



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NOTES AND NEWSOamaru conference, 2-4 June

The Queen's Birthday Weekend mini-conference at Oamaru was a most enjoyable affair. There is something about short conferences at smaller centres that seems to make for happy meetings. Ten years ago the Blenheim conference was similarly memorable - all those who were at Wairau Bar on that lovely sunny day, with pure white mountains fifty miles away visible at the head of the Wairau valley, will never forget it. Perhaps, also, in only three days, the excitement of renewing old friendships and catching up on news has not worn thin. In any event Oamaru was a conference to be remembered.

There had been some pessimism about the numbers that might get to Oamaru for a long weekend. As it turned out about 65 members were there - not up to the numbers of the past two years, but on a par with the usual turn-out before 1982.

Proceedings began on Saturday morning with a welcome by the mayor, then it was straight into papers. Before lunch there was a mixed bag of offerings on aspects of site conservation and preservation. John Coster spoke on public archaeology in the far north from his experience with the Lands and Survey Department. Ian Lawlor then outlined the various interests in historic site conservation which he is trying to recognise in his work with the Forest Service. Nigel Prickett discussed site damage and destruction in rural Taranaki, and came up with a rather pessimistic view on the current rate of site loss. Ray Hooker concluded the session speaking on his experience managing 19th century mining sites on Forest Service land on the West Coast.

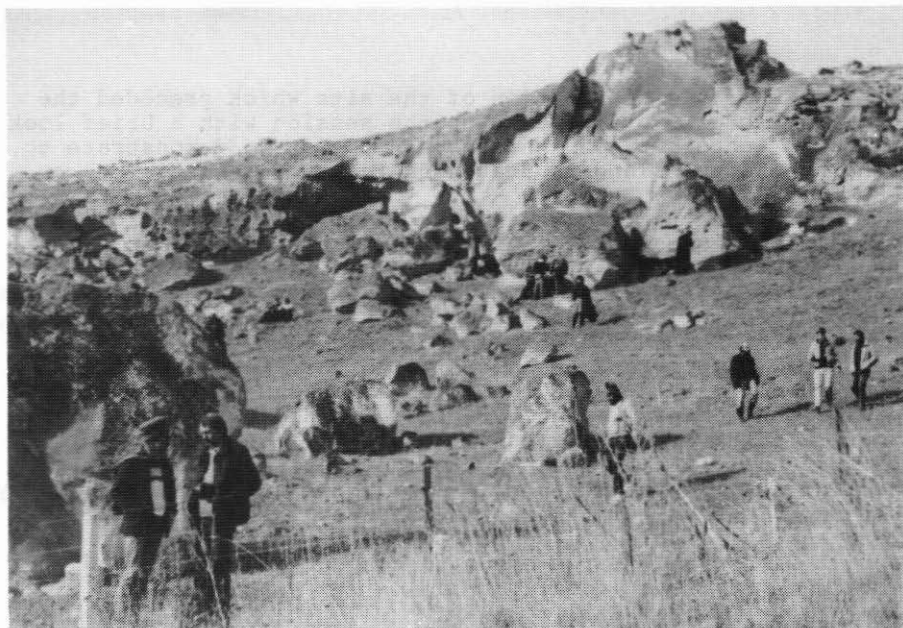
After lunch Georgina Christensen of the Interim Committee for the Conservation of Cultural Property spoke on current proposals for legislation setting up a statutory authority overseeing artefact conservation in New Zealand. She addressed herself particularly to issues of interest to archaeologists. There followed a symposium of five papers on pa. Roger Green outlined the results of the summer dig at a stone faced pa (N15/224) near Pouerua in the Bay of Islands. Kevin Jones presented some detective work regarding the defences of the pa described by Cook's people at Tolaga Bay in 1769. Louise Furey gave us a rather depressing tale about Forest Service destruction ... and subsequent rehabilitation, of a pa at Opito Bay, Coromandel. Caroline Phillips' report of salvage work at Raupa, near Paeroa, was similarly depressing because

of the wholesale destruction of the site which preceded the dig. Michael Trotter wound up the session with a brief look at pa in Canterbury and Marlborough - just to demonstrate to ignorant North Islanders that such things do exist!

