



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NOTES AND NEWSConference 1987

Its time to start thinking about the 1987 conference. It will be held in Wanganui over Queen's Birthday Weekend May 30 - June 1 and may be preceded by a field trip of two days to sites in the Wanganui district.

The organiser is

Chris Jacomb
Wanganui Regional Museum
P O Box 352
Wanganui

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Erratum

In the September "Notes and News" there is an error in the list of filekeepers.

Neville Ritchie is not, of course, the filekeeper for Otago. Neville is in charge of the Central Otago file. In charge of the Otago file is

Dr G. Hamel
42 Ann Street
Dunedin

My apologies. I hope the mistake did not lead to too much confusion.

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Logo competititon

Among the resolutions passed at the Cromwell A.G.M. was one directing the council or organise a competition for an Association logo. This is the call for action!

There is a \$100 prize. The closing date is 1 May 1987. Please send entries to

Louise Furey
3 Burnley Tce
Mt Eden
Auckland

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Filekeepers conference

I am indebted to Mary Jeal, our Hawkes Bay filekeeper for a report on the filekeepers' conference held in Wellington 26-27 September 1986.

"The N.Z.A.A. Filekeepers Conference has just finished. This was the first for six years and once again it was hosted, financed and arranged by the Historic Places Trust and held at Antrim House, Wellington.

Of the 19 Regional Filekeepers only three were unable to attend. Canterbury was represented by an ex-filekeeper, Sally Burrage. Since we last met in 1981 some file districts have been given new custodians. Bob Regnault (Bay of Plenty), Neil Laurie (Waikato), Perry Fletcher (Taupo), Dave Weston (Wanganui), and Pam Bain (Gisborne) are now in the ranks. Brenda Sewell represented N.Z.A.A. Council.

We were welcomed by John Daniels, Director of the Trust. He reaffirmed the partnership between the Association and the Trust, pointing out that the file system was a most valuable resource. At a time when money was short we were an important link. We should all be proud of our positions as keepers of the regional files and not be too modest about it. This aspect of the file and its importance arose later when the research tool value, commercial value and potential misuse of the file were stressed.

Next came a tour of Antrim House and sections dealing with filekeeping and site recording and including the totally inadequate laboratory but very impressive computer systems. We were amazed at the new programme devised by Brian Sheppard to give an accurate overview of where specific sites lie in the whole of New Zealand. Filekeepers, who are almost without exception, active site recorders, felt some satisfaction in having contributed some of the base material.

Then formal discussion began. Interpretation and implementation of the Historic Places Act 1980 was Brian Sheppard's subject. He spoke of recent Trust decisions which have been challenged, companies appealing decisions and the Minister's final say often overturning Trust's decisions. He said Maori and other public groups can be the most effective in upholding a Trust ruling and can also help administer the Act. We then broke for a scrumptious lunch.

Saturday afternoon was led off by Jim McKinlay now seconded to the Department of Conservation. Ken Piddington

as Director-General is the only appointment so far and Jim said he wanted a forward looking department where the aim was regionalisation. Here was explained where archaeology as an historic resource would be slotted, although final plans are still being worked out.

Tony Walton, who edits and compiles a newsletter to filekeepers, spoke on site recording and the 40,000 sites held so far.

Stan Bartlett, longtime Northland filekeeper spoke of storage problems in public institutions and in private homes and of access to the information in the file.

Bob Regnault, Bay of Plenty explained how he was dealing with an enormous number of sites and their file arrangements.

Then I chaired a special session on Association matters. Here the filekeepers showed that they are as different in their problems, their methods of solving them and the approach to their responsibilities as their file districts are divergent. This is Association's strength and the conference was a forum to use this to our mutual advantage.

In the evening an exotic buffet dinner was enjoyed by conference delegates and invited guests.

On Sunday Foss Leach gave a most comprehensive dissertation on the need in the very near future to consider the small computer and processing regional files in the districts. He showed how digital image processing could be used for recording photographs and site maps as well as the information contained in the record forms. This may well be how the file districts will develop, as the Outlying Islands file district has been fully computer based since 1977!

