



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:

Helen Warner, Ken Hamlin, Margaret Prebble, Melinda Allen, Brett Duskovich

### DONATIONS

We are most grateful to Anne Leahy for donating a complete bound set of the *NZAA Newsletter* and *Archaeology in New Zealand* to the Association.

### ASHA CONFERENCE - QUEENSTOWN, OCTOBER 1997

The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) will be holding its annual conference (for the second time in N.Z.) at Queenstown over **3-6 October 1997**, including an all day fieldtrip up the Shotover Valley.

The venue will be the **Quality Resort Terraces Hotel** (not quite on the waterfront, but overlooking the lake, ph (64) 03 442-7950). The conference will commence about 1pm on Friday 3rd October, and probably finish on October 6th, depending on the final number of papers offered.

Accommodation is available at the venue (discounted rate: \$120/night plus GST, share twin), or at a wide range of other Queenstown accommodations ranging from camping grounds, to backpackers, bed and breakfasts to 5 star standard hotels.

### **Call for Papers.**

Although the deadline for offers of papers on any aspect of historical archaeology has now passed late entries will be considered, space permitting. Contact the conference organiser Dr Neville Ritchie, Regional Archaeologist, Dept of Conservation, Private Bag 3072, Hamilton. N.Z. Ph. (M) 07 8383363, fax (M) 07 838 1004, e-mail nevalexy@wave.co.nz

For further information contact the above. A detailed list of Queenstown accommodation venues, costs etc can be faxed or mailed on request.

### **NEW ZEALAND PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATORS CONFERENCE**

The NZ Professional Conservators Group, the professional association for museum conservators in NZ, is holding its annual Conference at the Auckland City Art Gallery on 23-24 October 1997

The guest speaker is Bruce Ford, a conservation scientist from the Australian National Gallery in Canberra, who will be talking about materials analysis and testing.

Bruce has a particular interest in rock art and is keen to talk to museum and heritage professionals on the topic of rock art conservation, with specific reference to monitoring of microclimates.

Further information from Kate Roberts at the Museum of New Zealand, PO Box 467, Wellington, Phone 04-381-7329, Fax 04-381-7310, email kater@tepapa.govt.nz

### **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WHALING IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE REPORT**

A conference on shore whaling in the south-west Pacific was held at La Trobe University, Melbourne, 14-15 July 1997, organised by Susan Lawrence of La Trobe, and Mark Staniforth, Flinders University, Adelaide.

On Monday there were papers on the state of research into the history and archaeology of shore whaling in Tasmania, New South Wales and Norfolk Island, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia. I spoke on the situation in New Zealand. In the evening there was a book launch at

'Heritage Victoria' for Karen Townrow's "An Archaeological Survey of Sealing and Whaling sites in Victoria".

Particular studies were presented on South Australian sites, Wilson's Promontory (Victoria), conflict over the resource in Tasmania, and the landscape context of Bass Strait sealing and whaling sites. Other contributors looked at resources in the Australian National Maritime Museum collection, the rise and fall of the British southern right whale fishery, and shipping data relative to the Australian industry. In a final paper Susan Lawrence outlined a future programme of excavation in Tasmania - at a site I visited some years ago on Bruny Island.

One of the remarkable resources of which I was previously unaware was the complete month by month statistics for all whales taken by the American whaling fleet in the world's oceans in the period 1830-60, shown in five degree (latitude and longitude) squares. Original data sheets are apparently still in existence in the U.S.

The last afternoon was taken up with the detail of data sharing between the Australian states, and with the establishment of an informal project group known as 'AWSA' (The Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia). I suggested 'WASP' (Whaling Archaeology in the South-west Pacific'), and could not help feeling that the Australians need pushing to look beyond their own shores in the research. The two most important shore whaling regions in the south-west Pacific were Tasmania and New Zealand. Neither our story nor the Australian story can be told on its own.

