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ABSTRACTS FROM THESES AND DISSERTATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, 2010-2011

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Abstracts from theses and dissertations on topics related to archaeology completed during 2010 and 2011 are presented below. These include seven MA and one PhD theses, along with 10 BA(Hons) and two PGDipArts dissertations. The MA and PhD theses are held in both the University of Otago Central Library and the Anthropology and Archaeology Library, while the dissertations are held only in the latter. Requests to consult any of these items should be directed towards the library concerned.

Alderson, Helen A., 2011. The distribution of lithic materials through time and space in prehistoric New Zealand. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

This dissertation investigates the distribution of lithic materials throughout prehistoric New Zealand. The lithics discussed in the dissertation are obsidian, Tahanga basalt, Nelson metasomatised argillite, greenstone and Southland argillite.

The research was conducted in two phases. The first phase ascertained the distribution of the lithics through time and space, through research of published and unpublished archaeological literature. The research was collated into archaeological regions, and through this, broader patterns of distribution through time and space throughout prehistoric New Zealand were observed.

All lithics experienced a change in distribution after AD 1500. The distribution of obsidian, Tahanga basalt and Nelson metasomatised argillite decreased, contracting towards their source areas. Southland argillite's distribution halted completely after the 16th century. Conversely, greenstone's dispersal proliferated after AD 1500, although it was present in the early period

of settlement.

The second phase of the research explored a range of possible models that could explain the change, looking to announce a model or models as explanatory of lithic distribution changes. Models of change were gathered from prominent national and international literature. The models were grouped under larger model categories. These models were socio-political development, resource depletion, environmental catastrophism and changes in lithic production systems.

The four models were tested against each of the five lithics using a checklist of criteria. The over-lapping of some of these criteria with those of other models lead to the development of a graded model system that could be used to isolate the best models of lithic distribution change. Through this, socio-political development was ranked as the primary model of change. Socio-political development could be used to explain distributional change over all five lithics discussed in the dissertation. Despite this, the graded model system also acknowledged resource depletion and changes in lithic production systems as secondary and tertiary models.

Brown, Andrew A., 2011. Material culture traditions of prehistoric Murihiku. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

In the last two decades advances in archaeological understanding of radiocarbon dating have led to the re-establishment of settlement of New Zealand at around AD 1300, a shortening of the prehistoric sequence by up to 500 years. These developments have over turned pre-existing models of regional culture change throughout New Zealand. While much information regarding change in Murihiku or southern New Zealand exists, little of it has been conceived within the 'short chronology'. This thesis aims to re-develop an understanding of change in the region through the use of material culture studies.

Two material culture traditions, adzes and fishhooks, from Murihiku were analysed in this research. Artefacts were subjected to paradigmatic classification and the frequency of resulting types used in the seriation of sites and cladistics analysis. Seriation also provided a means of plotting the development of individual character traits through time.

The results of analysis showed a high degree of continuity across all sites in regards to the occurrence of artefacts; however, based on the frequency of forms, seriation proved to accurately order the sites chronologically. Diachronic analysis of characters within the adze and fishhook traditions also provided interesting information. The adze tradition appeared to exhibit a constriction in the range of characteristics and the rise of simplistic and ubiquitous forms. Conversely, fishhooks showed an increase in elaboration over time.

The results of this analysis suggest that, relative to other regions, the change in Murihiku is conservative. This pattern may be the result of continuity in many economic activities for which material culture traditions had been adapted throughout the prehistoric period due to the absence of horticulture in the region.

Carter, Matthew J., 2011. People, place and space: The maritime cultural landscape of Otago Harbour. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

The relationship between human culture and the environment is an area of fundamental importance to modern archaeological enquiry. The investigation of this relationship led researchers to develop what has become known as the landscape approach, which focuses on the archaeological and environmental evidence of the interactions between people and the environment. Over the last two decades this approach has been utilised to investigate maritime cultural landscapes, with considerable success – albeit internationally. In New Zealand, landscape archaeology has been practised since the late 1970s. However, the investigation of maritime cultural landscapes has yet to be explored, resulting in considerable gaps in our understanding of the past.

This study applied the maritime cultural landscape approach to Otago Harbour in order to investigate the relationships between the harbour's inhabitants and the marine environment. Evidence of this interaction was investigated through archaeological records of sites with maritime associations and targeted site survey of areas of foreshore and historical research.

