



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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THE WELLINGTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1960 - 1987

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At a Special General Meeting of the Wellington Archaeological Society (WAS) held on 11 August 1987, members voted to wind up the twenty-seven year old Society and re-organise as a Section of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand. It is, therefore, an appropriate time to document the history of the Society and examine the role it played in research, site protection, and in promoting the study of archaeology and prehistory in the Wellington area.

Sources

This history is based on the records of the Wellington Archaeological Society. The papers comprise the Minutes of Annual and Special General Meetings, the annual reports and financial statements presented to the Annual General Meetings, the minutes of committee meetings, notices to members of forthcoming evening meetings, study groups, and field work, the correspondence of the Chairman and the Secretary with members and outside individuals and bodies, and the membership records. There were some gaps in the records but John Daniels, a founding member of the Society, has been able to provide replacement copies of most of the missing material. A secondary aim in compiling this history was to provide a guide to the sort of information available in the Society's records. The records are now held by the Alexander Turnbull Library.

Beginnings

The Wellington Archaeological Society was formed at a meeting held at the Dominion Museum on 21 July 1960 (Daniels 1961a). The Society had its origins in a loosely organised group active for a couple of years prior to this. The Dominion Museum Group was formed in 1958 by Sue Davis (Daniels 1963:162) and carried out excavations at Makara Moa-hunter site R27/54 (Davis 1962) before beginning, early in 1959, a programme of site recording concentrating on the area around Porirua Harbour (Davis 1959). Even before this, however, descriptions of Wellington sites had been published, for example, by Best (1914, 1918a, 1918b, 1921), McLeod (in Best 1917), and others. H.B. Fell recorded archaeological sites in Fitzroy Bay in the 1930s (Palmer 1963) and J.B. Palmer (1956) recorded sites on the eastern side of Wellington Harbour and Fitzroy Bay in the 1950s (Palmer 1956, 1963). This body of published work, and Best's work in particular, played a significant role in the subsequent identification and interpretation of archaeological features and

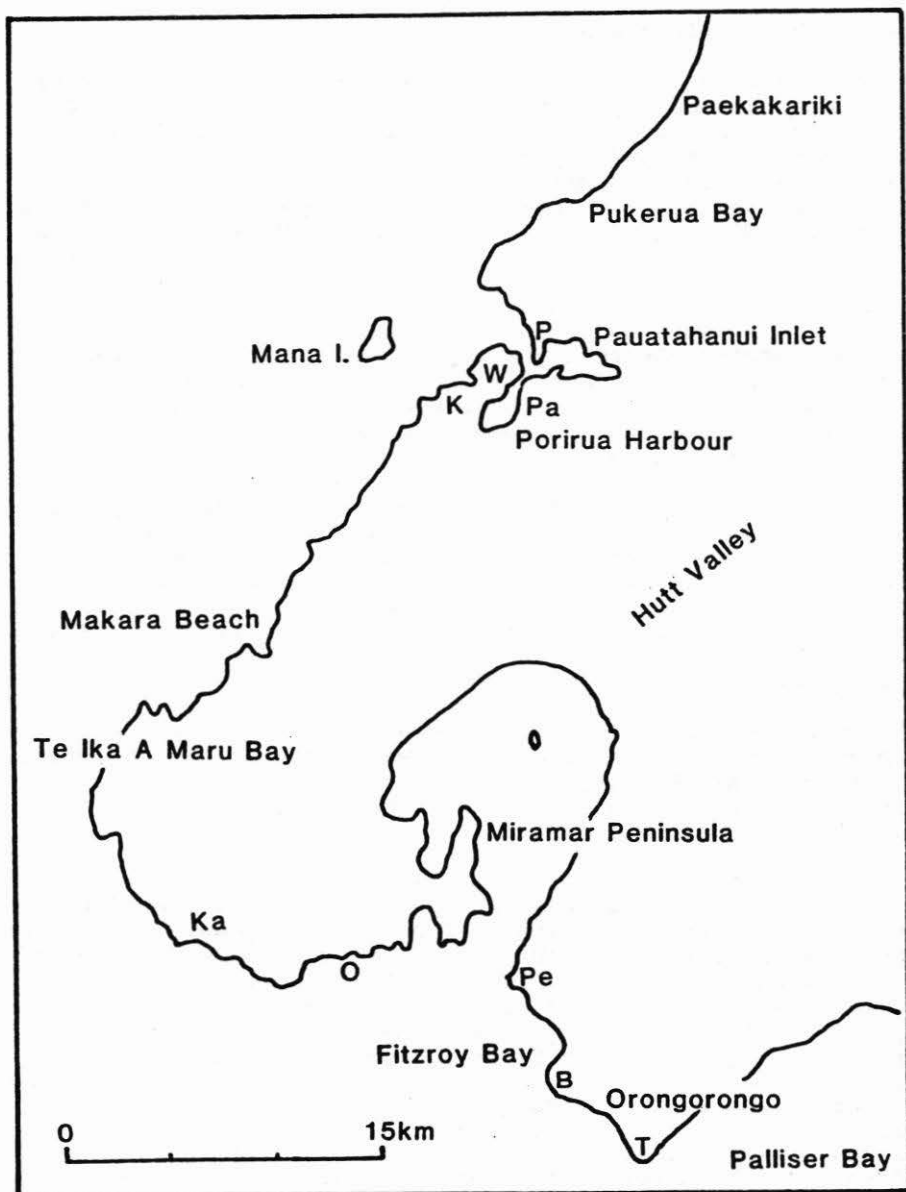


FIGURE 1. Map showing places mentioned in the text. B = Baring Head, K = Korohiwa, Ka = Karori Stream, O = Ohiro Bay, P = Paremata, Pa = Papakowhai, Pe = Pencarrow Head, T = Turakirae Head, W = Whitireia Peninsula.

sites in the Wellington area.

