



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELD WORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY

Over the May break excavations were carried out in two locations: Wanganui and Pahia. In February of this year a fire destroyed a block in the old part of Wanganui over the sites of an historic military hospital and Gower's chemist and aerated water manufactory from the mid-late 19th century. A team of archaeologists under the supervision of Rod Clough took the opportunity to carry out limited investigation of these sites with the support of the Historic Places Trust and the Wanganui District Council and Wanganui Museum. The excavation was very productive with evidence of an 1868 fire showing clearly in the stratigraphy. Material remains pre- and post-dating this fire were recovered including artefacts clearly relating to Gower's aerated water manufactory. Unfortunately the remains of the military hospital are under a building soon to be demolished and could not be investigated.

At Pahia the remains of William Williams house was investigated by a team from the department as part of Vanessa Bunton's graduate research. It was done in cooperation with DOC Northland who supervised the fieldwork. The house was burnt down in 1856 and has been deteriorating ever since. The remains are in a poor state of preservation and it is hoped that the excavation will provide a basis for future management. The existing remains were fully recorded and excavation revealed internal features such as plaster floors and walls along with artefactual material from the period.

Sarah Ross, under the supervision of Thegn Ladefoged continued with a series of remote sensing surveys (conductivity, resistivity and magnetometer) on an undefended settlement on Motutapu. After GIS analysis it is intended to test the results with excavation.

Work is continuing on the department's obsidian hydration dating project. Peter Sheppard, Chris Stephenson and Martin Jones were collecting thermal cells from various locations in the northern half of the North Island. These had been implanted to provide ground temperature information as part of fine-tuning for the dating procedure.

Rod Clough

### COROMANDEL

The NZHPT Central North Island Regional Officer, Alexy Simmons, is investigating the possibility of establishing a Kauaeranga Kauri National Historic Area within the Coromandel Forest Park which is administered by DOC Waikato. The area, yet to be defined, would highlight the significant historic structures; dams, trestles, camps etc (at least the remains thereof) of the one time

**Kauaeranga kauri industry.** To facilitate the establishment of the proposed national historic area survey work and conservation assessments will be undertaken in conjunction with DOC Waikato. Eventually remedial conservation work will be undertaken on selected structures.

In conjunction with iwi Ngati Hei, Neville Ritchie and Cathy Barr completed a small restoration job on the outer defensive bank of Hereheretaura pa at Hahei before Easter. Other than 3 flakes of obsidian and numerous hangi stones, no other cultural material was encountered. A report is being prepared.

## **WAIKATO**

Cathy Barr has completed fieldwork associated with the compilation of an inventory of sites associated with the historic logging industry in the Pureora Forest. c.20 sites were recorded.

Neville Ritchie, DOC

## **BAY OF PLENTY**

Rick McGovern-Wilson from the University of Otago has spent a week in the Bay of Plenty undertaking a brief survey and examination of midden sites with regard to a taphonomy project. This project will examine questions relating to the presence/absence of bone material in archaeological sites within the Bay of Plenty district. During Rick's visit he spent several days examining midden on Matakana Island, and familiarising himself with the archaeological record in the Papamoa and Whakatane region.

Bruce McFadgen from the Science and Research Division of the Department of Conservation is continuing his research on coastal geomorphology and archaeological distribution in the Bay of Plenty. He has recently spent a week on Matakana Island.

A Conservation Plan has recently been completed for Paparoa Pa Historic Reserve on the Ohiwa Harbour. This reserve contains two pa sites which require fencing and vegetation maintenance.

A visitors survey was undertaken over the summer period on Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve to collect information on visitor numbers, people's reasons for visiting the reserve and their response to the interpretation provided on the archaeological sites. Several days were also spent mapping the archaeological sites in the Scenic Reserve by theodolite.

Michael Kelly has completed Part A of the Piako Tramway Conservation Plan which will guide remedial and continued maintenance of the tramway. This

includes an assessment of conservation needs and measures by a metal and timber conservator. Work will include the removal of accumulated fill from around the rails and sleepers and the re-establishment of the formation, crown and drains. Also, the recovery of a Rand Drill Co. Compressor from a stream-bed and abandoned ore-cart which will both be placed adjacent to the Piako Railway. Applications to modify have been lodged with the Historic Places Trust prior to any ground disturbance. Work has also started on removing vegetation from the tramway cuttings and clearing the rails.

Amanda Young and Jeff Mosen have continued to monitor a residential subdivision development in the Bethlehem (Tauranga) area.

