



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

NORTHLAND

Each year the Northland Conservancy presents Conservation Awards to a few people who have provided outstanding services to conservation in the region. We are delighted that last year awards were given to three people with a major concern for the protection of Northland's historic places. One of these was our favourite historian, Jack Lee, who has produced invaluable books on the Bay of Islands, the Hokianga, and the old Land Claims. He has also assisted DOC archaeologists in every way possible by taking part in surveys and excavations and by providing open access to his research material. At the age of eighty Jack can no longer hop so spryly up pa sites, but his research interests are unabated. He is currently publishing a book on three rogues from the Hokianga and collecting material for a volume on the development of the northern railway system.

Another award went to Lindo and Laetitia Ferguson who own a large property at Butler Point, Mongonui Harbour. They have spent many years renovating Captain Butler's old homestead and gardens, protecting bird and plant life, eradicating possums and planting hundreds of native trees and shrubs. They have also actively encouraged droves of DOC archaeologists and volunteers to descend on their property over several summers.

A decision had to be made that this season would be the last stage of investigation at the Butler Point pa. The information and materials recovered need to be collated before any further work in the area can be justified. As a final gesture, and with the blessing of the Fergusons, we decided to hold an open day for the public a week before the dig finished. The response was overwhelming. More than 2,000 people turned up to view the excavation, the whaling museum and the grounds, and to eat lunch under the pohutukawa trees overlooking the harbour. We were left speechless and exhausted by the end of the day. From then on smaller groups of visitors arrived every day, which held up work but emphasised that there is a widespread public interest in the history and archaeology of Northland. This season's excavation revealed fewer artefacts than in the previous year, but a bewildering maze of drains was found inside the pa and small house sites both within and outside the defences. Hopefully it will be clarified when the data is combined with that from the preceding stages of work.

Several DOC projects with arrested growth from lack of funding now seem closer to fruition. The Conservancy has been allocated funds for restoration work on Mongonui Courthouse and for research trials of native grasses to stabilise and conserve archaeological sites. In addition Ngatikuri people have consented to an investigation of fragile eroding sites in the dunes of the Far

North. This project will involve an interdisciplinary team of archaeologists and other specialists and hopefully will heighten the awareness of historic values in DOC staff who are usually only concerned with aspects of the 'natural' environment.

Joan Maingay, DOC

AUCKLAND

In December 1993 DOC archaeologists Russell Foster, Brenda Sewell and David Veart undertook a most successful rescue excavation at two sites, R11/229 and R11/1800, threatened by the construction of the new eastern access road to Auckland International Airport. The DOC team were ably assisted by two tangata whenua representatives, Adrien Tissing and Reuben Kirkwood, and Trudy Doelman, Caradoc Peters, Richard Jennings and Dorothy Brown from Auckland University, plus Heather Albert and numerous other volunteers. R11/229 was an extensive undefended settlement with several occupations, the latest of which belonged to the Te Akitai settlement between the 1830s and 1863, when they refused to hand in their arms to General Cameron and were forced to leave. The village was known as Papahinau and Te Akitai people know which of their ancestors lived there. Features found included at least 14 houses, a number of deep storage pits, and several areas where cooking took place. R11/1800 nearby was an extensive storage area containing 24 large pits. The rescue dig was funded by Manukau City Council and Auckland International Airport Ltd as a condition of an Authority to Modify from the NZ Historic Places Trust. Support was given throughout the excavation by Te Akitai elders.

North Head news. In November an 1880s David Veart excavated a rifled muzzle loader gunpit on the summit as part of the search for hidden tunnels. This had been completely filled with earth and rubble during the 1960s. The excavation was very successful, and the gunpit has been left open and the original tunnel connecting it with the rest of the fort cleared. It is the only remaining gunpit of this type in Auckland. There was, however, no evidence of any other structures present at this site. The next area investigated was on the western side of North Head where early photos suggested a tunnel entrance may have existed. A machine was used to dig a series of trenches exposing a rubbish dump containing bottles and artefacts dating from approximately 1900 until the 1950s. This presumably came from the now demolished barracks and kitchen area. No signs of any tunnels, though. The final site investigated was in an area on the northern slopes where an early photograph indicated an entrance may have existed. When excavated this turned out to be part of the old tramway cutting that was originally used to haul the guns and supplies to the top of the hill. At the base of this site a large idler pulley was found: part of the tramway. All the sites worked on so far were easily identified from old photographs. In the next stage we are having a series of maps prepared,

developed from the stereo pairs of aerial photos to show any major changes in contour over the years. We are also working with a firm of geological surveyors testing a number of subsurface survey options.

