



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NOTES AND NEWSConference 1986

This year's conference should normally have been a short, Queen's Birthday Weekend, affair. Instead we had a week in Cromwell, soaking up the landscape and looking at the old gold mining sites of Central Otago. The reason for this interruption to the schedule was that the archaeological programme resulting from the Clutha hydro-electric development programme is concluding this year (and, what is worse, much of the country will be soon under water); this was an opportunity to see the archaeology of the region which will not come again.

Conference organiser and Clutha Valley Development archaeologist, Neville Ritchie has been based at Cromwell for more than eight years. In that time hundreds of sites have been recorded in the Central Otago region and dozens of sites excavated. Archaeology has concentrated on the areas affected by the development programme and flooding, but the brief for Neville's work was deliberately made wider than this and as a result there now can be few part of New Zealand for which there is such a full and coherent archaeological picture.

Cromwell is not an easy place for people to get to - especially for North Islanders - but there was nonetheless a good turn-out of approximately 75 Association members for the Conference. The weather gave us a beautiful day for the Tuesday field trip. Morning fog cleared early at the beginning of the week but hung about later to give low overcast days at the end of our time.

The conference was opened by the Clutha Valley Development Chief Project Engineer who had some nice things to say about the related archaeology programme. The total cost of the archaeology has been approximately one million dollars which makes it far and away the most expensive archaeological programme yet carried out in New Zealand. But still small beer alongside the thousand million dollar tag for the project as a whole - and no real compensation for the loss of the valley and its sites.

Papers then began with Roger Green discussing the archaeological concept of 'kainga' and the recent excavation evidence. The paper resulted from his review article for work in the subject carried out at Pouerua, inland Bay of Islands, in recent years. Doug Sutton who initiated and directed the Pouerua project, then spoke on the evidence there for houses and 'kainga'. Finally before lunch, Pam Chester presented her results from palynological studies at the Bay of Islands. Work at a swamp near Waitangi suggests forest clearance as early as 600 A.D.



FIGURE 1. Neville Ritchie talking to Association members at Northburn.

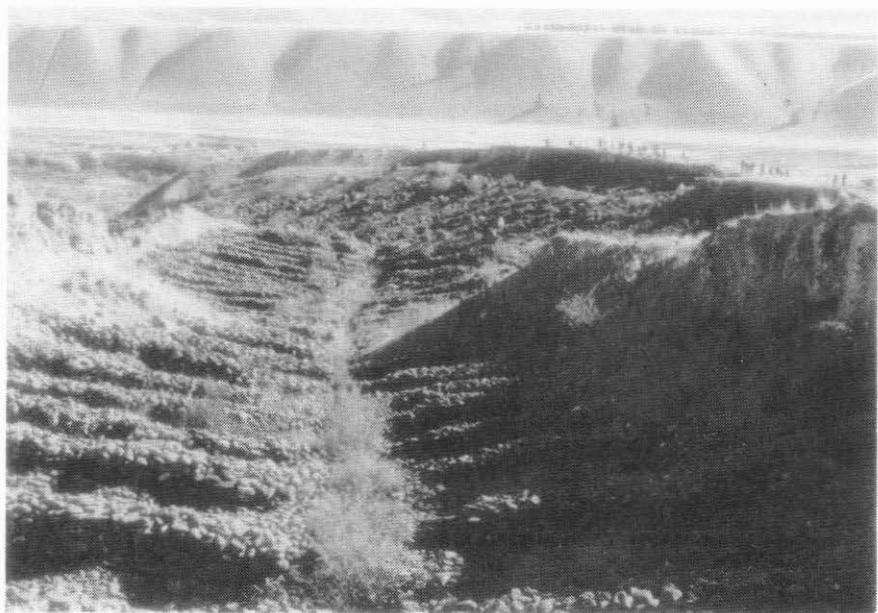


FIGURE 2. Northburn herring-bone tailings.



FIGURE 3. Miners huts at Welshtown



FIGURE 4. Welshtown.

In the afternoon, Pouerua papers concluded with Yvonne Marshall speaking about the excavation of terraces on the flanks of the Pouerua volcanic cone. After that John Coster looked at problems in management and conservation that have arisen in connection with his job with the Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland. Reg Nichol then reviewed faunal material from the Houhora (Mt Camel) site, arguing for permanent rather than seasonal occupation from the available evidence. After the break Karl Gillies introduced us to the Solander Islands and his winter 1985 fieldwork there which focussed on searching for the early 19th century sealers' camp. The day's papers concluded with Neville Ritchie giving a very quick slide show of the fieldwork and sites which have concerned him in Central Otago for the past several years.

