



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## NOTES AND NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

The Association would like to welcome the following new members and wishes them many happy years of archaeological endeavours:

Barry and Cheryl Eldridge, Lyn Winkel.

### DONATIONS

Council would like to thank the following members for their donations to the Association in the first months of the year:

G.L. Baker, Yoshio Takahashi (Japan).

### NEW YEAR HONOURS

It is with great pleasure that Council brings to the attention of members, the awarding of an OBE to John Hall-Jones in the New Year Honours list. This honour was bestowed in recognition of John's work in detailing the history of southern New Zealand - which has seen over 20 books published in the past 26 years. His *Fiordland Explored* and *Bluff Harbour* received the J.M. Sherrard Award for regional histories and *The South Explored* was highly commended. Another book, *Goldfields of the South*, was a Wattie Award finalist. In 1986 John changed his occupation from that of an ear, nose and throat specialist to become a full-time author and field researcher. His latest book, *Stewart Island Explored*, was published in late 1994.

### HAM PARKER

It was with much sadness and many fond memories that I read of the death of Ham Parker. As one of his former students (1976-77) I would like to share with your readers this story which Ham shared with us, one afternoon in the Otago University Cafe (Ham assured us it was true - every word!).

As part of the WW2 North African desert campaign, a special 'decoy' unit was set up to deliberately distract German fighters and bombers from their real military targets. The unit consisted of fake plywood aircraft, buildings and an 'airstrip'. Every night a few trucks were driven around so as to give the impression (when seen from the air) of heavy activity (via the tracks in the sand).

## NOTES AND NEWS

German intelligence must have got wind of the decoy operation fairly early on - because the dummy airfield was never bombed. Eventually the order came through from High Command to dismantle the operation and move on. On that same day, a lone German bomber flew over and dropped (what proved to be) a plywood bomb!

As the forthcoming NZAA Conference will be held in Dunedin this year, I would like to suggest that we former students and friends of Ham hold a wake for him at the Captain Cook Hotel.

Goodbye Ham, I greatly enjoyed your lectures, your encouragement and your company - my deepest sympathy to your dear wife Minh.

Karl Gillies  
Southland Museum and Art Gallery

(Editor's note: As an ex-student of Ham Parker I would welcome more 'Ham' stories from former students and colleagues. See also Letter to the Editor in this issue).

### PUBLICATION OF PAPERS IN ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND

Although there has been rather a backlog of articles in the past year, the size of our publication has increased to cope with this and I welcome articles on all aspects of archaeology in New Zealand and the Pacific.

### RAILWAY HOTEL

Keen observers of the photograph of the Railway Hotel included in the Walton and Williams article in the last issue will have noticed that the image was reproduced back to front. An appropriately placed mirror provided the proper perspective.

### NZAA CONFERENCE; DUNEDIN

Date: 3-5 June 1995

Note: this is Queen's Birthday weekend so it will pay for people to get organised with regard to transport and accommodation sooner rather than later.

## NOTES AND NEWS

**Venue:** Hocken Building, University of Otago

**Organisers:** Rick McGovern-Wilson & Co.  
N.Z.A.A.  
P0 Box 6337, Dunedin North  
Phone/fax: (03) 455 7127

### **Papers:**

Papers, 10-20 minutes in length, are invited on any subject relevant to New Zealand or Pacific archaeology. We intend to offer part of one session as a 'Work in progress' theme and invite short papers of 5-10 minutes for that particular session outlining the current status of fieldwork and other projects.

Please provide a brief description of your paper, including the length of delivery, as soon as possible so that topics can be organised into logical groupings.

### **Programme:**

Saturday, 3 June: Registration 9.30am-11am. Registration fee \$25  
Conference dinner in the evening

Sunday, 4 June: Full day fieldtrip to Shag Mouth and Macraes.

Monday, 5 June: Conference ends 2pm.

Note: The times for registration on Saturday and departure on Monday have been timed to coincide with flight times into and out of Dunedin.

**Optional Fieldtrip:** If there is enough interest we will run an optional full-day fieldtrip on Friday (2 June) into Central Otago to look at items of historic and scenic interest, and check out a few of our historic hotels. Please advise us early if you plan to take an extra day off work to join us on this adventure.

A further notice with a detailed programme and costs will be sent to all members with their AGM papers in April. Don't leave it until then to start making bookings as it may be too late.

**See Conference Insert for list of accommodation in Dunedin**