I hope you all saw the television documentary on the project, with Dave in a starring role (move over Indiana Jones). The programme generated great interest and lots of new information has come to light, including a copy of one of the Fort Record Books dating from 1899 which had been in private hands until at least the 1950s.

Robert Brassey and Leigh Johnson were out site surveying during November and December, progressively working through some of the 400 or so reserves and other protected areas administered by DOC in the Auckland Conservancy. All of the (mainland) areas between Mangawhai and Waiwera have now been completed: archaeological sites have been recorded in about two-thirds of the areas inspected to date. The largest number of new sites have been found along the eastern side of the Kaipara Harbour, notably within the valley of the navigable Hotoe River and its tributaries. Maori occupation sites are also (unexpectedly) being found on the very low islands that occur within mangrove areas along this side of the harbour. The survey is expected to be progressively completed over the next five years.

Brenda Sewell spent 8 days in October on Great Barrier Island recording more historic sites. These included old homesteads, logging and gumdigging sites, roading camps, World War II sites (including a tank trap), quarries, schools and sites of various farming and horticultural activities. Many of these were identified by local residents whose help had been enlisted through the *Barrier Bulletin*. This is the second season of recording, and the majority of the sites in the northern half of the Island are now on record. A start was also made on recording the sites around Tryphena Harbour and out to Cape Barrier and Coralie Bay. Research by Don Prince for an Auckland University archaeology paper on the Okupu Bay area has produced a wealth of information to be added to Brenda's data and his further research on the Iona Silver Mine should produce more detailed information.

Two potential historic archaeological sites were identified in Auckland during development work following information provided by the public. One was the site of the 1860s Blockhouse at Giffillan St, Blockhouse Bay. A grandson of a previous owner of the property (1920s) informed us that military artefacts including regimental buttons had been found on the site (he still had some of them) and that in the 1920s ditches were still visible in the garden. Research confirmed that this was indeed part of the site of the Blockhouse, which would also have extended over neighbouring properties, now much modified. This particular property, however, still carried a house brought to the site in 1902, and test excavations were carried out to determine whether anything had survived. Nothing had, sadly, but it was useful to record the original location of the Blockhouse, no plans of which have survived.

The other site was in Eden Crescent, opposite what had been the Grey & Menzies aerated water manufactory (1902-1960s), and before that John Grey & Sons and other manufactories going back to 1845. Our informant told us that in the 1950s the site had been filled with disused stock from the Grey & Menzies and possibly earlier periods. Surprisingly, this proved to be true, though only bottles of the Grey & Menzies (post 1902) period were found and the site was not considered by the Historic Places Trust to be of archaeological interest. The developer's subground excavations were of a limited nature and little could be done apart from retrieving bottles during their excavations. This was done by Amanda Young, as the developer's consultant, and she has provided both the Museum and DOC with a useful reference collection of bottle types used by the firm.

The final version of the revised 5 year working plan for the Motutapu restoration programme will soon be launched by the newly formed Motutapu Restoration Trust. The plan involves restoring Ngai Tai manawhenua, a programme of archaeological research involving both DOC and the University, and restoring parts of the island to post-Rangitoto vegetation. This follows the 1993 Working Plan, which envisaged a 50 year planting programme. This was put out for public comment and a workshop was held for interested parties. The current 5 year plan which replaces this was sent out to those who made submissions and to iwi.

Archaeologists at DOC, the University and the Museum, are not of course the only players in the Auckland area. Another key player is Ian Lawlor at the Auckland Regional Council. Together with Graeme Murdoch (historian) and Vaughan Payne (planner for Maori perspectives) Ian is responsible for dealing with cultural heritage issues to help the Council meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act. This includes cultural heritage policy development and planning, statutory regulation, resource management, and cultural heritage advocacy and information provision. Ian has developed a computer based Cultural Heritage Inventory to facilitate resource management. It includes databases on recorded historic places, bibliographic references, heritage agencies and sources, place names, maps and plans, and other information. All the recorded archaeological sites in the region have been entered into the database, and a data exchange model is being developed to formalise information exchange and upgrading on a regular basis between the ARC, territorial local authorities and the NZAA.

Overlay sheets showing site type distributions for the NZMS 260 map series have been produced and the information is being used to assist the ARC's Land Resources section with the processing of earthworks consents. Applications are checked to see if the assessment of effects on the environment under the Fourth Schedule of RMA are adequately provided for. When potential conflicts between proposed activities and places of heritage significance are identified, or more information is required, field inspections are carried out and recommendations are made to safeguard places or mitigate any adverse effects.

Information from the CHI is regularly supplied to other territorial authorities dealing with developments and regulatory issues.