Monday night there was something described in the programme as, "social/dance in the Lowburn Hall".

On Tuesday was the first of two day-long field trips. This turned out to be one of the truly memorable ones of recent years because of the sun, landscape, sites and our guide's knowledge and enthusiasm. We began at Cromwell's 'Chinatown' which was every bit as interesting as distant acquaintance via the Newsletter and television had led me to expect. This too will vanish under "Lake Dunstan" - as will the old stone-built town centre from which Cromwell businesses have shifted to a mall in the image of suburbia some distance out of town to the north-west.

We travelled down the Cromwell Gorge to the Clyde dam site - which only depressed by reminding us of the threat that hangs over all this wonderful landscape, and indeed the destruction already occurring. On the way back we had pointed out to us some of the rock shelters low in the gorge, most of which housed miners, but some which sheltered much earlier visitors long before the miners came to 'Central'. At the top end of the gorge is the place where Hartley and Reilly found gold in the winter of 1862 and started the great Dunstan 'rush'.

Lunch was at Northburn, on the road to Tarras. The man-made landscape here is fascinating (from the air it is riveting as aerial photos show). The 'herring-bone' tailings are now protected in an historic reserve (Figs 1 and 2). Down by the road is a little hut beneath a rock which is very characteristic of 19th century miner's dwellings when men lived hard in the hope of gold (cover). Inside there is barely room to move about a small bed.

The last stop of the day was Bendigo and the 1870s-90s mining settlements of Welshtown and Logantown high up on the

range above. We were ferried up the hill in mini-buses. At Welshstown are the remains of a number of houses beautifully constructed of schist (Figs 3-5). Deep shafts show where miners dug for quartz gold. In nearby gullies are the remains of stamper batteries. The old miners, and Association members lucky enough to be there, enjoyed tremendous views over a great tract of country north and west.

On Wednesday we returned to papers. Proceedings began with an informative presentation of the Waipoua programme given by Ian Lawlor and Ian Smith. Ian Lawlor then returned with Robert Brassey to outline the activities of Auckland Conservancy Forest Service archaeologists in the past twelve months, in particular at Oruru, Waitangi and Waiuku forests. Tony Walton and Bruce McFadgen pursued their queries regarding the evidence for horticulture in the Cook Strait region (Palliser Bay and Whitireia Peninsula, Porirua).

After lunch Peter Adds outlined the results of recent work at Clarence River mouth. Kevin Jones then looked at fortifications and gardening on the Waipaoa Plains, Gisborne, a presentation enlivened by some superb aerial slides. Continuing in the East Coast region Pam Bain spoke about Liz Hinds' 1970 dig at Hapenui (Loisels Beach), and about East Cape middens and Whale Island, Bay of Plenty. The last paper before afternoon tea was controversial: Bruce McFadgen ... this time giving his views on the history and formation of the Fyffe site, Kaikoura.

The final session of the day began with Ray Hooker who looked at south Westland nephrites - the raw material, sources, technology, and artefacts and their distribution. An American archaeologist Alexy Simmons then introduced the results of three archaeological conservation projects in Idaho and Oregon. Of interest is that problems and techniques for dealing with them are very similar in New Zealand and U.S.A.

In the evening was the Association A.G.M. Resolutions and the results of Council elections are reported separately (below).

On Thursday was the second fieldtrip. The day was grey and cold. I did not feel well so sat in the warm bus rather than attempting to see everything on show.

We started off at the Bannockburn sluicings which proved a most interesting variation on the theme of mining technology. Above the sluicings is Stewart Town where the beautiful old mud-built huts, orchards, enclosures and water races make up an outstanding historical setting. The cob and mud-brick

buildings are deteriorating fast for which there is no apparent solution. The bus driver (the same excellent driver we had on Tuesday) detoured into Bannockburn township on the way back to show us his home town.

