



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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# Notes and News

## New Members

BP Kneebone, Jamie-Lee Hearfield, Maeve Platts, Susanne Grieve, Scot, Marchant-Ludlow, Kate Eising, Ben Jones, Eileen Barrett-Whitehead and John Whitehead, Shaun Tavernor, Thomas O'Connell, Nick Mainwaring, Marlborough Museum, Adina and John Brown, Christopher Sims, Jan Jones.

## Donations

Thank you to those who have made donations to the Association in the last quarter: Donald Miller, Richard Walter, Kath Prickett, David Harrowfield, Robin Watt, Colin Merrony, Charles Sedgwick, Jeremy Habberfield-Short, Wal Ambrose, Janet Leatherby, Sue Pye, Maeve Platts, Kate Eising, Ben Jones, Earl Neller.

## Recent Academic Publications

Boswijk, G., Munro, D. (2015) Making productive space from sawmill waste: timber production and reclamation at Kohukohu, Northland, New Zealand (1879-1912). *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 33: 3-14.

Campbell, M. (2016) Body part representation and the extended analysis of New Zealand fishbone. *Archaeology in Oceania*, 51: 18-30. DOI:10.1002/arco.5079.

## Recent Reports & Publications Indexes

AINZ no longer carries a list of recent consultancy reports, but this body of information remains a valuable source of primary data. Heritage New Zealand maintains the Digital Library of consultancy reports, which can be emailed (or sent via Hightail.com for large files) on request. More information and the excel spreadsheet of the library contents can be found at:

<http://www.heritage.org.nz/protecting-heritage/archaeology/digital-library>

The New Zealand Archaeological Association also maintains an archaeological report library. Scans of this collection have been included in the HNZ Digital Library, but any other enquiries can be directed to Nicola Molloy (nmolloy@doc.govt.nz).

Another valuable resource is the National Library's *Index New Zealand* (INNZ), which is a database that indexes articles from research, trade and general interest journals about the NZ and South Pacific region. Entries include a brief abstract. The INNZ database is at: <http://innz.natlib.govt.nz/>

## **Archaeological Repository Survey**

Ben Thorne and Meri Low have reported on the results of the Archaeological Repository Questionnaire that was circulated in November 2013. The questionnaire was sent to 390 Archaeologists and Museum staff within NZ, but disappointingly only 10% of that number chose to respond. Nevertheless, a majority of respondents believed that some form of storage facility is required. Respondents were invited to comment on each of the survey questions: from the comments received, the authors were able to identify three major issues, which are:

- Location: Must be secure but also provide ready access to material.
- Cost: Any such repository will carry a cost. That cost could be met by the Archaeological Community, government agencies, developers, a private/public partnership, or a combination of all of the above.
- Volume: From the limited response it was obvious that there is a large amount of material in private storage. 24 respondents report a total of 153m<sup>3</sup> held in this manner

In conclusion the authors believe that this issue needs to be addressed. It needs to be championed by a major interested organisation such as NZ Heritage or Ministry for Culture & Heritage. Arguably the longer it goes unresolved, the more of our history will be consigned to landfill

## **2016 NZAA Conference**

The 2016 annual NZAA Conference will be located at the Ukaipo Rangitane Conference Centre, Blenheim from 22-25 June 2016. More information is on the website: <http://nzarchaeology.org/cms/index.php/conferences>

## **2016 ASHA Conference**

The 2016 ASHA conference will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 28 September to 1 October, at the Chateau on the Park (<http://www.chateau-park.co.nz/>), just a short walk through the picturesque Hagley Park from the city centre. The welcome event will be at the historic Riccarton House,

recently reopened after earthquake repairs (<http://www.riccartonhouse.co.nz/>). The conference dinner will be on 1 October at The George (<http://www.thegeorge.com/>). There will be a post-conference field trip on 2 October, to Ōtamahua/Quail Island in Lyttelton Harbour, site of a ships' graveyard, an early 20th century leper colony, and where Shackleton and Scott both trained and quarantined dogs and ponies before their Antarctic journeys (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/otamahua-quail-island-recreation-reserve/>).

Accommodation is available at the venue, and at a number of hotels and motels nearby. There are also a range of options available through Airbnb.

Registration is via the ASHA website ([www.asha.org.au](http://www.asha.org.au)). Any questions, please email Katharine Watson ([katharine.watson@underoverarch.co.nz](mailto:katharine.watson@underoverarch.co.nz)).

#### Call for papers and posters

We invite offers of papers in the following sessions (for session abstracts see <http://www.asha.org.au/2016-asha-conference>):

- Conflict archaeology
- Road-based archaeology and heritage
- Advancing the archaeology of public houses, inns and hotels
- Advances in the archaeology of the modern city
- Christchurch: a city uncovered
- Quickfire: 5 minute general presentations
- General session
- Student session
- Poster session

Further session proposals will also be considered.

