



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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NEWS FROM AUCKLANDUNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY by W.Ambrose.

Membership for last year stabilised at about one hundred, but even so, the range and volume of our activities increased. Some of our members have given brief reports of their particular areas of interest in this issue. New contributors to the Newsletter are:-

Mr. L.Birks, who as a foundation member of the Society has contributed an immense amount of work and enthusiasm to archaeology in the Auckland area. Apart from their work at the Pa at Sarah's Gully Mr and Mrs.Birks have recently spent several months excavating in Tonga. A retired manufacturing chemist, Mr. Birks intends spending most of his spare time on archaeological research. We can look forward to hearing much more of interest from him.

Mr. M.Rowell has only recently become a member of the University Archaeological Society; nevertheless with his great interest in field recording he has been nominated, along with another new member, Mr.R. Cook, as organiser for this aspect of archaeology.

Mr. G.M.Fowlds is well known for his work with the Historic Auckland Society, and his great interest in early Auckland History.

Mr. R.Jolly, an Insurance agent, has given enthusiastic support to local archaeological activities and carried out important work with Roger Green on the Coromandel Coast. His present interest lies in sites on the South Manukau-West Coast area.

Many other people too numerous to mention have of course been instrumental in making possible a great deal of the work reported here.

Study Groups: Field trips were organised to continue recording of sites at Kaipara when about thirty people were able to assist. For several weekends preceeding the Kaipara trip, study groups were held where members taking part had instruction in map reading and the use of aerial photographs. These activities were pursued under the leadership of Mr. L.M.Groube, the Society's Secretary.

Dr. A.W.Powell, conchologist at the Auckland Museum gave the Society an interesting lecture-study group on shells likely to be of importance in archaeology.

Meetings: Six meetings were held throughout the year, covering a varied range of topics. Mr. H.Parker discussed his impressions from first-hand knowledge of Libyan archaeology. Roger Green introduced some basic archaeological concepts and problems when he presented a lecture entitled 'Society and Archaeology.' Messrs. Parker, Groube and Ambrose presented individual reports on excavations at Opito, Rakoto, and Waitaki Gorge. Mr.V.Fisher from the Auckland Museum gave a highly useful lecture on the Maori dog, at the same time displaying many of the artifacts fashioned from its bones. Mr. Birks gave a report on his work in Tonga. Dr. B.Biggs spoke on origins and traditions of the New Zealand Maori.

This brief survey of our Auckland Society's interests, and the reports following, should illustrate that we are to some extent achieving our main aims, the most important being that members should become individually self-sufficient in a number of archaeological techniques. This year we have extended the range of study groups to fill some obvious gaps, namely in processing archaeological specimens, photography, and stratigraphical recording and interpretation. The number of ordinary meetings and study groups planned for this year is only determined by the time available.

Members: Mrs.Sue Bulmer is expected back shortly from archaeological research in New Guinea. Colin Smart has taken up a position as Assistant Ethnologist at the Dominion Museum; as much a gain for Wellington as a loss for Auckland.

Messrs. J.Golson, L.Groube, M.Smart and W.Ambrose recently returned from archaeological work in New Caledonia.

PA AT SARAH'S GULLY, COROMANDEL PENINSULAR by L. Birks.

Readers of the Newsletter will recall a report by Mr.J.Golson in the issue of March 1959 in which he described the first phase of excavation at the above site. This covered the first week's work by members of the Auckland University Archaeological Society on a small headland pa overlooking the area where three seasons work had already been done on a Moa-hunter site on the foreshore. If it could be proved that the pa fortifications also belonged to the Moa-hunter period, a very interesting and important item would