



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## NOTES AND NEWS

### **New members**

Alex Jorgensen

### **NZAA Conference 2009**

The 55th New Zealand Archaeological Association conference will be held in Wellington in June 2009, with the Digital Site Recording Scheme launched on the opening night of the conference.

**Dates:** 10-14 June 2009

**Venue:** TBA, Wellington

**Theme:** Archaeology in the Digital Age

**Papers coordinator:** Dr Richard Walter

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**Conference coordinator:** Katharine Watson

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### **Pacific Archaeology in the 21st Century: Relevance and Engagement**

The Pacific Archaeology in the 21st Century conference seeks to examine the relevance of studies of the past (including archaeology, cultural heritage and natural heritage) to the current and future challenges faced by Pacific islands. These challenges include environmental, economic and sociopolitical change. The conference is being held in Palau from 1-3 July 2009. More information can be found on the conference website:

[www.pacificarchaeology2009.com](http://www.pacificarchaeology2009.com).

### ***Te Puna - A New Zealand Mission Station***

The publication of *Te Puna – A New Zealand Mission Station* (written by Angela Middleton) is unique in that it provides the first archaeological examination of a New Zealand mission, and as such, makes an important contribution to New Zealand historical archaeology and history. It situates the *Te Puna* study in a global context, making a significant contribution to the international

field of mission archaeology. It informs a wider audience about the processes of colonization and culture contact in New Zealand, along with the details of the material culture of the country's first European settlers, providing a point of comparison with other outposts of British colonisation.

*Te Puna* is published by Springer and is \$99 (US). Copies can be ordered from orders-ny@springer.com. A review of this book will appear in the next issue of AINZ.

### ***Archaeology on Taumako: A Polynesian outlier in the Eastern Solomon Islands***

This volume describes the results of archaeological investigations on Taumako, a Polynesian Outlier in the Santa Cruz Group of Solomon Islands. 3000 years of change and continuity are examined through skeletal remains, faunal material, pottery and other artefacts, as well as drawing on the account of a European explorer who visited the island in 1606.

*Archaeology on Taumako* is a special publication published by the *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* and is \$42.50.

### **15th Foreigners' Fellowships Programme**

The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation operates an annual programme of research grants and educational scholarships addressed to foreign (non-Greek) members of Academies of Sciences, scholars, researchers, elementary and secondary school teachers of the Greek language, artists and postgraduate students. Details can be found at [www.onassis.gr](http://www.onassis.gr). Applications close on 31 January 2009.

### **Skinner Fund for Physical Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology**

Applications for grants from the above fund, sponsored jointly by the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Polynesian Society and the New Zealand Archaeological Association, close on **1 May 2009**.

The purpose of the fund is to promote the study of the history, art, culture, physical and social anthropology of the Maori and other Polynesian peoples, particularly through the recording, survey, excavation and scientific study of prehistoric and historic sites in New Zealand and the islands of the South-west Pacific. This includes the detailed analysis of all cultural, artistic, or physical remains which have been recovered as the result of such investigations. To this end both research projects having survey, recording, and excavation as their goal, as well as those which propose to treat analytically and comparatively materials already so recovered shall be deemed to have equal weight. Preference

will be given to well-documented research plans which specify methodology and anticipated outcomes of the proposed research.

The amount available for distribution from the fund is not large and, grants of about \$1,000 will be allocated.

Every recipient of a grant from the fund shall report to the Royal Society of New Zealand before 30 June in the year after the grant was made, showing in a general way the expenditure of the grant and the progress made with the research.

The results of research aided by grants from the fund, shall, where possible, be published in New Zealand, with due acknowledgement of the source of financial assistance, and one copy of any report stemming from such research shall be sent to the Society.

When applying to the Fund, please provide a current CV, an outline of your proposed research, including methodology and likely outcomes and a budget.

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager – Corporate Services  
Royal Society of New Zealand  
P O Box 598  
WELLINGTON 6140

We prefer to receive the application electronically. Please email the electronic copy to: [awards@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:awards@royalsociety.org.nz)

All applications will be acknowledged.

Please note: the new website address for the Skinner Fund is:

<http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/site/funding/skinner/default.aspx>

### **Anthony James (Tony) Walton: Eulogy on behalf of the New Zealand Archaeological Association**

Tony joined the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1979, the same year as Anne Geelen and Sue Bulmer; he had just completed his MA thesis on Maori soils. In those days Trust Archaeologists were classed as science staff, and Tony joined as a Science Technician. It was the only position then available as the Trust already had a full complement of Scientists. Tony soon showed himself to be an extremely able scientist – he should have been on the scientific salary scale, but he was caught by a surprisingly rigid system, which dogged him for the rest of his career.

