



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NOTES AND NEWS

Doug Sutton has been awarded his Ph.D. from the Anthropology Department, University of Otago for a thesis entitled "Polynesian Coastal Hunters in the Subantarctic Zone: a case for the recognition of convergent cultural adaptation". Doug is now in Washington where he has taken up a post-doctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution.

Sue Bulmer has been appointed Historic Places Trust Regional Archaeologist (Auckland). John Coster and Gabrielle Johnston have resigned from their jobs as Contract Archaeologists to the Auckland Conservancy of the New Zealand Forest Service. Appointed to succeed them is Jill Tippet - a second person will be appointed later.

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Members will know that last year Parliament passed the National Development Act 1979. The Act is designed to streamline planning for 'proposed works of national importance' and must be assumed to have been passed to allow rapid progress on works connected with energy development and in particular the development of the Maui gas field.

The National Development Act sets aside planning and appeal provisions of twenty-two other acts with the decision now resting in the hands of the Minister of Works and Development. Among the provisions now overruled are Sections 9F and 9L of the Historic Places Act 1954. These are the crucial sections of the Historic Places Amendment Act 1975 which makes it an offence to 'destroy or damage or modify' an archaeological site and allows a right of appeal for any person affected by a Trust decision to the Minister of Internal Affairs.

The Association made submissions to the Lands and Agriculture Committee on the Bill. On 16 November 1979 Garry Law appeared before the Committee for the Association and Nigel Prickett for the University of Auckland Archaeological Society.

Association submissions were based around the fundamental objection to the Historic Places Trust being overruled in matters affecting archaeological sites. This Association fought for many years for the legislation of 1975 which protects sites and establishes an informed and sympathetic basis for hard decisions brought about by development proposals. The Trust has on the whole used this power well and developers have been willing to co-operate. Often advanced planning is all that is needed to ensure the safety of sites. The National Development Act speeds up planning procedures giving insufficient time for proper archaeological consultation and investigation and in any event gives the Minister of Works and Development power to overrule any archaeological advice.

Now that the Act is law we must be vigilant in cases in which it is invoked. On Radio New Zealand's 'Morning Report' recently (20 March 1980) there was speculation that the first work for the Act would be in clearing the way for the proposed methanol plant in Taranaki. A major part of normal planning procedures in the project would undoubtedly have involved matters archaeological.

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Now before Parliament is the Historic Places Bill which consolidates and amends the Historic Places Act 1954 and its amendments. The Association has a vital interest in the Bill as the old Act includes the legislation protecting archaeological sites. The Association has made submissions on this Bill for which Stuart Park appeared before the Lands and Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives on 17 March 1980.

An innovation in the Bill, and one which must be warmly welcomed by archaeologists, is the protection it gives to historical buildings. It has always been an anomaly that archaeological sites are protected whereas early buildings are not. The protection of buildings allows a more workable and thorough protection of 'historic areas' which is provided for in the Bill.

The Association's submissions on the Bill focussed on a number of areas of interest. We were concerned to ensure adequate archaeological expertise on the reconstituted Historic Places Trust 'Board of Trustees' where changes in representation may leave archaeology, which is a major part of the Trust's activities, seriously under-represented. The concept of 'historic areas' as a protection category is not well spelled out in the Bill and this potentially very useful and important device needs to be properly defined. The submission suggested the following definition: "Historic area means a rural or urban landscape which, by reason of an association with the past and by reason of the interrelation of the features of the area, is of historical value as a whole." The submission also expressed support for the new concept of 'traditional sites' which offers protection to sites of traditional importance which are not protected under the specifically archaeological definition in the current Act.

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Garry Law writes to say that near the end of 1979 the D.S.I.R. announced the purchase of a new machine for their radiocarbon laboratory. This machine is a specialised form of particle accelerator which allows the amount of the unstable isotope of carbon, carbon 14, remaining in a sample to be determined by directly counting the atoms, rather than waiting for them to decay as is done in the conventional analysis. The

new process will allow the use of much smaller samples and when contamination is absent will allow much older samples to be dated than at present. The machine is a second-hand one and is to be moved from its present home in Australia to a new building at Lower Hutt. The building and the installation of the new machine will absorb some of the D.S.I.R.'s energies in the next two years so the superb service we have been receiving lately may decline a little, but the future promise is worth any short term inconvenience.

