



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



This document is made available by The New Zealand
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.



NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CELL

CAROLINE PHILLIPS (CHAIR),
MERI LOW (FORMER ADMINISTRATION
SUPPORT)

PDC History

In March 2006, the NZAA Council hosted a workshop in Wellington for consulting archaeologists to debate issues relating to professionalism and accreditation within the professional consulting archaeological community. This was funded by money held by NZAA from the former Institute of New Zealand Archaeologists (INZA). The workshop was attended by about 50 people, comprising private consultants, as well as archaeologists from the Department of Conservation, Auckland Regional Council and New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The question, "do we need a professional organisation?" was put to the group for consideration. Following sometimes heated discussion, no clear consensus could be reached. However, there was support for developing options around professional development, in particular there was agreement that a series of professional development workshops would benefit our community. Accordingly a group of six volunteers offered to form a steering committee, named the New Zealand Archaeology Professional Development Cell, or PDC for short.

The PDC was initially given the brief to investigate the "best way forward". Subsequently, they sent a questionnaire to 115 members of the professional archaeological community, inviting contributions regarding the best format for these workshops, including:

- What topics would be of interest?
- Where and when should they be held, and who should run them?
- What costs might be involved and how much would attendees be prepared to pay?

In June the same year, feedback from this questionnaire together with ideas raised earlier at the Wellington workshop, was presented at the NZAA

Conference at Waihi Beach. This discussed some possible options, including national and regional workshops, as well as get-togethers for consultants. The national workshops were envisaged as being topic-based in order to advance archaeological skills and establish standards of practice, whereas the regional workshops could focus on strategies to guide regional research and link locally based consultants with NZHPT staff, regional heritage groups and museums. Networking groups would link archaeologists who were often isolated, even within the larger centres, and would aim to exchange information, ideas and discuss topical local issues.

In the end, the regional workshops did not eventuate and PDC did not become involved with the networking groups. However, local groups both in Wellington and Auckland have developed on their own. Accordingly, the focus of PDC has been in running national topic-based workshops.

Topics for the national series arising out of the first questionnaire and the Wellington workshop included:

- Radiocarbon dating, calibration and interpretation of dates;
- Buildings archaeology;
- Analysing and processing samples, i.e. midden and presenting results;
- Garden soils;
- Human remains;
- Basic conservation of artefacts;
- Consultants' responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991, Historic Places Act 1993 and related legislation and other legal issues;
- Surveying techniques, GPS, geomorphology, pedology, zoology;
- Geophysical surveys and computer-based analysis;
- Archaeological site management/protection;
- Becoming a consultant, obligations to clients, NZHPT, tax, etc.; and
- Assessment of site significance.

Further topics were added to the workshop series. In 2012, a second questionnaire was sent out which sought ideas for workshops, and requested an indication for those workshops that would be best attended and people who would be prepared to present information or share their expertise. In 2014, a third questionnaire was sent out.

From the beginning, the workshops were aimed at any practising archaeologists, and were designed to inform them of changing technology, good archaeological practice, or new legislation: enabling archaeologists to broaden their expertise and ask experts how they might best address particular problems or issues they have encountered. Those attending have come principally from the consulting community (including Opus), Heritage New Zealand (including

the Māori Heritage Unit), the Department of Conservation and university students (see Table 1).

One of the additional rationales for the workshops was that they brought together experienced people (some of whom had not published or presented previously), with others who were teaching, published, or in some way practicing. The discussion between these different experts, as well as that between participants proved to be really positive and valuable, and enabled a handing-on of knowledge within the archaeological profession.

