



NEW ZEALAND
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NOTES AND NEWS1989 NZAA Conference

The 1989 Conference will be held at Hokitika between 8 and 12 May. The venue is the Hokitika Multicultural Centre. Conference organiser is Ray Hooker.

Session themes suggested to date, with the West Coast venue in mind, are "settlement in adversity" and "trade". Those wishing to present papers at the conference should contact the conference organiser, Ray Hooker, Department of Conservation, Private Bag, Hokitika, by 1 April indicating their proposed title and projected content. Presentations will be limited to 30 minutes, including time for questions. Information on accommodation is available in the Automobile Association's South Island accommodation handbook.

Circum-Pacific Prehistory Conference

A Circum-Pacific Prehistory Conference will be hosted in Seattle by Washington State University and the Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society. The conference will run from 2-6 August 1989. One theme session is devoted to the activities of archaeology societies, to which members of the Association could contribute. There is another session on the evolution of Homo sapiens in Asia. Participants include Doug Sutton on the development of social complexity in Northland; Janet Davidson, Roger Green and Pat Kirch on Lapita; Charles Higham on the earliest coastal occupants of mainland S.E. Asia and also on the development of civilisation there; Simon Best on the first 1000 years in Fiji; and Geoff Irwin on trade in the Melanesian islands.

Recent Site Survey Reports

Reports recently received at DoC/NZHPT Central Office:

Bristow, P. 1988. Waverley archaeology: an archaeological survey of selected areas of the Waverley-Whenuakura Region. Wanganui Regional Museum. 30pp.

Report on site survey of selected areas around Waverley-Whenuakura, including the coastal strip around Waipipi, the dune belt lakes, Lake Moumahaki in the hill country, and part of the Whenuakura River valley.

Johnson, L. 1988. Archaeological survey of the Vink subdivisions, Takou Bay, Whangaroa. Internal Report 28,

Directorate of Science and Research, DoC. 26pp.

Archaeological survey of a proposed two stage residential subdivision near Whangaroa, Northland. Eighteen sites, mostly midden, recorded.

Recent Excavation Reports

Reports recently received at DoC/NZHPT Central Office:

Chester, P. 1988. The history and archaeology of Lambton Quay 76-84, Wellington. Site R27/157. Unpublished report. 458pp.

A detailed report on the excavations at a demolition site in Central Wellington once the site of a prominent building of early Wellington - Aldzdorf's Hotel.

Robinson, J. 1988. Initial excavation of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society's fishponds. Internal Report 27, Directorate of Science and Research, DoC. 31pp.

Investigation of the remains of Auckland Acclimatisation Society's trout hatching and rearing complex. Complex was in use in the 1870s and 1880s.

Short, S. 1988. Excavation of T12/654, Whangamata. Unpublished report. 26pp.

Report on a rescue excavation carried out in December 1987 - January 1988 in Tairua Forest. Site was a terrace/midden/pit site and four radiocarbon dates suggest occupation in the 16-17th centuries.

Notes and news from Auckland

Robert Brassey writes:

"Louise Furey recently gave birth to a baby daughter, Anna. Louise is currently on maternity leave from the Department of Conservation, but is continuing in her role as NZAA Coromandel filekeeper. The Coromandel and Auckland files have been shifted from the University and are currently housed with the DoC Regional Archaeology Unit in Benedict Street. Harry Allen has been appointed to the Board of the N.Z. Historic Places Trust on the nomination of NZAA, and is Chairman of the Historic Sites Committee. John Coster has moved away from professional archaeology. John has been appointed Liaison Officer at the Auckland Institute and Museum, and will be providing a liaison service for the many small

museums in the northern North Island. Ian Smith has also accepted a new appointment as lecturer with the Anthropology Department, University of Otago, and will be moving (back) to Dunedin in January. Ian Lawlor is working as an archaeologist for the Auckland Regional Authority and has been checking potential water reservoir sites in the Auckland region. Of concern to many people in Auckland is the termination of Mike Taylor's employment. Mike was one of a number of DoC contract employees whose jobs were lost as a result of the Department's financial difficulties. Mike has had a long involvement with the Waipoua area working for the Forest Service and Department of Conservation. He is currently carrying out research for the Waitangi Tribunal on the Waipoua claim.

Much of the archaeological activity in the Auckland area has centred round urban archaeology, with a number of investigations planned or in the process of analysis or writing up. Further north, Joan Maingay has been carrying out a second phase of excavation of features associated with leather tanning at Pompallier House, and Simon Best, Roger Green and Ed Visser have all recently been involved with archaeological fieldwork in the Pacific.