A second recent change at the laboratories is the use of a more sophisticated x-ray spectroscope which has a considerably better resolution in determining the amount of calcite in shell samples. The risk of contamination in shell samples can thereby be more accurately known.

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At the February Council Meeting the decision was made to raise Association subscriptions. The new rates are:

Ordinary members	\$12
Joint members	\$14
Overseas members	\$14
Student & pensioner members	\$ 8

The old rate will apply for new members who join before the end of June 1980.

Holding Association costs is a constant battle. Our main expenditure is in areas which seem to be leaders in the inflationary stakes: printing and travel costs. The biggest annual account is for the printing of the Newsletter. Travel expenses (for Council members, C14 Committee members, appearances before Parliamentary committees, etc.) are rising astronomically; Council is trying to hold them down by reducing numbers of council meetings, reducing fare subsidies and covering fares out of Council members own pockets. With the general inflation rate running at close to 20%, societies such as ours must continue to be squeezed and subscriptions must continue to rise.

There is, however, one simple way of holding subscriptions and that is by increasing our membership. A larger membership will spread the burden of Association costs. Members themselves can play an important part in increasing our numbers by enlisting new members from among those who share our interest in New Zealand archaeology. Members are urged to put to use the pamphlet that was sent out with the December 1979 Newsletter. An increase in our numbers is crucial for the future of the Association.

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A position is available for a full-time Archaeological Assistant in the Clutha Valley Development archaeological programme. The programme is run by the Historic Places Trust and the appointee would be based at Cromwell. The job would suit an archaeology graduate and/or person with some fieldwork experience. The salary will be commensurate with experience.

If you are interested please contact Neville Ritchie, Project Archaeologist, Clutha Valley Development, Private Bag, Cromwell, or Jim McKinlay, Senior Archaeologist, N.Z.H.P.T., P.O. Box 12255, Wellington.

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The Palmerston North Queen's Birthday Weekend mini-conference promises to be very interesting. David Butt has put together a varied programme of papers including a number on aspects of Manawatu archaeology. The conference should provide something of an opportunity to find out something of this archaeologically little known part of New Zealand.

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Collins have reduced the price of Peter Bellwood's Man's Conquest of the Pacific to \$19.95. This is a \$15 reduction and makes the book an absolute bargain. The National Museum Bulletin Prehistoric Man in Palliser Bay is available in Auckland from the Auckland War Memorial Museum shop.

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The following Parliamentary question and its reply will be of interest. Bernard Gadd, Papatoetoe, one of our members, asked Member of Parliament for Wanganui Russell Marshall, to put the question to the Minister. The question was for a written answer and the reply was given on Friday, 26 October 1979.

"Mr Marshall (Wanganui) to ask the Minister of Internal Affairs: Since November 1975 how many Maori archaeological sites of over 100 years of age (such as pa sites) have been destroyed or extensively damaged; what steps is the Government taking to secure the absolute safety of the remaining such sites?

Hon. D.A. Hight (Minister of Internal Affairs) replied: The Historic Places Amendment Act 1975 came into force on 1 April 1976. It provides for the permanent protection of important archaeological sites of over 100 years of age, but gives the New Zealand Historic Places Trust the power to authorise the destruction or modification of such sites in appropriate cases. Authorities for destruction or modification issued by the Trust over Maori archaeological sites have been:

1976 - 18 authorities covering 19 sites  
1977 - 33 authorities covering 39 sites  
1978 - 50 authorities covering 56 sites  
1979 (to date) - 26 authorities covering 61 sites

There are undoubtedly other sites which have been unlawfully destroyed or damaged but about which the Trust has no knowledge. One recent case which came to the Trust's attention was successfully prosecuted.

In an endeavour to reduce unlawful destruction of sites, the Government has approved significant increases in the archaeological staff of the Trust in the past 3 years."

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Members of the Association are reminded of the important conference on:

PHYSICS APPLIED TO PROBLEMS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

to be held in Christchurch beginning on 27 August this year. Anyone interested is most welcome to attend. Enquiries should be directed to:

The Convenor Archaeometry Conference,  
Dr Foss Leach,  
Anthropology Department,  
University of Otago,  
P.O. Box 56,  
Dunedin.

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It is subscription time again. The Association cannot carry people who are in arrears. Please note that if your 1980 subscription is not paid this is the last Newsletter you will receive until the situation is rectified.