



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION:NEWSLETTERVol. 4, No. 2March, 1961

Editor: R.J. Scarlett, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.
 Editor for this Issue: W. Ambrose, Anthropology Department,
 University of Auckland.

Dear Fellow-Members,

As the Auckland issue is in the capable hands of Wal Ambrose, I don't need to say much, except that I'm sure it will be of the usual high standard.

The response to appeals (repeated many times) for contributions to the Newsletter has been a little better of late, but we need more. Brief notes of members' doings are important too. The Newsletter is designed for the service and information of members, but, although we poor editors do our best, under often trying circumstances, hurrying people to write and producing the thing amid pressure of other work, more co-operation from members would help a lot. I know you are busy, but so are we. It is your Newsletter. Get cracking, and let us have the material. If you don't, we may go on strike!

I spent my holidays at Kauri Point with the Auckland University Archaeological Society, helping excavate a pa site. Lovely place — surrounded by pohutakawa, kawa kawa and other trees and shrubs, with plenty of shore and land bird life. The Polynesians knew how to pick their sites, and so do Jack and Co.

From thence I proceeded to New Plymouth, on loan to the Taranaki Museum, where Rigby Allan is doing a fine job as Director. Plenty of Moa-hunter type adzes in Taranaki Museum, to be described sometime, from Taranaki localities — a splendid side-hafted, a number of hog-backs, and others.

Ray Watenburg had laid down a few squares in a Waitara swamp, and was digging with a team of young folk. While I was there, they discovered the fore-part of a canoe — the separate piece lashed on to extend the hull — which is a splendid piece of stone-tool carpentry, a kumete, several good ko, and a beater.

The conservation of the wood which keeps coming in from the swamps is quite a problem for Rigby Allan, because there is so much of it. He and Mrs. Allan put in untold hours cleaning and oiling them for preservation. The man-hours taken by the two of them on the Ainsworth pare alone is quite staggering.

A weekend tour in February with folk from Wellington and the Palmerston North Polynesian Study Group, on both sides of Mt. Egmont, looking at historic pa sites was a highlight of my stay in the North. Rigby Allan took me on the tour. John Houston, at the peak of his form, and other able guides, added greatly to our knowledge.

Alistair Buist has continued work at Ohawe Moahunter site, and he also took me for a brief look at Colin Smart's dig at Tarata, in the Waitotara Valley, (cf. The N.Z. Listener, 3rd March, 1961). Congratulations to Colin and his associates.

Greetings to you all and all our best wishes for a year of true archaeology.

Ron Scarlett
Editor

Editorial Note from Auckland

Despite sympathetic newspaper reportage and a sharper public interest in archaeology, much unthinking desecration of worthy sites continues in the name of public work or commercial expedient. The plethora of glib platitudes from some offending authorities about their interest in archaeological sites has often only the intention of appeasing irate archaeologists while destruction goes on unhindered. It is true that a great deal of help is given by some responsible bodies in cases where archaeological sites are threatened with damage, but it is also true that some authorities would feel happier about giving more support if they had legislative sanction to do so. Bodies controlling work where large sums of money are involved will naturally consider their first responsibility is to their financial sources, whether these be taxpayers, ratepayers or shareholders. It is hard to see a changed approach without some form of official government support for archaeology. One article in this Newsletter is devoted to suggesting possible ways of achieving more formal recognition of archaeology's role in our community.

Anyone who has had even a fleeting interest in New Zealand archaeology must have been struck by the singular attributes that Jack Golson has brought to the archaeological scene. There seems to be hardly an archaeological worker in New Zealand who at some time has not had the benefit of his enthusiastic support and indeed, many now have their interest as a direct result of his invigorating advice and direction.

Jack Golson leaves for a research post in Canberra in May, where his talents will find full scope in surroundings one might otherwise expect in an archaeological-promised-land. As secretary of the Archaeological Association from 1955 to 1960 and as its current President, he saw that body converted from a disparate group to the corporate institution we now have. Our University Archaeological Society can likewise give credit to him for its existence and healthy condition.

A chronicle of his activities in his seven years' work in this country would exhaust our Newsletter's potential, and in any case they are far better known by all the people concerned. However his work is described, it would be impossible to give true colour to his influence without reference to the multitude of personal anecdotes which speak of his very individual, sympathetic and liberal approach to everyone.

Though we regret his leaving New Zealand for more than archaeological reasons, it becomes obvious that only by acceptance of the Australian post can his full contribution to archaeology be made.

W.A.

News from Auckland

University of Auckland Archaeological Society

by Rosemary Russell

With an increased membership the Auckland society is continuing its programme of excavations, meetings, field-trips, and study groups. Christmas excavation, which was this year held at Kauri Point, near Kati-kati, was very well attended and highly successful. Association members from all over the country were on the site for varying lengths of time to make this, Jack Golson's last dig in New Zealand, the biggest held by this group. Many members returned to the site to continue digging at Easter, and since then Wal Ambrose, Jack Golson and Mike Rowell have visited the site on weekends to finish recording. Kauri Point is an interesting site and it is hoped that the Society will go back to the area to complete the work.

On Saturday, April 24, members of the club gathered to say good-bye to Jack Golson, their founder, and director of all excavations. Ralph Bulmer, the President of the Society, presented Jack with a Mountain Mule pack and a seascape by the Auckland painter, Alwyn Lasenby. We are, of course, very sorry to see Jack go, but we are looking forward to meeting again his successor Roger Green and to keeping up the work that Jack so ably began.