



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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WELLINGTON TEACHER'S COLLEGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUB: by J.B.Palmer

There has been greater activity this year by members of the club in spite of transport difficulties and lack of finance. To a limited extent this has been overcome by field trips in small groups, at irregular intervals. The most successful of these was a three-day trip, during the August holidays, to Flat Point. With the help of David McEwan, some instruction was given in the field recognition of sites and the party later worked in two groups so that it was possible to do survey work on three sites. Other visits included Makera, Paekakariki and Ngauranga, while some members took part in a three day reconnaissance of sections of Queen Charlotte Sound and Tory Channel. Several more sites were located there and it is intended to visit the area at least once a year to continue the long range project of gathering data for that part of the Sounds.

A highlight of the year was the trip to Waitotara by bus, with Max Smart who kindly offered to show the students some of the outstanding fortified pa. These included Mokai-a-tonga, Nga Potiki a Rehua, and Tarata, and at the latter site Mr. Smart explained the recent exploratory excavations there. A visitor with the party was Mr. Yosohiko Sinoto of Hawaii who was popular with the students.

Equipment has been a problem with the club but items such as the following have been acquired: compasses (including one Brunton), levels, tapes, ranging pole, and lines, with ready access also to plane tables, alidades and extra compasses. Long term plans include expenditure on laboratory and storage facilities, besides providing for field equipment which would make the Club a self-contained unit.

This does not imply any policy at variance with the newly formed Wellington Archaeological group. Indeed, members have been encouraged to join and for many projects and field trips they will simply be individuals in the larger group. But some specific activities lie before the Club and it will be possible to do fieldwork as a corporate unit of the College, without outside obligations. This will be made easier next year by an elementary course in field archaeology which students will be able to take as part of their lecture programme.

The President of the New Zealand Archaeological Association has, in the past, pointed out the need for additional avenues for the publishing of archaeological data. There are some hopeful signs that it may be possible for the Club to publish through the College. Next years programme then, can be undertaken with this prospect in view.