We lunched at the Kawarau Gorge Mining Centre run for the Otago Goldfields Park by Mike Bennett (who I first met in the early seventies when he was meat hunting in the Waiatoto). The centre is an attempt by the Goldfields Park to illustrate a variety of gold mining technologies and remains. Continuing on up the Kawarau Gorge we stopped to see rock shelters and archaeological excavation sites low on the opposite bank and the superb 1880 suspension bridge below Gibston.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent at Arrowtown. Ah Lum's store and the adjacent Chinese township are being developed by the Goldfields Park in lieu of Cromwell Chinatown which is soon to be lost. The remains of stone-built huts make for easy interpretation, especially as the visitor is aided by two excellent restorations.

As for Arrowtown itself, the historic character of the place is fast vanishing under the weight of the tourist industry. The main street is taken up with shops selling things that tourists buy. New buildings and renovations to old are generally out of character with the surviving 19th century town; together with the names of the various establishments the mix is Robert Service and Colonial Williamsburg. One almost expects Dangerous Dan McGrew to come driving down the street in a barouche.

The museum is well worth a look. The old building contains generally excellent displays relating to the Lakes District. A recent addition is architecturally unsympathetic and thus far provides little more than an unattractive foyer.

On Thursday night was held the annual meeting of the Institute of New Zealand Archaeologists.

Friday was the final day of papers and conference. Business began with Andrew Piper introducing his work with domestic animal bone assemblages from Central Otago sites. Wendy Harsant then farewelled the famous 'Skinner gallery' of the Otago Museum which she is returning to Dunedin to dismantle prior to installation of the 'Te Maori' exhibition. I hope Wendy will give us something for the Newsletter from her talk.

After morning tea Hardwicke Knight talked about the Cromwell typhoid epidemic of 1874 and its social and environmental



FIGURE 5. *Welshtown.*

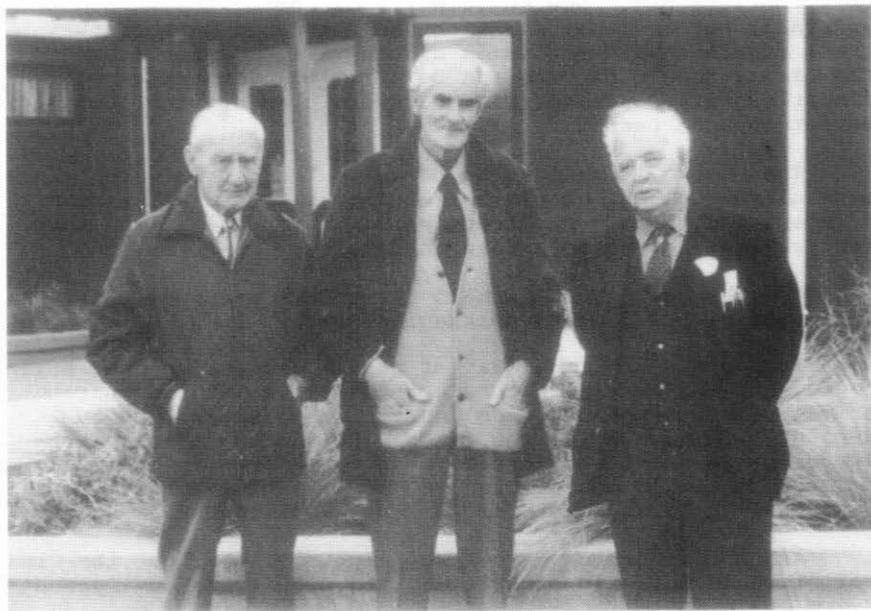


FIGURE 6. *From left: Les Lockerbie, Hardwicke Knight and Ron Scarlett.*

aspects; Barry Fankhauser introduced umu-ti; and Karl Gillies looked at how hangi actually cook food.

First up in the afternoon was an excellent talk with outstanding slides from Paul Mahoney (Historic Resources Management, Forest Service, Wellington). Paul's subject was problems and considerations in selecting sites for preservation. Wendy Harsant then spoke again - this time on the history of collecting at the important Dunedin site of Murdering Beach. Included were fascinating pictures of H.D. Skinner's 1926 excavations.

Graeme Mason wondered if our archaeology is not based upon a 14th century error in the development of scientific enquiry; and Barry Fankhauser returned to present his radiocarbon dates for South Canterbury umu-ti - the difficulties in using charcoal for dating were clear to see.

The very last papers session comprised Lands and Survey Department rangers, Roger Gould and Bob Willis showing what has been done in preserving cave art sites in South Canterbury; and Neville Ritchie introducing the archaeology of the Auckland Islands and management problems thereof. At the conclusion it was announced that Pam Chester had won the prize for the best student or amateur paper. We all then went our various ways.

