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FIELD WORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

After the stimulation of the NZAA Conference in Whangarei, DOC staff could not confine their efforts entirely to paper shuffling over the winter months. Consequently we have been involved with several brief periods of field work including a preliminary investigation of William William's ruins, Paihia, undertaken by Vanessa Bunton of Auckland University as part of her M.A. research, and with the excavation of a well at Okiato, the site of the first Government House.

The Rev. William William's stone house is the last remaining visible evidence of the Paihia Mission Station. Although it was burnt down in the 1850s some parts are still standing. Unfortunately these have deteriorated significantly in recent months largely due to vandalism. The initial excavation has revealed floorboards in one area of the building, a compact earth floor in another and interior wall and numerous domestic artefacts. It has also clearly established the high archaeological potential of the site.

As yet the well at Okiato has proved less productive mainly because it has been used as a rubbish receptacle for the last 150 years. After the removal of fill to a depth of 10m artefacts from the 1940s were beginning to appear, but at this point the work had to be temporarily abandoned as time allocated to the project had been used up. How much additional digging will be required to unearth those of the 1830s and 40s is still a matter of conjecture but completion of the excavation is planned for the coming summer.

Other field work in the summer of 1994-95 will include surveys of the Towai area of Whangaroa and of Pataua to the east of Whangarei at the request of the tangata whenua. Both of these areas are adjacent to DOC reserves, therefore the surveys will provide a broader understanding of archaeological sites administered by the Conservancy.

During recent months several conservation programmes have been initiated on DOC land. Work on the early Kerikeri Hydro-Electric Station is in progress. The local electricity board, 'Top Energy,' has assisted with restoration of the original turbine, presently located at Kaikohe, and if possible this extremely heavy piece of machinery will be transported to Kerikeri by helicopter when a 1080 possum drop takes place at Puketi Forest. An interesting example of how DOC's conservation projects can be integrated.

Remedial work is also underway at Mongonui Courthouse, an excellent example of a small 19th century courthouse and one of the very few historic buildings administered by the Northland Conservancy. When the carpentry has been completed there are plans to expose the original surface of the yard,

found during test excavations at the rear of the building, to add to the authenticity of the site. Another current project is the production of interpretive panels for the Bream Bay Reserve on the Whangarei Harbour. These will include graphic reconstructions of Maori whare and storage pits, and show pre-European methods of fishing and shellfish gathering.

Once again DOC staff would like to thank all the volunteers and Task Force Green workers who have assisted in recent projects.

Joan Maingay, DOC

BAY OF PLENTY

In June Nick Tupara from the Historic Places Trust visited Rotorua to continue the monitoring programme on the Kaingaroa and Tarawera Rock Art sites. With his specialist advice conservation plans have been written to guide the future management of those sites. In the last few weeks New Zealand Forest Corp. has removed their remaining Douglas Fir trees from the covenant area of the Kaingaroa Rock Art site after consultation with DOC.

A considerable number of wooden artefacts, including bird troughs, palisade posts and a river waka, are stored by DOC at the Te Ikawhenua Field Centre, Murupara. Many of these artefacts were adopted from the Forest Service while others have been deposited or given to the Department for storage and safe keeping over many years. In the past an inventory of the artefacts was collated and artefacts were registered with the Department of Internal Affairs. In the last few weeks a meeting has been held with Ngati Manawa to hear their wishes for the future care and storage of their taonga. Photographs, measurements and assessments of their condition were made and sent to Dilys Johns at the Anthropology Department, Auckland University for initial advice on consolidation and restoration possibilities.

In April of this year a survey was carried out at Te Panui Pa, Opo Bay on Tuhua (Mayor Island). The Tuhua Trust Board have plans to build a marae on the main headland west of Opo Bay and the location and extent of archaeological remains in this area was to be determined. Further archaeological survey is proposed on Tuhua later in the year.

Earthworks for the laying of stormwater drains along Spring Street in the centre of Tauranga have been monitored by Des Kahotea. Leather remains were recovered from a stable previously located in this area. What was very clear during the monitoring was the original road level, predominantly well below the present level of Spring Street.

Conservation work on the Piako County Tramway, Waiorongomai Valley,

in the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park continues following the Conservation Plan Part A. This has involved vegetation clearance on the second level, Butlers Incline, and the third level, and the removal of accumulated fill and slips from around the rails and sleepers on the second level. The Rand Drill Co. Compressor has been lifted by heavy lift helicopter from Diamond Creek due to the threat of being swept down stream in flood. The compressor has been placed above the Diamond Creek at the junction to the New Era Battery, as close as possible to its original context, but in a safe location. A conservation plan will be developed for the compressor and interpretation will be provided to explain its new location and original function. An abandoned ore-wagon was also recovered and will undergo conservation treatment.

Work has started in the Okere Falls Scenic Reserve to record the European historic resources. Of particular interest is the remains of the Okere Falls Power Station, which began operation in May 1901. After specialist advice a conservation plan will be completed to guide the future management of the power plant remains.

A conservation plan for Te Tapiri Pa in the Whirinaki Forest Park has been completed with the help of Kevin Jones at DOC, Science and Research in Wellington. This site has been damaged twice in the past by production forestry operations in adjoining land and restored subsequently in 1988.

Kim Tatton, DOC

EAST COAST

Long term planning for the protection and management of historic resources seems to have been the focus in the East Coast Conservancy with ongoing development of the CMS document - and a regional historic resources strategy.

