



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NOTES AND NEWS

Anthropologist at Otago Museum, Stuart Park, has been appointed Director of the Auckland Museum. It is because of this important appointment that he has given up the job of secretary of the Association. Stuart takes up his new post in August.

Sue Bulmer has been awarded her doctorate from the University of Papua-New Guinea for her thesis, "Prehistoric Culture Change in the Port Moresby Region". Anne Geelen has been appointed Advisory Officer at the Trust to replace Mary Newman. Rod Wallace has taken up a D.Phil. scholarship at Waikato University specifically to study problems associated with wood conservation in New Zealand. Helen Leach has been awarded a Rhodes Fellowship at Oxford and will leave us in January next year for two years in the antipodes. New Council member David Butts has recently been appointed Assistant Director at the Manawatu Museum. Doug Sutton has been awarded a post-doctorate research fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and will be taking it up next year. Foss Leach and Janet Davidson spent May on fieldwork in New Britain. Wendy Harsant and a large team of students excavated at Hahei on the Coromandel Coast for two weeks in May.

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Some changes have occurred recently among Association filekeepers and filing districts. The Auckland file has been divided into two: the four metropolitan Auckland NZMS1 sheets (N41, 42, 46 and 47) are now with Sue Bulmer at the University, while Anne Leahy has taken over the rest of the Auckland file which remains in the Auckland Museum. David Butts has taken over the Wanganui file to which NZMS1 sheets N152 and 153 have been added from the Wellington district. While on the subject of Association's site record files it may be noted that the Site Recording Co-ordinator's report at the Annual General Meeting gave a grand total of 19022 sites recorded - 3000 up on last year. Areas of most activity in the year have been Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Inland Patea, Taranaki, Otago and Southland.

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Foss Leach writes: "The Otago Anthropology Department will be shifting into the new palatial quarters during the May vacation. For the past few years the Department has been spread across the campus in 4 separate buildings. It will now occupy the lower three floors of the newly erected eight million dollar building to house several arts faculty departments, and known as the Hocken building. The new complex contains offices for all staff and senior students, seminar rooms, data processing room, and many store rooms etc. The main feature of the complex is a suite of

archaeological laboratories for undergraduates as well as graduates and staff. These range from an audio-visual complex to a laboratory devoted to conservation problems. In addition, there are several laboratories designed for XRF and Infra-Red analysis, thermoluminescence and obsidian dating, and finally a large complex for general cleaning, storage, layout and comparative collection. Equipping this building for its various functions will be spread over the next year or two.

The first item of equipment to be installed in the new Hocken building is a freeze drier specifically designed for conservation problems of waterlogged materials. It has inside measurements 13 ft long and 32 by 22 inches in cross section, and will be able to handle quite large wooden and other objects. It will be used for a variety of purposes from conserving wooden carvings to drying valuable manuscripts, books and legal documents, and possibly to taxidermy problems."

Your editor cannot let this news go by without a farewell to the two-storied brick house in Cumberland Street which was formerly occupied by archaeology graduate students. It was a marvellous building, with a 'zip' for endless cups of coffee and good company to have them with. Some of our rooms were larger than professors are allowed in the new university 'high-rises', and we were not too close to department staff who occupied a similar building around the corner in Union Street.

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There have been a number of changes to the Association Council as a result of nominations for office holders and an election for Council members. The Council is now:

President	Stan Bartlett, Whangarei
Vice Presidents	Michael Trotter, Christchurch Stuart Park, Dunedin
Secretary	Richard Cassels, Auckland
Treasurer	Anne Geelen, Wellington
Council	Susan Bulmer, Auckland David Butts, Palmerston North John Coster, Auckland Jill Hamel, Dunedin Jim McKinlay, Wellington Ron Scarlett, Christchurch

Ex officio members are the Site Recording Co-ordinator, Gary Law and Newsletter Editor, Nigel Prickett, both of Auckland.

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The most important archaeological event of recent weeks was the Association conference held in the new Human Sciences Building at Auckland University from 7 to 13 May. Members who were not there missed an excellent get-together both in the gruelling social round and the generally high standard of conference papers.

The conference marked the 25th anniversary of the Association and to celebrate Jack Golson was invited over from Canberra to renew old acquaintances, make new ones and generally to assist in making the occasion more memorable. For members who do not remember or know, Jack was instrumental in establishing the Association in 1954 soon after his arrival in New Zealand to take up the first permanent position teaching archaeology at Auckland University.

In addition to two lectures by Jack Golson on his research into early gardening in the New Guinea highlands the conference enjoyed two other lectures from overseas guests. Dr Peter Fowler, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments in England, spoke on "Archaeological field experiments and reconstructions; current research in Britain", and Professor Jesse Jennings, from Utah but currently a visiting Fulbright Fellow at Auckland University, spoke on "The American desert Archaic: two recently excavated sites in Utah".

Papers at the conference can be grouped into several topic areas. A group of papers gave regional views on New Zealand archaeology: Jill Hamel of Otago University spoke on South Otago, Michael Trotter of the Canterbury Museum, spoke on Canterbury and Marlborough, and Aileen Fox, Richard Cassels and Gary Law, all of Auckland, spoke on Hawkes Bay, Waikato and Coromandel respectively.

