



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



This document is made available by The New Zealand  
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons  
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

NOTES AND NEWSConference 1988

This year's conference was held at the University of Auckland between 9 and 14 May. The theme of the conference was "Maori Origins" and numerous papers and discussions centred on questions such as: When did people first arrive in New Zealand? Where did they come from? Was there single or multiple colonisation of New Zealand? Was there return prehistoric migration from New Zealand to tropical Polynesia? Each group of papers dealt with some aspect of the problem and was then followed by a discussion led by Pat Kirch. The sessions were well attended (most papers attracted between 80 and 130 people) and there was much vigorous debating of the merits of the various arguments. There was also one afternoon devoted to a miscellany of papers under the general heading of "Historic Archaeology".

The Conference got under way with people assembling for the welcome onto the University's new Te Rangi o Nui Marae. After the formal welcome the symbolism of the Whare Whakairo was explained by Paki Harrison. This was followed by registration.

The papers began in the afternoon with Cleve Barlow of the Department of Maori Studies explaining the concept of Te Wheiao, the state of transition, and why it is so frequently invoked by speakers on the marae.

In the final session of the day Geoff Irwin outlined a model of the settlement of Polynesia based on a strategy of deliberate exploration against the prevailing winds. The voyage out from the home island would be slow and erratic in many cases but would allow a rapid return home on the prevailing winds. According to this model, places like Hawaii and New Zealand would be settled late as a different, more dangerous, strategy is required. Garry Law then discussed the order of settlement of New Zealand, Hawaii, and Easter Island and noted that the presence or absence of traits may reflect last contact, not first contact, and may give a misleading impression of the order in which the places were settled.

That night conference participants gathered at the Auckland Museum for a tour of the Museum, and a wine and cheese function.

The first session of Tuesday morning was allocated to the linguists. Bruce Biggs looked at the relationship of Maori, Rarotongan, and Tahitian. The various methods of establishing relationships between languages failed to support claims that Maori was more closely related to Rarotongan than to Tahitian. Ray Harlow discussed Maori dialects and whether there was any

indication of links with other Polynesian languages. He speculated on whether some uniquely-shared traits of South Island Maori and Marquesan indicated a link between the two, or was shared innovation. Ross Clark discussed the Moriori language, noted how very little was known of the language, but argued that it was clearly distinct enough to be considered more than just a dialect of Maori.

The next session, on the date of first settlement of New Zealand, began with a paper given by Matt McGlone (as a co-author with Ian Barber, Richard Holdaway, and Atholl Anderson). The paper, which was entitled "an ecological approach to the settlement of New Zealand: the paradigmatic shift hits the fan", was a re-statement of the orthodox model of the settlement of New Zealand. The authors rejected suggestions of an early date of first settlement and argued that New Zealand was settled around 1000 B.P. (possibly later, but not much earlier) by sizeable groups (50-100), from more than one source. This was followed by Bruce McFadgen's discussion of the date of settlement as indicated by the stratigraphy in coastal sections. Again the suggested date of first settlement was late: less than 1000 years ago. Pat Grant then dealt with the effects of environmental change on the prehistory of New Zealand. He argued that there had been major natural changes in the environment in New Zealand prehistory and that the scale and magnitude of these changes was of a very different order to those induced by human activity. John Coster covered the evidence of early settlement in the Far North and concluded that settlement there began less than 1000 years ago.

Tuesday evening there was Conference dinner in the Whare Kai, and the Institute of New Zealand Archaeologists held their Annual General Meeting.

Wednesday was set aside for fieldtrips. A large group led by Ian Smith headed off to Motukorea (Brown's Island) to see a range of prehistoric sites, and a smaller group led by Bruce Hayward went off to Huia at the southern end of the Waitakere Ranges to look at sites associated with the Kauri timber industry and dating to the period 1850 to 1910.

Thursday got under way with a paper by Janet Davidson on the East Polynesian origins of the New Zealand Archaic. She emphasised that a major problem was that there was only limited material from East Polynesia to compare with the larger New Zealand samples. It was, therefore, difficult to pinpoint any particular island group or groups within Central East Polynesia as the origin of the New Zealand Archaic. Richard Walter discussed recent archaeological work in the Southern Cooks. There are now seven sites dated to the period 800-1300 A.D. Kazu Katayama then presented some results of a recent research

project in the Cook Islands. A number of specialists, including linguists and physical anthropologists, were involved in the project. Demographic and genealogical data was collected and skeletal material analysed. There was little evidence in the data of a close relationship between the Southern Cooks and the N.Z. Maori, but the relationship may have been obscured by later contacts.