A submission on the conservation of the Manganuku Bridge was completed for the Carter Holt Harvey Heritage Awards.

The Gisborne City Council recently placed an interim heritage order on the old Eastern Co-op building. However, development of Gisborne City is putting many historic buildings and associated archaeological sites under threat.

Pam Bain, DOC

WELLINGTON

The Wellington Archaeological group began the process of mapping the Mataitaua/St Albans site in May. This site at Pauatahanui has been a Ngati Ira

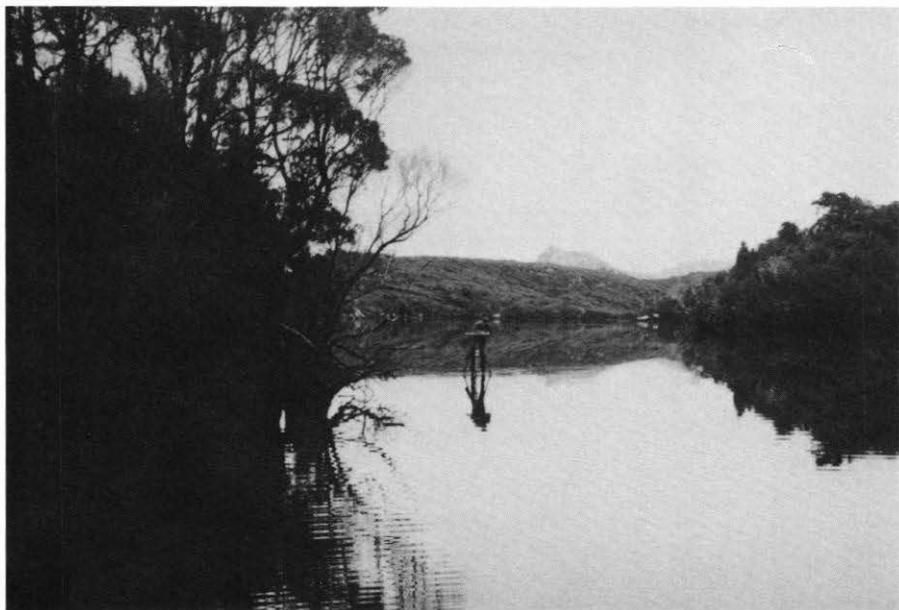
pa, Te Rangihaeata's Matai-Taua gunfighter pa of 1846, a British Stockade and a church and cemetery (the latter since 1857). Work will continue on this complex and difficult project when the weather fines up.

Pat Stodart, ex Porirua Museum, now at Wanganui Museum

OTAGO

Despite the lack of reports in recent issues, there has been considerable archaeological activity in Otago this year. In March the Anthropology Department's field school took place at German Hill, an 1860s goldmining township near Poolburn in the Ida Valley. Excavations concentrated on two hut or tent sites and an area of metal-working activity that may have been a smithy.

Goldmining sites have also been the focus of site survey and assessment work undertaken by Peter Petchey at Earnsclough, and at Murphey's Creek, Macreas Flat. Jill Hamel will soon be conducting excavations of four house floors at Murphy's Creek threatened by expansion of the Macreas mine. Jill has recently prepared interpretation panels for goldmining features at Bannockburn and Bendigo, and completed a large report on the Earnsclough area for the Department of Conservation's P.N.A. programme, and another as part of the



Proving that Otago graduates can work/walk on water - Peter Bristow surveying at Port Pegasus, Stewart Island in March 1994.

Pastoral Tenure Review dealing with leases along the eastern face of the Rock and Pillar Range. A site survey in the latter area revealed no new Maori sites, but did locate some previously unrecorded silcrete sources.

Rick McGovern-Wilson and Peter Bristow conducted survey and excavation work at an 1826 ship-building site at Port Pegasus on Stewart Island, and Rick is currently leading a team conducting excavations on house sites and mining features to be destroyed by new mining developments near Reefton.

Farther afield, Richard Walter has begun a large research project on the archaeology of Niue. A preliminary survey was undertaken in May, and several sites were excavated during June. Further excavations are planned for the summer.

Ian Smith, Otago University

SIZE OF CENTRAL FILE as of 31 March 1994

On 31 March 1994 the Central File held a total of 47,215 records. This is an increase of 1134 on last year's figure of 46,081. This represents an increase of about 2.5%

Regional totals are as follows:

Region	1993	1994	Change
Northland	8506	8687	+181
Auckland	7079	7379	+300
Coromandel	4095	4213	+118
Waikato	2290	2473	+183
Bay of Plenty	6373	6373	
Taupo	310	311	+ 1
East Coast	2576	2580	+ 4
Taranaki	1434	1438	+ 4
Inland Patea	292	292	
Hawkes Bay	1418	1540	+122
Wanganui	629	629	
Wellington	911	934	+ 23
Nelson	1365	1374	+ 9
Marlborough	476	472	- 4
Canterbury	1117	1130	+ 13
West Coast	824	853	+ 29
Otago	2251	2346	+ 95
Central Otago	1961	1977	+ 16
Southland	1367	1407	+ 40
Outlying Islands	<u>807</u>	<u>807</u>	
	<u>46081</u>	<u>47215</u>	<u>+ 1134</u>
Summary:			
North Island files	35913	36849	+936
South Island files	9361	9559	+198
Outlying Islands	<u>807</u>	<u>807</u>	
	<u>46081</u>	<u>47215</u>	<u>+ 1134</u>

Count based on metric boundaries, most of which are now in use.

A. Walton, 31 March 1994