



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



This document is made available by The New Zealand
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.



THE NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION LIST OF CONSULTING MEMBER ARCHAEOLOGISTS: CURRENT STATUS AND A NEW PROPOSAL

Ian Barber
Department of Anthropology, University of Otago

Background

At the Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) held on 7 May, 2000 in Wellington a proposal by NZAA Council to compile and maintain a list of current members offering archaeological services was presented (White 2000: 99). This took place in the context of a New Zealand Historic Places Trust decision to discontinue circulating a list of contract archaeologists for which the Trust had otherwise accepted no liability or responsibility. Trust Senior Archaeologist Rick McGovern-Wilson (personal communication) confirmed that the maintenance and circulation of such a list was potentially confusing and undesirable for the Trust, with its statutory obligations to approve and authorise archaeologists for excavation and related archaeological work under the *Historic Places Act* 1993 (e.g. sections 15, 17 and 18).

The proposal for NZAA “to maintain a list or directory” of members available for contract archaeological work was supported by the Wellington AGM as a helpful alternative information source for New Zealand archaeological services (White 2000: 99). As the Council member introducing the proposal I pointed out to the AGM that this move was not an attempt by Council to create or otherwise prejudice the development of a professional archaeological body in New Zealand. The possible establishment of a professional archaeological association with implications for regulation and performance standards has been debated within NZAA circles more frequently since the demise of the Institute of New Zealand Archaeologists in 1997 (Jones *et al.* 1997; NZAA Council Notes and News 1997: 241). To this point in time however it has not progressed beyond the stage of discussion.

Following the Wellington AGM and further calls for information, NZAA Council members Lynda Bowers and Ian Barber compiled a list of all current NZAA members wishing to be identified as consultant or contract archaeologists. The list as organized by region has been available since 2001 on the NZAA web site maintained by the NZAA webmaster.

Current status

The most current version of the NZAA consultants list can be viewed as a sub-page of the NZAA web site at: <http://www.nzarchaeology.org/nzaa%20consultants/Contract.htm>. The list can be downloaded from this web site as an MSWord document.

Council has been careful to avoid any impression that the list represents a formal, professional association. A disclaimer at the head of the list notes that NZAA “does not undertake registration of professional archaeologists” and requires only that persons listing “are members of the Association and endorse the NZAA Code of Ethics.” No responsibility is accepted otherwise for the competence of an archaeologist listed or the quality and accuracy of any service provided. Persons using the list to hire archaeologists are advised where possible “to invite and vet competitive tenders for any work.”

The current list includes contact details for NZAA members offering archaeological services. It provides for a brief and fairly generic accompanying description of services offered (including geographical or other technical specifications). It is updated regularly as changed circumstances are notified. Listings are deleted for persons who cease to be current members. Notifications of amendments, new requests and any other questions about the list should be addressed to Ian Barber at the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, email: ian.barber@stonebow.otago.ac.nz.

New proposal

NZAA members who attended the 2000 Wellington AGM may recall expressions of interest in the proposal for a directory of archaeologists based on identified services rather than regions as at present. This was referred to as a ‘matrix’ approach, and has been considered a proposal of interest by Council members ever since.

In the operation of the current regional list it has been noted that the descriptions of services provided may be of limited use for hirers with specific or highly specialised archaeological requirements. Consequently, Council members believe

that it is in the interests of local archaeology to replace the current NZAA consultants list with a more useful directory of archaeological services in a matrix approach as suggested at the Wellington AGM. Regional availability or specialisation would not be overlooked in such an approach, but would be identified as only one of a number of archaeological services to be listed. As with the existing list there is no suggestion by Council that the proposed service directory would create a professional (or even quasi-professional) association with agreed standards and sanctions. It is evident, however, that a directory-based skills and experience approach may be an important step towards the successful future development of any formal, professional archaeological presence in New Zealand.

To generate a directory of archaeological services further information will be required from current members who wish to be included. A draft request form has been developed that asks people to identify the services they may wish to provide that are relevant to archaeology and archaeologists practicing in New Zealand. The draft form only is included here as an Appendix. Council does not necessarily intend that all of the services identified in the form will be listed exactly as requested, although it is hoped that all of the primary categories at least will be represented. Please note that the form is not to be filled out and sent anywhere yet!

