



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NOTES AND NEWS

The Trust's new survey archaeologist, Brian Shepperd, has recently arrived from Britain to take up his appointment. Brian comes to us from Cambridge University and from Liverpool where he spent three years heading the archaeological survey of the county of Merseyside. I am sure everyone joins in welcoming Brian, his wife Lee and two year old Stephen to New Zealand.

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The following news of the Historic Places Trust Archaeology Section has been supplied by Anne Geelen.

Archaeology Committee

The Archaeology Committee of the Trust has recently been subject to some changes with the retirement of a number of old members and the nomination and appointment of new members. For the period 1980 - 82 the Committee is as follows:

Trust Board members:	Dr N.C. Begg	Chairman ( <i>ex officio</i> )
	Mr R. Cassels	N.Z.A.A. representative
	Prof. R.C. Green	Royal Society representative
	Mr D. Mitchell	For Commissioner of Lands
	Mr M.O.W. Pomare	Representative of the Maori race
Nominated members:	Dr A.J. Anderson	Anthropology Dept., University of Otago
	Dr G. Irwin	Anthropology Dept., University of Auckland
	Mrs M. Jeal	N.Z.A.A.
Appointed members:	Mr J. Karetai	N.Z. Maori Council
	Dr J. Hamel	Otago Museum
	Mr D. White	Farmer, Opotiki
Co-opted member:	The Director-General of Forests or his deputy	

Archaeology Section staff

Mr J.R. McKinlay, senior archaeologist  
 Mr B. Shepperd, survey archaeologist  
 Dr B. McFadgen, staff archaeologist  
 Mr K. Jones, staff archaeologist  
 Ms A. Geelen, advisory officer  
 Mr A. Walton, technical officer  
 Dr S. Bulmer, regional archaeologist, Auckland.  
 Mr N. Ritchie, archaeologist to the Clutha Valley Development Project, Cromwell

Ms R. Sheppard, laboratory assistant on contract  
 Mrs N. Page, card punch operator on contract  
 Mrs J. Daniels, records editor NZRAS on contract  
 Ms T. Scotney, records editor NZRAS on contract

#### Argillite quarries, Nelson

Following a request from the Association, the Trust will arrange a meeting of land-owners, both private individuals and companies, as well as government bodies such as the Department of Lands and Survey, the N.Z. Forest Service and local bodies, to discuss the protection of these quarries and their management. The Association will be represented by Mr S. Bagley, Nelson filekeeper.

#### Goldfields seminar

The aim of this seminar, organised by the Trust, is to hold open discussions of the problems of preservation, management and interpretation of historical and archaeological sites on the goldfields. To this end, representatives of the Trust's regional committees, the Department of Lands and Survey, the New Zealand Forest Service and mining interests have been invited to present papers. We hope to publish the proceedings of the seminar.

#### Anzaas volume

The Trust's publication of papers from the 49th ANZAAS Congress held in Auckland in January 1979, entitled Archaeological Resource Management in Australia and Oceania is still available from the Trust at \$7.70 plus postage. This is the most comprehensive and up to date publication on resource management in the Pacific. A valuable text for those interested in this expanding field.

#### Site recording 1980-81

The annual circular setting out Trust requirements and conditions for site recorders has been circulated to University Anthropology Departments, Museums and Association filekeepers. Following the success of last years major effort in North Auckland, we would like to see a major programme undertaken in another area under pressure from development. Applications should be made to the Survey Archaeologist, P.O. Box 12-255, Wellington.

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Tony Walton writes to say that the piecemeal metrication of the Site Recording Scheme has begun with part of the Wellington File replacing NZMS1 maps with the new metric NZMS260 maps. Sites already recorded have been given metric site numbers and grid references and no further NZMS1 site numbers will be allocated for sites that fall on any of the following NZMS260 maps: R27, R28, S27, S28, T25, T27, T28, U24, U25, U26, and V24.

Since other areas where metric maps are available cannot be changed over yet new sites recorded will continue to be allocated NZMS1 site numbers and therefore new Site Record Forms should contain an NZMS1 grid reference as well as the metric one.

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One of the most varied and interesting journals published in New Zealand is Tane, the journal of the Auckland University Field Club. Tane has a tradition of publishing accounts of the botany, zoology, geology, archaeology and other aspects of offshore islands in northern New Zealand. In the most recent issue (Vol.25, 1979) are two articles of archaeological interest.

