



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NOTES AND NEWSArchaeology and DOC

By now 'DOC' should be no mystery to New Zealand archaeologists: it stands for the 'Department of Conservation', the new government department charged with the conservation of natural and cultural resources in this country. Under its umbrella come all the archaeological units previously scattered about the Historic Places Trust, the old Department of Lands and Survey and the Forest Service.

Whether this consolidation of disparate resources is itself a good thing is open to question. Certainly the re-shaping of public archaeology in New Zealand is far too important simply to be left to those directly involved. In this Newsletter are published three short articles to inform members on some of the issues involved and what is being discussed within the Trust and by the new department.

It seems to me that the fundamental question is this: how does the re-organisation affect the conservation of New Zealand's archaeological heritage? Many particular issues which have arisen - and are arising - in the course of the reorganisation should be referred back to this fundamental question.

One issue is that of centralisation vs regionalisation. Is archaeological conservation best served by regional or central (Wellington) resources? What sort of balance should there be between Wellington and the regions? What roles should Wellington and regional resources play?

What balance should be struck between 'science' and 'conservation' in the new department? Is science to be in the service of conservation? or is conservation to be in the service of science?

What sort of career structure will there be for archaeologists in the new department? At present there is a two-tiered structure: those employed by the Trust on the government science scale, and those employed in short term contract positions inherited from Lands and Survey and the Forest Service. Can this be a good thing? At least one archaeologist, however, is fully integrated within DOC's structure as a 'Conservation Officer' - might this status and its security be more suited to the responsibilities of archaeologists within DOC?

What of the future of the Trust in all this? Already a decision has been made that the Trust's Wellington archaeologists are to go to the new DOC Science Directorate - that

is, shift out of Antrim House. In the regions the new department is now setting the goals and establishing the work programmes. Will there be any useful role for the Trust's Archaeology Committee, or indeed the Board? Will there remain any sense of corporate identity with those other Trust roles which are also important parts of the general field of conservation of cultural resources?

What will be the role of DOC archaeologists? Will DOC management responsibilities concentrate resources on DOC lands? The Historic Places Act emphasises the protection of all sites more than 100 years old. What of sites on private land and the immense and never-ending public relations task of enlisting land-owner support in their conservation?

Many Association members will have thought about these issues; for others, the three articles by John Daniels, Murray Hosking and John Coster will provide food for thought. What is certain is that structures are now being put in place which will not be so easy to influence again. This Association has had a considerable input in the past when major changes have been made. DOC has shown a willingness to listen and to support archaeology. We must make our voice heard. The future of public archaeology in this country should depend on neither indifference nor self-interest.

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Bill Moloney

Mary Jeal writes,

"Bill Moloney of Hastings died on the 31st July 1987. He was a man of immense historical and traditional knowledge. The Ngati Kahungunu regarded him as a respected elder of Pakipaki marae, Hawkes Bay. For many years he agitated for the preservation and restoration of Taraia's unique raupo-constructed meeting house. One of his happiest moments was when he saw the restoration completed and its continuing care assured.

The esteem in which he was held by the Maori community was expressed at Bill's funeral service by Mr John Koko. Members of his 'tribe' farewelled him with a waiata. As a longstanding member of the New Zealand Archaeological Association he gave freely of his vast knowledge of the traditions and protocol of the Maori. In his appointment as regional representative on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust his ability was recognised.

Bill was unstinting of his time, talking to groups - Maori, Pakeha, old and young - of his great love. Until his last illness he had conducted hundreds of people on to pa sites, to meeting houses and on many marae. This man was a treasure house of knowledge and with his passing we have lost a vital link.

Bill Moloney, 2nd N.Z.E.F., was buried in the Hastings Servicemen's Lawn Cemetery."

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Sampling of archaeological sites for radiocarbon dating

Bruce McFadgen has forwarded the following note regarding radiocarbon samples.

"At a recent meeting of the Institute of Nuclear Sciences radiocarbon advisory committees some concern was expressed over problems that could arise when samples taken from archaeological sites are submitted to the earth sciences radiocarbon committee. Archaeological sites are protected by the Historic Places Act 1980 and special conditions apply to the sampling of sites for radiocarbon dating as a result of the Act. For the purpose of the Act an archaeological site is broadly defined as any physical evidence of human activity older than 100 years, of whatever cultural origin.

Under the Act it is an offence to knowingly disturb a site without first having permission to do so from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. It is Trust Board policy that any disturbance for research requires a written permit from the Trust. This includes sampling for radiocarbon dating, even though such sampling may not materially alter the scientific information that a site may contain.

Both radiocarbon advisory committees are aware of the requirements of the Historic Places Act and will check samples for reference to a permit where appropriate.

Permits are normally valid for six months and a brief report that the work was done is normally required by the Trust within 28 days of the work being carried out.

If radiocarbon samples are to be taken from layers below an archaeological site and their collection will disturb archaeological remains, then application must be made to the Trust for an authority to disturb the site. Details similar to those for a permit should be provided, except that no Maori concurrence is required."

