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NZAA President's Report

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As Presented at the 2018 NZAA Conference

This report covers Council's activities from June 2017 up until now. While the focus is on what we have achieved thus far, it also outlines some of what we are hoping to achieve in the coming months, as this is the result of discussion at our most recent meeting, in early November.

As you all know, the Association is run entirely by volunteers and considerable thanks are due to them all for their hard work, and the time they commit to the Association, as it simply could not function without them. Thanks are due to the current Council members, including the office holders, Brooke Tucker (secretary) and Rick McGovern-Wilson (treasurer), and to the two Council members who stood down at the last AGM, Mat Campbell and Andrea Farminer, both of whom were responsible for a significant amount of work on behalf of the Association. Mat has continued to assist Council in his role as conference organiser, in which he has been ably assisted by Alex Jorgensen, Gerard O'Regan, Rick McGovern-Wilson, their Australian counterparts and the events management team here at the University of Auckland. The size and nature of this conference has meant that a considerable amount of work has been required.

Other NZAA members who contribute a significant amount of time and energy to the Association are Nicholas Sutton, tireless membership secretary and, in conjunction with Peter Petchey, manager of the Association's Facebook page; Kathryn Hurren, who was once again run an extremely successful New Zealand Archaeology Week – it is only now that I am more closely involved with the Association that I've realised just how much time Kathryn puts into this week; Ethan Cochrane and Rebecca Phillipps for their editorial work on the *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*; Peter Petchey for editing *Archaeology in New Zealand*; Jessie Hurford, business manager for *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*; Arden Cruickshank, publications distribution manager; Mat Campbell, monographs editor; Simon Bickler, NZAA's representative to the Royal Society; and Russell Gibb, chair of the ArchSite board. Thanks are also due to Emma Brooks and Nicola Molloy for their on-going hard work with ArchSite. I'd also like to thank those who've stood down from their roles within the last 18 months: Garry Law (webmaster), Tim Thomas (*JPA* editor) and Hayden Cawte (ArchSite chair).

Council continues to work in line with the Strategic Plan, developed in 2013 (and set to run until 2020), and the report that follows is based around this. A copy of the plan can be found on the website.

Goal 1: maintenance and growth

Membership of the Association continues to decline slowly, and the number of membership development plans in the Council Dropbox is a testament to the fact that this has been a concern for successive councils. Recent small steps taken to remedy this situation include adding a 'join NZAA' button to the webpage for New Zealand Archaeology Week; encouraging event organisers to have 'join NZAA' fliers at New Zealand Archaeology Week events; and establishing a lifetime membership option. We are also in the process of establishing a direct debit option for paying for your subscription, which will hopefully be ready to go in time for the next cycle of membership renewal.

In terms of establishing formal relationships with the wider heritage community, I have met quarterly with Andrew Coleman (CE, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT)), Ian Bowman (President, ICOMOS NZ) and James Blackburne (President, Historic Places Aotearoa) as part of a heritage leaders' forum. This forum has been useful for discussing issues of concern to all four organisations, as well as for strengthening the relationships between the organisations at a high level. At an international level, NZAA is currently investigating the possibility of hosting a joint conference – in New Zealand – with AIMA, the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology in 2021. We are also in the process of establishing stronger relationships with the two student organisations, Auckland's Arch Soc and Otago's Anth Soc.

Creating and maintaining a strong support base for Council is something of a struggle, although we've recently recruited a couple of enthusiastic volunteers as regional coordinators for Archaeology Week, and are in the process of establishing a Māori Advisory Group. Finding a web manager, however, is proving more difficult and we will shortly be putting out a call for expressions of interest for this role, and also for someone to assist Kathryn Hurren with some of the work she does for Archaeology Week.

Goal 2: promote the practice of archaeology

A number of people have raised concerns with NZAA about standards within the consultancy industry, HNZPT's role with regard to this and HNZPT's own standards. As a result of this, I have written to HNZ to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues and to see how we can work together to improve this situation. The first concrete step undertaken in this regard has been a jointly

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organised seminar about the McLean's Mansion Environment Court decision for consultants and NZAA members in Christchurch, held in early November. This event was very successful and enjoyed by everyone. It is now our intention to organise similar events around the country in the new year.

In a similar vein, Alex Jorgensen represented NZAA at a workshop HNZ held in Tauranga in October this year. This workshop was to discuss possible research directions for the Tauranga area, but also included some discussion areas related to standards and professional practice.

It is hoped that the newly established award for an outstanding contribution to New Zealand archaeology – which replaces the Groube Fieldwork Award – will also help promote the practice of archaeology in New Zealand, but unfortunately no one was nominated. The photography competition organised as part of conference appears to have been more successful. Further, NZAA will be awarding one honorary lifetime membership and two lifetime achievement awards at the conference dinner this year.

