



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NOTES AND NEWS

The Christchurch conference

The high point of the Association's year, the Annual Conference, was held in Christchurch over the week 18-22 May. Thanks to Michael Trotter, Beverley McCulloch and John Campbell - and the other Christchurch members and friends and relations who worked behind the scenes - the meeting ran very smoothly and was a pleasure from Monday morning to Friday afternoon.

The large number of papers were generally of a high standard. A substantial group reported on recent field work in Canterbury. These included a presentation by Sally Burrage, Sandra Lamont and Davina Hodgkinson on the Wakanui moa-hunter site. Debbie Foster and Sally Burrage spoke on recent site survey work in Canterbury, Joanne Smith on the Staveley lime kilns, Neville White on the Marley's Hill quarry, and Rob Ferris on the archaeology of the south-west Banks Peninsula bays.

Another group of papers presented the work of the Historic Places Trust at the Brunner coke ovens site, near Greymouth. Jim McKinlay spoke on the background to the Trust's involvement in this project in industrial archaeology, Robyn Oliver described the recent excavations, Brian Wood presented the results of his historical research into the site and Lance Beckford discussed recent conservation management of the area.

A number of papers discussed problems of archaeological conservation strategy. Jill Pierce spoke on her programme with the Auckland Conservancy of the New Zealand Forest Service, John Palmer described the historical archaeology of Campbell Island and the particular difficulties of looking after sites in nature reserves (it seems that elephant seals do not respect archaeological values), and Ray Hooker looked at the conservation of historical sites on the West Coast. Sue Bulmer outlined the crisis in the Coromandel where mining companies are now seeking prospecting licences in precisely those areas where 19th century mining technology has left a rich historical landscape. Two important papers looked more generally at the techniques of conserving archaeological resources: Aileen Fox spoke on recent positive site preservation experiences in the North Island, while Kevin Jones, in a discussion of site significance and site management, looked at the hard decisions that must be made by the Trust and gave a welcome insight into the Trust's thinking in this crucial area.

Reports on recent excavation and other fieldwork were given by Ian Lawlor, who spoke on excavations at Puhinui, south Auckland, and the

Maruka site, Kawerau, Anna Harrison, who outlined work done in the Clutha Valley archaeological programme in the 1980-81 summer, and Nigel Prickett, who presented some of the results of two seasons mapping pa in Taranaki. Other fieldwork papers included Ron Scarlett's outline of the background and history of the Heaphy River excavation of the early 1960s, Lyn Williams' discussion of the Echo Valley moa find, and David Butts' introduction to the archaeology of the Wanganui River tributary, the Manganui-o-te-Ao. Bruce Hayward introduced the work of the Off-shore Islands Research Group in examining archaeological sites of the Cavalli Islands, Bay of Islands, Arid Island, Hen Island and the Poor Knights (Tawhiti Rahi).

Papers which discussed wider issues in prehistory included Agnes Sullivan's review of initial settlement of New Zealand, Gary Law's return to 'pitland' in which he examined the small group of unusually long pits which have been excavated and looked at the nature of post-hole patterns on pit floors and what they might have to say about function. Botanist Colin Burrows reviewed evidence of climatic change in the past 1000 years and was somewhat critical of archaeologists' enthusiasm for 'Little Ice Ages' and 'Climatic Optimums'. Palynologist Matt McGlone presented his ideas on the nature and chronology of deforestation in New Zealand since the arrival of man. Roger Green reviewed the 4000 year New Caledonian sequence.

A mixed bag of other papers added much to interest and variety. John Campbell spoke on Chatham Islands shipwrecks, Roger Fyfe introduced the unique Huirangi carving of north Taranaki recently purchased from private hands, Ross and Marion Lane looked at the historical material we have inherited from the earliest European visitors to these shores, Joanna Orwin presented the experience and results of her carving with greenstone tools, Brian Sheppard looked at his work with conservation archaeology in Britain and drew some lessons for New Zealand, and Murray Thacker spoke on Wanganui River canoes of the 1950s. Two papers by Barry Brailsford outlined some of the very considerable amount of work he has done in the northern South Island over the past ten years.

An important session entitled "Maori attitudes to prehistory" contained much which was of value to archaeologists in New Zealand. Joe Karetai, Steve O'Regan and John Stirling presented different aspects of their involvement with archaeology and archaeologists and discussed the positive and negative sides to this. Steve O'Regan's outline of how 'creative tension' works in resolving tension within Maori communities, and his suggestion that Pakeha archaeologists are ill-equipped to cope with this form of conflict resolution, was among the many interesting points brought forward.

