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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

AUCKLAND

Amanda Young, one of the new Historic Places Trust archaeologists for the Auckland-Northland region, has just started work, and will be joined soon by Kim Tatton-Brown, on a job share basis. It is a big step in the right direction to have a Trust regional archaeologist once more, and we wish them good luck in the job (and the juggling act).

The Auckland Regional Council continues to provide short-term employment for a number of archaeologists on cultural heritage inventory and assessment work, and Sarah Ross has joined ARC Environment on a year's contract. The ARC was the one organisation that came out of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report on cultural heritage management in New Zealand smelling of roses (deservedly) and has a cultural heritage management budget which is the envy of its poor relations in the Department of Conservation and the Trust.

For the last 2-3 years the University of Auckland has, during its field school, carried out detailed mapping of archaeological sites on most of Motutapu for incorporation into a GIS, which will be very useful for management and other purposes, and has also undertaken limited excavation, partly as a cross check on conductivity survey work. If a third season eventuates in 1997 it will complete the mapping project.

Here at the Department we have achieved some fieldwork over the last few months, including detailed recording and assessment of the historic copper industry remains at Miner's Head, Great Barrier Island, by Robert Brassey and Brenda Sewell, and further assessments of some of the areas of Motutapu set aside for planting. A report on the Hawkins Hill excavations has now been published (details below). Otherwise we have a plethora of conservation plans in various stages of completion, including the Kawau Smeltinghouse, the Kawau wharf, Mansion House Valley, the Tiritiri Matangi lighthouse area, the North Head Summit Buildings, the remainder of North Head, and the Kaiarara Dam. A volunteer, Peter Corbett, working with Dave Veart, has completed some extremely detailed research on the World War II 9.2 inch counter bombardment batteries at Stony Batter, Waiheke Island, and Whangaparaoa, which is in the process of publication. And of course a lot of effort has gone into our draft Auckland Conservancy Historic Resources Strategy and Register of Actively Managed Historic Places, which outline what we will be doing for the next 10 years or so.

Sarah Macready (DoC)

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WAIKATO-COROMANDEL

The Department of Conservation's Waikato Conservancy has been reviewing public safety at various historic sites. As a result several possible hazards have been identified, mainly at historic mining sites. Remedial work is being prioritised and will be implemented in FY 1996.

Owen Wilkes, the Waikato filekeeper, commenced work in May in a half time capacity with the Historic Resources section, Waikato Conservancy. His first major job has been researching the history of the Cuvier Island lighthouse settlement and the Cuvier Island radar station (Naval Station No. 4). Five of the seven remaining buildings which comprise the Cuvier lighthouse settlement have now been restored.

With the completion of the conservation plan on the Christmas Creek kauri dam, planning is underway for the remedial work and treatment of the dam structure. The Christmas Creek dam, with much of its original face planking still in-situ is believed to be the most complete of its type in the country.

The "Kaimanawa wall" was the big news in May. A paper on the Department of Conservation's investigation is published in this issue of *Archaeology in New Zealand*.

Neville Ritchie, DoC

EAST COAST

A two day seminar on Archaeology and Planning was recently held in Gisborne. It was co-ordinated by Gordon Jackman with input from Victoria Grouden, Nick Tupaia, Pam Bain and Dave Robson of the Historic Places Trust. The seminar was attended by staff from the Gisborne District Council, iwi, forestry developers and Waitangi Tribunal researchers. The range of participants made for a lively and informative two days.

Further seminars are planned for a range of interest groups and will in future include a field trip.

Pam Bain, DoC

TARANAKI

After reading Owen Wilkes' review of F.L. Phillips Vol 2 'Landmarks of Tainui', (see review in *Archaeology in New Zealand* Vol. 39, No. 2, June 1996. pp. 149-153) an exercise to check the Taranaki references was undertaken. Not surprisingly this confirms Owen Wilkes' findings. Of 32 sites mentioned in the text or illustrated in plates, 21 were found to

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be either wrongly named in the annotations to the plates, wrongly spelt, had wrong map numbers or wrong grid references.

