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Editorial

The inaugural New Zealand Archaeology Week was held in the first week of April, and despite the weather not always being kind it was a great success. Events were held around the country, and a selection is described in this issue of AINZ. Hopefully the programme will be run again next year, so people should be thinking about possible events that would interest and engage the general public.

Archaeology has appeared in the national media on several occasions lately. The LiDARRAS project to create 3D scans of the WWI tunnels dug by NZ servicemen under the French town of Arras is described in more detail in the Recent Fieldwork section below. It illustrates the power of modern scanning equipment to record large and complex archaeological sites and then make the information publicly available.

Less worthy, but unfortunately also picked up by national media, was the latest claim for pre-Maori settlement, this time illustrated by facial reconstructions supposedly carried out in Edinburgh based on skulls removed from a New Zealand cave. Needless to say no plausible evidence was offered, and Edinburgh University has no knowledge of the project. A good critique of both the claims and the media's role can be heard on RNZ Mediawatch at: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/mediawatch/audio/20184444-9/fake-history-makes-front-page-news> (or just Google 'RNZ Mediawatch fake history').

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