



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NORTHLAND ARCHAEOLOGY - A MAORI VIEW

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(Editor's note: this contribution originated as a talk given to the Northland Seminar which was held in July this year and reported in the last issue.)

At this seminar, where much of the discussion has been centred around the Maori of the past, the Maori of ancient times, I rise to imbue this gathering with something of the living Maori; itself a tradition of the past:

Ko Mangapiko Te Maunga
Te Oneroa A Toohe Te Moana
Ko Kurahaupo Te Waka
Te Tangata O Runga Ko Po
Ko Te Aupouri Te Iwi

I te mea tuatahi, teenaa koutou ngaa rangatira o te Wharewaananga o Akarana ko huihui mai i raro i te tuanui o teenei whare. I raro i teenei roopu e kiia nei ko te Archaeological Society i te whiriwhiri i ngaa aahuatanga mo ngaa nohoanga taawhito o te iwi Maori o mua. No reira, teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou, teenaa taatau katoa.

When you speak about the Bay of Islands - you speak about my grandmother of Ngaapuhi. When you speak about Ahipara - you speak about my other grandmother of Te Rarawa. When you speak about Whangape - you speak about my iwi, Te Aupouri, who originated there, and, according to the traditions of my tuupunas, migrated from there and settled areas of the Aupouri Peninsula, finally to become established in the North Cape region. When you speak about muskets and gunfighter paa - you speak about my great-grandfather, Ensign John Norman, an Englishman.

I stand here, an embodiment of all these people and I am interested in what is being discovered about them and I want to be involved. I cannot, however, claim to represent all these factions now, nor speak for them, for my elders have their own kind of wisdom.

I am deeply involved with my homeland, my papakainga, my turanga-wae, - Te Haapua with its surrounding lands in the Far North; Janet's territory, archaeologically-speaking. I am a member of the Management Committee administrating our tribal lands, the Te Haapua

42 Incorporation, and I am involved in private research for them.

I can also claim to be one of a disappearing race mentioned by Janet last night - a student. I am an adult student and have been back at University for three years. I am a native speaker of Maori and I am fortunate to have both my parents who too, are pure native speakers. Both were born and grew up in the Far North, with my father spending 20 years of his early life with his Ngaapuhi people in the Bay of Islands.

In such company as this, archaeologists and the like, I can only declare myself an enthusiastic amateur, deeply interested in your work. I have struggled through Anthropology papers and I completed Nigel's paper last year which involved trekking over Motuihe Island. I have also, in the quest for knowledge, climbed fences and stumbled over stiles on field trips with the Archaeological Society.

I applaud the desire expressed here by Mark from Panguru, by Wendy, and by others that the Maori people merit consultation and I can assure you that they do want to be consulted and involved.

As yet there is no Maori archaeologist but I feel that there will be in the near future.

Kia ora ano te taata katoa.