



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

After two weeks submerged in the mud of a small Kaikohe wetland DOC archaeologists and volunteers re-emerged with a cache of Maori gardening implements, a variety of organic materials and improved skin tone. The owner of the land had previously constructed a dam at the site and discovered wooden tools and other artefacts in the spoil heap (see last issue). A small spring fed into the dammed area, so each morning the site had to be pumped out before work could begin.

All of the artefacts were found within a lower layer of peat lying immediately above sterile clay at the base of the site. They comprised ko, fern root beaters, weeders and other cultivating tools, and a group of worked sticks which may have been for stick games. Other materials at the same depth included gourd shell, gourd seeds, hinau berry kernels, other seeds still to be identified, numerous leaves and pieces of wood. A network of branches lay over the artefacts presumably to keep them submerged. At the edge of the site near the spring a large concentrated deposit of hinau berries was found in association with a collection of wood chips.

The artefacts and organic material appear to represent a single deposition. Radio-carbon dates and further analysis of the assemblage should provide information on Maori gardening and the ecology of this area at a particular period of prehistory.

Once again developments are taking place at the Russell waterfront. Simon Best and Clayton Fredericksen recently excavated a proposed building site and discovered what was probably one of the early grog shops that flourished here before the township was largely destroyed in 1845.

The site contained postholes, some filled with ash, a rubbish pit, a deep well lined with three large barrels, and what appeared to be two privies containing a number of trouser buttons. More than 50 'pignout' gin bottles were retrieved along with other glassware ceramics, clay pipes, metal objects and buttons which suggests that this was not the site of a dwelling. An early 19th century date is indicated by several of the artefact types and is supported by the presence of ash, charcoal and molten glass. This is a discovery of considerable significance especially as there was little evidence of the 1845 gutting of Kororareka in test excavations that preceded the Russell Sewerage Scheme.

Remedial work is continuing on several DOC reserves. The exterior of Mongonui Courthouse has been painted in its original colours, much to the approval of the local community and a sprinkler and alarm system is to be installed with funding from the Lottery Board. Work is also nearing completion

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at the Kerikeri hydro-electric station. The turbine has been returned and a reproduction of the powerhouse superstructure built with the aid of early photographs.

Experimental grass plots are currently being established by AgResearch in road cuttings near Ruapekapeka Pa, which reproduce the varied conditions of features within the site. They are also underway in the dunes of Ahipara where a number of archaic and more recent middens are being heavily eroded by natural forces and human agencies. The experiments will continue for a minimum of three years and it is hoped that the results that are achieved will be relevant to the conservation of many archaeological sites throughout Northland and in other conservancies.

Joan Maingay, DOC

AUCKLAND

In the May holidays the University Archaeological Field school went to Motutapu staying at the Ministry Of Education Camp at Administration Bay. The project was directed by Professor Geoff Irwin with field supervisor Caroline Phillips and tutors Simon Best, Marianne Turner and Rod Wallace. This was a combined project aimed at assisting DOC archaeologists in their recommendations as part of the Restoration Plan for the island, and contributes to the University research programmes of Geoff Irwin on Auckland's "Offshore Islands" and Thegn Ladefoged's work on the use of GIS in settlement patterns.

The fifteen students initially re-surveyed more than half the island, recording and mapping in detail approximately 150 sites. Some of these sites had not been visited since the summer of 1972-3 when Janet Davidson completed her survey of Motutapu. The students also assisted a conductivity survey of the excavated sites, tutored by Sarah Ross, and plane-tabled the island's pa sites with Claire Reeler as part of her PhD research. The survey work enabled the selection of representative sites from different parts of the island for small excavations. Three sites were selected and the students worked in groups on what turned out to be three very different types of occupation.

Caroline Phillips
University of Auckland

WAIKATO-COROMANDEL

The Department of Conservation's Waikato Conservancy has completed cleaning out the access tunnels to the in-ground ore roasting kilns at the Victoria battery site, and also re-roofed and partially restored the powerhouse

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building on the same site. With the completion of the conservation work on the Dancing Camp kauri dam, attention is now being focused on the more complete, but more remote, Christmas Creek dam also in the headwaters of the Kauaeranga.

Regional Archaeologist, Neville Ritchie, had another stint in Antarctica during December 1994 - January 1995, undertaking further archaeological and conservation work for the Antarctic Heritage Trust on the huts of the Scott and Shackleton era.