It is important to Council that currently listed members and any other affected parties are consulted over this development. Anyone wanting to express a view on the proposal or the draft information request form should contact Ian Barber at the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, email: ian.barber@stonebow.otago.ac.nz, as soon as possible. All submissions will be presented to, and discussed by, Council members at the earliest opportunity in 2004.

Once the final request form is available it is expected that it will be distributed to currently listed members and otherwise announced via the NZAA web site and/or *Archaeology in New Zealand*. It is hoped that with the support of members the directory itself will be available for use before the end of 2004.

References

Jones, K., T. Walton, and A. Challis. 1997. INZA – use it or lose it (under ‘Notes and News’). *Archaeology in New Zealand* 40(2): 96-98.

NZAA Council Notes and News. 1997. *Archaeology in New Zealand* 40(4): 240-241.

White, M. 2000. NZAA Annual General Meeting. *Archaeology in New Zealand* 43 (2): 98-99.

Appendix

NZAA MEMBER ARCHAEOLOGIST DETAILS FOR DIRECTORY COMPILATION: INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

N.B. Draft information form, for discussion only.

The New Zealand Archaeological Association maintains a web-based list of current members who have notified their availability for archaeological work in New Zealand. The list is organized by region. At present the list includes general information only on individual skills and services provided by listed archaeologists.

NZAA is developing a more detailed directory of skills and services that are offered by its practicing member archaeologists. It is intended that the detailed directory should replace the existing list. This form will be used to compile information for the directory. Please fill in all of the relevant sections.

Contact details

Please list the following:

Name (association/company if appropriate and ALL principal archaeologists):

Full contact details (include email address if available):

Highest or relevant qualifications (for ALL principal archaeologists):

Relevant memberships/professional recognition

Please tick the following and/or provide information as necessary to confirm services offered. Single associations/companies can complete one form representing the combined services of all named principals.

Insurance (liability/professional indemnity)

Field work

Years/countries of experience

Archaeological survey (tick below as appropriate)

- Record description/sketch plan only
- Record description and:
 - Tape and compass mapping
 - Non-electronic optical location and mapping (e.g., manual theodolite, survey level, plane table—please list)
 - Electronic location and mapping (e.g., GPS, EDM, Total Station—please list)

Archaeological assessment/inventory/condition evaluation (specify any specialisation—e.g., forestry, coastal, built structures)

Other archaeological (or relevant) project management

Archaeological excavation—precontact Maori sites (tick below as appropriate):

- Site excavation experience (please list site types)
- Level of expertise (e.g., director/supervisor, assistant)

Archaeological excavation—postcontact Maori/other historic sites:

- Site excavation experience (please list site types)
- Level of expertise (e.g., director/supervisor, assistant)

Regional specialisation or restriction:

Other field services provided (please list):

Archaeological excavation beyond New Zealand (please list):

Expert knowledge, application and reporting

Archaeological authority application and values assessment per *Historic Places Act* 1993

Resource Management Act 1991 archaeological advice per consent/planning processes/AEE requirements

Antiquities Act 1975 artifact registration

Archaeological Conservation/Management Planning (specify):

Preparation and presentation of legal, planning or other hearing evidence (specify):

Other (specify):

Specialist analysis

Archaeological materials analysis (tick below or provide information as appropriate):

- Material culture:
 - Precontact Maori
 - Stone
 - Bone

- Shell
- Wood
- Other (please list)
- Postcontact Maori/historic
 - Ceramic
 - Clay pipe
 - Bottle/ other glass (delete if necessary)
 - Matchbox
 - Nail
 - Brick
 - Other (please list)
- Organic materials analysis
 - NZ mollusca
 - NZ finfish
 - NZ birds
 - Terrestrial mammals
 - Sea mammals
 - Botanical remains (e.g., phyloliths, charcoal—please list)
- Other (please list):

Conservation services (please list)

Other specialist services (please list)