The inaugural meeting, which was chaired by J.B. (Bruce) Palmer, was attended by 43 people. Jack Golson, then Senior Lecturer in Prehistory at the University of Auckland, gave a talk on "The growth and importance of archaeology in New Zealand". An Interim Committee consisting of Dr Geoffrey Blake-Palmer (Chairman), Colin Smart (Secretary), John Daniels (Treasurer), Win Mumford, Gail Irwin, David McEwen, and Bruce Palmer was elected.

A Special General Meeting held on 26 April 1961 adopted a constitution and by the end of 1961 the new society had 45 financial members (Secretary's report and financial statement for year ending 20 November 1961). The subscription was 15/- (7/6 for student members). The Secretary's report also shows an income of £ 49-14-3 and an expenditure of £ 24-17-5 for the year, leaving £ 24-16-10 in hand.

The 1961-2 year was the first year with a full programme of activities and the pattern was consolidated the following year in spite of the loss of a number of key people. The pattern of a monthly evening meeting and a monthly field day established in these years became the model for later years. It was still the pattern in the final year of the Society's existence in 1986-7.

#### Evening meetings

The Society's first evening lecture was on "The uses of air-photography in archaeology" and was given by the Chairman, Dr Geoffrey Blake-Palmer, on 20 September 1961. At the Annual General Meeting on 20 November Colin Smart spoke on his excavations at Tarata pa (R22/27).

The Annual Report for the 1961-62 year noted that at the end of 1961 "the Society was in danger of falling apart" because of the lack of activity. The 1962 programme, however, included talks by Peter Gathercole (University of Otago) on problems of archaeological technique, Dr Robert Falla (Director of the Dominion Museum) on men and moas in the prehistoric environment, Mary Oliver (later Dr Mary Knox) on Maori stone adzes, Janet Davidson on excavations in Tahiti, Hank Jensen (Institute of Nuclear Sciences) on the reliability of radiocarbon dating, and Jim Brodie, who spoke on "Maori occupation areas in the Wellington District". A joint meeting was arranged with the Classical Association, and occasional joint meetings of this kind remained a feature in subsequent years. A visit was also arranged to "Hiwiroa", the home of Mr and Mrs R.W. Pomare to view "one of the finest private collections of archaeological and historical material in the country" (Daniels 1962:140).

1963 saw a very full calendar of meetings, which also

included the NZAA Conference held in Wellington between 1-3 June. (The NZAA conference was held in Wellington in 1961, 1963, 1966, 1972, and 1975, with varying degrees of organisation provided by the Society.) Out of town speakers at other evening meetings during the year included Roger Green of the University of Auckland and Peter Gathercole of the University of Otago; the latter meeting being one of two that year organised jointly with the Classical Association. In later years joint meetings with the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand were to become more common.

The report for the year 1964-5 noted that "attendances at some meetings have not been as high as could be hoped for"; this comment, in one form or another, is reiterated in a number of reports over the years. It was a matter of constant concern.

In most years the programme included at least one speaker from a university or museum outside Wellington. Out of town speakers in the 1970s, for example, included Roger Green (April 1971), Peter Bellwood (August 1971), Michael Trotter (June 1973), Aileen Fox (July 1973), Helen Leach (April 1974), Dave Simmons (May 1974 and March 1977), Phil Houghton (August 1974), Charles Higham (April 1978), and Michael Shiffer (January 1979).

Talks in the years 1970 and 1971 were remarkable for the emphasis on the science in archaeology theme: "Marine fishes of New Zealand - their relevance in archaeological research" (July 1970), "New Zealand birds - their relevance in archaeological research" (August 1970), "Landsnails and other non-marine mollusca - their relevance in archaeological research" (September 1970), "New Zealand shell-fish - their relevance in archaeological research" (November 1970), "Soils and the archaeologist" (May 1971), "Petrology and the archaeologist" (July 1971), "Dating methods in archaeology" (September 1971).

The Society had a discussion group meeting regularly to discuss papers on New Zealand prehistory and archaeology during 1971. These continued through 1972, but were then dropped. They were started up again in 1978, but were generally of interest to only a small part of the membership.

During 1972 the ordinary monthly meetings were put on a bi-monthly basis but the Minutes of the AGM that year records that "attendances had not been large". In 1973 the programme reverted to monthly meetings with "noticeably increased" attendances (Annual Report 1972-3). Attendances continued to be good during 1974 with an average of thirty people at meetings (Annual Report 1973-4).