AUCKLAND UNISERVICES LTD has completed a preliminary report on archaeological survey of Matakana Island Forest Compartment 20, Stands 2, 3, 4 and 5; a report on an archaeological survey of Matakana Island Forest Compartment 12, Stands 1-5 and Compartment 14, Stand 2; and Forest Compartment 3, Stands 2-4, Compartment 12, Stands 1-5, Compartment 14, Stand 2 and Compartment 20, Stands 1-5.

Kim Tatton, DOC

## **EAST COAST**

A recent consent application to quarry a very important traditional site on the East Coast has highlighted the importance of placing sites on the Historic Places Register. However, it is hoped that negotiations between developer and iwi will result in an appropriate conclusion.

I have been involved as the department's representative on a committee established to acknowledge the 225 year anniversary of the landing of Captain Cook in Gisborne. This will involve a ceremony on the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve and some historic events to acknowledge this important event.

Some 'avoid the bulldozer' monitoring was carried out on the site of the Royal Hotel, built in 1874. This building was being demolished in order to build a Georgie Pie. No consideration was given to the site as an archaeological site. After negotiations between Georgie Pie and NZHPT, DOC East Coast has requested to monitor the work. Victoria Grouden and I visited the site and collected a range of china and glass fragments, pork, chicken and beef bones and a button from the area which had been the servant's quarters. Previous to this a range of bottles had been collected by the developer. This material is under analysis.

Pam Bain, DOC

## TARANAKI

A visit on April 28 from Warren Gumbley from the NZHPT gave a fillip to the local scene. Five sites, subject to on-going disputes or site modification, were visited on the day.

First, a ridge peak pa at inland Urenui upon which the owner wished to build a house was inspected. This high site has spectacular views of Mt Taranaki and the coast. It was suggested that the Trust approval may be given to building on an area on the ridge away from the pa, but certainly not on the pa itself. It has not been possible to contact the local iwi to date.

We then travelled to Hawera to inspect the badly damaged pa, Ketemarae. The Trust has so far failed to proceed with a prosecution in the matter. Another small pa on the outskirts of the Hawera Borough has also suffered damage, but the owner is willing to reconstitute the filled-in upland ditch in order to make this headland pa once more a conspicuous feature.

The next site was the Okato Blockhouse site. This laharal hill had originally been the pa, Okato, but had been severely modified by the Imperial Force in the 1860s in order to build a blockhouse. Subsequently a dwelling was built on the northern slope. The present owner wishes to make a garden feature of the hill top. He has already commenced this by digging a large channel: this revealed three large hangi and two rectangular pits. Kelvin Day and I visited the next day, October 15, and notified the Trust. The present visit with Warren was the ultimate response. It was agreed that I do a small archaeological investigation before allowing the long suffering owner to proceed with his garden construction.

Finally we visited Rewarewa, a pa on the coast at New Plymouth near the present sewage ponds. The District Council had suggested using the land to the seaward, including the pa, for the disposal of sewage sludge. The use of the pa itself could clearly not be approved, but the large seaward flats below appeared to be free of archaeological features and could be approved without permit unless the rotary hoeing of the area revealed subsurface features.

Alastair Buist

## WELLINGTON

In early February a team drawn from Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, together with local volunteers, undertook excavations at a recently discovered and apparently unique site at Lake Rotokare, Hawkes Bay. The investigations established that all the features at the site were a product of natural events which took place over a period of hundreds of years to which a mix of archaeological material had been added. A NZHPT/DOC visit was made to the site of old Pakaraka Pa (pre-1860) in

South Taranaki in late February. The site had not previously been recorded, although pits and other features are evident. The NZHPT, at the request of local tangata whenua, is negotiating with the landowners for a heritage covenant.

Kevin Jones and Philip Simpson (plant ecologist) have continued their programme of site visits for the new archaeological site management manual. Their most recent tours have taken them to the Auckland, Northland, Otago and Canterbury regions. Places visited in the north included Motutapu Island, Orakei, Okuratope, Ruapekapeka, Kahuwera and Urupukapuka Island. Places visited in the south were Kawarau Goldmining Centre, Bendigo, Mapoutahi, Shag River, Craigmore Station, Oruaka (near Lake Forsythe) and Ohawe. Archaeologically, the sites were in good to reasonable conservation condition, but many face quite difficult weed invasion problems. The vine weed (*Araujia*), for example, is dominant on the slopes of Kahuwera and will prevent native regeneration. Tumbling swards of kikuyu now cover many sites in the Bay of Islands and obscure their features as well as being a potential fire risk. In the south Kevin and Philip were startled to learn that Mapoutahi had been burned in management efforts a few years earlier. A small stand of broom will spread from this practice, unless it is eradicated. On Banks Peninsula, there is a potential problem of gully erosion and slumping of the loess covering.