It was an excellent conference. I wonder if there are more amateurs coming to conferences now than in the recent past? In any event there seems to be a more varied lot of Association members attending; there is now something for everyone in papers and socialising. Students and other professionals talk a lot of archaeology during the year, it is good not having to talk exactly the same archaeology during conference. Among long-time Association members at Cromwell were Les Lockerbie and Hardwicke Knight from Dunedin and Ron Scarlett, Christchurch (Fig.6).

The new Cromwell College Auditorium proved an excellent venue. It was nice to be in Central Otago again after so many years. The fieldtrips - especially Tuesday - were excellent.

Thanks for the organisation and smooth running of the conference are due to Neville Ritchie, Debbie Foster and Andrew Piper.

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Council 1986-87

Members will be aware there was something of a constitutional crisis this year regarding the office of Association

President. This has now been resolved. As a result of a second election Bruce McFadgen has now been elected President.

Nominations and elections have therefore resulted in the following Association Council for 1986-87.

President: Bruce McFadgen (Wellington)
 Vice-president: Neville Ritchie (Cromwell)
 Secretary: Wendy Harsant (Dunedin)
 Treasurer: Rick McGovern-Wilson (Dunedin)
 Council Members: Louise Furey (Auckland)
 Ray Hooker (Hokitika)
 Brenda Sewell (Auckland)
 Lyn Williams (Christchurch)

Immediate Past-President Mary Jeal continues as an ex-officio member.

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A.G.M. resolutions

Various resolutions were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held in Cromwell on the night of Wednesday 14 May.

The meeting resolved that the motion of the 1985 AGM regarding metal detectors be reiterated and that Council write to John Coster (Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland) and Brian Sheppard (N.Z. Historic Places Trust, Wellington) asking for their views on the subject for Council's consideration.

Following the report of our representative on the Royal Society members committee (Bruce McFadgen), it was resolved that the Association should support the Prince and Princess of Wales scheme for young scientists as this would benefit archaeology.

There was then passed a number of resolutions to tidy up the constitutional bother we found ourselves in with the nomination of the existing President being invalid after her two years in the job. The meeting resolved:

1. That a new ballot paper be posted as soon as possible which would enable a new election for existing valid nominees for the position of President.
2. That these ballot papers be received by the Secretary within three weeks of the A.G.M. and that two scrutineers be appointed by the A.G.M. to count the votes and declare the elected President.

3. That the current President continue in her position until the 1986-87 President is elected.

We then turned our attention to the Newsletter as foreshadowed in the report on last year's conference.

1. It was resolved that the name of the New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter be changed to Archaeology in New Zealand.

2. And that this change be effective from Volume 31, 1988.

A number of resolutions were passed in general business. It was moved:

1. That the incoming Council organise a competition for the design of an Association logo for which a prize of \$100 be offered.

2. That the Association record, with regret the deaths of Robert Law and Lawrie Birks.

3. That subscription rates for 1986 be increased by \$2 for each category of membership.

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President's report

"In this the thirtieth year since the formation of the New Zealand Archaeological Association, I have much pleasure in presenting my second annual report. From Tauranga in May 1985 to Cromwell this year is a wide span in distance but it emphasises the Association's involvement throughout the whole of New Zealand.

Since May 1985 we have held three Council meetings, one in Wellington and two in Auckland. In each we concluded some business, helped other matters along, others by nature are ongoing and some have not been resolved. But I make the point, that all Council members have represented the Association to the best of their abilities, and they are considerable. I have been fully supported as President by the Council and especially by our able Secretary, Wendy Harsant. All have carried out tasks assigned to them. You can be pleased with the year's work of your representatives. Newsletter editor, Nigel Prickett, N.Z. Journal of Archaeology, editor, Janet Davidson and Sales Manager, Brenda Sewell have worked hard and effectively, Rick McGovern-Wilson has been able to keep us well into the black and with some to spare. The C14 committee Foss Leach and Anne Leahy have advised us of proposed new charges which are of concern to archaeologists.

Helen Leach has replaced Atholl Anderson on the Historic Places' Trust Board during Atholl's absence from New Zealand in 1986. Ian Smith was nominated to fill the vacancy on the Archaeology Committee for 1986.

