



NEW ZEALAND
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NOTES AND NEWS

New members

Angela Scott, Edward Ashby, Alexander Scahill, Dylan Gaffney, Jennifer Low, Sherie Crosby, Tania Te Hira, Leela Moses, Francesca Allen, Jennifer Lane, Jennifer Milne, Sophie Miller, Simon Howard, Sayali Sangamnerkar, Cameron McCaffrey, Gabrielle Kinney, Rebecca Ramsay, Rebecca Phillips, Emma Clifford, Carly Roxanne Mailhot.

Donations

Thank you to those who made donations: Michael Taylor, Annette Sutton, C A Barnett, Dan and Allison Witter, Kath Prickett, D Harrowfield, Richard Walter and Robin Watt

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has advised changes to contact details. For any membership enquiries or if you wish to make a donation please contact membership@nzarchaeology.org or write to Membership Secretary, New Zealand Archaeological Association, P.O. Box 6337, Dunedin North, New Zealand. Remember that donations over \$5 are tax deductible in New Zealand and a receipt will be sent to you.

Facebook

Make sure to check the NZAA's Facebook page and like us to stay in touch about NZAA's activities and news. We would love to hear from you: www.facebook.com/NewZealandArchaeologicalAssociation

NZAA Submissions

In February NZAA submitted to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill Supplementary Order Paper. Simon Bickler appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Association. The gist of the submission was, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The submission was well received by the Committee who asked us to follow up with further information, particularly regarding the renaming of the NZHPT Register as the Record – the potential for confusion is obvious. The submission was prepared by Mat Campbell, Sarah Macready, Aidan Challis, Garry Law and Simon Bickler.

In April NZAA provided a submission on “Improving our resource management system: A discussion document” which might drive significant changes to the operation of the RMA. The submission supported proposals that aimed to improve efficiency and transparency of the consenting process, better responses to natural hazards and consultation with iwi. However, the submission was concerned over the proposed merging of Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA, the deprecating of the value of protecting and managing heritage in New Zealand and the dangers of greater central government ability to bypass local communities. The submission as prepared by Simon Bickler and Garry Law.

In May NZAA provided Feedback on the Auckland Council Draft Unitary Plan (formal submissions are scheduled for September). Our feedback revolved around the need for a consistent approach to historic heritage across the Plan, and the need to have heritage included early in the consenting process to avoid duplication of process between the RMA and the HPA. The feedback was prepared by Mat Campbell, Sarah Macready, Garry Law and Simon Bickler

Practical Buildings Archaeology

At Oamaru last year PDC presented Introduction to Buildings Archaeology, at which time we promised to organise a follow-up workshop. So this year we were delighted to present a hands-on two-day workshop based around the investigation of a range of timber-frame buildings entitled Practical Buildings Archaeology. This workshop was held at Highwic Friday on 19th April and Howick Historical Village on Saturday 20th April (see Photos). Our speakers were Martin Jones, Bev Parslow, Wesley Maguire, Gretel Boswijk and Raysan Al-Kubaisi. In addition, Harry Allen gave an introduction about the development of Howick Historical Village.

The speakers addressed: what buildings archaeology is all about, introduced timber-frame buildings, what to record and why, recording methods and techniques, and the value of dendrochronology. Martin had set up a self-guided quiz in the Highwic stables for delegates to identify various structural elements (see Photo). Both he and Wesley demonstrated initial ‘parsing’/investigation in the stables and Highwic house.

At Howick the delegates were split into four teams, headed by Martin, Wesley, Gretel and Raysan, who firstly undertook a series of practical exercises in several of the 19th century structures. Attendees had the opportunity to practise drawing ground plans, elevations, sections and completing proforma sheets. The teams then reported back their findings to the workshop as a whole. The workshop finished with Raysan discussing “thinking in 3D”.

A huge vote of thanks must be given to the speakers who volunteered their time to prepare a complex programme for the two days. We would also like to thank those who attended, many of whom were very experienced in their own right, and who shared information about the work they had been involved in. This aspect of the discipline of archaeology is still in its infancy in New Zealand, so it was of real value for the speakers to be able to discuss the topic with the people attending. Also thanks to Meri Low for administration.

The next workshop planned for 2013, concerns the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill/Act, and this will be held on 18 June, at Cambridge the day before the NZAA conference. One other workshop may also be held in 2013 and more workshops will follow next year. If you are not on our list and you want to hear more about the workshop series please drop Meri Low a line at meri.low@xtra.co.nz.

Professional Development Cell



Martin Jones in Highwic stables, with numbered structural elements, which was part of the self-guided quiz he set for those attending the Practical Buildings Archaeology PDC workshop.



Presenters and attendees of the Practical Buildings Archaeology PDC workshop at Howick Historical Village.

Leslie Graham Wright (1950-2013)

Les moved to the West Coast in 1973, beginning a long and intense relationship with the place, its people and the stories they crafted there. Based in the house he built for himself in Punakaiki, Les' work took him the length and breadth of the West Coast as he delved into the history of sites as diverse as abandoned mining towns, shell middens, tourist bridges and coal mines.

Les played an important role in West Coast archaeology being NZAA West Coast file-keeper since 1994. Much of his contribution to West Coast archaeology was unpaid – Les would always readily volunteer for site visits, especially because it enabled him to combine his passions of history, time in the West Coast wild places, and telling stories about the land. He also carried out contract archaeological work, often in conjunction with other archaeologists, contributing his vast knowledge of West Coast history. Much of his work focused on mining heritage of the West Coast, with some of his most important works being about Waiuta (both published and unpublished) and Denniston (unpublished).

Interpreting history was a strong thread that ran through Les' work. He often partnered with interpretation designers, providing prose and research for on site panels. His publications on places such as Brighton, Camerons or Rewanui provided another entrée into West Coast history, written in a readable yet economical manner. Oral history was another of Les' great loves, beginning with those recorded for DOC about Waiuta and Big River in the late 1980s. Where most may remember Les and his interpretative flair was during site visits where his ear for a good yarn would make the landscape come alive with the comings and goings of people long since past.

His time spent working for DOC in the late 1980s and 1990s led to a wealth of information being collected, mainly oral histories. This work on Waiuta and Big River (both quartz mines and settlements) was published, becoming seminal works for the sites. His association with DOC continued up to the time of his death, through writing conservation plans in the early 2000s, and recently contract work writing heritage assessment reports.

Les was closely involved with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) in both commissioned and voluntary roles over many years. For twenty years, from the early 1990s, he was an active member of the NZHPT West Coast Branch Committee, and had been Secretary from 1995 to 2002. He engaged frequently with various NZHPT archaeologists and his expertise and openness was highly valued. Les also provided authoritative contributions to a range registration reports for West Coast historic buildings, structures and areas.

Les' tremendous passion for heritage saw him being involved in one way or another, in nearly every heritage group on the West Coast. One of the more recent major contributions was being part of Heritage West Coast for the last 15 years, and writing the popular Footprints brochure, a guide to visiting historic sites on the West Coast.

Personally what I recall most, are Les' frequent e-mails updating me on the latest site he had found, or written treasure he had unearthed at Archives NZ. The other abiding memory I have is of his willingness to share what he knew, his research or his time. My knowledge of the West Coast and the history of its people have been enriched by my knowing Les. My conversations with those that knew and worked with Les always reiterate this theme, acknowledging his generosity with his time and knowledge.

The loss of Les has left a large gap in things historic and archaeological on the West Coast. Our thoughts are with his partner Deborah Carden and their families.

Na mihi nui Les – we will miss you.

Jackie Breen, with contributions from Robyn Burgess and Jackie Gurden