



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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N E W S

Foss Leach has implemented a proposal to set up a lab. to develop and apply techniques of sourcing and dating obsidian. One aim is ultimately to provide a channel for routine analyses. The sponsoring institution is to be the DSIR through Dr G. McCallum of the Institute of Nuclear Sciences. The archaeological evidence is to be provided by Foss Leach and Roger Green.

Among the great number of local histories which mark 100 years of the present form of local government there are few which give more than a brief nod to Maori history. Notable among these is "The Legacy of Turi : An Historical Geography of Patea County" (edited by K.W. Thomson, published in 1976 by The Dunmore Press on behalf of the Patea County Council).

The book includes a section on "The Maori" (pp. 1-18) by our editor which is particularly useful for its treatment of the historical period, especially the 1860s war period, and for its aerial photographs of various sites in the district. Among other things Dr Buist records how "Elsdon Best visited Waipipi early this century and took away a dray-load of sinkers for the Dominion Museum; later it became more convenient to use a Landrover!"

If members do get hold of a copy of this excellent local history the sections on "Pakeha Agriculture" (E.C.R. Warr) and "Social History" (Margaret Leslie) may also interest those of a wider historical or anthropological interest.

The fourth issue of Oceanic Prehistory Records is now available (OPR 4). Note that this is in microfilm only. It is a joint issue of two papers of relevance to Solomon Islands prehistory and is the first of a sub-series within OPR on this subject. The two papers are: "Radiocarbon dates from the Solomon Islands to 1975" by Stephen J. Black and R.C. Green (58 pp) together with "Geological Report on Soil Samples from Lapita Site SE - RF - 2. Solomon Islands Cultural History Project", by William C. Burnett and Charles D. Fein (22 pp).

This may be ordered at \$1.90 through the publisher, Auckland University Archaeological Society, c/- Anthropology Dept., University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland. A 15c surcharge is made for overseas airmail delivery.

The six monthly C₁₄ meeting was held in Wellington in June. The laboratory has had a relatively light sample load recently and has been completing dates quickly. All samples awaiting processing at the last meeting had been completed. Dates were reported for Oruarangi, Turakiarae, Peketa and Papatowai. Samples in processing were from several Motutapu sites and from Pleasant River, Wairau, Niue and Samoa.

The laboratory has asked if archaeologists can assist in its research on contemporary standards. They are interested in any marine material, especially shell, collected before 1955 for which a date of collection is known, or shells from marine animals which can be demonstrated to have died as a result of burial or dredging or such at any known date before 1955. They will need a reasonable sized sample. Their investigation destroys the sample.

An NZAA Scheme for C₁₄ sample charcoal identification will be instituted shortly and should be of considerable benefit to C₁₄ users. People wishing to avail themselves of the service should contact either of the NZAA C₁₄ committee members, currently Garry Law and Foss Leach.

A third archaeologist has been appointed to the Historic Places Trust. Bruce McFadgen has a long association with NZAA and New Zealand archaeology and takes up the position of Staff Archaeologist. Bruce was formerly a surveyor but was seduced away by archaeology. He is a graduate of Otago University (M.A.) and has just completed a period of study for a doctorate at Victoria University.

With the advent of the Historic Places Trust Register of Sites incorporating the central NZAA file, the role of Central File-keeper within NZAA had become anomolous. John Daniels had filled this role since inception and the strength of the scheme is testimony to John's organising ability.

The 1977 Annual General Meeting of the Association abolished the post and created a position of Co-ordinator to represent NZAA site recording interests to NZHPT and to act as a contact for NZAA local file-keepers. Garry Law has been appointed to this post by Council.

NZAA Council is concerned that there should be a formalised division of areas of interest between the Trust register and the NZAA local files and has been undertaking discussions towards this end.

NZHPT is fortunate in obtaining transparencies of NZMS map series 270 as it is produced. This is a photogrammetric plan print series at scale 1 : 25,000. Four of these sheets will cover an NZMS 260 sheet when they appear. They will be of great value in site surveying.

A West Coast (South Island) filing district has recently been established in the Recording Scheme. Mr Bob Lawn is to be the file-keeper (66 Tudor Street, Hokitika). A new map of the districts will be published in a future issue of the Newsletter.

The following appeared as an editorial in "News and Views", a newsletter produced by the N.Z. Institute of Surveyors. Its view of the NZHPT Act should be of interest to archaeologists.

It is reprinted here by courtesy of the editor of "News and Views".

Editorial

The Historic Places Amendment Act 1975

Are we using it correctly?

By the time this issue reaches your desks this Act will have been in force for one year and who knows but in ninety-nine more years the six pages of this Act may cause Sections 9F - 9M to be used to protect a site used for a rubbish dump in 1976.

The Act is specific in what may and may not be done to any site within the territorial waters of New Zealand associated with human activity more than 100 years ago. The 100 years is a rolling period and this must be constantly kept in mind when advising clients on development of all descriptions.

As our members are among the first people to become involved in land development, which of course can range from cutting one lot into two to a multilot subdivision over many stages, we have the opportunity to see and appreciate features in the land that could not possibly be natural. Such features could come within the scope of this Act and upon recognition of these features the client should be informed and the Historic Places Trust advised immediately. To delay could cost your client a great deal of money if, for example, nothing was done until a digger or motor scraper exposed and damaged a site, the penalty under the Act would amount to a maximum of \$5000, but your client may not like to pay interest on finance for a period with no production while the Trust carries out its investigation.

The Trust has the power to stop all activity until they have carried out their investigations and they may not, in fact, permit the destruction of any portion of the site thus requiring a complete replanning of a development. While the \$5000 fine may be chicken feed on a multi-thousand dollar development the replanning could well not be and there is still no guarantee that a permit will be issued after paying the fine.

To avoid any delays occasioned by the Historic Places Amendment Act 1975 early recognition of sites and the notification of the site to the Trust is essential.

Today's rubbish dump is tomorrow's protected site.

R.H.B.G.