



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NORTHLAND

Northland Conservancy has been extremely fortunate this year in having the assistance of Eloise Barter as the best qualified volunteer imaginable. Eloise was formerly Senior Archaeologist with the California Parks Board. She is in New Zealand for two years and is enthusiastically taking part in a wide range of our activities including conservation planning, surveys and excavations. She has also completed an inventory of artifacts and materials from the Kaikohe wetland referred to in the June issue. Carbon dates of  $220 \pm 50$  BP on seeds from the site have been received from the University of Waikato. This is of particular interest as it the period associated with the great expansion of Ngapuhi through the Bay of Islands.

Work on DOC land during the last few months has included the relocation of a road that previously ran across part of Te Rea Rea Pa at Mimiwhangata. Archaeological monitoring of brown teal dams has also taken place in this area, and Adrienne Slocombe has conducted groups of DOC staff around a selection of the numerous sites there during a recent field day. Adrienne has also completed a photographic history of Mangonui Courthouse in two elegant leather bound volumes to be displayed in the renovated building.

Plans for improvements at Arai-te-Uru Reserve in the Hokianga are progressing. Self-seeded pines and macrocarpas will be felled in the New Year and we have completed an instrumental survey of the area that will be affected. This has been undertaken to help ensure that historical features will not be damaged when the trees are removed.

An unscheduled survey has been made of Puwheke Beach as the area could be affected by a proposed subdivision of a property lying adjacent to this strip of DOC land. Fifteen large midden sites were recorded within the dunes. A survey of Great Island, the largest island of Manawatawhi (Three Kings), has been planned for some time and at last is to take place in the immediate future. The island contains extensive evidence of Maori occupation and agriculture recorded briefly by Bruce Hayward in 1983. Four days will be spent on the island during this visit so there will] be an opportunity to produce more detailed plans of sites and assess their present condition.

Last month two of our staff attended a Conservation Planning Conference in Auckland. This was a valuable experience. There was a very strong bias toward architecture but an excellent paper by Aidan Challis provided a refreshing archaeological perspective. Appreciative comments on his paper were made by a wide range of people. Rachael Egerton from Southland Conservancy was also at the conference. She followed this with a week spent with us in Northland toiling up Mt Manaia amongst other scenic and historic wonder. We thoroughly

enjoyed having her and comparing the vast differences of working in the Deep South and the Far North.

Joan Maingay, DOC

## AUCKLAND

No news from the Auckland Conservancy in the last few issues has not, in this case, been good news. A recent internal Historic Resources Review carried out by the Department resulted in recommendations that (among other things) staffing levels be reduced to three in the Auckland Conservancy. We have lost Russell Foster and Leigh Johnson, both of whom have worked for the Department from the beginning. They have now set up (independently) as archaeological consultants and the rest of us wish them every success. The team now consists of David Veart, Robert Brassey, Brenda Sewell, and myself, some of us working on a part-time basis.

The Auckland Conservancy's archaeological involvement outside the conservation estate has been gradually decreasing since the introduction of the Historic Places Act 1993. In line with the Department's National Historic Heritage Strategy (1995), which signals a reduction in our role off the estate, we no longer carry out cost recovery work. There are still some unpublished investigations outstanding, however, and those reports will be completed as soon as possible. This year Russell Foster and Brenda Sewell finished a major report on the excavation of the 19th century Maori settlement of Papahinu; Dave Veart completed a survey report on Puketutu Island; and Brenda Sewell produced a survey report on Ambury Park - all South Auckland sites (see Recent Reports section below for details of the reports).

Our withdrawal from this kind of work is less of a problem in Auckland than it could be in some other areas, as we are now plentifully supplied with archaeological consultants. But the consultancy system has its own problems, one of them being the availability of information gained from surveys and excavations. Where excavations are carried out, the Trust will hold a copy of the report, but this may be the only copy available, and no one apart from the Trust and the consultant will necessarily be aware of its existence. Where surveys are carried out by consultants in connection with RMA applications, the information will generally, but not always, be fed into the NZAA site recording scheme, and it is up to the consultant (who presumably requires the permission of the client) whether or not a report is supplied along with the site record forms. How to ensure that this information is accessible is something which perhaps both the Trust and the NZAA could consider.

Sarah Macready, DOC

## **EAST COAST**

Consistent input into the statutory planning process using a predictive model has led to an increase in archaeological survey contract work in the district, and positive results for heritage protection. Gisborne District Council, NZHPT, DOC and local iwi are working together to initiate a long term heritage inventory programme. A heritage order placed on a building by Gisborne District Council recently went to a planning tribunal hearing. The heritage order was strongly upheld.

The Institute of Professional Engineers (IPENZ) have recently received a grant from the Lotteries Board to complete work on the Category 1, Tauranga Bridge. Work on the bridge should begin in November.

The Department of Conservation has recently completed a draft conservation plan for the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve. There are a range of interesting issues related to this site including its position in an industrial environment, the 'Cone of Vision' and its increased use and profile.

Pam Bain, DOC

## **WELLINGTON**

Aidan Challis is now part of the Historic Resources Unit at Head Office, following the most recent review of historic resources in the Department. The first official national gathering of Department of Conservation historic resources staff since the Department was established in 1987 takes place in Wellington in mid November.

Fieldwork undertaken by Science & Research archaeologists since the last report includes research on garden soils at Papamoa near Tauranga, a management-orientated inspection of Waitaha pa (S22/44) near Wanganui, and aerial photography of sites near Wanganui and in Central Otago. Further mapping of the Opepe historic reserve is scheduled for December.

A group of archaeologists from Wellington travelled to Wanganui on Labour Weekend to continue work at the 19th century town site on Ridgeway Street (R22/248) previously investigated by Rod Clough. A building under demolition was the focus of the excavation but the original ground surface proved to have been cut away when the building was constructed some 90 years ago.

The terms of reference for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's review of the system of historical and cultural heritage management are expected to be finalised in December, with the final report due by mid-1996.

Tony Walton, DOC