After tea there were two excellent papers: by Richard Cassels on his summer's fieldwork in Manawatu and Barry Fankhauser, "Why would anyone eat trees?". Richard talked of caving in the Puketoi Range (northern Wairarapa) for moa bones (he convinced most of his audience that it was not for them!), and of his site survey work in Manawatu and Rangitikei where he found an important Archaic site on the Rangitikei coast, some lovely little pa in the lower Whangaehu River valley and a mid-19th century wooden pyramid which had belonged to a tohunga's grave. The tohunga apparently had founded a pyramid cult in the area, thus demonstrating that there is nothing new in pyramidology! Barry Fankhauser showed exactly why and how people in the southern part of the South Island (and almost certainly elsewhere as well) cooked cabbage trees for 12-24 hours in large ovens to concentrate sugars and obtain a very sweet food.

On Saturday night Neville Ritchie gave a public lecture on his work on Chinese miners' sites in Central Otago. A social followed in the excellent North Otago Museum which occupied the ground floor of the conference venue, the old Athenium building.

On Sunday we set off at 9.30 on a field trip. The day was overcast but not cold despite snow which blanketed the bare 6000 ft ranges close by. We began by going up to Dun-troon where we saw the Takiroa shelter, now sadly fenced in to give some protection from stock and human visitors. The superb paintings on the back wall of the shelter have been badly vandalised over the years, not least by the American Mr Elmore who actually removed some entirely during the First World War. From Takiroa we went to the district called 'Earthquake', where the rock art was not generally subject to people pressure. Several of the shelters we visited held images which were utterly familiar through publications. It was electrifying to come upon them in their natural settings. Such familiar drawings included the extraordinary human figure illustrated by Trotter and McCulloch (1st ed.) page 33 (Fig.27), and the dogs shown in Figure 30 in the same book. The countryside around Ngapara is very beautiful (and quite unlike anything in the North Island) which added to the pleasure of the day. (At Ngapara there is an unusual industrial chimney, half-brick and half Oamaru stone).



The field trip: a rock art site.



The field trip: at the natural moa bone deposit.

The next stop was a recent natural moa bone find. A Five Forks farmer emptying out a spring to provide accessible water for stock came upon an enormous quantity of moa bone. The North Otago Museum took away a truck load. Bus-loads of school children also took away many bones. Nor was New Zealand's archaeological élite slow when it came to their turn! Which goes to show what frustrated fossickers we are. We then visited the last operating quarry of Oamaru stone. (Just as interesting were the fences and stock yards built of the stone which are to be seen on the road into the quarry). The last stop was Awamoa where Mantell did his pioneer archaeological work in the late 1840s.

But the day wasn't over. Back in Oamaru we had a most interesting walk around the stone-built heart of the 1870s-80s town. The town centre has since shifted north and the future of many of the fine old buildings is problematic. Oamaru with a population of only 13,000 makes many North Island towns of three or four times the numbers look like frontier settlements.

The A.G.M. was held on Sunday evening. It was a long meeting, but mercifully free of the acrimony of many meetings of recent years. Resolutions of the A.G.M. are given elsewhere in Notes and News.

On Monday morning were a variety of papers. Dan Witter spoke on his work on the argillite working floors of the Maitai Valley, Nelson; Brian Allingham on his site survey of Blueskin Bay; and Jan Coates and Viv Rickard on excavations at Weiti, north of Auckland. The final session included Dimitri Anson on Lapita pottery, Brenda Sewell on the Cross Creek (Sarah's Gully) midden excavation, Garry Law on radiocarbon dating with shell, and Tony Walton on population size and distribution at Lake Taupo in the mid-19th century.

Most people stayed on into the afternoon for a meeting to make a decision on proposals for a formal organisation to serve professional archaeologists. I won't report on the results here more than to say that a resolution was passed establishing a New Zealand Institute of Archaeologists and a council was elected to carry this forward.

