



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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/>.

International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month March 2022

Patricia Pillay (*NZAA Social Media Coordinator*)

In recognition of the 2022 International Women’s Day and Women’s History month, a series of blog posts were compiled for the NZAA social media platforms to celebrate some of the pioneering women in New Zealand Archaeology and their achievements. These posts were written by Patricia Pillay in collaboration with NZAA Council members Katharine Watson and Emma Ash as well as support from Pam Bain and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

Lady Aileen Fox (1907-2005)

The late Lady Aileen Fox was an internationally recognised trailblazer and pioneering archaeologist. Her own memoirs, as well as a detailed biography and tribute on Trowelblazers (trowelblazers.com) detail a breadth of experience in conducting major archaeological fieldwork and academic duties. Through her memoirs she offers the reader a glimpse into both the promise of the pre-war era and her difficulty and persistence as a young woman embarking on a mission to acquire education and a career during the 1920s. Her early works span the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sites in Wales and southern England. She based herself at the University of Exeter as a lecturer where she was a strong advocate for the recognition of archaeology in the British education system from as early as primary school. She garnered enthusiasm and respect from local residents through her outreach in the community and her boundless energy promoting cultural heritage in her published books, which attracted many admirers.

Lady Aileen Fox at Taurekareka Pā, Hawkes Bay 1979. A Lot of Spadework to be Done: Essays in Honour of Lady Aileen Fox. S E Bulmer, R G Law and D G Sutton, eds. NZAA Monograph 14.



Aileen worked extensively in Aotearoa New Zealand from 1973 to 1983, first as a visiting lecturer, then as a practising archaeologist at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Aileen was an active member of the New Zealand Archaeological Association and also worked with the then Historic Places Trust. Her significant bibliography demonstrates her dedication to research and her eagerness to make that knowledge accessible. Aileen Fox was well respected by many key New Zealand archaeologists, providing fresh insights into the material past. More on Aileen’s celebrated life and distinguished career can be read in her autobiography (Fox, 2000). The NZAA monograph *A Lot of Spadework to be Done: Essays in Honour of Lady Aileen Fox* was compiled by another pioneering archaeologist, the late Susan Bulmer, along with Garry Law and Doug Sutton, to honour Aileen’s lifelong dedication to the discipline.

Sue Bulmer (1933-2016)

A renowned archaeologist in the Pacific, the late Sue Bulmer (née Hirsh) pioneered research into New Guinea archaeology and heritage management in Aotearoa New Zealand. American born, Sue arrived in New Zealand in 1957 as a Fulbright scholar, and it was her work here that cemented her passion for archaeology. She was an active field archaeologist, working in Aotearoa, Samoa and New Guinea, and her research in Port Moresby formed the basis for her PhD which she completed in 1978. She had an active presence in the academic community and published in many respected academic journals.



Sue Bulmer. Attribution: Alice Bulmer, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

As the first northern archaeologist with the Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), Sue established a team of archaeologists to carry out surveys in the Auckland region and was an advocate for the recognition and preservation of heritage sites. Bulmer’s legacy remains alive through her daughter, Alice Bulmer’s (2016) memorial and published bibliography detailing her mother’s many contributions to the field. Jack Golson’s (2016) memoir on the life and work of Sue Bulmer also details her achievements and dedication. Sue Bulmer was not only an established archaeologist but also a talented folksinger, recording several tracks in the 1967 12-inch LP recording *Sweat in the Sun Mate* by the Auckland Archaeological Society (ArchSoc) where Sue lent her musical talent composing campfire songs with Garry Law and the three Ferfire Singers

Pillay – International Women’s Day

(Rudy Sunde, Pat Sunde and John Walton) on summer archaeological digs organised by the society. The record was reproduced in 2004 and then again by the Auckland Archaeological Society in 2018 (Law, 2018).



Sue excavating at Waitete Pa 1978.

