



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## EDITORIAL

You will see a few format changes in this issue of *Archaeology in New Zealand* (AINZ). I am taking over the editorship from Joanna Barnes-Wylie and this seemed like a good time to consider the future of the publication, and ways that it might evolve. In this edition the papers have been moved forward, and the recent fieldwork roundup and list of recent reports have been moved further back. This is for several reasons.

With regard to the papers content, I would like to push for AINZ to carry more papers about New Zealand and Pacific archaeology. Because it is not peer-reviewed, AINZ is seen by some as not being worthwhile to contribute to, despite a wide readership, and a long-established role in New Zealand archaeology. The NZAA Council has recently offered a yearly prize (with \$300 attached) for the best student paper in AINZ to encourage the next generation to contribute. Moving the papers closer to the front of the publication signals that this content is important. If you have recently completed work on a site of some interest, I would rather that you consider submitting a short overview report with a couple of maps and photographs, with just one or two sentences for the recent fieldwork section. Remember that in future formal articles will be indexed and will become a permanent and searchable resource (previous articles published up to 2011 are now available online).

The list of recent reports has become a problem. The nature of archaeology has changed enormously in recent years, with a growing number of consultancies producing dozens of reports. Ten years ago the list of recent reports fitted onto a single page of AINZ, and was a good way of keeping abreast of what work had been done. Now each issue can carry a six or seven page list of reports, many of them simply a record of monitoring of a demolition site. In the modern world this information is better presented online (and Heritage New Zealand would be best placed to provide such an online resource), rather than using valuable (and we pay for it) paper space in AINZ. This issue still carries the list, but this is likely to disappear in the next issue (unless there is a barrage of disagreement from the membership). AINZ will continue to carry a list of recent academic publications.

The changes in the profession of archaeology have also created other debates. At the last NZAA conference in Paihia there was much discussion about the need for a professional body in New Zealand archaeology, but this subject has been canvassed several times before, and a key issue is that in a small country we lack critical mass. But what is possible is to press for

consultants to produce short overview papers on some of the more significant sites that they have worked on, to improve both information flow and professional standing. A publication record is a critical element in professional development, and AINZ is the perfect vehicle for this.

At 58 years of age AINZ has played an important role in New Zealand archaeology, and it should have a central role in the future. It can continue to serve the amateur, academic and professional members of the Association, and adapt to the changes that have happened and are going to happen.

*Peter Petchey*