



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPERATIONS OF THE NEW  
ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST  

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SEPTEMBER 1977

The Trust is extending its role in New Zealand archaeology as required by the Historic Places Amendment Act 1975. Progress has followed the proposals described by McKinley (1976) who also gives details on the legislation, Trust organisation, and administrative procedures. Decisions of the Trust Archaeology Committee and activities of the Archaeology Section will in future be reported twice-yearly in this Newsletter.

Chairman of the Archaeology Committee is now Miss J.M. Davidson, and Professor R.C. Green is no longer a member. The Committee will shortly discuss further changes to its membership. Archaeology Section staff in Wellington are Mr J.R. McKinley (Senior Archaeologist), Dr A.J. Challis (Survey Archaeologist), and Mr B.G. McFadgen (Staff Archaeologist). Two further appointments are about to be made (Advisory Officer, and administrative position; and Staff Archaeologist, Clutha Valley Development, based in Cromwell).

The Archaeology Committee has approved 39 out of 51 applications from archaeologists to excavate sites. Only 35 applications for authority to destroy or damage sites have been received, of which 7 have been approved unconditionally. Clearly the Trust is unaware of many situations where authority to modify sites is required. Even so, demand on Trust staff, to assess and follow up authority applications and other matters arising from its administration of the legislation, are increasing and threaten to swamp the small establishment.

There is a desperate need for site recording in many parts of the country. Site recording continues on a small scale throughout the year, and during the (1977-78) summer the Trust will finance site recording contracts in areas it specifies, and will give financial assistance for site recording in areas of site threat specified by site recorders. All sites recorded are entered in the NZAA Site Recording Scheme.

The Trust is establishing a computer-based Register of Archaeological Sites (McKinley 1976: 45-6, 52-64). The Register is based on the Site Records in the NZAA Central File which have been made available by agreement with NZAA Council. The file will be used mainly for protection purposes, but information from it will be made available, with certain safeguards, to NZAA members on request. Further information on the use of the Register will be circulated when the service begins to operate.

Other matters which the Trust staff and Committee are attending to are:

1. NZAA filekeepers. The Trust has offered to assist the NZAA with expenses incurred by its filekeepers and, in association with NZAA, will arrange a filekeepers' conference.
2. Site recording schools. Trust staff, with Dr B.F. Leach and Mr M.M. Trotter, ran a site recording school at Whangarei at Easter. A further school is planned for Christchurch in November 1977, and others will be organised in future, probably twice a year.

3. Reserves Bill. The Trust presented submissions to the Select Committee considering the Reserves Bill. It argued that Reserves management should recognise multiple land use criteria and not be based on a single dominant use.
4. Minimum archaeological standards and permits procedure. A sub-committee of the Trust Archaeology Committee is discussing acceptable standards in excavation and reporting, and principles and conditions governing the approval of permits.
5. Human skeletal remains. A sub-committee of the Trust is discussing, with Maori groups and other interested parties, treatment of human skeletal remains.
6. Shipwrecks. Mr McKinlay has arranged meetings in New Zealand and attended a conference in Perth in order to develop guidelines for shipwreck investigations and for the conservation of materials recovered from shipwrecks.

Some of the sites affected by Archaeology Committee recommendations to Trust Council during 1977 are:

1. Pouerua Pa, Pakaraka, N15/5. Application was made for an authority to place an air strip on a pa site. The Trust arranged for expert advice which enabled the air strip to be placed where there were no archaeological features.
2. Puketona, Bay of Islands, N15/29. Application was made for an authority to modify a site with stone walls and mounds for use as a rubbish tip. The site was investigated and found to contain unusual stone structures of the early historic period. Authority has been given for the use of some of the site as a rubbish tip, but a representative area has been excluded for preservation.
3. Northland Harbour Board, N20/102. Application was made for an authority to take the area of this site as land fill for reclamation. The site was investigated by Mr R. Nichol and Mr A. Walton under Trust contract, and an authority was approved.
4. One Tree Hill, Auckland, N42/6. Application was made for an authority to modify this site by the renewal of a water reservoir. Authority was approved on condition that thorough salvage excavation be undertaken and that subsequently the access road be removed and the area restored.
5. Rangataua Bay, Tauranga. The Trust was notified of a sewerage proposal for this Bay. A detailed site survey of the locality has been undertaken.
6. Parapara Spit, Golden Bay, S12/13, 14, 15 and 17. Application was made to modify sites by an intensive sub-division development. The area was investigated and its archaeological significance established. No authority for the destruction of sites has been approved.
7. Waitaki River mouth, S128/1. Unauthorised border dyking of this site in 1976-77 appeared to have caused extensive damage. However, subsequent investigations have shown that the site was largely destroyed by ploughing more than twenty years ago.

Although the increased archaeological staff has allowed the Trust to extend its operations and develop its contacts with government departments, local authorities, universities, museums and others, the three people based in Wellington cannot play more than a minor role in archaeological site protection and research throughout the country. Many sites are still being destroyed without even rudimentary examination. More than

ever, New Zealand archaeology desperately needs alert fieldworkers in all districts, who will record sites, warn the Trust of threats to sites, and inform landowners and others of the requirements of the Historic Places Amendment Act 1975.

Reference

McKinlay, J.R. 1976      The N.Z. Historic Places Trust and the New Legislation,  
NZAA Newsletter, Vol 19(1). 38-65.

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A REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The N.Z.A.A. Mini-Conference is to be held in Nelson, June 3-5, 1978. The theme is 'Revitalizing Technological Studies', a particularly appropriate one for this area, which features many argillite quarries and working floors. Besides stone technology, it is hoped that technological studies of shell, bone and fibre artefacts will be reviewed. After all, the word artefact means 'a thing manufactured by or with skill'. For some years we have been so busy restoring economic evidence to its rightful place, that artefacts and the human abilities and knowledge that they embody have been neglected.

If you are interested in contributing a paper to this Mini-Conference please contact:

Dr Helen Leach,  
Programme Convener  
Anthropology Department  
University of Otago  
PO Box 56  
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giving an indication of its title and possible length (15-20 minutes or 30-40 minutes are likely time slots).