

EXCLUSIVE OPEN APPEAL

NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

NZ History Fights for its Life

Our country's secret shame

A war is being fought in our land - not with physical weapons, but with misinformation and the loss of valuable evidence about the true history of New Zealand. Millions died in world wars fighting for the right of open information, for democracy and truth. Today, warriors of a different type brave abuse, ridicule and intimidatory tactics as they persist toward making our true heritage known to all New Zealanders. But as time goes on, our history continues to crumble around us. More evidence is being destroyed as researchers remain shut out from the vital scientific validation and acknowledgement of their findings.

A year ago, Franklin eLocal began a series of articles informing our readers about the evidence around us that people lived in New Zealand before Polynesian/Maori settlement. Since then, despite appeals, there has been no action by government to properly evaluate vital archaeological sites. Change is urgently needed to an outdated system of reporting finds that leaves ancient remains unprotected. This series of articles is a PUBLIC APPEAL to the New Zealand Government to investigate and protect our ancient heritage.

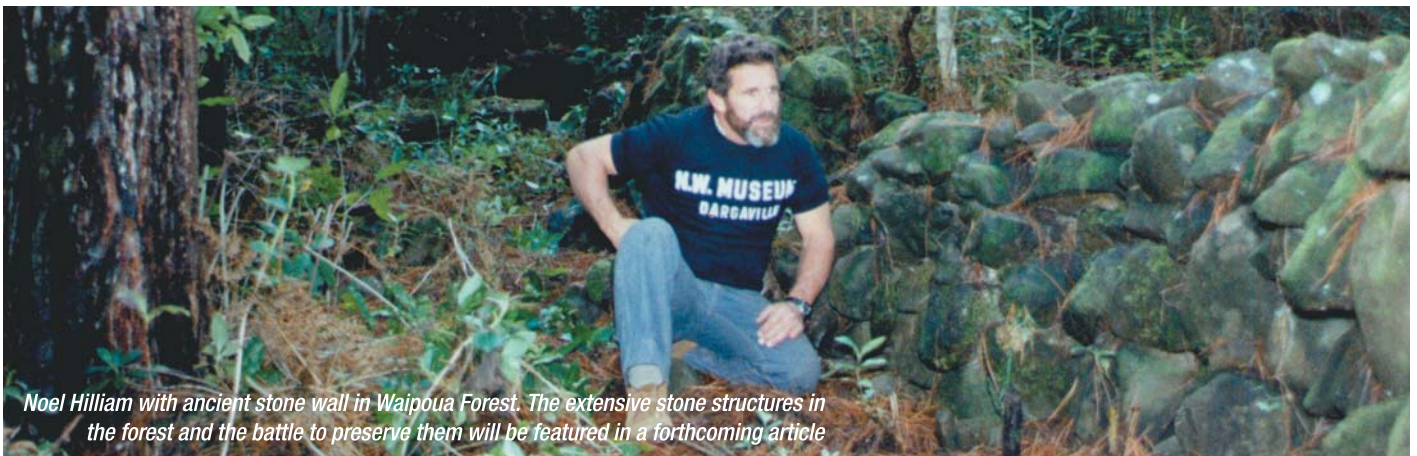
By law, the finding of human remains must be reported to the police, then to a coroner, who can order examination by a pathologist. But usually, the assumption is made that all old remains in New Zealand are Maori and returned to the local iwi - forever lost to proper scientific examination and never able to be regained. The public normally never hears about them.

But one notable find slipped under the radar and hit the headlines. Radiocarbon and DNA testing was ordered by the Masterton coroner when a female skull bearing holes like buckshot was found in the Wairarapa, on a secluded bank of the Ruamahanga River. The testing proved the skull was 296 years old, plus or minus 35 years - and European. According to proffered history on the settlement of New Zealand, it was impossible for this woman to be where she

was at that time. If she had died violently, she was a very Cold Case indeed - one that would provoke much speculation. And yet, there is no mystery, only the appalling lack of a proper, trustworthy system of investigation of ALL such remains and the end of a system stubbornly clinging to an unscientific approach to such evidence.

Problem of NZ History 'Buried' not Unique

Researchers are caught in an impassable quandary - how to break through the circle of assumption about the origin of human remains and how to protect archaeological sites. There is no trusted government agency set up for this role, no transparent and proper scientific examination of evidence such as bones and ancient stone dwellings. Every month in New Zealand, historical evidence is lost - given to iwi or buried under the bulldozers of developers. Perturbed New Zealanders regularly come forward to protest about what has happened to discoveries, once they are reported through the official system. Their voices are joined by dedicated scientists who to their astonishment, hit a wall of abuse and ridicule as they attempt to carry out legitimate site investigation on finds that would rewrite recent history books. Worldwide, this situation is not unique. Orthodox academia often holds fast to cherished theories, upon which lifetime careers are built, by means of ridicule or silence,



Noel Hilliam with ancient stone wall in Waipoua Forest. The extensive stone structures in the forest and the battle to preserve them will be featured in a forthcoming article