Sue (left) with visitors including Foss Leach, Garry Law and Janet Davidson.

Photo by Garry Law.

Anne Leahy

Originally a school dental nurse, Anne discovered archaeology later in her career and became actively involved in major archaeological fieldwork across the North Island from the early 1960s to the mid-1990s. Anne’s pioneering survey work and focus on detailed recording of archaeological sites and teaching these techniques to newcomers has contributed significantly to our understanding of Aotearoa’s past. Excavations led by Leahy at important early sites such as Hot Water Beach in the Coromandel are still referenced today. Anne also held the roles of professional academic researcher at the University of Auckland, educator at the Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira and Treasurer of the New Zealand Archaeological Association. Her detailed field notebooks and original reports are held with the records at the Auckland Museum for future researchers.



*Anne Leahy and T. Hosking pegging out sq. 16 in Whakamoenga Cave, Taupō.
Photo from the Department of Anthropology Photographic Archive, The
University of Auckland.*

Sources from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga note that Anne and her colleague and friend Wendy Walsh were both well respected by local iwi and hapu during their extensive surveys on the East Coast and Bay of Plenty. They covered a lot of ground climbing every hill and recorded sites scattered around the coast. The locals or “coasties” adored Anne and Wendy and were puzzled by their ambitious determination to record the archaeological features across the vast landscape. In recognition of her contribution to the site recording scheme and high standard of fieldwork, Anne was awarded the Groube Fieldwork Award in 2006 by the NZAA.

Jan Bay-Petersen

Jan Bay-Petersen (née Allo) was a well-established New Zealand archaeologist who carried out extensive faunal analysis and fieldwork throughout Auckland and the Coromandel. She also held the assistant archaeologist position at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Jan’s Masters thesis and publications on the Māori dog (kurī) paved the way for further archaeological research on this

Pillay – International Women’s Day

important companion animal. Her work is still a constant source of reference today for understanding Māori relationship with kurī and their wider ecological role in Aotearoa. These ideas also provided the foundation for advances in understanding human-animal relationships in Central East Polynesia.



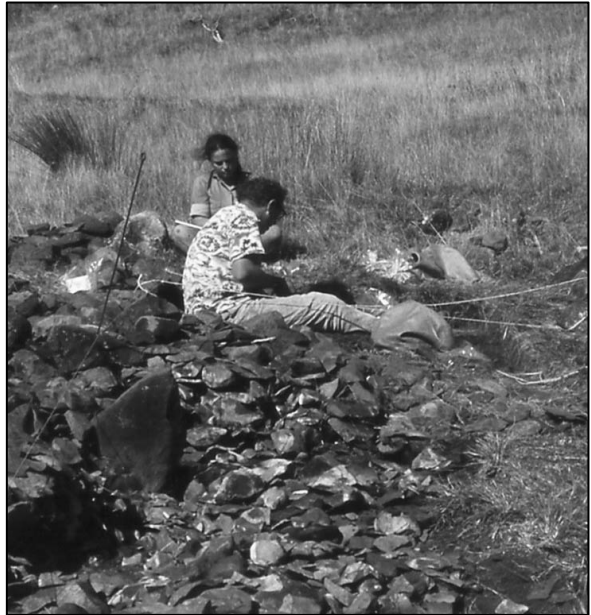
*Les Groube and Jan Allo photographed by Olaf Petersen.
Auckland Museum. PH-1988-9-EX4-17*

Janet Davidson

Janet Davidson (ONZM) is a prominent archaeologist who carried out extensive fieldwork in Aotearoa New Zealand, Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia, laying the foundations for archaeological research in Samoa. Janet was the first woman in Aotearoa to hold a Masters in archaeology and did so with first-class honours in Anthropology at the University of Auckland in 1964. She soon took on the role of E. Earle Vaile Archaeologist at Auckland Museum. Throughout her celebrated career Janet has also held an honorary lectureship at the University of Otago and was Senior Curator, Pacific, at Te Papa Tongarewa Museum. She is currently an Honorary Research Associate at Te Papa. Janet served as editor for the *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* from 1985-2008. Janet has published extensively, with her works providing the foundation for New Zealand archaeological research. For many students and researchers alike, her contributions have guided their training in early Māori history, and wider Pacific archaeology. One of her most sought out works, *The Prehistory of New Zealand* (1984), is still referenced today in academic and cultural resource management work.

