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Editorial

Summer is almost here, and New Zealand has a change of government. The Prime Minister, Jacinda Adern, is also the new Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and the new Minister of Conservation is Eugenie Sage, of the Green Party (and therefore a support party minister, outside cabinet). There is a heritage statement in the Labour Manifesto, but it says little of substance: it will be interesting to see how things pan out.

Heritage

Knowing and understanding our past and conserving our historic heritage is a critical part of establishing a strong sense of national identity. It is important we tell the stories of our nation's history, and that places of significance are preserved for future generations. Investment in the protection of our historic heritage has important economic spin-offs. Special objects and taonga also play an important role in our heritage.

Labour will:

- *Work with local government, heritage organisations and across central government to investigate and develop a National Policy Statement on Heritage Protections under the Resource Management Act*
- *Investigate methods to ensure that heritage buildings in private ownership do not fall into neglect or risk demolition due to the expense of new earthquake proofing requirements. This might include tax incentives to restore listed buildings*
- *Investigate the feasibility of moving heritage buildings in crown ownership, to the management of Heritage New Zealand.*

More immediately, this issue of AINZ contains two important notices. Firstly, there is a call for the first round of applications for grants from the Tony Walton Fund. Tony was a stalwart of the NZAA and the Site Recording Scheme, and when he passed away in 2008 he left a bequest to be used to promote site recording in New Zealand. NZAA hope to be able to make regular grants: students and amateurs, and anyone working in areas that are under-recorded, are particularly encouraged to apply.

Secondly, planning for the second annual Archaeology Week to be held in April-May 2018 is well underway. This is a great opportunity to promote archaeology to the wider public, but it will rely on volunteers at the local level to stage events: see the notice on the following page.

Peter Petchey