



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NOTES AND NEWSAnnual Conference, Wellington 1990

The 1990 conference will be held at Wellington on Queen's Birthday weekend 2-4 June. The venue is the Science Centre, Turnbull Street, Thorndon. The Conference is being organised for the Association by the local archaeological group (which operates as the Archaeology Section, Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand).

A single general theme has been chosen for the conference - 'Views of the past: looking at a thousand years of human settlement in New Zealand'. This theme recognises the designation of 1990 as a year in which to commemorate significant events in New Zealand history, most notably 150 years since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and about 1000 years of human settlement. A number of possible session topics have been suggested including one focussing on the Treaty and its implications for archaeology and cultural resource management. The Conference is an official 1990 project.

People wishing to present papers should contact: N.Z.A.A. 1990, C/- P.O. Box 3085, Wellington. Please advise whether a 20 or a 30 minute slot is required. Preference will be given to papers with an explicit 1990 theme.

New Publications And Reports

The Association's latest publication was launched at a gathering in Wellington on 28 October. The monograph was produced to honour Foss Leach's contribution as a teacher, and to mark his departure from the University of Otago. Eighteen former students contributed papers. Contributors came in for the launching from Auckland, Dunedin, New Plymouth, and Canberra.

Sutton, D.G. (ed) 1989. Saying So Doesn't Make It So: Papers in Honour of B. Foss Leach. N.Z.A.A. Monograph 17.

Contents:

Douglas G. Sutton    A biographical sketch

## HISTORICAL ESSAYS

Roger Fyfe    Anthropologist at war

Stuart Park    The Pacific stone adze studies of H.D. Skinner  
and Roger Duff: an historical survey

Atholl Anderson    A diary discovered: Bayard Booth at the Shag  
Mouth moa-hunting site

## ARCHAEOZOOLOGY

- Ian W.G. Smith Maori impact on the marine megafauna:  
pre-European distributions of New Zealand sea mammals
- Rick McGovern-Wilson First record of medullary bone from an  
archaeological context in New Zealand
- Douglas G. Sutton Moriori fishing: intensive exploitation of  
the inshore zone

## LITHIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES

- Michiko Intoh Water absorption testing of Pacific pottery
- Graeme K. Ward The Mangaasi pottery and the Mangaasi site
- Andrea Seelenfreund and Charles Bollong The sourcing of New  
Zealand archaeological obsidian artefacts using energy  
dispersive XRF spectroscopy
- K.E. Prickett The lithic assemblage from the headland pa at  
Kauri Point, Birkenhead, Auckland

## PALAEOBOTANY

- Barry Fankhauser The nutritive value and cooking of *Cordyline*  
*australis* (*Ti kouka*)
- Rod Wallace A preliminary study of wood types used in  
pre-European Maori wooden artefacts

## SETTLEMENT PATTERN STUDIES

- Kevin L. Jones Settlement chronology, pa and environment of  
Tolaga Bay, East Coast, North Island
- Yvonne Marshall Whaling, subsistence and settlement among the  
west coast people of Vancouver Island

## DATING

- K. John Dennison Dating New Zealand bone by electron spin  
resonance

## PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

- Jennifer Evans The incidence of dental caries in some  
prehistoric Pacific groups
- Michelle Horwood Diet reconstruction from human bone trace  
element analysis

Saying So Don't Make It So is available from the Sales  
Manager, New Zealand Archaeological Association Publications,  
C/- Auckland Institute and Museum, Private Bag, Auckland. The  
cost is \$25 plus postage and packaging (within New Zealand).  
There is a special \$5 discount for Association members.

- Phillips, F.L. 1989. Nga Tohu a Tainui. Landmarks of Tainui:  
A Geographical Record of Tainui Traditional history.  
Otorohanga, Tohu Publishers.

A remarkable book, well illustrated with photographs,  
detailing the traditions relating to about 150 pa in the Tainui

tribal area. A review will appear in a future issue.

Forbes, S. 1989. Hikurangi Forest Farms Ltd. Kopua Block archaeological survey. Kotuku Consultants Ltd for Department of Conservation. 16 pp.

Survey of an area of proposed forestry development. A pa and eight pit sites were recorded, all of them near the coast.

Forbes, S. 1989. Ngongotaha-Hamurana archaeological survey. Kotuku Consultants Ltd for Department of Conservation. 35 pp.

