



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NOTES AND NEWSTauranga Conference 1985

The 1985 conference will be held at Tauranga, 20-25 May. The venue is the Tauranga Community College. Conference organiser is Bruce McFadgen.

Session themes suggested to date are: pa development, settlement pattern and social organisation, paleoenvironment, Bay of Plenty archaeology, and Maori tradition and archaeology. Other suggestions for session themes will be welcomed. Papers within the theme areas, or on any other archaeological topics, are needed.

Those who wish to contribute papers please contact:

Bruce McFadgen
N.Z. Historic Places Trust
Private Bag
Wellington.

It is planned to have two day long field trips during the conference: one to the eastern Bay of Plenty (Whakatane etc) and one west of Tauranga to the Katikati district.

No suggestions have come through regarding accommodation but you are advised to book early. Consult the A.A. accommodation guide.

More details on the programme will come next year.

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Recent publications

A report on the 1980 and 1982 excavations at Takahanga, Kaikoura has recently been published by Beverley McCulloch and Michael Trotter. As usual these authors have presented their work in an attractive cover, this time with a drawing of the site reconstructed from the archaeological evidence.

Beverley McCulloch and Michael Trotter, Investigations at Takahanga Pa, Kaikoura, 1980, 1982. Records of the Canterbury Museum, 9 (10):387-421 (1984).

Beverley has also produced a follow-up to her Canterbury Museum booklet "No Moa" (1982). It is well illustrated and attractively produced, although I'm not quite sure what to think of the sub-title, "The life and times of pre-European man in New Zealand - a contemporary overview"!

Beverley McCulloch, Prehistoric New Zealand and its People.
Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, 1984. 27 pp.

The Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand publishes a quarterly magazine called AGMANZ News. The most recent issue (Volume 15 (3), September 1984) is devoted to articles on anthropology in New Zealand museums. Among articles of interest to archaeologists are:

David Simmons, Anthropology in New Zealand museums, (pp. 2-4).

Michael Trotter, Human remains (pp. 4-6).

Roger Neich, Museums and fieldwork (pp. 16-17).

Lyn Williams and Karl Gillies, An outrigger canoe float from Lake Brunton (pp. 22-25).

Lyn Williams and Karl Gillies have done an excellent job of presenting the very exciting Southland outrigger find of winter 1980. The 3.96 m long float is virtually complete despite being broken when disced up. Comparisons are made with previous finds.

Industrial archaeology is attracting increasing interest, for some of which, at least, the engineers' own journal provides an outlet. A recent article outlines the history of the Onekaka (Golden Bay) iron works. The author does not say that many of the superb beehive coke ovens were destroyed in recent years to provide fire bricks for craft pottery kilns; nor does he seem to have visited the mine itself high on a spur in the ranges behind Onekaka.

F.W. Mahy, The Onekaka iron works. New Zealand Engineering, 39 (10):17-20 (1984).

A useful manual for people submitting radiocarbon samples to the Institute of Nuclear Sciences has just landed on my desk. It includes an outline of how the method works, how to select material and avoid contamination, how to submit samples and how results are reported. Anyone wishing to use the admirable radiocarbon dating service offered by I.N.S. should have this publication. And it would be consulted with profit by others who wish to know just what given C14 dates actually mean.

H.S. Jansen, Radiocarbon dating for contributors. Institute of Nuclear Sciences, D.S.I.R., Lower Hutt, 1984.

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Russell Price

The New Zealand Archaeological Association notes with sadness the death of Russell Price on 16 October 1984.

For over two decades he was New Zealand's most controversial amateur archaeologist. Born and bred a South Islander, it was at Nelson College that he became fascinated by archaeology which became a lifetime's passion.

Married and living in Hastings, Hawkes Bay, he was aware that the environs of Lake Poukawa were rich in 'camp sites' and pa. As a member of the New Zealand Archaeological Association he contributed to the Newsletter. His records of pa and other sites are in the files of the Association and Hawkes Bay has an excellent collection of classic Maori artefacts recovered from around Poukawa which are displayed in the small museum attached to the Hastings library.

But it was his discovery of giant moa bones in association with cooking places, early stone tools, and obsidian in the peaty swamp and lake margins of Poukawa that led to his most controversial theory. The Poukawa basin had collected sand, silt, peat and ash from volcanic eruptions for perhaps 300,000 years. All were highly compressed, some ash showers could be dated and Russell believed that the recovery of man-worked bone and stone tools from the peat would push back human existence in this land many thousands of years. Later analysis by soil and geological survey has cast doubts on his hypothesis. The National Museum in Wellington however is assessing the enormous collection of stone tools and extinct bird bone from 16 years of excavation.

Unorthodox in his methods, nevertheless Russell kept meticulous notes of his discoveries. It is to be hoped these notebooks are not lost.

Many interested in New Zealand archaeology, professional and amateur have spent time with Russell Price, at his home or at Lake Poukawa. Whether they believed his theory or not none were unmoved by his enthusiasm and complete dedication to archaeology.

Our sympathy goes to his wife and daughter.

Mary Jeal

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Council

Viv Rickard has resigned as Secretary of the Association. Council member Louise Furey has kindly agreed to fill the gap until the next A.G.M.

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Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology

Editor of the Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology, Graham Connah, writes,

"I want to include papers in this journal from outside as well as inside Australia, I particularly want New Zealand papers. Could you please tell other interested people that this is the case and that I would welcome papers for consideration. Volume 2 is now nearing press but the closing date for Volume 3 will be 31 January 1985 and for each subsequent volume it will be on that same date each year."

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Tauranga archaeological survey

Bruce McFadgen writes,

"Volunteers are invited to help with site recording in Tauranga County this summer. Dates are from 12 November to 21 December and 7 January to 15 February. Accommodation is at the Te Puke Holiday Park. Food and accommodation provided, and persons staying more than seven days will receive travel assistance. For further details please contact Bruce McFadgen, N.Z. Historic Places Trust, Private Bag, Wellington, ph. 724-341."

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A new angle on aerial photography

Those of you who thought the military jets screaming about our skies a couple of months ago were here only for war games, you were wrong! They were here to take photographs of our archaeological sites. This was, in any event, a spin off of the recent Anzus Triad exercise.

As a result of a talk given to the Bulls Rotary Club by Richard Cassels, the Australian 77 Squadron agreed to use spare film photographing areas of archaeological potential in the Whangaehu, Turakina and Rangitikei River valleys. The large format, high quality reconnaissance cameras, used at

low angles with low sunlight, showed up many previously unrecorded sites. The photographs are now in the Manawatu Museum.

This somehow reminds me of a military gentleman turned archaeologist who was involved in site recording in Taranaki some years ago. Only recently retired from the army he insisted on wearing army kit in his excursions to Maori pa sites. At least some locals drew the conclusion that the army was looking at the old fortifications with a view to re-using them in World War 3! Should we be hoping that the R.A.A.F. doesn't pay too much attention to the old sites of Rangitikei region?

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