After morning tea, Helen Leach discussed the transfer of the names of plants from one species in East Polynesia to a different species in New Zealand, and what this tells us. Liz Hudson then looked at the distribution and antiquity of the dog in Oceania and questioned the evidence for their early presence. In the discussion period Pat Kirch emphasised that there is an Archaic horizon in Central East Polynesia dated to about 800-1200 A.D. and that if New Zealand was settled earlier then the assemblages would have to be something different.

The first paper of the afternoon was one delayed from Monday. Peter Addis discussed Maori views of archaeology. Sue Bulmer then argued for an early date of first settlement, and suggested that the focus of early settlement would have been in the northern part of the North Island. This was followed by a paper by Doug Sutton re-stating his argument for early settlement and attempting to rebut some of the arguments of the critics. Ray Hooker described sites and artefacts belonging to the West Coast Archaic, and I then presented a paper on the dating of the Wellington prehistoric sequence. There is little evidence of early occupation, and only after about 500 B.P. is the evidence widespread.

That night the Association held its Annual General Meeting. The reports to the AGM are printed below, as are the results of the elections.

Friday morning was devoted to papers on the biological evidence of relationships between Maori and Polynesian populations. Roger Green read Phil Houghton's paper on relationships suggested by human biological data. He noted the homogeneity of human biological variables throughout Polynesia. George Seber then read D.G. Woodfield's paper on relationships suggested by serological data. East Polynesian groups are homogeneous, and distinct from West Polynesian and Melanesian populations. The potential of DNA fingerprinting in establishing relationships was noted. Alex Brewis, Maureen Molloy, and Doug Sutton then modelled the prehistoric Maori population as an indirect means of arriving at a date of first settlement.

An informal poll of conference participants was taken at the end of the session to ascertain if there was a consensus on the date of first settlement. The results were collated over

morning tea and reported back at the end of the discussion period. (The results of this poll are presented below.)

The final discussion in the "Maori Origins" section of the Conference centred on (1) voyaging, (2) the concept of the Archaic, (3) multiple origins, (4) environmental change - the timing and scale of impact, and (5) future research strategies.

The afternoon sessions saw a shift in focus to more recent times. Wynne Spring-Rice described her successful search for Fort Clarke in the Bay of Plenty, and the excavations undertaken at the site. Rob Brassey discussed settlement patterns in the Waitangi-Kerikeri area of the Bay of Islands, and identified five places which had been a focus of settlement through time. Kevin Jones looked at Spring's drawings of Anaura Bay, and derived some figures on the productivity of gardens. The productivity appeared to be low, about 2-5 tonnes per hectare.

Andrew Crosby described the situation that existed on Beqa, Fiji, at the end of prehistory. Bruce Hayward looked at New Zealand building stones, where they came from, and how they were used. Ian Smith's paper concerned faunal remains from the old Auckland gaol site. Neville Ritchie concluded the session with a report on the continuing work on the Heroic Era sites in Antarctica.

The public lecture that night was given by Ben Finney on "Hokule'a and the Polynesian past: epic voyages of rediscovery". The lecture focussed on the 1986 voyage of the Hokule'a to New Zealand, how this was achieved, and what it might tell us about voyaging in the past.

Saturday morning Rod Clough led a fieldtrip to the Pollen Brickworks site at Avondale.

