



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Six or seven squares were opened up, and though one proved to be negative, the others were most interesting and provided some useful information of the previous inhabitants of the site. During lunch on the first day a slight diversion was made when a Hamilton member gave a demonstration of his powers of divination with some slight, but not entirely negative success in locating rocks buried in the ground.

The exercise was continued next day and, later in the afternoon, the excavated sites were duly recorded and then filled in and re-turfed because the area was to be used as a camp site by the Girl Guides the following weekend. The tent and other structures were demolished in quick time, and before darkness fell, there was little evidence of the two-day activity on the site.

It is obvious that much more work must be done on the site before a complete picture can be built up of the former pa and it is hoped that this may yet be done. But the bulldozers are expected to start early in March and we can only hope that they too will reveal some of the mysteries of the long disused pa.

In the meantime the exercise was an undoubted success owing largely to the co-operation of the members. All the equipment on the many lists given to members to make or borrow arrived on the site and we lacked nothing on that score. The organization worked like clockwork and everything turned out as planned. The assistance of the Auckland members was very much appreciated and the much-needed instruction given by them was invaluable.

As Jack Golson so rightly pointed out, the Waikato is rich in archaeological sites and the success of the first field day augers well for the future.

GISBORNE by Alan Pullar.

During the year, my own personal interest lay in determining the relationship between the 'black' or 'X' pumice and the Kaharoa ash eruption 1100 A.D., i.e., whether the black pumice is older or younger. Although the search was unfruitful, we did find Kaharoa ash on the Gisborne Plains ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick) and in

the City of Gisborne. Unfortunately, as yet we have not been able to find the two deposits together.

In Whakatane, the Kaharoa ash is 3 inches thick, and as the black pumice also occurs on the coast there, an effort will be made to determine the relationship along the strip of coast between Opotiki and Whakatane.

For two years or so, my main official work will be the soil survey of the Rangataiki Plains when I am sure we shall learn a lot about the distribution of the Kaharoa and Taupo ashes in the Bay of Plenty.

The paper, 'Excavations at Orongo Bay, Gisborne' by Roger Green and myself has been written up, and when published should serve as a model illustrating the use of geology and pedology in interpreting cultural layers and in sketching the history of human habitation in a local area.

EXCAVATIONS AT PAKOTORE, PAENGAROA, BAY OF PLENTY by Jack Golson.

Pakotore is an old Arawa pa occupying a large flat area on a broad ridge overlooking the Kaituna river from the east. Steep sided gullies protect it on all sides except for two short stretches, one on the north, the other on the south side, while the area is connected to the main ridge. At these two points there are ditch and inner bank defences which are connected by being carried round the eastern side of the pa. From the west a deep gully almost cleaves the site in two.

Essentially, therefore, the pa consists of three sections: the eastern area, occupying the highest point of the site, and two arms to the west, the northern arm short, the southern arm long and broad. The western half of this northern arm is cut off by a transverse ditch and bank.

For its size the pa does not exhibit many internal features of habitation. The gentle slope of the high eastern area appears to have been flattened here and there into a number of platforms. There is a concentration of rectangular pits on the northern arm and a few scattered but well preserved examples of the same type on the eastern half of the southern arm. The western half of this arm, beyond the bank and ditch, has extensive but confused surface irregularities. The only