Survey of the north and west side of Lake Rotorua to update existing records and locate and record additional sites ahead of further suburban and agricultural development.

Ritchie, N. 1989. Te Kouma Road Widening, Coromandel. A survey and assessment of the impact on archaeological sites. Department of Conservation. for Thames-Coromandel District Council. 11 pp.

Survey of likely impact on archaeological sites of upgrading of a section of Te Kouma Road on Coromandel Peninsula - an area of high site density.

#### Recent, current, and proposed fieldwork

Atholl Anderson and Bruce McFadgen were back at the Shag river mouth moa-hunter site in late October doing some levelling as part of the University of Otago and Department of Conservation project. The levelling showed that 2 ovens were 1 m below high water mark and thus confirmed Von Haast's observations of the 1870s of ovens about 3 ft below high water mark.

The Department of Conservation has commissioned Pam Najar to look at the problems of conserving the rock art at the Kaingaroa and Tarawera sites, both of which are under the Department's care. This follows earlier measures taken by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust in the 1970s to conserve the Kaingaroa rock art shelter. An initial report has been prepared which sets out the steps which now need to be taken and a search is now being conducted to locate photographs of the Kaingaroa shelter in order to document changes in the site over the last few decades. Bruce McFadgen would like to hear from members who have photographs of either shelter, who might be willing to lend them to the Department for a short time.

(The Department of Conservation has also completed protective measures at Te Ana a Nunuku Cave in the Chatham Islands. A fence has been erected to exclude stock and measures have been taken to prevent water running down over the carvings.)

Susan Forbes is doing a reconnaissance survey of the Lower Mohaka River Valley for the Department of Conservation. This is an area where little survey has been done in the past and so is almost unknown in archaeological terms.

Michelle Horwood of the Porirua Museum (soon to move to the Wanganui Regional Museum) is investigating a midden site on Mana Island. The site is situated on a beach ridge and potentially contains a great deal of valuable information particularly concerning early subsistence patterns. The site was occupied, however, right through into 19th century when both Te Rauparaha and Te Rangihaeata had houses there. The island is a scientific reserve administered by the Department of Conservation and is currently being re-vegetated. The vegetation history of the island has been the subject of a study carried out by Pam Chester for Department of Conservation, the results of which are expected to be published next year. Excavations are also underway at the Buried Village at Tarawera. The work is directed by Alexy Simmons.

The Department of Conservation has made grants to assist two site recording projects: Nigel Prickett for a survey in Hawkes Bay, and Warren Gumley for a survey in the Waikawa Harbour-Toetoes Harbour area of Southland.

The Historic Places Trust has made a grant to Mary Jeal to continue her survey of the Mahia Peninsula. The Trust has indicated that it intends to put aside a sum of money annually for grants to assist students and others with site recording projects. People receiving grants would be expected to complete Site Record Forms and to provide a map showing the area covered and the location of sites recorded. Applications for grants can be made to Historic Places Trust now (and in future years up to the beginning of June).

Excavations at R11/1530 in Fort Street, Auckland, have uncovered the cellar of the Victoria Hotel. The hotel occupied the site from 1841 until it was destroyed by fire in 1865. A range of artefactual material dating from the 1841-1865 period was recovered. The excavations, which began in late September and ran through October, were directed by Rob Brassey and Sarah Macready. Meanwhile, the Historic Places Trust is planning a Workshop on Urban Archaeology to be held in Auckland in early 1990. The workshop will draw up guidelines for a national strategy on urban archaeological site investigation, site destruction, and public appreciation for consideration by the Trust's Historic Sites Committee.

### Department of Conservation: the new structure

The Department of Conservation is currently undergoing restructuring. This will result in some changes in the way the Department handles its responsibilities in the historic resources field. The Department had originally intended to run its own historic resources programme in tandem with the N.Z. Historic Places Trust and drawing on the same pool of expertise. It appears that the Department has now accepted that in spite of the overlapping responsibilities of the two organisations that this arrangement was not working for either the Department or the Historic Places Trust.

The Department's focus will be on historic resources on the 'conservation estate'. Services will be based in the conservancies and the level of support for historic resources work will be decided by the various Regional Conservators. It is likely that Conservation Officers will be appointed to handle historic resources matters in most of the 14 conservancies. It is uncertain what level of expertise historic resources staff will bring to their positions. There will be a small Historic Resources unit at Head Office mainly responsible for policy, and Science and Research archaeologists will provide the Department and Historic Places Trust with specialist expertise in archaeology. Meanwhile, the archaeologists in Science and Research Division are attempting to fill some of the gaps until a more conservancy based system can be put in place.

