



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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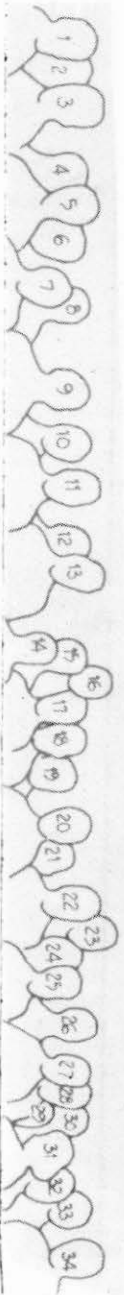
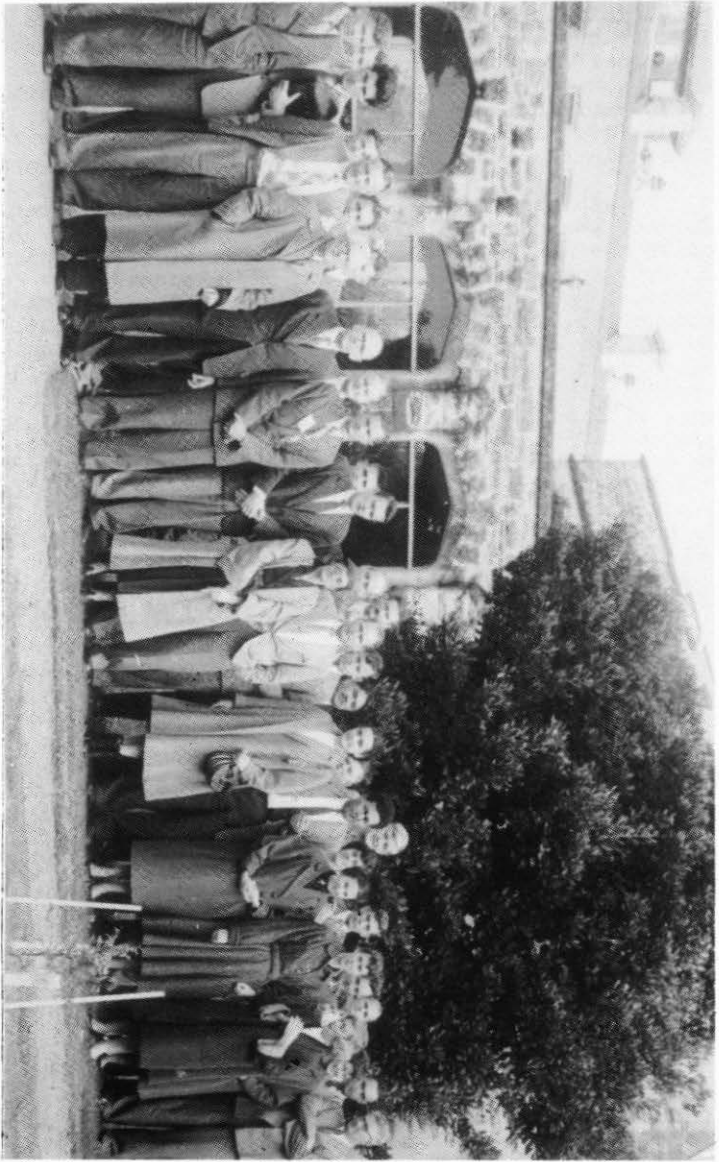
NOTES AND NEWSThe 1956 conference photo

In the March 1984 issue (Vol. 27/1) I published a group photograph of the very first Association conference, held in Auckland in 1956. I would like to thank Jack Golson, Jim McKinlay, John Daniels, Bob Jolly and others who have helped with identification of people in the picture, published here. Together we have managed to establish 23 of the 34 people shown, with a further four tentative identifications. Anyone who thinks we are wrong, or who can fill in the remaining gaps, please write to your editor.

Being a recent recruit myself I was interested to learn of people in the picture who I have never met - some of whom are well known by reputation. Other members of the Association might also like to know a little more of the people shown. One of the interesting things is the strong presence of the Elam School of Art in archaeological circles in those days: four people in the picture were Elam students, and two others active in archaeology (upon whose absence here some commented) were Frank Davis and Wal Ambrose. One correspondent suggested that Ambrose took the photo. Another person who certainly attended the conference but does not show in the photo is Bob Jolly. (He may be the person just visible between Leslie Adkin and Vic Fisher). The photograph, incidently, is taken at the back of the main Princes Street building of Auckland University. These notes follow the order given in the key.

