



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Fieldwork and Other Activities**

### **Otago & Southland**

In Otago Peter Petchey and Hallie Buckley, along with archaeology and bioarchaeology students and postgrads from Otago University, conducted a three week excavation on the old (1861-1866) and new (1866-) cemeteries in Lawrence (see the June 2018 issue of AINZ for a report on the first season of this work). In the Chinese section of the new cemetery they found many empty graves: evidence of the 1883 and 1902 exhumations and repatriations of Chinese remains. The latter event ended tragically when the ship carrying the bodies, the *SS Ventnor*, sank off the Hokianga Harbour. More work is planned for the upcoming autumn.



*Plane table mapping in the overgrown section of the Gabriel Street Cemetery, Lawrence.*

## *Nationwide*

Rachel Wesley and Shar Briden returned to Papanui Inlet over January to continue their excavations back from the foreshore. They are still finding flake scatters, fire rakeouts, and several posthole features. Meanwhile, more wooden material is eroding out on the beach, so they will be back there in late March to rescue those and carry on with the other mahi. Rachel and Shar are very grateful for the number of archaeology students, fellow archaeologists, Ōtākou whānau, and community members who volunteer their time to help at the site.



*Lana Arun, Helen Sheppard, Rebecca Adam, Arthur Grainger, Teina Tutaki and Te Hori Wesley-Evans excavating at Papanui Inlet. This unit later revealed a silcrete flake scatter next to a rakeout.*

## **Canterbury & West Coast**

In Canterbury Michael Trotter and Jeanette McIsaac have been working for the Waimakariri District Council on the Kaiapoi East Regeneration Area where over 500 houses and other buildings in the 50 hectare Kaiapoi ‘red zone’ were demolished for reasons of considered structural damage or ground instability as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010-2011. European occupation in this area had commenced in the late 1850s, and although the ground was much disturbed when it was cleared, a considerable amount of nineteenth century archaeological evidence is being uncovered in the course of its current redevelopment for a variety of recreational uses, stormwater management, landscaping and planting.



*Ground conditions in Kaiapoi East sometimes make monitoring difficult  
(Jeanette McIsaac).*

## **Wellington & Lower North Island**

In Bulls Andy Dodd, with assistance from David Rudd, Annetta Sutton, Michael Taylor, Keiha Nichol and Dave Smithson carried out archaeological monitoring and investigation work on the site of the 1876 Criterion Hotel and Stables. The

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work was undertaken between 10 and 14 December 2018 and was carried out to facilitate the completion of the demolition of the 1924 replacement Criterion hotel, and to prepare the building footprint of a new community centre being built by the Rangitikei District Council. Monitoring work is ongoing.



*Post hole alignments delineating the southern corner of the Criterion stables, Bulls. Scales 2.0m (Subsurface Ltd, 2018)*

Kevin Jones reports that the Mokotahi Track (Mahia Beach) has been opened. Relatively early dates have been received for the Oturoa Road sand borrow area - mid 15th C or about the age of the later levels at the Foxton site. Bree Wooller has been working with Kevin on gas infrastructure in Wellington, on Transpower maintenance projects, the Karori Tunnel and Harry the Humpback (a proposal to place a model of a humpback whale on the Perano's whaling station).



*Helicopter view of Mokotahi track after formation and gravelling  
(Courtesy QE II National Trust)*

## **Auckland & Northland**

In May 2018 the intact hull of the schooner *Daring* was exposed at Te Oneone Rangatira, South Head, Auckland. Zac McIvor of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga has been dealing with the project. The double masted schooner was built at Mangawhai in 1863, and is the earliest well-articulated remains of a New Zealand-built ship of its kind. After the hull was exposed by the receding beach sands it suffered damage at the hands of fossickers, and would have degraded due to wave action. In order to save the vessel the *Daring* Rescue community group with support from Heritage New Zealand pulled together a project to salvage the remains from the beach. The vessel was excavated and lifted in November and December 2018 in a large operation that involved four hydraulic diggers to lift the hull. Multiple laser scans were taken of the vessel at different points of its exposure to record its fabric in three-dimensions. Archaeological investigations undertaken prior to the main lifting of the hull found water rolled ballast stones, hessian sacks with grass seed (the cargo on the *Daring's* last journey), and tar deposits used for wood protection and sealing. Artefacts included glass bottles

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with corks and metal labels, a wooden fid, a coin, fabric garments, leather shoes, a leather belt, woven fibre fragments, a comb and much more. The *Daring* is currently being housed in Hobsonville to start the conservation process. The long term display location is to be decided. The Daring Rescue Group welcome volunteer support so please get in contact if you are interested. There is also a [givealittle](#) page to support project.



*The Daring with ballast removed from the hull  
(Zac McIvor, Heritage New Zealand).*



*Lifting the Daring from the beach sands (Zac McIvor, Heritage New Zealand).*



*The Daring high and dry (Zac McIvor, Heritage New Zealand).*



## *Nationwide*

Over the summer James Robinson directed another season of excavation at Mangahawea Bay (Q05/682) on Moturua Island in the Bay of Islands. He was assisted by DOC, local iwi and university members. The present excavations followed a 2017 investigation, which in turn followed a 1981 excavation. The site was first recorded by Phil Moore as a midden in 1978, and was identified as potentially dating to the early period of Polynesian settlement of New Zealand. In 1981 the site was investigated by archaeologists from Auckland University and the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park, but for various reasons the excavation was never written up. In 2016 the lead archaeologist from the 1981 excavation passed away and some of her notes and all of the bags of excavated material were deposited with Andrew Blanshard at DOC in Kerikeri. Following discussion between DOC (as the island's land manager), Heritage New Zealand, the University of Otago and tangata whenua, a partnership project was developed to re-excavate and write up properly what appears to be an important early site. The 2017 and 2019 seasons support this interpretation.

### **Practice Note**

Obligations when accessing private property in the course of archaeological survey/assessment.

NZAA would like to remind our membership that it is the responsibility of the archaeologist (whether working alone or as part of a multidisciplinary group) to:

- Ensure that all necessary permissions have been obtained from landowners and/or tenants (in the case of land subject to a tenancy, permission will be required from the tenant in addition to the landowner) prior to accessing any property; and
- Know where property boundaries are (especially in the case of rural land) in order to avoid inadvertent trespass.

It is important to ensure the above legal obligations in respect of access to land are met, in order to:

- maintain good relationships with landowners/occupiers and the general public; and
- ensure that all relevant health and safety obligations are complied with, especially in the case of working farms and/or commercial property