As part of the CHI a Maritime Cultural Heritage Inventory has been prepared by Michael Taylor for the ARC. It includes archaeological sites, historic places, areas, buildings and structures as well as natural features and objects of historic and cultural significance. The sites are mainly of European historical association, with iwi developing inventories of their own historic and cultural sites in a separate process. The inventory contains 850 sites, 152 of which were previously recorded as archaeological sites. Only 35 of these are of Maori origin. Wharves/jetties, shipwrecks, shipyards, hulks, sawmills, brickworks, landings and bridges are the most common categories, the remainder including such features as tramlines, lime works, flour and flax mills, coastal batteries, lighthouses, ballast dumps and walking stones. The Maritime Inventory programme is fundamental to the development of the Regional Coastal Plan.

Also as part of the regional CHI, Jeffrey Mosen has compiled the *Cultural Heritage Inventory: a Base Inventory for the Franklin District* (ARC Environmental Division Technical Publication 31, September 1933).

(The above is based on information supplied by Ian Lawlor.) Graeme, Ian and Vaughan have had a significant input into the ARC's Regional Policy Statement, which has just been notified, with the result that cultural heritage issues are well to the fore and territorial local authorities are encouraged to address the full implications of their cultural resource responsibilities and Treaty obligations under RMA.

In addition, the new HP Act has opened the way for private archaeological consultants. So far Amanda Young, working for Bioreserches, is the only fulltime consultant in the Auckland region.

Amanda recently organised the excavation of the Skytower and Casino site on Hobson St for Brierley ... Three wells and other early European features were excavated. The presence or otherwise of archaeological sites on the three proposed Casino sites had unfortunately become a bit of an issue during the Casino hearings, during which some of the argument focused on whether the applicants could complete their proposed Casino in the time allowed, and the need to apply to the Trust for Authorities and allow for the possibility of archaeological excavations was brought into the argument.

Sarah Macready, DOC

EAST COAST

The end of 1993 involved our yearly input into the East Coast Forestry

Project. Survey work will be initiated soon and carried out by Victoria Grouden under contract to the landowners.

The East Coast Conservancy has been very involved in the development of the Conservation Management Strategy in the last few months.

The Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre, Te Urewera National Park houses a number of nationally important artefacts including a McCahon painting and Rua's flag. Work has been initiated on a conservation plan for the artefacts in this museum, and also developing a system of registration.

Pam Bain, DOC

WAIKATO-COROMANDEL

Following a request from the Thames Coromandel District Council, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust gave permission for part of a midden on Paku Pa (TI 1/308) to be destroyed during the construction of a water reservoir on the condition that the excavation work was monitored by an archaeologist.

The midden was located on a small terrace (10 metres by 5 metres) on the southern side of Paku hill. The deposit was 20cm below the topsoil and 50cm deep at the back of the terrace, and consisted of mainly whole shells - predominantly pipi, with a small proportion of cockle. A small obsidian flake was revealed by the bulldozer, but no other features or artefacts were apparent.

A sample of shell was collected from the base of the midden layer, and sent to the Radiocarbon lab at Waikato University (Wk number 3100), where a date of 710 ± 45 was returned. This date provides further information as to the Maori occupation of the Tairua area.

Cathy Barr

Cuvier Island was resurveyed in October 1993 by N.Ritchie and C. Barr, the previously surveyed Maori sites (Davidson 1974) being field-checked, and the principal historic sites, the abandoned lighthouse settlement and the WW2 radar station (known as Naval Station No.4 in its day) being recorded. DOC plans to restore one of the lighthouse keeper's houses and lease it for eco-historic tourism purposes.

In November 1993 N. Ritchie and C. Barr surveyed 6 blocks of DOC land bordering the Whangamarino wetland which DOC leases to neighbouring farmers. Sites were present on only one block and adjoining private farmland at the SE end of the wetland. The sites comprised a pa (S13/13) and 5 pit sites (S13/104-108).

The first stage of a major DOC restoration project on the Dancing Camp kauri driving dam, ie. the production of detailed drawings and a conservation assessment, was completed in December 1993. Replacement of critical timbers and chemical treatments will be undertaken in the next few months. The dam currently has c.30,000 visitors a year because of its proximity to the Pinnacles hut, a number which is likely to increase substantially once the new Kauaeranga Kauri Trail is completed over the next three years.

Brenda Sewell has been continuing with her intermittent survey of Stanley Island (Mercury group) this summer. Ritchie and Barr also made records of some sites on the island during a one day visit.

