



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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LETTER TO THE EDITORBrunner Mine - reply

Dear Sir,

I was pleased to read the letter to you from West Coaster in exile Gerry Barton (1982), and as the party responsible for the historical part of the article (Oliver and Wood, 1981:213-217) take pleasure in replying.

As Mr Barton concedes the article is about the Beehive coke ovens on the site and consists mainly of an account of the excavations carried out under the direction of Robyn Oliver and written up by her (pp. 217-227). The short summary of oven construction and operation in the context of the mine's history was intended only as an introduction to this.

However, I am in complete agreement with Mr Barton on the objectives to be pursued in the interpretation of the site and hope that archival as well as archaeological evidence will assist with this. Unfortunately, no chimneys now remain on the site although that on the Tyneside mine site opposite Brunner still stands.

Regarding the 1896 disaster which resulted in the deaths of 65 men and boys there is an 'Historical Note' written by me in 'The Shadow of the Valley', a play about the disaster by Susan Battye and Thelma Eakin (Oxford University Press, 1980) which may be of interest.

The shortcomings in this as in the coke ovens article will I hope be rectified in the not too distant future.

Brian Wood
Greymouth

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| Barton, G. | 1981 | Letter to the editor: Brunner Mine. <u>N.Z.A.A. Newsletter</u> , 25:76. |
| Oliver, R. and
B. Wood | 1982 | Excavation at the Brunner coke ovens: January-February 1981. <u>N.Z.A.A. Newsletter</u> , 24:213-227. |

(Editor's note: the writer of this letter is at present employed under contract to the Historic Places Trust to research the history of the site.)