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NOTES AND NEWS

New members

Te Radar, Helen Jones.

Donations

No donations have been received since the last issue.

Facebook

Make sure to visit 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

Honours and Awards

Dilys Johns from the Anthropology Department, University of Auckland, has been elected as a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic works (IIC) in London.

Emeritus Professor Atholl Anderson was awarded the Royal Society of New Zealand's 2015 Humanities Aronui Medal for his outstanding contributions to the humanities through research on pre-European migration and colonisation of oceanic islands.

2016 NZAA Conference

The 2016 annual NZAA Conference will be located at the Ukaipo Rangitane Conference Centre, Blenheim from 22-25 June 2016. Our hosts during the conference will be Rangitāne o Wairau with a special field trip planned to visit Wairau Bar, a site of national importance on 24 June. This conference offers anyone interested in the history and heritage of Aotearoa a once in a life time opportunity to see Wairau Bar, hear the korero by tangata whenua and learn about recent archaeological research.

We will soon be calling for proposals of papers and posters on all aspects of New Zealand and Pacific archaeology, but encourage prospective participants to consider offerings that focus on current/recent research in the Marlborough area and South Island. We will also have a Student Paper session in which current students and recent graduates can present aspects of their academic research. The annual dinner and graduate lunch will also be held.

Further information about the conference, including registration forms will be available in the coming weeks. Also, if anyone is interested in helping with the conference and volunteering some time please contact Conference Coordinator Brooke Jamieson (conference@nzarchaeology.org); we are currently looking for a Registrations person.

Nicholas Twohill: an advocate for heritage (1953-2014)

It is with much sadness, and some embarrassment related to my tardiness, that I report the news of the death of Nicholas (Nic) Twohill. Early this year I was visiting the Thames School of Mines and began chatting to Tom Barker, a current curator there and recent Auckland University graduate in archaeology. Tom is also very much aware of Thames history, being a descendant of a mining family who arrived there in the 1800s. We both raved on about how the School was one of the great properties owned by Heritage New Zealand and then we got on to the local personalities who had both saved and nurtured the place. The late Alistair Isdale was instrumental in saving the complex and Nic Twohill was a curator there (and fellow archaeologist). Tom interrupted to say that Nic had passed away only months before on 28 September 2014.

Nic will not be known to many of the NZAA's more recent members but he was heavily involved in archaeology, particularly in the Thames Coromandel area for 20 years from the late 1970s to the 2000s. Nic was a Thames man (although born in Wellington on 22 September 1953) through and through but ventured to Auckland University to complete a BA and MA in Anthropology and a PhD in History. Nic's MA thesis was entitled 'Industrial archaeology of the Mount Zeehan gold-mining property', completed in 1984. His interests were primarily in historical archaeology, and as a contract archaeologist (Mining Associates) he completed a whole series of surveys of mining areas throughout the Coromandel (see below), funded through small grants from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust or other contracts. He was also a fervent advocate for the registration of sites and the importance of highlighting the significance of Māori heritage to the wider Thames community. Nic lived briefly in Wellington having found employment with the Office of Treaty Settlements. He then returned to Thames and became reconnected with the history of the area, working as curator at the School of Mines from 1998, until forced by illness to retire in 2013.

I first met Nic when he came to join excavations I was carrying out at Puriri, on the Hauraki Plains in 1992, which related to my Masters research. A quiet, unassuming character he very quickly livened up as we shared a DB Vita-Stout or two at the Puriri Hotel over several weeks of excavation. He was an eccentric, sadly an increasingly rare breed nowadays, whose company I thoroughly enjoyed. However, I never quite connected with his strong aversion

to potatoes due to them being from the same family as deadly nightshade, and as I pointed out to him this would also have ruled out tomatoes, capsicums and eggplants.

Lack of more permanent employment opportunities in archaeology encouraged him to branch off into history and he returned to Auckland University to complete in 2007 a PhD titled 'The Missing Shore; New Zealand and Spanish American interactions, 1820-1914' in the Department of History. In this thesis, Nic was able to make use of his Spanish language skills and to further his enjoyment of Latin America. He was also very proud of his Irish heritage.



A motley collection of teacher, students and friends at the close of excavations at Puriri on the Hauraki Plains 1992. L to R: Harry Allen, Jeff Mosen, Heather Adams, Tania Trombik, Bev Parslow, Nic Twohill, Stuart Bedford and Lance Boyd.

