



NEW ZEALAND  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## REVIEWS

**Anderson, Atholl.** *The Welcome of Strangers; an ethnohistory of southern Maori A.D. 1650-1850.* University of Otago Press, Dunedin, 1998. 249 pp. \$39.95.

Atholl Anderson's latest book is not based on the results of archaeological research, although there is much of interest to archaeologists in his study of the politics, society and subsistence economics of southern Maori. Instead it deals with traditional history focusing on the period of Ngai Tahu dominance, and on early written accounts of the traditional way of life and changes brought about by European contact.

The book opens with an account of pre-Ngai Tahu tribes, including the mysterious Waitaha of current political ramifications - as well as 'new age' aspects, some of them by no means new as Anderson points out. This is followed by the story of the Ngai Tahu ancestors' arrival from the north, and the mix of warfare and inter-marriage with earlier people which led to the political dominance of Ngai Tahu from the 18th century.

Chapters which follow deal with the Kai Huanga feud and the depredations of Te Rauparaha, on manawhenua and mahinga kai, 19th century settlements and populations, and on the impact of Europeans on the world of southern Maori. There is a lot that is new or brought together for the first time.

Of particular interest is the way Maori managed their subsistence resources, and the places these were available. In preparation for an 1879-1880 commission of enquiry into land claims Ngai Tahu elders provided the names and location of almost 1400 seasonal camps where 62 different resources were exploited, 57 of them food. Mahinga kai for eels, fernroot and ti kouka were the most common, followed by river and estuary fish. Tutu, raupo root,

flax honey, weka, tui and kiore were also important resources. The relative importance of the resources differed in the north and south of the region, and on the coast and inland.

I was also interested in the account of relations between Maori and shore whalers. Some of the station dates given on page 167 may be revised following recent work. I think there was one station at Timaru in 1839-1840, not two (p.155). At Otakou Joseph and Edward Weller came ashore to set up a whale fishery in October 1831, but lost the 1832 season following a fire at the station. In its first four years Otakou employed equal numbers of Maori and European, but subsequently only half as many Maori. From 1838 to 1840 Europeans numbered 75-80 men, making the settlement a very substantial one for southern New Zealand.

It was a pleasure to read of "guddling" eels (p. 138). I have guddled trout, but never eels. The word is Scottish in origin. Better still is 'shagroon' (p. 214), a word unique to southern New Zealand. Orsman follows the OED in giving it an Irish Gaelic origin, from 'shaughraun', meaning 'wandering'. 'Wetehai' ('westside') for the Fiordland coast (p. 126) must have originated with Foveaux Strait sealers and whalers, for whom the region was an important area of operations. Nor did I previously know the intriguing origin of 'Otepoti' (p. 172).

The pictures brought together in this book add to its value as a resource. I enjoyed the portraits of Whakataupuka (p. 95), Taiaroa (p. 102), and Matiaha Tiramorehu (p. 203), and the intimate sketches of small Maori settlements. I would have liked the actual numbers as well as maps showing settlement populations. An explanation is needed for the apparent contradiction regarding the South Canterbury settlement of Te Waiateruati, which was abandoned in the early 1840s (p. 156), but still operating in 1848 (p. 157).

This book is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the southern Maori. Their history and way of life were unique in New Zealand, as was the nature and course of European contact. Mainlanders who are interested in the place they live in have a wonderful opportunity to get to know it better. The rest of us can only be jealous.

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Susan Lawrence and Mark Staniforth (editors). *The Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and New Zealand*. Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Special Publication No 10, 1998.  
115 pages, \$NZ45 (plus postage).

Whaling was one of the first commercial enterprises to bring New Zealand and Australia into the late 18th century European world system. Its participants were connected by sea and common purpose, rather than separated by colonial boundaries, then only weakly developed. *The Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and New Zealand* is also a first, bringing together both the New Zealand and Australian archaeological and historical records and presenting them to a wider world.

Initiated by Susan Lawrence and Mark Staniforth, the AWSANZ project has set out to bring an integrated analytical framework to the study of Australasian whaling, its associated material culture and cultural landscapes, lifting the sights beyond the local heritage management issues that have dominated most previous research to address issues such as technological development, social structure and indigenous-immigrant interactions. The papers in this volume derive, predominantly, from a 1997 conference at which this project was conceived.

After a brief Introduction by the editors, fifteen papers are presented in three sections. Regional overviews summarise past and current whaling research throughout the region. Denis Gojak outlines the historical development of the deep sea, bay and shore-based whaling in New South Wales and Norfolk Island, summarises surviving archaeological remains, and draws attention to some of the wider issues that need to be addressed. Reviews of the Tasmanian industry (Nash), shore based sites in Victoria (McKenzie), and whaling-related shipwrecks in the same state (Anderson) are more closely focussed on the surviving evidence and management issues. Martin Gibbs' paper on Western Australia is able to draw upon his recent PhD research to present more detailed historical analysis of the role of whaling within the local economy, and to reconstruct aspects of life on the mid 19th century Cheyne Bay whaling station. The New Zealand evidence is reviewed by Nigel Prickett who emphasises the role of Maori both as workers within the industry and in providing some of its essential infrastructural support.

Three papers present detailed local case studies. Mark Staniforth's

preliminary analysis of three South Australian sites highlights one of the consequences of the international and intercolonial nature of the whaling industry - few of the archival sources relevant to these stations are to be found in South Australia. More extensive historical evidence was available for Jane Lennon's discussion of whaling at Wilson's Promontory, Victoria, although surviving archaeological remains were more sparse. A more even balance is evident in Chris Jacomb's review of shore whaling sites on Banks Peninsula.

The final section deals with thematic studies. Representations of whaling through the artefacts, images, documents and displays at the Australian National Maritime Museum are discussed by Patricia Miles. Two papers explore aspects of the historical record more closely: Dale Chatwin examines factors leading to the gradual withdrawal of British merchants from South Seas whaling and its increasing dominance by colonial interests; while Michael Pearson interrogates shipping arrivals and departures data to illustrate the global nature of the industry. Iain Stuart suggests that a 'seascape' approach will inform the archaeology of whaling sites, and Parry Kostoglou brings a broader anthropological perspective to bear through examination of sources of conflict in the Tasmanian industry.

In the final paper of the volume, Susan Lawrence argues that an appropriate framework for integrating the disparate and often ephemeral evidence of whaling is through 'ethnographies of place', which mesh the documentary and archaeological evidence into 'a richly textured picture of daily life' from which broader technological, economic, social and cultural questions can be assessed. While we must await much more detailed site-specific analyses than hitherto undertaken to ascertain whether this is the case, the papers brought together here provide a solid foundation from which such investigations can begin.

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