Archaeological testing work has recently been completed in the Rose Gardens at Te Awamutu to ascertain if there is any physical evidence of the mission station established there by John Morgan in 1841. Faced with the possibility of an extensive and fairly expensive archaeological investigation, the Te Awamutu District Council is reviewing their development plans, which may now include building a replica of the mission station. Regardless of what transpires some archaeological mitigation work will be required.

Neville Ritchie, DOC

BAY OF PLENTY

As part of the Bay of Plenty midden project, in conjunction with DOC, Dr Rick McGovern-Wilson and field crew completed excavations in March and May 1995 at several archaeological sites on the Ohiwa Harbour and Ohope Spit, Whakatane. W15/580, 581 and 582, located on the eastern edge of the Ohiwa Harbour and excavated in March, are extensive shell middens. Beneath W15/582 an earlier occupation layer was found (at approximately 90 cm depth below surface) lying immediately on top of a layer of Kaharoa Ash. This earlier layer which may date to 750 bp, contained moa bone, bone fishhooks, a basalt adze which had been reduced to an awl and large numbers of lithic flakes. A carbon 14 date has yet to be confirmed for this site and whether the moa bone does include non-industrial material. This site is of considerable importance because of its age in relation to other archaeological evidence in the Bay of Plenty.

In February 1995, prior to the excavations, Kevin Jones from Science and Research Division of DOC, assisted Rick with a survey of early landforms and associated archaeological sites on the Rangitaiki Plains. In spite of the potential for habitation sites the survey illustrated that many of the older surfaces had been modified extensively in the past.

Subsequent excavations were carried out by Rick McGovern-Wilson, Ken Phillips and Kim Tatton on two midden sites on the Ohope Spit. W15/82, previously excavated by the Whakatane and District Historical Society in 1972, and recorded to contain seal bone proved to have all but disappeared. The only

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evidence remaining were surface scatters of bone in a deflated dune, identified as sealion.

Further fieldwork was carried out by Bruce McFadgen of Science and Research Division of DOC, and Dr Mike Sheppard and Harley Betts of the Geography Department, Massey University over two weeks in January of this year, on the archaeology, geomorphology and palaeoenvironmental research of Matakana Island.

Remedial work on the Piako County Tramway in the Waiorongomai Valley, Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, by DOC, is well under way. On the second level of the tramway the rail has been lifted and temporarily removed for sand-blasting and conservation treatment in Hamilton. Meanwhile a number of sleepers are being replaced to secure the rail once it is replaced. In late June, Jack Fry from Conservation Supplies Ltd, Wellington, will spend a week in Waiorongomai treating the delamination on sections of the rail and preserving remaining original sleepers.

In April DOC provided funding for and fenced off a 90m long tramway cutting on the Te Pu Line, National Timber Co (N.T.Co), at Kaharoa, Rotorua. A day was also spent with conservation volunteers draining the water and clearing vegetation debris from the bottom of the cutting. The Te Pu line was the northern fork of the N.T.Co main line, which ran for 6 km, giving access to forest between the Mangapouri and Mangorewa Streams.

Lynda Bowers is completing a Conservation Plan for Irihanga Pa, Tauranga, for the Te Mahau and Te Irihanga Trust. Funding for this project was provided by a Lotteries Grant.

Kim Tatton, DOC

EAST COAST

The East Coast Conservancy coastline has a long association with whaling history. In recognition of this history, we are currently negotiating legal protection of the Te Hoe Whaling Station on Mahia Peninsula surveyed by Nigel Prickett in 1990. Te Hoe probably was operating in the 1840s and is described by Lambert in his book 'Old Wairoa' as a "very busy spot indeed."

The site is important because of the state and range of remains. Near the beach, on both sides of the stream, are numerous fireplace mounds, tryworks foundations and stone revetting. Shell midden is also visible. Further up from the beach are the remains of many house sites and the landowner knows of other features associated with the area.

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The site has good public access and is an exciting prospect for protection and interpretation.

In March the department had a 're-opening' for the Tauranga Bridge. Although the work is still incomplete, the bridge is now open and safe. On a cold, wet day around 200 people turned up and many contacts were made for gathering oral history for the area.

Pam Bain

THE NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 3-5 JUNE, 1995

The conference was held over Queen's Birthday Weekend in the Moot Court, Hocken Building, University of Otago, Dunedin. A fieldtrip on the previous day to look at sites in Central Otago was a huge success, culminating in a snowball fight in the old goldmining town of St Bathans (see photo).