Susan Bulmer, Auckland filekeeper and Trust archaeologist told of recording sites on public land, in historic reserves. She pleaded for status to be accorded to garden sites which she declared to be under-valued, and under-recorded.

Three final papers were given on the thorny areas of mining licenses. Jill Hamel's paper was read and Westland filekeeper Bob Lawn pressed for a supervisor whose presence on the coast was essential. He said he often dealt with up to 50 mining applications each week. Karl Gillies also dealt with aspects of mining threats to sites.

An open session and a further look at worry spots concluded the 1986 Conference. We felt we had all gained."

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Publication

Ray Hooker has just published an excellent regional study based on his work of some years for the Forest Service based at Hokitika.

Ray Hooker, The Archaeology of the South Westland Maori. New Zealand Forest Service, Hokitika, 1986. 87 pp., bibliography, illustrations.

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Filekeepers newsletter

These notes are abstracted from the "New Zealand Historic Places Trust Filekeepers' Newsletter" dated 30 October 1986.

DOC. A major item on the October Archaeology Committee agenda was the re-organisation of government-funded archaeology in the new Department of Conservation. The proposed structure of DOC has eight Head Office Directorates and eight regional units. The Archaeology Section is part of the Directorate of Science in the new Department and will work with the Directorate of Tourism, Recreation, and Historic Resources to service the Trust. Staff will be more closely integrated in the DOC structure, rather than forming a distinct unit as at present. Details of exactly how various elements fit together is still being worked out.

Registration. As at 10 October 1986 the New Zealand Register of Archaeological Sites contained 615 records. This is an increase of 72 on the last figure reported.

Recent site surveys and site survey reports. Reports of site survey work received recently include the following.

Chester, P.J. 1986 Waikaremoana power development dredging of Lake Whakamarino archaeological site survey. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 31 pp.

Six sites, including two pa, recorded in the vicinity of Lake Whakamarino near Lake Waikaremoana.

- Foster, R. and D. Veart 1986 Harris Road West mound complex: an archaeological survey. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 22 pp.
- Survey of stone structures on a 4 ha property at East Tamaki. 492 features recorded. Features interpreted as indicating a garden area.
- Hamel, J. 1985 Gold miners and their landscape at Naseby: an archaeological survey of Naseby Forest. N.Z. Forest Service. 63 pp.
- Survey of the history and relict landscape features of the Naseby goldfield, Otago.
- Hancox, N.G. 1985 Quartz mines of the Blackwater goldfield 1896 - 1951. N.Z. Forest Service. 163 pp.
- Survey of the history and relict landscape features of the Blackwater goldfields, in the vicinity of Waiuta, West Coast.
- Jacomb, C. and S. Easdale 1984 Lindis gold rush investigation. Dept. of Lands and Survey. 57 pp.
- Identification of the scene of the Lindis gold rush of 1861 and survey of features that still exist in the area, including those produced by subsequent mining.
- Jeal, M. and M. Jeal 1986 A third season of archaeological site recording on the Mahia Peninsula. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 38 pp.
- 38 sites recorded, including five pa and an archaic midden, in an archaeologically virtually unexplored area.
- Mason, G.M. 1986 Report on survey of historic sites in the Kinleith Forest: Summer 1984-5. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 14 pp.
- Survey of sites, including both Maori occupation and remains associated with the forestry industry in Kinleith Forest.
- Morgan, P.H. 1986 Site survey of the Waikato River bank from Ngaruawahia to Cambridge. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 25 pp.

Survey undertaken as an adjunct to Waikato regional assessment programme. Known sites revisited and records updated and information sought about artefact findspots and destroyed sites.

Nevin, G.E. 1986 Archaeological survey of the proposed Opuā marina site. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 23 pp.

Two previously recorded sites were recorded in greater detail and test pits were dug (permit 1986/25) to determine the extent of shell midden (site N15/274) on the flat behind the beach.

Nevin, G.E. and 1986 Archaeological survey of Motukaroro
D.C. Nevin Island N24/553 in Whangarei Harbour.
N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 37 pp.

Recording of archaeological features on a small island proposed for residential development.

Olsen, K. and 1986 An archaeological site survey of coastal
M. Hurst dunes south of Te Arai, January 1986.
N.Z. Forest Service. 129 pp.

