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## **NZAA Representative Report Skinner Fund Report**

In 1966, in honour of Henry Devenish Skinner, the New Zealand Archaeological Association jointly with the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Polynesian Society established the Skinner Fund from public subscription. Following the death of Dr Skinner in 1978, donations from the Friends of the Otago Museum and the Otago Museum Trust Board substantially increased the fund as a token to his memory. The Royal Society of New Zealand administers the fund.

The purpose of the fund is to promote the study of the history, art, culture, physical and social anthropology of the Maori and other Polynesian peoples, particularly through the recording, survey, excavation and scientific study of prehistoric and historic sites in New Zealand and the islands of the South-west Pacific. This includes the detailed analysis of all cultural, artistic, or physical remains recovered as the result of such investigations. To this end, the Skinner Fund committee deems research projects that have survey, recording, and excavation as their goal, to have equal weight with those which propose to treat analytically and comparatively materials already so recovered. The committee gives preference to well-documented research plans that specify methodology and anticipated outcomes of the proposed research.

The amount available for distribution from the fund is not large, and grant allocations are usually up to \$1000.

A total of 17 Skinner Fund applications were received in 2016 which made the process very competitive. A total of 5 were accepted and funded. These were:

1. Tautala Asaua-Pisa, University of Otago, "*The archaeological investigation of Apolima Island, Sāmoa: the construction of a 2500 year cultural sequence*"
2. Dylan Gaffney, University of Otago, "*Early Austronesian interactions with the New Guinea Highlands: evidence from the geochemical analysis of archaeological pottery*"
3. Chris Jennings, University of Queensland, "*Investigation of the prehistoric quarries of the greater Bluff area in relation to the organisation of raw material procurement and adze manufacture*"
4. Rachel Scott, University of Otago, "*Investigation of the dietary differences between individuals interred within two burial mounds at 'Atele on the island of Tongatapu, the Kingdom of Tonga, using dental microwear texture analysis*"
5. Gareth Walter, University of Auckland, "*An archaeological survey of the monumental architecture present in the Maungaroa Valley, Rarotonga (Cook Islands)*"

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