks on various aspects of excavation take a long time to come to fruition if the results are to be of long-term value, and yet all the time help is required, especially by the lone member far from a metropolitan centre. Speaking personally, I feel that the Association needs much more money at this stage, to turn out the printed material which the membership requires - and we only manage to break even by getting a considerable amount of our work done voluntarily, or with the aid of private donations. This throws a considerable burden on Council members who are also very involved in the affairs of their own societies or groups. They are equally concerned in the preparation of full excavation reports,

relatively few of which have been published in recent years, and yet these are the very bedrock of competent archaeology.

The Association was established largely as an organisation of individual members interested in a subject which above all else demands collective work. Is it still organised in the correct way for the task of developing the subject into the stage of consolidation and the systematic and detailed application of the schemes already initiated? I wonder if we should not attempt to delegate more responsibilities concerning actual projects to particular local societies and make them our organisational focus rather than Council? I hope these questions will be amongst those aired at the next Annual Meeting.

The Association has its quota of members who belong gratis. At the last meeting of Council, it was decided to inform members that unless nonfinancial members pay their overdue subscriptions, they would receive no further issues of the Newsletter from the date of the Annual Meeting onwards each year. We do need this money if we are to function properly.

The cost of production of this Newsletter has been offset partly by personal donations and partly by a grant, here gratefully acknowledged, from the Otago Museum Trust Board. The lengthy delay, for which I apologise, has been due to the late arrival of some articles essential for this particular issue.

The analysis of faecal remains, referred to in the last Dunedin Newsletter, is going ahead steadily, and has now been extended by the inclusion of other microscopic studies. Dr. G. Sweatman, of the Hydatid Research Unit at the Otago Medical School, is co-operating with Dr. R. W. Ross, of the Microbiology Department, on this work, and they have received valuable advice from Dr. B. Hercus, of the Department of Agriculture, Christchurch, who is studying plant cuticle remains in the faeces of sheep. Several faecal samples have been received from digs, mainly in Otago, but for this type of analysis to be worth while, many more would be welcome, particularly from sites in Canterbury and Auckland. They should be sent to Mr. E. L. Phelan, Department of Medicine, Medical School, University of Otago.

In the Otago Museum, there is a small collection of clay pipe bowls and stems (mostly decorated) from local sites, only a few of which have a reliable provenance. Miss Kay Flavell has made a preliminary study of these, using as her starting point a paper published this year by Mr A.H. Oswald, 'The Archaeology and Economic History of English Clay Tobacco Pipes', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, Third Series, XXIII, 40-102. Accurate dating of 19th Century pipes is at present often difficult, and Miss Flavell was not able to relate any of the local examples to specific makers. For such work in New Zealand to be of any value, an attempt should be made to increase the number of provenanced specimens. Bowls are more diagnostic than stems, though the latter should be retained. Identifiable features include the bowl shapes, decoration, maker's initials and slogans. In directing attention to them we might also increase interest in other European trade goods of the phase of Early European Contact (as defined by R.C. Green and W.A. Pullar in their paper published last year - see 'Excavations at Orongo Bay, Gisborne', *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 69, 344). Coins, tokens, beads, pottery and metal objects are all of considerable interest.

Mr. Elliott Dawson, of the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute, D.S.I.R., P.O. Box 8009, Wellington, is also studying clay pipes and would be pleased to help in their identification. It is suggested that North Island members send examples to him, South Island members to the Dunedin editor.