On Wednesday a bus load of members went on a field trip to Banks Peninsula. The weather was not good - the view from the Trust notice-board overlooking Onawe pa, Akaroa Harbour, was one only of impenetrable mist. Most of the day was spent at Murray Thacker's Okains Bay Museum, where a much appreciated lunch and afternoon tea was laid on. A canoe was taken out and proved remarkably stable in the hands of successive crews of novice paddlers (cover and plates). John Campbell demonstrated that the 19th century hip-bath was definitely designed to accommodate people of a smaller stature.

Tuesday and Thursday nights were taken up by a well-attended public lecture by Michael Trotter on the "Prehistory of Canterbury", and by an enjoyable 'social'.

The A.G.M. on Monday night saw the usual number of appeals to the constitution. The Notice of Motion circulated to members failed to get the necessary two-thirds majority and the Council therefore retains its present form and numbers. Owing to lack of time the President's Address was not read at the Annual General Meeting as is customary. The meeting resolved therefore that it be printed in the Newsletter. It follows "Notes and News".

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The Council

As a result of nominations and elections the Council of the Association for the year 1981-82 is as follows:

President	Michael Trotter, Christchurch
Vice Presidents:	Garry Law, Auckland Aileen Fox, Auckland
Secretary:	David Butts, Palmerston North
Treasurer:	Anne Leahy, Auckland
Council:	Susan Bulmer, Auckland Roger Fyfe, New Plymouth Jill Hamel, Dunedin Wendy Harsant, Dunedin Mary Jeal, Napier Bruce McFadgen, Wellington

Ex officio members of Council are Stan Bartlett, immediate past president and site recording co-ordinator, and Nigel Prickett, Newsletter editor.

Other officers of the Association who have been re-appointed by the incoming council are Aileen Fox, Sales Manager, Jill Hamel, editor of the New Zealand Journal of Archaeology, and Foss Leach, Business Manager for

the Journal. Members may be interested to know of other current Association appointments and representations on their behalf. Garry Law and Foss Leach make up the Association's C14 screening committee. Bruce McFadgen is our representative on the Royal Society of New Zealand. Our representative on the Okains Bay Museum Trust Board is John Campbell, although Barry Brailsford will be standing in for John while the latter is overseas this year.

Report of the Site Recording Co-ordinator

Stan Bartlett reports that the number of sites in the Association's site record files increased by over 15 per cent in the year 1980-81. Activity has continued in all filing districts, with especially high numbers of newly recorded sites in Northland, Auckland, Otago/Central Otago and the Offshore Islands file. Sites recorded may be listed as follows:

File	31 March 1980	31 March 1981
Northland	4089	4583
Auckland	5623	6566
Waikato	1647	1735
Bay of Plenty	2235	2405
East Coast	798	929
Inland Patea	255	261
Hawkes Bay	498	528
Taranaki	1133	1195
Wanganui	197	267
Wellington	739	745
Marlborough	369	385
Nelson	823	837
West Coast	180	217
Canterbury	999	1022
Otago	2334	1904
Central Otago		1227
Southland	791	859
Offshore	100	730
	<u>22810</u>	<u>26395</u>

The apparent decrease in the Otago total is due to the creation of the new file district of Central Otago with Neville Ritchie as filekeeper. Survey work funded by Trust, Forest Service and forestry interests, and,

to an increasing extent, surveys carried out under the government T.E.P. and P.E.P. schemes under Trust approved supervision, supplied almost all the new records.

Stan Bartlett writes, "A filekeepers conference held in Wellington over 11-12th April was adjudged to be very successful. Fifteen out of 18 filekeepers plus Garry Law were present, together with the Trust Director and archaeological staff. There was general agreement that closer contact between Trust staff and filekeepers was essential." Thanks are due to the Trust for providing the opportunity for filekeepers to meet.

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Conference 1982

Next year's Queen's Birthday Weekend mini-conference is to be held in New Plymouth, with Roger Fyfe (Taranaki Museum, P.O. Box 315, New Plymouth) as convenor.

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Ron Scarlett retires

Beverley McCulloch writes, "At the end of March 1981, Ron retired from his position as osteologist at the Canterbury Museum. The position is not being filled immediately and the bone collections are now under the administrative control of Michael Trotter in the Prehistory Department. Any enquiries should be made in future to Michael, although Ron is still coming in to the museum, where he has retained his office, and will still be identifying material if asked.

