



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NOTES AND NEWS

The Napier conference

The 1983 conference of the Association was held at Napier from the 12th to the 16th May. Attendance was up on recent years with 100 - 110 members enrolling and members of the Hawke's Bay public swelling numbers to 150 in some sessions. The weather was generally excellent - except for the day of the field trip when it was pretty cold and decidedly breezy. The Century Theatre and Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum provided an ideal venue.

On the first (Thursday) morning participants were welcomed by Canon Huata and by Mayor Clyde Jeffery - the latter showing clearly how little we are communicating with the public when he characterised archaeology as being interested essentially in "old bones"! Minister of Internal Affairs Alan Highet then addressed the meeting, speaking mainly of the Trust and its recent States Services Commission review, and of the protection of national cultural property and the 1970 Unesco convention on the subject. This convention the government is yet to ratify, although whether ratification by New Zealand would have affected the case recently lost in England regarding ownership of the illegally exported Motunui pataka panels is open to question. The restitution of cultural property is a Pandora's box which metropolitan powers of the 19th and 20th centuries will be most unwilling to open to general scrutiny.

Association President Garry Law replied to the minister, taking the opportunity to express the Association's concern over lack of adequate funding for the archaeological activities of the Trust and the recent ministerial reversal of two Trust decisions not to give authorities for the destruction of sites. Garry then called up the "senior vice-president" who went forward somewhat mystified to be presented with A Lot of Spadework to be Done: essays in honour of Lady Aileen Fox by her New Zealand friends. The volume was a well kept secret and Aileen's astonishment was genuine. It was a marvellous moment. As the Association's Sales Manager Aileen had been urging the need for a Monograph 14 on people for many months, and here it was! The morning session finished with Roger Green giving an excellent account, based on present knowledge and informed imagination, of the peopling of the Pacific world beyond the water gap of the Wallace Line.

In the afternoon the conference settled down to papers of the more usual kind which would occupy most of the following days. The first session was concerned mainly with Maori tradition. It

was chaired by Robin Hape. Speakers included Bob Cottrell, Bill Moloney and Pat Parsons all of whom spoke on aspects of Heretaunga (Ngati Kahungunu) history and tradition. The final speaker was Bruce McFadgen who discussed the Poukawa site in which the late Russell Price aroused such interest a few years ago. After tea Mary Jeal introduced her survey work on the Mahia Peninsula and Ian Lawlor discussed "The role of the Maori Community in Archaeological Research and Management".

On Friday two buses took eighty people off on a field trip. We went first to the fascinating site of Old Ohiti (illustrated in The First Thousand Years, p.77) where a rectangular redoubt with flanking defence on all corners and two traverses inside stands within an earlier ring ditch pa. The redoubt must date to the mid-1860s so is surely mentioned somewhere in contemporary accounts. We then went on to see the small kainga and slope gardens of Waitio. We returned via Fernhill, and Bridge Pa to the superb Raukawa Road pa (p.76 in The First Thousand Years). Because of the drought there was scarcely a blade of grass on the site; which made for easy archaeological viewing but which is a desperate situation for farmers this far into autumn (see plates).

After lunch the buses took us over the "Burma Road" to Poukawa and the extraordinary gunfighter pa of Waikoukou, jammed in a tight gully bottom commanding a narrow routeway but not the heights above. The next and final stop of the day was Tiro-moana (at Te Awanga) which was excavated by Aileen Fox in 1974 and 1975. Despite the wind and the cold the marvellous sites made this a memorable conference field trip.

Back in the Century Theatre on Saturday morning Debbie Foster spoke on site surveying she and Simon Holdaway carried out in the Lower Clutha Valley. Nigel Prickett then spoke on "Public archaeology in New Zealand - an historical view", after which there was a discussion on the paper and on the Trust.