The evidence of these interactions was discussed in relation to the themes of marine resource exploitation, navigation and landing places, hulks and abandoned watercraft, shipbuilding and repair, shipwrecks, harbour warfare and defence and anthropogenic change to the harbour.

The application of the maritime cultural landscape approach to Otago Harbour revealed a great deal of information about the ways in which the inhabitants of Otago Harbour have interacted with the marine environment over time. This study also showed the considerable strength of this framework as a tool for heritage management and the need to investigate the maritime cultural landscapes of the other major harbours of New Zealand.

Codlin, Maria, 2011. The first Hawaiians: The date and distribution of early settlement in the Hawaiian Islands. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

A recent review of radiocarbon dates from East Polynesia (Wilmshurst et al. 2011a) suggests that Hawai'i was colonised at the same time as other East

Polynesian islands in a rapid expansion from Central East Polynesia after AD 1200. This date of colonisation contradicts archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence for human settlement in Hawai'i by AD 1000-1200. This study investigates this issue using a spatial approach to understand the timing and distribution of the first human settlement of the Hawaiian Islands. Expectations for the number of sites we should see in a colonisation process is derived from the well-researched early chronologies of New Zealand and Samoa. The number of reliably dated sites between AD 1000-1200 in Hawai'i's prehistory fits the expectations for colonisation best, while the number of reliably dated sites between AD 1200-1400 exceeds expectations. The location of sites in both periods is analysed in relation to implied access to agricultural and marine resources, as well as their distribution over the islands. The overall pattern of distribution suggests a settlement history in line with Kirch's (2010) recent chronology for Hawai'i, with early coastal settlement on O'ahu, and later to the other islands centred on agricultural production.

Cunliffe, Emily, 2011. South Coast Papua Lapita - A late Lapita province? Characterisation analysis of obsidian from Bogi 1, Caution Bay. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

This dissertation presents a geochemical analysis of a sample of obsidian from the assemblage excavated from Bogi 1, Caution Bay. The Caution Bay site complex is located near Port Moresby and is the first known Lapita settlement on the Papuan south coast. The site is dated from the Late Lapita period through into the Early Papuan Pottery phase. The study is primarily concerned with determining the source of the obsidian, and using this information to establish the nature of the Bogi 1 Lapita settlement in the broader context of Late Lapita. Contemporaneous Late Lapita populations in other areas within the parameters of the culture show a pattern of regionalisation and localisation of resources such as obsidian. The obsidian results suggest that Late Lapita occupation on the south Papuan coast fits the model of regionalisation apparent elsewhere during this period, and the Early Papuan Pottery phase was a more intensive period of exchange than in previous Lapita settlements.

Findlater, Amy, 2011. Recontextualising material culture: An investigation of the minnow lure shanks from Kawatiri River Mouth and Wairau Bar, Southern New Zealand. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

This research examines the problem of the concept of context for New Zealand archaeology and material culture studies. It is argued that it is not a lack of context associated with material culture but the perception of context that is problematic for archaeological interpretation. Although central to material

culture studies, traditional archaeological perceptions of context have treated the concept as something to be mitigated against in archaeological practice. This has resulted in the underdevelopment of material culture studies and a focus on morphological, chronological and functional or utilitarian interpretations through the categorisation of material culture.

A case study investigating the lives of minnow lure shanks is developed in line with international perceptions of the concept to show instead how material culture shifts through contexts. A laboratory study of minnow lure shanks from Wairau Bar and Kawatiri River Mouth is juxtaposed with ethnographic accounts, museum collections, exhibitions, artist inventions and mātauranga Māori which provide alternative sources of data and analogy. A life history approach is used to focus on the interconnectedness between social and technological processes in the past and present to show how lures have come to be through multiple biographies and transformations.

The outcome was a recontextualisation of lures with implications for the future of all New Zealand material culture studies. I argue that the shift from pearl shell to stone in New Zealand prehistory and its later abandonment was a lot more complex than a simple raw material switch involving the use of existing and transported social and technological strategies. The methodology adopted uncovered the variation in lures, reflecting broad strategies, and compared processes, choices and intentions. Minnow lures are bodies, connected to bodies and found with bodies with natural and aesthetic properties connected to the ritual and mundane – tapu and noa. Lures are part of a living tradition as one point of interaction and attraction between people, ancestors, the land, sea and taonga. This study urges archaeologists to consider their roles as kaitiaki taonga and kaitiaki maumahara to ensure material culture remains an enduring centre of enquiry.

