



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NOTES AND NEWSConference 1989

About 50 members of the Association gathered in Hokitika on the 8 May for a long (five day) Annual Conference. The Conference was organised by Ray Hooker and was held at the Hokitika Multicultural Centre. The Conference opened, as is now usual, with a powhiri. This was followed by registration and, after lunch, the first paper. Special mention should first be made, however, of the quality of the conference teas and lunches provided by a group doing an Access course in catering.

The first paper was given by Des Kahotea and was entitled "Pakeha archaeology". He touched on a range of matters involving the relationship between archaeologists and the Maori community. He suggested the emphasis on archaeology as a science helped to make the Maori community invisible, and emphasised the need for greater training in cultural awareness in graduate programmes. Sue Bulmer then discussed the concept of waahi tapu, noting that the word means different things to different people: some people believe all archaeological sites are waahi tapu, but others have more restricted definitions. Roger Green spoke about the various types of adzes in the Lapita adze kit and identified those which he thought were shared with other, older, traditions and those which were new and specific to the Lapita adze kit. The latter included the quadrangular/rectangular and plano-lateral adzes, and two adze types which were late innovations, being found only in the later Lapita adze kit. Nigel Prickett described excavations at Raupa pa and some of the results. He noted that one of the results of the excavations was that the Catchment Board had changed its plans and was now proposing to protect the site. John Campbell discussed lessons from Italy, Turkey and elsewhere on the protection of underwater sites. He noted that in New Zealand work on wrecks was still mostly about salvage and archaeology was a minor concern, when it was thought about at all. John Hall-Jones discussed the inaccuracies, contradictions, and other problems associated with Alice McKenzie's claimed sighting of a moa in Martins Bay late last century. He concluded that the evidence pointed to her having seen a takahe. Ian Barber completed the day's programme with a paper on made soils of the Waimea Plains, first described by Rigg and Bruce in the early 1920s. He noted that one area mapped as made soil was an extensive area of occupation and that his excavations had shown the need to distinguish sand and gravel additions for gardening from other changes in the soil resulting from occupation.

In the evening members visited the museum and afterwards enjoyed a wine and cheese gathering at DoC. The Institute of

New Zealand Archaeologists held its AGM.

Tuesday was taken up with a field trip along the coast to Punakaiki and the Fox River. Bob Lawn pointed out places of interest along the way, including the sites of early historical Maori settlements. A visit was made to a trial processing plant for ilmenite near Barrytown, and to Punakaiki in the Paparoa National Park - the latter being one of the highlights of the trip. Finally, a visit was made to the large cave at the Fox River mouth. The usual conference dinner was held that evening.

On Wednesday morning Mary O'Keeffe read Kevin Jones's paper describing recent work at Thornton and Puapuaruhe on the Rangitaiki Plains near Whakatane. Brenda Sewell read Martin McLean's paper on Auckland in the early 1840s. This was based on historical records and was a detailed study of who lived where, and what occupations were carried out where, in early Auckland. The work provides a basis for judgements to be made about areas of potential archaeological interest. Neville Ritchie then discussed the problems of excavating in Antarctica and described the various "dry" and "wet" forms of excavating ice. Dry excavation involves cutting or chipping the ice, while wet excavation involves melting the ice matrix. He concluded that both have disadvantages. Rick McGovern-Wilson then read Jill Hamel's paper on "mining sites are too big" which noted the difficulties of defining what constitutes a site in goldmining areas with their many different types of features spread over considerable areas. She noted the importance of water and suggested that water control features could be used to identify meaningful groups of features. Pam Chester spoke on her detailed survey of the Sulky Creek goldmining remains near Greymouth.

After lunch Neville Ritchie discussed the history and archaeology of Norfolk Island including pre-European settlement, the era of the penal colonies, and finally the settlement on Norfolk of the Pitcairn Islanders. Merivee Eaves then spoke of her work on identifying bricks, and brickmakers, in the Auckland area. Rick McGovern-Wilson read a paper jointly written with Atholl Anderson on Caughley's hypothesis that the settlement of New Zealand began at Kaikoura and that dates get progressively younger moving away from that point. They concluded that the evidence did not support this hypothesis. A discussion of historical archaeology and the direction it was taking in DoC/NZHPT followed. The discussion was largely inconclusive but there was some dissatisfaction expressed about the way things are going generally under the new DoC/NZHPT set-up. Russell Beck then gave a demonstration of what nephrite could do and the techniques that were used to work it. The public lecture that evening was by Russell Beck and was about "Jade in the Pacific".

The second field trip took place on Thursday. Bob Lawn again acted as guide. First stop was a large scale modern goldmining enterprise. The L & M dredge is working over an area left from the dredging operations of the 1920-50 period. This was followed by a visit to old ground sluicing workings at Woodstock. Adjacent to the site a current mining operation was working ground left by last century's miners. The trip stopped briefly on the shores of Lake Kaniere and then proceeded down to the Arahura River, a major source of nephrite. A second source area on the Styx River was also visited. The AGM was held in the evening.

