



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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N E W S

G. Law

The Association conference in Wellington in May outshone the weather and produced a memorable meet. A field trip to the Wairarapa sites excavated under the direction of Foss and Helen Leach was matched by an outstanding set of papers from the participants in that research. Jim McKinlay's organisation was matched by his hospitality. Your reporter benefited from the latter and is pleased to announce here the award of the fifth star to 132 The Ridgeway.

At the time of writing the two Bills before the House of Representatives, the Antiquities Act and the Historic Places Trust Amendment Act, have passed their second readings and should be law by the time this is printed. The Historic Places Trust is still some way from getting the staff increase which is essential to carry out the intent of the second Bill though some extra funds were voted in supplementary estimates for the Trust to start on its task. The Acts are not widely known to members of the public and it is in our interest to make their intent better known, rather than just their letter and penalties. It is only in encouraging public co-operation rather than just coercion that the full value of this legislation will be realised.

The legislation will apply to field work carried out in the coming Summer season: it is not just for someone else but applies totally to archaeologists as well. We cannot expect public compliance if we fail to do so ourselves, irksome though some of the artefact provisions may be when applied to flakes and worked scraps of bone.

The last News mentioned the seminars held in Dunedin over Easter. Doug Sutton writes:

"The Otago Anthropological Society held a three-day seminar over Easter. The meeting was convened under the title: 'Straightening Up the Baulks: a review of lesser known site reports in New Zealand Archaeology'.

Those contributing papers were encouraged to concentrate on the more obscure sites in order to avoid 'stealing the thunder' of the 1975 Conference, and because many of these sites are very important in both the history of New Zealand archaeology and in regional prehistory.

On the first day, Friday 28th March, papers were read as follows:

- Doug Sutton - The Lesser Known Sites: a positive view
- Helen Leach - Excavations on the Karitane Pa: 1962-1966
- Neville Ritchie - Lake Wakatipu Site Survey
- Agnes Sullivan - Archaeological Sites at Crater Hill, Papatoetoe
- Murray Efford - Archaeological Investigations at Amyes' Sheepyards, Kaikoura Peninsula

On Sunday, 30th March, approximately 35 of those attending the seminar went on an excursion up the North Otago coast. They stopped to see the sites at Mapoutahi, Karitane, Shag Point, Awamoa and Tairua before turning inland at Oamaru to visit some examples of rock art in the Ngapara district under the guidance of Cyril Maude.

Papers continued on Monday as follows:

- Mr Cox and Mr Munro - Searching, Tracing and Recording Rock Art in North Otago
- Mr Muirhead - Ancient Rock Art in North Otago (This was an excellent slide show with a synchronised narration).

- Professor Charles Higham
- The Archaeology of the Foveaux
Strait Coast
- Russel Beck - Prehistoric Stone Resources in
Southland
- Foss Leach - Excavations at Oturehua, Central
Otago, 1967
- Graeme Mason - Stone Sources in Southland:
porcellanites and silcretes
- Jim McKinlay - Archaeology of the Waioneke Pa,
South Kaipara Peninsula
- Jim McKinlay - Archaeology and Legislation in New
Zealand: the current situation

The weekend seminar was very successful. Perhaps the highlight of it all came in Russel Beck's paper on the Southland lithic material and in the contributions from North Otago. It is hoped that these useful and informal seminars will become a regular feature of the O.A.S. calendar".

Angela Calder, presently resident in Britain writes:

"Many antipodeans who plan on visiting the United Kingdom may like to take the opportunity to gain further archaeological fieldwork experience whilst en vacances. The number of excavations undertaken each year in the United Kingdom is phenomenal, and the range and type of sites dealt with can supplement, and contrast with experiences gained in New Zealand or the Pacific. However, the newly-arrived may experience some difficulty in locating the 'scene of the action' so I have, from my own experience, compiled a few notes of whom or what to consult about fieldwork. This list is not finite or comprehensive but it does include most of the major archaeological fieldwork contacts in the United Kingdom.

