



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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# Notes and News

## New Members

Will Parsons and Rose Parsons, Grant Middeldmiss, Bruce Alexander, David Dell, Chris Stratton and John Stratton, Heather Wellington.

## Donations

Thank you to those who have made donations to the Association in the last quarter: Jane Jones, Geometria.

## Recent Academic Publications

Bennett, K. & Fowler (2016) Rich Pickings: An Analysis of Opportunistic Behaviour at Rangitoto Island, Aotearoa/New Zealand. *Journal of Maritime Archaeology*.

Bennett, K. & Fowler (2016) In my Memory, it says 'Rarawa': Abandoned Vessel Material Salvage and Reuse at Rangitoto Island, Aotearoa / New Zealand. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*. doi:10.1007/s10761-016-0328-7

Burley, D., Weisler, M. and White, P. (editors) (2016) An Archaeologist's Geologist: Papers in Honour of W. R. (Bill) Dickinson. *Archaeology in Oceania* Special Issue 51(2):81-167.

Lambrides, A.B.J. and Weisler, M.I. (2016) Pacific Islands ichthyoarchaeology: Implications for the development of prehistoric fishing studies and global sustainability. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 24(3):275-324. DOI 10.1007/s10814-016-9090-y.

Petchey, P.G., Buckley, H., Walter, R., Anson, D., Kinaston, R. (2016) 'The 2008-2009 Excavations at the SAC Locality, Reber-Rakival Lapita Site, Watom Island, Papua New Guinea.' *Journal of Indo-Pacific Archaeology*. Vol. 40: 12-31.

Shipton, C., Weisler, M., Jacomb, C., Clarkson, C., Walter, R. (2016) A morphometric reassessment of Roger Duff's Polynesian adze typology. *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports* 6:361-375.

Weisler, M, Bolhar, R., Charleux, M., Faith, J., Feng, Y-X. and St.Pierre, E. (2016) Determining geochemical variability of fine-grained basalt sources/quarries for facilitating prehistoric interaction studies in Polynesia. *Archaeology in Oceania* 51(2):158-167. DOI: 10.1002/arco.5088.

Weisler, M.I., Bolhar, R., Ma, J., St Pierre, E., Sheppard, P., Walter, R., Feng, Y., Zhao, J-X. and Kirch, P.V. (2016) Cook Island artifact geochemistry demonstrates spatial and temporal extent of pre-European inter-archipelago voyaging in East Polynesia. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 113(29):8150-8155. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1608130113.

## **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, copies of which can be emailed (or sent via Hightail.com for large files) on request. More information and the excel spreadsheet index 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/>

## **Awards**

### **NZAA Annual Awards**

The 2016 annual NZAA Conference was held at the Ukaipo Rangitane Conference Centre in Blenheim from 22-25 June 2016, and a full set of reports are published further on in this issue of AINZ. The awards presented at the formal dinner on the last night of the conference were:

- Groube Fieldwork Award – Sian Keith (Opus) for her work on the archaeology of the Waikato Expressway, one of New Zealand’s largest current civil construction projects.
- Best student paper in AINZ – Matt Carter (La Trobe University).
- Best student paper at conference – Baylee Smith (University of Otago).
- Best poster – Josh Emmitt (University of Auckland).

## Skinner Fund Awards

In 1966, in honour of Henry Devenish Skinner, the New Zealand Archaeological Association jointly with the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Polynesian Society established the Skinner Fund from public subscription. Following the death of Dr Skinner in 1978, donations from the Friends of the Otago Museum and the Otago Museum Trust Board substantially increased the fund as a token to his memory. The purpose of the fund is to promote the study of the history, art, culture, physical and social anthropology of the Maori and other Polynesian peoples, particularly through the recording, survey, excavation and scientific study of prehistoric and historic sites in New Zealand and the islands of the South-west Pacific. Five awards were made in 2016:

