

Report of the Skinner Fund Representative

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 up to about \$1000.

Skinner Fund grants for **2010** are:

* Peter Wilberfoss. University of Auckland. For research covering the origins of the Polynesian Peoples, and in particular the development of their particular body morphology, which is similar to people of cold-adapted populations rather than comparable tropical populations.

* Arden Cruickshank. University of Auckland. Geochemical mapping of Great Barrier Island Obsidian Sources.

* Annette Wilkes. University of Canterbury. Between Peoples and Things: Understanding Violence and “theft” in early New Zealand and Pacific Transactions..

* Shayne Wijohn. Massey University, Auckland. The Story of Tangonge. The project aims to place into context the discovery of the Kaitaia Lintel, and its significance to local Maori, from its discovery to the present day.

Bruce McFadgen,
Skinner Fund Representative.