



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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# PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE BOB JOLLY ARCHIVE

Nigel Prickett  
Auckland War Memorial Museum

A few years before he died in 1990, Bob (R.G.W.) Jolly gave Auckland Museum a box of photographs and rolled up negatives, saying that they were of some archaeological interest and should be in the museum with the excavated collections to which many of them referred. The box was unsorted and occasionally sifted through to no great effect until the arrival of Elise Edwards as a volunteer in the Archaeology Department in 2001. Elise had a clear head for sorting out the mess, made worse over the years by all that sifting. She took to the task with enthusiasm, matching prints with rolls of negatives and filing everything in two compact boxes.

When this publication was first proposed I thought it a pity that Bob was not still about, because he was there at the very beginning (he can be seen, just, in the group photograph of the 1956 Auckland conference on p. 8), and he had a strong if idiosyncratic historical sense. In the obituary she wrote for the September 1990 *Archaeology in New Zealand*, Janet Davidson tells of Bob one day picking up a hitchhiker who told him of a meeting soon to be held in Auckland to set up an association of people interested in archaeology. “Bob went to the meeting, met Jack Golson, joined the Association, and thus began an involvement with archaeology that lasted until his death.” I was privileged to be a pallbearer at Bob’s funeral, not on my own account but representing the archaeological community of which he was proud to be a part.

Bob dug at Sarah’s Gully, Tairua, Kauri Point and other sites with the University of Auckland Archaeological Society, and in the 1960s and early 70s carried out his own excavations at favourite beaches on Coromandel’s east coast; Whangamata, Wheritoa, Whitipiroua (Onemana), Opito, Tairua, etc. He worked on his own or with one or two others including his wife Beryl, Pat and Bob Murdock, Cyril Hindmarsh, Neil Amos, Frank Butler, Hugh Simpson, David Trower, Tony Parsons, Jim Donald, K. Ryan, G. Perry, J. Foreman and Dr Allen. It was Bob who came up with the name ‘limpet-people’ for the earliest inhabitants of Coromandel beaches, since their sites could be identified by middens with

lots of large *Cellana denticulata* shells, noted first at Tairua where he worked with Roger and Kaye Green and Colin Smart in 1959. As early as the 1960s Bob was concerned at the threats to important Coromandel beach sites; he would be horrified at the destruction since then.

Born at the start of the 20th century he belonged to an age of certainties and attitudes that underwent a huge change later in his life, but which he never really joined. He was generous of his time and knowledge, fun to be with, and cared a lot about archaeologists, even the 'Bohemians' of whom he never fully approved. His photographs picture the old and new worlds of New Zealand archaeology in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Thanks to Elise Edwards for getting the photos under control and searching the files for the pictures used here. Janet Davidson, Sue Bulmer and Roger Green identified places and people in the photos. Bob Jolly's photograph archive is available for research in the Archaeology Department, Auckland War Memorial Museum.



*Figure 39. Bob Jolly at Whitipirorua, 1960s. Photographer unknown.*



*Figure 40. Bob and Pat Murdock somewhere on the Hauraki Plains in the 1960s. Photo Bob Jolly.*



*Figure 41. Frank and Jean Butler at Wheritoa, 1960s. Photo Bob Jolly.*



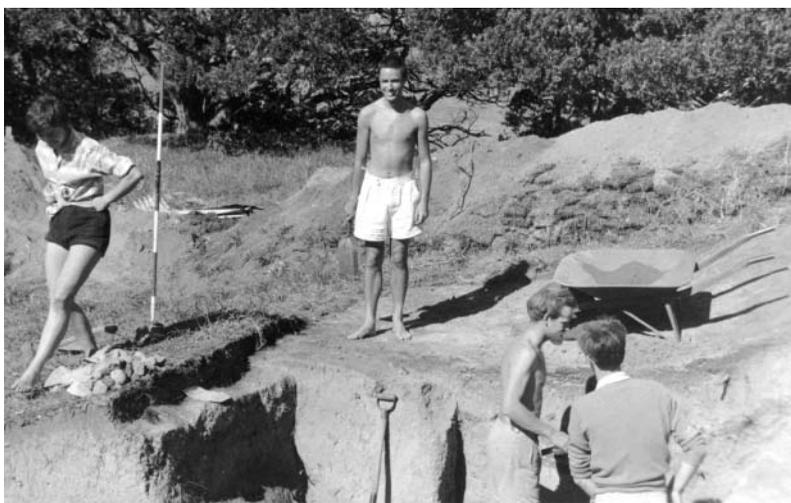
*Figure 42. Pat Murdock, Roger Green and Hugh Simpson at Tairua, probably in December 1958 when a test pit was dug, prior to the excavation which took place early in 1959. Bob's shadow, with trade-mark hat, is over Simpson. Photo Bob Jolly.*



*Figure 43. Cyril Hindmarsh, Neil Amos and helpers at Wheritoa, 1969. Photo Bob Jolly.*



*Figure 44. Bob Jolly, Sue Hirsh (Bulmer), Jenny King and Pat Sunde at Sarah's Gully, January 1958. Photographer unknown.*



*Figure 45. Margaret Barrie, Ron White, Wal Ambrose and Andy Pawley at Kauri Point, summer 1960–61 or Easter 1961. Photo Bob Jolly.*



*Figure 46. Pat Murdock, John Terrell, Bob Murdock and Wilfred Shawcross visiting the Murdock collection, Hikutaia, 1965. Photo Bob Jolly.*



*Figure 47. Anne Leahy and Janet Davidson, 1960s. Photo Bob Jolly.*