Glover, Jenepher, 2011. St Clair (Koterakeatea) and the early prehistoric period economy. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

The analysis of fauna from a recent excavation at St Clair is presented in order to interpret early economic activities at the site. St Clair was a specialist function site for the exploitation of fauna, occupied in about the 15th century, and linked to larger settlements through systematic mobility. A wide range of fauna were exploited to varying degrees. Most species were targeted opportunistically. However, moa, fur seals, penguins and shags were targeted in particular, and St Clair is one of only seven sites in New Zealand where penguins and shags were specifically targeted. It can be inferred from the evidence of butchery and the removal of carcasses that the site fulfilled a provisioning role for larger, more permanent settlements. There is also evidence of immediate consumption at

the site, and it could be argued that some preservation of meat occurred. It is also proposed that three kuri mandibles located were set aside for industrial manufacture at the site. There is no evidence of a shift in subsistence as the larger fauna became depleted.

Harsveldt, Patrick, 2010. ‘The Architecture of Isolation’: Defining the New Zealand backcountry hut. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

Over 950 backcountry huts managed by the Department of Conservation exist on public land in New Zealand. Whilst huts feature regularly in New Zealand outdoor literature and have also been addressed in academic publications, the term ‘hut’ itself is ill-defined, frequently appearing in the literature as an alternative to words such as shack, cabin, and more general terms such as shelter and dwelling. This study was done in order to identify the components of a typical New Zealand backcountry hut and thus provide a definition.

A sample of 88 huts from within the Southland Conservancy was separated into historic function groups. This was then developed into a typology based on form. Major variables of the hut typology included plan shape, roof form, and threshold, whilst minor variables covered all other features of form, location, age and floor area. Key major and minor variables from this sample, namely typology, altitude, floor area, build date and number of beds, were then compared to huts found within three other regions in New Zealand. The results showed that whilst variations in hut form exist, a predominance of one particular hut type is found within the Southland Conservancy, as well as in three other regions. This form, termed a Type I hut, comprises a rectangular floor plan, gable roof along the building’s length and a direct-entry threshold. The results show that this predominant hut type follows the form of late 19th and early 20th century huts, suggesting that the mythology surrounding pioneer-era huts is in fact reality and that the traditions are linked through built features and materials used.

The findings have provided a clearer insight into what physical components comprise a typical New Zealand backcountry hut and allow for its definition thus: “The backcountry hut is a ‘back-to-basics’ place of sanctuary from the elements with few creature comforts except for a hearth, sleeping surface/s and cooking preparation table surface. It typically comprises a rectangular floor plan with gable roof along its length and with direct entry threshold, regardless of size. The hut is associated with physical work, no matter the purpose or build date”. It is hoped that this hut typology may be tested in the future against further New Zealand or international examples.

Hughes, Julia, 2011. Pyle's cottage, St Bathans and vernacular architecture in the gold fields. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

Vernacular architecture of the historic period in New Zealand can be characterised by the technological innovations of the 19th century. Materials such as corrugated iron were adopted rapidly in New Zealand as a way of quickly establishing towns and cities. The use of corrugated iron and timber-framed building can be seen as a result of and catalyst for the rapid development of feeder towns of the gold rushes in Central Otago. The methods of construction and nature of building materials of the mining settlements of the gold rushes in Otago are not well known. This report focuses on a mid-19th century cottage in St Bathans, Central Otago. The cottage was owned by William Pyle, a merchant in the town. It is believed that the cottage was built in the formative years of the settlement in the mid to late 1860s. The investigation of the building aims to provide a date of construction for the building, and to provide information on the building traditions which characterise the changing nature of vernacular architecture in the 19th century.

Kirk, Fiona, 2011. Beyond reasonable doubt? Testing the cultural origin of bird bone recovered from archaeological contexts. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

It is often assumed that all avifaunal remains recovered from archaeological contexts have been deposited as a result of cultural activity. Increasingly, however, it is recognised that bird bones can accumulate within archaeological deposits as a result of natural (i.e. non-cultural) events and processes.

