



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NOTES AND NEWSTauranga conference, 20-25 May

This year's conference was an incredibly wet affair. North-easterly weather dumped an enormous amount of rain on the north and east coasts of the North Island, and Tauranga had its fair share. The Wednesday field trip was actually cancelled on account of the rain - which is quite unheard of for an archaeological conference. Somebody remarked that we must all be getting old.

Approximately 80 members attended the conference which was held at the brand new Bay of Plenty Community College in Windermere Road. The venue was a good one with lots of space under cover from the rain and sufficient room to accommodate an audience once the chairs were rearranged. I did not attend all the activities since the family also came to Tauranga and demanded some of my time. My thanks therefore to those who have helped putting together these notes by filling me in on the things I missed.

Proceedings began on Monday morning with a welcome by Bill Ohia of the Tauranga Moana District Maori Council. Our President, Mary Jeal, then thanked Mr Ohia and welcomed members to the conference. It was then straight into papers. The first was presented by Ian Smith who spoke of seal hunting, seasonality and settlement pattern during the Coromandel Peninsula archaic. Wendy Harsant then described her work at Hahei. The morning concluded with Atholl Anderson making a case for the importance of round houses in southern New Zealand.

In the afternoon were papers of Bay of Plenty interest. John Coster looked at the archaeological landscape of his family farm on the Kaimai foothills near Tauranga, and concluded from an intensive survey of a small area of it that there should be 30,000 sites in Tauranga County. Next up was Bruce McFadgen who has found 5000 of them, including 450 pa, making the region perhaps the best surveyed in all New Zealand. Kevin Jones then discussed the relationship of fortified sites and gardening soils in the Waimana and Opouriao Plains inland of Whakatane. In the evening was the conference dinner which by all accounts was an enjoyable affair.

More papers on Tuesday began with Sue Bulmer looking at various routes to estimating the population of Auckland's volcanic cone pa. Kevin Jones then presented an argument on the population of Mangaheia valley, Anaura Bay and Tolaga Bay based on field evidence. After morning tea Tony Walton gave a paper on population and its distribution in the Wanganui River valley from census figures of 1843 and 1850. Ray Hooker then introduced something of

the archaeological landscape and finds of south Westland. To wrap up the morning John Craib told us about latte structures in the Marianas Island and what they might or might not tell us about social heirarchy.

A short afternoon had two papers on stone working. Paul Cleghorn (like John Craib and American based at the University of Auckland) described, "Differential stoneworking skill and the organisation of labour at the Mauna Kea adze quarry"; and he was followed by Dan Witter on, "Stoneworking organisation in the Maitai valley, Nelson".

The Annual General Meeting on Tuesday night ran from 8 to 11 p.m. Results of the A.G.M. (new council and resolutions) are presented elsewhere.

It was on Tuesday night that the heavens opened. Consequently the day-long fieldtrip planned for Wednesday was replaced by papers brought forward from later in the week. In the morning we heard Louise Furey on the excavation of settlement sites in the Briers Block, near Coromandel town. Neville Ritchie told of recent excavations at the sites of the old Hermitage and the first Ball Hut in Mount Cook National Park. Roger Gould, a Lands and Survey ranger from Timaru, gave an interesting presentation on surveying and photographing South Canterbury rock art sites, with something also on current work aimed at protecting the art. Garry Law gave a thought-provoking outline of the Pacific origins of the Maori and of voyaging to New Zealand and arrival points here.

That afternoon, in continuing heavy rain, the hardy among us sloshed around the Tauranga Historic Village museum. I do wish the model for the village was more distinctly New Zealand and not borrowed from the 'wild west' (right down to the "Milky Bar kid"). The evening's excellent talk by Evelyn Stokes was not as well attended as it might have been - probably because of the stormy night. Tauranga Moana is well served by an historian of such sympathy who is so strongly influenced by geography and place. I found it a stimulating pointer to what could, and should, be done elsewhere.

