



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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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.

So far this year the Society has held two general meetings. Jack Golson reviewed the activities of the club to date, and a symposium of specialists discussed archaeology with particular reference to the Kauri Point site. This meeting was of especial interest. Jack Golson gave the archaeologist's interpretation of the site, Jim Schofield gave its geological background and discussed some points of geological interpretation, and Dr. Dalrymple (the new pedologist at the University) discussed the relationship of pedology to archaeology. Dr. Dalrymple will conduct a study group on soils later this year, and is a very valuable member of the society.

A small group of enthusiasts returned to the Kaipara South Head to continue the systematic recording of the field monuments in the area. Again more new sites were found, and it would seem, by the law of diminishing returns, that we shall never record every feature in the area. Each time a group goes out to Kaipara, with specific sites to record and specific features to investigate, more unknown sites are found. This year the groups stayed over night and had two days walking the hills and recording, but even so not all the sites that we set out to cover could be recorded because we found so many new ones. Each weekend a study group meets to accomplish the large task of processing the field data. Every weekend also, a group meets to clean and catalogue artefacts. It is hoped that when the Anthropology Department moves into a larger building the Archaeological Society will have better facilities for storing its equipment, preserving its excavation materials and coping with cataloguing and recording.

Members

Laurie and Helen Birks, devoted and capable members of the Society, are leaving in May for an extended trip overseas.

Rod Cook a committee member and a very active worker, has left Auckland to take a job in Mangakino.