Please forward offers of papers or posters with title, brief abstract (100-150 words) and intended session to [kurt.bennett@underoverarch.co.nz](mailto:kurt.bennett@underoverarch.co.nz). The deadline is 10 August 2016

# Obituaries

## Chris Jacomb 1955 to 2016

Chris Jacomb was born in the USA and came to New Zealand with his family as a teenager in the 1970s. He never lost the slight accent and love of small boats that originated in his childhood, but otherwise he completely adopted New Zealand as his home. Chris started his BA study at Otago, and finished it in Auckland, and in the meantime also became involved in a number of the Clutha Valley Development excavations and surveys from 1979 into the early 1980s. There he met Sheridan and worked alongside Neville Richie, Stuart Bedford, Warren Gumbley, Dilys Johns, Pam Bain, Karl Gillies, Moira White and other archaeologists of that generation. Chris' meticulous approach was accompanied by a certain irreverence: Fiona Cameron remains convinced that a certain boulder was used as a moa-mounting stone for early moa jockeys, and Chris's secreting of a plastic tiki initiated one of Nev's corrective speeches "stashing fake artefacts is a perennial problem and it must stop!" A spell with the Department of Lands & Survey followed, giving Chris and Sheridan the opportunity for more archaeological survey in Central Otago. It was during this period that they got married: a story that Chris himself often told was that he and Sheridan were married by the Postmaster at the Queenstown Post Office, and then telegraphed their families with the news.

Chris' first professional job was as Curator at the Whanganui Regional Museum, where he quickly busied himself within the museum and the wider region. Amongst his first projects was the re-examination of the Johnston site at Waverley where a number of early wooden artefacts had been recovered in the 1930s. He later moved to become Curator of Archaeology & Ethnology at Canterbury Museum where he continued with his research, including the start of his investigation (with Richard Holdaway) into the timing of moa extinction. While working full time Chris also completed his Otago MA on the significant but heavily fossicked Banks Peninsula site of Panau. His monograph on the site, *Panau The Archaeology of a Banks Peninsula Maori Village* (2000), is a landmark volume and a superb example of how a meticulous investigation of a heavily fossicked archaeological site might still rescue information that would otherwise be lost to modern scholarship.

From the Canterbury Museum Chris moved to become the first Historic Places Trust Southern Regional Archaeologist, initially based in Christchurch and then Dunedin. He was still in Christchurch when he and Richard Walter

developed the idea for an archaeological research consultancy operating out of Otago University, and Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (SPAR) was born. Chris soon left the Trust to concentrate entirely on the new venture, and in this role he immersed himself in a number of significant research projects. He continued his ground-breaking research into the timing of moa extinction, and the SPAR team were the first archaeologists to return to Wairau Bar since the 1960s. Their research there has not only allowed a more detailed and nuanced account of this earliest-known New Zealand settlement, it has also mended a number of bridges between the archaeological profession and Rangitane.



*From left: Helen Crawford, Warren Gumbley, Chris Jacomb and Sheridan Easdale at the Teouma Lapita site, Efate, Vanuatu 2004 (Stuart Bedford).*

Chris also found time for many other interests, including the lifestyle block at Alexandra, the V8 Land Rover and his vintage bicycles. It will come as no surprise to anyone that he had many more ideas and projects now left undone.

Chris' passing is a major loss to New Zealand archaeology, not only because of his substantial contributions to the discipline in this country and beyond, but because we have lost one of the more generous and unassuming individuals to be found amongst our community. We offer our condolences to Sheridan, Francis and Hilary for their enormous loss.

Moe mai ra e te rangatira.

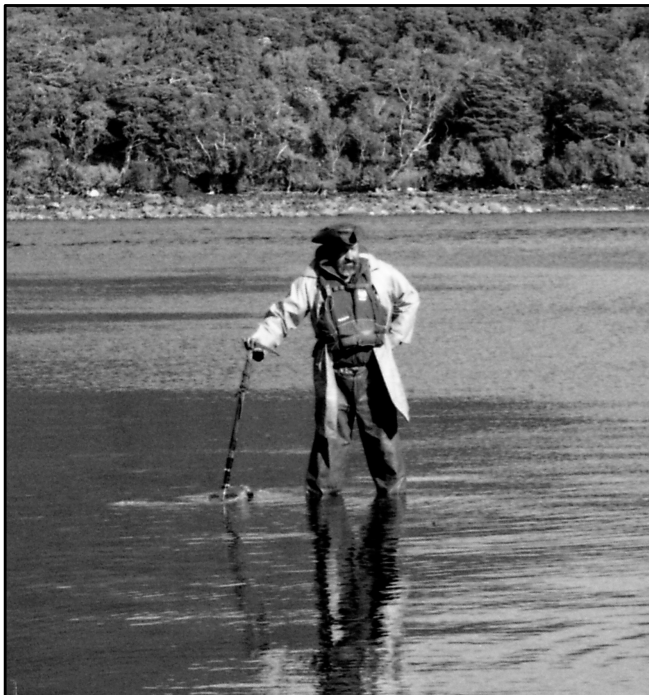
Kelvin Day, Stuart Bedford, Warren Gumbley, Pam Bain, Dilys Johns, Emma Brooks, Peter Petchey.