The problem of determining the origin of avifaunal remains has long been recognised by New Zealand archaeologists, but not systematically addressed. If cultural interpretations are based on excavated avifaunal assemblages, however, we must be reasonably confident of the cultural origin of the remains recovered, or our conclusions may be based on false assumptions.

This thesis proposes, tests and assesses a model designated 'SPIT=O', which was constructed as a tool to distinguish between the cultural or natural origins of avifaunal remains recovered during archaeological excavation in New Zealand. Following SPIT=O, the physical nature of a site (S) and the palaeoecological details of New Zealand's predators (P) are considered, to establish all the potential agents and processes of deposition for avian remains at that site. The species identified in the recovered avian assemblage (I) and the taphonomic features and patterns exhibited by the specimens (T), are compared to taphonomic traces considered typical of potential predators and other taphonomic processes, to draw conclusions regarding their most likely origin (=O).

To test SPIT=O, the model is applied to an assemblage of small-bird remains (i.e. birds other than moa, Dinornithiformes) recovered during an archaeological excavation at Watsons Beach, South Otago (New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) site number H45/10). Following the model, it is determined that the sample of avifaunal remains to which SPIT=O is applied are, for the most part, cultural in origin.

Although developed to address the question of origin for avifaunal remains in New Zealand archaeological deposits, the methods applied in SPIT=O could be applied in the analysis of any avifaunal deposit, palaeontological or archaeological, within New Zealand or elsewhere.

Knox, Benjamin, 2011. Obsidian exchange in the south: PXRf analysis of two sites from the north of the South Island. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

Obsidian has long been recognised in New Zealand scholarship, though systematic analysis of obsidian sources and excavated artefacts did not begin until the late 1950s. Over the last five decades many methods have been tried and tested, with a number continuing to be used in modern characterisation and sourcing studies. Recent work has demonstrated the applicability of portable X-ray fluorescence (PXRf) in the analysis of New Zealand obsidian sources and archaeological obsidian artefacts.

Excavations at the Kawatiri and Wairau Bar sites have provided sizable obsidian assemblages for analysis using a handheld PXRf in the Archaeology Laboratories of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago (OAL). Physical analysis of artefacts reveals uneconomic uses of imported materials while chemical characterisation uncovered the presence of only a small number of sources at both sites.

Large proportions of Mayor Island obsidian demonstrate ties with northern communities, though other inland and Northland sources highlight different relationships between the two sites. This study demonstrates the applicability of PXRf for sourcing artefacts from archaeological contexts, allowing quick and simple characterisation to a high degree of precision.

Maxwell, Justin, 2010. Conservation of Rakau Momori. An archaeological investigation of historical and current management practices. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

Culturally modified trees on Rekohu (Chatham Island) represent a unique materialisation of Moriori culture in the carvings of anthropomorphic figures, animals and abstract images on kopi trees. Known to the Moriori as rakau momori, the carvings have been protected within reserves in recent years,

acknowledging their importance to iwi, Moriori and the wider community. Rekohu has been subject to substantial environmental change since European contact, and these changes have had a negative impact on the geographic distribution and number of rakau momori. The rate at which carvings are being lost is still rapid despite the implementation of conservation measures since the 1970s. Whether this trend is a result of natural ageing of the host trees or the outcome of historical human actions is investigated. The number of rakau momori at risk is assessed and the reasons for continued loss of rakau momori and associated kopi groves are investigated. Historical and current conservation measures for preserving rakau momori in place are critically assessed and new strategies to improve the health of the carved trees are identified.

Mitchell, Peter, 2010. Why were the kuri at Purakaunui? An examination of the bird and mammal components of the 2001-2003 midden sample from Purakaunui (I44/21). PGDipArts dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

Archaeological investigations of the Purakaunui archaeological site (I44/21) have thus far been focused on the nature and implications of finfish and shellfish exploitation at the settlement. Anderson (1981) interpreted the site as a temporary fishing camp, occupied sporadically during the early 14th century AD. Recent analysis of the finfish and shellfish components of the midden sample collected during the 2001-2003 excavations at the site have challenged this original interpretation and suggest that the site may have been occupied over a longer period. Pits and structures were also found during these excavations, hinting at a more complex settlement than initially believed. Analysis of the bird and mammal constituents of the 2001-2003 Purakaunui midden assemblage is presented to further test the interpretations of settlement at the site. The results of this study also challenge the original interpretation of the site as a temporary fishing camp and point toward a more complex settlement, one where the husbandry of the Māori dog (kuri) played an important role.

