



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NOTES AND NEWS

Historic Places Trust archaeologist Bruce McFadgen has been awarded his Ph.D. from the Geology Department, Victoria University of Wellington, for a thesis entitled "Environment and Archaeology in New Zealand". Foss Leach and Janet Davidson have been on a whirlwind overseas trip which included attending the Fourteenth Pacific Science Congress at Khabarovsk in the Soviet Union, from 20 August to 5 September.

Neville Ritchie, who is based at Cromwell as Trust archaeologist attached to Clutha Valley Development, will be carrying out fieldwork for two periods this summer. In the period 5 November - 21 December he will be excavating sites in the Cromwell Gorge, while in the new year, 7 January - 29 February, he will be excavating the Cromwell 'Chinatown' which dates from gold-rush days, and completing a field survey of the Lake Roxburgh area. Anyone interested in working with Neville should get in touch with him.

Association members are asked to note that the old Christchurch Post Office box number and the even older Wellington box number no longer operate as addresses for Association mail. The Post Office will not be responsible for forwarding mail for more than a few months. The present address for most mail is:

The Secretary,
N.Z.A.A.,
Anthropology Department,
University of Auckland,
Private Bag,
Auckland.

In addition, addresses of the President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Site Recording Co-ordinator are given in each issue of the Newsletter.

The Queen's Birthday weekend mini-conference next year will be in Palmerston North and will be organised by David Butts. David, incidentally, writes to say that he would be delighted to see fellow-archaeologists at the Manawatu Museum at any time should they be visiting Palmerston North.

Jim McKinlay writes, "The Historic Places Amendment Act 1975 provides the legal basis for the protection of archaeological sites throughout New Zealand. But the ultimate strength of any law can be discovered only when it is tested in a court of law. The Trust has recently faced its

first crucial legal test of its 1975 Act.

In May 1978 a case of extensive damage to a paa site in Taranaki was reported to the Trust by a member of its Taranaki Regional Committee. Initial investigations, a site visit, and discussions with the landowner indicated that a sufficiently strong case could be made to justify a prosecution. The case was heard in New Plymouth 16-17 May 1979. A conviction was entered against the defendant, who was fined \$200.

The landowner had damaged the site, a ring-ditch paa, when he bulldozed the land to prepare a platform for a new house. The Trust was able to show that the defendant had been aware that this was an old Maori paa site, that he was aware of the Trust Act and its implications for landowners and that he had commissioned the earthworks to be done. That the site was more than 100 years old was demonstrated by an 1865 survey plan on which the paa was marked. And of course no authority to modify the site had been obtained from the Trust.

It will not escape the observant that the Act failed to protect this particular site. In this sense, all prosecutions, whether successful or not, are failures. But at least it has been demonstrated publicly that the Trust Act is enforceable. However we do need more active public education programmes to increase public understanding of the need to protect our dwindling resource of archaeological sites. The case has also demonstrated the key role played in site protection by the public at large in reporting cases of site damage, being prepared to assist in the collection of evidence and to appear in court to present the evidence."

Oneone paa (N109/12) was on the left bank of the Urenui River, just north of the town. A picture of the site as it was in 1975 is among the photographs in this issue.

Two major New Zealand archaeological publications have recently appeared. Prehistoric Man in Palliser Bay edited by Foss Leach and Helen Leach has been published by the National Museum as their Bulletin Number 21. The book contains fourteen papers by Otago University archaeologists based on the Wairarapa field work of 1969-72. There are 272 pages in the volume which costs \$12 - surely good buying at today's prices. It is available from the National Museum.

The second important addition to our archaeological literature is Volume 1 of the New Zealand Journal of Archaeology. This is published by the N.Z.A.A. in association with the University of Otago and is financed by grants from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the Bank

of New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs. The first issue has about 170 pages and includes papers of a wide variety of topics of archaeological interest. Credit is due to Jill Hamel, Journal editor, and Foss Leach, business manager, for the great amount of work put into production of the Journal, and also to Aileen Fox who in 1977 raised again the question of a journal and who carried the day despite the pessimists.

The new edition of New Zealand Archaeology: a site recording handbook has recently been published by the Association as Monograph Number 10. Publication was made possible by the generous assistance of the Historic Places Trust. The handbook is edited by John Daniels with sections by Aidan Challis on research design in site recording, Nigel Prickett on historical archaeology and Bruce McFadgen on surveying for site recording. The new edition clarifies the present co-operation between the Association's site recording scheme and the new Trust register of archaeological sites, and it also paves the way for metrication of the site recording scheme as the new metric maps become available.

The handbook is available from Anne Geelen, N.Z.A.A. Treasurer, c/- P.O. Box 12255, Wellington, and from Aileen Fox, N.Z.A.A. Sales Manager, Auckland Museum, Private Bag, Auckland, from whom Auckland members in particular might find it more convenient to order. The price is \$7.00 plus 25c postage (\$1.00 postage overseas).

Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch have produced another of their excellent series of booklets on local archaeology in the northern South Island. Prehistory at Clarence Bridge is published by the Kaikoura Coastal Reserves Board and follows the format of previous booklets having 24 pages well illustrated with photographs and drawings. The authors give brief outlines of an early Mōa-hunter site at the river mouth, two small pa sites just north of the river and an interesting area of garden walls and pits on the coastal platform north of the river.

Michael writes that in line with previous Marlborough Sounds booklets Prehistory at Clarence Bridge was written at the request of and specifically for the local residents who put up the money to pay for the printing. He adds that copies are available at \$1 each from the authors, the money going into a fund to pay for similar future publications.

The list of these small booklets is now as follows:

M. Trotter, Marlborough Sounds Archaeological Survey 1974, Canterbury Museum, 1974. 24 pp.

M. Trotter, Port Underwood Archaeological Survey, "Published for the residents of Port Underwood, the Marlborough Historical Society and the

Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park Board", 1975. 20 pp.
M. Trotter, Titirangi Archaeology: an interim report, Marlborough Sounds
Maritime Park Board, 1977. 20 pp.
M. Trotter and B. McCulloch, Prehistory at Clarence Bridge, Kaikoura
Coastal Reserves Board, 1979. 24 pp.

It is no comfort to learn that the looting of archaeological sites for artefacts goes on in parts of the world other than New Zealand. Mary Newman has recently written of a visit to the famous British Iron Age site of Maiden Castle where she saw first-hand how bad is the situation with metal detectors in England.

"We arrived there about 9 a.m. (before the hordes) and spent the best part of two hours walking around. As we were leaving we came across some people with a metal detector near the entrance! It beeped loudly and out came a garden trowel and they started to dig. I couldn't believe my eyes and asked them (as casually as I could) if they had permission since there were notices around saying it was an offence to destroy the site etc. Their answer was that they had the permission of the museum and any finds would go to the museum! Well, there was nothing I could do but I fumed all the way back to the museum in Dorchester where I reported it. Five minutes later we were on our way back to Maiden Castle with the curator to see if they were still there. Unfortunately there was no one at 'the scene of the crime' and we did another fast round of the site but they had gone. Actually they had been found digging by two DOE (Department of the Environment) workmen who'd told them to leave the site. Apparently it was not the first time people with metal detectors have been found on the site and it is quite possible they found coins which can be 1-2 feet deep."

In the last issue, scales were omitted from the two photographs of Raoul Island artefacts. The Plate 3 adze is 15cm in length with the adze fragment 7cm long. The imitation whale tooth pendant (Plate 4) is 6cm long.



PERCY SMITH MEDAL



NOTES & NEWS. Oneone paa (N109/12) May 1975.