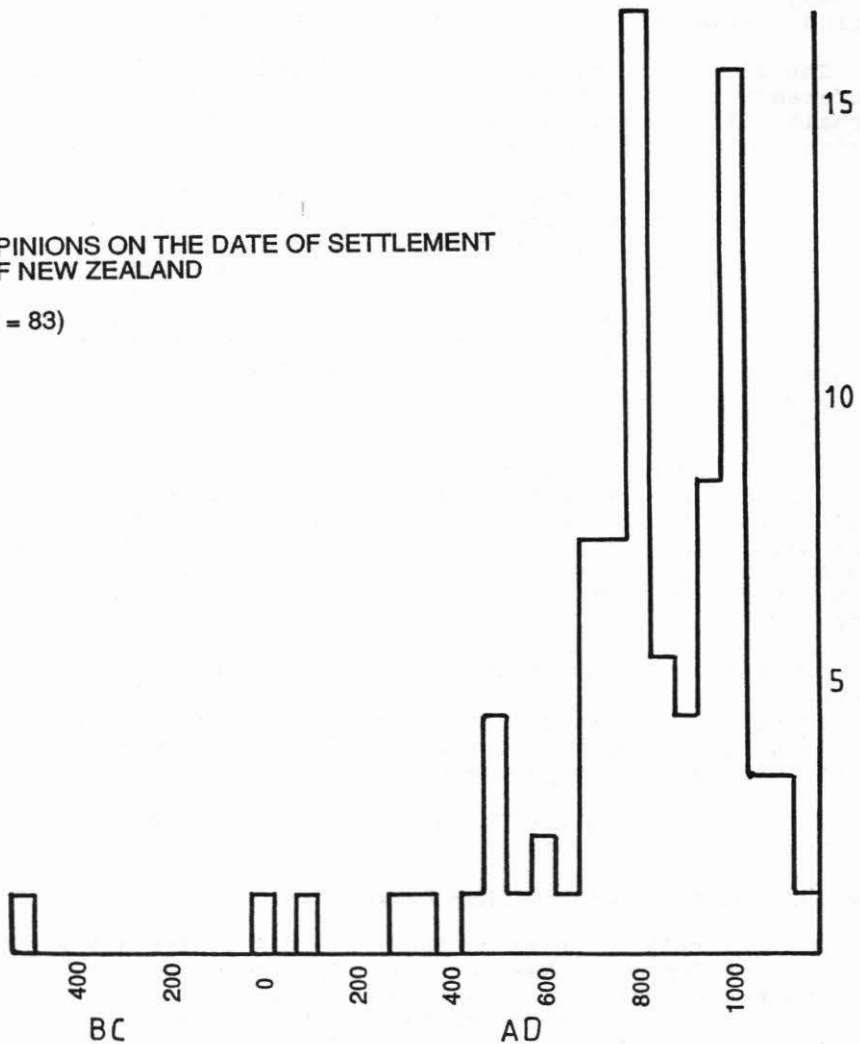
#### The date of settlement of New Zealand: A poll

A major talking point at the 1988 NZAA conference was the date of settlement of New Zealand. Conference participants were warned at the last session on Thursday that there would be an informal poll on this question the following morning, towards the end of the sessions on "Maori Origins". The aim of the poll was to establish if there was a consensus on the date of the settlement of New Zealand. Participants were asked to write their preferred date in calendar years on paper supplied by the organisers. They were asked give a single date and not a range.

There were 87 responses, but 4 gave ranges and were not incorporated in the analysis. Almost everyone took the task seriously although some, following in the footsteps of Bishops

OPINIONS ON THE DATE OF SETTLEMENT  
OF NEW ZEALAND

(n = 83)



Ussher and Lightfoot, couldn't resist adding an exact time, day, and month. The results are shown in the histogram. This shows that there is a very definite split between those who think settlement occurred around 800 A.D. and those who think it took place later, around 1000 A.D. This presumably reflects different assessments of how long it would take a population to become established, and become archaeologically visible. Both groups are relying on much on the same data to underpin their conclusions.

Beyond this, however, the results need to be considered in the light of suggestions of very early settlement, and in this respect the poll indicates a broad consensus that New Zealand was settled late. Some 83% of those polled thought New Zealand was settled after about 700 A.D. Only 17% suggested earlier dates, and most of these fell in the two hundred year period immediately before 700 A.D.

A number of people helped with this poll. Special thanks to Garry Law for giving up morning tea to help go through the returns, and for drawing the original histogram reported back to the Conference.

#### Council 1988-9

The Association's Council for 1988-9 is:

President:	Neville Ritchie (Hamilton)
Vice-president:	Louise Furey (Auckland)
Secretary:	Michelle Horwood (Porirua)
Treasurer:	Rick McGovern-Wilson (Dunedin)
Council:	Peter Addis (Wellington)
	Ray Hooker (Hokitika)
	Mary Jeal (Napier)
	Ron Scarlett (Christchurch)

The Immediate Past President is Bruce McFadgen (Wellington)

#### President's Report

Bruce McFadgen writes:

"Membership of the Association is currently 467, a drop of 18 compared with last year. The breakdown of members is as follows:

	<u>Membership</u>	
<u>1987</u>		<u>1988</u>
329	NZ Individuals	315
9	NZ Honorary	10
11	NZ Institutional	10
<u>35</u>	NZ Subscribers	<u>32</u>
384	NZ Total	367
41	Overseas Individuals	39
4	Overseas Honorary	4
<u>56</u>	Overseas Institutional	<u>57</u>
101	Overseas Total	100
485	Total	467

Among the changes to archaeology this year has been the transfer of Internal Affairs archaeology staff, who had

exclusively serviced the Historic Places Trust, to the Department of Conservation. The Department now manages its own needs and those of the Trust in historic resources management. The former staff still advise the Historic Places Trust on archaeological matters and applications for permits and authorities are still made to the Director of the Historic Places Trust.

