



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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EDITORIAL

SUMMER EXCAVATIONS :

The Wellington Archaeological Society will be holding its annual summer excavation at Foxton, on a moahunter site, between December 26th 1966 and January 8th 1967. All who wish to attend are welcome. Accommodation will be in tents. The camp is pleasant and sheltered, on the edge of a lagoon, about one mile from the Foxton Beach. Large tents will be provided for persons not having their own. There is a camp fee of 10/6 a day for members; 11/6 a day for non-members. For further information please contact:

The Secretary
Wellington Archaeological Society
C/o Dominion Museum
Private Bag
WELLINGTON

The Auckland Society is having its annual dig at Lake Ngaroto in the Waikato. The site is an island pa on which some work has been done over the past two years. The pa appears to have been built off-shore in a lake which has subsequently been drained, by the formation of an artificial island. Occupation may have covered several centuries and phases of culture. It will be of great interest and importance to have such a pa excavated under controlled conditions and to compare the findings with the other island pa recorded in Lake Horowhenua by the late G. Leslie Adkin.

This Paper by F. Morrison of the N.Z. Forest Service arrived too late for inclusion in Vol 9, no 3. It was presented at the symposium on Salvage Archaeology.

THE N.Z. FOREST SERVICE AND PROTECTION
OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

F.T. Morrison,
N.Z. Forest Service

Although the New Zealand Forest Service has not, so far, been called on to make a major contribution to the nations guardianship of the past, it is the administrator of approximately 10,000,000 acres or nearly 15% of New Zealand's land mass and is certain to face problems relating to the protection of historical and archaeological sites within forests in the future.

How is this government department equipped to deal with such problems? No doubt, to many people it appears as an organisation which grows vast numbers of trees and has little time to be interested in pursuits of a non-commercial nature. While it is true that the production of wood and derivatives for the home markets and export overseas is a vital feature of N.Z. Forest Service activity, little would be achieved without well-developed protection systems which aim at Safeguarding forests, indigenous and exotic, from fire, trespass, erosion, animal damage, insect pests and disease. The addition of historical and archaeological sites to the protected assets is neither a difficulty nor a burden to management as two legal methods of affording protection are available, one is by way of the forest working plan, the other through the existence or creation of the forest sanctuary.

The working plan is defined in the Forest Act and is a comprehensive document prepared by Senior Forest Officers which lays down management procedure and makes allowance for necessary protection measures. The plan must be approved by the Minister of Forests before it can become effective and variations are only possible with the Minister's sanction. Although the main objective of the plan is often fire prevention, protection can and does apply to any item of value. For example, the Kaingaroa Forest Maori wall drawings are protected under the terms of the Murupara Working Plan. Forest Managers are well aware of the drawings historical importance, the provisions of the working plan and conduct their activities accordingly. A further instance occurs in Rai Forest in the South Island where an argillite quarry site which once provided Maoris with cutting tools and weapons is being protected by Forest Service and Historic Places Trust activity. At Waipoua Forest an area containing caves and the bodies of local Maoris' ancestors has been set aside permanently.

The forest sanctuary is an area which is reserved for specific purposes and is gazetted under the hand of the Governor-General on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen; any amendment or variation is possible only by Act of Parliament.

The Waipoua Forest Sanctuary was gazetted to set aside for all time, the principal Kauri bearing areas including the giants "Te Matua Ngatere" (Father of the Forest) and "Tanemahuta" (God of the Forest). In this example trees are being protected but a forest sanctuary could be gazetted elsewhere specifically to safeguard historical and archaeological sites.

In conclusion, the Director-General of Forests is well aware of the importance of history to the nation and has given an assurance that his department will do all that is possible to preserve examples of the past which occur with State Forests.