Shortly after taking up his position he became the New Zealand Archaeological Association Central File Keeper, taking over from John Daniels who was

then Director of the Historic Places Trust. Tony administered the central file for 29 years, until his death a few days ago. During his stewardship, the number of records grew from around 19,000 to more than 60,000. To appreciate the size of this growth, each record was a minimum of one page. Stacked one on the other, the pile of records he accessioned would be more than 4 metres high! That is, on average more than 1400 new records each year, or nearly 30 each week in a never-ending stream. Not only did he read and file each one, he meticulously checked each record for duplication, and made sure that the location as described agreed with the grid reference. When GPS became common, Tony was even more careful about checking; his comments when he found mistakes in GPS coordinates were choice, and must have reddened many ears!

In the early days there were no desktop computers, all checking was done manually. But shortly after his arrival, it was decided to create a computerised index, which, after the Trust's archaeologists transferred to the Department of Conservation, became known as CINZAS. Aidan Challis and later Brian Sheppard had overall supervision, but it was under Tony's guidance that each record was punched onto cards using a large clanking machine located in the corner of the archaeology workroom at Thorndon Quay. For months, Brian and Tony carried bundles of the cards up to Victoria University, to be read into a Burroughs B600 computer and printed out for checking. The task became easier in 1983 when the Trust got its own computer – an IBM System 34. At the same time as the file was computerised, there was the change from the old NZMS1 map grid to the NZMS260 map grid to deal with. There were few NZMS260 maps available, and all calculations had by necessity to be mathematical. The outcome of all this early activity is the Central File and the computerised index that we have today. Tony grew up with the system, he was heavily involved in its development, he readily accommodated innovations as they happened, and it is the good fortune of the NZAA that "Mr CINZAS" continued to be Central File-keeper for the next two and a half decades.

The file became his baby and he lavished on it the care and attention that is normally reserved for one's children. No-one could access the file without his approval, and often with him looking over their shoulder. Everything had its place, and everything in the archaeology workroom was in its place. God help the person who moved something without asking! But it was the only way to administer the file; the state of the file and its usefulness to all of us today stems from Tony's care and organisation.

We sometimes joked that he must have known every site in the file – in fact, he very nearly did! He not only knew his file, he read around it – he built up a library of books and papers about the sites, he collected site survey reports – and read them all. He pored over air photos. And he still found time for field

work. He assisted with site inspections for the Historic Places Trust, and he carried out site surveys – I had the pleasure of working with him at a number of places including Motiti Island, Matakana Island, Rangiwaea Island, and he accompanied me on several site investigations. He took an interest in what was happening in the landscape – I went out to record sites along the Paekakariki coast after a series of storms, only to find that Tony had already been there and done that. My experience of him on the fieldwork that we did together is matched by others who have worked with him: he was a level-headed and conscientious field worker, sceptical about what he saw, and very supportive. He was a delight to be in the field with.

He also found time to research and publish. His topics were diverse, and included papers on: the use of GPS in archaeological recording; monitoring the erosion of beach middens; borrow pits and made soils; settlement patterns; and assessing archaeological values. In 1999 he edited the NZAA Site Recording Handbook, producing a compact, comprehensive guide to the recording of archaeological sites in New Zealand. In 2000 he published a monograph on the archaeology of the Taranaki-Wanganui region. He developed an interest in pa, which led on to military fortifications generally in New Zealand. He joined the Wellington Archaeological Society and wrote a brief history of the society, and for some years he was its secretary. And he carried out his own excavations in the Wellington area, investigating terrace sites at Titahi Bay and Whitireia Peninsula. All of this activity added to his immense knowledge and understanding of the New Zealand archaeological record, and coupled with his prodigious memory, made him an archaeological resource second to none.

His extensive knowledge and experience of archaeology made him a valuable critic, and I am grateful for his reading and commenting on many of my reports and papers. His criticisms were always valuable and to the point, and I am sure that many of his other colleagues found the same benefits. But his legacy to the New Zealand Archaeological Association and to New Zealand archaeology is without question the Central File. Put together over many years, slowly, meticulously, and to the highest standards, it is a lasting monument to his dedication and industry.

Tony, you were a good friend and colleague and I shall miss you. I will miss your dry humour, your pithy comments, and your scepticism, as I expect

many others of your former colleagues here today will too. May you rest in peace.

*Bruce McFadgen*

## **Walton Fund**

Prior to his death, Tony Walton donated \$15,000 to the New Zealand Archaeological Association, requesting that this bequest was not made public until after his death. The NZAA Council wish to increase the size of this bequest, and are seeking donations to the fund. The exact use of the fund has not been determined, but the interest will be used to fund specific, targeted projects. NZAA Council will decide on these parameters and advise members accordingly.

## **Nigel Prickett retires**

After 29 years as E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist at Auckland Museum, Nigel Prickett celebrated his birthday, and retirement, at Highwic on 15 November with family, friends, museum colleagues and archaeologists. In his lengthy service, he outlasted three museum directors and numerous changes in personnel to hold a record amongst current staff for the second longest serving staff member. Nigel's achievements are, however, much more than that.

