



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NEWS

It is through no fault of the Editor, and indeed to his credit, that Newsletter has been something of a misnomer for this journal. The Council of the Association has recently discussed the lack of communication between members, and in particular between members and Council, and felt a regular news communication was desirable. The first was distributed with the annual report. In future they will appear here, as often as a member of Council can be persuaded to write them.

The Association held its extended annual meeting in Wellington over Queen's Birthday weekend. Discussion of the papers would be out of place here, but some at least were as contentious as the general meeting proved to be. After prolonged debate the meeting decided to increase the basic subscription to \$5.00 (students \$2.50) which will apply first for the year 1973-74. The Association has absorbed a running loss for the two past years, \$176 last year, and the present year can be expected to produce a loss of at least double this.

The cause of our increase in expenditure has been the necessity of paying travelling costs for Council members to attend Council meetings. In the past many Council members have had their expenses paid by their employing institutions, but the latter are economising, to our detriment. Council has been particularly concerned to keep this cost down and to ensure that Association members get some real benefit from Council meetings. To this end an executive committee has been set up and it is hoped one less Council meeting will be held this year.

Several speakers felt \$5.00 was not high compared to other societies, but others felt we should rather try to increase our membership. With a membership of fewer than 300 it is not surprising that such influence as the Association has, depends not on numbers, but on our valuable contacts with larger and more influential bodies, such as the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The A.G.M. altered the membership application procedure so that no nominator is required, only signature of the principles of the Association. The Secretary intends to widely distribute the new application form. If members were to put these to use, the Association could only gain both in liquidity and influence.

The immediate past President is Peter Bellwood. Gerry Moonen, who has been Treasurer for the last three years, deserves our thanks for his dedication to this necessary task. Janet's six years as Secretary will be looked back on by Council members of the period as those in which the Association's business was run as efficiently as one could imagine.

The new Council met during the same weekend and decided the biennial week-long conference due in 1973 will be in Christchurch in the May holidays. Other details will be made available when complete. The Anthropology Graduates' Association set up last year, will meet at the same time outside conference hours. This group was formed to discuss and make representations on the severe employment and other professional problems of anthropology graduates, and to help co-ordinate graduate research pursuant to higher degrees. These interests are not catered for by N.Z.A.A. and cannot be through the nature of the Association. We wish them well and hope that no members of N.Z.A.A. will feel that this group with its laudable aims is in any way divisive or unnecessarily exclusive, but we might note that members of the Graduates' Association would do well to assume that such a reaction is predictable if they do nothing to counter it.

If there are graduates who have not been contacted, the Secretary is:

Mr Robin Watt,
c/o Anthropology Department,
University of Auckland,
Private Bag,
Auckland.

Peter Bellwood is absent on fieldwork on Penrhyn for the second term, and at the end of the year is moving to A.N.U., Canberra. We wish him and Teri well. Professor Higham has left recently for sabbatical leave in the U.K.

R. G. Law
