



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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President's Report to the AGM, 2016

Council have been busy as usual, as have the many volunteer members of NZAA whose work keeps the Association afloat.

The ArchSite Board of Governance have continued to come to grips with ArchSite, with much going on behind the scenes. Jackie Breen has stepped down as the DoC rep, and her place has been taken by Rachel Edgerton. Andrea Farminer has taken over as Council rep from Richard Walter. As ever, our thanks to Nicola Molloy for all her sterling work as Central Filekeeper and Emma Brookes as ArchSite administrator.

Beatrice Hudson and now Kathryn Hurren have handled memberships, Tim Thomas and Ethan Cochrane have edited the Journal of Pacific Archaeology, Jo Wylie and now Peter Petchey have edited AINZ, and Rebecca Philips and Emma Brooks have managed our publications, which continue to be of a high standard.

Much of Council's activity this year has been as a result of the direction given by the Strategic Plan, that was developed in consultation with you all a few years back.

During the year NZAA applied to Foundation North, the former ASB Trust, for a grant to pull together the material from the 1970s and 80s excavation of Maungataketake / Ellets Mountain, in Mangere, South Auckland. I am pleased to say we received a grant of \$25,000.00 and Ian Lawlor has agreed to take on the task and has made an excellent start, as you will have seen from the poster he put together for this conference. Once Ian has pulled together the archaeology and others have completed specialist analyses, the excavation will be reported in an NZAA Monograph. Two of the objectives of the Association in our constitution are "to initiate and to organize research into the prehistory of New Zealand" and "to increase and to disseminate information on all matters relating to, or of interest to archaeologists, and to assist in the spread of this information among the public generally." I am very pleased that we have been able to put these objectives into practice, and also pleasantly surprised at how supportive funding agencies are for this sort of project. I certainly hope this isn't the last time NZAA does something like this.

One of the Strategic Plan actions has been to update the NZAA web site, particularly to be able to handle e-commerce for memberships, publications sales, conferences and workshops; searchable digital publications and consultant's directory; and members only areas. This is being handled by Auckland web designers Quadramedia, and we are able to show you a draft home page. We are hoping that this will be up and running by the end of the year, but much of the work is dependant on the aforementioned volunteers. Garry Law has agreed to continue his role as webmaster, a role he has undertaken for about as long as we have had a web presence.

The current Incorporated Societies Act dates to 1908 and Government have identified the need to update it. There won't be any major changes to the law but it will require us to change some parts of our constitution, so Council have decided to take advantage of this and have a good look at the current constitution, iron out a few anomalies that have crept in over the years and bring the language it is written in up to date. The constitution has always been seen as fit for purpose, but it is getting a bit frayed at the edges. We have formed a subcommittee to do this and Alex Jorgenson has agreed to assist. If any members are aware of any particular clauses in the constitution that need overhauling let us know.

Organising conferences is a huge amount of work and I would particularly like to thank Brooke Jamieson who has so ably led the team of Janice Adamson, papers organiser; Richard Walter, field trip organiser; and Danielle Trilford, registrations. Our thanks also go to Rangitane for hosting us and to Richard Bradley, Liz McElhinney and Wayne Abbot for all their assistance. I think you will all agree conference has been a great success and the chance to visit Wairau Bar was not one to be passed up.

Next year's conference will be held in Thames, with a somewhat, though not exclusively, industrial theme, as next year marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Thames goldfield. Our thanks to David Wilton, who has offered to be our man on the ground.

Conference in 2018 will be a joint Australian Archaeological Association / New Zealand Archaeological Association conference in Auckland. While planning is only in the early stages I am 95% confident that it will work out so I'm bringing this to your attention well ahead of time. It will be quite a different event form our normal conferences – not in a provincial centre, with around 400 delegates, concurrent sessions and held in late November / early December.

Submissions continue to be a central role of the Association. Steve Bagley has been Council's Submissions Officer but is stepping down from Council. Steve reports that there has not been a lot of submission activity over the past year apart from the ongoing input into Auckland planning issues.

Sarah Macready and Garry Law have continued to represent us on the relevant parts of the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan. Much of the submission and hearing process has been completed although Garry has been recently prepared evidence and attended the Volcanic Viewshafts hearing. Both Sarah and Garry have gone well beyond the normal input we expect from members and have been strong advocates on the Association's behalf over the several years the PAUP process has been running. Many thanks to both of you. This phase of the PAUP process has now drawn to a close and the Independent Hearings Panel is due to provide its recommendations to Auckland Council in July, with Council's decision notified by August 19. Doubtless a new phase of appeals will follow, though we don't expect Sarah and Garry to continue through that phase.

I myself have submitted on the Auckland Tupuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Draft Integrated Management Plan and recently attended hearings on the plan. This plan is a high level document that's sets out the rationale behind managing the 14 maunga that were gifted back to Auckland iwi by the 2014 Collective Redress Act.

I also had the honour of representing the Association at the planting of the new trees on the summit of Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill two weeks ago.

In 2014 the Association made submissions in support of proposals for more comprehensive identification of 'significant sites' in the Whanganui District Plan and stronger measures for their protection. These proposals have now been accepted and approved by the Whanganui District Council.

NZAA submitted in support of a plan change to have the historic Barrett Street Hospital Gates classified and listed as Category A heritage item. This has now been approved by New Plymouth District Council.

Last year the Waikato Regional Heritage Forum was initiated to provide advocacy and advice on heritage matters and Alexy Simmons and Warren Gumbley have represented NZAA interests on this.

Mary O'Keefe and Kevin Jones followed up and provided advice on several planning issues that arose in Wellington and Manawatu regions over the past year.

And finally, thanks to all of you for turning up at conference and supporting NZAA and New Zealand archaeology and history in your everyday endeavours.

Matthew Campbell
President