



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## LETTERS

Dear Editor

Andrew Dodd's article in the recent issue of *Archaeology in New Zealand* overlooked some early efforts, notably the survey of historic shipwrecks I did for the Historic Places Trust in the three summers of 1975–78. This was also part of the large Otago programme on the archaeology of the Chatham Islands which was under the direction of Doug Sutton. My work was published as *Historic Shipwrecks at the Chatham Islands 1977, Working Papers in Chatham Islands Archaeology* 13, University of Otago. The sites were entered by Foss Leach, the off-shore islands file keeper, into the NZAA Site Record scheme. More to the point of Andrew's paper, I believe the Chatham's work is still the only systematic survey of shipwrecks of one area. Surveys of whole areas are to be encouraged.

Much archaeology in NZ has been done by knowledgeable amateurs, which is how I regard myself, rather than as a diver approached by a land-based archaeologist. My earlier, and subsequent, marine archaeology had been carried out in the Mediterranean starting in 1967. I still keep in touch with marine archaeologists and last May was in Turkey with a mate at the Institute for Nautical Archaeology, and looking at their conservation lab. Proper excavation is out of our financial league unless an exceptional case is made. My survey work required only a small grant for travel and support from the NZHPT, some accommodation through Otago, the loan of a government Landrover, and accommodation and transport bludged from fishermen. Sadly those days have probably gone.

The only artefact I brought back from the Chathams was a fid from the whaler Franklin. It was conserved by Jack Fry at the National Museum conservation lab and returned to the Chathams, where it is in the local museum. Iron conservation has been done as needed around the country by myself on a shoe from a Roman pile from the Italian work, and by Kelly Tarlton and others on anchors from various historic wrecks.

Andrew wasn't born when I did the Chatham Island work so two lessons from this is that (a) not everything in New Zealand archaeology gets published in *Archaeology in New Zealand* and (b) everyone should write at least a note of their work for *Archaeology in New Zealand* for archival purposes.

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