Your Association made submissions on the proposed new environment department. We supported the government's moves towards the reorganisation and rationalisation of the management of cultural and natural resources. We also affirmed that archaeological sites are a non-renewable resource which are essential for the understanding of New Zealand's cultural and environmental history. We applaud past efforts to preserve and protect our cultural heritage and would like to see the protection of this resource continued and, if possible, strengthened.

I have fronted attempts to get an archaeology unit included in the school curriculum. We have the resources. The time is right. Social Studies and history are under review in major curriculum reassessments. Archaeology seems a possible adjunct of Taha Maori. Education authorities are not averse to suggestions but make Jim McKinlay's predictions of a long time ago very clear: "they'll take something alright if we present them with a basic resource kit". That is what our Association must now do.

In September members were invited to a weekend at Bethlehem Marae near Tauranga. The success of the conference visit to Te Puna Marae prompted the invitation. About twenty members attended, finding value in exchange with Maori people on archaeology.

In the November Council meeting it was decided to formulate a policy for monographs. A committee of three was set up to solicit material, arrange for refereeing and editing and supervise publication. Ongoing was the sticky subject of prosecutions for site destruction, Trust policy on this and how we can react positively. The Trust generously gave us free advertising space in their magazine.

The February Council meeting was prefaced by a day's visit to the Waipoua Forest, thanks to the Conservator of Forests, Auckland, ably arranged and conducted by Wendy Harsant, Louise Furey and Ian Lawlor. We were flown in two small planes from Auckland, and after an aerial reconnaissance landed at Dargaville. From here in the company of a Maori elder Ned Nathan and an archaeologist we went by minibus to the Forestry headquarters at Waipoua where the Chief Ranger made the point that there was a lot more to management of the Waipoua than archaeological sites! The rest of the day

was a lightning scramble to see the stone features which have caused such interest. My impression was of the dedication of all workers in site surveying and excavation and the commitment and meticulous work of the local Maoris, in particular two young boys. These grandsons of Mr Nathan were producing precise scale drawings of excavations in progress. An argument for archaeology for the young in schools?

The meeting next day was told that the poster given to the Association by New Zealand Aerial Mapping was ready at last. Archaeology has been a close interest of Piet Van Asch for the past thirty years and this interest has been maintained by his son Hugh, now managing the firm.

Filekeepers, of whom I am one, are grateful for Tony Walton's newsletters, summarising activity. These are digested for members in the Newsletter. Filekeepers rate a special mention and a big thank you. It is a time-consuming job, often most difficult because of misunderstandings and personality clashes and demands for instant information whether from individuals or local bodies. The Site Recording Co-ordinator has been able to resolve some things by his conciliatory role which have needed diplomacy".

Mary Jeal

Site Recording Co-ordinator's report 1986

"Now that virtually all site recording administration is undertaken by the Trust, and with a seemingly contented and stable band of filekeepers operating in their respected bailiwicks there has been little call on the services of the S.R.C. over the past year. Only five matters of S.R.C. business were transacted in this period. Controversies over access to files in Auckland and Canterbury were resolved by communication and arbitration.

Tony Walton's newsletter to filekeepers issued twice yearly is a very useful device in keeping filekeepers abreast of the times.

The Trust is attempting to mount a filekeepers' conference this year. There is a definite need for such a meeting to enable the exchange of ideas and problems and to generally bring our site recording system back into focus.

Steve Edson relinquished the Waikato file last year. He recommended as his successor: Neil C. Laurie, Exelby Road,

RD 9, Frankton (Phone HTN 495-269). The thanks of the Association are due to Steve for his long and valuable stewardship of the Waikato file.

The following information was supplied by Tony Walton. The size of the Central File as at 31 March 1986 is shown on the table below. There is little that requires explanation. Wellington is now all metric and 60 records have transferred from neighbouring files, particularly Wanganui. This also explains the drop in the Wanganui total. The increase in Marlborough is the result of intensive site surveys of goldmining areas in State Forests, while that in Otago results from the 1983 survey of the Lower Clutha valley, and a site survey in a State Forest. The Bay of Plenty and East Coast increases are the result of site surveys in those areas by Bruce McFadgen and Kevin Jones. All the records from the large site surveys in the Bay of Plenty in the last couple of years have now been processed.

On 31 March 1986 the Central File held a total of 38641 records. This is an increase of 3146 (9%) on last year's figure of 35495.