By 1978, however, the Society was in difficulties. The Annual Report for 1978-9 noted that the 1978 AGM had been poorly attended and there had been difficulties getting people to serve

TABLE 1

## EXCAVATIONS WITH WHICH THE SOCIETY WAS INVOLVED:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Director</u>
Summer 1961-2	Tarata pa	Colin Smart
Easter 1962	Warehou pa	Colin Smart
Summer 1962-3	Paremata	Janet Davidson
"	Te Ika a Maru Bay	Janet Davidson
November 1963	Foxtton	Terry Barrow
Summer 1963-64	Foxtton	Bruce McFadgen
"	Papakowhai	Bruce McFadgen
Summer 1964-65	Foxtton	Bruce McFadgen
Easter 1966	Ohiro Bay	Bruce McFadgen
Summer 1966-67	Foxtton	Bruce McFadgen
Easter 1967	Orongorongo	Bruce McFadgen
October 1967	Makara	Bruce McFadgen
November 1967	Makara	Bruce McFadgen
Summer 1967-68	Orongorongo	Bruce McFadgen
Easter 1968	Korohiwa	Bob Cater
Summer 1968-69	Orongorongo	Bruce McFadgen
Easter 1969	Paremata	Bob Cater
Summer 1969-70	Foxtton	Bruce McFadgen
"	Korohiwa	Jim McKinlay
Summer 1970-71	Foxtton	Bruce McFadgen
June 1971	Papakowhai	Betty McFadgen
Summer 1971-2	Foxtton	Bruce McFadgen

Notes

This list includes only excavations organised by the Society, or adopted by the Committee as official Society projects. Excavations adopted by the Committee as official Society projects need not be run by the Society nor, on the other hand, were Society-organised excavations necessarily without input from other organisations.

as officers and committee members. Attendances at the evening meetings had been poor and excavations at Pauatahanui under auspices of the N.Z. Historic Places Trust had been poorly supported by members of the Society. The possibility of archaeology finding a place within the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand was discussed at the 1979 AGM and a resolution narrowly passed to put this into effect. The Society was divided over the issue, however, and the resolution was not acted on. All activity ceased.

### Field work

The first field trip was organised by Colin Smart and took place on 18 September 1960. A full bus and three private cars made the trip to look at sites at Paekakariki. This was followed on 28 May 1961 by a field trip to Palliser Bay which was lead by Leslie Adkin.

A study group on field recording met on 5 and 19 July 1961 before undertaking a practical work in the field at Paekakariki on 29 July. The meetings were addressed by John Daniels, Bruce Palmer, Colin Smart and Win Mumford. 36 people attended the first meeting, 32 the next. Although this was the beginning of the Society's involvement in site recording, it represented a continuation of the recording begun by the Dominion Museum Group, and which had resulted in Daniels' paper on Whitireia peninsula (Daniels 1961b).

In early 1962 a Society field group was set up to undertake field work, including regular site recording trips (on the second Sunday of each month). The organisers were John Daniels, Michael Hitchings and Mary Oliver. The intention was achieve complete coverage of the Wellington area. (Site recording activity was organised by a special sub-committee, and a similar sub-committee was set up to plan and organise excavations.)

The Society was involved in a number of excavations from late 1961 (Table 1). Colin Smart continued his excavations at Tarata pa (R22/27) from late December 1961 through January 1962. An excavation was undertaken at Warehou Pa (R27/1) at Makara from 20 to 24 May, also under the direction of Colin Smart (O'Rourke 1962). These excavations were seen as providing valuable experience for members as the Society had few people who were experienced in excavation techniques (Daniels 1962:141).

The Society also organised a salvage excavation at Paremata (R26/122). The excavation was funded by a grant from the N.Z. Historic Places Trust and was done between 6 to 23 December 1962 under direction of Janet Davidson (Davidson 1978). This excavation was followed by fieldwork in Te Ika a Maru Bay, again under the direction of Janet Davidson. The fieldwork lasted

from 28 December 1962 to 20 January 1963 and involved an intensive site survey of the area, the drawing of large scale plans of a few sites, and limited excavations on two middens (Davidson 1976).

Site recording continued in 1963 and, apart from the regular monthly field trips, an Easter site recording camp was held at Lake Kohangatera in Fitzroy Bay. The field trip in September was to Mana Island and it was described in the Annual Report as one of highlights of the year.

The publication of John Daniels' paper on "Site types and their distribution in the Wellington area" (Daniels 1965) marked the end of the initial burst of site recording. Daniels (1965:102) concluded that "while some of my conclusions will undoubtedly have to be modified as a result of further research, I believe that the main characteristics of the site distribution and settlement pattern of the area are clear".