In the afternoon Beverley McCulloch spoke on the Fyffe Cottage moa-hunter site at Kaikoura which is now sold off for sections; Richard Cassels gave a general view of current knowledge and questions regarding moa and man; and Don Millar talked about the rich and important site of Rotokura near Nelson. After afternoon tea Helen Leach talked about "1000 years of New Zealand gardening" (borrowing the title of a forthcoming book by her); Neville Ritchie spoke on Chinese goldminers in Central Otago and John Weidler, an American visitor, presented a slide show on Californian Indian rock art for which solar observations were

claimed. That evening there was a public lecture by Aileen Fox on Hawke's Bay archaeology, followed by a social.

On Sunday morning Sue Bulmer began by congratulating the hardy enthusiasts who turned out at 9 o'clock after the previous night's social! Sue spoke on garden systems at Wiri in South Auckland. Other papers on Maori gardening followed: Viv Rickard and Dave Veart on stone systems of the Auckland isthmus; Ian Lawlor on Kawerau; and Agnes Sullivan on traditional Polynesian horticultural practices on Mitiaro in the southern Cook Islands, recently observed by her. The last speaker of the morning was Pat Grant who gave a most stimulating paper in which he linked several identified periods of erosion over the past millenium with increased precipitation especially as rain storms. His identification and dating of these periods of erosion have interesting archaeological potential, although it must be said that, from the questioning, the archaeologists listening were reluctant to abandon the notion of man's responsibility to at least some degree for the erosion.

After lunch Reg Nichol spoke on human footprints in Rangitoto ash on Motutapu Island; Atholl Anderson and Lyn Williams reported on their recent exciting excavations on Lee Island, Lake Te Anau; and Dave Simmons presented a film on Maori tradition recently shown on TV, in which he played a major part. There was then a brief trip out to the great pa of Otatara at Taradale. That night the A.G.M. was held. At the meeting Ken Moore and Aileen Fox were elected Honorary Members of the Association.

The final day of the Conference (Monday 16 May) began with a number of papers on the Pouerua project: by Doug Sutton, Janet Leatherby and Peter Morgan, Garry Law and Greg McManus, Yvonne Marshall and John Campbell. In the afternoon Simon Holdaway spoke on "An approach to the archaeology of colour symbolism", Bev McCulloch on excavations at Takahanga, Kaikoura; Robin Watt on Maori wood carvings; Roger Fyfe on recent wooden artefact finds in north Taranaki; Lyn Williams on Fiordland site surveys; Perry Fletcher on his site surveying and conservation work at Taupo; and Kevin Jones on some results of site survey work at Tolaga Bay.

Everyone who was there owes a great vote of thanks to David Butts and Mary Jeal who took up the lion's share of organisation. Don and Joy Millar also worked hard behind the scenes over the six days, while Aileen Fox helped organise the field trip. Altogether a memorable conference.

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Council

As a result of nomination or election the following is the Association council for 1983-84.

President:	Garry Law
Vice-Presidents:	Susan Bulmer Bruce McFadgen
Secretary:	Vivien Rickard
Treasurer:	Anne Leahy
Council Members:	Jill Hamel Ray Hooker Mary Jeal John Palmer Rosemary Tairaroa Lyn Williams

Ex-officio members are Stan Bartlett, Site Recording Co-ordinator, and Nigel Prickett, Newsletter Editor. Among the Association's other appointments Sherry Reynolds takes over from Aileen Fox as Sales Manager.

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Site recording co-ordinators report 1982-83

Stan Bartlett reports, "On 31 March 1983 the Central File held a total of 30,659 records. This represented an increase of 1817 on last years figure of 28,842, or a percentage increase of 6.3%.