Recent local matters in which DOC archaeological staff have been involved include the Paremata moahunter site, Old Government Buildings, the proposed Te Marua-Kaitoke Bypass, Paraparaumu cell phone sites, East Harbour Regional Park, and the draft Wellington City District Plans. Porirua Museum has been working on historic places in the local District Plan and has been monitoring a service trench being dug at Plimmerton for any signs of settlements known to have been located in that area.

The local archaeological group has made a submission on the review of research at Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. The submission expressed concern at the way the Museum's curatorial and research roles had been downgraded. It criticised recent developments which had seen exhibition work for the new building increasingly being done at the expense of all other functions.

Tony Walton, DOC

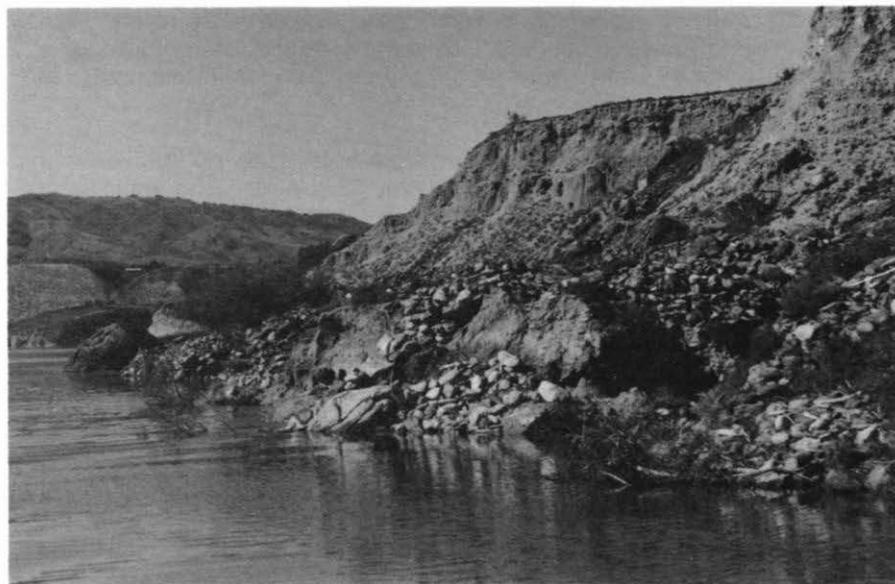
## **LAKE DUNSTAN, OTAGO**

Kevin Jones recently visited Lake Dunstan (behind the Clyde dam), just recently raised to its full operating level. The main areas of archaeological sites lie in three areas: the Cromwell gorge (between Cromwell and Clyde), the Cromwell plains and the Bannockburn area to the south-west, and the lower end of the Kawarau gorge.

At the bottom of the gorges are low terraces not much more than 25 m



**Stable tailings on the slightly sloping surface of the gorge terrace, about 1 km below Cromwell.**



**Collapsing tailings on the terrace scarp about 1.5 km upstream from the new Bannockburn bridge.**



General view of the western side of the Bannockburn arm of Lake Dunstan.

above the river bed. These were extensively sluiced from the 1860s. In the Cromwell gorge, the tailing areas have been completely flooded. From about 1 km below Cromwell to the upper end of the Bannockburn flats, the low terrace tailings are partly emergent at the lake operating level. Any tailings with slopes greater than about  $25^\circ$  have suffered slumping, with particularly noticeable loss of small points where tailings lines have been washed away. The characteristic profile is a surface of large rounded boulders with a steep scarp of gravels up to 3 m high down to the water. The slow filling of the lake and the water saturation of gravels means that probably all such tailings have collapsed in the course of filling. In the area just down stream of Cromwell, in the upper part of the gorge, the water level lies just on the top of the gently sloping terrace. Here tailings have stayed reasonably stable and can be viewed quite readily from a boat.

Antique charm is provided by some stabilised stone ruins of the old Cromwell town in the strand line. Beaches have formed around these and they appear to have good prospects as curiosities. Of no charm at all is the planting of willows to stabilise some gravel shorelines.

In the lower part of the Kawarau gorge, the lake runs to a point about 500 m below the commercial Kawarau Goldmining Centre (a unit of the Otago Goldfields Park). The site manager, Peter Egerton, reports that sub-fossil moa bone is washing out of the terrace scarps (up to 15 m high) collapsing into the lake here.

Most of the old Clutha/Kawarau River valley is now a long, narrow lake. In the open lake area of the old Lowburn vicinity, no trace of the fine early 20th century dredge tailings are to be seen.

Kevin Jones, DOC