A long running field programme involved excavation of Foxton site (S24/3). Exploratory excavations by the Dominion Museum and the Society under Dr Terry Barrow in November 1963 were followed by a series of summer excavations (1963-4, 1964-5, 1966-7, 1969-70, 1970-1, 1972-3) at the site directed by Bruce McFadgen. The excavations were usually done over the Christmas-New Year period and there was usually no lack of volunteers: 46 people, for example, participated at some point in the 1966-7 summer season. Smaller scale excavations were also sometimes undertaken during the year. The digs were funded by fees paid by participants. Many of the results of the Foxton excavations are incorporated in McFadgen's MA and Ph.D theses (McFadgen 1972, 1978), but are otherwise unpublished.

The Society attempted to arrange an excavation at Onepoto on the Whitireia Peninsula for the summer 1965-6 but the Trustees made their consent conditional on the Society obtaining approval from the local Maori community. The excavation had to be postponed when this could not be done in time, and the project was eventually abandoned when the Raukawa Marae Trustees refused their consent.

Over Easter 1966 a small excavation was undertaken on a terraces/pit site (R27/61) at Ohiro Bay. Nothing to suggest Maori occupation was found and the pit proved to be the grave of a cow (McFadgen pers. comm.).

Site recording continued in 1967 with trips to Porirua, Upper Hutt, and the Miramar Peninsula. Site recording activity was organised by a group consisting of John Daniels, Ian Keyes, and Phil Barton. Towards the end of the year a programme to record sites south of the Waikanae river was adopted, but site recording began to wind down.



An Easter (1967) and two summer seasons (26 December 1967 to 7 January 1968, 26 December 1968 to 11 January 1969) were spent excavating sites in the Orongorongo River mouth area. The Easter investigations involved sampling at a number of sites. At one of the sites (R28/16) a stone-edged hearth was found in a pit. Excavations at Orongorongo pa, a contact period fishing village, produced evidence of a row of postholes. (This site is not recorded in the Site Recording Scheme.) A midden, the "East" midden (R28/27), was also sampled. The 1967-8 summer season continued the work begun at Easter, including further excavation of the pit with the stone-edged hearth. The excavations established that the pit had been used as a dwelling, and belonged to the contact period. Work was continued for a further summer (1968-9) season. Prior to the 1968-9 summer excavation the Director, Bruce McFadgen, organised a series of talks on archaeological method and theory for intending participants. This followed expressions of concern within the Committee that the standards of excavation needed to be improved. With the completion of the second summer season at Orongorongo attention reverted to the Foxton site and the next three summer seasons saw excavations there.

In October 1967 a small excavation was done on Warehouse pa (R27/1). The results are reported in McFadgen (1974). Excavations were also carried out at two other nearby sites: a terrace/midden site (R27/42) and a midden site (R27/41). Results of the excavation of R27/42 are included in a paper on made soils (McFadgen 1980:5). The midden site (R27/41) was about 2 foot 6 inches thick and was composed of burnt stones, shellfish, fish, and dog. A house floor was found. It was a small structure that had been burnt down. On the floor were two canvas bags, both carbonised. One bag contained ochre, the other a range of wood and bone artefacts. Just above the floor was the stem of a clay pipe, and a piece of moa bone, while below the floor in an earlier layer was a piece of greenstone (Bulletin 1 (11) 1967). The Society returned to Makara in November 1967 to carry out a salvage excavation on a garage site that was being developed.

Threats to sites at Korohiwa, south of Titahi Bay, from the sewage treatment scheme planned by the Porirua City Council led to two excavations in the area. An excavation was undertaken at Korohiwa during Easter 1968, and on some subsequent Saturdays, under the direction of Bob Cater. The headland site (R27/148) produced some meagre structural evidence in the form of some postholes, and an oven. A midden (R27/14) in the small Bay to the north of the headland yielded a few pieces of broken clay pipes and was probably associated, at least in part, with an early whaling station that once occupied the Bay. The excavation remains unpublished. The Society also supported a later excavation at Korohiwa which was directed by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust archaeologist over Christmas-New Year

1969-70, but the results of this excavation were disappointing, and no results have been published. (The N.Z. Historic Places Trust had little equipment at this time, and that belonging to the Society was used. The Society's camping and excavation equipment was used by the Trust at Taharoa in the summer of 1970-71.)

In Easter 1969 there was a further excavation at Paremata. This is discussed below. The Annual Report 1968-9 notes that site recording trips were made that year to the Mount Crawford Prison area at Miramar, and to the South Wellington coast - the area between Sinclair Head and the Karori Stream. The report noted that there were a number of small gaps that still needed to be filled in order to complete the coverage of the Wellington area. As the objective of compiling an inventory of sites in the Wellington area neared completion, site recording activities began to suffer more and more from a lack of direction.

The Annual Report 1969-70 reports three field trips, two of them to the the Manawatu. During 1971 a survey of the Paekakariki area resulted in 11 sites being recorded. It was also possible through contact with the owner to save one large site from partial destruction by bulldozing.

Excavation was continued at Foxton during January 1971, and members assisted on a salvage excavation at Papakowhai (the excavated site is apparently not recorded in the Site Recording Scheme) during June. The excavation was done under the auspices of the Dominion Museum, but no results have been published.

The major field work undertaken during 1972 was a site recording programme on Kapiti Island organised and led by Phil Barton. The results of this survey were subsequently published (Barton 1974). The Society carried out further site recording in the Pauatahanui area and undertook an exploratory excavation to determine the significance of several areas of oven debris discovered on a newly ploughed field at Shannon. The site is not recorded in the Site Recording Scheme.