In 2007, *Vastly Ingenious*, edited by authors Atholl Anderson, Kaye Green, and Foss Leach, was published in her honour. In a Q&A interview with Te Papa, she discusses her life’s work from the early beginnings through to her most recent achievements.

Janet Davidson and Roger Green excavating at the Tahanga Quarry, early 60s. Photo R Jolly, via Garry Law.



Susanna Davies

The Pacific Matildas Project on pioneering women in Pacific archaeology provides an extensive biography of Susanna Davies (also known by the name “Susan Davis”) and her defining role in the field. Susanna was instrumental in the formation of the New Zealand Archaeological Association, attending the first conference in Dunedin in 1956, and she spent many weekends conducting archaeological fieldwork and immersing herself in the history of Aotearoa New Zealand. She held many significant positions, including being the first woman employed at the Dominion Museum in Wellington, where she was the Assistant Ethnologist. She later held curatorial roles at Guildhall Museum and London Museum. You can read more about Susanna Davies and her fascinating career on the Pacific Matildas Project where Susanna shares the story of her life with Dr India Ella Dilkes-Hall from the University of Western Australia. The pictures below show Susanna in style at two archaeological sites.



*‘Miss Susan Davis and the Trust Secretary 25 February 1960, remains Paremata after work by Museum Field Archaeological group. Photo Evening Post.’
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga photo archives.*

Marianne Turner (1957-2013)

The late Marianne Turner left no stone unturned throughout her career as an archaeologist. After a brief period as a contract archaeologist for Clough and Associates (1998-2001), and then regional archaeologist for the Northland office

Pillay – International Women’s Day

of then New Zealand Historic Places Trust (2003 -2006), Marianne became a lecturer for the University of Auckland Department of Anthropology (2007-2010). She supervised several post-graduate students, led field schools and was passionate about teaching cultural resource management to the next generation. She was active in archaeological research and her Masters and PhD theses provide nuanced perspectives on Māori stone artefact manufacture and distribution. Marianne carried out extensive research on stone technology, trade, and exchange, focusing on the adze collections from the Pitcairn Island, Southeast Polynesia, and Aotearoa. Her research has been instrumental in further understanding stone technology and the influence of raw material on morphology of stone tools such as adzes.

Marianne was collaborative and involved in a number of fieldwork projects, including co-directing Puwera in 2008 and Okoromai Bay excavations in 2009.



Marianne was an advocate for cultural heritage and the insights archaeological sites and artefacts have to offer. Many students who are now established archaeologists in Aotearoa and abroad were students of Marianne Turner. Peter Sheppard’s obituary in *Archaeology in New Zealand* acknowledges Marianne’s legacy and the inspiration and energy she brought to the archaeological community.

Marianne Turner. Photo: Department of Anthropology, The University of Auckland photo archives.

Helen Leach

Helen Leach (ONZM) planted her seeds of knowledge in her popular book *1,000 Years of Gardening in New Zealand*. An award-winning and renowned specialist in culinary anthropology, domestication of food plants, and Māori gardening methods, Helen is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Otago, lecturing

there since 1969. Helen was active on numerous archaeological investigations, and has published extensively on the social history and anthropology of horticultural practices and the archaeology of Oceania. Part of her doctoral studies included a three-year excavation programme in Palliser Bay, Wairarapa, commencing in 1969 with Foss Leach (Leach and Leach, 1979). The findings from their excavations were included in Helen’s thesis in 1976, delivering strong archaeological evidence for cultural and economic history in the Wairarapa region. Helen and Foss compiled a collection of 14 scientific papers from these excavations into the bulletin *Prehistoric Man in Palliser Bay*, which detailed Māori activity soon after initial arrival in Aotearoa, including the construction of extensive walled garden plots at these coastal sites.