Thursday morning was another round of papers - they began with a fascinating account of modern day eeling in the Kawakawa River, Northland, and some social aspects of it - presented by Yvonne Marshall. Yvonne won the prize for the best amateur or student paper presented at the conference. Brenda Sewell then spoke on her recent excavation on the rim of Crater Hill, Papaetoetoe. After morning tea it was Anne Leahy on the whereabouts of Haratua's pa, inland Bay of Islands, Nigel Prickett on the cultural landscape and dating of Taranaki pa, and Janet Leatherby

on mapping 5.5 km<sup>2</sup> of the 9 km<sup>2</sup> field systems about Pouerua (also in the inland Bay of Islands).

The afternoon's session consisted of a general discussion - firstly on "Problems, priorities and needs in New Zealand archaeology" and secondly on "Aims and objects of the New Zealand Archaeological Association - policy for the next decade". The discussion was chaired by immediate past-president Garry Law. The second topic, "policy for the next decade" was clearly too big a subject and the future shape and objectives of the Association were not really given much attention. Immediate battles for resources and archaeological conservation seem to distract or exhaust those who might otherwise put energy into the growth and development of the Association. That a stronger Association could play a more effective political role goes without saying but urgent problems do not seem to give time for rejuvenation.

On Thursday evening there was a gathering on Poutu Te Rangi marae, Te Puna, to give an opportunity to discuss issues of concern with the local Maori community. I was not able to be there, but I am told it was a relaxed and friendly evening which could only do good for relationships between the people of Tauranga Moana and archaeologists.

On Friday morning there was a heavy programme of papers. Barry Fankhauser outlined his work in developing a method of thermoluminescence dating oven stones and presented some results. The potential of the method is enormous, but needed is a continuing commitment of resources. Tony Walton discussed the use of earth moving machinery in salvage archaeology. Bruce McFadgen then presented an argument regarding the stone rows of Palliser Bay not being related to gardening after all - thus confirming his value as the most creative lateral thinker in New Zealand archaeology!

After morning tea Robert Brassey discussed stone material from the Pouerua excavations; Mary Jeal looked at the role of professional and amateur in New Zealand archaeology; Ian Lawlor presented the conference with a problem he has in Waipoua Forest, Northland: how to get pine trees off a very important archaeological site without doing too much damage; and Keren Lilburn examined pa forms and their classification.

In the afternoon we had a short field trip to the astonishing complex of pa on the Papamoa hills. The farmer, Mr McNaughton, kindly took us up the hill by tractor and trailer, and later loaded us up with kiwifruit. The variety of pa within a very small area, the size and strength of the largest, and their commanding position overlooking a great tract of country east and north-west make the historic landscape here one of the most

outstanding in New Zealand. But a day or two is needed to have a good look - not just two hours. It was good to be out nonetheless and I for one greatly appreciated the opportunity to see this wonderful complex of sites I had seen previously from the road and wondered at.

That was in effect the end of the conference. The Saturday papers already had been brought forward to plug gaps in the programme, so that Saturday morning was taken up instead by the annual meeting of the New Zealand Institute of Archaeologists. Perhaps a report on the activities of the Institute will be forthcoming for a future Newsletter.

It was good to be in Tauranga which is a town I do not know well. We managed a hurried climb to the top of Mount Maunganui (including an interesting descent down the steep route in failing light). I also visited Monmouth Redoubt, a well-preserved earthwork of classic form, now ruined by its surroundings and a monument of perfectly dreadful style and sentiment that squats to one side of the inner platform.

Over the protests of the children I also visited the church and grounds at Gate Pa where the famous engagement of 1864 was fought. Again there is a graceless monument. The church now on the site gives some information, but surely the care of this place and the proper interpretation of events which happened here are national responsibilities?

Before finishing this brief report thanks must be given to Bruce McFadgen who organised an excellent conference and who, despite the weather and his going down with the flu during proceedings, kept the programme rolling throughout.