The last time I saw Nic was on the streets of Auckland recounting the very stimulating trips (both cultural and academic) he had made to South America in relation to his research.

At 61 years of age Nic passed away well before his time, but his contributions in recording and promoting New Zealand's heritage along with his fine sense of humour will not be forgotten.

Nicholas Twohill publications:

1979. Lower Kauaeranga-Matatoki Archaeological Site Survey.
1990. Site Survey of the Lower Kuaotunu Valley.
1992. Site Survey of the Lower Kuaotunu Valley and Lower Kuaotunu West (Part 2).
1993. Archaeological Site Survey from Owerā Road to Owerā Head, Whangapoua Harbour.
1994. Archaeological Site Survey : the Owerā Valley floor and Koruakomako, Whangapoua Harbour.
1995. Report on Archaeological Values on Te Mata Forestry's Property, Te Mata, Thames Coast.
1996. Archaeological Test Pits in Lots 16 and 17: Te Mata Forestry Limited's Subdivision at Te Mata, Thames Coast.
1997. Archaeological values in the Golden Cross mining licence area - to the west of the main site access road.
1999. The Grounds of the Thames School of Mines. *Archaeology in New Zealand* 42:248-266.
2000. Prehistoric sites at Owerā, Whangapoua Harbour. *Archaeology in New Zealand* 43:230-238
2001. Nineteenth-Century European Cemeteries in Thames. *Archaeology in New Zealand*, 44:109-123.
2003. Thomas Quinn: A Life Full of Experience and Travel. *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal* 47, September .
2005. Twohill, Nicolas and Matthew O'Meagher. 'First Impressions, Final Imprints, Forgotten Connections: Heading for Microhistory on the New Zealand-Chile Leg'. In *Tales of Land and Sea: Travel Narratives of the Trans-Pacific South 1700-1900*, edited by Matthew O'Meagher and Ricardo Cicerchia, PP 43-61. Unley, South Australia.
2009. Making a Niche for themselves: A process of Irish Integration into New Zealand Gold Rush Society. Paper presented at the *Ireland and the Irish Antipodes: One World or Worlds Apart?* Australasian Irish Studies Conference, 9-12 July 2009 Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand.
2010. The British World and its Role in the Relationship Between New Zealand and the Southern Cone of Latin America, 1820-1914. *Historia* No 43:113-162.

Stuart Bedford with valuable input from Harry Allen

Bob Brown

H.J.R. Brown, always known as Bob, who died recently in Auckland aged 83, was a school teacher with a passionate interest in Auckland's archaeological sites, particularly (but not only) the volcanic cones. He studied

at Auckland University, majoring in geography and submitting his thesis, 'The Prehistoric Geography of the Auckland Isthmus,' in 1954, the year Jack Golson took up his position at the then Auckland University College. His first contribution to the NZAA *Newsletter* (apart from a book review) reads like the abstract of his thesis.

He spent some years teaching in Waipu in Northland, where he implemented an ambitious programme of site recording. He described this in some detail at the NZAA conference in Whanganui in 1958, where he had a major input into discussions around the setting up of the Site Recording Scheme.

From recording, Bob moved to campaigning against destruction and for preservation of Auckland's archaeological sites, including early (and at times controversial) attempts in Auckland to develop a site scheduling system.

He drew on a wide range of sources in addition to field evidence in his studies and recording of archaeological sites, presenting a paper on this at the 1963 conference. His deep knowledge of Auckland archaeological sites made him an ideal tour leader, notably during the Eleventh New Zealand Science Congress in 1965.

Bob's concerns about ongoing site destruction and his reasoned and sensible approach to site protection were expressed at the 1966 NZAA conference in Wellington. As others increasingly took up the crusade, he channelled his interests and concerns more to the then Historic Places Trust, as a long serving and staunch member of the Auckland Regional Committee.

He was an avid reader himself and contributed book reviews to the *Newsletter*, notably but not surprisingly for the school teacher he was, an excellent guide to 'Books for the young archaeologist.'

Bob's death notice in the *New Zealand Herald* described him as 'kind, loving, considerate and generous to all' – an excellent description of the man I remember.

Janet Davidson