

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



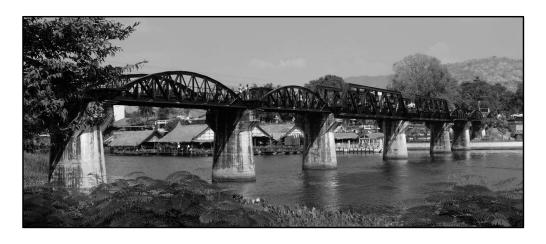
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Editorial

You will see a number of changes in this issue of AINZ. The most obvious, the change of formatting, is due partly to a change in the software in which AINZ has been prepared, and the need to create new templates etc. This is a work in progress. As raised in the editorial in the last issue, the content changes include the omission of the list of recent consultancy reports, which has of recent years become long and of limited use given the very large numbers of reports with restricted content (especially the monitoring reports that find little or nothing) that are now produced. A list of consultancy reports Zealand Heritage New is available at their (www.heritage.org.nz), where it can be downloaded as an excel spreadsheet that can be searched for author, title and date. The reports themselves can then be requested as pdfs from HNZ.

This copy of AINZ has been partly prepared in Burma, and I thought it fitting that the content should be somewhat more international than usual. Archaeology in New Zealand has traditionally focussed on New Zealand, with the occasional foray into the Pacific. However, New Zealanders are running and participating in research around the world, and there are also sites of significance to New Zealand and New Zealanders worldwide.



The 'Bridge Over the River Kwai,' or the Tha Makham Bridge, Thailand.

During these centenary years of the First World War the battlefields of that conflict have come under increasing archaeological scrutiny, and of course Gallipoli holds a particular place in the New Zealand national narrative. A joint project between Australia, New Zealand and Turkey to record the Gallipoli battlefield was carried out between 2009 and 2014, and New Zealand's representative on the team was historian Dr. Ian McGibbon of the

Ministry of Culture and Heritage (http://www.mch.govt.nz/news-events/press-releases/gallipoli-survey-completed).

Sites associated with the Second World War are also receiving increasing attention, and the Pacific Battlefield has vast archaeological potential. The photograph above is of the famous 'Bridge over the River Kwai' in Thailand, on the Siam-Burma railway that was built by the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second World War, using prisoner and war and local labour, including New Zealanders captured in Singapore.

Thousands of these workers died due to their treatment by the Japanese. The Commonwealth and Dutch POWs are buried in several large Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in Thailand and Burma. In Kanchanaburi, where the two Thai cemeteries are located, there is a New Zealand Road to commemorate the New Zealanders that worked on the railway. The road runs through part of what was the Tha Makham POW camp near the bridge.



New Zealand Road sign, Kanchanaburi, Thailand.

Needless to say, I would welcome any papers in future that deal with such sites that are of relevance to New Zealand, no matter where they are. Accordingly I have added 'New Zealand Overseas Projects' to the Recent Fieldwork section below, where brief accounts of international projects that involve New Zealand researchers will be included.

Peter Petchey