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#### Association officers 1985-86

Members will know there was no election for officers this year as the number of nominations exactly fitted the number of available places. Following the resolutions of last year's AGM this year is the first of the new smaller council. 1985-86 council is as follows:

President:	Mary Jeal, Napier
Vice-President:	Bruce McFadgen, Wellington
Immediate Past President:	Garry Law, Auckland
Secretary:	Wendy Harsant, Dunedin
Treasurer:	Rick McGovern-Wilson, Dunedin
Council Members:	Louise Furey, Auckland
	Ian Lawlor, Auckland
	Brenda Sewell, Auckland
	Lyn Williams, Christchurch

Other officers of the Association were confirmed at the first meeting of the incoming council. They are: New Zealand Journal of Archaeology, Editor Janet Davidson and Business Manager Foss Leach; Newsletter editor Nigel Prickett; Sales Manager Brenda Sewell; Site-recording co-ordinator Stan Bartlett and Radiocarbon Committee Foss Leach and Anne Leahy.

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#### A.G.M. resolutions

Various resolutions were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held in Tauranga on the night of Tuesday 21 May.

The first resolutions involved the plight of fellow Pacific archaeologists on Easter Island and development proposals which will effect important archaeological remains there. The A.G.M. resolved that,

"This Association views with deep concern the allegations and actions concerning Messrs Claudio Cristino and Edmundo Edwards which ensued from the First International Congress on Easter Island and East Polynesia in September 1984 and that we urge the appropriate authorities in Chile to take whatever steps are necessary to restore these archaeologists to their former positions and opportunities."

and that,

"This Association views with deep concern reported plans to extend the airport facilities upon Easter Island, requests further details and seeks reassurance from the appropriate authorities that archaeological remains, which are of world importance and of particular significance in the Pacific, will continue to be protected."

These two resolutions are to be forwarded to appropriate authorities in Chile and to the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Another resolution concerned the future of archaeology in the proposed new environment ministry. It was resolved that,

"The Association congratulates the government on the success of the recent environmental forum and notes the minister's positive comments regarding the cultural heritage, and that the Association wishes to bring to the minister's attention its concern for archaeological aspects of the cultural heritage and urges him to ensure that the working party take full cognizance of this in their important deliberations."

The next resolution concerned the use of metal detectors on historic sites - this arising from recent incidents in which people have been seen on historic reserves with detectors. It was resolved that,

"The meeting requests Council to consider, as a matter of urgency, the desirability of initiating action to limit the use of metal detectors or similar devices, on historical and archaeological sites."

The next matter concerned the name of the Newsletter. A change of name has long been proposed by some members of the Association. I seem to remember Michael Trotter raising the issue more than once in the past. This year Neville Ritchie raised the issue and canvassed widely among members on Monday and Tuesday before the A.G.M.

Neville proposed the name New Zealand Archaeology (or Archaeological) Quarterly. An amendment was passed, however, that the new name include the words "New Zealand Archaeological Association". We then passed a resolution that,

"The name of the Newsletter be changed to the "New Zealand Archaeological Association Quarterly"."

It seemed to me, however, that this was not going far enough. I have long been in favour of a name change and have personally favoured the name "New Zealand Archaeology". The reason I have delayed bringing it forward is that with new technology coming ever closer we are on the verge of new format possibilities - and I have hoped to bring in name and format change together.

On Thursday afternoon (during the session on the future role of the Association) I raised again the question of the Newsletter name and asked that the change of name be delayed to allow a more thorough consideration of a name for the next thirty years or more, and that the matter come back to next year's A.G.M. This proposal was accepted by the meeting. I made two suggestions as to the name: "New Zealand Archaeology", which I think had a measure of approval; and, to encourage some lateral thinking, "Maungakiekie", which was greeted with scorn and derision!

The result of all this, however, is that we are about to change the name of the Newsletter. I am as nostalgic as anyone for the old name and have always enjoyed its understatement - especially as it mystifies people overseas! But the time has clearly come for the name to more properly reflect the contents and role of the Association's quarterly magazine. You now have a chance to have your say. What sort of periodical it is will not depend on the name change: it will continue to have notes and news, book reviews, letters and articles for people whose archaeological experience and interests lie in this country.