The NZAA nominee to the Historic Places Board, Dr Atholl Anderson, completed his term of office on March 31st and is unavailable for a further term. During his four years on the Trust Board Dr Anderson has represented the interests of archaeology both efficiently and effectively.

Implementation of 'user pays' to radiocarbon dating has meant a cost for the running of radiocarbon dates of several hundred dollars per date. Council investigated the possibility of setting up a trust fund to help offset the cost of dates but has shelved the idea since it was announced by the Minister of Finance that tax deductions are no longer available for charitable donations.

Now that the Institute of Nuclear Sciences is charging for radiocarbon dates, more samples are being sent to Waikato University for dating. Council has been concerned that such samples by-pass the radiocarbon screening committee set up by NZAA and INS to ensure that samples are properly prepared and will date the events they are intended to date. Council supports the principle that all radiocarbon dates submitted by archaeologists be scrutinised by an NZAA screening committee. Accordingly, an approach has been made to Waikato University Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory to set up an archaeological screening committee for this laboratory. Association members are requested to send their Waikato samples to Dr Neville Ritchie, C/- Department of Conservation, Private Bag, Hamilton.

The retirement of Dr Nigel Prickett as Newsletter editor has been accepted with regret. Dr Prickett has served the Association well for some ten years and I am pleased to record the Association's grateful thanks for a job well done. His position is being taken over by Mr Tony Walton.

With the focus of government archaeology now being through the Department of Conservation, increasing demands are being made on the Association's site recording file. In situations where a DoC employee is filekeeper and carries out filekeeping duties during working hours, Council has agreed that no charges for consulting the file will be made for sites on DoC land. Access free of charge is to be maintained and guaranteed for NZAA members using the files for research purposes, and access to the file is to remain at the filekeeper's discretion at all times. Where the filekeeper is not a DoC officer and a request



is made by DoC for a duplicate copy of a regional file, Council is to be consulted and will assess each case on its merits. The duplicated file will remain NZAA property and conditions will be made in order to safeguard master files held by regional filekeepers.

Following notification about the forthcoming review of the Historic Places Act, Council wrote to the Department of Conservation setting out its views on what should be incorporated in the archaeological provisions of the act. These included the continuation of the principles on which the present act is based, the strengthening of the provisions relating to protection of traditional sites and historic areas, and expanding the definition of an archaeological site.

In stepping down as President I would like to thank all Council members and other officers of the Association for their hard work and support during the past year."

#### Treasurer's report for 1987 Financial Year

Rick McGovern-Wilson writes:

"The trend which developed in 1986 continued through 1987, with both the Journal and Publication Accounts continuing to grow, while the General Account (which handles the day-to-day running of the Association) operated at a loss.

Expenditure for the Journal Account has been slashed considerably over the past two or three years, and with the income increasing, is now in an excellent financial state. For the second year running the Publications Account did not produce a Monograph but still managed to run at a slight profit. This was largely due to income from Feathered Gods and Fishhooks flowing through from the 1986 year. A similar situation will occur between 1987 and 1988 with the Association purchasing copies of From the Beginning for which the funds will be received in the 1988 financial year. The stock of monographs continues to be cut in value as they depreciate and become obsolete.

The General Account made a substantial loss this year, in comparison to past years, and this is attributable to two major factors. The largest increase in expense was for postage - 100% for general expenses, and nearly 200% for postage of the Newsletter. Additional Newsletter expenses were in the printing - with the cost of producing each issue rising from \$1400 at the beginning of the year to nearly \$1900 by the end of 1987.

The second major reason was the loss of income caused by the Association losing members. More than 40 members were lost

during the year - some resigning for various reasons, but most were members struck from the record for having outstanding subscriptions for both 1986 and 1987.

What does this mean for the future of the Association? Following discussions with the auditor, it appears that individual sections of the Association can register for GST independently. Because of the current healthy state of both the Publications and Journal Accounts, it is felt that for the time being they can continue without being registered. For the General Account, however, I would suggest that the time has come for this account to register for GST purposes, as a means of cutting the expenses incurred."

