



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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N E W S

It is the intention of NZHPT to hold a 4-5 day Site Recording Training School over the Easter Weekend (April 8-13) 1977, at Whangarei, North Auckland.

Participants will probably have to cover some or all of their accommodation costs, either privately or in hostels (if available). However, other costs will be minimal or nil. This will be run in conjunction with the University of Auckland Continuing Education Centre.

\* \* \* \*

Nigel Prickett is excavating this summer at the Omata Stockade, at Omata, outside New Plymouth.

The work is being undertaken as part of a Ph.D. programme at the University of Auckland. Financial and logistic support is provided by the University of Auckland Research Committee, the Department of Anthropology, and the University of Auckland Archaeological Society.

The site is a European fortification built by local settlers in the first few months of 1860. It was subsequently occupied throughout the First (1860-61) and Second (1863-66) Taranaki Wars. The excavation will be from early January to mid-February. A contact address is N. Prickett, Anthropology Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland.

\* \* \* \*

An attempt has been made to halt wave erosion of the Sunde Site on Motutapu Island near Auckland. The Hauraki Maritime Park has paid for some groynes to stabilise the beach in front of the site and members of the Auckland University Archaeological Society have assisted in their erection.

\* \* \* \*

The Southland Anthropological Society held its inaugural meeting on September 28, 1976. The Society is interested in all aspects of anthropology, but particularly in the promotion of knowledge about archaeological research, social anthropology, and early historic events in Southland. The society holds its meetings on the first Monday of every month at 8.00 p.m. in the Southland Museum. All members of the NZAA who are travelling through Invercargill are cordially invited to attend any of the Society's meetings.

\* \* \* \*

Michael Trotter reports from Canterbury:

The Canterbury Museum Archaeological Society is concentrating on site surveying in the Christchurch and Birdlings Flat areas at present. As well, the Society is investigating an early European stone-walled sheep-fold site dating back to the middle of last century. At this site are two fireplaces where it is thought tobacco solution was prepared for the treatment of scab in a dip with water being obtained from an adjacent well. The work at this site is being undertaken with a permit issued by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust.

Processing of material and data from an earlier investigation at McCormacks Bay is almost completed. Here was found evidence of initial burn-off when man first occupied the area, a stage of prehistoric occupation, an early stage of European occupation and finally European utilisation of the rock-shelter site in the form of a turkey farm.

During the August vacation, Michael Trotter returned to Titirangi in Marlborough Sounds with a team of 20 to carry out excavations on an agricultural complex discovered last summer. (Team organisation was undertaken by Barry Brailsford). Titirangi is one of the most important archaeological areas yet found in the Sounds, and it is hoped that it may provide a key to the prehistory of the whole area. Costs of this expedition are being shared by the participants.

Projects planned for the next few months include the total excavation of a small historic (European) graveyard, and another season site surveying in the Marlborough Sounds.

Steve Edson will be clearing a building site in Kaikoura for a new post office planned by the M.O.W. With a small team, he will be continuing work on the site where Michael Trotter found remains of a number of burials, cremation and a living floor in an exploratory investigation two years ago.

\* \* \* \*

A Town and Country Planning Appeal Board hearing on Coromandel County Council's District Scheme has refused to register archaeological sites in the scheme, holding that the amendment to the Historic Places Trust Act supersedes the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act. It would be unfortunate if this became a precedent and prevented this valuable method of communication between local interests and public and private institutions involved in land use.

\* \* \* \*

Miss Maria Jones (29 single) from (where else?) Swansea (7 Kimberlea Road, Sketty, Swansea, Glamorgan, Wales) has written saying she would be interested in corresponding with someone on New Zealand and other archaeology.

\* \* \* \*

The Editor,  
New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter.

During the coming summer, we shall be working on Ninety Mile Beach in Northland, recording archaeological sites on areas of sand dune which are to be planted in pine trees during 1977. This work is part of a continuing programme undertaken by the New Zealand Forest Service with the aims of recording the presence of sites before they are destroyed or obliterated, and of protecting any sites of special importance. We expect most of the sites recorded to be eroded shell middens, some of which may include working floors. Few, if any, will survive afforestation and they will not therefore be available for study in the future.

A report outlining the results of similar work undertaken in March of this year has been prepared for the Auckland Conservancy of the New Zealand Forest Service. This makes it clear that we have recorded only a restricted amount of information from the sites studied. The main limitation of which we have been aware is that, not having a particular research programme in mind, we have tended to describe the sites in fairly general terms and it may well be that we are failing to record more specific details which could aid future research.

We would therefore welcome any requests from people engaged in research for particular data which we might collect. In addition to recording material ourselves, we might also be able to assist anyone who wished to carry out his own fieldwork in the area.

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2 September 1976