Auckland Museum in 1979, for those who remember it, had a large cavernous space which housed display cases of old style exhibitions. Adzes and other artefacts were displayed in a regimented fashion, and the overall appearance was tired and outdated. The displays in the Maori Court were dismantled in 1984 and Nigel was part of the team responsible for the new display, Nga Mahi, which involved moving the large canoe to centre stage in front of Hotunui the meeting house, and larger, more informative and elegant displays on Maori lifeways in the west wing. Nga Mahi is no longer, having been remodelled again and shifted to the east wing as the renamed Te Taonga Maori. In addition, Nigel encouraged the presentation of old and new world treasures in the museum, which had previously been in Fine Arts, as world history: he has overseen two major display changes in the Civilisations gallery, the last being Ancient Worlds. Nigel's talents for redevelopment were recognised by museum management and he was appointed Team Leader for Volcanoes and Giants, the first of the whiz-bang permanent displays in Auckland Museum but with a thoughtful presentation packed with information for the public. He was also coordinator for Scars on the Heart, the permanent display on New Zealand's involvement in overseas conflicts befitting the museum's role as a war memorial. In 1987–88 the new Archaeology Store was built at the end of the Ethnology store, the window covers removed to let in the light from the courtyard, and

new storage drawers and compactors installed. Adzes, fishhooks, pounders and other items were placed under the care of the Archaeology Department instead of Ethnology. The storage space still serves the museum well today although additional space has been acquired in the new basement storage.

Nigel has made a major contribution to archaeology in New Zealand, and we have benefited from his wide-ranging research interests which include historic European archaeology, early Polynesian-type artefacts, pa, and the New Zealand War sites. He has also played a number of roles for NZAA. For a number of years he was the NZAA nominee on the Archaeology Committee of New Zealand Historic Places Trust, bringing a considered and pragmatic approach to site protection. He was editor of the NZAA Newsletter from 1979–1987, a quarterly schedule of editing, proof-reading and finally placing the printed Newsletters in envelopes. For a number of years a small group of people including Nigel, Anne Leahy, myself and later Joan Lawrence and others regularly spent a day on an assembly line pressing out addressograph labels, filling envelopes, ticking off an index card and finally taking the sorted packages to the post office. Occasionally now someone will suggest that we could save money by filling the envelopes ourselves instead of paying a mail distribution company to do the job. While I fondly recall our sessions, the time for that level of involvement by a few members has passed. Nigel's editorial skills were also put to good use as he concurrently acted as monographs editor, responsible for numbers 13, 16–19, and he changed the format of the monographs into a modern style. For many years Nigel has also been co-editor with Brian Gill of the Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum, and he edited Bulletin of the Auckland Museum 13 (Aileen Fox, 'Carved Maori Burial Chests'), 17 (Louise Furey, 'Oruarangi'), 18 (Mick Pendergrast, 'Tikopian Tattoo'), and 19 (Louise Furey, 'Houhora').

An archaeologist always wants to do fieldwork, and despite being surrounded by so many museum items Nigel engaged in two field seasons at Raupa near Paeroa, and one at Queen's Redoubt. Substantial site reports were published on the Raupa excavations. Many archaeological sites were recorded on off-shore islands, notably Great Barrier and the Chickens, as part of the Off-shore Islands Research Group; he took part in the Raoul Island expedition coordinated by Atholl Anderson, and the 2003 sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands expedition organised by DOC. In addition he has been involved in surveying, site mapping, and advocating for reserves and covenanting of archaeological sites in Taranaki, a region with which he has had a long association. Nigel's



farming background and down-to-earth attitude enabled him to get on well with farmers and for the most part obtain their support for site protection.

There have been numerous publications over the last 29 years – papers on Raupa, site destruction in Taranaki, descriptions of pa in two areas of Taranaki, a monograph on the Omata and Warea excavations which he carried out as part of his PhD, an edited book on regional archaeology, a book *Landscapes of Conflict*, a study of whaling and whaling sites for DOC, a number of papers on the Taranaki Campaigns of the 1860s, papers on early Maori ornaments, and a booklet published by the Auckland Museum on the same subject, which together with ‘Maori Origins’ were aimed at the general public.

When many people might be looking at slowing down in the last few years before retirement, Nigel revved up to a higher gear. A Marsden Grant was awarded to Nigel and Ian Smith to look at contact between Maori and Pakeha through whaling. A major excavation at Oashore on Banks Peninsula in early 2004 was followed by another at Mahia the following summer and introduced him to yet another generation of archaeologists. The write-up of this work is continuing.

I speak for all the archaeological community in wishing Nigel well. There are plans for research without the distractions of museum-related activities, many more papers and hopefully a couple of books, but also to enjoy his retirement and a life apart from archaeology

*Louise Furey*