We are hopeful that in the next year we will be able to get the collections reorganised in new, more easily accessible and better storage, with ample laboratory space for those who wish to work on them.

Meanwhile, we hope that Ron will spend at least some of his time in writing, putting on paper that invaluable knowledge he has stored up in his head. We wish him every happiness in his retirement and look forward to seeing a string of Scarlettian publications in the next few years."

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Ngahuha pa

Caroline Phillips writes: "The pa site of Ngahuha (N7/12) between Moerewa and Ohaeawai in the Bay of Islands, was cleared of its seven year growth of pine trees by a combined forestry and archaeological team

over the weekend 22-23 November 1980 (see plate). Stan Bartlett arranged for two foresters to come up from Whangarei and wield chainsaws, while Richard Cassels got a group from Auckland to come up and participate mainly in handling the cut logs. The team was: Stan Bartlett, David Bulmer, Richard Cassels, John Coster, Peter Milsom, Ian Page, Caroline Phillips, Robert Pollock and Jeremy Spencer.

The group from Auckland stayed with the landowner, Dr Peter Milsom, who benefitted by having the trees cut into fencepost lengths and stacked prior to debarking and treating. The site itself is in good repair with steep scarps, ditches and stone-retaining walls intact".

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Awards for best studentpapers on archaeological science

Two cash prizes of US\$ 300 each are being offered by the Franz Joseph Institut für Nuklear-Archäologie for the two best student contributions to the Pacific Science Congress Symposium on Archaeological Science in the Pacific Region. This is open to any full time student who will be reading a paper at the Symposium. Further details can be obtained by writing to:

Professor Doktor Cornelius Zeiker
Director Franz Joseph INA
PO Box 6133, Dunedin North,
New Zealand.

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Skinner Fund

The Skinner Fund for physical anthropology, archaeology and ethnology is unable to spend its money! There is about \$1500 available for allocation at each half year period and applications for the most recent half yearly periods have totalled only \$198 and \$350.

The Skinner Fund is an ideal source for funding small research projects especially for people who do not have access to institutional backing. Allocations are made on 15 March and 15 September each year so applications should be directed towards these dates. Applications should be sent to:

The Executive Officer
The Royal Society of New Zealand
P O Box 12249
Wellington.

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New publications

An important event in archaeological publishing in New Zealand will occur in August this year with the publication by Reeds of Barry Brailsford's The Tattooed Land. This book looks at the prehistory and archaeological landscape of the South Island. It will be 288 pages including 16 in full colour and will cost \$39.95. I have seen page proofs of this book and it looks like a marvellous production.

The much heralded Oxford History of New Zealand has made its appearance. I have not had time to read all of it but I can recommend Janet Davidson's very human account of the pre-European period, and Ann Parsonson's chapter on 19th century Maori society entitled "The Pursuit of Mana". The latter is a most stimulating contribution and is full of ideas which archaeologists might apply.

Foss Leach has recently published a useful summary of the Otago University Wairarapa programme entitled "The prehistory of the Southern Wairarapa" in the Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Volume 11, Number 1 (March 1981), pp. 11-33.

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People

Roger Fyfe has been appointed to the Taranaki National Parks and Reserves Board. These new boards administer many archaeological sites within national parks and reserves. The Taranaki board is important in particular for the number of pa administered. Have any other archaeologists been appointed to these new boards in other regions? At a more grass roots level, Jan McKay is now employed by the Lands and Survey Department, Auckland Land District, as an archaeologist to assist in reserves planning and management.

Ex-Otago University student Graeme Ward was in New Zealand recently on his way to Saipan in Micronesia where he is to take up a year's contract as Staff Archaeologist at the Historic Preservation Office. For this job Graeme has taken a year's leave from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra. Former Staff Archaeologist at the Saipan Historic Preservation Office, Ross Cordy, is now teaching for six months at Otago University.

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CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP. From left: John Campbell, Anna Harrison, Sandra Lamont, Davina Hodgkinson, Ian Lawlor and Jill Pierce.



CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP. From left: Rob Ferris, Joanne Smith, Lyn Williams, Richard Pope and Lance Beckford.



NGAHUHA PA. Removing pine trees. In the foreground are Stan Bartlett, Peter Milsom, Richard Cassels and Ian Page (Northern Advocate).



STONE WALL DEFENCES, Plate 1. Defensive stone retaining walls on N17/47, Tawhiti Rahi, Poor Knights Islands.