



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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N.Z. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following Officers and Council were elected at the A.G.M. held in Christchurch, May 15-18, 1973.

President:	Miss Janet Davidson, Auckland.
Secretary:	Mr M. Trotter, Christchurch.
Treasurer:	Mrs Rachael Baskerville, Wellington.
Editor:	Dr A. G. Buist, Hawera.
Central Filekeeper:	Mr J. Daniels, Wellington.
Vice-Presidents:	Mr J. McKinlay, Wellington, Mr S. Park, Dunedin.
Council:	Mr S. Bartlett, Whangarei. Dr R. Green, Auckland. Mr G. Law, Auckland. Mr N. Matthews, Blenheim. Mrs A. Sullivan, Auckland. Mr D. Sutton, Dunedin.

NEWS

Staff movements at the Anthropology Department of Auckland University seem to take up a lot of this column recently. Two recent arrivals are Lady Aileen Fox from Britain, and Harry Allen from Canberra. Lady Fox has a longstanding interest in hill forts and her recent retirement from a lectureship at the University of Exeter gave rise to an opportunity for a year-long stay in Auckland as a visiting lecturer, and to study New Zealand pa. She is the author of a book in the Ancient Peoples and Places series, on South-West England.

Harry is the first to reverse the trend of academic migration from Auckland to Canberra. He hopes to continue research into Australia while based in Auckland as a lecturer.

In April, the Maori Affairs Policy Convention of the Labour Party, meeting in Auckland, passed a remit calling for steps to be taken to protect archaeological sites and artefacts. All four Maori M.P.s were at the meeting. The Government is to be asked to consider the recommendations of the meeting. This is a most welcome development in the Association's campaign to achieve more effective antiquities legislation.

With this evidence of increased public awareness of the cultural value of the past, it is disappointing and disturbing to see the popularity of films such as one which is currently touring the country, 'Chariots of the Gods'. The chariots are none other than extra-terrestrial spaceships and, if the film is to be believed, their occupants interfered so frequently in the course of prehistory that archaeologists might as well give up all hope of understanding. Yet there are some good films made for a mass audience. It was a pleasure recently to see a well-made BBC television programme on Professor Thom and the study of the geometric and astronomical properties of Britain and Brittany's megalithic monuments. May there be more.

The battle to save some of New Zealand's most spectacular prehistoric sites from quarrying, Auckland's volcanic cones, was lost ten years ago. The survivors, almost without exception, are in parks or reserves, and are all the more precious. Yet they are still threatened by piecemeal destruction in the name of improvements, or damage from stock and such things as motorcycle scrambling, attributable to poor management. Two hopeful signs appeared recently. One of the main causes of piecemeal destruction has been the construction of water storage reservoirs. The Auckland Regional Authority is responsible for these and has been getting the message that further construction is unacceptable, and it must plan for the alternatives, which are quite feasible, if possibly a little more expensive.

The other sign was a generally favourable reaction by the Mount Eden Borough Council to a deputation from the Auckland Archaeological Society regarding some severe stock damage to the Council's namesake. The cones would be much better protected if some were changed to historic reserves, a title they richly deserve, or in some cases if archaeologists were represented on Domain Boards.

Otatara Pa in Hawkes Bay, the largest in New Zealand, was recently incorporated into a reserve. One member of the Domain Board controlling this reserve will be appointed by NZAA Council, the first time this provision has been made.

Field work around Auckland, while a little less intense than the previous summer, still produced an impressive amount of work. Richard Cassels continued his work at Aotea, as did Agnes Sullivan at Wiri. Ken Gorbey from Waikato Museum excavated at Raglan and on a swamp pa near Hamilton. Janet Davidson undertook site surveys on Cuvier and Motutapu Islands, and, while on the latter, Anne Leahy and Roger Green undertook investigations into some suspicious terrace structures.

After nomination by NZAA Council, the Polynesian Society has awarded the Best Medal to Roger Green for his outstanding contribution to the anthropological study of Pacific peoples.

The Board of the Urawera National Park has asked NZAA to publicise its appeal for funds for a visitor centre. Estimated to cost \$100,000, the centre will be an invaluable adjunct to the park, particularly in presenting its Maori past. Donations or enquiries for the appeal leaflet can be made to the board, care of, Department of Lands and Survey, P.O. Box 460, Hamilton.

Atholl Anderson, an M.A. graduate from Otago, has been awarded a scholarship which will enable him to undertake a period of study at Cambridge University. Robin Watt, a graduate of Auckland with an M.A. in physical anthropology, has also been awarded a scholarship and hopes to undertake further study in London.

NZAA Council has adopted a proposal submitted by Stuart Park and Doug Sutton, that we should have printed a publicity handout. This will be a single sheet folded leaflet, illustrated, printed in two colours and entitled "Is There a Future for New Zealand's Past?". The text written by the proposers, concentrates on site protection. An initial printing of at least 10,000 is proposed, and more if sponsorship can be found. To use these effectively they must be put into the hands of people who have the potential to save sites, such as farmers and local body administrators. If any members can arrange distribution to any such group through "tip ins" to magazines or any other methods, they should contact Stuart at the Otago Museum, Great King Street, Dunedin.

Some local file-keepers for the site record scheme have had trouble getting forms typed. Any volunteers for this work should enquire with their local file-keeper.

Mrs Susan Bulmer has been appointed an Honorary Research Associate in the Anthropology Department at Auckland University. Sue is an expert in the prehistory of the New Guinea region, where she has resided since leaving Auckland in 1968. Her return is prompted by her husband, Raphe, taking up a professorship in social anthropology at Auckland.