



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NIGEL PRICKETT

**CITATION FOR THE ROGER C. GREEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

2018 NZAA/AAA CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND

Nigel Prickett has been a leader in archaeological practice in New Zealand for over 40 years. He was a pioneer of the practice of historical archaeology in the country, and continues to be a leading researcher on the archaeological sites of the New Zealand Wars.

Nigel is from the Wairarapa, and it was during Foss and Helen Leach's 1969-1972 Wairarapa Research Programme that he became actively involved in archaeology, having already studied history at Victoria University. He travelled to Otago to study for his MA, basing his research on the Moikau house that had been found during excavations on his brother's farm. It was while at Otago that he met and married Kath, who was also studying archaeology and a member of the Wairarapa project. Nigel finished his thesis in 1974, and he and Kath moved to New Plymouth where he had been appointed as director of the Taranaki Museum.

In Taranaki Nigel developed his interest in the archaeological evidence of the New Zealand Wars, which led to his PhD studies at Auckland University, his 1981 thesis being titled '*The Archaeology of a Military Frontier: Taranaki, New Zealand, 1860-1881.*' Always a leader in good archaeological practice, Nigel published his fieldwork in a number of places, including several papers in the *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter*, as well as his NZAA monograph on the excavations at Omata Stockade and Warea Redoubt (NZAA Monograph 20, 1994).

Nigel's PhD was also significant as it was the first New Zealand doctoral thesis in the field of historical archaeology. It is in this discipline that Nigel has been a particular leader: while the first edition of the New Zealand Archaeological Association's *Handbook to Field Recording in New Zealand* in 1958, and its replacement *Site Recording Handbook* in 1970, did not even mention historical archaeology, the 1979 edition included a chapter on this subject by Nigel. In it he showed great foresight, and discussed many of the areas that were then neglected but have now become everyday subjects for a new generation of historical archaeologists, including the study of standing buildings, Second World War defences and depression-era sites. Nigel's own research has continued to focus on many aspects of both Māori and historical archaeology, in particular early whaling, country halls, and of course the New Zealand Wars. He continues to publish extensively; those who attended the 2016 NZAA conference will remember him distributing copies of his '*Fortifications of the New Zealand Wars,*' freshly published through the Department of Conservation.

Between 1979 and his retirement in 2008 Nigel was the Curator of Archaeology at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, and was also Manager of Human History there from 2003 to 2008. In recognition of his long and distinguished service he was awarded the Auckland Museum Medal in

2011, and appointed 'Associate Emeritus of the Auckland War Memorial Museum.' Nigel also served as a Board Member and Chairman of the Archaeology Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust from 1981 to 1984.

Nigel has long been active in the New Zealand Archaeological Association. His contribution to the 1979 *Handbook* is mentioned above, and from 1979 until 1987 he edited the quarterly *New Zealand Archaeological Association Newsletter* (which became *Archaeology in New Zealand* in 1988). It was his task to write up *The NZAA – A Short History* for the 50th anniversary special issue of AINZ, *Digging into History*. In this he provided a detailed and thoughtful account of the Association, its trials and tribulations, and the changing directions of New Zealand archaeological research. Given his role in the ongoing development of historical archaeology it is not surprising that he included mention of the critical 1966 Council meeting when it was decided to include historic-period sites in the NZAA Site Recording Scheme. His own appearance on the archaeological scene a few years later was indeed fortuitous. Nigel has also served on Council and edited the monograph series. In 2002 Nigel was made an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Archaeological Association.

Nigel's high standards, leadership, passion for the archaeology and history of New Zealand, and decades of hard work, make him a worthy recipient of this Lifetime Achievement Award.