



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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Dear Fellow-members,

I am well aware this issue is late in appearing. I was away most of December, all of January, and most of February, and some of the contributors were also away. Also, the member who had undertaken to design the new cover let me know in March that he had been unable to do so, and I had to make other arrangements. This cover is the work of Tony Fomison.

Late though it is, I take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy New Year, and plenty of good archaeology.

I hope many of you will be at Conference.

There are no book reviews in this issue, as I have not had time to write any, and no-one else has contributed.

THE EDITOR.

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SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS . . . .

With the heartening upsurge, of later years, of interest in the practical aspects of archaeology in this country, those interested must, on many occasions, have been painfully aware of their limitations in the explanations of their various finds. This must be true of all of us, for with these new techniques treated in greater detail, the specific information required in different fields of

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knowledge is getting beyond the individual. Since the modern idea is to employ a team, the answer must lie in that direction. But it is my contention that we can improve our quality....our team quality, that is....by instructing our younger and less experienced members in a wider range of experience. Let me cite an example. It seems to me that one field which lends itself to this is geology. It should be a prime task of the archaeologist to know what rocks are to be found in the locality, where they are to be found, the proportions of the various kinds of rocks, and most important....what they look like. Every member of the team needs to be briefed on these aspects, so that any departure from the usual state of affairs is readily noticed. This is particularly the case where rocks from outside the local area turn up in a digging. The source area of these foreign rocks should be established....indeed, there seems to be a very good case for a roving geologist, or at least someone with a reasonable geological background. Our knowledge of the local sources of rocks used as raw material seems to be a bit thin, and can lead to quite erroneous results. Here in Canterbury it has been supposed that the source area of quartzite was the MacKenzie Country, but in August last, I found outcrops of the same stone near Oxford. Maori ovens have, in the past, been found quite close to the same area. Significant, I don't know really, but it gives food for thought.

Certainly at high level, work is being done on this subject, but my plea is for some geological knowledge to be spread wider through the ranks. The results, I am confident, will be worth-while.

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Rhys E. Griffiths

Canterbury Museum

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