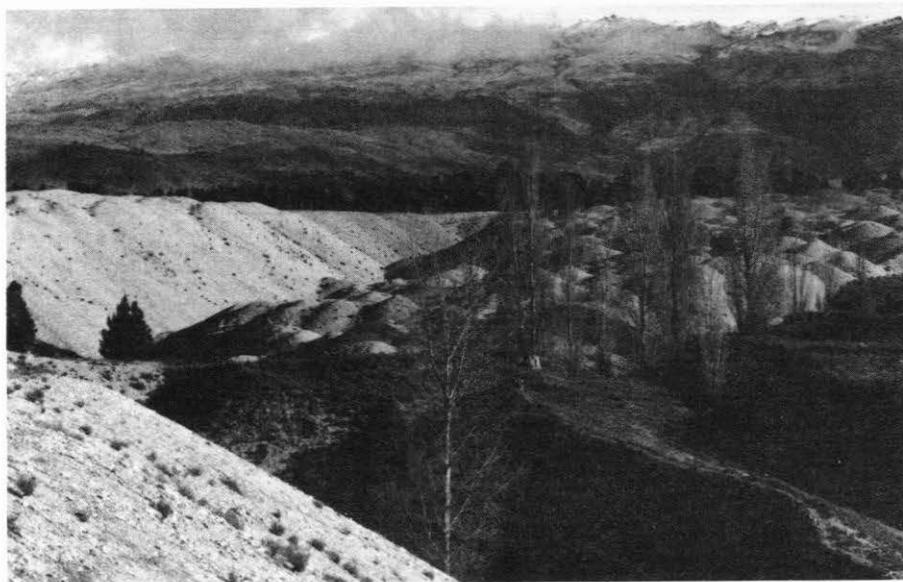
Saturday 3rd June

The conference participants were officially welcomed by Helen Leach of Otago University's Anthropology Department, Kelvin Day, NZAA President, and Edward Ellison representing the Otakau Runanga and Kai Tahu. This was followed by the first paper of the conference in which Professor Roger Green explored the origins of first settlement in Hawaii by taking a multidisciplinary approach and taking into account biological and linguistic evidence as well as archaeological discoveries. Bruce McFadgen then talked about radiocarbon calibration curve wiggles and their effect on the interpretation of New Zealand's past. The problems of dating bone and the newest developments in pretreating bone to destroy contaminants at the Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory in Wellington were presented by Nicola Redvers-Newton. A paper by Martin Jones on his research on obsidian hydration dating and his experiments looking at the influence of soil temperature on results was read by Peter Sheppard. Rod Wallace then presented his talk on the prehistoric vegetation on the Ninety Mile beach dunes and the various changes in dune building and vegetation through time. Recent research on Mayor Island which entailed an analysis of pollen from cores taken in swamps from the crater bottom and which should give evidence of the vegetation and horticultural practices in the prehistoric period was presented by Peter Sheppard. Following this Paul White showed how archaeological features impossible to pick up with the naked eye can be revealed through sophisticated image enhancement techniques and illustrated this with his work on the Kaipohia Pa site.

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The friday fieldtrip party at St Bathans, Central Otago. Photo: Nigel Prickett



Earnsclough Tailings Historic Reserve, Alexandra. Photo: Nigel Prickett

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Marianne Turner then presented her survey work looking at the early settlement sites of Te Horea, Raglan Harbour mouth, Waikato; her slides showing a series of huge and rapidly deflating midden and stone working sites. The mapping of Pukerangiora, Waitara, using aerial photography which helped in interpreting this complex military site was explained in a paper by Kevin Jones. Peter Petchey next talked about the archaeology of the goldmining sites at Macraes Historic Reserve, showing the historic sites overshadowed by the immense new opencast Macraes Mine. The day's papers concluded with Neville Ritchie's update of his recent summer spent in Antarctica, with progress made at Scott's and Shackleton's hut despite horrific weather.

A student contingent from Auckland, who had been trapped for a day in Kaikoura due to snow-blocked roads, only managed to arrive at the NZAA Annual Conference on Saturday evening, missing out on the papers, but just in time for the dinner at the Gazebo Lounge of the Union Building. The soup, main course and dessert went down well and so did purchases from the bar there. The very congenial atmosphere allowed old friends to meet again and allowed new acquaintances to be made.

