



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: R.J. Scarlett, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.

Editor for this issue: Susan Hirsh, Anthropology Department,  
University of Auckland.

---

DEAR FELLOW-MEMBERS,

This issue is the responsibility of Auckland. My blessings on them. This is to remind you, mainly, of the Annual Conference at Rotorua. From now until May, the slogan is "Come to the Conference". Having, at the last Council meeting, heard the plans and programme worked out by Don Stafford, Frank Davis, Wal Ambrose, Jack Golson, and an efficient team, I'm confident the Conference should be the best yet. You'll be getting plenty of advice about it from Don. Mortgage the home, pawn the family jewels, if necessary, but COME TO THE CONFERENCE.

The doings of each centre will be reported in their respective issues, but I will say that activity in the summer has continued. Canterbury had a dig, Wellington was at work, Otago was busy, and your editor spent five strenuous but very pleasant and rewarding weeks with the Auckland University Archaeological Society. (They object to being called "Golson's Gang", so I'll be good and not use the term in the Newsletter in the future. I wish to remain alive a little longer.)

In conclusion, I wish to pay a personal tribute to Roger Green, archaeologist and geologist from the U.S.A. You'll have had the Handbook No. 1 which he and Jack Golson wrote, and that will give you an idea of his quality. He has made a very considerable contribution to our Association, and to New Zealand Archaeology. His modesty tends to hide his really outstanding qualities.

R.J. SCARLETT,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

From your Auckland editor --

This issue of the Newsletter will introduce to you some of the archaeological activities in the Auckland area and some of the persons involved, as well as some news from elsewhere in the North Island. Some of the names will be new to readers of the Newsletter, so a word of personal introduction of contributors is in order.

Dr R.N. Brothers is the President of the Auckland Archaeological Society. A Senior Lecturer in Geology at the University, he has been an active member of the group since its beginning in 1954, and has watched the Society grow, as he said in his presidential address last month, "from a membership of eight and a treasury of 18 pence". Dr Brothers gave a series of study groups on geology to the Society last year.

Mr V.F. Fisher, Ethnologist at the Auckland Museum, has been a Vice-President in the Auckland Society for a number of years, has lectured to the Society on several occasions, and has been of great assistance to members who have worked with the Museum collections. As past President of the New Zealand Association, he is a familiar and well-liked figure in New Zealand archaeology.

Mr J. Golson is perhaps too familiar a figure to need special introduction, but deserves a tribute as the founder of the Auckland Society and the inspiration behind the Association. He has directed most of the Auckland Society's excavations and has continually instilled his enthusiasm for systematic archaeology, not only in the Auckland area but also the country over.

Mr W. Ambrose, the technician in the Auckland Department of Anthropology, is past Secretary of the Society. He and Mr F. Davis of Whakatane have directed extensive recording of cave paintings in the South Island for the National Historic Places Trust.

Mr J.M. Groube is a student in the Anthropology Department and the in-coming Secretary of the Auckland Society. He has long been interested in field archaeology in the Hawkes Bay district, including surveying and recording pa sites, and has been active in the Society's field recording.

Mr R. Green, an American Fulbright from Harvard University, has been extremely active in New Zealand archaeology during the past year. He and his wife will be leaving in June to carry out excavations in Mangareva and the Society Islands.

Mr A. Bullar, recently of the Soil Bureau, Gisborne, has been interested in the implications of geological dating of New Zealand prehistory, as well as in local archaeology. He has recently been

transferred to Whakatane.

Mr D. Stafford is a very active member of the Association from Rotorua. It is mostly through his efforts that this year's conference promises to be so interesting and well-organized. The Auckland Society remembers Mr Stafford particularly for his phenomenal knowledge of Arawa traditions, about which he spoke in Auckland last year.

Mr R.H. Parker, Student Chairman of the Auckland Society, is a school teacher in Auckland as well as a student in Anthropology. He directed the trial excavations at "Skippers Ridge" at Opito Bay, and will continue in this capacity at the May excavations on the same site. The Society looks forward to a lecture this coming year by Mr Parker on Libyan archaeology.

Mr R. Brown, an Auckland school teacher, spent some years in Waipu, and, as those who attended last year's conference will remember, implemented an ambitious scheme of field recording in the Waipu district.

These persons are only a few of those in the Auckland area who have been active in archaeology in the past few years. The articles that follow describe some of the group and individual activities that have recently been under way. We hope that Association members will find these of interest and that future issues of the Newsletter will provide a means for persons and groups in other areas to report their activities and findings.

---

NEWS OF AUCKLAND

THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY by Wallace Ambrose

More than 2000 cubic yards ago the University Archaeological Society's meagre membership sought for space to sink its new spades and trowels in order to justify its title. Since then the Society and its activities and aspirations have increased in volume and variety. Some of the more important sites tackled in the year to date have been given prominence in the more detailed descriptions included in this newsletter. It may appear from these that the Society's main achievements lie in the successful excavation and extraction of evidence for their own right, but this is only partly true for one of the committee's major concerns is that all activities should be designed to provide the best training in as many aspects of archaeology as possible. It is inconceivable that the Society should merely become a well organised labour force racing about the country doing odd jobs. For this reason the Society has laid great emphasis on specialist training and to implement its aim has had the assistance of an enthusiastic group of lecturers. A brief summary of last year's topics will illustrate these aims more fully.