AWSA aims are: an integrated analytical framework (at the data level); synthesis of results of previous fieldwork; initiation of further archaeological investigation; and wide dissemination of results.

Nigel Prickett  
Auckland Museum

### **AILEEN FOX'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**

Many members will remember Lady Fox, who, as a visiting lecturer at Auckland University, and later as acting E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist and Honorary Research Associate at Auckland Museum, and acting Auckland filekeeper for the NZAA, made a significant impression on New Zealand Archaeology between 1973 and 1983.

Aileen, who now lives in Exeter, had her ninetieth birthday on July 29th this year. To celebrate the event, a card was sent to her from New Zealand, with signatures and messages from 49 of her friends and former colleagues. She has responded with the following letter:

My dear Friends,

I was surprised by joy when I received your good wishes enclosed within an image of my excavations at Tiromoana pa, Te Awanga, and deeply touched. To think that so many of you still remember my stay after 14 years (I left in 1983) and wish me well. Thank-you each and every one most sincerely.

I am having a small dinner party by way of celebration for family and friends, 12 of us, on July 29th at an Exeter hotel and will remember you all as well in NZ wine! The local archaeologists are also giving me a party in September on their return from fieldwork, so I feel very spoilt on achieving my 90<sup>th</sup>.

I still remain remarkably well, apart from diabetes and becoming rather deaf. I drive my small car only short distances now, to ease the chores of shopping and to see my friends who live in the country nearby. I am rather proud of completing my publications with a booklet about *Devon Hillforts*, which some of you may have seen, and an article about a find of tin ingots probably from 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century AD wreck discovered by divers off the South Devon coast.

I often think about my ten years in NZ, it was a very happy time in Auckland, Hawkes Bay and the North, when archaeology was growing apace and getting organised. I always felt privileged to be there and to take part, as well as to excavate and to write about it. Some of you have visited me here in my flat in the big XVIII C house, The Retreat, on the River Exe. I hope others who come to England will follow their example, and let me know.

With renewed thanks and greetings  
from  
Aileen

## Reference:

Davidson, Janet, 1983. Aileen Fox in New Zealand: an appreciation. In Bulmer, S.E. *et al.* (eds.), *A Lot of Spadework to be Done. Essays in Honour of Lady Aileen Fox by her New Zealand Friends.* N.Z.A.A. Monograph No. 14.

John Coster

## ARCHAEOLOGY CUTS SPARK OUTCRY

Australian National University vice-chancellor Professor Deane Terrell and chancellor professor Peter Baume have been swamped with pleas to save the division of archaeology and natural history within its Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

The matter is likely to be raised at a meeting of the ANU council on Friday. It is understood that a member of the council will propose that a letter of protest from the division's head, professor John Chappell, will be tabled at the meeting.

There also may be pressure to table dozens of other letters, from as far afield as The Netherlands, Japan and the United Kingdom - including one to Baume, a former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, from former Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies director professor Peter Ucko, now with University College, London. The letters have flowed in since the likely closure of the renowned archaeology division was first reported in *Campus Review* three weeks ago.

Professor Sue Serjeantson, director of the ANU's Institute of Advanced Studies, of which RSPAS is part, implied last Friday that the school would retain a foothold in archaeology by keeping one archaeologist's position in the Pacific region, plus one for a palynologist - an expert in pollen and similar fossils -and one for an archaeologist in Papua New Guinea.

It is believed the two former positions will be retained by Professor Atholl Anderson and Dr Geoff Hope, while the third, an untenured position, will be advertised. Previously the ANH division had a staff of 20.

Over three years, the division will give up all archaeological research in Australia, an area in which Professor Rhys Jones has been a pioneer in

pushing back Australian prehistory from about 8000 to 60,000 years, through his researches in Tasmania's Franklin River gorges (instrumental in stopping the damming of that river in the 1980s) and in Arnhem land.

