



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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there were five of the six Puke children), Burford Norman, another old-timer who can teach the youngsters a thing or two, Harry Dansey, his wife, and her sister, the ladies who tirelessly made scones and pikelets and cake for morning and afternoon tea, Gumpy Hunt, Joan Hunter, and others who week-ended from Hamilton -- the list could go on endlessly. The finest thing of all was that here, where the Maori war began, the Maori-Pakeha relationship is splendid. Both peoples toiled under the blazing sun -- we mostly had scorching weather -- in comradeship -- if anything, the Maori people even keener than the white -- to find the things the old-time Maori had left in the swamp. As Harry Dansey said of the swamp, when so many Ko turned up, "it is like lifting the lid of a Maori toolshed."

The publicity given by the three local papers, Taranaki Herald, Taranaki Daily News, and Hawera Star, was terrific. I've not known anything like it elsewhere. Photos, news items, interviews, day after day, even when the finds were few or none.

An Archaeological Club, as Junior Friends of the Taranaki Museum, led by Rigby Allen, continue the work. Well done, Taranaki!

ROTORUA-BAY OF PLENTY by D.M.Stafford.

Archaeological work in the Bay of Plenty has been confined so far to site recording and although there has not been a great number of forms sent in to date, work is progressing at a satisfactory rate.

In Rotorua, the Historical Society has been reformed and at a recent meeting (attended by over seventy people) it was indicated that site recording would form an important part of its functions. As there are a great number of sites in this district, in fact throughout the Bay of Plenty, this should be a very rewarding function for the Society. It will be interesting to members to note that Mr. C.Watt, a member of the Archaeological Association, has so far compiled a list of well over three hundred separate fortified Pa sites in the Rotorua district alone.

In Whakatane, which probably has as many sites as Rotorua, work is proceeding steadily; it is unfortunate that Mr. Frank Davis who had made site recording part of the projects for his class at the Whakatane High School, has taken up a new position in the Paihiatua district and has had to postpone his activities. We are fortunate however in that the Whakatane and District Historical Society is a very live body and under the capable guidance of Mr. E.Hobone, the archaeological section of that group is continuing the work.

In Tauranga, two very enthusiastic members, Mr. P. Crichton and Mr. P. Mortenson, have undertaken to record the sites on the coast between Tauranga and Papamoa, a very interesting area, and the results of their labours are keenly awaited.

The file-keeper for the Bay of Plenty area (Mr. D. Stafford) extends a very cordial invitation for any members of the Archaeological Association to contact him if in Rotorua at any time. His Phone No. -- 579 (business), A826 (home).

HAMILTON-WAIKATO by C.G.Hunt.

Some eighteen months ago, Jack Tolson gave an illustrated address on archaeology to the Waikato Scientific Association and stressed the need for the formation of an Archaeological Group in the Waikato which was rich in suitable sites.

Subsequently, the executive of the Waikato Scientific Association decided to call a special meeting of members and non-members to hear a further address on the subject by Messrs. Groube and Smart of Auckland. Those present who were interested in forming an Archaeological Section of the W.S.A, were invited to hand in their names and addresses and twenty people did so.

In August 1959, those twenty were called together and were formally constituted a Section of the W.S.A, with Mr.F.J.Butler as Chairman and Mr. E.Campin as Recorder. For some weeks the new Section was without a Secretary but that office was eventually filled by a volunteer in Mr. A.T.Scott.

It was decided that a field exercise should be held as soon as possible to give instruction in modern techniques and assistance was promised by several members of the N.Z.Archaeological Assn., living in Auckland. Preliminary survey of the district to choose a suitable site for the exercise was done by the Chairman and others, but a decision was rather forced on us by the news that Te Rapa Pa, right in Hamilton City, was to be shortly bulldozed away to make new approaches for the proposed additional traffic bridge across the Waikato River.