Survey resulted in 47 newly recorded shell midden sites.

Taylor, M. and 1985 Waipoua Archaeological project Stage
A. Sutton 1 report. N.Z. Forest Service.

Survey, resurvey, and site management work.

Walton, A. 1986 An archaeological site survey of Petro-
corp land at Tikorangi, near Waitara.
N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 8 pp.

Survey of area of proposed industrial development. One additional pa recorded and records of two others updated.

Recent excavations and excavation reports. Archaeologists working for the Forest Service have excavated pits, terraces, and other features in Donovan's Block near Taipa, Doubtless Bay (Permit 1986/23). A major find was a pit with the timbers of the structure, including a piece of carving, preserved by fire having carbonised the wood. Casts were taken of the carving which was too fragile to be recovered.

In early September Trust staff (McFadgen and Walton) monitored earthmoving for a reservoir at Roto-o-rangi, in

the Waikato. The hill was the site of an 1870s redoubt, but the presence of an earlier pa was inferred from a scarp and terrace around the south end of the hill on which the redoubt stood. However, a considerable area was cleared within the presumed interior of the pa and nothing unequivocally Maori in origin was found. The scarp around the south side of the hill is, therefore, unlikely to be from a former pa on the site and may be a feature associated with the redoubt.

In early October a site was located when a natural gas pipeline was laid near Whakatane. The site, which consisted of pits, ovens, etc, was on a sand dune in a low-lying area of the Whakatane flood plain. The site was briefly investigated by P. Morgan and K. Jones.

A report has been received on limited test excavations at two sites (N20/553 ?garden boundaries and N20/546 midden/cooking debris) in the Raumanga valley near Whangarei.

Maingay, J. 1986 Preliminary excavations at Raumanga valley - Whangarei. N.Z. Historic Places Trust. 15 pp.

A report has also been received on the 1983 excavations in Briers Block, Coromandel Peninsula.

Furey, L. 1986 Brier Block Whangapoua Forest archaeological excavations and project summary. N.Z. Forest Service. 57 pp.

Unauthorised damage to archaeological sites. The Trust has decided to take no action against a prospective tenant of the Otatara Pa Historic Reserve for damaging Otatara pa. The damage was done while negotiations were still in progress over the lease. The prospective tenant put stock on the land and laid pipes and a trough, disturbing an area of about 20 x 5 m. This case illustrates yet again that reserve status is no guarantee against damage.

Other site damage reported this year includes the levelling of a large part of Te Ihupuka a famous pa near the mouth of the Waitotara River, south Taranaki, by its Maori owners.

County inventories. Recently completed inventories include Cook County, Maniototo, Waihemo and Silverpeaks Counties, Tuapeka, Bruce and Clutha Counties, Lake County, Vincent County, Southland County, and Westland County. This leaves

only a few inventories to go to complete the series. The intention now is to update some of the existing inventories for areas where there has been further site recording.

Chatham Islands. In early October Bruce McFadgen visited the Chatham Islands with Foss Leach to examine the petroglyphs at Te Ana Nuku and the dendroglyphs at Hapupu, and to report on site threat generally. There appears to have been a significant deterioration in the condition of the petroglyphs in recent years and protective measures are now required urgently including screening against both the weather and vandalism. The dendroglyphs too are deteriorating at a marked rate. (Robin Watt addressed this problem in the N.Z.A.A. Newsletter (1982) 25:65-72). He noted that it was ironic that efforts to preserve the carvings were contributing to their eventual disappearance as the renewed growth of trees in the fenced-off areas promoted the closing of the wounds made by the carvings.)

Another major problem is the bad erosion along the sandy coast north of Owenga, and elsewhere. The erosion has cut back into an old sand dune exposing in section a buried soil with charcoal, shell midden and bone. It appears that the soil, which may have begun forming about 600 years ago, was the ground surface at the time of Moriori occupation. Continued erosion poses a major threat to coastal sites in these areas.

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Wellington Archaeological Society

The Wellington Archaeological Society, which has been inactive for about six years, is being revived. Planned activities include monthly meetings, the re-recording of sites in the Wellington area, and small scale excavations.

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