



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NEWS

Dr Roger Green has been appointed to a personal chair in pre-history at Auckland University, the first prehistory chair in New Zealand. We have no doubt his future in Auckland will be as fruitful as when he was last a member of the department, and as his last three years as James Cook Scholar. His tenure of the latter comes to an end in February.

Our President, as is fitting, has a gift in the art of public relations. Jim McKinlay had the rare experience of seeing her lost for words when the Chairman of the local committee of the Historic Places Trust turned to her and said, "Tell me, Miss Davidson, what do you collect?"

Archaeological groups in Dunedin, Hamilton and Auckland are considering combining to bring a speaker from Australia next winter, to visit each contributing centre.

Wilfred Shawcross is to move this year to a position in Professor Mulvaney's department at A.N.U., Canberra. After 11 years in New Zealand we were beginning to think he was "dinkum". Wilfred's considerable abilities as a teacher, and as a field archaeologist may be lost to Auckland but we trust his other contributions to New Zealand scholarship will continue.

Of the archaeological problems of the New Zealand area, the prehistory of the Chatham Islands, and its relationship to New Zealand, must be the furthestest from solution. By 1976 this will no longer be true. Foss Leach, as Director, and Atholl Anderson and Doug Sutton as co-Directors of an Otago University programme on the Chathams, are proposing to have parties of up to 20 members in the field for a total of 18 months, with participating researchers drawn from institutions throughout New Zealand and some from Australia. With the return air fare from Wellington priced at well over \$100, funding even this part of the programme costs will be a headache. However, transport difficulties did not stop Dr Skinner's visit in 1919. A Marine Department edict prevented the carrying of passengers on a particular voyage, so he stowed away.

At the council meeting in Wellington on November 4th, a decision in principle was made to publish Jim McKinlay's thesis in the Association's monograph series. The thesis, entitled "Archaeology and Legislation", is a valuable survey of New Zealand's legislation relating to archaeology, its present inadequacies and its poor comparison with world-wide legislation, the latter covered in one section of the thesis. When

published, it will form a valuable adjunct to the Association's campaign for more and more effective legislation.

Copies of the Site Recording Handbook, published by the Association, are still available. Undoubtedly the best produced of the monographs, it is a "bible" for the field worker. (Orders with \$1.00 to the Treasurer.) If any members can arrange or suggest retail outlets for this handbook in libraries, or local museums or the like, the Treasurer would be pleased to hear from them.

Council is to protest to Lands Department over some quite unwarranted destruction on a pa within a historic reserve near Kaikoura, and as well, over a failure to recognise that rock drawing sites in South Canterbury need protection while the holders of a mineral exploration licence prospect for minable limestone. Protests by Council in many cases are too late, only because of the periods between meetings. Effective action in cases of imminent damage to sites can only be taken by local residents making immediate, loud and continued protests to anyone who will listen, i.e., newspapers, local news sheets, radio, TV, local government, Maori councils, government departments, historical societies. Say you are a member of N.Z.A.A. - it may help.

The conference of interested parties called by the Internal Affairs Department to consider changes to legislation concerning historic articles met again recently. The first meetings of this conference raised a hope of prospective legislation to protect sites against damage by unscrupulous artefact hunters, and inspired the N.Z.A.A. submissions included in an earlier item distributed to members. These hopes now seem duller and, rather, some reworking of the Historic Articles Act seems likely. Council is not satisfied with this situation and is to restate and re-issue its submissions. In particular it will press for a Government division or Department of Antiquities. Professor Green, who had a large part in promoting some very effective legislation in Hawaii, has offered his assistance.