It is a great misfortune that Phillips' research and photographs so splendidly displayed should be marred by these inaccuracies. It is a tragedy that the mistakes are so permanently recorded. A list of the corrections has been passed on to Owen Wilkes and is also lodged with the Taranaki Site Recording file at the Taranaki Museum.

Alastair Buist

WELLINGTON

Porirua Museum opened an exhibition on 25 July entitled '1846: military manoeuvres and the politics of power'. The exhibition is concerned with land issues in the district 150 years ago when there was fighting in the Hutt Valley, and Te Rauparaha was arrested. Te Rangihaeata fortified and abandoned Mataitawa Pa, and fought the forces pursuing him at Battle Hill. The exhibition was put together by Pat Stodart and uses contemporary paintings and artefacts, the latter including nephrite mere, muskets, and a shattered cannon-ball from Battle Hill. The exhibition runs to 1 December.

Numbers of Department of Conservation historic resources staff attended a departmental workshop at Ohope Beach, following Whakatane Conference, to learn more on the practical side of the management of historic sites, particularly vegetation management.

Warren Gumbley, under contract to Science & Research Division, Department of Conservation, mapped archaeological features in four Taranaki Historic Reserves (Okoki, Urenui, Tapuinikau, and Puketarata) in late June and early July. The maps, and an accompanying text, are currently being prepared for publication.

In late June, Bruce McFadgen undertook mapping at Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve (Taranaki) using high precision GPS equipment. The project will provide an accurate topographical plan which can be used as baseline data for measuring changes in the reserve. Bruce has also been involved in assessing the archaeological significance of Clifford Bay, site of a proposed new terminus for the Cook Strait ferries.

Viv Rickard and, more recently, Ian Barber have joined the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to administer the archaeological provisions of the legislation. They recently spent two days discussing site protection issues with iwi and the Tasman District Council. Before joining the Trust, Ian was involved in monitoring the Pohara sewerage scheme in Golden Bay. Anne

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Geelen has left the Trust and Dave Robson now heads the Maori heritage unit.

Susan Forbes has completed a survey of the immediate environs of Lake Horowhenua for the local iwi who are now proceeding with the revegetation of the margins of the lake.

Tony Walton, DoC

OTAGO

A few hardy archaeologists have conducted fieldwork in Central Otago over the winter months. Ian Smith and Jenny Stone undertook a survey at Gorge Creek to relocate the 1860s township of Chamouni, and Peter Petchey has continued surveys of goldmining sites in the Macraes area and at Earnsclough Flats. Jill Hamel has examined sites in the upper Nevis valley, which include remains of early hydro-electric power generation, and goldmining sites along the Arrow river."

Ian Smith
Anthropology Department
University of Otago

SOUTHLAND

On May 15 a party of hunters who were walking a remote beach on Stewart Island discovered an elaborately carved section of wood partially exposed in the tidal zone. The discovery was reported to the Department of Conservation and on May 22 a party of Iwi and Department of Conservation representatives, the Southland Museum and Art Gallery Director and myself flew to the site. After proper Maori protocol was observed, we retrieved the artefact and brought it back to the Te Rau Aroha Marae at Bluff for a formal welcome and inspection for possible conservation treatment.

As the Southland Museum and Art Gallery does not currently employ a conservator, we initially consulted with the Otago Museum conservator Francois Leurquin, who made a quick visit to inspect the artefact and assisted with advice.

The following day we removed the artefact to the Southland Museum and Art Gallery and placed it in a temporary bath of fresh water. Dilys Johns (a Conservator who specialises in the preservation of wet organic material) from the Anthropology Department, University of Auckland, flew down to make a detailed assessment. Her recommendation was that the artefact be specially packed and delivered to the Anthropology Department's Conservation

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Laboratory for specialised treatment. Some weeks later it was accompanied on its journey to Auckland by representatives of all Murihiku Runanga and the Museum Director, Russell Beck.

Initially the artefact was thought to be a canoe sternpost but closer inspection suggests that it is a prow. This is based on the angle of attachment of the proximal end (which would position it leaning out closer to the waterline than a 'high-rise' sternpost) and the forward orientation of the carving. Ninety percent of the artefact appears to be intact and to date it is the most elaborate carving yet to have been recovered from Murihiku. The positioning of its chevrons and central 'eye' suggest that it is a manaia. Its rolling interconnected double spirals are beautifully executed and give it a most distinctive appearance. Its length is 1.3 metres.