The Workshops

Workshop	Consultant	HPT/HNZ	Māori HNZ	Iwi	DoC	Ak Council	Student	Museum	Other	Total
Radiocarbon 1	17	1			3	2	3	1		27
Radiocarbon 2	8	2				2	4	2		18
Protected Objects	8	4	3	2	4	1	1		2	25
Faunal 1	10	4			2	1		1		18
Faunal 2	13	2			1			2		18
Lithics	17	3			2	3	1			26
Remote Sensing 1	10	4	1	1	3	2	2		1	24
Human Osteo 1	8	3		1	2	1				15
Analysis & Care of Artefacts	11				4	2	5	1		23
Human Osteo 2	7	1	2		4	1	1			16
Wet Organics 1	2	1	1		1		3	2	1	11
Remote Sensing 2	2	1	1		2	2	3	1		12
Gardening 1	7	5		1	2		4		1	20
Human Osteo 3	3	2		2	1		2	2	1	13
Expert Witness	5	2			5	1	2	1		16
Gardening 2	6	1					1			8
Intro Building Arch	13	9			6	2	4	1		35
Practical Building Arch	16	3			2	6	2		5	34
Heritage NZ	15	5			4		1			25
Wet Organics 2	2	1	5		1				1	10
Emergency Arch	7	3								10
Tikanga Māori	10	2	2			1	1		5	21
Identifying Māori Artefacts	6	0	1				1			8
Totals	203	59	16	7	49	27	41	14	17	433

Table 1. Individuals and organisations who attended the PDC workshops. Note that the members of the Māori Heritage Unit of Heritage New Zealand have been listed separately, as they often represented their iwi as well as the organisation.

To date twenty-three workshops have been held. Each of these workshops was reported in AINZ Notes and News, and a summary was presented every year at the NZAA Conference AGM.

Radiocarbon Dating was the subject of our first workshop on 28 July 2006 in Hamilton, repeated on 22 January 2007 due to popular demand. The third workshop was stimulated by the **Protected Objects Act** that came into force on 1 November 2006, resulting in several changes for practising archaeologists. The fourth workshop on **Faunal Analysis**, was run in Wellington on 19 October 2007, and successfully repeated on 3 April 2008. The sixth workshop was on **Lithics Analysis** held on 18 July 2008, and the second new workshop in 2008 was on **Remote Sensing**, held on 14 November 2008 and repeated as the twelfth workshop on 27 August 2010. On 27 March 2009 we ran a workshop on **Human Osteology**, which was in such hot demand, we had to repeat it on 20 November 2009. In between, our ninth workshop was about the **Analysis and Care of Historic Artefacts** held on 15 October 2009. Following the conservation theme: the eleventh workshop on 4 June 2010 was about **Wet Organics**.

Then followed a number of firsts, as PDC trialled different models of workshops. The **Archaeology and Gardening** workshop held on 19-20 November 2010 was a great success, being our first workshop held over two days and the first to have a field component, so it was repeated as the sixteenth workshop on 20-21 April 2012, with information updates and an additional speaker. Another two-day workshop was held on 25-26 March 2011, when PDC crossed the strait for the first time and presented the fourteenth workshop on **Human Osteology** at the University of Otago. PDC ran **Being an Expert Witness** in Havelock North on 7 June 2011, the day before the NZAA Conference began. This was the first time PDC ran a workshop linked to the conference.

A **second questionnaire** was sent to our growing mailing list, with the three top contenders being: buildings archaeology, the new Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPTA) Act and tikanga Māori.

Almost since PDC began there has been a request for a workshop on buildings. Firstly, we presented **Introduction to Buildings Archaeology** as our seventeenth workshop on 26 June 2012, the day before the NZAA Conference at Oamaru. Our eighteenth workshop, **Practical Buildings Archaeology** extended the introduction with a practical-rich workshop held as a two-day workshop on 19-20 April 2013, based around the investigation of timber-frame buildings.

Our nineteenth workshop, **Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill 2013** (another of the top contenders), was held on 18 June 2013 before the NZAA conference in Cambridge, and was the second workshop that discussed changes to the various pieces of legislation that we work under. The twentieth

workshop on 6 September 2013 repeated the **Wet Organics**, and was also the occasion where we said farewell to Meri Low and welcomed Ben Thorne as in the role of Administration Support. The twenty-first workshop was held on 24 June 2014 in Christchurch prior to the 60th NZAA Conference and returned to the theme of buildings, one very relevant to Christchurch, with a topic entitled **Emergency Recording**. The twenty-second workshop was held on 5 September 2014 in Wellington, in association with the Māori Heritage Unit of HNZPT, with the topic of **Tikanga Māori**. This was the third of the preferred topics in the 2012 questionnaire.

We ran the **third questionnaire** in 2014, which came back with four preferred options for future topics: analysis of historic material, archaeological management, field recording and the identification of Māori artefacts.