NZAA C14 Advisory Committee Report, 1987

Anne Leahy writes:

"There are two radiocarbon labs processing archaeological samples in New Zealand now, the Institute of Nuclear Sciences in Lower Hutt and the lab at the University of Waikato.

Charges are now made for all samples. The I.N.S. charges are: \$150 + GST for research samples, \$500 + GST for commercial work.

The Tandem Accelerator at the I.N.S. is now in operation and can process very small samples (i.e. leaves, bits of twigs, etc.). It costs \$250 for refereed samples and \$600 for commercial ones.

During 1987 fifty nine archaeological results were reported back, the majority being subsidized samples. There are 31 samples awaiting processing at present and the waiting time is about 8 weeks.

The I.N.S. lab has a minimum weight for samples:

Shell	150 gms	preferably one species
Charcoal	50 gms	identified twig wood
Wood	50 gms	twig wood
Bone, peat, organic matter		1 kg.

It is possible for some samples to be a bit less than specified but if they are much smaller then it is suggested that the Tandem Accelerator be used. Some shells may require XRD analysis (pipis, cockles and oysters excepted). The charge for this is \$40.

The new I.N.S. scientist to take Charlie McGill's place at the C14 lab is Nicola Redvers-Higgins. She is a U.K. trained archaeological scientist and has only recently arrived. We are looking forward to her archaeological experience being of great help to us.

A new sample submission form is being finalized. It will cover archaeological, botanical and geological samples sent to the lab. This should simplify recording on the I.N.S. data base.

Archaeologists now have the option of sending their samples to either the I.N.S. or the University of Waikato for dating. The Waikato lab charges \$350 for each sample and the processing time is 2-4 weeks. These samples do not go through the NZAA screening committee. The I.N.S. samples have two categories (as mentioned above) namely subsidized samples and a commercial rate. It should be noted that the I.N.S. process refereed research samples at the subsidized cost of \$150, with a waiting time of about 8 weeks.

Foss Leach has resigned from his position as the South Island member of the Screening Committee. He has put a great deal of time into the position and his scientific knowledge has been invaluable to both the N.Z.A.A. and the I.N.S. A person to take his place on the Screening Committee has yet to be appointed. Foss will attend the meetings as an observer in future."

#### SIZE OF CENTRAL FILE as at 31 March 1988

On 31 March 1988 the Central File held a total of 41350 records. This is an increase of 941 on last year's figure of 40409. This represents an increase of about 2.3%

Regional totals are as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>Change</u>
Northland	7119	7258	+ 139
Auckland	9711	6539	-3172
Coromandel		3558	+3558
Waikato	2155	2160	+ 5
Bay of Plenty	6038	6294	+ 256
Taupo	306	306	
East Coast	2147	2149	+ 2
Taranaki	1222	1225	+ 3
Inland Patea	287	287	
Hawkes Bay	693	782	+ 89
Wanganui	537	539	+ 2
Wellington	839	852	+ 13
Nelson	1183	1187	+ 4
Marlborough	437	438	+ 1
Canterbury	1082	1082	
West Coast	479	493	+ 14
Otago	2214	2214	
Central Otago	1940	1940	

Southland	1230	1257	+ 27
Outlying Islands	<u>790</u>	<u>790</u>	
	<u>40409</u>	<u>41350</u>	<u>+ 941</u>

The count is based on metric boundaries, whether or not they are in use.

#### Recent Site Survey Reports

Reports recently received at DoC/NZHPT Central Office:

Hamel, J.            1988    Historic and archaeological sites in the Longwoods Forests, Southland. Report to DoC. 23 pp.

Report on archaeological remains in the Longwoods Forest. Sites recorded are all historic and associated with the goldmining and sawmilling industries. Remains from both alluvial mining (the forest contains the major Round Hill field worked from 1875 to 1956) and quartz mining present

Maingay, J.        1988    Realignment of State Highway 12, Whirinaki Hill: a preliminary archaeological assessment. DoC, Science and Research Internal Report 7. 23 pp.

Survey of sites in the area likely to be affected by a proposed realignment of State Highway 12 in the South Hokianga area. Nine sites recorded, mostly pits and terraces. Destruction of two sites considered unavoidable.

Nevin, G.E.        1987    Preliminary archaeological survey of the proposed prison site at Puhipuhi. DoC. 39 pp.

Site survey of area of a proposed new prison. Documentary evidence of occupation and cultivations. Archaeological features include stone rows and heaps.

