



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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TRAINING SCHOOL - ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORDING

Graham J. Billing

This was a most enjoyable and well-run course. Organised by the Wellington Archaeological Society and sponsored by Mobil, it ran at the Victoria University Geology Department over Labour Weekend, 1976.

The lecturers resisted the urge to orate, and ran the course as an extended practical session for the students. In three short days we learnt several useful skills for recording sites, including:

how to recognise sites from the ground or stereo aerial photographs;

how to draw accurate site maps;

how to draw accurate area maps from aerial photographs;

how to complete useful site record forms.

We are no longer mystified by such words as 'compass traverse', 'closing error', 'abney level', 'grid reference', 'offsetting' or 'prismatic compass'.

After a day spent learning practical skills, divine intervention ensured a calm sunny day for applying them at Te Ika A Maru Bay. On the Monday we mapped our results, and I am pleased to report that they plotted on to dry land and not the middle of the harbour.

Bruce McFadgen led in the mapping work, and Jim McKinlay supplied details on where to find information and how to present it. The keen interest and enthusiasm of the organisers quickly communicated itself to the students, who were a widespread group in age and experience. We are all fired up now to find and record sites over the summer.