The prow was discovered directly adjacent to site D49/28. I previously visited this site on two separate occasions (without discovering any canoe parts!) to recover, identify and reinter several Polynesian burials (unpublished NZHPT reports, Gillies 1989, 1994). Located in a small sheltered bay, remains of the site are visible as long lenses of midden and blackened sand eroding out of a curved line of slumping beach dunes. No artefacts (or radiocarbon dates) have ever been recovered from this site.

At this early juncture I will confine myself to one of my media comments "...it could be up to several hundred years old; with Ngai Tahu, Ngati Mamoe, Waitaha connections". Two basic possibilities present themselves - either it is directly provenanced to site D49/28 and has perhaps eroded out from it, or at some other location it parted company with its parent canoe and subsequently drifted to the beach.

I have registered the prow with the Department of Internal Affairs (Z.4566) and custody has been granted to the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. It is a magnificent carving and we look forward to its eventual return to Southland after Dilys has finished her important conservation treatment to stabilise its condition.

Karl Gillies
Collections Manager
Southland Museum & Art Gallery

OCEANIA

In June, the second fieldwork phase of the New Georgia archaeology project was carried out in the Roviana region of New Georgia, Western Province, Solomon Islands. Peter Sheppard, Matt Felgate and Martin Jones (Centre For

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Archaeological Research, University of Auckland), Richard Walter (Anthropology Department, University of Otago) and Mr Kenneth Roga (Ministry of Culture, Western Province) spent four weeks surveying ceramic sites along the edges of the offshore islands of the Roviana lagoon, and carrying out test excavations in selected rockshelters. About 15 sites and several settlements with associated shrines and ceremonial complexes were mapped bringing the total number of sites recorded to 50, of which nine have ceramics. Matt Felgate remained in the Solomons for 3 additional weeks and surveyed an area in the interior of New Georgia (Vinakiki region) he will be returning to the field with Kenneth Roga in September, to be joined by other members of the team in mid 1997.

In July, Charles Higham visited Thailand briefly to liaise with his Thai counterparts in the Origins of Angkor project, and to organise the upcoming fieldseason scheduled to commence in December. Some details of the Angkor project are now available on the internet via the Origins of Angkor Home Page accessible through Otago University at http://www.otago.ac.nz/Web_menus/Dept_Homepages/anthropology/-angkor1.html. As part of the Origins of Angkor project, Dougald O'Reilly (University of Otago) has been excavating the site of Nong Muang Kao with Nigel Chang (also at University of Otago). The Nong Muang Kao excavations form the fieldwork component for Dougald's Ph.D. research and he will be returning to Thailand in October to complete the excavation and to undertake laboratory analysis of material culture from that site in the Phimai Fine Arts Department.

Between July 31st and August 6th the "Western Pacific, 5000 to 2000 BP: Colonisations and Transformations" conference was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The conference was jointly organised by the Vanuatu National Museum, ANU and ORSTOM. The conference attracted what was probably one of the largest contingents of Pacific archaeologists ever to meet. In addition to the papers, participants visited the Mangaasi site as well as the Roy Mata complex on Retoka Island. On these fieldtrips we were accompanied by Jose Garanger, the pioneer of Vanuatu archaeology who first excavated these two sites.

Papers delivered at the conference included the following, abstracts or reprints are available for browsing from the Otago Anthropology Library or from participating staff members at Auckland or Otago.