Sunday 4th June

The recent attention given to resource management issues in this country by the media made the talks given on Sunday morning extremely relevant. They began with a presentation by John Bywater of an archaeological site assessment plan especially for non-specialists which classified and numerically ranked sites according to models based on conserving endangered plant and animal species. This was followed by talks from Mary O'Keeffe and Warren Gumbley on the state of the Trust under two years of the Historic Places Act 1993. Mary O'Keeffe presented cartoons that illustrated well public perceptions of the Trust and she pointed out the need for developing the site register as a research tool with more and better quality information, for fostering public awareness and understanding of heritage, for better relationships with local councils and she stressed the need for more site registration from the archaeological community. Warren Gumbley provided a run-down of current legislation, picking out specific areas of concern. One of the things he pointed out was that absolute site protection cannot be guaranteed by any present acts.

Edward Ellison came next with a presentation of an archaeological protection and site recording scheme that was Treaty-based and utilised Maori cultural knowledge and *tikanga*. The plan aimed to empower local Otago *iwi*, not only allowing them the authority over proceedings, but also allowing them to gain an identity from it. Susan Bulmer then brewed up a storm by pointing out that current site protection is not working and she illustrated this well with accounts of her recent experiences with developers and city councils. There was a call from her for the archaeological community to finally get their act together.

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The role of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Department of Conservation were given an assessment by Aidan Challis. Among the current issues he discussed were funding, the upgrading of site records, the methodology of professional practising archaeologists and the importance of the Maori role in protection matters.

Morning tea followed and the conference session after that saw the floor pose questions to the previous speakers. Slides and discussion were also provided by Amanda Young who works for the Manukau City Council. The discussions got rather heated at times as speakers stood by and defended their position. Among the issues raised was the need to educate the public more on heritage ideas and calls that current legislation was not catering well for the protection of post-1900 European artefacts.

The conference field trip came after lunch. We were treated with a heated bus tour through the snow to Macraes Gold Mine and Historic Reserve. We were shown the truly monumental modern operations and the impressive relics of older mining operations and the cottages of early miners. The tour guide informed us not only of technological and economic aspects but also of the social effects the mining has had and is having on the local community.

Monday 5th June

Monday morning was dedicated to progress reports from researchers of assorted fields. First up was Jill Hamel who gave us a run-down of surveying work on gold mining and other historic operations in central Otago, including the Otago Rail Trail and the Victorian structures associated with it. Next came reports from Waikato lab researchers. Matt Schmidt discussed his study of the Delta R correction to marine shell radiocarbon dates. He was able to comfortably correlate his corrected shell dates with charcoal dates from the same sites. He was followed by Tom Higham and his discussion of palaeoclimate research being undertaken which involved measuring ^{14}C concentrations archived in tree-rings to produce a record of solar-induced climatic fluctuations. Then came talks on the South-East Asian research being undertaken by Otago University. Charles Higham provided slides of Neolithic burial excavations and presented potential areas of investigation, like issues concerning the transition from Stone to Bronze to Iron Ages and the origins of the State. Nigel Chang then provided an illustrated talk on his research on artefacts from Bronze Age burials and their potential for providing information on things like social organisation, symbolic values of wealth, trade and exchange and technology. Matt Felgate followed with a talk on the benefits of GPS for precision surveying.

Marshall Weisler provided slides of fieldwork in the Marshall Islands and discussed research that focussed on interisland contact in the context of

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agricultural variability provided by rainfall differences experienced on the islands and trade and exchange of tridacna adzes. Rick McGovern-Wilson reported on on-going Midden Project fieldwork in the Bay of Plenty. One of the main aspects under investigation was the lack of bones present in midden which could possibly be due to environmental conditions, cultural factors or was a chronological issue. Rick McGovern-Wilson pointed out as major factors archaeologists who just were not looking properly and erosional processes.

Morning tea was followed by Pacific archaeology papers. Russell Beck showed slides of his fieldwork on New Caledonia and nephrite artefacts and discussed the issue of there being a large number of sourcing sites for the island. This was followed by papers on Niue island. Kimi Pepa provided a critique of Niuean oral traditions from an historical perspective and concluded that Niue be excluded from discussions concerning the Tongan Maritime Empire and was most probably isolated. Mike Green then read Richard Walter's and Atholl Anderson's paper on their recent archaeological research on Niue. They proposed that Niue was culturally isolated from the rest of Polynesia, that it probably was not part of the Lapita trade and exchange network and was settled late. Marshall Weisler closed the session with a slide presentation of fieldwork on isolated Henderson Island, which appears to have been initially occupied around AD 1000. Outside contact appears to have ended around AD 1400-1450.