Rees, Bethan S., 2011. Prehistoric subsistence practices at Tokanui River mouth. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

The Polynesian settlers who colonised the most southern coastline of New Zealand some 700 years ago had to face and adapt to new challenges such as the adverse weather conditions of the temperate country and the inability to grow their traditional agricultural crops. They had to rely on the prolific fish and shellfish species that lined the temperamental coast, as well as the large sea mammals that lived along its shores. By conducting systematic excavation into archaeological midden sites it is possible to analyse the faunal components

left behind, and to determine what the ancient people were exploiting and consuming. The site at the Tokanui River mouth has evidence of two prehistoric layers of occupation. By comparing the faunal remains in these two layers, it is possible to determine if there was a change through time in the dietary components of these people, and what the reasons that initiated these changes may have been.

Robinson, Spencer M., 2010. Archaeology, texts and history: A study in anthropological hermeneutics and the archaeology of ancient texts. PhD thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

This dissertation is concerned with the problem of how to evaluate and incorporate the contents of alleged ancient textual sources from archaeological, historiographical, anthropological and general empirical concerns in the study of the ancient historical past, directly addressing the question of how do we, as archaeologists, or as any social scientist, deal with ancient texts and extinct languages and writing systems in the study of the ancient historical past.

The approach of this study consists of a fusion of three manifestly similar, but in practice, discrete areas of orientation: 1) Diltheian sociohistorical hermeneutic analysis; 2) literature as a social and cultural construction and expression; and 3) anthropological textual criticism. This study is an exercise in applying anthropological hermeneutics and cultural theory to ancient texts, with the texts considered as sociohistorical documentation and literature as well as archaeological material (i.e. particular components of a discrete material culture), fusing anthropology, archaeology, history and literary criticism in the study of the ancient historical past. In this study of the problematic of the construction of ancient history we focus on the source texts for the construction of three major episodes in the late Neo-Assyrian period of the Ancient Near East: 1) the gale of Gu-gu; 2) the account of Tugdamme; and 3) the fall of Nineveh. The source texts for the tale of Gu-gu consist of various editions of the annals of Assurbanipal. The source text for the account of Tugdamme primarily consists of the Istar Temple inscription, which could be considered an edition or recension of the annals of Assurbanipal. The source text for the fall of Nineveh is the Nabopolassare Chronicle, the Neo-Babylonian chronicle inscribed on tablet BM 21901. The analysis of the text inscribed on the table BM 21901 particularly addresses the problematic of the concept and representation of ethnic identity in the texts of the Ancient Near East and the consequent implications for historical interpretation.

In our critical hermeneutical analyses, we find an appreciable lack of evidence in the actual cuneiform writing for the justification of much of the historical constructions of these episodes; the evidence from our analyses in

fact seems to refute many critical components of these constructions. In addition, the context which constitutes some of the alleged textual sources cannot be demonstrated to have any verifiable basis. From these results we would have to conclude that not only are some critical components of the historical constructions of the three episodes highly suspect, but also, from their tie-in to other historical constructions, a number of other pivotal constructions of the conventional history of the Ancient Near East in the first millennium BC must also be considered suspect.

Shirley, Brenden, 2011. Improving historic archaeological site management in New Zealand using GIS technology: Analysis of the Preservation Inlet gold mining settlements. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

This dissertation examines the ways in which historical archaeological sites are recorded and presented in New Zealand and how this could be improved with the addition of GIS technology. In particular, it addresses the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme, known as ArchSite. The way the records are presented and what material is included is of particular interest. It was decided the simplest and most straightforward way was to examine a small area with a variety of sites that is poorly represented in the ArchSite database. It is for this reason that the mining township sites at Preservation Inlet were chosen as the basis for this research. Through the use of GIS technology, a database was developed based on the feature level of the site. This allowed for a wide ranging and comprehensive understanding of these sites to be developed in a way that was not available or possible in previous databases. Through the use of this feature-level database, it is hoped that the significance and integrity of these under-represented sites can be fully appreciated and help contribute to the wider ranging subject of gold mining in 19th century New Zealand.

