



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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## NOTES FROM CANTERBURY

by Owen Wilkes

Goose Bay:

The Canterbury Museum's programme for the North Canterbury-Marlborough Coast was furthered in August 1961 with a fortnight's excavation at Goose Bay, south of Kaikoura, by the Canterbury Museum Archaeological Society. The site was an old midden area, and yielded fish hooks, spawls, flint and quartzite knives, drill points and worked greenstone.

Canoes on Mt. Fyfe:

Members of the Goose Bay digging party, with representatives of the Marlborough Historical Society, the Kaikoura County Council, and the Forestry Service, inspected the unfinished canoes 1500-1700 ft. up on the slopes of Mt. Fyfe, five miles inland of Kaikoura. These were first examined in Easter 1959 by a party led by Dr. Duff. The canoes are situated on a steep slope overlooking the Waimangarara River. The larger canoe measures 35 ft., this being less than the full length as one end is shaped as a tenon join to a further length. Ripple-like facets left by the adzing are still visible. The smaller canoe, 15 ft. long, is 300 ft. higher up the ridge and it seems strange that a one man dugout should be constructed in such an inaccessible position. The August expedition decided that the canoes were in too advanced a state of decay to be carried down. It is hoped that a shelter can be erected over them sometime.

Ngati Mamoe House Pits:

Excavations at Claverley from 1955 onwards have been summarised in Dr. Duff's paper "Excavations at Pari Whakatau Pa, Claverley, Marlborough." published in the Museum Records, August, 1961. Further investigations since publication have been successfully directed towards locating the palisades of this pa.

Archaic Site on the West Coast:

At the mouth of the Heaphy River, on the West Coast of North-west Nelson, Ron Scarlett and I have been excavating in a small Moa hunter site which is yielding Archaic type adzes, together with a remarkable amount of worked greenstone.

Nelson Argillite Quarries:

The Nelson Committee of the National Historic Places Trust has extended its field of operations to include Maori sites. At a recent meeting it was decided to proceed with a survey of argillite quarries in the Nelson Mineral belt, with a view to preservative measures if necessary.

South Canterbury Rock Drawings:

Tony Fomison's report in this issue on the South Canterbury Rock Drawings is based on a report prepared originally as an appendix to the National Historic Places Annual Report which has now ceased to publish such material. Tony is now engaged in making polythene tracings of the drawings.

Site Despoliation:

The editorial in the Newsletter Vol. IV No. 3, concerned with site despoliation, asks 'What is the position elsewhere - for example ... in Canterbury?'. It seems to be suggesting that Canterbury field workers have not been conscientious about reporting destruction of sites. Significant Canterbury sites are better situated than those of Auckland seem to be, in that they tend to be away from urban areas and Public Works projects, and are often on land not suited to cultivation. Most of the current despoliation is due to natural agencies, which have perhaps been enhanced by clearing and grazing. It is hard to single out some sites as being eroded more rapidly than others.

## THREE PA IN INLAND CANTERBURY.

by David Harrowfield

Ngai Tahu tradition indicated that a pa named Whakaepa existed in the Coal-gate district. Three pa, presumably corresponding to the tradition, were located some years ago and were surveyed in December 1960. They are situated at 2300 ft. among the foothills of the Southern Alps 40 miles from the sea midway between the Waimakariri and Rakaiia Rivers.

Site No. S74/7 grid ref. 276754:

lies on a gentle slope and is a terrace edge pa enclosed on three sides by a rectangular bank and ditch unit, the sides of which measure 300 ft., 210 ft. and 140 ft. A deep ditch extends from a corner of the pa along the contour and contained running water when surveyed. The interior of the pa is undulating with swampy areas and numerous pits.

Site No. S74/8 ref. 275749:

lies 600 yards west of S74/7 and is again a terrace edge pa with sides 120 ft., 140 ft. and 120 ft. defined by a ditch and bank unit. The interior is dry whilst the surroundings are swampy and water flows in the ditch.

Site No. S74/9 ref. 267737:

lies one and a half miles south-west of S74/7. It is rectangular and remarkably small, being 60 ft. by 54 ft. and is enclosed by a ditch and bank unit. Pits are present outside the platform.

Apparently the ditch and bank units of these pa served for drainage as well as defence. A series of ovens and a swamp drainage system have recently been discovered in the vicinity of these sites.