## Karl Gillies 1951-2016

Karl made an immediate impression on everyone who came into contact with him. Despite a somewhat wild appearance he was a kind and gentle man who was devoted to archaeology and more widely to anthropology. He was the NZAA Filekeeper for Southland 1984-2008, and organised the NZAA conference at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery in 1990.

Karl had some tough breaks during life. He contracted polio as a youngster and was also severely injured in two vehicle accidents (motor bike and gyrocopter). These events left him permanently disabled. He was not one to shy away from challenges and learned to fly an Auster BDX with instruction from his father. Karl fathered one son, and had two unsuccessful marriages. He had a wicked sense of humour and was always eccentric. A typical example was in 1982, when he was appointed Editor of the Otago University Capping Magazine. It appeared entitled *Rigor Mortis* (published posthumously), and featured an editorial signed “K. Gillies, missing presumed dead.”

He graduated BA Hons in Anthropology 1979, MA 1981 from Otago University, and Post Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies (AGMANZ) in 1987. His two theses were both focused on experimental archaeology. The



first of these examined the performance of different types of oven stones in hangi, while the second demonstrated that obsidian tools from Murihiku were used primarily for woodworking. From 1984 to 2008 he was employed at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery (Curator of Anthropology, Collections Manager, and Registrar).

*Karl standing on the ballast stones of the Endeavour wreck in Facile Harbour in 1998.*

Throughout his life he was always an enthusiastic supporter of archaeological fieldwork. He took part in many archaeological excavations (Long Beach,

Waitaki River Mouth, Waianakarua River Mouth, Italian Creek, Hawksburn, Pounaweia, Hahei, Owens Ferry, Rockfall 2, Dart Bridge, Parkburn, Totara Estate slaughterhouse, Mason Bay, Luncheon Cove, Facile Harbour, Cooks Arm, and Enderby Island). He also took part in several archaeological site surveys (North Otago coast, Upper Taieri, Colyers Island, Solander Island, Tolaga Bay, and in North east Thailand). Finally, in collaboration with Iwi authorities and the NZ Police Karl was responsible for disinterment, preliminary study, and re-burial of human remains at Mason Bay, Stewart Island; Matai Island, Doubtful Sound. Through this work Karl made a significant contribution to archaeological and museological practice, developing protocols for the recovery, handling and management of koiwi that are now used widely throughout the country.

In addition to 14 Technical Reports which Karl contributed to the NZ Historic Places Trust, the Department of Lands and Survey, and the Department of Conservation between 1978 and 1999, he published the following items:

- Gillies, K. (1982) A Simple Method of Enhancing Aspects of Obsidian Tools for Macro-Photography. *NZAA Newsletter* 25(3): 210-211.
- Gillies, K. (1983) Thermodynamics of Experimental Small Umu. *NZAA Newsletter* 26(3): 192-200.
- Williams, L. and Gillies, K. (1984) An Outrigger Canoe Float from Lake Brunton. *AGMANZ News* 15(3): 22-25.
- Gillies, K. (1985) Solander Island Site Survey. *NZAA Newsletter* 28(4): 243-245.
- Bristow, P., Gillies, K., and Gumbley, W. (1985) A Prehistoric Quarry on Colyers Island, Bluff Harbour, Southland. *NZAA Newsletter* 28(3): 144-154.
- Gillies, K. and O'Regan, G. (1994) Murihiku Resolution of Koiwi Tangata Management. <http://nzarchaeology.org/elecpublications/koiwi.html>
- Gillies, K. 1995. Industry at Tiwai Point. *NZHPT Journal* 54: 10-11.
- Gillies, K. and Skerrett, M. (1998) A Maori Canoe Prow from Stewart Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* 18: 125-143.
- Gillies, K, Johns, D., Jones, M.D., Wallace, R.D., and T.F.G Higham. nd. Radiocarbon age for a canoe prow from site D49/28, Mason Bay, Stewart Island, New Zealand (to be published posthumously).