### Ministerial appeal decision

The Minister of Conservation has overturned a Trust decision to protect an urupa in the Mt Wellington-Otahuhu area of Auckland. The Minister decided that the information available on the location of the urupa was not sufficiently precise as to justify prohibiting development of the land concerned. If human remains were uncovered during development the Ngati Paoa would be allowed to make such arrangements as they saw fit for re-burial.

### Legislation Review

The Historic Places Legislation Review: Report of Working Group was released in June and has since been accepted by the Minister as the basis for re-writing the legislation. Instructions have been issued for the drafting of the new legislation.

The Working Group proposed to retain the blanket protection provisions for archaeological sites but in the new legislation it would be a form of interim, rather than long term,

protection. The blanket protection provisions would allow information to be recovered from sites which are to be destroyed and would prevent indiscriminate fossicking but long term protection would rely on the site significance having been assessed and the site entered in the Register of Historic Places. This Register would be kept by N.Z. Historic Places Trust and items in the register would have status in district planning schemes. It should be noted, however, that registration would not automatically ensure preservation. It would only make it possible for further protective measures to be employed. The Trust would need to decide that the historic place concerned was significant enough to warrant such an action and their decision would be subject to appeal. This model obviously owes much to the current procedures for protecting historic buildings.

The Association has criticised the report and pointed out that past experience has clearly demonstrated that the suggested procedures are cumbersome and ineffective. The next opportunity for public input comes when the bill is introduced into the House of Representatives and is referred to a select committee.

#### Maritime Archaeological Association of New Zealand

A meeting was held in Wellington on 16 August to form the Maritime Archaeological Association of New Zealand. The first President of the new Association is David Churchill. As a first project, and with the aim of putting the Association on the map, a survey of the Mahanga Bay Wharf in Wellington is planned. The wharf was built in 1885-6 but no longer exists. The Association may be contacted by writing to the Secretary: John Davies, 96 Overtoun Terrace, Hataitai, Wellington.

#### Call for Conference Papers - The Auckland Experience: 17-19 August 1990

The Centre for the Study of Auckland History and Society at the University of Auckland is holding a conference entitled 'The Auckland Experience: Peoples, Place and Time', 17-19 August 1990. The Conference will examine the way different groups of people have experienced life in the Auckland region. There are two keynote speakers: Associate Professor Anne Salmond of Auckland University and Professor Graeme Davison of Monash University. They will explore the themes of cultural relations, the experience of colonial development and the role of cities within that development. During the Conference a small number of invited speakers will address major themes in Auckland's history.

Papers of about 30-45 minutes in length, which would fit in with the general theme, are required. Please send proposals, by 30 March 1990, to Associate Professor Raewyn Dalziel, Department of History, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland.

#### ANZAAS Conference 1990

The ANZAAS Conference is to be held in Hobart from 14-16 February 1990. There are two half day sessions devoted to archaeology:

Session 1. *Archaeology in the Southwest Pacific: A perspective on recent local developments.*

A series of review papers on recent archaeological studies and findings in Australasia and Antarctica will be presented. These papers will examine human responses to the global environmental and social changes brought to light through archaeological research in this region.

Session 2. *Archaeology in the conservation debate: use or misuse?*

Many recent nature conservation claims have 'used' archaeological evidence extensively to promote their cause, while other current conservation issues relate specifically to conservation of cultural heritage. Is the use of archaeology in these debates valid, or are we prostituting archaeology to the conservation cause? This topical question will be explored in this session through a selection of papers and discussion.

The co-ordinator for the archaeology sessions is Anne McConnell, Forest Practices Unit, 'Roydon', 30 Patrick Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000.

#### Newsletters for sale

Dr D.R. McQueen (31 Spinnaker Drive, Whitby, Porirua) has some back issues of this newsletter which he wishes to sell (\$1.00 per issue plus postage). Issues available are: Vol 4/3,4; 5/2,3,4; 6/2; 7/1,2,3; 8/2,4; Vols 9 to 23 complete; 24/1; 25/2,3; Vols 26 to 29 complete.

#### Erratum

In the report of the Hokitika conference in the June issue there was reference to Merivee Eaves: this should have read Myfanwy Eaves.