For its summer field work (Christmas-New Year 1972-3) the Society again returned to the Foxton site under the direction of Bruce McFadgen. The processing of material from this and previous digs continued during the year. Members also assisted Bruce McFadgen with his Ph.D fieldwork in Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa. A trip to Palliser Bay was undertaken in September 1973 and a camp was held over Christmas-New Year 1973-4 to record sites and sample midden around Pauatahanui Inlet. Further days on weekend later in the year were used to continue this work which was organised by Betty McFadgen. Other field trips during 1974 included visits to Paremata, Makara, Te Ika a Maru Bay, and Wairaka near Pukerua Bay.

Activity was again confined to site recording during 1975. The Kapiti Island site recording project was completed by a party of 10 who spent 7 days on the southern half of the island in January 1975. Records for 17 sites were filed in the NZAA Site Recording Scheme. Field trips were made to Pauatahanui, Whitireia Peninsula, Baring Head, and Te Ika a Maru Bay. These visits were to acquaint members with known sites rather than site recording trips.

In 1976 a Mobil Environmental Grant was awarded to the Society to run a Site Recording School. This was held over Labour Weekend, October 1976, and was directed by Bruce McFadgen and Jim McKinlay.

There were no field activities in 1977, and a field trip to look at middens at Paraparaumu was the only field activity during 1978, although members were invited to participate in excavations being conducted by the the N.Z. Historic Places Trust at Pauatahanui.

In the 1986-7 year field trips went to Makara, the Karori Stream mouth, Fitzroy Bay (twice), and the Orongorongo River mouth. Information in the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme for these areas was updated, and a few previously unrecorded sites added. Site survey reports were prepared on the Karori Stream mouth (Wellington Archaeological Society 1987a) and Fitzroy Bay (Wellington Archaeological Society 1987b).

### Site protection

The Society played a small, but significant, role in site protection in the Wellington area. This role diminished with the appointment of an archaeologist to the N.Z. Historic Places Trust in 1969, and almost disappeared with the enactment of Historic Places Amendment Act 1975. The Society's lasting contribution in this area was in making information about sites available through the NZAA Site Recording Scheme. In the early 1960s it was one of the few groups in the country concerned about the protection of archaeological sites. It attempted to get information about sites into the hands of organisations such as local authorities, and the Ministry of Works. In 1967 a marked up set of maps were produced for the District Commissioner of Works. It is difficult to gauge how effective the simple provision of information is. Is it used, or soon filed and forgotten?

The Society's response to development was to request permission to investigate threatened sites before development proceeded. This was the only realistic goal at a time when developers could simply ignore the issue of damage or loss of archaeological sites. Involvement in site protection issues did

provide opportunities for the Society to provide activities for members by undertaking salvage excavations. The Society also occasionally received a request for someone to speak to a meeting on archaeology, and it attempted to meet these requests.

Some areas figure continually in Committee discussions over the years. In the early 1960s there was the development of the Ngati Toa Domain at Paremata by the Mana Cruising Club. Paremata was the Society's first experience of salvage excavation (see above). Unfortunately, the Society was unable to get the Club to delay work while further investigations were undertaken but it did convince the local authority to prevent the unauthorised excavations that were occurring in the Domain. In Easter 1968 a salvage excavation was conducted at the Ngati Toa Domain by Bob Cater. The area worked on was covered with spoil from nearby and the work consisted mostly of sieving the earth for artefacts. A variety of Maori and early European items were uncovered including tinder box striking flints, a 65th regiment button (the regiment was stationed at the Paremata Barracks), and numerous broken clay pipe remains (Annual Report 1967-8). No results have been published.

The Annual Report for the year 1963-4 noted that site recording would in future concentrate on areas where large numbers of sites were threatened with destruction such as the Porirua area. The Society was also co-operating with the NZAA over its scheme for scheduling sites (Green 1963).

One item that appeared regularly on the Committee's agenda for many years was Rangitatau pa (R27/55), situated at the southern end of Miramar Peninsula. It is first mentioned in the Annual Report for the year 1963-64 but attempts to secure the future of the site by having it declared a Reserve did not seem to go anywhere in spite of a continued correspondence with The Department of Lands and Survey, the Wellington City Council, and the N.Z. Historic Places Trust. The site has only recently been made a reserve.

In 1964 the Society also began lobbying for the creation of a reserve at Pencarrow Head for the site of what was thought to be Parangarehu pa. The N.Z. Historic Places Trust refused to support the Society, indicating that the standard of proof it required had not been met. The Society replied that the standard of proof required by the Trust would automatically rule out of consideration most sites where the evidence was based on archaeology or oral traditions. The Society's reply made an important point, but the case for reserve status was inadequate even in these terms, and the N.Z. Historic Places Trust's attitude proved, almost accidentally, to be the correct one in this instance.

In the summer of 1964-5 two pits (R27/26) at Papakowhai in

an area marked for development were excavated by the Society. No results have been published.