Immediately after came the NZAA Annual General Meeting and then lunch and farewells. The location of the NZAA conference at Otago University this year proved to be inaccessible for some and this was made worse with the onset of extreme weather conditions. However, for some of those who decided to go ahead, it proved to be quite an adventure and well worth the effort.

Josephine Lane and Kimi Pepa, University of Auckland

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1995 A.G.M. was held in the Moot Court, Hocken Building, University of Otago on Monday 5th June.

The main items under General Business were:

- There was unanimous support for a proposal to award Life Membership of the Association to Stan Bartlett. Jim McKinlay moved and spoke to the motion and it was seconded by Roger Green.
- Sue Bulmer offer the meeting further information about ICOMOS.
- There was discussion about the prospect of a rise in subscription rates for the 1996 financial year to cover the effects of the increase in the price of paper.

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- The new Council consists of:

President:	Kelvin Day
Vice-President:	Chris Jacomb
Past-President:	Ray Hooker
Treasurer:	Rick McGovern-Wilson
Secretary:	Moira White
Council:	Elizabeth Pishief Sue Bulmer Warren Gumbley Amanda Young

- There was considerable discussion of the general problem of site protection and possible strategies for dealing with it. Bruce McFadgen moved that Council release not less than 10 media releases on the subject in the coming year. In need of immediated action was the case of the Earnsclough Dredge Tailings Historic Reserve.

- The meeting ended with a motion from Jom McKinlay, which recieved unanimous support, that we record the passing of Ham Parker in the previous year.

Moira White

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 5 JUNE, 1995

This past year has been an extremely busy one for NZAA Council. Earlier in the year members of council, along with Ian Smith and Janet Davidson, met with John Daniels and Piri Sciascia of the Department of Conservation to discuss the Historic Heritage Strategy document. As result of this meeting some changes were made before it was finally released.

Ongoing site destruction continues to cause great concern. Over the past couple of years known sites have been destroyed in Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay and the Auckland region. Despite legislation sites continue to be lost. This is something the Historic Places Trust seem unable, or unwilling, to deal with. It is extremely frustrating to watch the way in which this issue is, or rather is not, being administered.

In order to get some clarity on the issue NZAA have asked the Royal Society to undertake a full study of the implications, for the protection of the scientific content of archaeological sites, resulting from the recent division of responsibility for the protection and management of archaeological sites between the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Department of Conservation.

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Work is about to start on this.

Iwi liaison is continuing. Members of council had an informal meeting with Mr Te Taru White, Group Manager Planning and Regions, Te Puni Kokiri, Wellington late last year in order to make him and, in turn, his various managers aware of the Association and its activities. This was a most fruitful meeting and will hopefully be followed by others in the near future.

A number of iwi have approached the Association with regard to the Site Record File. In some instances this has simply required that the site records relevant to their particular area be copied. However, more in depth discussions have been held with Kai Tahu ki Otago regarding the Otago file. We hope that the outcome of this will be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and Kai Tahu over the sharing of information.

During the course of the year application was made to Lottery Environment and Heritage for the funding of a new membership brochure and for updating the Site Recording Handbook. These applications were successful and \$17,000 was granted towards these projects. We are currently exploring other funding sources to make up the shortfall. A draft membership brochure has been prepared and it is hoped that a final version will be available later this year.

It is now five years since a get together of filekeepers was held. Council are acutely aware that a filekeepers conference is long overdue, particularly with the legislative changes which have occurred in recent years. Unfortunately the costs of getting all the filekeepers assembled in one place is substantial and unless a source of funds can be obtained for a conference such an event will be extremely difficult to have. Having said that we are exploring possible funding options.