- Tautala Asaua-Pisa, University of Otago, *‘The archaeological investigation of Apolima Island, Sāmoa: the construction of a 2500 year cultural sequence.’*
- Dylan Gaffney, University of Otago, *‘Early Austronesian interactions with the New Guinea Highlands: evidence from the geochemical analysis of archaeological pottery.’*
- Chris Jennings, University of Queensland, *‘Investigation of the prehistoric quarries of the greater Bluff area in relation to the organisation of raw material procurement and adze manufacture.’*
- Rachel Scott, University of Otago, *‘Investigation of the dietary differences between individuals interred within two burial mounds at ‘Atele on the island of Tongatapu, the Kingdom of Tonga, using dental microwear texture analysis.’*
- Gareth Walter, University of Auckland, *‘An archaeological survey of the monumental architecture present in the Maungaroa Valley, Rarotonga (Cook Islands).’*

Simon Bickler

## **New Zealand Archaeology Week, April 2017**

The New Zealand Archaeological Association is planning to launch a New Zealand Archaeology Week in the first week of April 2017. The basic objective of the event is to increase public awareness of archaeology in New Zealand. Archaeology Week will promote the work of New Zealand archaeologists both at home and abroad, and will promote the importance of protecting our archaeological heritage.

We propose that New Zealand Archaeology Week will work on a local level with numerous events happening around the country during the same week. The function of NZAA during the week will be to co-ordinate and promote events during Archaeology Week but not to run the events themselves.

The types of events that would be appropriate for New Zealand Archaeological Week could include special museum exhibitions, public talks on archaeological work in New Zealand or abroad, historic walks promoting the archaeology of a town, archaeological site visits and/or visits to an excavation.

NZAA will break the country into areas and have co-ordinator in each area so that facilitating Archaeology Week will not fall on one person and there is a local contact for people/groups/organisations wishing to set up an event. We are looking for area coordinators so please contact me if you are interested.

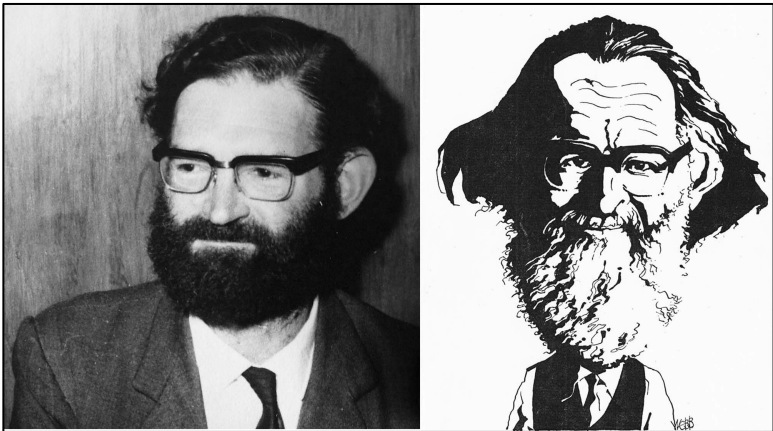
Please contact me at [archaeologyweek@nzarchaeology.org](mailto:archaeologyweek@nzarchaeology.org) for more information or to discuss possible events and/or interest in the proposed New Zealand Archaeological Week 2017.

*Kathryn Hurren*  
*New Zealand Archaeology Week Coordinator*

## Obituary

### Graeme Mason: 1938-2016

Graeme was the Technician in the Anthropology Department at Otago University from 1973 and 1998 and made a lasting impression on all who came into contact with him. He had an insatiable thirst for knowledge – all knowledge – any knowledge. He just couldn't stop himself. He had unbridled curiosity about all things. No matter where he was during fieldwork, whenever there was a tea break he would grab a biscuit and set off striding across the landscape, to explore the world around him, peering under logs and rocks, and chipping pieces of stone to see what was inside. As a result of this enthusiasm, he amassed a large fossil collection, which is now in the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa. The Curator said that Graeme's collection, numbering more than 3000 beautifully documented specimens, is of national importance.



