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– Contents –

Editorial

v

ARTICLES

Bottle Top Capsules in New Zealand Historic Archaeological Sites

Peter Petchey & Jitlada Innanchai

1

Procurement and Cultural Distribution of Obsidian in Northern New Zealand

Phillip R. Moore

17

Patterns of Faunal Resource Use at an Early Prehistoric Settlement at Whangamata
on the Coromandel Peninsula, North Island, New Zealand

Tiffany James-Lee & Warren Gumbley

33

RESEARCH REPORTS

Coastal Occupation at the GS-1 Site, Cook's Bay, Mo'orea, Society Islands

Jennifer G. Kahn

52

Recent Recoveries of Archaeological Ceramics on Santa Isabel, Central Solomon Islands

Melissa Carter, David Roe & John Keopo

62

BOOK REVIEWS

69

Editorial

Volume 3.2 of the *JPA* sees us in a transitional phase, as I take over the editorship from Atholl Anderson. I would like to thank Atholl on behalf of the editorial team and the NZAA for his work over the past three years. In the very early days of the Journal's launch this involved a good deal of effort creating an editorial board, securing promises of article submissions, defining the scope and setting a direction the *JPA* will continue to follow. The encouraging reception that the Journal has received is largely due to Atholl's editorial energy.

The Assistant Editor position that I have vacated has yet to be filled, but we plan to have this resolved by the time volume 4 is released. Consequently we are understaffed for the current issue and one effect of this is that volume 3.2 is somewhat shorter than usual. On the other hand the previous issue was atypically long, so the volume should balance out for the year. In general we aim for about 100 pages of copy per issue, and the primary factor in achieving this is a steady flow of high quality submissions. I would like to encourage all of our readers to contribute to the maintenance of this flow by sending in your articles, research reports and notes. We are happy to consider anything within the broad scope of our remit.

In this issue we have several articles which present the results of research deriving from investigations conducted by archaeologists working under contract in development contexts. It is sometimes lamented that whilst contract archaeology accounts for most fieldwork activity the results of this work rarely appears outside of obligatory reports – constituting a 'grey literature' that is atomised without academic exposure, peer-review and synthesis. The reasons for this are complex though mostly boil down to the incentives, or lack thereof, for peer-reviewed publication. There will, no doubt, be increasing debates about resolving the issue in coming years, but I take it as a good sign that the *JPA* is receiving submissions from the heritage management sector and hope that the articles in this and previous issues encourage more of the same.

Over the three year term of my editorship I will be working on developing several new features for the Journal particularly in the area of our online presence. In future issues we hope to be able to roll out a supplementary data hosting feature, and will be considering ways of implementing ahead-of-print articles on the website. There is also the issue of open access publication which was signalled in the editorial of volume 2.2. Other than that it will be business as usual.

Tim Thomas