On 10 April 2015 our twenty-third workshop was run at the University of Otago, Dunedin, on **Identifying Māori Artefacts**.

Current Status of the Professional Development Cell

The first workshops were easily oversubscribed, often in the first day Meri Low, the former Administration Support, advertised a workshop she received a full house and we always had several in reserve who didn't know until the last minute whether they had a place. Several of the workshops had to be repeated. By 2011, we had run 16 workshops on 10 topics (see Table 2).

We then began to encounter difficulties in getting enough people to attend. So we ran the second questionnaire, which resulted in 38 people opting for one or more of the 10 workshops on offer. In addition nine people offered to speak in some of the workshops, and an additional six topics were suggested by the respondents, of whom four offered to speak to those. From the questionnaire there were three top contenders (with 17-24 votes each) and these were run during 2013-14, with between 22-33 people attending. These were successful, but not oversubscribed.

When we ran the third questionnaire in 2014 only 24 people responded with no more than 12 votes for the eight workshops on offer and, tellingly, only four people volunteered assistance. Two of those were for the same workshop, which was another based in Dunedin. So, despite having difficulty getting the numbers of attendees the last time we ran one in Dunedin, we opted for that one. Again there was difficulty in getting enough numbers and of the ten who had said in the questionnaire that they would come, only one actually attended, and of the 12 who expressed an interest only eight registered.

In addition, the workshops run out of Auckland resulted in extra costs, such as flights and accommodation. Although those living in the rest of the country wished us to run workshops outside the big smoke (and we endeavoured to do so as much as possible), the fact was that the majority of those attending

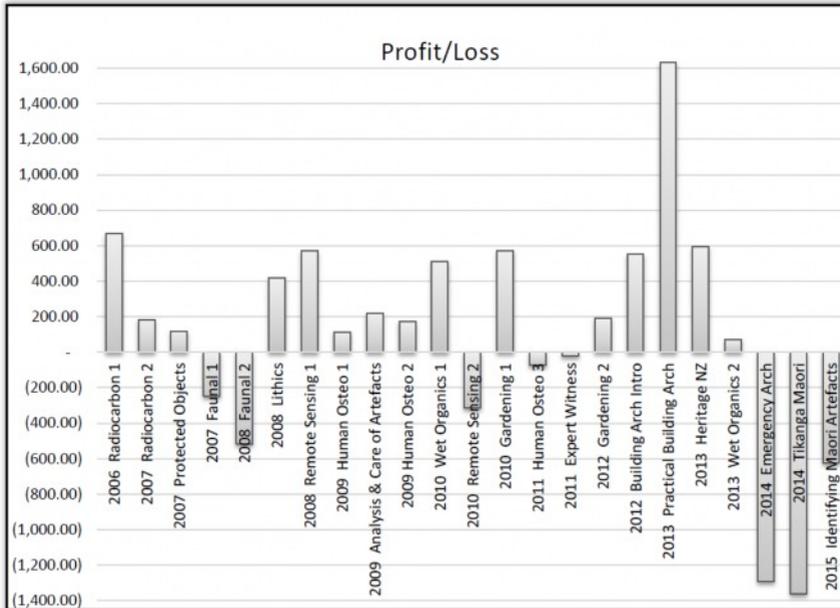


Table 2. Profit above the mid-line and loss below from the PDC workshops. The losses were incurred when fewer people attended, the venues were expensive, and when organisers had to pay for flights and accommodation.