New Zealand Archaeology Week is of course one of the major ways we seek to promote archaeology, and it is an event that Kathryn Hurren's capable management is seeing go from strength to strength. She will cover more detail about the week in her report. Last year, NZAA decided to make funds available for small organisations, to assist with the costs of putting on events, such as printing, etc, with two organisations taking advantage of this. The same will be done again for next year's event. In addition, more banners have been obtained to help promote NZAA at archaeology week events, with one in each of the four main centres. One area of concern with regard to Archaeology Week is that DOC has thus far not participated. This matter has been raised with the organisation, with no response received thus far.

Following conversations with concerned NZAA members and HNZ staff, NZAA Council made a press release refuting Noel Hilliam's claims that New Zealand was first settled by, variously, people of Welsh, Celtic, Phoenician, Chinese and Egyptian origins.

Goal 3: maintain and communicate archaeological principles and values

There has been perhaps less work on this goal than any of the others. The major activity has been making submissions when invited to do so. Submissions have been made on the following HNZPT listings: Auckland stone fields, Campbell Island, and Quail Island. Other submissions have been on urban developments in Taupo and Molesworth station.

Goal 4: sustain and strengthen archaeological site recording

In relation to the site recording scheme, Council established the Tony Walton Fund, based on a generous bequest made to the Association by Tony Walton prior to his death in 2008. It is hoped that grants from this fund will be made on an annual basis, to fund the expenses for projects that focus on site recording. A full list of the criteria for the grants can be found on the NZAA website. The first grants from the fund were made in early 2018, and the successful recipients were Danielle Trilford, and Tristan Wadsworth and Jessie Garland. A call for applicants for the 2019 round of funding will appear in this month's AINZ (*the December 2018 issue*).

Kate Lilley has been contracted to complete the scanning of the materials that the audit has identified as missing from ArchSite. As part of this process, the hard copies of the regional and central files are being merged (almost all of the North Island files were completed in 2016). The Central File is currently in storage in Upper Hutt. If you require access to any material stored here, please email the ArchSite Coordinator and access will be arranged. We are also at the very beginning of investigating the possibility of permanent storage of the central file in an archival institution.

Other ArchSite developments include Council requesting the board to commission a review of the ArchSite platform and service, to ensure that we are getting the best value for money and the best service from our service provider. As part of this, following concerns raised by Fiona Petchey (of the Radiocarbon Dating Lab at the University of Waikato), there will be a consideration of how radiocarbon dates can be included in ArchSite in the future.

One outstanding issue with regard to the governance of ArchSite is the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the scheme. The last MOU was signed between DOC, HNZ and NZAA in 2007 and lapsed in 2009, and has not been replaced, despite various attempts to get this process moving. This has become an issue of particular concern as DOC have recently informed the ArchSite board that their funding of the central filekeeper role will essentially disappear in March next year. It's worth noting that the existence of an MOU would not have guaranteed that DOC continued to fund the role. I am in the process of trying to arrange meetings with both HNZ and DOC to establish our ongoing relationship with regard to ArchSite.

Goal 5: grow financial strength and capability

Rick has recently developed an operational budget for 2019. This will be updated after conference and at this point we will be able to make more detailed plans about what NZAA money can be spent on in 2019, as well as assessing current membership fees. Please note that this budget is entirely separate from the ArchSite budget, and that ArchSite funds are being retained for the development and management of ArchSite.

Other things

A couple of other things of note that didn't seem to fit anywhere else:

Early in 2019, we will be carrying out a survey of the archaeological profession – this is not so much to find out your opinions on anything, but to find out more about the make-up and nature of the profession. It is intended that this should then be carried out on a regular basis (every few years), so that the development of the profession can be tracked. The results of this – anonymised, of course – will be published in AINZ.

Our 2019 conference will be held in Stewart Island, from 29-31 August. These dates are to coincide with the tourist shoulder season (many accommodation places in Stewart Island are closed for the winter) and the University of Otago holidays, to make it easier for students from the closest university to attend. Our AGM for 2018-19 is likely to be held in Wellington again, with a special general meeting held at the conference.

If you have any comments or concerns, or want to be involved with NZAA in some way, please don't hesitate to talk to a Council member about them. Also, please keep in mind that the current secretary and treasurer will be stepping down at the end of this term, so have a think about whether or not this is the sort of role you'd be interested in, and have time for, standing for when it comes to Council elections. Finally, thanks so much for coming to conference, this meeting and for your ongoing support of the association.

Additional notes: since this report was presented I have had a positive meeting with DOC re their participation in Archaeology Week, and I have had another really positive meeting with HNZ & DOC re the tripartite agreement and the central filekeeper role. In addition, Laura Dawson has been appointed as the new NZAA webmanager.