



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NOTES AND NEWS

New members

Hallie Buckley, Jeremy Habberfield-Short, Christopher Ham, Rosanne Hawarden, Hannah Mackintosh, Rebecca Marsh, Kristeen Yelavich

Correction

Last issue's cover photo caption should have read "Fishhooks and tabs excavated by Wilfred Shawcross at Houhora, 1972."

Obituary

Tony Batley, 1923–2004

Robert Anthony Leighton Batley, known as Tony, died recently aged 80. He had been a member of the Archaeological Association for almost 50 years. He did not attend the initial meeting but was, along with Lawrie Birks, one of the first to join the fledgling Association in October 1954. He served on Council during the 1960s and was President in 1967 and 1968. He was a founder of the Otaihape field group in 1960, and was one of the Association's longest serving regional filekeepers, retiring as Inland Patea Filekeeper in 2003.

Apart from boarding school at Wanganui Collegiate and service in the Solomon Islands during World War II, Tony spent most of his life on the family farm at Moawhango, east of Taihape. He and his wife Margaret retired to Wellington earlier this year because of his deteriorating health.

The Batley family roots in the Taihape district are deep. Tony's grandfather, Robert Thompson Batley, while still a teenager, drove sheep from Inland Patea to the Government forces under McDonnell in the Turangi area during the campaign against Te Kooti in 1869. He began farming at Moawhango at that time. The homestead and church at Moawhango are registered historic buildings. Robert Batley's first son died in infancy and was buried at Te Henga on Mount Pihanga. Tony recalled that during his own childhood, Maori elders from Rotoaira came to Moawhango to tell the family that they had moved the burial ground to Pouorongo beside the Tongariro River, taking the Batley baby along with their own dead as they did not wish him to be lonely by himself.

In addition to his long connection with the Archaeological Association, Tony was involved in the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Polynesian Society. He served on the council of the latter from 1955 to 1985. In 1961 he succeeded J.D.H. Buchanan as the Royal Society of New Zealand's representative

on the then National Historic Places Trust, resigning in March 1968. He was then appointed Trust Representative for Rangitikei. He had been appointed to the Trust's Wanganui Regional Committee during the 1956–57 year, serving on that committee until it was dissolved in the early 1960s.

One of Tony's most notable contributions to archaeology was his advocacy for salvage archaeology in the face of major public works, such as the Tongariro Power Development Scheme and the Kapuni Gas Pipeline. From early in its history the Trust had, from its own meagre resources, sponsored small rescue projects on Maori rock drawing sites threatened by hydro development and on the Auckland volcanic cones. But it was during the 1960s that the principle of 'developer pays' began to be recognised. Tony was instrumental in setting up and supervising the Tongariro Archaeological Project. His family's long history in the area and the mutual respect that existed between them and Ngati Tuwharetoa, his wide knowledge of the natural and human history of the central North Island, and his ability to get on well with senior staff on the Power Scheme were vital to the success of the archaeological project, which was of a scale and duration previously unknown in New Zealand.

Site recording on the Tongariro Power Development Scheme began in 1966. The fieldwork was carried out by Trevor Hosking, working under Tony's supervision. Excavations followed. After Tony resigned from the Trust, an enlarged Tongariro Power Project Committee was set up with Tony as Convenor; this committee continued to oversee the project until fieldwork was concluded in 1971. Sadly, Tony's draft monograph on the Tongariro Power Project remains unpublished.

Tony's interests were wide and his knowledge of the central North Island unique. He published several papers on aspects of local Maori history and legend. But his archaeological interests were not limited to Maori sites. At a time when many members of the Association believed that it should deal only with pre-European sites, Tony argued strongly for the inclusion of historic sites in the site recording scheme. He could point to a place where a small Maori archaeological site, a historic swing bridge and a modern highway bridge in close proximity represented centuries of use of the same Rangitikei river crossing. He took an equal interest in the documentation and preservation of the archaeological site and of the swing bridge.

Tony had wide-ranging interests in geology and natural history as well as archaeology and human history and always considered both Maori and Pakeha history in an environmental context. In 1956, only two years after the founding of the Association, he published a paper on dendrochronology in New Zealand. He took an interest in the Kaimanawa wild horses long before they became widely known; he observed and commented on a native fish species struggling

to climb the newly built spillways of the Tongariro Project. During a visit to Mono (Treasury Island) in the Solomon Islands in 1966, he was presented with a pottery cooking pot, about which he published a note in 1968. The pot was on display in the National Museum's Pacific Hall until the Pacific Gallery was de-installed in preparation for the move to Te Papa.

Tony was a perfect gentleman—always courteous, thoughtful, considerate of others' views and humble about his own knowledge and achievements. In his wide interests and his careful and rigorous approach he exemplified the very best kind of amateur scholar that New Zealand can produce. In this 50th anniversary year of the Association he will be greatly missed, for he was one of the early pillars of the Association who contributed to its strength.

I am grateful to Margaret Batley, John Daniels, Jim McKinlay and Nigel Prickett for details about Tony's life and his many contributions to archaeology.

Janet Davidson

Call for Volunteers—Excavations at Te Hoe

A programme of archaeological and historical research into New Zealand shore whaling which began in early 2004 with excavations at Oashore, Banks Peninsula, is to continue in January and February 2005 at Te Hoe, Mahia Peninsula, Hawke's Bay. The project is funded by the Marsden Fund of the Royal Society of New Zealand and undertaken by the Anthropology Department, University of Otago, and Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Te Hoe is located on the west coast of Mahia Peninsula, 2 km south of the beach settlement of Mahia (Taylor's Bay) which is the site of the first station on the peninsula. Whaling at Te Hoe dates from the early 1840s. Surface archaeological evidence includes stone filled mounds which signal the fireplaces of whalers' huts, a stone tryworks foundation, slipway, pits and terraces, etc.

Volunteers are needed to work on the excavation. We will be working at Te Hoe for four weeks, from Monday 17 January to Sunday 13 February 2005. People who come are asked to please give us at least a week. Longer would be appreciated. We plan to employ a cook so that volunteers can concentrate on the excavation. Accommodation will be in the nearby Mahia beach settlement.

If you would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact one of the project coordinators, below, with your preferred dates:

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**New Zealand Archaeological Association
50th Anniversary Conference**

**The Archaeology of New Zealand and the Pacific:
from 3000 BP to the present**

30 November–4 December 2004

Alexander Room, TSB Showplace, New Plymouth

Monday 29 November – Pre-conference field trip from Auckland to New Plymouth visiting NZ Wars sites and places of interest along the way (seats limited, book soon).

Evening – opening event

Tuesday 30 November – Full day of papers. Keynote address from Dr Brian Fagan.

Evening – Public lecture.

Wednesday 1 Dec – Full day of papers.

Evening – selection of short films from National Archives on early archaeology in NZ and social gathering.

Thursday 2 Dec – Full day of papers.

Friday 3 Dec – All day fieldtrip visiting variety of sites around the Taranaki coast.

Saturday 4 Dec – Papers till 3pm then AGM and close of conference.

Conference Dinner at Okurukuru Restaurant and Winery.

Sunday 5 Dec – Half-day fieldtrip.

If you would like to give a paper at the conference contact sbedford@historic.org.nz

For information on registration see insert or visit our webpage: <http://www.nzarchaeology.org>