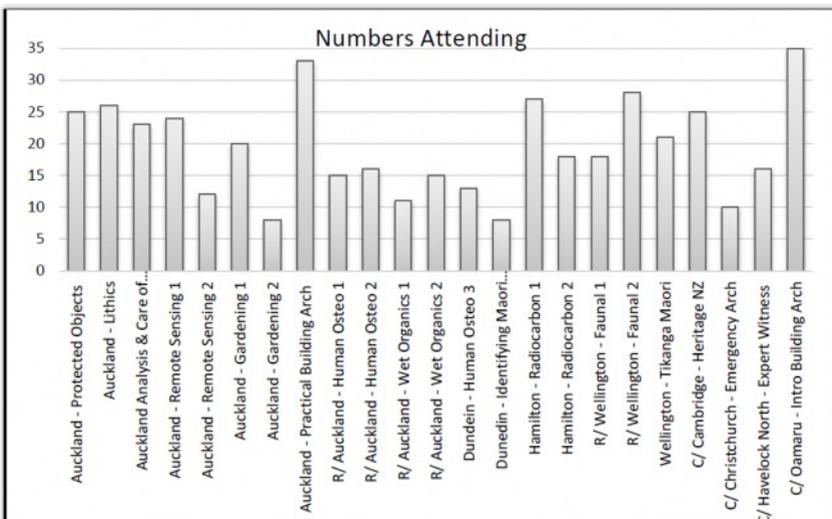


Table 3. Numbers attending the PDC workshops, by area (R/ = restricted by lab size, C/ = prior to NZAA conference).

lived in Auckland (as well as most of the potential speakers) (see Table 3). As a result the latest workshop ran at a loss in the order of \$700. None of the previous workshops resulted in such losses; several broke even but the rest paid their way and allowed a buffer for the forthcoming workshops.

As you may know, in 2012 Meri wished for a change and Ben stepped in to take her place as Administration Support. Now he (unfortunately for PDC) doesn't have the time to commit to the role. Caroline has offered her position on several occasions and has had no takers. Accordingly, the Cell decided that Caroline would offer it one more time in June 2015, at the AGM of the NZAA Conference at Waitangi, and if no one stepped up then PDC would go into "hibernation mode". No one offered to take over.

We are sad that PDC appears to have run its course in its present format, but feel it needs new people at the helm to bring new energy and new ideas. If someone, or an organisation, wishes to continue PDC, we are happy to support them and let them know the issues that we have encountered.

Acknowledgements

The PDC is a non-profit organisation: the organisers do not get any remuneration.

We often have had to pay for venues, data show equipment, stationery and, of course, food. However, the use of free printing and free venues supplied by some organisations has meant that we were able to keep our costs down, and enabled us to provide these workshops for very reasonable fees.

A huge thank you to all our "experts" without whom these workshops could not exist. A great deal of time and effort was spent on preparation and delivery, for the cause of keeping professional development alive and well in our chosen career of archaeology. These people gave freely of their time and resources, and on behalf of our community: we do thank you.

The cell would also like to thank all those who have supported PDC by answering our questionnaires and participating in the workshops - some people have attended almost every workshop that has been presented.

The Cell

Caroline Phillips has remained as Chair throughout the current history of PDC, Meri Low provided administration support for the first 20 workshops with Ben Thorne taking over for the last three. The other members have included: Ivan Bruce, Mary O'Keefe, Chris Mallows, Charles Sedgwick and Amanda Young.

The Speakers

The following people have presented information, shared their expertise, assisted in organising the workshops, arranged equipment and materials, photocopied handouts and many other tasks, which helped make the Professional Development series a very successful and enjoyable enterprise:

Ailsa Cain, Allan Juffermans, Andy Dodd, Anne Ford, Annette McKone, Anthony Tipene, Bea Hudson, Bev Parslow, Brigid Gallagher, Carole-Lynn Kerrigan, Caroline Phillips, Carolyn McGill, Chris Jacomb, Chris Mallows, Dan Witter, Daniel Parker, Dave Robson, Dilys Johns, Fiona Petchey, Frank van der Heijden, Garry Law, Geraldine Baumann, Gretel Boswijk, Hallie Buckley, Hans-Dieter Bader, Harry Allen, Honiana Love, Ian Lawlor, Jacqui Craig, Janet Davidson, Judith Littleton, Judith Robins, Karen Greig, Kath Prickett, Lisa Matisoo-Smith, Liz Cotton, Makere Rika-Heke, Malcolm Paterson, Marianne Turner, Mark Horrocks, Martin Jones, Matt Campbell, Matt Schmidt, Nancy Tayles, Nicola Jackson, Pam Bain, Peter Crossley, Peter Sheppard, Phil Moore, Raysan Al-Kubaisi, Rebecca Kinaston, Richard Walter, Rick McGovern-Wilson, Rod Wallace, Siân Halcrow, Wesley Maguire and Yolanda Vogel.

In addition, there were others who did not present information but assisted in the organisation, demonstration or simply tidying up at these workshops. We acknowledge and thank you sincerely for the assistance you gave.