Thanks for a marvellous weekend are due to Bruce McCulloch of North Otago Museum, and to Michael Trotter of Canterbury Museum.

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Council

As a result of nominations and election the following is the Association Council for 1984-85.

President:	Mary Jeal
Vice-President:	Bruce McFadgen (only one position filled)
Secretary:	Viv Rickard
Treasurer:	Anne Leahy
Council members:	Louise Furey Ian Lawlor John Palmer Brenda Sewell Rosemary Tataroa Lyn Williams

Ex officio members are Garry Law (immediate past president), Stan Bartlett (site recording co-ordinator) and Nigel Prickett (Newsletter editor).

Other officers of the Association were confirmed at a council meeting. They include New Zealand Journal of Archaeology Editor Janet Davidson and Business Manager Foss Leach, Sales Manager Brenda Sewell, and C14 committee Foss Leach and Garry Law.

Members will know that proposed changes to the rules were circulated before the A.G.M. These were confirmed at the meeting where they received the required two-thirds majority. The effect is to reduce the council of the Association from 14 to 9. After the current year therefore council will consist of president, one vice-president (instead of two), secretary, treasurer, four ordinary members (instead of six) and the immediate past-president. The site recording co-ordinator and Newsletter editor will be no longer ex-officio members of council.

Council has been reduced in size mainly to cut down on the expense of bringing it together. We have been meeting only twice a year which is simply not often enough to maintain momentum ... and it has been costing us \$2600 a year. The reduced council will hopefully meet 3-4 times a year, and will require more commitment and work from council members than has been demanded in recent years.

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Other A.G.M. resolutions

In addition to rule changes, other resolutions passed at the A.G.M. are important to the Association. Following a lengthy discussion on professional interests, the meeting passed a motion of general support to the group working for a professional organisation in New Zealand archaeology.

"The Association believes that the questions of ethics, terms of employment, and issues of professionalism that have been raised by the steering committee for the New Zealand Institute of Archaeologists to be of great importance for New Zealand archaeology and of real concern to the Association, and that this meeting directs Council to give all support to the aims of the group."

Another resolution was addressed to the desirability of regional branches (following discussion by a Council sub-committee on membership). The A.G.M. resolved that:

"Council be empowered to authorise the establishment of regional branches - such branches to be self supporting."

Another issue of concern was the unfavourable media treatment of the recent prosecution of a Bay of Plenty farmer under the Historic Places Act. The meeting resolved that:

"In view of the unsympathetic publicity shown towards the Historic Places Trust in respect of the recent prosecution at Opotiki, that this Association commends the Trust and the New Zealand Police for their recent actions to enforce the Historic Places Act 1980."

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Secretary's report

"Firstly I would like to thank the Association office holders, in particular Garry Law and Anne Leahy for their help and advice.

There have been several important issues considered over the past year. The employment of qualified archaeologists at appropriate levels in government departments has been discussed and the departments involved approached - with a marked lack of response.

The problem of effectiveness of the Association and the need for a membership drive has led to the setting up of a sub-committee to discuss membership. In association with this problem Nigel Prickett has suggested that more use should be made of the Newsletter as a forum for airing views and news and to keep members informed of what is happening in New Zealand archaeology, as well as fulfilling the function of publishing academic papers. Members are asked to submit popular as well as serious material relating to activities in archaeology.

Regional groups of the Association have been suggested as a way of involving members in the direct running and activities, with local meetings at regular intervals.

As the Treasurer has said in her report, the finances of the Association are very restricted. One of the major expenses after the Newsletter are Council's travelling expenses. A motion is to be put to the A.G.M. suggesting a smaller Council. Regional representatives are advocated.

Sherry Reynolds has resigned as Sales Manager, and Brenda Sewell in Auckland has agreed to take her place.

A more definitive statement on policy has been produced by the Historic Places Trust, and it is hoped that more adequate funding for archaeology will result.