Thompson, Adam, 2010. Land snail and soil analysis in atoll archaeology, with special reference to Atafu Atoll, Tokelau Islands. MA thesis, Anthropology, University of Otago.

In 2008 and 2009, the author spent a month on the island of Atafu as part of the Tokelau Science, Education, and Research program co-directed by David Addison and John Kalolo. During this time he assisted in archaeological excavation, collected land snails and soil samples, made a film and

became a part of an atoll village that welcomed him kindly into all facets of their community.

Atolls are commonly seen as marginal environments on the edge of sustainability. In many ways this is true: their soils are poor, their small land areas are susceptible to inundation by large storms, and most are still only reached by long boat trips removing them from contact with the modern world. But these same characteristics have been positives. Their small land areas mean that everyone lives in one tight-knit community. Their remoteness has preserved their culture. Their poor soils mean that only those determined may settle. And once settled these soils gain from the successive gardening activities that build the island up and add organic material and vitality to its base. From a low sandy, salty lump of coral in the middle of the ocean, these islands have become fertile oases through the many generations that have tended them. They are gardens; nothing exists on them that has not been modified by those that have lived on them.

This study looks deeply at the atoll, beginning with its young geology, its specific bio-geography, its early archaeology, and its ecology. From these different sciences assumptions can be made about its land snail fauna. Natural colonisers had to be highly salt-resistant and able to arrive quickly, but most would be introduced by gardening activities. By careful sampling from the surface of the village islet, from the outer islets, and from column samples throughout its stratigraphy one can distinguish which species are natural, which inhabit the gardens in the poor soil, and which inhabit the gardens in the good soil. One can use these inferences to make statements about the environment of the past. And, in small ways, one can see now the land transformed from a low marginal island into a vital oasis full of splendid people.

Tonkin, Sarah, 2010. *The Chatham Islands: Three peoples, one land. A discussion of the landscape beliefs of the English, the Māori and the Moriori.* PGDipArts dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

The Chatham Islands have been colonised three times by three different peoples: the indigenous Moriori, the invading mainland New Zealand Māori and the settling English farmers. All three of these peoples have markedly different attitudes and beliefs of landscape, and their obligations and rights in relation to the use and ownership of land, all evident at the one physical location. The English settlers regarded land as a commodity to be bought, sold and made profitable. They also believed in an individual and geographically based tenure, requiring extensive modification of land as proof of ownership. Māori had deep spiritual and genealogical connections to their land, a functional understanding of tenure and a well-developed sense of reciprocity and revenge. Land not

originally 'owned' by a group could only be gained through gifts or war, both actions requiring payment. The Moriori had abolished war and subsequently the acquisition of land. All land on the islands was 'owned' and occupied, and could not be taken or gifted. Their attitude towards land was purely functional. The taking of their land, firstly by war and secondly by commerce, were two concepts previously unknown and foreign to them.

Tremlett, Luke, 2011. Reconstructing Russell: Evaluating the archaeological record of one of New Zealand's earliest towns. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

The historical archaeology of the Russell area will be the focus for this study. Located at the southern end of the Bay of Islands, Russell is one of the first European settlements in New Zealand. Consequently, the Russell area is of archaeological interest and has been the subject of many investigations, nearly all of which are stored on grey literature databases. This literature is difficult to access and has contributed very little to our understanding of New Zealand archaeology. Primarily this dissertation will synthesise grey literature to access the extent to which archaeological site contexts can be dated, and what these dates can reveal about change over time in Russell. It is intended that this research will synthesise past archaeological investigations to form new understanding of the dating of historical sites in Russell, and the reconstruction of human activity in Russell from archaeological evidence.

Woods, Naomi, 2011. Pākehā ceramics as dating tools: Creating a chronology for the Te Hoe whaling station. BA (Hons) dissertation, Anthropology, University of Otago.

Very little is known about the chronology of the whaling station of Te Hoe in the Hawkes Bay region of New Zealand. This dissertation aims to shed some light on the sequence of historic occupation there through an analysis of the ceramic assemblage. To facilitate this analysis, a model was developed which characterises the typical 'Pākehā' period (1792-1860) ceramic assemblage and identifies which attributes of the ceramics are useful for dating purposes. The results not only provide some much needed evidence for the occupation period for the station but prove the applicability of the created model for other, similar archaeological problems.