2. John Parry was a student at the Elam School of Art.
 3. Phil Paynter was a keen member of Auckland University Field Club.
 4. Tony Batley (if this is him) is a former president of the Association and long-time file keeper for the Inland Patea district.
 5. Pat Murdock, now dead, was a notable collector and student of Maori history who lived at Hikutaia, near Paeroa.
 6. Peter Gordon was a student in the Anthropology Department in 1956; has since worked in government service including a spell with the Historic Places Trust.
 9. Bill Phillipps was a long-time Ethnologist at the Dominion Museum.
 10. Leslie Adkin worked at the Geological Survey, Lower Hutt, but is notable in archaeological circles for his unexcelled regional study, "Horowhenua".

11. Vic Fisher was for 10 years Ethnologist at Auckland Museum.
 12. Jack Grant-Mackie was (and still is) with the Geology Department, University of Auckland.
 13. Brian Hanken was a member of the University of Auckland Field Club.
 14. Eileen Johnstone (there was a variety of spelling for this name) was a student in the Anthropology Department, University



of Auckland. 16. Bill Hartree was a Puketiritiri, Hawkes Bay, farmer, notable for work with moa nesting sites in the limestone bluffs of his home district. 17. John Booth was in the 1950s a long serving secretary of the Polynesian Society and an officer of the Department of Maori Affairs. 18. Keith Sorrenson is now Professor of History at Auckland University. 19. Selwyn Wikiriwhi was a part-time lecturer in Maori at Auckland University. 20. Yvonne Zacharias was an American Fullbright student in the Auckland University Anthropology Department.

21. Ron Scarlett, first editor of this Newsletter, was for many years Osteologist at Canterbury Museum. 22. Possibly Bob Jack - who came from England and later returned there. 23. Tony Hooper was an anthropology student - now teaches social anthropology at Auckland University. 27. Janet Beard, an Elam student, now Janet Ambrose living in Canberra. 28. Jack Golson, who set the whole thing going - now at A.N.U., Canberra. 29. Jean Geary? - a part time student in the Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. 30. Bruce Palmer was then teaching Maori studies at Wellington Teachers Training College, later Director of Fiji Museum, Suva. 31. Susan Davis was subsequently Assistant Ethnologist at the Dominion Museum; is now Curator of a folk museum in Bewolley, on the River Severn in England. 32. Pam Griffiths was a student of the Elam School of Art. 33. Bob Brown, then a student in the Anthropology Department, Auckland University, still lives in Auckland. 34. Possibly Geoff Fairfield, a long time student of Maori history in the Auckland region, now retired and living at Bucklands Beach.

Council meeting

The following items came from the minutes of the Association council which met in Wellington, 10 August 1985.

Prosecutions. Council discussed a recent resolution of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Board regarding procedures to be adopted in dealing with prosecutions under the Historic Places Act. The effect of this resolution is that the HPT Board will decide on the need for prosecutions in individual cases rather than simply placing the case in the hands of the police for investigation. Given the prosecutions initiated in recent years, the Association Council is very concerned about the effectiveness of this part of the Act in protecting sites.

Members of the Association can be instrumental in protecting sites and administering the Act by reporting any cases of unauthorised modification directly to the police rather than informing the Trust. Members are asked to inform the Council of any unauthorised site modification and of complaints made

to the police. A letter has been sent to the Trust expressing concern at the reluctance of the Trust to use the full legal power to the Act to protect sites.

Radio-carbon dating service. There have been rumours circulating in recent months that the DSIR may begin charging for their radiocarbon dating service. The cost per sample would be high and is of serious concern to Council and to all archaeologists. The radiocarbon sub-committee of the Association has recommended that there should be no action or lobbying of ministers or government departments until the situation is clarified. It is possible that our position may be damaged by premature action. Members will be kept informed of future developments.

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Auckland's cones

Richard Cassels recently sent from Palmerston North an envelope of newspaper cuttings (and xeroxes thereof) on matters archaeological in the years 1956-63. Included are items of some current interest.

A page feature in the Auckland Star of 23 April 1956 is entitled "History...for sale". It looks at the loss of the historic volcanic cones of the Auckland isthmus to the demand for scoria as a construction material.

"For the sake of a few years' supply of scoria, Auckland is likely to lose its volcanic cones, an inheritance that few cities in the world can boast...

Today these hills are a priceless heritage, right in our own backyard. Aucklanders know the scenic value of major cones like Mt Eden and One Tree Hill, both permanent parks in our growing city.

But the lesser cones have been far too long regarded as an apparently endless source of cheap scoria...

In a little more than a year quarrying has begun on the smaller cones east and south of the city and some are threatened with being wiped off the map. Others will be left as ruins.

Auckland is expanding and needs metal. But the cones are not inexhaustible. They will give enough metal only for the next 10 to 15 years, and then supplies outside the city will have to be worked. But in these coming years, if things go on as they are, these irreplaceable cones will be lost to future generations of Aucklanders, for the sake of scoria for this generation."

Photographs tell the story. One shows Waitomokia (Mount Gabriel) near Ihumatao, intact a few years before 1956, but already virtually destroyed at that date. Another shows the sad remains of Otūataua nearby. A third picture has a special irony. The caption reads: "The only completely untouched cone on the Auckland isthmus is Ellett's Mount, or Maungataketake, at Ihumatao. It is an excellent example of natural beauty of form, with its crater and well-defined Maori terraces. This is the kind of heritage Aucklanders have neglected, even desecrated, in the past." What more can be said? Maungataketake (how can one continue to use the name of the owner?) is now virtually gone. The disgraceful destruction of Auckland's cones for scoria did not stop in 1956.

Efforts are now being made to preserve small areas of the remarkable stonefield landscapes nestling at the foot of the now destroyed cones in south Auckland. This must be achieved - but not one cone survives intact in the area to show something of the real wonder of this remarkable historic landscape.

The 1956 Auckland Star article also has a picture of excavations at Taylors Hill, which may have some historical interest for archaeologists.

Also among the material from Richard Cassels is a brief Auckland Herald (16 April 1960) article entitled "Time limit on dig into past". The subject is the 1960 dig on Mount Wellington in the area which was destroyed by reservoir construction.

"Glancing at the 15 excavation pits - some of them up to four feet deep - dug by men and women using small hand trowels, (Mr Groube) said that between 20 and 30 members (of the University of Auckland Archaeological Society) were working there each day over Easter."

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Filekeepers newsletter

An excellent recent innovation is a "N.Z. Historic Places Trust Newsletter to Filekeepers", which is designed to inform Association filekeepers of Trust activity. The first two issues (March and June 1985) have recently come my way and include the following items which may be of general interest.

"Early in February a small party that included Kevin Jones, Ray Hooker, Richard Pope, and Bob and Betty Lawn undertook an excavation of a shell midden at Bruce Bay on the West Coast. The midden, which is exposed in section at the back of the beach, was particularly rich in fish bone, but bird bone was also present. Samples were collected for further detailed analysis."

"The National Research Advisory Council has recently published a review of "Problems, priorities and needs in Archaeology". Copies of the report are available from the Trust. The review is open for comment but NRAC would also welcome additional submissions - not just comment on the review."

"In March 1985 the Trust undertook excavations at two sites in Tauranga area and there were excavations at a third early in May. The sites were required for development.

U14/243, at Papamoa near Te Puke, is a pa consisting of a platform and lateral terrace which are encircled by a ditch. Excavation was concentrated on the terrace, which was the part of the site to be modified by development. Evidence of cooking and storage was found but the terrace itself proved to have been built over an earlier ditch. This earlier ditch had been buried by two metres of fill.

U14/2240, at Birch Ave in Tauranga, was recorded as a possible pa. Numbers of shell middens were evident on the slopes of the headland. A large area was cleared by earthmoving machinery to determine the pattern of features across the site. Evidence of storage, shelter, and cooking and dumping were uncovered, as were two burials. Adjacent to the site was an area of cultivated soil.

U14/2482, at Welcome Bay near Tauranga was initially recorded as two pits and a terrace. After excavation, three different activities - storage, cooking and gardening - were found to be represented. There was an area of storage pits on the low hill, a cooking area immediately adjacent, and a cultivated soil on the northern slopes. After trenching the area where the pits were evident on the surface, a motorscraper was used to strip topsoil from the adjacent part of the knoll. This was an area with no surface evidence of occupation but the machine scraping revealed ovens and middens. A tractor with a back blade was then used to clean up the area that had been stripped. Trenches on the slopes revealed a deep cultivated soil."

"Work on County Inventories is continuing with the most recent inventories produced being: Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Waimarino, Waitotara, Wanganui and Taupo Counties. The work is being done by Kate Olsen. The North Island is now complete except for Tauranga County and Cook County; these are areas where Trust staff have been active and all the relevant records have not yet been filed."

People

Aileen Fox has recently been honoured with a D.Litt. from her old university, Exeter. The report in the local Western Morning News gives a brief history of her career including a mention of her decade in New Zealand. Aileen's archaeology began in 1929. "My family were going on a summer holiday at Lake Garda to play tennis. I chose instead to go on an excavation at Richborough in Kent. One of my tasks was collecting the finds from the workmen each day. They got a penny for a Roman coin and sixpence for a brooch."

Many older members of the Association will recall Laurie Birks who died recently in Auckland. Our sympathy goes to Helen, also once active in archaeological circles. I hope there will be an obituary in a future issue.

Another recent loss is Michael McDonald of Tukituki Road, Hastings, who was a keen member of the Hawkes Bay group.

Recent appointments are Kelvin Day to the Porirua Museum and Chris Jacobs to the Wanganui Regional Museum

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Recent publications

Historic Workshop for National Parks, Reserves, Walkways and other Protected Areas: 20-22 June 1984, Wellington (compiled by Josephine Breese and Lester Clark). Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington (National Parks Series, No. 31). 192 pp. \$6.00.

The June 1984 meeting which resulted in this very full volume was an important opportunity for land managers and archaeologists, historians, etc. to learn what each has to offer in the field of historic sites, conservation and interpretation.

In New Zealand we are only now beginning to interpret sites for the public; and as yet the results are not always entirely successful. Perhaps the major problems to be confronted in the area of conservation and interpretation of sites are not those of design and technology, or even the maintenance of site integrity, but of differing perceptions and commitments to the past and its places within our community. The issues arising from this were addressed to some extent at the meeting and some interesting results - both questions and answers - are contained in the report. Available for \$6.00 plus \$1.00 post and packing from: Department of Lands and Survey, Head Office, Private Bag, Wellington.

The recent 50th anniversary number of American Antiquity has much of interest to New Zealand archaeologists. I especially enjoyed Jeremy Sabloff's comments on the development of the journal itself. He quotes past editors to show that some problems have always been with us. Thus the first editor, W.C. McKern, writes in 1938:

"It is difficult to see how the work of the specialist can progress satisfactorily, if indeed it can survive, without the support of a constantly growing element of amateur students. American Antiquity, acting as the instrument of the Society for American Archaeology, hopes that it may serve to some extent in providing the means of a mutually beneficial contact between professionals and amateur students of American archaeology."

In the same editorial McKern writes of something which, again, is not unique to American Antiquity. For "general student" read "amateur".

"Since it was conceded that many of the more general students could best be served by articles prepared by such students themselves, and since it was foreseen that few among this large and important element of our readers would contribute major articles, your Editor announced that the "Correspondence" division was open for short articles submitted by non-specialist, non-professional students. There appeared to be an immediate, enthusiastic response to this invitation.

However, it now appears that the professionals and other specialists are threatening to take over the "Correspondence" division and make it their own. After all, your editor can only publish matter that is submitted to him. If contributions suitable for this division come preponderantly from the specialist the editor is helpless to maintain a balance favourable to the general student."

What more can be said?

Nor can I resist quoting Douglas Byers who succeeded McKern as editor. In 1941 he writes,

"Mumbo jumbo has always been a means by which the priests of secret cults have sought to mystify and impress their followers. If the initiates can build up a language of secret words of which only they know the meaning, then they are bound together and at once set apart from lesser men by their secret mysteries.

One can hardly blame the casual reader in search of information if he seems to feel that archaeologists are forming a secret society with a special jargon known only to its initiates.

...but consider the large number of people who are earnestly interested in the study of archaeology and on whom even the most sheltered of workers in endowed institutions must ultimately depend. How do they enter into the colossal game of Guess-what-I-mean?"

A very interesting article on Polynesian voyaging strategies and the constraints of canoe design and weather has recently been published.

Ben R. Finney, Anomalous westerlies, El Nino, and the colonization of the Pacific. American Anthropologist, 87:9-26 (1985).

Finney summarises the New Zealand situation assuming a settlement voyage from the Society Islands, Cooks or Marquesas. "The greater part of any voyage from one of these tropical eastern Polynesian archipelagos could have been made sailing before the trades, although once near New Zealand, a successful landfall would probably have hinged upon an anomalous spell of northerly or easterly winds, as New Zealand lies well south of the traditional belt and into the westerlies that sweep across the Pacific at the higher latitudes."

In the latest Tane is,

Nigel Prickett, An archaeological survey of the Chickens Islands (Marotere), New Zealand. Tane, 30:177-197.

New Zealander Gordon Lewthwaite, now teaching at California State University, Northridge, was home for a few months recently. A result of this visit has just been published.

Gordon Lewthwaite, Maungawhau and Maungakiekie: reinterpreting the cultural landscape. Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, 45:25-42 (1983).

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N.Z.A.A. Hawkes Bay group

Mary Joal tells me that this group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. Members visiting Napier who would like to meet local archaeologists ring Mary at 438675.

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Association T-shirts

T-shirts promoting the association are available. Sizes are M or L in red or dark blue, both with white lettering. The price is \$11.00 plus \$1.00 postage. Orders to the Sales Manager, c/- Auckland Museum, Private Bag, Auckland.

Ecological Society conference

The 1986 conference of the New Zealand Ecological Society will have as its topic "Moas, mammals and climate in the ecological history of New Zealand". The conference is to be held at Lincoln College, but I'm not sure when. Perhaps organiser M.R. Rudge, Ecology Division, D.S.I.R., Private Bag, Lower Hutt, will know.

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