### Honours

Members of the Association will be delighted to know that Janet Davidson has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Janet's contribution to New Zealand archaeology is second to none, culminating in her Prehistory of New Zealand published last year. She has also served the Association long and well as President, and as Secretary for an unusually long term of six years. Janet now joins Roger Green and the late Roger Duff as one of a very select group of archaeological 'Fellows' of our most prestigious national scientific body.

Members will also be glad to hear that the Association's A.G.M. voted Anne Leahy an Honorary Member of the Association. Anne has contributed much to New Zealand archaeology over many years, and has this year given up the task of Treasurer which she has carried out for four years. For a variety of reasons Anne carried much of the Secretary's load as well as her own during her term. Since the Auckland Museum has serviced the Association for the past several years I know just how much work Anne has put in for us.

### Recent publications

An important new book looking at man and Quaternary extinctions has some items of New Zealand interest.

Paul Martin and Richard Klein (eds), Quaternary Extinctions: a prehistoric revolution. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson (Arizona), 1984.

The book includes 38 contributions covering prehistoric extinctions mostly in the Americas, but also in Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Hawaiian Islands. It is itself a Diprotodon of a book weighing in at 1816 g, or 4 lbs! Of special interest are,

Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch, Moas, men and midden (pp. 708-727).

Atholl Anderson, The extinction of moa in southern New Zealand (pp. 728-740).

Richard Cassels, Faunal extinction and prehistoric man in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands (pp. 741-767).

Association members who were at the Napier conference will remember a highly stimulating paper by geomorphologist Pat Grant on periods of accelerated erosion during the late Holocene in New Zealand. This important work is now published in detail along with a complementary article by Bruce McFadgen on the stratigraphy of coastal deposits in the same period - in the Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand.



Bruce McFadgen, Late Holocene stratigraphy of coastal deposits between Auckland and Dunedin, New Zealand. J.R.S.N.Z., 15:27-65.

P.J. Grant, Major periods of erosion and alluvial sedimentation in New Zealand during the late Holocene. J.R.S.N.Z., 15:67-121.

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Site-recording co-ordinators report

"On 31 March 1985 the Central File held a total of 35495 records. This is an increase of 3501 on last year's figure of 31994, and represents an increase of about 9%.

Regional totals are as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>Change 84-5</u>
Northland	5724	5920	+ 196
Auckland	7976	8995	+ 1019
Waikato	1969	1974	+ 5
Bay of Plenty	3148	4760	+ 1612
Taupo		382	+ 382
East Coast	1465	1590	+ 125
Taranaki	1220	1269	+ 49
Inland Patea	261	186	- 75
Hawkes Bay	568	570	+ 2
Wanganui	388	457	+ 69
Wellington	751	757	+ 6
Nelson	1022	1061	+ 39
Marlborough	329	329	
Canterbury	1164	1167	+ 3
West Coast	350	385	+ 35
Otago	2039	2039	
Central Otago	1955	1963	+ 8
Southland	935	961	+ 26
Offshore Islands	730	730	
	<u>31994</u>	<u>35495</u>	<u>3501</u>

Boundaries are being adjusted as the new metric maps come into use. The above count is done with the boundaries as they stood on 31 March: some NZMS1, some metric, and some a mixture of the two.

The biggest increase has been in the Bay of Plenty. The size of the increase is greater than is shown as some records were transferred to the new Taupo file. This is also the reason for the decrease in the size of the inland Patea file.

The new filing district established for the Taupo region is in charge of filekeeper,

Mr Perry Fletcher  
P O Box 52  
Taupo.

In the Manawatu-Wanganui district there is a change of file-keeper. Mr J. Lundy is replaced by,

Mr D. Weston  
10 Pascal Street  
Palmerston North.

The Nelson file is now housed at the home address of the filekeeper,

Mr S. Bagley  
29 William Street  
Richmond  
Nelson"

Stan Bartlett

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#### Whangaehu acknowledgement

Tony Walton wishes me to rectify an omission in the last issue and acknowledge D. Wilkie as the photographer who took the pictures used in his article on Whangaehu sites (and on the issue's cover).

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#### Regional news

Jim McKinlay writes from the Wellington region, and of Trust activities:

"The Archaeology Committee of the Trust has for the first time held its meeting away from Wellington. It met in Auckland 18-19 May. As well as dealing with usual committee business, it visited archaeological sites in south and central Auckland. A social evening enabled committee members to meet many of the people who work for and assist the Trust in its archaeological work in the Auckland region.

During the 1984-85 summer Bruce McFadgen, in conjunction with the Department of Lands and Survey, continued and completed the Tauranga site survey. Eight students were employed for three months, assisted by volunteers from Tauranga and further afield. Two rescue excavations in the area have been completed since the survey was completed - one at Welcome Bay and the other at Papamoia. During April, Bruce, with Aidan Challis,

carried out a proton-magnetometer survey to locate the site of the 1845 Heke pa at Lake Omaperere. The exact position of the pa has been in dispute for some time and it is hoped that the results of the survey will now decide the matter.

Phillipa Graham of the South Canterbury Regional Committee, helped by Roger Gould (Lands and Survey Department, Timaru) and assisted by the Trust, has continued with a programme of photographing rock art sites in South Canterbury, and erecting protective fencing for selected sites.

During October 1984 the Continuing Education Centre, Victoria University held a practical archaeology course including three days of fieldwork in Palliser Bay. The course was run by Bruce McFadgen and Tony Walton from the Trust, Peter Addis from the Department of Maori Studies, Victoria University and geologist Paul Froggatt.

The Trust's programme of archaeological planning assessments have been commenced in two high priority areas. Janet Leatherby is working from Hamilton and Joan Maingay from Whangarei. These year-long programmes, funded from the Trust grant from the Lotteries Profit Board, are designed to assess the requirements for future Trust programmes in Northland and Waikato.

Brian Sheppard has responsibility for Trust archaeological work in the Tongariro region. He is currently dealing with the Department of Lands and Survey and local people to complete management plans for the Opepe, Opotaka and Te Porere reserves. Perry Fletcher, the local filekeeper, is completing a survey of archaeological sites on the shores of Lake Taupo with a view to establishing a series of lakeside reserves.

A new technique for non-destructive sub-surface prospecting and preliminary investigation of archaeological sites is currently being evaluated by Trust staff. The equipment, owned by Strata Geophysical Ltd, Wellington, works on the analyses of reflections of high frequency pulses from soil layers of differing densities. Preliminary results of the evaluation were presented at the N.Z.A.A. Conference.

Several Trust staff have attended recent overseas conferences. Neville Ritchie was one of the New Zealanders selected to attend the National Parks Service First World Conference on Cultural Parks held at Mesa Verde, Colorado, in September 1984. Bruce McFadgen and Sue Bulmer in February 1985 attended the Australian Archaeometry Conference at Canberra. Jim McKinlay in March 1985 participated in the Second Regional Conference on Historic Places in Asia held at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Kevin Jones has just completed the 1985 fieldwork for his East Coast programme. Once again he has been assisted by Mike Hurst and a team of local people.

The Historic Places Trust is endeavouring this year to complete the compilation and publication of its county-based Historic Places Inventories. Kate Olsen has been employed to see this job through. Each inventory contains a list of all recorded archaeological sites and all classified buildings in the local authority area, together with the positions of all the sites and buildings located on the 1:50,000 cadastral maps. Most North Island areas (excluding Cook and Tauranga Counties, and parts of the Auckland area) are now completed, and the rest, together with the South Island, should be completed by March 1986. This series has proved to be very useful for county planners, for development agencies and for government agencies involved in land management and use. Copies are available from the Trust for \$10 each.