Area totals are as follows:

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Northland	4932	5583
Auckland	7325	7629
Waikato	1877	1902
Bay of Plenty	2643	2778
East Coast	952	1332
Taranaki	1182	1221
Inland Patea	261	261
Hawkes Bay	553	556
Wanganui	348	383
Wellington	750	753
Nelson	932	979
Marlborough	322	329
Canterbury	1139	1162
West Coast	254	282
Otago	1980	1980
Central Otago	1910	1923
Southland	861	876
Outlying Islands	730	730
	<hr/> 28,842	<hr/> 30,659

This year the number of records processed was the lowest since 1975. Of the 1817 records accessioned 74% were handled by just three filekeepers (Northland, East Coast and Auckland). The year before the pattern was similar with 69% of 2447 new records handled by three filekeepers again (Auckland, Central Otago and Northland).

The area totals have not been adjusted to take into account shuffling records between files caused by metrication. Although most of the published sheets in Auckland and Waikato areas are now in use and the metric boundary is the one that counts, the transfer of records is not likely for some little time yet. (These figures and foregoing comments were supplied by Tony Walton, N.Z.H.P.T.).

#### Plotting of sites on metric maps

In at least three regions, a start has been made to attempt to have pa sites systematically incorporated in metric maps of the 260 series as these are being produced. The Cartographic Branch of Lands and Survey Department is keen to co-operate in this matter. They do, however reserve the right of selection of the sites to be shown from the material submitted to them.

#### Filekeeper changes during year

<u>Bay of Plenty</u>	Ken Moore resigned because of ill health. Replaced by: Mr J W (Bob) Regnault P O Box 1798 Rotorua
<u>East Coast</u>	John Allum resigned. Replaced by: Mr J W Haldane C/- Museum Art Centre P O Box 716 Gisborne
<u>Canterbury</u>	Sally Burrage resigned. Replaced by: Mrs B McCulloch Canterbury Museum Rolleston Avenue Christchurch

To new members of the Filekeeper team I extend a cordial welcome, to those stepping down grateful thanks for services to NZAA over the years."

Stan Bartlett - 6 May 1983

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"A Lot of Spadework to be Done"

The above title of a book of essays given to Aileen Fox is a quote from her and refers to all the work that is needed in New Zealand archaeology. In the past ten years no one saw more clearly than Aileen what needs to be done, or got stuck into it with more enthusiasm. Aileen has now returned to her home in England but assures us she will be back visiting before too long.

The book has a varied group of 14 essays relating to Aileen's main areas of interest in New Zealand: pa, artefact studies, structures within sites, and regional reviews.

Susan Bulmer, Garry Law and Douglas Sutton (eds), A Lot of Spadework to be Done: essays in honour of Lady Aileen Fox by her New Zealand friends. N.Z.A.A. Monograph 14, 1983.

- A bibliography of the New Zealand publications of Lady Aileen Fox (pp. 5-6).
- Janet Davidson, Aileen Fox in New Zealand: an appreciation (pp. 7-13).
- Mary Jeal, Mad dogs and Englishmen. Archaeological site recording with Aileen Fox, 1975-1981 (pp. 15-24).
- Susan Bulmer, Waitete paa: an early nineteenth century fishing fortification (pp. 25-63).
- Kevin Jones, Moerangi: a fortification of the Tauranga Bush Campaign, 1867 (pp. 65-76).
- Jeremy Spencer, Ranihoua paa and Oihi Mission Station, Puruerua Peninsula, Bay of Islands (pp. 77-110).
- Caroline Phillips, The possibilities and practicalities of paa recording (pp. 111-127).
- Atholl Anderson, Maori wooden bowls from Central Otago (pp. 129-141).
- David Butts, A pumice carving from Mahia Peninsula, Hawkes Bay (pp. 143-148).
- Wendy Harsant, Historical evidence for the use of unmodified shell tools in New Zealand (pp. 149-172).
- Helen Leach, An unusual and previously unrecorded stone reel ornament from Whakatane (pp. 173-183).
- Douglas Sutton, Huts, hovels or houses: a clarification of pre-historic Moriori settlement patterns (pp. 185-211).
- Ian Lawlor, Rua Kuumara o Kawerau (pp. 213-248).
- Alan Clarke, The Manukau lowlands: site distribution pattern (pp. 249-280).
- Nigel Prickett, Waitotara ki Parininihi: aspects of the archaeology of the Taranaki region (pp. 281-329).