1. Council for British Archaeology
8 St. Andrews Place
London W1 4LB

Publishes a bi-monthly Calendar of Excavations which includes also Summer Schools, Courses, and a few permanent appointments are advertised. This calendar indicates where, and what type of site, costs - or salary, and whom to contact. Note: applications to Directors must be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope (U.K. only). Annual subscription to the Calendar is £1.25.

2. Archaeological Placement Service
4 Larkfield Road
Sunderland, SR2 9BE

A recently formed non-profit making concern. Applicants indicate when available for work, and preferences for where, what type of site, periods, and whether they have camping gear, or prefer other accommodation, etc. In return a list is sent back to the applicant indicating 2 - 4 suitable sites with details of location, periods concerned, position offered (as many pay their workers - very nominally though), rate of pay, and dates. They also give some personal advice if requested and seem very helpful.

3. County Archaeological Schemes

Most Counties have their own particular programmes, generally geared to rescue situations.

(Angela included a list of County Archaeological Officers supplied by the Association of the same. This has addresses and telephone numbers. I will copy this to anyone interested. Write to Garry Law, 112 Gowing Drive, Auckland 5).

4. Other Suggestions

B. Hobley, Department of Urban Archaeology, Guildhall Museum, Basinghall St. London E.C. 2 and Journals such as "Rescue Archaeology" and "Current Archaeology".

Regional Museums and Universities can also provide a contact. Often noticeboards will be helpful. That at The Institute of Archaeology 31-34 Gordon Square, London W.C.1, especially so".

Book Notes. "Comparatively Speaking" a book by H.D. Skinner incorporating revised versions of many of his comparative ethnology papers was published late last year but is not widely available in bookshops. For ordering through bookshops the publisher is the University of Otago Press and the distributor McIndoe's, 51 Crawford Street, Dunedin.

"The New Zealand Myth" by Dave Simmons will be available soon, hopefully correcting in the public mind some of the "1350 and all that" school of history.

NZAA Council and the NZHPT Archaeology Committee have set up a joint committee to study the site recording scheme and its future relationship to the Trust Site Register. Some short and long term changes to the scheme are inevitable if the two are to be used to our maximum benefit. The Committee will be pleased to consider any constructive suggestions.

The thirteenth New Zealand Science Congress is to be held in Dunedin in May next year. NZAA members received copies of the first notice recently. The organisers have asked us to encourage members intending to go to reply as soon as possible.

Archaeological sites are often threatened by destruction by natural agencies, wind and water erosion, slips and desiccation.

Our reaction to this is too often philosophical for there are a wide variety of engineering and soil conservation techniques which can be applied to many of our problems. The costs need not be astronomical for often it is only a small area which needs protection. Very often some common interest will be found with a landowner or the controlling authority in preventing erosion and some basis of cost sharing might well be able to be found. An approach to the Local Body or the Local Catchment Board, or in the case of erosion on the margins of harbours, to the local Harbour Board, may also lead to finding a common interest in halting erosion. Often even some simple action can help markedly and the contacts suggested above might well supply some free professional advice even when they are unable to provide the material assistance.

Summer Fieldwork

Auckland - Geoff Irwin will be excavating in the Central Bay of Plenty for four weeks up to Christmas. The site is a swamp site with preservation better than usual even for these sorts of sites. Further details can be obtained from Geoff at: Anthropology Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland.

The Auckland Regional Authority has received a Mobil Environmental Grant to undertake a survey of archaeological sites in the now numerous regional reserves it administers. The work should be undertaken this summer and graduate students are likely to be involved.

The Chatham Islands Archaeological Expedition will operate again this summer. A party of 15 will spend the period from mid-November till late February in the Chathams. This season we'll concentrate on extending the excavation of prehistoric houses at Waihora, mapping sites on the south-west coast and on some important palaeoenvironmental studies. Anyone wishing to join the field party should write to Doug Sutton, Anthropology Department, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin.