



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NOTES AND NEWSPeople

Our President would like to add to the mention of Hawkes Bay member Michael McDonald's death in the September Newsletter. Michael McDonald "...died in June after a short illness and is much missed by his wife and two daughters. He much enjoyed the Newsletter. He was a keen member of our local branch and was a member of the Association since 1966."

Steve Edson has resigned as Waikato filekeeper after many year's service. The Association Council has appointed Neil Laurie to replace him.

Filekeepers newsletter

The latest (November) N.Z.H.P.T. filekeepers newsletter has some items of interest to Association members. The newsletter is compiled by Tony Walton.

"In September Bruce McFadgen investigated a pit site (U15/192) near Te Puke. The site was required for a farm airstrip. Only a single large pit was evident at the surface but the area around was stripped to reveal numbers of other pits of different sizes.

Excavations have been undertaken at Flat Rocks, Otahuhu, Auckland, directed by Russell Foster and Brenda Sewell. The area has proved to be rich in structural evidence, with numbers of pits, together with houses and other structures, and midden being uncovered.

A report on the salvage excavations of stone working areas in the Maitai Valley near Nelson has been received:

Witter, D. 1985 Maitai Valley salvage excavations. NZHPT, Wellington. 85pp plus appendices. "

"County inventories completed since the last newsletter are: (1) Kaikoura County, (2) Cheviot, Amuri, and Hurunui Counties, (3) Golden Bay County, (4) Buller County, (5) Waimea County, (6) Grey and Inangahua Counties, (7) Akaroa, Ellesmere, and Wairewa Counties."

"The Clutha Valley archaeological programme is winding down and it is anticipated that it will be completed by late 1986. The last fieldwork to be done is in the old part of Cromwell - an area which will be inundated. Work is continuing as removal

of buildings allow. Test trenching has recently been undertaken on seven cleared sites in the area of the old main street and a dump associated with the 1870s Golden Age Hotel was located and excavated."

"Discussions have been taking place between N.Z. Forest Service, the Trust and the tangata whenua about the future of sites in the Waipoua Valley, Northland. The valley is considered to be an impressive archaeological landscape with a high density of sites mostly in a good state of preservation. Priorities for archaeological research include defining settlement patterns in both the prehistoric and early historic. (Polack reported a large village in the valley with associated gardens, storage, and fortifications in the 1830s). Ian Smith plans an excavation of a site containing garden areas, pits, and possible occupied terraces in December."

"Atholl Anderson, the N.Z.A.A. Association's nominee on the Board, has been granted a years leave of absence. Helen Leach, already a member of the Archaeology Committee, will stand in as Chairman of the Archaeology Committee, and will sit on the Board. Ian Smith will take up the spare place on the Archaeology Committee."

"It is hoped to hold a Filekeepers' conference in Wellington in 1986. This will depend on the funds being made available."

#### Canterbury Museum's "Sponsor a Stone appeal

Beverley McCulloch writes,

"The first part of Canterbury Museum was opened officially on 30 September 1870 and its first Director was Julius Haast. Substantial additions to the building were made in 1872, 1876 and 1882. All these parts were of unreinforced masonry wall construction comprising basalts and andesites from Port Hills quarries, with limestone facings and ornamentation.

In this historic portion of the building, Haast wrote up his findings on Moa Bone Point Cave and Rakaia mouth, and formulated the first theories on New Zealand prehistory, coining the term "moa hunters" in the process.

In the same rooms, seventy years later, Dr Roger Duff wrote his thesis, "The Moa Hunter Period of Maori Culture", for many years the handbook of New Zealand archaeologists.

Now our historic building is in big trouble. The century old stonework does not comply with modern earthquake resistance standards. We are required to carry out securing and strengthening of the vulnerable areas within the next ten years. The alternative is demolition!

The cost of this work is estimated at more than a million dollars - money we do not have. In an effort to help out, if only in a small way, museum staff have launched a "Sponsor a Stone" appeal. We have estimated that the south wall of the old building contains approximately six thousand individual stone blocks, and are asking people to sponsor each block for a minimum of \$10. (We are of course very happy to accept more.) With a Government subsidy, this could raise up to one hundred thousand dollars.

Donors' names, addresses and the amount donated are recorded in a leather bound ledger which will go into museum archives. Donors are as well given a Certificate acknowledging their contribution.

Donations can be made at the museum desk and the book signed personally, or can be posted to "Sponsor a Stone", Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch. Cheques should be made out to "South Wall Fund". Certificates will be sent out to all postal donors. All donations are tax-deductible."

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#### Waikato guide

The Waikato Regional Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust has recently put together an excellent little guide to historic places of the Waikato and northern King Country areas. There is a good location map marking more than sixty historic places, with brief notes on all of them. Lots of photographs, including some in colour, illustrate the book.

The guide concentrates on the history of the various places and does not describe or interpret the various archaeological remains which are listed. That is still to be done. Nonetheless, within its limitations it is a book which locals and visitors to the region would do well to keep in their glove box.

Waikato Regional Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Waikato - Northern King Country Historical Guide.  
N.Z.H.P.T., 1985. 49pp.

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Back numbers anyone?

John Coster informs me that the Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland office needs the following Newsletters to complete their run. Can anyone help? Write to John, c/o Department of Lands and Survey, Private Bag, Auckland.

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| Vol 1 | 1       | 7    |
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|       | 3/1,3,4 | 9/1  |
|       | 4/1,2,3 | 17/3 |
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Footnotes

Further to "Notes and News" in the September issue, Richard Cassels has asked me to acknowledge Brian Reeve of Wellington as the source of the newspaper cuttings on Auckland's volcanic cones. Also, I apologise to Chris Jacomb for the typo that slipped through which changed his name.

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