Finally I wish to thank my fellow council members for their support and hard work through the year. In particular the secretary and treasurer, on whose shoulders much of the workload has fallen, but who have always handled matters with speed and efficiency. Rick has also tirelessly prepared submissions on an enormous number of regional and district plans. I would also like to thank Rick, Helen Leach and Mike Green for organising this years conference. Unfortunately Stuart Bedford was unable to complete his term but his contribution to council, and more recently, in his capacity as Site Recording Co-ordinator, was much appreciated. I wish Stuart well with his Ph.D studies. Pam Bain, another long term council member is stepping down this year. Pam has worked hard for the Association, particularly in the area of Maori liaison and her input will be greatly missed. I hope Pam you will be available to join council again sometime in the near future.

Kelvin Day

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TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1994 financial year proved to be very good for the Association and resulted in an overall net increase in accumulated funds, in spite of a decrease in the value of the fixed assets. The comments which follow should be read in conjunction with the annual accounts which have been posted to all members. These financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis, following changes required by the NZ Society of Accountants, but the comparative figures from 1993 are GST inclusive so that will have an effect on the comparison. There does appear to be one mistake in the accounts, in the level of costs for last years audit, which I will follow up with the auditor.

All three accounts showed an increase in their accumulated funds over the year. The General Account saw its income drop slightly but there was a corresponding drop in costs and this resulted in an increased surplus. The Publications Account realised a decrease in its net surplus, but retains a strong balance of accumulated funds. The Journal Account experienced a significant turn-around in net returns due to a decrease in expenses deriving mostly from a major drop in the amount of depreciation of the fixed assets.

The overall situation for the Association continues to be promising. There was nearly a \$20,000 increase in net cash flows from operating activities, resulting from a marked increase in income and a decrease in expenditure. While the Association is still in good financial heart, there have recently been significant increase in the costs of paper which will flow through in the costs incurred by the publications of all three arms of the Association. Every endeavour will be made to ensure that any rises necessary in subscription levels and prices of monographs will be kept to the minimum required.

Dr Rick McGovern-Wilson

EDITOR'S REPORT

The past year has seen a great upsurge in the number of papers submitted for publication to *Archaeology in New Zealand*. This has created problems in the length of time taken from submission to publication. I have extended the number of pages to the limit for this type of binding process. The only way to increase the size further is to change to 'perfect' binding which creates a spine. However, quotes for this type of binding were far too expensive (approx. 1/2 as much again) and in consequence contributors will just have to expect a greater delay until they see their papers printed.

The Notes and News and fieldwork sections continue to be popular, with many people commenting on how they enjoy learning about archaeological activities around the country. I would like to thank the contributors, for providing

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such interesting copy four times a year. Also thanks to Tony Walton, not only for his constant supply of papers, but for his Recent Publications section and his contributions to the Book Reviews.

Joan Lawrence

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SIZE OF CENTRAL FILE as of 31 March 1995

On 31 March 1995 the Central File held a total of 48,132 records. This is an increase of 917 on last year's figure of 47,215. This represents an increase of about 1.9%

Regional totals are as follows:

Region	1994	1995	Change
Northland	8687	8726	+ 39
Auckland	7379	7463	+ 84
Coromandel	4213	4469	+256
Waikato	2473	2789	+316 - Owen Wilkes
Bat of Plenty	6373	6486	+113
Taupo	311	312	+ 1
East Coast	2580	2579	- 1
Taranaki	1438	1438	
Inland Patea	292	292	
Hawkes Bay	1540	1574	+ 34
Wanganui	629	636	+ 7
Wellington	934	946	+ 12
Nelson	1374	1385	+ 11
Marlborough	472	472	
Canterbury	1130	1166	+ 36
West Coast	853	853	
Otago	2346	2346	
Central Otago	1977	1977	
Southland	1407	1414	+ 7
Outlying Islands	807	809	+ 2
	<hr/> 47215	<hr/> 48132	<hr/> +917

Summary:

North Island files	36849	37710	+861
South Island files	9559	9613	+ 54
Outlying Islands	807	809	+ 2
	<hr/> 47215	<hr/> 49132	<hr/> +917

Count based on metric boundaries, most of which are now in use.

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UPDATED RECORDS HANDLED BY CENTRAL FILE for year ending 31 March 1995

In the year ended 31 March 1995, 344 updated records were forwarded to the Central File. This represents a rate of revision of existing records of about 1 in 138 per annum.

Region

Auckland	101
Coromandel	24
Waikato	122
Bay of Plenty	22
Taranaki	43
Hawkes Bay	9
Wellington	18
Nelson	2
Southland	3
	<hr/>
	344

Four records (one each in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and East Coast) were deleted.

A. Walton
31 March 1995