



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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transferred to Whakatane.

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Mr D. Stafford is a very active member of the Association from Rotorua. It is mostly through his efforts that this year's conference promises to be so interesting and well-organized. The Auckland Society remembers Mr Stafford particularly for his phenomenal knowledge of Arawa traditions, about which he spoke in Auckland last year.

Mr R.H. Parker, Student Chairman of the Auckland Society, is a school teacher in Auckland as well as a student in Anthropology. He directed the trial excavations at "Skippers Ridge" at Opito Bay, and will continue in this capacity at the May excavations on the same site. The Society looks forward to a lecture this coming year by Mr Parker on Libyan archaeology.

Mr R. Brown, an Auckland school teacher, spent some years in Waipu, and, as those who attended last year's conference will remember, implemented an ambitious scheme of field recording in the Waipu district.

These persons are only a few of those in the Auckland area who have been active in archaeology in the past few years. The articles that follow describe some of the group and individual activities that have recently been under way. We hope that Association members will find these of interest and that future issues of the Newsletter will provide a means for persons and groups in other areas to report their activities and findings.

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#### NEWS OF AUCKLAND

#### THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY by Wallace Ambrose

More than 2000 cubic yards ago the University Archaeological Society's meagre membership sought for space to sink its new spades and trowels in order to justify its title. Since then the Society and its activities and aspirations have increased in volume and variety. Some of the more important sites tackled in the year to date have been given prominence in the more detailed descriptions included in this newsletter. It may appear from these that the Society's main achievements lie in the successful excavation and extraction of evidence for their own right, but this is only partly true for one of the committee's major concerns is that all activities should be designed to provide the best training in as many aspects of archaeology as possible. It is inconceivable that the Society should merely become a well organised labour force racing about the country doing odd jobs. For this reason the Society has laid great emphasis on specialist training and to implement its aim has had the assistance of an enthusiastic group of lecturers. A brief summary of last year's topics will illustrate these aims more fully.

Mr Fisher of the Auckland Institute and Museum gave a compact analysis of the manufacture and use of Maori fishing devices with special emphasis on types more likely to be found by the archaeologist.

Dr Brothers of the University Geology Dept. cleared the air of misconceptions regarding identification of rock types in hand specimens and defined the limits of geology in this respect. He also dwelt on the difficulty of assigning sources to much of the rock used in adze manufacture with particular reference to greenstone. This subject was developed in three consecutive lecture-study groups.

Dr Taylor, of the University Anthropology Dept. also presented a three lecture-study series on the subject of bones for archaeologists and in particular to aids in distinguishing types of dentition.

Under the leadership of Roger Green and Jack Golson the field recording scheme was given a trial run by the University society at Kaipara South Head and the results of this are described separately. However, Roger Green presented as a prelude to the Kaipara trip an invaluable practical course in elementary surveying. The handbook which all Association members received was in fact compiled from the preliminary at Kaipara and included preparatory surveying.

Meetings held at regular intervals throughout the year included two fascinating lectures on overseas archaeological work. Mr Ralph Bulmer described his activities in a lecture entitled "New Guinea Pre-history and its Problems", and Mr Roger Green gave an outline of his work in the American South West.

Two full days have been spent by the Auckland group in the task of cleaning and sorting material recovered from various excavations.

In continuance of the aim of giving a fair degree of competence and critical appraisal of any material uncovered, this coming year's activities have been planned to include:- Study groups in soil analysis shell identification, greenstone artifacts, further work in surveying, further work on organised field recording and a course on distributional study of artifacts. Lectures have been planned on several subjects including "the importance of the kuri in Maori economy" and Maori tradition regarding the settlement of New Zealand.

That Laurie and Helen Birks are now continuing excavations at Sarah's Gully and other members are contemplating similar extensions to the main centrally organised excavation speaks favourably of the society's policy.

In the firm belief that the mountain of earth moved has provided an equally impressive number of adept archaeological enthusiasts, the society can now become more specific in selection of key sites and by so doing make even more important contributions to New Zealand's Pre-history problem solving.