A session on prehistoric agriculture included papers by Susan Bulmer, "A tyranny of stones - another look at agricultural implements in prehistoric highlands New Guinea", Roger Green, "Agricultural intensification in Hawaii", Tony Walton, "Made soils in the region of Aotea Harbour", and Bruce McFadgen, "Maori plaggen soils: their origin and properties and use for growing tropical plants".

A number of students and staff of Auckland University discussed their work relating to the Kohika swamp site in the Bay of Plenty. Geoff Irwin gave a general outline of the excavations. This was followed by Ian Lawlor on the past environment of the site, Joanna Boileau on wooden artefacts, Karel Peters on conservation of wood and other material from the site, and Lyn Williams on coprolites.

Several papers discussed recent ideas and research in the Pacific beyond New Zealand. Geoff Irwin spoke on "Aspects of colonisation in Oceania", Terry Hunt on "Alternative perspectives for early east Polynesian prehistory", Steve Black on "Demographic aspects of the settlement of Polynesia", Louise Furey on a site survey at Mangrove Creek, New South Wales, Harry Allen on "Why did the Tasmanians stop eating fish?" and Terry Hunt and Simon Best on "Archaeological research in Fiji; past, present and future".

There was a large group of papers on aspects of New Zealand archaeology. Jim McKinlay spoke on "Cultural resource management in New Zealand: the perspective of ANZAAS 1979", summing up the discussions on CRM at the ANZAAS conference in January and also giving members of the Association an insight in current problems and concerns of the Trust. Jeremy Spencer discussed early explorers charts and their relationship with today's archaeological landscapes, Anne Salmond spoke on "Regional differences at first contact - Cook's first visit to New Zealand", Neville Ritchie on his work as Trust Archaeologist with the Clutha Valley Development project, Nigel Prickett on ring ditch paa in Taranaki, and Bruce Hayward and Jack Diamond spoke on "Prehistoric sites of the Waitakere Ranges and West Auckland" and "The archaeological significance of changing flora and landforms, a fifty year study of west Auckland".

Remaining papers presented the results of recent excavation or site survey fieldwork. Simon Best reported on his work at Oruarangi, Robyn Oliver on her survey of early flour mill sites in New Plymouth, John Coster on "Sand dune middens of Ninety Mile Beach", and Jenny Cave on her archaeological survey of Dusky Sound. Reports on recent excavations came from Atholl Anderson, the Hawksburn site, Central Otago, and Reg Nichol on the excavation of a well belonging to the Albert Barracks in central Auckland.

As is now usual at the week long biennial conferences a prize went to the best amateur and the best student paper. The latter was taken by Simon Best for his contribution on Oruarangi paa near Thames, while the award for the best amateur paper went to the combined presentation of Jack Diamond and Bruce Hayward on the archaeology of the Waitakere Ranges and west Auckland.

A field trip was held to the south Auckland area. Sites visited were Mt Wellington, one of Auckland's spectacular terraced volcanic cones, the prehistoric field systems at Wiri, Pawhetau paa near Clevedon and the Howick Stockade, a European defence of the 1860s.

Another event of the week was the award of honorary membership of the Association to Aidan Challis. As mentioned in the last issue Aidan is returning to England; it is hoped the honorary membership will long remind him of his six and a half years here and of the regard of his many New Zealand friends.

At the conclusion of the conference on Sunday morning those who were still able came to a wind-up session in which matters of importance to the Association were discussed. Most discussion centred on ways of increasing membership and strengthening the Association. Suggestions fell into the areas of publicity and the attraction of more members, and the provision of activities and advantages for members to maintain the interest of people once they have joined.

Everybody felt that there are a large number of people outside the Association who are already or potentially interested in archaeology, who must be encouraged to join and who need to have their interests catered for by the Association. One concrete suggestion was that regional representatives be appointed to ensure contact between members on a local basis and to organise field trips and other local activities.

One important group of people who are now carrying out archaeology - of a sort! - are the bottle hunters. There were some Association members at the discussion session who felt that the bottle hunters have a obvious potential interest in the kind of results offered by careful excavations which place recent European material in an historical context. The incalculable destruction presently being inflicted on historical sites has its parallel in past (and present) looting of prehistoric sites. Nonetheless, bottle hunters are interested in the past and do have a potential interest in archaeology. If the Association helps fulfil and extend their interest they will join.

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ARCHAOMETRY CONFERENCE - NEW ZEALAND 1980

There will be an international conference held in Christchurch, New Zealand in August 1980 on:

PHYSICS APPLIED TO PROBLEMS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

This is one of nine specialist conferences which will follow the two day New Zealand National Physics Conference (August 25-26). The Archaeometry Conference will begin August 27, and run for several days depending on the number of papers offered.

If you wish to present a paper, or attend without contributing, please write to the convenor as soon as possible. Your name will be entered on a mailing list for future circulars. Contributors should nominate the title of their paper at this stage.

Please write to:       The Convenor Archaeometry Conference,  
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