

Editor's note

Over the last three editions (Sep, Oct and Nov) all of us here at eLocal have been living with the dead. So much information has been presented to us to sift through to try and make sense of it all. I would like to thank you all for your contributions for in the quest of the truth there is little recognition. It's a lifelong challenge as history is written only by the victorious. We have kept many of our sources anonymous for as democratic a nation as we are there are organizations/people who want this information to remain forgotten.

In living with our dead for this past period many emotions have been tossed around, none more than the realization that there are ancestors of our land and their very existence is being hushed up. We are a nation in denial bound and gagged by political correctness. Cannibalism was rife in NZ pre European history. Professor Paul Moon examines this in great detail in his recent book 'This Horrid Practice' I refer to page 235 '... the lasting impression of Maori cannibalism is that it was a normal part of community life. But exact numbers, or even reliable estimates of victims, and the percentage of communities' inhabitants that gorged on human flesh, will never be known.'

In the same period that NZ was being colonized and cannibalism being common place in Maori society, the French where guillotining as fast as they could! The Americas were engaged in slavery, the English were still publically 'hanging, drawing behind a horse and quartering (cut into 4). Don't forget earlier in history the Spanish inquisition and even more recently who can forget the acts of genocide by the millions. The point is apart from the obvious that humans are destined to destroy each other, the history of these events has been acknowledged, nations have had to deal with it, accept it and move on. As hard as it is for our nation to 'swallow' cannibalism and the existence of pre Maori civilizations, should censorship by political correctness change what was? I say NO. Should we as a nation be ashamed of our past? I say NO. Are there implications to our current internal race relations because of an ancestral pre-existence prior to the Maori? What does this mean in our current climate of treaty claims? These are all questions that come to the lips of all New Zealanders no matter what ancestral bloodline. However, there are some that walk among us today who carry the pain of our true uncensored heritage. Let our history be known without political bias. The truth is out there.

Suggested reading: Reprints of very early colonial books printed by A.H. & A.W. Reed and reprints of withdrawn books by Capper Press (Wellington). Authors: Elsdon Best, Edward Tregear, James Cowan, Sir Peter Buck, "Te Ika A Maui, NZ and its Inhabitants", by Rev Richard Taylor (1855); Tuwharetoa, by John Grace, Sir George Grey, early maritime explorers like Lt. Croset or Joseph Banks, The Journal of the Polynesian Society or the huge amount of testimony given before the Native Land Court, 'This Horrid Practice' by Paul Moon.

If you have something you would like to bring to our attention, perhaps a comment you would like to share, either email me or simply call. Don't forget all three stories are now available in our Franklin 2008 yearbook www.elocal.co.nz/Franklin2008.html or call 09.239.1699 ext 3. Please support eLocal as we deliver to you every month for free.

Mykeljon Winckel
Editor



reported there were several pieces of pottery. Maori did not make pottery.

Twelve years ago these Tall Ones "spoke from the dust" again during earthworks at Waikaretu. Contractors discovered a cave set into a limestone bluff. Inside were skeletons in stone crypts. By the length of the femurs, the bodies were 7-8ft tall (over 2 metres). Anthropologists from Auckland and Waikato universities were called in, then followed a complete shutdown of the site, with a 75 year moratorium placed upon it. Maurice Tyson of Tuakau, a contractor in the area for 50 years, recalls how this upset the men who had discovered the cave and who could not understand why such a valuable archaeological site should be kept secret. Maurice also speaks of seeing a stone village with walls near the mouth of the Waikaretu Stream. Stone from the village was crushed to use for road metal and nothing now remains.

In Franklin a young Maori man with strikingly blue eyes walks, unaware. Above him, embedded in the clay bank, lie tiny human bones - tangled with small fragments of crayfish shell and charcoal. A larger, digit bone lies with it in the partly exposed cooking pit. Are these pathetic remains Maori or pre-Maori European? As more and more bones surface, they are asking us to listen to their stories, to use the scientific testing now available to prove that long ago, other peoples walked this land. As a nation we need to acknowledge their existence, accept the horrors of New Zealand's cannibal history which decimated pre-Maori and Maori alike - and so move on.

This series of articles has only scratched the surface of the history of New Zealand. Editions of Franklin eLocal containing parts 1 and 2 of this series are available on our site www.elocal.co.nz For more information go to www.celticnz.co.nz



Mysterious humps like this dot the forest floors of New Zealand in their thousands. This collapsed in Beehive house (stone dome igloo) is located at Maungatapere in Northland and is only one hump in a cluster of about 200. Celtic people built homes like this. ■