Emeritus Professor Helen Leach.

Helen received a Rhodes Fellowship in 1979 for two years at Oxford University where she further researched gardening practices. Helen Leach has masterfully woven her passion for researching gardening traditions through time with modern kitchen gardening practice and techniques. Her work affords insights into the rich forms of gardening tools and customs as a symbol of identity. More recently, Helen conducted a 10-year research project into

the material culture of cooking across New Zealand over the past two centuries. In 2018 Helen’s contribution to culinary anthropology was recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. She was acknowledged for her dedication with the Award of Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH) in June 2019.

You can dig deeper into the major works of Helen Leach from the references below.



*Emeritus Professor Helen Leach and Rt Hon. Patricia Lee Reddy GNZM CVO
QSO DStJ, 21st Governor General.
(New Zealand Government, Office of the Governor-General)*

References (Aileen Fox)

- Fox, A. (2000) *Aileen, a pioneering archaeologist, The autobiography of Aileen Fox*. Gracewing.
- Fox, A. (1944) The place of archaeology in British education. *Antiquity*, 18(71), 153-157.
- <https://trowelblazers.com/2015/03/13/lady-aileen-fox/>
- Law, G. 2016. "Aileen Fox".
http://archaeopedia.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fox_Aileen
"Aileen Fox". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aileen_Fox

References (Sue Bulmer)

- Bulmer, A. (2016) Dr Susan Bulmer – A bibliography, 1956–2009. *Archaeology in Oceania* 51(1), 11-18.
- Golson, J. (2016) Susan Bulmer, an archaeological pioneer. *Archaeology in Oceania*, 51(1), 11-18.
- Law, G. (2018) “Sweat in the sun mate – Archaeopedia”.
www.archaeopedia.com. Retrieved 7 February 2022.
- “Susan Bulmer” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Bulmer. Retrieved 3 March 2022.

References (Anne Leahy)

- Law, G. (2010) “Anne Leahy”.
http://archaeopedia.com/wiki/index.php?title=Leahy_Anne. Retrieved March 1 2022.
- “Anne Leahy”. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Leahy_\(archaeologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Leahy_(archaeologist))
Retrieved March 1 2022.

Select Publications:

- Leahy, A. and Nicholls, E.M. (1964) The Poor Knights Islands. *New Zealand Archeological Association Newsletter* 7: 99–109
- Leahy, A. (1970) Excavations at site N38/30, Motutapu Island. New Zealand Auckland Institute and Museum
- Leahy, A. (1974) Excavations at Hot Water Beach (N44/69), Coromandel Peninsula. *Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum*, 11, 23-76.
- Leahy, A. (1991) Excavations at Taylor’s Hill, R11/96, Auckland. *Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum*, 28, 33–68.

References (Jan Bay-Petersen)

- Allo, J. (1970) The Maori Dog: A Study of the Polynesian Dog of New Zealand. University of Auckland, Auckland. Unpublished MA thesis.
- Allo, J. (1971) The dentition of the Maori dog of New Zealand. *Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum*, 9, 29–45.
- Allo Bay-Petersen, J.L. (1979) The role of the dog in the economy of the New Zealand Maori. In: Anderson, A.J. (Ed.), *Birds of a feather: osteological and archaeological papers from the south pacific in honour of R. J. Scarlett*, British Archaeological Records. International Series, vol. 62, 165-181.

Allo Bay-Petersen, J., Allo, J. (1983) Competition for resources: the role of the pig and dog in the Polynesian agricultural economy. *Journal of Society Oceanists* 39 (77), 121–129.