Peter J. Matthews, Archaeological site survey on Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand. Tane, 25:23-33.

Bruce W. Hayward, Phillip R. Moore, Gillian F. Puch, E. Gael Ramsay and A.E. Wright, Archaeological sites on the Cavalli Islands, northern New Zealand. Tane, 25:157-172.

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John Coster writes to say that the New Zealand Forest Service is soon to begin a detailed archaeological study in the Far North. Some of the hundreds of eroded shell middens recorded among the sand dunes behind Ninety Mile Beach are to be investigated before they are obscured by pine trees. Initial funding will be provided by the Forest Service and the Trust. Fieldwork for the project will be undertaken by John Coster and Gabrielle Johnston, who have recently completed 2½ years as contract archaeologists for the Forest Service. They have already had several seasons of site recording on Ninety Mile Beach.

The study will concentrate on the 30,000ha Aupouri State Forest, where the Forest Service has been stabilising the sand dunes with marram grass and pine trees since 1962. By the time stabilisation is completed (within 2-3 years) about half the total area of the forest will have been surveyed for archaeological sites. The proposed study is intended to provide depth to the extensive site recording so far carried

out. Some ancillary studies could be undertaken as separate projects by students and other research workers. It is intended at present that results will be issued progressively as xeroxed working papers over the next 2-3 years, with publication to follow after full analysis of the data.

John and Gabby are eager to involve other archaeologists in the study. They would welcome suggestions about potential avenues of enquiry, including the collection of particular types of data for specialist analysis. It is intended that the project will be based at Houhora (near the Mt. Camel moa-hunter site) and will begin in early 1981. Enquiries should be addressed to:

John Coster  
c/- Conservator of Forests  
N.Z. Forest Service  
P.O. Box 39  
Auckland.

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Bruce Hayward sends news of archaeological activity at the New Zealand Geological Survey, Lower Hutt.

Tom Grant-Taylor is looking at the contamination and suitability of various materials for radiocarbon dating. Phil Moore is continuing his research on rock resources utilised by the prehistoric Maori, with emphasis at present on obsidian. He also continues, as time permits, his archaeological site survey of the Mercury Bay area, and together with Bruce Hayward, surveys on northern offshore islands. Bruce makes several pilgrimages each year back to the kauri country and is still writing up various aspects of his work with Jack Diamond on the archaeology of the kauri timber industry and the prehistoric sites of the Waitakere Ranges.

Ian Keyes, Regional file keeper for the southern North Island, continues his long-time interest and spare-time research into aspects of material culture that involved use of rock types for artefacts. Alva Challis is at present writing up her work on the sourcing of artefacts made from rocks of the ultramafic 'mineral belt' of the South Island. Hamish Campbell has been working on New Zealand and Chatham Island chert artefacts, as well as basalt and chert artefacts from Fiji and Santa Cruz.

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A world conference of the Ancient Astronauts' Society was held in Auckland in July. Present were Erik von Daniken and various other luminaries of the movement. A programme on T.V.1 (9 p.m., 7 August) provided a platform for von Daniken and friends to expound their curious views. On T.V. these latter day high priests were strangely unconvincing - indeed, I had the distinct impression that they did not believe a word of it themselves. Some of them did though and a telling moment came when the American president of the Society remarked that he had already tried out two or three religions before arriving at his present beliefs.

Having watched the programme I now understand something of the ancient astronaut argument and I can appreciate Peter White's reply The Past is Human (Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1974). Peter White is an Australian archaeologist who has thought it worthwhile to take up and examine a number of the arguments of von Daniken and his friends. His book is a useful rejoinder but will doubtless not convince anyone who has already elevated the search for what happened in the past to the status of incontrovertible belief.

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The editor slipped up in the last issue and omitted Gerry Barton's acknowledgements in his article "A description of the archaeological landscape of Kennedy Bay, Coromandel Peninsula". The acknowledgements which Gerry has asked to be recorded were to George and Dick Hovell, "for their invaluable assistance and warm hospitality during our stays in Kennedy Bay".

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Members may be interested to know that George Graham's Maori Place Names of Auckland : Their Meaning and History (ed. D.R. Simmons, published initially in the Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum, 1980) is now published as a separate booklet. It is available from the Auckland Museum shop at \$2.95.

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