Region	1983	1984	1985	1986	85-86 Change
Northland	5583	5724	5920	6445	+ 525
Auckland	7629	7976	8995	9208	+ 213
Waikato	1902	1969	1974	2000	+ 26
Bay of Plenty	2778	3148	4760	6059	+1299
Taupo			382	382	
East Coast	1332	1465	1590	2027	+ 437
Taranaki	1221	1220	1269	1324	+ 55
Inland Patea	261	261	186	188	+ 2
Hawkes Bay	556	568	570	602	+ 32
Wanganui	383	388	457	434	- 23
Wellington	753	751	757	834	+ 77
Nelson	979	1022	1061	1102	+ 41
Marlborough	329	329	329	407	+ 78
Canterbury	1162	1164	1167	1168	+ 1
West Coast	282	350	385	410	+ 25
Otago	1980	2039	2039	2349	+ 310
Central Otago	1923	1955	1963	1969	+ 6
Southland	876	935	961	1003	+ 42
Offshore Islands	730	730	730	730	
	30659	31994	35495	38641	+3146

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

Stan Bartlett

Treasurer's report

"At the end of my first year as Association Treasurer I am pleased to announce that we are in a strong financial position. During the financial year all three accounts realised profits on their turnover.

The General Account saw an increase in income due largely to an increase in subs, coupled with a rise in the amount of bank interest and donations we received. Across the board expenses were similar to the previous year, with the biggest increase being in travelling expenses. The general expenses includes \$800 which was the cost of printing 4000 pamphlets, and this was offset by a donation from the Wellington staff of the Historic Places Trust.

A point that should be noted in the Publications Account relates to the value of the stock of monographs. This stock is usually assessed at half the saleable value (for the purpose of the audit) but this was felt to be an unrealistic figure. With 300 copies of Monograph 14 and 200 copies of Monograph 15 in stock, it is very unlikely that all will be sold so their value was adjusted downwards to give a more realistic figure in terms of our stock holdings.

The Journal Account has had an excellent year with a turnover of approximately \$3000 leading to a small profit for the year, rather than the significant deficit recorded in 1984.

Our membership has likewise seen a large increase over the past year, with an increase of over 50 members pushing our total members and subscribers over the 500 mark.

In October the spectre of GST will be upon us and this should make the forth-coming year very interesting. Because the three accounts operate independantly, and their incomes are under \$24,000, the Association does not have to register with the IRD. We will have to pay input tax on those services we receive, but these costs will not have to be passed on to members. The accumulated funds that we have at present

should mean that the Association will be able to cover these costs, but a reassessment will be needed during 1987."

Rick McGovern-Wilson

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Jack Diamond M.B.E.

Association members will have been delighted to learn of Jack Diamond's award of an M.B.E. "for services to archaeology", in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Jack is known for his fieldwork and writing on the archaeology and history of the Waitakere Ranges, west Auckland. His interests cover everything, but his best known work has been with the remains of the kauri timber milling industry of last century and Maori sites of the area. Much of the work has been carried out in partnership with Bruce Hayward. Less well known is his work on the brick industries of early Auckland, especially west Auckland. Over many years Jack has built up an unparalleled knowledge, and photographic and written record of these industries.

Jack Diamond is already past the age at which most people retire but he retains energy and enthusiasm that shame many people far younger. His award is much deserved - and it has a wider significance as well, as an official recognition of the value and importance of archaeology in our community.

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Summer 'dig' - call for volunteers

This summer there will be an excavation at the riverbank pa, Raupa, near Paeroa, Thames Valley. This important site is to be demolished by catchment board work, but before then there is an opportunity to find out something about it.

Caroline Phillips did preliminary work at the site early in 1984 (reported in the Newsletter, March 1985). It is hoped that the forthcoming excavation work will take this further. It has already been shown that the site has a complex history and that it is comparatively rich in material culture. Controlled excavation at Raupa may enable us to make more of the enormous assemblage from Oruarangi some miles down

the Waihou River, as well as the history of the Hauraki Plains as a whole, in addition to telling us something of the history of Raupa itself.

There is some money from the Historic Places Trust and the Auckland Museum to pay expenses. But there is no money for wages: this will have to be an entirely voluntary 'dig'.

We will be working at Raupa for six weeks: Monday 12 January to Saturday 21 February 1987. Volunteers are needed. Everyone is welcome, no matter how inexperienced - there will be enough people with experience to train those without. Preference will be given to people staying two weeks or more.

For more information contact:

Nigel Prickett
Auckland Museum
Private Bag
Auckland.

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