Threats to sites at Korohiwa, south of Titahi Bay, from the sewage treatment scheme planned by the Porirua City Council led to the two excavations in Easter 1968 and Christmas-New Year 1969-70 discussed above. In a letter to the Porirua City Council dated 24 January 1969 the Society stated that it did not want to be seen to be opposed to progress in objecting to the proposed scheme but felt compelled to do so. The project remained bogged down in arguments and objections through the 1970s and work on a different scheme finally got underway only in the mid 1980s. The vetting of the final scheme for its impact on archaeological sites was done by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust.

By the late 1960s increasing numbers of residential subdivisions around the shores of Pauatahanui Inlet were presenting a clear threat to the many midden sites there. The Society's field work in the area in 1973-4 was a response to the threat to sites from development.

The removal of shingle from Fitroy Bay was a cause of concern in 1969 and some years subsequently, but the quarrying did not directly affect any sites in the area.

In 1972 the Wellington Regional Environmental Association was formed, with the participation of the Society, as an umbrella organisation for environmental groups in the area. The Association produced a useful news sheet summarising proposed development in the region.

In late 1972 and through 1973 there was discussion of threat to sites on Mana Island from Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries development of the island for quarantine and breeding purposes but little could be done either by the Society or the N.Z. Historic Places Trust apart from making submissions to the Ministry.

The Society made submissions supporting the Historic Places Amendment Bill, but there was some concern within the Society about the requirement to obtain N.Z. Historic Places Trust approval for scientific investigations.

### The Bulletin

The Bulletin was the Society's newsletter. It carried notices of forthcoming meetings and field trips, and summarised talks, and excavation and site survey results. The Bulletin normally consisted of cycostyled material on two foolscap sheets of paper, folded and stapled to produce a booklet. There were seventeen issues: the first issue was dated February 1967, the last August 1969. The editor was Bob Cater.

The cost of producing the Bulletin was a major item of expenditure and this resulted in much discussion of the merits of continuing with it. In 1967 eleven issues were produced, one each month from February to December. Only four issues were produced in 1968, and the following year this was further reduced to just two issues.

The Bulletin played a major role in making 1967 one of the most successful years for the Society. Membership grew rapidly during the year, and the Bulletin seems to have been the major factor in achieving this.

### Standards

In the 1950s and 1960s archaeologists were concerned to differentiate their activities from those of fossickers, and WAS, like other groups, had a code of conduct which people agreed to abide by when they were admitted to membership. Initially, numbers of members of the Society were reformed, and not so reformed, fossickers of old. There was some concern over the involvement of members in the uncontrolled digging at the Paremata site in 1962-3, but the only hearing held involving the code of conduct concerned two schoolboy members in 1967 (Minutes of Committee Meeting 13 November 1967).

Late in 1967 it came to the notice of several committee members that a site at Paekakariki had been fossicked and that two members of the Society were amongst those involved. The two were requested to appear before the Committee and explain their actions. This they did at a Committee meeting on 13 November 1967. The two had begun working on the site together in the May holidays and had returned on subsequent weekends. They noticed evidence of fossicking by others which had occurred between their visits.

The Committee drew the attention of the two to the code of conduct they had agreed to when joining the Society. They expressed particular concern that one of the two had kept no records whatsoever and had relied on the other to do so, even though he had on occasions worked there alone. The Committee asked that the field notes be written up into a report, and the material recovered be put in the museum. This was done.

The incident demonstrates the impotence of any voluntary society in trying to enforce standards. If the two had chosen not to co-operate with the Committee the only sanction available was expulsion, and use of this this would have achieved little.

### The leaders

Tables 2 and 3 illustrate Daniels's (1963) comment that organisations are typically made up of a small group who keep



the organisation ticking over, and a large group who are usually content to take part, often only occasionally, in the activities. To a great extent the Society relied on a very small pool of people to fill positions on the Committee.

Inadequate nominations to fill vacancies were not uncommon and resulted in a shuffling of duties or attempts to co-opt further members to serve as Officers or on the Committee. In 1968-69, for example, the Vice-President, Bob Cater, filled in Treasurer as no nominations were received and nobody could be found to do the job.

Over the years there was a number of resignations of people in key positions. Most were the result of people leaving the area either temporarily or permanently. The 1962-3 year was particularly bad (see Table 2), but the Society also had three successive years (1967-8, 1968-9, 1969-70) in which the Secretary resigned part way through the term. Mary Knox, Angela Stapleton, and Les Slater were replaced by Betty McFadgen, Ian Keyes (who was also President), and Valerie McFadgen respectively.

A number of the people involved with the Society were also playing key roles within the New Zealand Archaeological Association. This was particularly the case in the early and mid 1960s when Geoffrey Blake-Palmer served as President of NZAA, and Michael Hitchings was Secretary. Michael Hitchings was also the Wellington Filekeeper, and when he left Wellington he was replaced by Ian Keyes. John Daniels was Central Filekeeper. Groups like the Wellington Archaeological Society filled the gap left by the lack of provision in the NZAA structure for a local groups to operate under its auspices.