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Recent publications

Members of the Association may be interested in a recently published book Art and Artists of Oceania, ed. S.M. Mead and B. Kernot. Dunmore Press, Palmerston North, 1983. 308 pp. An attractively presented book, it is a result of the February 1978 Second International Symposium on the Arts of Oceania held in Wellington. There are some interesting and provocative general papers on attitudes of Oceanic people to their art and on how this is often in conflict with western values and ideas. Other papers are on specific topics in the art of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Of particular New Zealand interest are:

- Bernie Kernot, The meeting house in contemporary New Zealand (pp. 181-197).  
 Dave Simmons, Moko (pp. 226-243).  
 Allan Hanson, Art and the Maori construction of reality (pp. 210-225).  
 Roger Neich, The veil of orthodoxy, Rotorua Ngati Tarawhai wood-carving in a changing context (pp. 244-265).

In the latest edition of Tane Bruce Hayward has published a useful summary article on Auckland pa. Bruce Hayward, Pre-historic pa sites of metropolitan Auckland. Tane, 29:3-14 (1983).

I have to report that Vol.1 of The Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology (introduced with a list of contents in the March Newsletter) is an excellent publication. It has a most attractive format and a good mix of theoretical and descriptive papers. The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology is to be congratulated for a superb effort. Lets hope the standard is maintained. Graham Connah's editorial makes it clear that papers on New Zealand historical archaeology are very welcome.

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University of Auckland centennial

The University of Auckland centennial was a very grand occasion with distinguished people very much in evidence. Many former members of staff and former students returned to Auckland: it was fascinating hearing stories of the "old days" in the Anthropology Department told by the people who were actually there!

Amongst the lectures given in the general university programme were Bruce Biggs on "Maori Studies and the University", and Roger Green on "Human Settlement of the Pacific". To a



specifically anthropological audience were lectures by Jack Golson (entitled "Archaeology in the Twenty-First Century" - it was hardly that, rather it was a brilliant outline of where we are at in archaeology in this part of the world); Agnes Sullivan on Maori occupation of the Auckland region; Aileen Fox on estimating populations of pa; Doug Sutton on the theoretical ideas and direction of the Pouerua project; and Wilf Shawcross on career opportunities in archaeology.

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#### Journal of the Royal Society

Bruce McFadgen writes to remind members that "... because the N.Z.A.A. is a member body of the Royal Society of New Zealand the Journal of the Royal Society is available to members of the Association at a reduced rate of \$25 per year."

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#### Subscriptions

Joint members please note that an error was made in your new subscription rate as listed in the March issue (p. 5). The current joint membership is \$17, not \$18.

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#### Vic Fisher

Dave Simmons writes, " Vic Fisher, founding ethnologist of Auckland Museum, died in May in Palmerston North at the age of 80 years. Generations of Aucklanders, especially children, remember with affection the courteous man at the Museum who was never too busy to talk to them. When they found their way to the museum clutching a piece of rock or an adze, Vic Fisher was the man they saw. For many years he ran a boys club in the museum. Former members include Sir Charles Fleming and the late director of the National Museum, Sir Robert Falla.

Vic Fisher retired in 1968 after a lifetime of service to the museum and the Museums Association of New Zealand. He was a former secretary, council member and president of the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand. He was also a founding member and former president of the Archaeological Association."

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CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP. Raised rim pits at Waitio.



CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP. A massive pit provides refuge from the wind at Raukawa Rd. Amongst others are Anna Prickett, Eileen Fox, Stan Bartlett, Kathy Prickett, Dorothy Bartlett and Roger Fyfe.



CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP. The effect of the drought can be seen in this photograph taken at Raukawa Rd.



CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP. Aileen Fox at Tiromoana.