Critics of the decision to cut back the division, made by RSPAS director professor Merle Ricklefs, note the irony that PNG is using its expertise to justify world heritage listing for the Huon terraces, a marine environment whose identification by Chappell provides a base-line for studies of sea levels, and for the Kuk area in that country's highlands, identified by the division's Emeritus Professor Jack Golson as one of the world's most ancient agricultural sites.

Golson became an Officer in the Order of Australia last month for this and other efforts.

Ricklefs, who has been unavailable to talk to *Campus Review* since the ANH row began, and is currently abroad, does not lack for supporters, particularly among the economics-related divisions of his school which have done relatively well in the shake-out he has foreshadowed - and even in the archaeological area.

He has, says one archaeologist, demonstrated the necessity of making "vertical" cuts to meet the university's straitened circumstances, cutting out entire areas of research.

"All the divisions are having to make some economies," says Serjeantson.

The burden of the cuts recalls a lecture delivered by Ricklefs in late 1993, when he emphasised the importance of current affairs in the school's work - plus one of two specialist fields such as his own 17th century Javanese court politics.

Its culmination was a document "RSPAS: a guide to its future shape", endorsed by the faculty last May.

"Research in the school should be able to demonstrate that it has relevance for understanding the current transformations of the Asia-Pacific region," it says. "It should be our aim also to identify and anticipate future issues and directions of change as we develop our research foci.

"Policy related work is important to certain disciplines, but it must rest upon

longer-term basic research."

This rationale has been challenged in many of the protest letters.

"We are particularly concerned about the fact that economic criteria have been of overriding importance in the evaluation of the different divisions within the research school, while a qualitative assessment of research remains conspicuously absent," write Dr Toon van Meijl, academic secretary of the Centre for Pacific Studies in the Netherlands.

"If the division will be abandoned as proposed, the only research unit in Australasia dedicated to Pacific archaeology will disappear, while approximately 40 per cent of Pacific archaeology positions in Australia will be made redundant in one of the most exciting and innovative fields of research in the arts and humanities as conducted in the Asia-Pacific."

La Trobe University's Professor Jim Allen, a former ANH staffer, points to the role of the division and its predecessors in stimulating the cultural awareness of Aboriginal Australia and several Pacific nations.

"the large and supportive interest that white Australia currently has in Aboriginal culture, as an integral part of attitudes to Mabo and Wik, has been attributable in some large measure to the archaeological demonstration of a long and varied Aboriginal history in this country," Allen wrote in a letter to Terrell.

Overseas critics are understood to include Mr John Waiko, outgoing Education Minister, who is reported to have indicated that if the division closed, he will recommend that PNG demand repatriation of the substantial RSPAS collection of PNG archaeological artifacts.

Bruce Juddery  
Canberra

*(Reprinted from Campus Review, Vol 7, No 26, July 9-15, 1997)*

#### **SIZE OF CENTRAL FILE as of 31 March 1997**

On 31 March 1997 the Central File held a total of 50,257 records. This is an increase of 1113 on last year's figure of 49,144. This represents an increase of about 2.2%.



Regional totals are as follows:

<b>Region</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Change</b>
Northland	8750	9139	+389
Auckland	7702	7962	+260
Coromandel	4508	4608	+100
Waikato	3048	3186	+138
Bay of Plenty	6508	6603	+ 95
Taupo	415	411	- 4
East Coast	2639	2657	+ 18
Taranaki	1482	1506	+ 24
Inland Patea	292	292	
Hawkes Bay	1574	1616	+ 42
Wanganui	637	638	+ 1
Wellington	969	973	+ 4
Nelson	1482	1483	+ 1
Marlborough	472	472	
Canterbury	1166	1166	
West Coast	853	853	
Otago	2417	2445	+ 28
Central Otago	1992	2000	+ 8
Southland	1416	1425	+ 9
Outlying Islands	822	822	
	49144	50257	1113

**Summary:**

North Island files	38524	39591	1067
South Island files	9798	9844	+ 46
Outlying Islands	822	822	
	49144	50257	1113

A. Walton  
31 March 1997