



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

I am grateful to the various contributors for their continued support over the past year. If anyone else has information of interest to *AINZ* readers I would be glad to hear from them.

### NORTHLAND

In Northland, as in many parts of the country, the term archaeology can hold negative connotations especially with the Maori community. There are still people who believe that archaeologists are concerned with digging up taonga and koiwi.

DOC staff have always worked towards rectifying this misunderstanding and have emphasised their major role in the conservation of sites, but in recent months several projects have included a particularly strong public relations component. For example, DOC archaeologists in hui with different iwi throughout the region to discuss Northland's Conservation Management Strategy. We have mapped Pohue Pa in the Kaeo area at the request of Te Runanga o Whaingaroa and have produced a plane-table plan of Kerekere Pa at Kaitiaki for the Tiaho Mai Trust who wish to interpret the site to the public and to build a replica of the kianga nearby. Involvement with educational programmes has also proved stimulating. These have included an extended learning programme for children with special abilities at Bream Bay College and a conservation course for more mature students at Whangarei Polytechnic. The keen participation and positive response from these groups seems to auger well for site protection in the future.

During late September Adrienne Slocome and James Robinson dodged the icy downpours of the winterless north to undertake test excavations at the rear of the old Mangonui Courthouse, an historic reserve administered by the department. The Mangonui Courthouse Preservation Society, a group of interested local residents, have raised money to construct a small building behind the courthouse to provide toilet and storage facilities. This seemed appropriate to DOC as an ancient privy once stood on the site. The brief investigation revealed post holes associated with the outbuilding, the surface of the original yard and a few artefacts including two unusual ink bottles which will make an interesting addition to the courtroom furnishings.

The Russell Sewerage Scheme is still continuing. Wayne England has produced an interim report on test excavations in the waterfront area and Simon Best is currently monitoring trenching in between constructing a pise pigeon cote on the Pompellier property - the latest form of experimental archaeology.

Finally we have received a fascinating postcard from Myf Eaves who is

enrolled at an industrial archaeology course at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire. She is living in a converted slaughterhouse behind a butcher's shop and is surrounded by six Salopian pubs and crowds of people who are crazy about clay, steel, flax and flour industries. Hopefully she won't be entirely converted to the British lifestyle.

Joan Maingay, DOC

## **BAY OF PLENTY**

Conservation work on the Piako railway, Waiorongomai Valley, in the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park has recently been commenced with the clearance of large vegetation off the tramway. Michael Kelly has completed a draft Conservation Plan for the first stage of the work, which includes removal of accumulated fill from around the rails and sleepers and the re-establishment of the formation, crown and drains to assist with water control to reduce erosion damage on the tramway. Applications to modify are being lodged with the Historic Places Trust prior to any ground disturbance and the work will be guided by the Conservation Plan and advice from metal and timber conservators.

Conservation Plans have also recently been written for Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve and Fort Galatea Historic Reserve. Both reserves require intensive vegetation management. Tauwhare Pa Reserve has particular management issues relating to visitor impacts.

Recent work on land not administered by the Department of Conservation has included relocation and site management recommendations for numerous pa within areas of forest plantation at Whirinaki. The sites were recorded by the Nevins during the late 1970s and many have not been revisited since that time.

Amanda Young has been monitoring a number of large residential subdivision developments in Tauranga over the last two months. Authorities have been granted to modify/destroy scattered shell middens which are present on the properties, but the work is being monitored due to the likelihood of previously undisturbed archaeological sites being encountered.

Victoria Grouden recently completes an area survey of plantation forest on leased Maori owned land for PF Olsen Ltd at Kawerau. The survey was initiated by Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau and was an opportunity to provide training in archaeological survey methods to the tangata whenua. Nick Tupara, from the Historic Places Trust, has been continuing a programme of cleaning and photographic monitoring at the Kaiangaroa and Tarawera rock art sites.

A recent publication available from the Department of Conservation at Rotorua may be of interest to members:

"Guide to the Waitawheta Valley-Kaimai- Mamaku Forest Park". 16pp, \$2.50. Includes a history of kauri logging in the valley and track information.

Lynda Bowers, DOC

## **EAST COAST**

Work on the archaeology front on the East Coast has been centred around planning issues. The Historic Resources division, HO, have recently completed a draft Historic Resources Strategy with input from the East Coast. This document will now go through a process of community input before being finalised.

