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Fieldwork and Other Activities

Otago & Southland

In March Matt Schmidt and Andrew Blanshard of DOC accompanied the Maukahuka Pest Free Auckland Island team on Operation Endurance, a regular partnership with the Navy enabling work in the Sub Antarctic. During a week in the island group they surveyed and updated records for numerous sites including Hardwicke (the 1849-1852 Enderby Settlement), the 1865 Victoria Tree, the 1880 Stella Hut, and the 14th century Polynesian Auckland Islands discovery site on Enderby Island. At the 1874 German Transit of Venus location they found a previously unrecorded brick and concrete base possibly used for 19th century astronomical observations. Site management work was undertaken around the Transit of Venus observatory and the 1868 Amherst Spar, and at Hardwicke 25 heritage photographic monitoring markers were also installed to record changes to the site over time by vegetation and pest animals. The work is a great example of the holistic approach of the Maukahuka Pest Free Auckland Island project which is not only concerned with eradicating pests, but also investing time in managing the heritage. Acknowledgements to the pest free team James Ware, Stephen Horn, Micaela Kirby-Crowe, Veronika Frank and Rachael Sagar.



Andrew Blanshard at the Victoria Tree on Auckland Island. The tree was carved to mark the visit of HMCS Victoria on a search for castaways (Matt Schmidt).



Pedastals from the 1874 German Transit of Venus Expedition, after vegetation clearance (Matt Schmidt).

In North Dunedin the redevelopment of the nineteenth century North Dunedin cottages that make up so much of the student quarter continues apace (driven by intensification of land use and changes to rental property requirements). Under one 1880s small bay villa (large bay cottage?) Peter Petchey investigated several rubbish pits relating to the earlier role of the property as part of the grounds of a large house that belonged to William Dick Murison, a member of the General Assembly, editor of the Otago Daily Times and first class cricketer. Several matching sets of tableware probably relate to the clearing of the house after Murison's death in 1877. Unfortunately a (long-term) leaking sewerage pipe over the largest rubbish pit rather constrained the depth of analysis that could be attempted. Later pit features contained several leadlight windows and two bicycles. The full report has just been finished on this site.



Blue UGTP plate from William Dick Murison's table service (from I44/887).

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In North Otago Peter Mitchell (*The Archaeology Collective*) has spent much of the last three months monitoring water mains replacement in South Hill Oamaru. Aside from the ubiquitous clay, old road surfaces and occasional evidence of infilled gullies, the 1880s water main was uncovered 800 mm beneath Arun Street. Of note was a change of pipe construction at the intersection of Arun and Greta Streets where the cast iron water main changed from what appears to be imported, thick walled cast iron pipes marked T E & S on the collar, to thin walled cast iron pipes with no markings. These were probably manufactured at Anderson and Co in Christchurch who won the tender to produce the pipes for the Oamaru water system in August of 1878. No evidence of the lead (yes, that's right, lead) lateral pipes supplied by A and T Burt of Dunedin, remained. Hopefully these were removed before too much damage was done to the local population.



Embossed collar of cast iron 'T.E. & S.' pipe from Oamaru (Peter Mitchell).

Wellington & Lower North Island

Kevin Jones has been busy with small field jobs for Transpower and recording another well (small, wood-lined) off Dixon Street. The Museum of Wellington has taken in selected artefacts from the Wellington Convention

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Centre such as the NZR signal brackets from the Te Aro Station. The museum has also taken in the young Queen Victoria clay pipe from Dixon Street which is being re-assembled and cleaned by Manon a French ceramics conservator at the Maritime Archaeological Association NZ conservation lab, based on the *Hikitia* on the Taranaki Street wharf.



A young Queen Victoria (centre) presides over the cleaning of the clay pipe by Manon, Christina and Jack Fry in the MAANZ lab (Kevin Jones).

Auckland & Northland

Danielle Trilford (CFG Heritage) reports that earthworks for the renovation and expansion of the accommodation hostel for students at Owen's Road on the south adjacent to Maungawhau are complete. These works are near two recorded archaeological sites on the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme (SRS), those are site R11/2671, an 1890s Merchant's House, is on the property, and the property backs onto Maungawhau, recorded as archaeological site R11/17. Some historic period material was exposed at the south are of the property. Below the historic material was an in situ midden deposit, which appears to comprise of harbour-caught shellfish species. It is possible the deposit is associated to the pre-European Māori occupation of Maungawhau, post-excavation analysis will help determine this. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Danielle Trilford and Ella Ussher with occasional site visits from Nick Hawke of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.



Midden layer found beneath historic-period fill at Maungawhau (Danielle Trilford).

Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, the archaeology team from Auckland Museum spent a week excavating in a large coastal midden on Otata Island, part of the Noises Group in the Hauraki Gulf. The Noises are to the northeast of Rakino and about an hour boat trip from downtown Auckland. A storm in January 2018 caused extensive damage to coastlines around the Hauraki Gulf. The 60 m long midden on Otata was cut back by several metres and because of the changed beach profile is now vulnerable to future erosion. The midden, up to 70 cm deep, contains shellfish, a variety of fish and bird remains and stone flakes. Firescoops and post holes are also evident in the exposed profile. First occupation was prior to the Rangitoto eruption around AD1400. Three 1x1 m squares were excavated, revealing a large hangi in one square topped by whole mussel shells. The excavation was conducted in partnership with the Neureuter Family (landowners) and Ngāi Tai-ki-Tāmaki, manawhenua for the Noises. Ngāi Tai are fostering rangitahi to understand past use of the Hauraki Gulf through engagement with archaeology, and several iwi members were present during the excavation. We look forward to ongoing discussions about matauranga Māori and the role archaeology can play. The results will also feed into a wider Museum-led conservation project in the Noises by providing a baseline for understanding human impacts in the

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Hauraki Gulf. Marine scientists at the University of Auckland Leigh Marine Laboratory are carrying out surveys of marine resources and are particularly interested in the results of the archaeological work. Further information on the Noises Project can be found at www.thenoises.nz.



Otata Island, Square A, western profile showing hangi feature and mussel shell layer (Emma Ash).



Endpiece

Leadlight windows are more usually recorded during the archaeological examination of standing buildings, but this example was one of a number that had been discarded and buried in a rubbish deposit in North Dunedin (site 144/887).

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Manuscripts

Manuscripts may be submitted to the Editor at any time. Papers of less than c. 3000 words will be given preference. Electronic submission of papers is preferred. Typescripts should be double spaced on one side of A4 paper, and there may be a delay in publication as the paper will need to be transcribed. Abstracts will not be printed. Authors should retain a good copy of the paper in case of loss or damage in transit.

Archaeology in New Zealand is prepared on a Mac using Microsoft word software. Papers should be emailed to the editor as an attachment. Please keep all formatting simple, as the paper will have to be completely reset for *AINZ*. Please do not use footnotes or endnote, and do not link figures and text. Save all text files as 'normal.'