Karl died peacefully in his home at Waianakarua 29 April 2016 aged 64.

Foss Leach, Ian Smith and Murray McIlwraith



## **Brian Vincent**

### **1938 to 2016**

Dr Brian Vincent FSA, died on the 30<sup>th</sup> March just four days after his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brian came to archaeology in 1975, after a successful career as a builder, when he enrolled in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Otago for his BA. His deep interest in the discipline led to his doctoral research at the Thai Bronze and Thai Iron Age site of Ban Na Di, where he undertook the analysis of the ceramics. Following a period of study at Southampton with David Peacock FSA, he completed the first analysis of an assemblage of mortuary vessels and occupation ceramics of its kind in Southeast Asia. His identification of local and trade vessels of the basis of temper variations contributed much to the overall social interpretation of the site.

In 1985, Brian Vincent spent four months as the site ceramicist during the excavation of Khok Phanom Di. This estuarine settlement, now behind the eastern shore of the Gulf of Siam, had been a major pottery making community between 2000-1500 BC. The vessels found in the graves from seven mortuary phases were of exceptional quality, and many of the female dead were interred with their anvils and burnishing stones. The occupation levels also yielded tons of potsherds. Brian ran the on-site ceramic workshop with a masterful efficiency. His subsequent thin sectioning and detailed analyses were to be published by the Society of Antiquaries in a volume that has not been, and possibly never will be matched in terms of its detail and insight into five centuries of development and change in a prehistoric Southeast Asian pottery making centre.

Brian was also active in New Zealand archaeology. In 1978 he directed a major survey of goldfields archaeological sites at Waipori which recorded over 900 new sites, in 1980 he carried out the Waitaki site survey, and in 1981 he and Charles Higham surveyed the Gabriels Gully area.

Brian latterly branched out in the archaeology of Papua New Guinea, and in 2006 he worked in the East Sepik region where he undertook pottery sourcing research. He was meticulous in obtaining potting clay samples and beach sands, and using petrographic analysis to source 2,000 year old pottery from Koil island. Brian excelled in the tropical conditions and earned the respect of all those he worked with.

Brian was an Honorary Fellow in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago until his unexpected and untimely death.

His regular presence at conferences, and insightful papers on the importance of going beyond form and decoration, and getting to grips with every aspect of pottery manufacture, will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues. Brian was elected to the Society of Antiquaries on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

Charles Higham

## **John Hall-Jones 1927 to 2015**

John Hall-Jones of Invercargill had two distinguished careers, in medicine as an ear, nose and throat specialist, retiring at 60, then as an historian and writer of more than 30 books, mostly on southern New Zealand. In his second career he shared many interests with archaeologists, joined the Association at the 1987 Cromwell conference, and attended our conferences when



wilderness expeditions in southern New Zealand and travels elsewhere in the world did not intervene.

*Ron Scarlett and John Hall-Jones on the 1992 Whitianga conference field trip to Great Mercury Island (Nigel Prickett).*

A great-grandfather was John Turnbull Thomson who surveyed the city of Invercargill and much of Southland and Otago, an accomplished artist whose paintings of the places where he worked are an important record. It was he who named the ‘animal burns’ of the upper Taieri: Gimmer, Swin, Stot, Kye, and Wedder and others, after the dialect of his Scottish Borders home. John’s grandfather Sir William Hall-Jones was a New Zealand prime minister and his father Frederick was, like John, a notable southern historian.

Among John’s books are many on Fiordland for which he long held a passion, first crossing Lake Te Anau and tramping over the divide to the west in the 1940s when parts of the country were marked ‘unexplored’ on available maps.

In his 80s he explored the sounds in a sea kayak. His interests and expeditions are described in 'A Life of Adventures' (2015).

His first book was 'Early Fiordland' (1968). 'Fiordland Explored' and 'Bluff Harbour' (both 1976) won the JM Sherrard award for regional histories, and 'Goldfields of the South' (1982) and 'The Fjords of Fiordland' (2003) reached the finals of national book awards. In 1998 he was one of four inaugural Hocken Library Fellows and in 2007 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Otago.

An early experience of New Zealand archaeology was at Pyramid Valley in 1952 as told in his contribution to the NZAA 50th anniversary publication 'Digging into History' (2004). The piece is titled 'Ron Scarlett and Les Lockerbie' and tells of a collegial relationship with his fellow South Islanders.

I always enjoyed meeting up with John for his good cheer and enthusiasm for nearly any historical and archaeological topic of discussion, especially with regard to the south. His knowledge was of particular help in regard to the Foveaux Strait section of my 2002 DOC report on New Zealand shore whaling, which was a topic explored by John and by his father over many years.

Nigel Prickett