### Membership

Current membership figures (Table 4) were reported to the Committee and were usually noted in the Annual Reports to the AGM. Paid up membership is probably the most reliable guide to health of the Society. Membership peaked in 1967 with 104 paid up members. There were more members on the books in the early 1970s, for example, than in 1967, but a large number were not financial. The Society pruned the numbers on its books by occasionally removing the names of members more than two or three years in arrears.

These figures suggest that membership fluctuated from year to year and that the Society usually operated with between 50 and 90 paid up members. The figure of 61 paid up members in 1978 was within the normal operating range for the Society. The Society did not lapse into inactivity after 1979 because of a drop off in membership; nor was the Society in financial difficulties. The years 1970-71 to 1975-6 and 1977-8 each

TABLE 2

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1960 - 1987:

## (1) Presidents and Vice-Presidents

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice-President(s)</u>
1960-61*	G. Blake-Palmer	-
1961-62	G. Blake-Palmer	C.D. Smart
1962-63+	G. Blake-Palmer	J.R.S. Daniels, C.D. Smart
1963-64	M.G. Hitchings	T. Barrow, Mrs M. Hall
1964-65	M.G. Hitchings	T. Barrow, Mrs M. Hall
1965-66#	J.R.S. Daniels	Mrs E. Millen, R. Neich
1966-67	J.R.S. Daniels	Dr M. Knox, Mrs B. McFadgen
1967-68	I. Keyes	R. Cater
1968-69	I. Keyes	R. Cater
1969-70	B. McFadgen	R. Cater
1970-71	B. McFadgen	R.H. Griffin
1971-72	J. McKinlay	R.H. Griffin
1972-73	J. McKinlay	R.H. Griffin
1973-74	Mrs B. McFadgen	J. McKinlay
1974-75	Mrs B. McFadgen	L. Bruce
1975-76	L. Bruce	Ms J.H. Griffin
1976-77	L. Bruce	Ms J.H. Griffin
1977-78	J. McKinlay	I. Hastings
1978-79	J. McKinlay	Mrs B. Mitcalfe
1979-86	Society in recess,	no officers elected
1986-87	B. McFadgen	P. Addis



## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1960 - 1987:

## (2) Secretaries and Treasurers

<u>Year</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
1960-61*	C.D. Smart	J.R.S. Daniels
1961-62	J.R.S. Daniels	M.G. Hitchings
1962-63+	Ms M. O'Rourke	M.G. Hitchings
1963-64	J.R.S. Daniels	J.R.S. Daniels
1964-65	Ms B. Richardson	J.R.S. Daniels
1965-66	Ms B. Richardson	I. Keyes
1966-67	B. McFadgen	I. Keyes
1967-68	Dr M. Knox	P. Barton
1968-69	Ms A. Stapleton	-
1969-70	L. Slater	R. Gilbert
1970-71	Ms V. McFadgen	R. Gilbert
1971-72	Ms J.H. Griffin	R. Gilbert
1972-73	Ms J.H. Griffin	R. Gilbert
1973-74	Ms J.H. Griffin	R. Gilbert
1974-75	I. Papps	R. Gilbert
1975-76	I. Papps	R. Gilbert
1976-77	B. McFadgen	R. Gilbert
1977-78	Mrs B. Govey	R. Gilbert
1978-79	A. Challis	R. Gilbert
1979-86	Society in recess, no officers elected	
1986-87	A. Walton	R. Gilbert

Notes

- \* The interim Committee elected at the inaugural meeting on 21 July 1960.
- + As elected at AGM on 19 September 1962. This was a particularly difficult year with no less than four re-organisations required due to resignations. John Daniels replaced Maureen O'Rourke as Secretary. Mary Oliver and Fred Knox replaced Colin Smart (who resigned to go overseas) and John Daniels as the Vice-Presidents, but Fred Knox subsequently resigned (to go overseas) and was replaced by Margaret Hall. Positions on the Committee made vacant by these changes were filled by Ian Keyes (who subsequently resigned to go overseas), Bruce McFadgen, Roger Neich, and Betty Richardson (later Betty McFadgen).
- # Mrs E. Millen resigned as Vice-President and was replaced by Bruce McFadgen, with the consequent vacancy on the Committee being filled by Sheila Williams.

TABLE 3

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Committee members</u>
1960-61*	Ms G. Irwin, D. McEwen, Ms W. Mumford, J.B. Palmer.
1961-62	Mrs M. Hall, F. Knox, Ms M. Oliver.
1962-63+	Mrs M. Hall, F. Knox, Ms M. Oliver.
1963-64	B. McFadgen, Ms B. Richardson, R. Neich.
1964-65	I. Keyes, B. McFadgen, R. Neich.
1965-66#	P. Barton, R. Cater, B. McFadgen.
1966-67	P. Barton, R. Cater, F. Knox.
1967-68	B. McFadgen, Mrs B. McFadgen, R. Neich, J. Rivers.
1968-69	R. Griffin, Mrs J. Hobbs, B. McFadgen, L. Slater.
1969-70	J. Daniels, R.H. Griffin, I. Hastings, Mrs J Hobbs.
1970-71	J. Daniels, I. Hastings, Mrs J. Hobbs, I. Keyes.
1971-72	J. Daniels, Mrs J. Hobbs, B. McFadgen.
1972-73	P. Barton, Mrs J. Hobbs, B. McFadgen.
1973-74	L. Bruce, R.H. Griffin, B. McFadgen.
1974-75	P. Barton, Ms J.H. Griffin, B. McFadgen.
1975-76	I. Keyes, B. McFadgen, Ms D. Turner.
1976-77	Mrs B. Bruce, I. Hastings, I. Papps.
1977-78	A. Challis, M. Efford, Mrs B. Mitcalfe.
1978-79	M. Efford, Mrs B. Govey, Ms M. Newman, Mrs A. Sullivan.
1979-86	Society in recess, no committee members elected
1986-87	K. Day, M. Efford, Ms P. Najjar, Ms P. Neale.