References (Janet Davidson)

- Janet Davidson: biography and 10 questions about The Cook Voyages Encounters. <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/about/te-papa-press/our-authors/janet-davidson-biography-and-10-questions-about-cook-voyages>
- Pacific Matildas: Finding the women in the history of Pacific archaeology. <https://www.uwa.edu.au/projects/pacific-matildas-finding-the-women-in-the-history-of-pacific-archaeology>
- Janet Davidson, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janet_Davidson. Accessed 22 February 2022.
- Davidson, J. (1984) *The Prehistory of New Zealand*. Auckland: Longman
- Campbell, M. (2008) Vastly Ingenious: The Archaeology of Pacific Material Culture, in Honour of Janet M. Davidson. *Archaeology in Oceania*, 43(2), 89-91.
- Davidson, J. (2019) *The Cook Voyages Encounters: The Cook Voyages Collections of Te Papa*. Wellington: Te Papa Press.

References (Susanna Davies)

- Davies, S., and Dilkes-Hall, I. E. (2021) Pacific Matildas: Susan Davis breaking ground in 1950s New Zealand. <https://www.awaws.org/history-of-women-in-ancient-world-studies/category/susanna-davies>.

Select Publications:

- Davis, S. (1957) Evidence of Maori occupation in the Castlepoint area. *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* 66(2): 199–203. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20703605>)
- Davis, S. (1959) A summary of field archaeology from the Dominion Museum Group. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 2: 15–19. (<https://nzarchaeology.org/download/a-summary-of-field-archaeology-from-the-dominion-museum-group>)
- Davis, S. (1962) Interim report: Makara Beach (Wellington) excavation. *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* 5: 145–150. (<https://nzarchaeology.org/download/interim-report-makara-beach-wellington-excavation>)

References (Marianne Turner)

- Law, G. (2014) “Marianne Turner”.
http://archaeopedia.com/wiki/index.php?title=Turner_Marianne#Conference_Papers
- Obituary by Peter Sheppard 2013 *Archaeology in New Zealand* 56(4):182-185.
- Select Publications:
- Bickler, S.H. and M. Turner. (2002) Food to Stone: Investigations at the Suloga Stone Tool Manufacturing Site, Woodlark Island, Papua New Guinea. *Journal of the Polynesian Society* v.111.
- Turner, M. T. (1992) Make or Break: Adze Manufacture at the Tahanga Quarry. M.A. thesis, Anthropology, University of Auckland.
- Turner, M. (2000) The function, design and distribution of New Zealand adzes. PhD, Anthropology, University of Auckland, Auckland.
- Turner, M., (2004) Functional and technological explanations for the variation among early New Zealand adzes. *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* 26:57-101
- Turner, M. (2010) The Auckland War Memorial Museum collection of adzes from Pitcairn Island, East Polynesia. *Records of the Auckland Museum*, 47: 129-154

References (Helen Leach)

- Dawson, M. (2019) Professor Helen May Leach Citation. Award of Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH). *New Zealand Garden Journal*, 22(1), 25-26.
- Emeritus Professor Helen Leach, of Dunedin, ONZM, for services to culinary anthropology. <https://gg.govt.nz/file/25849> Retrieved 2 March 2022.
- Leach, H. (1984) *1,000 Years of Gardening in New Zealand*. A.H. and A.W. Reed Ltd, New Zealand
- Leach, H. M. (1999) Intensification in the Pacific: A critique of the archaeological criteria and their application. *Current Anthropology*, 40(3), 311-340.
- Leach, H. M., & Inglis, R. (2003) The archaeology of Christmas cakes. *Food and Foodways*, 11(2-3), 141-166.
- Leach, B., & Leach, H. (1979) *Prehistoric Man in Palliser Bay*, National Museum of New Zealand Bulletin No 21.
- Leach, H. (2005) Gardens without weeds? Pre-European Maori gardens and inadvertent introductions. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 43(1), 271-284.