Human remains and associated problems have been discussed, and a sub-committee is to be set up to provide guidelines. Representatives from Maori Council, H.P.T. and N.Z.-A.A. are to be included in these discussions.

The proposed Association of Professional Archaeologists has been discussed in detail, and a meeting is to be held at this (Oamaru) Conference. It is agreed that the co-operation of N.Z.A.A. and the proposed association is necessary to prevent divergence of interests.

It has been suggested that a system of file search fees be instituted, as a small source of revenue to the Association, and as payment to the local Filekeepers for the amount of time spent in searching files for information requested.

These have been a few of the issues discussed at Council meetings. It is your Association and your views are important. It is important that you make them known by either articles in the Newsletter or by writing to the Secretary."

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Vivien Rickard

Site-recording co-ordinator's report

*On 31 March 1984 the Central File held a total of 31966 records. This represents an increase of 1307 on last year's figure of 30659, a percentage increase of 4.1%.

Regional totals are as follows:

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Northland	5583	5724	+ 141
Auckland	7629	7976	+ 347
Waikato	1902	1941	+ 39
Bay of Plenty	2778	3148	+ 370
East Coast	1332	1465	+ 133
Taranaki	1221	1220	- 1
Inland Patea	261	261	
Hawkes Bay	556	568	+ 12
Wanganui	383	388	+ 5
Wellington	753	751	- 2
Nelson	979	1022	+ 43
Marlborough	329	329	
Canterbury	1162	1164	+ 2
West Coast	282	350	+ 68
Otago	1980	2039	+ 59
Central Otago	1923	1955	+ 32
Southland	876	935	+ 59
Offshore Islands	730	730	
	<u>30659</u>	<u>31966</u>	<u>+1307</u>

The boundaries of a number of the regional files are now slowly being adjusted as the new metric maps become available. Last year the count was done on the basis of the NZMS1 boundaries with new metric-only records being added to produce a total for each file. This time the count is adjusted for records that transfer from one file to another when a metric sheet that affects the boundary comes into use. The size of the increase in the Auckland file, for example is largely a result of the gain of 167 records from the Northland and Waikato files. In the case of Waikato, the loss of records to Auckland has been more than replaced by new records coming in, but this is not so with Wellington, where the losses outnumbered the small number of new records, and this has resulted in a figure that is lower than the previous year's count.

The fall in the Taranaki total is because no new records were handled and one site in the file had two numbers, one of which was cancelled.

The decline in the number of records accessioned continues a trend that became evident in 1982. This followed the years of rapid growth when the Central File grew by 18294 records in the space of just six years (1976-81). The number of records accessioned is still running at a higher level than the figures that prevailed in the early 1970s. (These figures and comments by courtesy of Tony Walton).

Filekeeper changes since May 1983. In Canterbury Bev McCulloch has replaced Sally Burrage (file housed at Canterbury Museum). In Southland Karl Gillies, Curator of Anthropology, Southland Museum, replaces Lyn Williams (file housed at Southland Museum). East Coast, Pam Bain replaces Warner Haldane (file housed at Gisborne Museum).

Search fee. Profit making concerns seeking to make use of N.Z.A.A. records and files may now be charged a search fee of \$20 per hour. This is payable to N.Z.A.A. Treasurer. Where a search fee has been paid, Filekeeper expenses arising in the course of this particular activity are recoverable from N.Z.A.A.

New filing district. The Tongariro Regional Committee of N.Z.H.P.T. has asked that a new Filing District based on the Taupo area be formed. Implications of such a move are being studied."

Stan Bartlett

An honour for Roger Green

Members will be delighted to know that Roger Green of the University of Auckland Anthropology Department has been elected a member of the United States Academy of Sciences. Roger is the first staff member of a New Zealand university to gain this honour and, I understand, one of only 50 anthropologists worldwide.

Roger has been in New Zealand since the late 1950s and has contributed enormously to archaeology in this part of the world. Not the least of his contributions is to the Association of which he has always been an active supporter.