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Social Sciences Research Fund Committee

Terry Loomis, Director SSRFC, writes as follows:

"The Social Sciences Research Fund Committee is in the process of setting up two data-banks to serve the New Zealand social science community.

The first, called SOcNET, is intended to be a comprehensive listing of social scientists by field and organised affiliation. The primary aim of SOcNET is to facilitate communication and networking among social scientists within and across disciplinary boundaries. To that end, only the most basic bibliographic information will be necessary. This should make the task of keeping SOcNET up to date less laborious for all concerned.

At present, there is no central directory of social scientists. Though various associations maintain their own membership registries. It is intended that SOcNET would provide a nodal point for government departments, overseas scholars, the media, private firms and community groups to contact social scientists throughout New Zealand.

The second data-bank, called SOcWIP, will be a current listing of social research in progress. SOcWIP is intended to provide researchers with information on current studies, for comparative, collaborative or interdisciplinary purposes. It will permit the SSRFC to research issues or areas for possible fostering of research, seminar topics, and roundtable discussions among researchers. SOcWIP will also be valuable in providing background information research reviews, as well as government policy advice.

Both programmes are being set up on an in-office micro-computer with 10 mb hard disk drive to provide room for expansion and speed of access. At first, only phone enquiries and printouts will be available, though it is eventually hoped to have a dial-direct access. We are also corresponding with the Asian Association of Social Research Council, with the intention of eventually linking up with their planned Asian and Pacific Social Science network (APINESS)."

SOCNET and SOCWIP forms are included with this issue. If you are interested please fill in and return to:

Dr Terry Loomis, Director
SSRFC
P O Box 27-042
Wellington

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"From the Beginning"

Members will find a leaflet with this issue advertising a new book on New Zealand archaeology. "From the Beginning" is a general introduction to the results of New Zealand archaeology aimed at people with no special knowledge of the subject. It is profusely illustrated with short contributed chapters on a variety of subject areas. The book results from the initiative of Atholl Anderson who grew tired of the accusation that archaeologists were not communicating with the general public and, unlike most of us, did something about it. Give it to a friend for Christmas.

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Publications

Members may recall that some years ago I mentioned a book in this column entitled simply "Laya". Written by Bernard Gadd, it was a fictional account of the first entry into the Pacific by an Austronesian speaking people.

The same author has now written an historical novel of the Moriori - based on what is known of the people and the Chatham Islands. "Dare Not Fail" is a story of young people facing challenges on their remote land and its surrounding seas. It is available from the publisher: Te Ropu Kahurangi, 43 Landscape Road, Papatoetoe, Auckland, for \$16.95.

Archaeological papers presented at the 1984 ANZAAS Conference at Canberra are now published. Included are contributions on new developments in dating technology, historical archaeology, palaeobiology, prehistoric diet, stone artefacts and cultural resource management.

Graeme Ward (ed.), Archaeology at ANZAAS. Canberra Archaeological Society, 1986. 264 pp. A\$10.00 post free.

Copies may be ordered from:

The Canberra Archaeological Society,
C/- Dept of Prehistory and Anthropology,
Faculty of Arts,
Australian National University
P O Box 4, Canberra A.C.T. 2601
Australia

An article of archaeological interest has recently appeared in the Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand

Brian Foster, Barnacles in Maori middens. J.R.S.N.Z., 16:43-49 (1986).

Michael Trotter has now published a full report on the back pack found in Canterbury some years ago (and briefly reported in the Newsletter, September 1984).

Michael Trotter, A prehistoric back pack from inland Canterbury. Records of the Canterbury Museum, 10:9-24 (1987).

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Raupa excavations 1988

Excavations will continue at Raupa near Paeroa this summer. Again this will be a volunteer dig. The season will be four weeks only: 17 January - 13 February 1988.

Volunteers are asked to contact:

Nigel Prickett
Auckland Institute and Museum
Private Bag
Auckland

Food and accommodation will be provided but volunteers will have to make their own way to and from Paeroa. It is recommended (but not essential) that people stay two weeks.

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Sale: Monograph 14

"A Lot of Spadework to be Done: essays in honour of Lady Aileen Fox by her New Zealand Friends", Bulmer, Law and Sutton (eds.), 1983. 329 pp.

Reduced from \$16.00 to \$8.00 only.

Orders should be sent to: The Sales Manager, N.Z.A.A., c/- Auckland Museum, Private Bag, Auckland. Cheques to be made payable to N.Z.A.A. (Publications). Please add \$2.00 post and packaging within New Zealand. Postage overseas and multiple orders will be invoiced.

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An appointment

Members will be delighted to learn that Richard Cassels has recently been appointed Director of the Otago Museum.

Richard was recently lost to us, taking up a position at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle; now he is to return to take up a challenging and important post.

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Subscriptions and GST

Council has decided that subscription rates for 1988 will be held at 1987 levels. In addition to this, it has been decided that the Association will not register for GST purposes, provided that GST remains at the current rate of 10%. If the tax level was to increase, then this decision will be re-assessed.

The Treasurer would appreciate any comments from members regarding GST and how they feel about the additional 10% being levied on subscriptions, keeping in mind that if the Association were to register, the Journal of Archaeology and future Monographs would also be levied.

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