



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Tawhio, K. 1980 Archaeological Site Survey, Waiotahi and
Kererutahi Forests. N.Z. Historic Places
Trust, Wellington.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Aupouri sand dunes

Dear Sir,

You appear, in the course of editing my preliminary report on the Aupouri Sand Dunes Study (Vol. 26:174-191), to have excised portions of the captions to two of the photographs. Some readers may care to know that Plate 1 shows site N3&4/151 (albeit dimly) and Plate 3 shows site N3&4/187.

John Coster
Department of Lands and Survey
Auckland

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORReply to editorial

Dear Sir,

I am writing with reference to your editorial in the Newsletter of March 1984. I wish to concentrate on your comments on the possibility of changing the format so that the contents are of more general interest.

I agree with these comments for the following reasons: Although not an archaeologist, I do have an academic education and as a result am familiar with journal articles. However I often find the Newsletter articles difficult to read (especially some of the terminology used). The articles are certainly not written to be read by the general public.

In one of the Newsletters, we were asked to help increase membership. I know of several people who are interested in archaeology; in particular my next-door neighbours. They are an intelligent, retired couple who have visited the Palliser Bay and other archaeological sites in this area. But I would hesitate to recommend that they join the Association as I know they would find the Newsletter impossible to read. Thus their lack of education is depriving them of further knowledge.

On the front cover of each Newsletter the principles of the Association are outlined. The third paragraph begins - "That archaeological knowledge is public knowledge ...".

Unfortunately this is not always so. In her chapter on New Zealand in Jenning's Prehistory of Polynesia, Janet Davidson states that in 1923, Skinner had proven the "Moriore race" theory wrong. Well 30 years after this when I was in school I learned about the 'Moriore'. And 30 years later again, my son is still being taught this theory!

Although I have a great deal of admiration for archaeologists, I believe the foregoing points indicate a need for improvement in communication.

As requested I have told you what I think. However I have to admit that I can't think of any way in which the Newsletter can be changed to accommodate both academics and the general public.

Mrs Rosanne Livingstone
Masterton

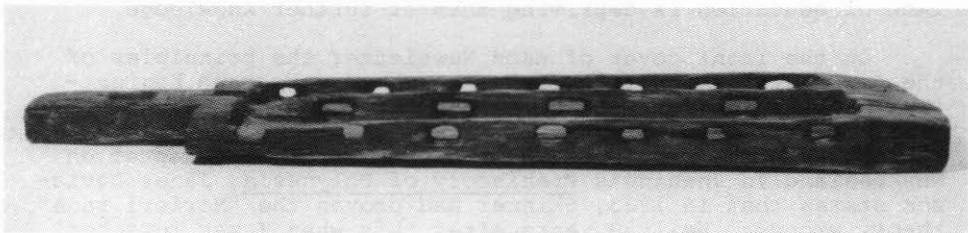
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An unusual wooden artefact
from Puketarata near Te Awamutu

Dear Sir,

In January 1980, the Te Awamutu and District Museum were advised of an artefact found in a swamp at Puketerata. The owner of the property, Mr Ian Dempsey, had noticed it protruding from the southern bank of the Waihuka Stream following heavy rain. The site was examined by Steve Edson of the Waikato Art Museum, and the author, on 8 February 1980. Examination revealed that the stream was diverted in 1958 following massive slumping of the hillside to the west of the find site. It now cuts through a deep deposit of peat at the northern margin of a former swamp. A close examination did not reveal any further artefacts although a large door lintel was found in the same locality some years previously, and this is now in the Te Awamutu and District Museum.

The find area lies at the eastern front of a massive site complex consisting of several contiguous pa and dozens of open settlements containing pits and terraces. These have since been visited by the Waikato Archaeological Society under the direction of Steve Edson.



The artefact is wooden, 76.5 cm long, 20 cm wide and 5 cm deep (see Plate). The handle has a square shaped hole worked in it. It is of pre-European manufacture. Its function is uncertain, but is possibly part of a composite free standing memorial. This suggestion was made by Dave Simmons of the Auckland Museum. It has been examined by Maori elders and carvers who have not made any logical explanations as to its function.

The Te Awamutu Museum would welcome any information which would assist in identifying this artefact, or any knowledge of similar finds.

J F Mandeno
Director
Te Awamutu and District Museum