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| Chazine, J.M. | Unraveling and reading the past in Borneo |
| Irwin, G. | Recent fieldwork on Gebe Island, Eastern Melanesia |
| Sheppard, P. | Report on a ceramic sequence from New Georgia, Solomon Islands |
| Weisler, M. | Origins, development and transformation of Marshallese Society: summary of a multi-year |

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- Marshallese Society: summary of a multi-year investigation
- Gorecki, P. Early pottery from two rockshelters near Vanimo, PNG some stratigraphic and chronological considerations
- Bulmer, S. On the origins of Southern Papua Red-Slip pottery and its possible relationship to Lapita
- Kauffman, C. North New Guinea traditions of pottery making in a wider perspective
- Bickler, S. Early prehistoric pottery exchange along the south coast of PNG and implications for models of exchange
- Williams, C. Results of the faunal analysis of the Pamwak Rockshelter excavation, Manus Island, PNG
- Matisoo-Smith, L. Rodents of the sunrise: MtDNA phylogenies of Polynesian *Rattus exulans*
- Terrell, J. Lapita for Winners OR Getting off the Lapita merry-go-round and living without compulsive habits
- Lilley, I. Identifying and modeling Lapita migration patterns in Northwest Melanesia
- Specht, J. Interaction spheres, exchange networks, and other mysteries of Lapita
- Green, R. From heterarchy to hierarchy: possible linguistic clues to leadership positions and social structure in Lapita Society
- Kirch, P. Lapita, the phylogenetic model and holistic archaeology
- Shutler, R. The relationship(s) of Lime-Imprinted pottery of Micronesia and the Philippines with the Lapita of Near and Remote Oceania
- Burley, D. Old ideas and changing perspectives on Eastern Lapita in Tonga
- Smith, A. What happens to Lapita in Western Polynesia
- Steadman, D. The Lapita overkill of the southwest Pacific, blitzkrieg versus slow death
- Hope, G. Settlement, fire histories and vegetation change in Fiji, New Caledonia and Vanuatu, Guadalcanal and New Ireland
- Van Dijk, N. Aspects of the biological populations of Pacific populations
- Visser, E and M. Green Morphological and metrical comparisons between Lapita skeletons and the Sigatoka remains
- Valentin, F. On the human settlement of New Caledonia: some physical anthropological perspectives
- Sinoto, Y. Was there a Pre-Lapita, Japanese Jomon, Cord-

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- Spriggs, M. Marked occupation in Vanuatu?
The stratigraphy of the Ponamla site, northwest Erromanga, suggested evidence for 2700 year old stone structures
- Bedford, S. Lapita and post-Lapita ceramic sequences from Erromanga, Southern Vanuatu
- Spriggs, M. The ANU Vanuatu archaeology project, 1994-6: Overview and progress report.
- Sand, C. Reassessment of the chronology and significance of Lapita pottery in the ceramic chronology of Kone period in New Caledonia
- Frimigacci, D. and J.P. Siorat. Where have the Lapita potters of Nessadiou gone?
- Siorat, J.P. The Lapita pottery of Nessadiou
- Semah, A.M. The valley of Koumac, New Caledonia: excavation in a cave site NKM004
- Forestier, H. Concept and method in lithic production during pre-European times in New Caledonia
- Galipaud, J.C. What impressions? Paddle Impressed pottery of New Caledonia and Fiji
- Clark, J. Field report: archaeological investigations on Totoya Island, Fiji
- Anson, D. Compositional analysis of dentate stamped Lapita and Nail-Incised and Applied-Relief pottery from Watom Island
- Ambrose, W. Contradictions in Lapita pottery technology
- Coote, K and C. Sand The conservation of Lapita pottery: Ignore it at your peril
- Gulson, B. Pb and Sr isotope composition of human dental enamel as an indicator of ancient Pacific islander population dynamics
- Phelan, M. Fashionably late: a reexamination of Radiocarbon dates associated with dentate stamped Lapita pottery
- Pavrides, C. Transformations in stone: characterising the structure and organisation of Holocene tool assemblages in the rain forests of West New Britain
- Halsey, A. Characterising flaked obsidian technology during the Lapita period: implications for models of resource maximisation and exchange
- Burke, C. and Sorovi, T. Current status of the Archaeology Department at the Fiji Museum
- Moore, D. and R. Hunter-Anderson. Transitional calcareous tempered ware in the Marianas ceramic sequence
- Rainbird, P. The use of landscape in identifying potential

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| Intoh, M. | sources of Caroline Island colonisation |
| Marck, J. | Cultural contacts between Micronesia and Melanesia |
| | Summary of a recent thesis on Polynesian language
and culture history |
| Lynch, J. | Southern Oceanic linguistic prehistory |