As at 23 April 1985 the Trust Register of Archaeological Sites, as required by the Historic Places Act 1980, contains 376 entries. Sites are registered both from recent area surveys and assessments, and from individual submissions. Trust policy is that the register should be widely based and not narrowly selective. This was decided because of the attitude of people outside of the 'archaeological community' who tended to view non-registered sites as being of less importance than registered sites - i.e. that they were expendable in the face of development threats. Coverage is still very uneven with large numbers of sites registered in some areas and few or none in others. The compilation of the Register is a very long term undertaking.

The Trust has recently concluded the second Heritage Covenant agreement under the Act for the specific purpose of protecting an archaeological site. The agreement concerns Te Rua Hoanga pa on the property of Mr S. Ludbrook, Ohaeawai. A third agreement concerning a site in the Bay of Plenty is almost completed.

Agnes Sullivan last year resigned from her position with the Maori Studies Department, Victoria University of Wellington. Her place has been taken by Peter Adds, a recent Auckland graduate, who has a 2½ year contract as a junior lecturer. Peter is currently teaching a course on the Peopling of Polynesia and will later present other courses in Culture and Technology, and Maori Land Tenure.

Robin Watt is currently on leave without pay from the National Museum to complete a PhD at the Department of Anthropology, Victoria University. His topic is fakes or forgeries

of ethnographic materials. His post at the Museum is being filled on a temporary basis by Mr Alister Ross, an Otago University graduate."

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From the Canterbury region comes news from Beverley McCulloch (with some help from Lyn Williams):

"Probably the most significant thing to happen in Canterbury during the last year is the change of name from "Canterbury Museum Archaeological Association" to "New Zealand Archaeological Association (Canterbury Museum Branch)". This effectively does away with problems that seemed to arise from having two archaeological bodies within the region, both with the same purpose and ideals. It also supports and promotes the national body while retaining the traditional links with the only professional institution in the area promoting archaeological research and site protection. Membership is free to those belonging to N.Z.A.A., while those who wish to be 'local' members only pay a small sub to cover postage costs etc. Evening meetings are held irregularly when a guest speaker is available, and some field trips are also organised.

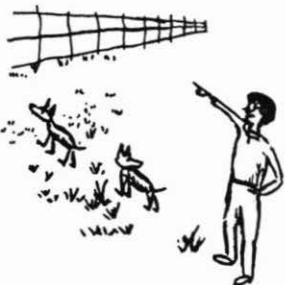
In February our loyal team of volunteers made its annual pilgrimage to the Fyffe moa hunter site at Kaikoura to salvage a bit more information during a week of excavation. I cannot speak too highly of the people who continue to give their time to do this work, many giving up holidays year after year and always having to pay their own way. The general spirit is magnificent and I believe the following page expresses the attitude of goodwill within the group more than any technical description. By museum technician Elizabeth Sharpe, it was initially published in the Canterbury Museum staff newsletter.

Artefacts from the recent week at Fyffes are presently being sorted ready for registration by volunteer Mavis Emberson. Elizabeth Sharpe is starting on a mechanical analysis of the flake material obtained during the previous three excavations, and Rick McGovern-Wilson of Otago University is to work on the bird-bone.

For the last year Dan and Alison Witter have been ensconced in a garden shed at Taumutu (near Lincoln) sorting and analysing stone flakes and preforms from the Maitai Valley (Nelson) argillite workshop site. The site, along with several other similar workshops, will be flooded by the reservoir being constructed by the Nelson City Council. Dan's contract is near completion and he returns to Australia in May to finish his PhD."

FYFFE'S AGAIN.

In February this year another dig was held at Fyffe's site in Kaikoura, under the auspices of the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA). Canterbury Museum provided some of the equipment and the excavators were drawn from the Museum Branch of the NZAA. Michael, Beverley, Myffie Lewis and I arrived at the site early to lay out the squares for excavation and pitch the equipment tent,



while attempting to discipline four very disobedient little dogs who would not stay behind the fence. The weather was miserable and not very promising for a sun and fun-filled week. The rest of the party arrived and we installed ourselves at the University Laboratory hostel to have an introductory talk about the site and plans for our week's work. With the weather improving, and staying fine for most of the week, we set to work. We were able to excavate on the centre lot for the first time, confirming that the early garden wall ran right across the site.