Notes

This list does not include ex-officio members of the committee serving as representatives of the Director of the Dominion Museum or the Professor of Anthropology, Victoria University of Wellington. A further ex-officio place was added in 1970 for the person occupying the position of Archaeologist, New Zealand Historic Places Trust. People who served as ex-officio members included R. Neich (for the Museum), and B. Kernot (for the University).

\*, +, and #: see the notes to Table 2.

TABLE 4  
MEMBERSHIP

<u>Year</u>	<u>Members on books</u>	<u>Members in arrears</u>	<u>Paid up members</u>
1961			45
1962			58
1963	77	18	59
1964	80	31	49
1965	71	24	47
1966	n/a	n/a	63
1967	110	6	104
1968	130	35	95
1969	n/a	n/a	93
1970	150	63	87
1971	120	59	61
1972	125	40	85
1973	128	41	87
1974	132	56	76
1975	114	27	87
1976	114	44	70
1977	110	60	50
1978	105	44	61
1979	n/a	n/a	n/a
1987			59

Notes

The membership figure have been obtained from a variety of sources. 1961: Secretary's report and financial statement for the period ending 20th November 1961. 1962 - 1968, 1970: Annual Reports to AGM. 1968, 1969: paid up members derived from receipts and payments account book. 1971: Minutes of Committee Meeting of 3 June 1971. 1972: Minutes of Committee Meeting of 5 September 1972. 1973 - 1977: Annual Reports to AGM. 1978: Minutes of Committee Meeting of 10 October 1978. 1987: Annual Report for year 1986-7.

n/a stands for figures not available.

recorded an excess of income over expenditure in the income and expenditure account. Only 1976-7 recorded a loss. There was, however, a lack of people willing to put in the effort required to keep the Society going.

There are probably a number of reasons why the Society went informally into recess in 1979. For some members who had been with the Society for a number of years there was an element of having done it all before. The Trust's new role in archaeology had also tended to take away from the Society some of the roles it had played in the past. There was the feeling, justified or not, that the avocational archaeologist had been sidelined by the new legislation (Historic Places Amendment Act 1975).

#### Revival 1986-1987

The Society was revived, largely through the efforts of Bruce McFadgen, in late 1986. A new committee was elected, and monthly meetings and field recording trips held. The Society also returned to its old role in site protection, becoming involved in screening possible sewage treatment plant sites and the areas of indirect impact (Wellington Archaeological Society 1987a, 1987b).

#### Conclusions

The Society provided a varied programme for people interested in archaeology for some 18 years from 1960. It was most active during the 1960s, when it held excavations each summer, and sometimes at other times during the year as well, and had an active site recording programme.

Excavations were seen as an important activity and for just over a decade were a regular part of the Society's programme. The reliance on one person to direct for much of this time has meant that a number of excavations have yet to appear in print. The excavations were such an important part of the Society's programme, however, they were continued in spite of the failure to get results into print.

Most of the Wellington-Porirua area had been surveyed by the late 1960s, and further areas were too distant from Wellington to be attractive. By the late 1960s the aims of the site recording programme had largely been achieved and a lack of direction became evident. Many of the records are brief, and the recording did not move on to the next stage of detailed mapping, possibly because this was less suitable as an activity for members. Return trips in the early 1970s to areas previously recorded resulted in no new information being filed on sites, and even information on sites that were excavated was not updated. The later field trips appear to have arisen from the need to provide an activity for members rather than having

been planned for the purpose of collecting information. Material that was published was often very much the result of individual effort (eg Keyes 1968, 1970).

Site recording was much influenced by the work of Elsdon Best, and traditional evidence was sometimes used in a fashion which would now be considered anachronistic. There were also some gaps in the coverage. Apart from McFadgen's (1963) article on some local goldmining remains, little attention was given to recording historical sites.

The Society had difficulty retaining the interest of members in the late 1970s. The problem was not a new one: it was constantly discussed at Committee meetings throughout the 1960s and 1970s. By the late 1970s, however, the interest of those individuals that had run the Society had weakened, and replacements had not come through to take their place. In the early 1970s came the first oil shock, later there was the Historic Places Amendment Act to contend with, followed by the second oil shock. The Society went informally into recess in 1979, was revived in 1986, and reconstituted itself as a Section of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1987.

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