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NOTES AND NEWS

New members

Jaime Wood, Baylee Smith, Rachel Wesley, Te Kenehi Teira, Atareiria Hei Hei, Danny Tanaka, Elsa Koenig, Mark Horrocks, Maria Rodgers, Madeline Fowler, Kurt Bennett, Geraldine Baumann, Peter Marsh.

Donations

Geometria, Steve Bagley, Sarah Phear and Richard Shakles, Baylee Smith.

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Professional Development Cell

On 10 April 2015, the Professional Development Cell ran its 23rd workshop at the archaeology seminar and laboratory rooms of the University of Otago in Dunedin. The topic was **Identifying Māori Artefacts** presented by Dan Witter of Witter Archaeology, Richard Walter and Anne Ford of the University of Otago Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, and Chris Jacomb of Southern Pacific Archaeological Research.

This workshop was aimed at a practical level applicable to practising archaeologists. It focused on four key points when it comes to finds: determining whether something was an artefact or natural material; distinguishing tool fragments from waste; determining the entire manufacturing sequence; description of technical details and use of nomenclature in reports.

The focus was on lithics, particularly those from the Archaic, as the flake tool technology has left such a rich residue that can address technological, socio-economic and sometimes ideological questions through examinations of the material to determine resource use, levels of expertise, exchange routes and choice of materials. Such questions and approaches can also be asked of the bone, ivory and shell artefacts found on site, and examples were given of those.

Analysis from typologies, attributes and how these linked to research questions were discussed, and the emphasis was paid on adopting a robust process and being consistent, rather than following any particular methodology.

Participants were given a series of presentations by the speakers, with full handouts, and tried their hands at using flakes for a variety of tasks. All found this more challenging than it appeared when demonstrated by the experts. A tour of the laboratories showed the process of analysis, from wet sieving and cleaning, sorting, bone, stone and historic reference collections, microscopy and other facilities that are available at the University of Otago.

The workshop was enriched by having members of various iwi who, quite validly, questioned the extent to which archaeological analyses can be taken. The session ended with a consideration of the relevance of this material and the information that can be deciphered to Rangitāne (holders of the mana whenua of Wairau Bar) today.

Professional Development Cell