Pam Bain has been spreading the word about historic resource protection at a couple of training institutes and for the second year spoke to the Museum Studies class on the role of Regional Archaeologist. She also spoke to forestry trainees at the Forestry Training Centre on forest management and historic resources protection. A great opportunity to raise awareness of historic resources with future forest managers.

Pam Bain, DOC

## **WELLINGTON**

The local archaeological group has held a series of talks this year with topics including the human impact on vegetation at Taupo (Ann Williams), and on Easter Island (John Flenley), the history of Paremata Point (Pat Stodart), and Solo Man (Wayne Orchiston). The year will end with a talk on the local Terawhiti goldfields by Bruce McFadgen, to be followed by a field trip there.

The fieldwork for the new Department of Conservation manual on vegetation management of archaeological sites (referred to in previous notes and news) has continued with Kevin Jones, Philip Simpson, and Tony Walton visiting selected sites in the Taupo-Taranaki areas in late May and early June. Fiona Wilson (Wanganui Conservancy, DoC) accompanied they party on the Taranki leg of the trip. The party meet up with kaumatua and local archaeologists at various sites along the way. Kevin Jones has also spent about eight weeks in September-October in the United States on a Churchill Fellowship looking at the management of archaeological sites.

Since the last Wellington Notes and News appeared in the June issue, Bruce McFadgen has undertaken a further period of field work on Matakana Island. With Mike Shepherd and Harley Betts, further progress has been made with mapping the stratigraphic history of the island. Ann Williams inspected an area near Huka Falls at Taupo in May and visited Opepe Reserve on the Napier-Taupo Road with Aidan Challis in September. The latter visit is

connected with Ann's work on the history of the reserve which is being done for management planning. Some evidence of recent damage was found within the Reserve. Tony Walton has made two trips to the Palliser Bay coast, the second visit to inspect a road metal quarry operating immediately adjacent to the Te Humenga site. Local historical sites continue to be recorded as opportunities arise: a magazine at Kaiwharawhara built in the early 1880s is amongst the sites recorded recently. The remains consist of two stone buildings, one largely demolished, the other derelict.

Tony Walton, DOC

## **CANTERBURY**

In October Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch, with volunteers from Christchurch and Kaikoura, investigated the remaining evidence of whaling at Te Hiku o te Waeroa, South Bay, Kaikoura. Improvements to boat launching, parking and other facilities are planned here, to facilitate 'Whale Watch' activities, and the Historic Places Trust asked that the investigation take place as condition to authority being given to modify the site.

Although whaling took place here from the 1840s, evidence of early tryworks has been destroyed by subsequent activities. Remains of a later whaling factory dating to the early part of this century was found, however, and uncovered for investigation and in the hope that features such as a concrete blubber floor, winch block, brick flooring, tanks and foundations might be preserved and interpreted for public viewing.

Chris Jacomb, Canterbury Museum

## **OTAGO**

Gold mining operations have prompted several excavations in the Otago region over the past few months. Peter Bristow and Matthew Campbell investigated remnants of a European gold miners' village at German Hills in the Ida Valley that were under threat from a new mining venture. Part of this site has been set aside from further activity, and may be investigated further in 1994. Jill Hamel, assisted by Rick McGovern-Wilson, Peter Petchey and Peter Mason surveyed areas of proposed mining at Macreas Flat and undertook test excavations on a battery complex. This included a mine, foundations of the battery, cyanide tanks, a smithy and miners' huts, along with tramways and water races.

On a rather different note, Tracy Connolly excavated a cow byre and associated features on a late 19th-early 20th century farmstead at Mopanui near

Dunedin as part of a project for her Post-graduate Diploma of Arts in

Anthropology. Other fieldwork-orientated projects by students in this course included surveys of Tairaroa Heads by Anne Wiltshire, Filleul Street in central Dunedin by Bruce Hall, and early Dunedin hotel sites by Phil Edgar.

Matthew Campbell has been monitoring earthworks associated with Oamaru's new sewerage scheme, but as yet no archaeological remains have been disturbed.

Ian Smith, Otago University

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

INVITES NEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE FIELD TRIPS, TALKS, PARTIES AND NOTICE  
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS THROUGH THE TERM NEWSLETTER.

COST : \$6.00

CONTACT : THE SECRETARY  
C/- THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

ALL WELCOME