He began his education at Caversham Valley Road School in Dunedin in 1946, and when the family moved to Temuka he attended the school at nearby Winchester. He did his secondary schooling at Timaru Boys High, and then went on to study at Otago University periodically between 1957 and 1968. He took courses in Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Botany, and Anthropology. He had a chequered academic record, with his best performance in Geology.

In the 1960s Graeme did a great deal of archaeological fieldwork with Owen Wilkes and Tony Fomison who were employed at the Canterbury Museum.

One major project was recording Maori rock art under threat from the Waitaki River hydro-electricity project. He later recounted the final days of this project. The waters were rising and the dam was filling and Graeme had one last rock shelter to record. In desperation he got some dynamite and blew the entire wall off the cave, loaded the fragments into his trusty van called Hannibal, and made several trips to dump them in the bowels of the Otago Museum. They remain there to this day, awaiting some enthusiastic student to reassemble this gigantic jigsaw puzzle. This was a typical example of Graeme's boundless initiative in solving complex problems, especially if it could be done with some explosives.

One of Graeme's characteristics was his ability to survive on practically nothing in the wildest of circumstances during fieldwork. He could disappear into the bush somewhere with the most meagre provisions and return two weeks later looking exactly the same as on the day he went in.

He assisted with archaeological fieldwork outside New Zealand, in both the Chatham Islands and Thailand. This filled a number of gaps in his experience, including a brush with Buddhism. He kept a small Buddha on a shelf in his hospital room in his last days.

Graeme made a significant contribution to the development of the archaeological laboratory complex at Otago University, overseeing the successive moves from an ex-army shack behind the Physical Education School, to the evacuated Holy Name Convent, to the Works and Services building in Albany Street, to Works and Services Building behind the Dental School, and finally to the then Hocken Building. This last move created an opportunity for the design of a splendid series of laboratories devoted to each stage of archaeological research from bags of excavated debris through to publication. Graeme played a major role in every aspect of this implementation, down to placing the last electrical power point, and he was a constant headache to the architects in achieving the complex that was envisioned.

In addition to the list of publications below, Graeme contributed a great deal of specialised research material in the publications of many others, either as appendices or inclusion in texts. As a result, many scientists and graduate students greatly benefited from his input into their work and he is much acknowledged

*Foss Leach and Helen Leach*

## **Publications by Graeme Mason**

Pole, M., Douglas, B., and Mason, G.M. 2003. The terrestrial Miocene biota of southern New Zealand. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 33 (1): 415-426.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03014223.2003.9517737>

Mason, G.M. 1988 Ecological studies of a marine terrace sequence in the Waitutu Ecological District of southern New Zealand. Part 5: Land snails. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 18(1): 89–90.

Mason, G. M. 1980. Bibliography of the Otago Peninsula, Dunedin. Hocken Library, MS.

Higham, C.F.W., Mason, G.M., Moore, S.J.E. 1976. Upper Clutha Valley. An Archaeological Survey. Report on a Survey of Prehistoric and Historic Sites in the Cromwell Area, Central Otago. University of Otago *Studies in Prehistoric Anthropology*, Vol. 8. 199 pp.

Mason, G.M. 1975. Porcellanites. pp 161 In: Keyes, I.W. 1975. Prehistoric trade in New Zealand. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 18(4): 160-170.

Mason, G.M. 1963. Preliminary note on two Waitaki River sites - Mackenzie Country. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 6(2): 93-94.

Mason, G.M. and Owen Wilkes. 1963. Dashing Rocks, Timaru: a preliminary note on excavations - site S111/1. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 6(2): 95-98.

Mason, G.M. and Owen Wilkes. 1963. Tumbledown Bay - a Banks Peninsula moa-hunter site S94/30. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 6(2): 98-100.

Mason, G.M. 1963. Rocks and the archaeologist. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 6(2): 111-112.