The most likely places for future excavation on Mr. Nilsen's property, a swampy area, were plotted and more squares on the Museum property were opened and investigated. The work was hot and tiring and many of us were ready for a dip in the sea before dinner. Meals appeared to be the highlight of the trip for some people.



Mrs. Norma Walls of Cheviot was our cook and served up dish after dish of superb food.

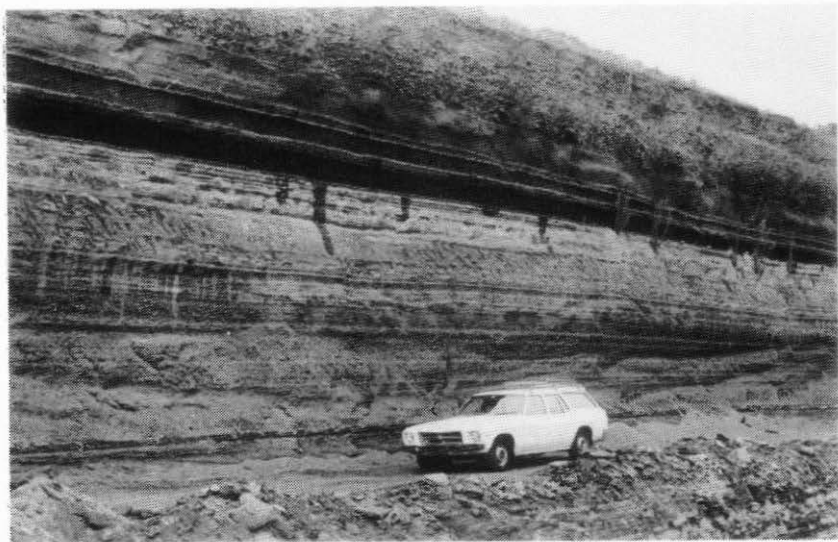
The last task on an archaeological expedition is the filling-in of the squares; at Fyffe's, a back-breaking job because of the heavy rubble on this site. One of the excavators who had worked several times on the Fyffe's site before, was so loathe to go through such trauma again that he hired a large machine to do the filling-in. It took one driver with his machine half an hour to clean up the site, whereas it would have taken the fourteen or fifteen members of the party several hours to do it by hand.

Elizabeth Sharpe.

Drawings by Karen Lloyd.

One morning on Crater Hill

During the summer a small salvage excavation was carried out at Crater Hill, Papatoetoe under the direction of Brenda Sewell. I do not know if they found any postholes in the dig, but on arriving on the site one morning they noticed, on the wall of the quarry a few hundred yards distant, postholes to gladden the heart of any archaeologist. The only trouble was they were buried under 15 feet of 20,000 year old volcanic debris. Closer examination showed them to have been painted on in the night. Now who could have done that? For the name of the artist, ring Chloe (3,6).

Newsletter back issues

There is occasionally a demand for early Newsletters of which Volumes 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are now out of print. Is there sufficient demand out there for reprinting these early issues?

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As you were!

Peter Matthews writes:

"The report of New Zealand taro producing seed (Vol 28/1, p.42) was false, due to a botanical mis-identification of collected fruit, and the immediate implications for New Zealand archaeology suggested in the 1984 report must be disregarded. The observations of taro flowering in New Zealand do not allow the assumption that seed can be produced here, since the plants may be sterile for cytological reasons, or may lack the right environment for pollination and seed development. Taro specimens collected in a number of tropical countries and held in European herbaria include fruit with seed, a fact which may be important for archaeology in tropical areas.

Peter Matthews  
April 1985"

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REMEMBER: The Association's address is now

P.O.BOX 6337,  
DUNEDIN NORTH