#### Recent Excavation Reports

Reports recently received at DoC/NZHPT Central Office:

Fyfe, R.            1987    Test excavations Marsland Hill New Plymouth. An Historical and archaeological assessment. Report to NZHPT. 38 pp.

Report on preliminary excavations on part of Marsland Hill. The hill was the site of Pukaka pa but was extensively re-shaped by the military in the 1850s and was the major

military base in Taranaki during the period of the Taranaki Wars. Excavations were conducted in an area to be disturbed by construction of a new Civil Defence Building.

Maingay, J            1988    Excavation of Wood's flour mill,  
Whangarei: a preliminary report.  
DoC. 12 pp.

Report of an excavation at a flour mill which operated for a decade from 1869.

#### New Publication

Now available:

Louise Furey and Nigel Prickett, 1988. Author, Title, and Subject Index of the New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter Volumes 1-30, 1957-1987. NZAA Monograph 16.

Orders to: The NZAA Sales Manager, C/- Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland. Price: \$10.50 (members) and \$12.50 (non-members). Please add \$1.50 for post and packaging within New Zealand, and \$2.50 overseas. Multiple orders will be invoiced separately. Cheques should be made payable to: NZAA (Publications).

#### The Kaitaia Lintel

The following letter from Derric Vincent to Doug Sutton dated 31 December 1987 is quoted with the permission of both writer and recipient:

"One of the perils of going into print is that some nark quibbles over rather minor points. I refer to your Journal of Archaeology article (with which I agree wholeheartedly) on the point of the Kaitaia 'lintel'. It was not found at or near Awanui but at Pukepoto about five km south-west of Kaitaia. The precise spot was pointed out to me 20 years ago by Joe Clark who collected it for the Auckland Museum as their fossicker in this district. Today of course there would have been an investigation of the site but that doesn't seem to have been done though I have been informed that there were 'moa' ovens nearby. The site is on the town dairy milk farm owned by Tom Reed of Paihia who has told me I am welcome to visit it for any purpose. It might still replay a proper survey, particularly as there is a suspicious looking post of some antiquity in a nearby bank and evidence of other habitation and usage nearby, i.e. obsidian, and a causeway down to the bay of the former Lake Tangonge. Also in the same general area there are the famous excavated channels possibly for wildlife snaring, and a handsome adze of Nelson argillite as well as a massive greenstone adze from the district are now in the Kaitaia museum.

Incidentally, the wood of the Kaitaia roof or gateway ornament has been identified as Dacrydium kirkii which is the most durable of all NZ timbers. It is now very rare in the bush but I think it was used extensively by the first Polynesian settlers. It is, or was, known as kerosine wood because it burnt so readily.

Back to the discovery of the carving. It was exposed when a waterway was enlarged as part of the swamp drainage efforts in the second decade of this century. It was pulled out of a bank and sold or given to Clark and restored by Bill Geard, the local undertaker, and a first-rate craftsman in wood. Clark said he got fifty quid from the museum. Both he and Geard are now incommunicado, being dead.

...Somehow I feel the answer to a number of the origin problems lies in the Far North."

Derric also points out that "of course, it isn't a 'lintel' but rather a roof ornament or perhaps from a gateway. It is obviously meant to be seen from both sides." Anyone interested in following up the suggestion of a closer inspection of the site should contact Derric Vincent, P.O. Box 86, Ahipara.

#### Damage to Tapiri pa (N95/58)

Te Tapiri pa (Nevin and Nevin 1980) was damaged early in April when a controlled burn by Timberlands got out of control and jumped a firebreak. A bulldozer cut a swath through the site, destroying some 30% of the defensive perimeter and some 50% of the interior. The site has been inspected by DoC staff, and recommendations made to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Nevin, D. and G. Nevin. 1980. Archaeological sites of the engagement at Te Tapiri, 1865. NZAA Newsletter 23:7-10.

#### Resource Management Law Reform

The Association has set up a subcommittee, consisting of John Coster, John Palmer, and Rick McGovern-Wilson, to produce submissions on Resource Management Law Reform. The review is already under way, and is being done by the Ministry For The Environment. Under review are: the Town and Country Planning Act, the Mining Act, and other statutes dealing with the management of air, land, water, and minerals. Subcommittee members would welcome input from members on whether the current legislation adequately addresses the need to protect archaeological sites, and suggestions of how to improve the legislation. Contact: Rick McGovern-Wilson, P.O. Box 6337, Dunedin.