Friday began with a paper by Chris Jacomb on his work at the Johnson site at Waverley. I then spoke on the results of a recent excavation on a terrace site at Titahi Bay at Porirua, and the implications this had for the interpretation of terrace sites in the Wellington area generally. Pam Chester described the results of her work at Lambton Quay in downtown Wellington. This was the site of Alzdorf's Hotel, a prominent building in the early years of settlement in Wellington. Brian Allingham described recent excavation at Shag River Mouth site including ovens and oven debris containing moa and seal bone and shell midden, and artefacts. Rick McGovern-Wilson described how computers were being used to keep track of the vast amount of data recovered from Shag River Mouth, and how this data can be manipulated by computer to help analyse spatial patterns. Brenda Sewell discussed the houses uncovered at the Fisher Road site in Auckland. The conference concluded with Nigel Prickett doing a quick tour, illustrated by slides, of English and Scottish archaeological sites. He noted that some places were all but ignored at a time when others were overcrowded with visitors.

The 1990 conference will be held in Wellington over Queen's Birthday weekend. The Wellington Archaeological Society (Archaeology Section of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand) is organising the conference.

#### Council 1989-90

The Association's Council for 1989-90 is:

President:	Neville Ritchie (Hamilton)
Vice-president:	Louise Furey (Auckland)
Secretary:	Moira White (Dunedin)
Treasurer:	Rick McGovern-Wilson (Dunedin)
Council:	Brian Allingham (Dunedin)
	Jenny Evans (Te Awamutu)
	Ray Hooker (Hokitika)
	Keren Lilburn (Auckland)

The Immediate Past President is Bruce McFadgen (Wellington)

Treasurer's Report for the 1988 Financial Year

Rick McGovern-Wilson writes:

"Despite the predictions of the 'doom and gloom' merchants at last year's Annual General Meeting in Auckland, I am happy to report to the members that 1988 was a very successful year for the Association, in which the trend experienced during 1986-87 was dramatically reversed. Through rigorous control on expenditure, coupled with the release of a popular monograph, and a large increase in membership, 1988 saw all accounts realise a healthy expansion.

The Journal of Archaeology Account continued its successful run, and capitalised some of its accumulated funds by way of the purchase of a desk-top publishing computer, as discussed at last year's AGM. The typesetting of the Journal will now be undertaken on this computer, so reducing overall production costs and with the long term aim of producing all the Association's publications through our own stand-alone system. The Business Manager, Foss Leach, is to be congratulated for the work he is doing on the Association's behalf in trying to reduce costs in a field that is extremely labour intensive and therefore expensive.

The past year saw the introduction of our latest monograph, an index to volumes 1-30 of the N.Z.A.A. Newsletter, and although sales have been relatively slow they are encouraging. There are a number of projects in the pipeline at the moment, and it is quite likely that there will be at least two monographs produced in the next year. Added to this, Gabrielle Johnston (Publications Manager) reports a steady flow of requests for back-issues of the Newsletter.

The General Account saw a most dramatic recovery in the past year, helped by the success of the 1988 conference. Part of the rise in accumulated funds must, however, be accredited to the Search Fees Account. This account handles the income generated by commercial operations using the N.Z.A.A. Site Recording Files for information needed for their mining applications. The Council is still undecided about the use of these accumulated funds but has discussed the possibility of a fund to which non-institutional members could apply for help to pay for having C14 samples run. The General Account is now registered for G.S.T., another financial vagary with which the Treasurer has to come to terms!

As a concluding note, I would like to thank Foss, Carol (the Assistant Business Manager for the Journal) and Gabrielle for the expert way they are handling the various financial matters of the Association, and I trust that at this time next year I can be as equally optimistic in my report."

SIZE OF CENTRAL FILE as of 31 March 1989

On 31 March 1989 the Central File held a total of 42734 records. This is an increase of 1384 on last year's figure of 41350. This represents an increase of about 3.3%.

Regional totals are as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Change</u>
Northland	7258	7521	+ 263
Auckland	6539	6669	+ 130
Coromandel	3558	3618	+ 60
Waikato	2160	2178	+ 18
Bay of Plenty	6294	6302	+ 8
Taupo	306	306	
East Coast	2149	2441	+ 292
Taranaki	1225	1328	+ 103
Inland Patea	287	287	
Hawkes Bay	782	1015	+ 233
Wanganui	539	573	+ 34
Wellington	852	856	+ 4
Nelson	1187	1230	+ 43
Marlborough	438	440	+ 2
Canterbury	1082	1084	+ 2
West Coast	493	661	+ 168
Otago	2214	2215	+ 1
Central Otago	1940	1942	+ 2
Southland	1257	1278	+ 21
Outlying Islands	<u>790</u>	<u>790</u>	
	<u>41350</u>	<u>42734</u>	<u>+1384</u>
Summary:			
North Island files	31949	33094	+1145
South Island files	8611	8850	+ 239
Outlying Islands file	<u>790</u>	<u>790</u>	
	<u>41350</u>	<u>42734</u>	<u>+1384</u>

Count based on metric boundaries, whether or not they are in use.

The big increases in the East Coast and Hawkes Bay files were largely the result of the DoC-sponsored Wairoa survey, and Robert Hunter's work south of Hastings.