

NZAA President's Report 2004/ 05

It was appropriate that, in the 50th year of the existence of NZAA, a considerable amount of energy was devoted to acknowledging and celebrating that significant anniversary. The 50th Anniversary Conference was held in New Plymouth in December 2004, and enjoyed record attendance by both long standing and more recent members. It was a resounding success.

The two anniversary publications, *Digging in History* and *Change Through Time*, produced by the Association have been extremely well received. Council acknowledges the great work done by all the individuals involved in the production.

Apart from the 50th Anniversary NZAA Council has been active in numerous issues throughout the past year.

In August 2004 NZAA and the Auckland Regional Council signed a Heads of Agreement governing the use and dissemination of information derived from the Site Recording Scheme within the Cultural Heritage Inventory maintained by the ARC. The Heads of Agreement provides a useful model which can be utilised in our discussions with other agencies that use data from the Site Recording Scheme.

NZAA Council prepared submissions or comments for numerous planning documents during the year including: the proposed heritage criteria amendment of the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement, the Wairoa District Council Coastal Policy Statement and Mahia Structure Plan, the World Heritage Indicative List, the RMA review committee deliberations, and NZHPT registration proposals for Okahupokia Pa and Te Aputa Pa.

NZAA council has continued to work with the NZHPT and DoC on a joint working party to consider future options for the Site Recording Scheme and Garry Law will report on progress separately as convener of that working party.

In February 2005 members of council met with Dave Jane, the newly appointed manager of the Department of Conservation Heritage Appreciation Unit. A wide range of issues were discussed, including seeking NZAA comment on future directions for archaeological and cultural heritage research planned by the department. We are optimistic that the meeting signaled a move toward placing the relationship between NZAA and DoC on a more formal institutional basis.

NZAA Council did have some success in following up the request from the 2004 AGM that the status of the management and conservation of the Kaingaroa Rock Art site be investigated with relevant government ministers. The Minister of Conservation has responded, acknowledging that management of the site has been allowed to lapse, and has given an undertaking that the department will address the issue.

NZAA Council has considered and prepared a draft complaints procedure. This will be published in the June issue of *A/NZ* for input from the membership prior to it being put before the 2006 AGM.

The NZAA has been maintaining a voluntary directory of members available for archaeological consultancy. There have been very few notifications of amended details for the list and council has received no feedback from members who are consultants as to whether they wish the directory to be maintained or modified.

NZAA Council was pleased to provide a letter of support for the nomination of Dr Foss Leach for a New Years Honor in 2005. The award of Companion to the New Zealand Order of Merit was a fitting recognition of Foss's services to archaeology.

A sad event during the last year was the recent death of Owen Wilkes. Owen was a prodigious recorder of archaeological sites and made a valuable contribution to the site recording scheme over many years.

As it becomes increasingly difficult to fit voluntary roles into life and work schedules, the hard work and effort contributed by NZAA officers and council members continues to ensure that the association remains in good heart. I offer my sincere thanks to all those who keep the association functioning, particularly Moira White, who is entering her 17th year in the role of secretary.