



NEW ZEALAND
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ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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NOTES AND NEWS

New Members

Helen McCreary, Bernie Larsen, Nancy Bale, Arden Cruickshank, Anne O'Hagan, Andrea Farminer, Dave Carley, H. Pacey, Pete McGhee, Jessie Hurford, Rod Wallace.

Donations

Thank you to Nancy Bale, Kiyoshi Maruyama, D. L. Harrowfield, Hamish Williams, Christine Barnett, Kath Prickett, Wal Ambrose, A. H. Gray, Donald Millar, Peter Adds, Rosanne Hawarden, Jessie Garland, Deb Foster, Dave Carley and Jennifer Lane, who all made donations.

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 President's Report

This year we are celebrating 60 years of the NZAA, and what more appropriate location for our conference than Christchurch. The earthquakes caused so much trauma in so many lives, and indeed continue to create challenges for many Cantabrians still awaiting resolution. The local archaeologists have had to work under huge time pressures and difficult conditions, to record much of the history of Christchurch before it disappears. The NZAA Conference is a chance for New Zealand archaeologists to show their support for their Canterbury colleagues. The conference team led by Kat Watson has been putting all the pieces together and we have had a great response for papers and posters. We also hope that those members who have not yet registered do so as the conference has a number of great events to attend.

NZAA Council and its members have had a very busy 12 months, with submissions on a number of plans, a new version of *ArchSite* under development and changes to publications in progress. Our submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan made the national press and we are hopeful that many of our proposals will be adopted to assist in the heritage management in the Auckland region. The new Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill is

expected to pass into law very soon, replacing the Historic Places Act 1993 and so in the immortal words of Bob Dylan, “the times they are a-changin”.

After 5 years on Council, I have decided to step down and pass the baton onto others to lead the charge. The next year will be challenging for the incoming council and I wish them the best. I look forward to seeing you all in Christchurch in June and many thanks for all the support over the last few years.

Simon Bickler

NZAA’s 60th Anniversary Conference

NZAA’s 60th anniversary conference is being held in Christchurch, in recognition of the impacts of the earthquakes on the city’s archaeology and heritage. This archaeology and heritage will be a key focus of the conference, with one day dedicated to it. This day will include field trips, papers and the opening of an exhibition on the archaeology of Canterbury at the Canterbury Museum. This year, the field trip will be for half a day, and there are three options to choose from. Other key events will include the gala dinner, a student and recent graduates’ lunch and the poster session.

The conference venue is Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Christchurch (www.chateau-park.co.nz). Chateau on the Park is located in Riccarton, near the Mona Vale homestead and gardens. It is separated from the city by a short walk through Hagley Park, which will take you into the heart of the rebuild zone, where you can explore various bars, restaurants and the numerous exciting projects that characterise post-earthquake Christchurch.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

It is proposed that the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* will be operative from Tuesday 20 May 2014. The Act introduces changes which involve the many roles and responsibilities of the organisation. Please check the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga website for further information and new archaeology forms - www.heritage.org.nz.

Major changes to the archaeological provisions are:

- Different types of authorities (general, general for where the effect of the work will be minor, exploratory, scientific and emergency)
- The need to give greater consideration to the views of tangata whenua where sites are of interest to Māori. This will involve more input from the Māori Heritage Council and is also reflected in a change to the roles and responsibilities of the approved archaeologist
- The need to take into consideration the views of the landowner

We anticipate publishing an archaeologists' newsletter soon to keep you all up to date with the changes. In the meantime please call us if you have any queries.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in this over the years. We are into a new era.

Pam Bain and Kiri Sharpe

Declaration of Two New Archaeological Sites

The Heritage New Zealand Board recently declared two new archaeological sites under s9 (2) of the Historic Places Act 1993. This means in practise that the archaeological provisions of the Act (and its successor) now apply to these sites.

1) The **Norwegian Whalers' Base** on Stewart Island was occupied from 1926-1932 and is directly related to the creation of the Ross Dependency in Antarctica. The site relates to the commencement of commercial whaling in the Ross Sea and Norway's close relationship with New Zealand during the early 20th century.

The tangible heritage remains of The Base are highly intact and can still be seen and interpreted. In addition, the site contains three rare maritime artefacts; an 1873 divers' pump, the hulk of the 1853 whaler the *Othello* and a collection of early 20th century whale catcher propellers. These divers' pump and the *Othello* may be of international importance in themselves.

A celebration of the role of the Norwegian community in New Zealand was held on site recently, attended by nearly 200 people.

2) The **SS *Ventnor*** sank off the Hokianga Coast in 1902. Its cargo carried the remains of 499 Chinese gold miners who had come to New Zealand to seek their fortune but who died far from home and family. Their remains were exhumed from 100 cemeteries and the *SS Ventnor* was commissioned to return them back to China. Unfortunately that never happened.

Some of the coffins and koiwi were washed ashore and buried by Te Roroa and Te Rawawa who continued to care for them over the years. Recently they have developed a relationship with the descendants of those whose remains were onboard the ship. The Chinese New Zealand community visited the area in 2013 and undertook ceremonies to feed the spirits. For further information on this go to: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ventnor> and <http://www.3news.co.nz/TVShows/CampbellLive/Northland-discovery-closes-chapter-in-New-Zealands-gold-mining-history/tabid/817/articleID/111590/cat/84/Default.aspx>

Six other sites have been previously been declared as archaeological sites.

- The Featherston Military Camp
- Limeburner's Bay, Hobsonville

- Lower Nevis Valley, Central Otago
- Makotote Tramway, Central North Island
- Napier Prison Wall
- Upper Nevis Remarkables Conservation Area, Central Otago

Pam Bain

Opita Book Launch

On 24 July 2014 the Research in Anthropology and Linguistics e-volume (RAL-e) entitled *Archaeology at Opita: Three Hundred Years of Continuity and Change* by Caroline Phillips and Harry Allen will be launched. The launch will be held from 4-6pm in Room 704, Human Sciences Building, University of Auckland, as part of the Anthropology Seminar series, with refreshments in the tearoom (Room 802) afterwards.

Opita, at the junction of the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers near Paeroa, was the site of a series of garden settlements, a small fortification and a meeting place between missionaries and local Māori. In 1993 a University of Auckland archaeological field school was held there. The results of the excavation, combined with oral traditions transcribed in the Māori Land Court and European accounts, detailed continuities and changes in the nature of Opita over a period of 300 years.

The authors would like to invite those who were present at the field school, or involved in the analysis and publication, as well as colleagues and friends to celebrate the completion of this monograph.

As a part of the book launch, Harry Allen will present a seminar entitled ‘Hongi Hika: the rise and fall of a Māori chief’ in which, as with the Opita volume, the interplay of historical, traditional and archaeological knowledge will be explored.

Harry Allen and Caroline Phillips