All of the N.Z. Forest Service Auckland Conservancy archaeology and historic resource management files have been transferred to the custody of National Archives. The 90 file volumes are a valuable record of archaeology within areas of former state forest in the northern North Island during the period 1973-1987. The files are held at the B.J. Ball Building, Hardinge Street, Auckland, under the accession number A584. The postal address and telephone number of National Archives is: Northern Regional Archives, P.O. Box 2220, Auckland, Telephone (09) 732-755."

Notes and News from Wellington

The Wellington Archaeological Society (Archaeology Section of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of N.Z.) has organised 10 monthly meetings this year dealing with a variety of topics from local archaeology, to rock art conservation and radiocarbon dating. In October the Society organised a fieldtrip to Te Ikaamaru Bay, where the Society, led by Janet Davidson, had undertaken excavations in the summer of 1962-3. Twenty-four people made the trek across the hills, including three who had been involved in the 1962-3 fieldwork. The Society has run no excavations since the early 1970s but is now planning two or three small scale excavations at local sites over the next eighteen months or so. The excavations are intended to investigate the origin and function of the many terraces recorded in the Wellington area. The first excavation will be undertaken at a site at Titahi Bay, Porirua, over

Easter 1989.

Mary O'Keefe, currently on contract to the Science and Research Directorate, DoC, proceeds apace with a new series of the "Historic Places Inventories". They have now been done for the top half of the North Island and at time of writing the Thames-Coromandel District has been completed. By the time Mary's contract finishes in March 1989 she hopes to have completed the North Island.

Kevin Jones has been working with the Eastern Region of DoC, the Ngati Awa Trust Board and the Whakatane District Council on interpretative boards for reserves and walkways in the Whakatane area. As part of the exercise Peter Addis is preparing the text of a booklet on the Kohi Point Walkway, which has an outstanding group of pa along its length.

Recently Published

The latest Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (no. 8) has an interesting paper by Simon Best on his survey of the Tokelau Islands. The islands are a group of atolls to the north of Samoa. In the excavations which were mainly in the present-day settlements shell fishhooks and adzes were found, and the lowest layers gave dates around 1000 years ago. Pig, dog, and chicken seem to have been introduced to the islands as late as the historic era. Dead corals below one of the sites gave an age of about 2500 years ago. Best concludes therefore that at the time of first settlement of Western Polynesia some 3000 years ago there was no prospect of settlement and hence Lapita on these islands. The first settlements flourished on dunes behind reefs a thousand years ago, when conditions in relation to hurricanes and water supply must have been even harsher than they are today.

Peter Addis describes Maori attitudes to archaeology in "He taonga tuku iho (A treasure handed down by the ancestors)" in The Landscape (1988) 37/38:31-32. Unfortunately, the compulsion to label attitudes and values as either Maori or Pakeha, and judge merit on that basis, is becoming increasingly evident.

Letter from the Minister of Conservation

Helen Clark, Minister of Conservation, has replied to a letter from the Association:

"Thank you for your letter of 19 September regarding the reduction of budget for the Department of Conservation's archaeological operations.

The Department has had to reduce its operations component of archaeological research this year, including those for its site recording programme. The Department of Conservation, like all Government Departments, is expected to live within its budget. Its is a matter of record that it did not do so last year. That has necessitated the taking of certain remedial action this year to bring its expenditure back on track.

I am confident that the Department can now look forward to a healthier existence once its financial and organisational house has been put in order. This is being tackled as a matter of urgency now.

I am grateful for the New Zealand Archaeological Association's support for the Department's archaeological responsibilities and believe that your continued advocacy, both to Government and the public, will assist in furthering conservation aims."

The Association believes that DoC is not being given the funds it requires to do all the tasks expected of it. Activities which came into DoC with minimal funding, such as historic resources management, are being hit particularly hard in the present circumstances. The Association will look for better things in the coming year.

Wanted to buy

Second hand copies of:

Helen Leach (1984) 1000 Years of Gardening in New Zealand; the first edition of M. Trotter and B. McCulloch (1971) Prehistoric Rock Art of New Zealand; A. Vayda (1960) Maori Warfare; P. Bellwood (1978) Archaeological Research at Lake Mangakaware NZAA Monograph 9; Atholl Anderson (ed) (1980) Birds of a Feather: Osteological & Archaeological Papers in Honour of R.J. Scarlett NZAA Monograph 11; N. Prickett (ed) (1982) The First Thousand Years NZAA Monograph 13.

The above titles are now out of print but the NZAA Sales Manager has requests from people wanting copies. Please write to Gabrielle Johnston, NZAA (Publications), C/- Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland, if you want to sell any of these books.