Over the summer period Owen Wilkes has been doing further survey work funded by NZHPT on the West Coast between Taharoa and Waikawau Bay. Local tangata whenua were not keen on further recording in the Taharoa ironsands area, so this area has been excluded from the survey.

The University of Auckland fieldschool which Dr R. Clough proposed to undertake at Opito pa in February was relocated to Great Barrier Island after Ngati Hei expressed reservations about the proposal.

In January 1994 Cathy Barr directed a small mitigation excavation on an open settlement site which will be largely destroyed by the development of stage 2 of the Pauanui Waterways (canal) development.

Neville Ritchie, DOC

WELLINGTON

Ray Gilbert (1916-1993), a long standing member of the Wellington Archaeological Society (WAS) and the Association, died in Wellington on 9 December 1993. I first met Ray at Nigel Prickett's excavation at Omata Stockade in 1977 when we briefly shared a square in the ditch. I came to know him better after I moved to Wellington the following year. Ray's contributions, which were substantial but seldom in the spotlight, became more and more evident as I got to know the local scene. I always found him willing to help and always generous with his time and talents. He had wide interests and worked on many projects over the years including such varied projects as the site survey of Kapiti Island (1972) and the excavation of the site of Alzdorf's Hotel on Lambton Quay (1987-8). Ray played a central role in WAS and served as its treasurer for many years. He also provided a much needed archaeological voice on the NZHPT Wellington Regional Committee. His many and varied contributions to archaeology at the local level were honoured by a presentation from WAS in 1989.

Tony Walton, DOC

SOUTHLAND

In a landmark decision for New Zealand museums, the Southland Museum and Art Gallery Trust Board formalised its collection policy on human remains in August 1993 and passed control of Koiwi Tangata within the museum over to Ngai Tahu. The key phrase in our collection policy reads -

"Southland Museum and Art Gallery acknowledges the Ngai Tahu policy on Koiwi Tangata of June 1993 and agrees to place its research collection of Maori human remains under Ngai Tahu management and authority (keitiakitanga) as specified in the Foundation Principles and Statement of Jurisdiction of their policy"

As part of our new collection management policy (and at the formal request of Te Runanganui O Tahu) we have constructed a special Wahi Tapu to house our collection of human remains. This is situated in the non-public area of our storage facilities and will be formally dedicated by Iwi on February 14, 1994.

The issue of human remains within museum collections still remains a thorny issue for some institutions. Legal 'ownership' for example is not possible (under a common-law 'no-property ' rule) except for persons or institutions 'licensed to practice/teach anatomy' (under the Human Tissues Act 1964). I intend, work load permitting, to write a short paper on this later in 1994.

Historic material from a WW2 Coast Watchers hut in Tagua Bay, Auckland Islands, was recovered in late 1993. The hut was in a severely dilapidated condition and is open to the ravages of the elements (it rains some 300 days per year there).

The artefacts will be used in a reconstruction of the Coastwatchers hut in our forthcoming new public "Roaring 40's Gallery" (expected to open early 1995). We gratefully acknowledge the assistance given to us in recovering this material, from the Department of Conservation and the Royal New Zealand Navy.

On long-term loan from the Hocken Library, is a historic slate plaque carved by one of the survivors of the 1866 wreck of the 'General Grant' at the Auckland Islands. The plaque commemorates an heroic but tragic attempt of four of the survivors to sail back to New Zealand for help in a small open boat. They set sail on the morning of January 22, 1867, and were never seen again. The plaque will also be displayed in the Roaring 40's Gallery, and my thanks to Hocken Librarian S. Strachan for the loan of this artefact. The message is short and poignant with hope and despair -

"Sacred to the memory of
Bart Brown, C.O.,

Wm. N. Scott, A.B.,
Andrew Morrison, A.B.,
Peter McNevin, A.B.
Who started on the 22d January 1867,
for New Zealand in boat without chart,
compass or nautical instrument.
Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

The remaining survivors on the Aucklands were rescued some 18 months after their shipwreck by Southland's famous whaler Paddy Gilroy (immortalized in Frank Bullen's "Cruise of the Catchalot") in his brig "Amherst".

Also of interest and now open to the public is our popular "Roaring 40's Experience" audio-visual production (funded by DOC and Ministry of Tourism).

Karl Gillies, Southland Museum and Art Gallery

BIORESEARCHES

(specialists in all aspects of ecology and utilisation of the natural and cultural environment)

Bioresearches have a vacancy for an archaeological consultant. Strong field and interpersonal skills are required. Must have the ability to promote and generate archaeological work.

Contact Amanda Young by 30 March 1994.
Please forward CV to PO Box 2828, Auckland or phone 09 3799417.