



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NORTHLAND

Those of you who have worked in the Far North will almost certainly have had contact with Vic Hensley. Vic has been of great help to DoC staff and has joined in a wide variety of our projects. We are pleased to report that he has just been elected as Chairperson of the Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust and is already putting a great deal of energy and enthusiasm into his new position. Another member of the HPT Committee has been recently acclaimed for her part in relatively recent history. Neva Clark-McKenna (alias Fred Dagg's mum) has taken part in a television programme concerning the roles of women during WWII and she has now published a book on her experiences during these war years. Northland Conservancy will be presenting copies of the book to Conservation Award winners this year, one of whom is Neva herself.

A further HPT change involves the employment of Kim Tatton and Amanda Young who are working in combination as a composite archaeologist for the Auckland and Northland regions - a massive task with minimal funding. They have our best wishes but we don't envy them the job.

James Robinson is currently undertaking a survey of the Whakaangi area. This lies between Whangaroa and Mongonui Harbours and consists of eleven blocks of DoC land plus adjoining Maori land and private properties. The survey is at the request of tangata whenua and European landowners and both local people and university students are taking part. Simon Hodge has been surveying the Whangarei East coast from Matapouri to just south of Mimiwhangata as part of his M.A. thesis. According to a local legend many of the sites in this area were first recorded by Garry Law during his honeymoon in the 1960s. It looks as though I shall get back to the Three Kings again early in December; sorry NO there won't be any spare seats in the helicopter. The time spent there last year was long enough to whet the appetite but inadequate for a systematic survey so a whole week on Manawa Tawhi (Great Island) could prove really valuable.

Finally we've had a visit from Bill Bussell of Unitech, Auckland, who is involved in research into growing indigenous varieties of taro with Maori people in the Kaikohe area. From his recent experience in checking recorded taro sites he considers that the red stemmed variety is now endangered in the wild so if anyone comes across any new sites I'm sure he would be very interested to hear about them.

Joan Maingay, DoC

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### BAY OF PLENTY

After many years in the wilderness, Rick McGovern-Wilson has seen the light and has recently joined DoC as the Conservancy Archaeologist for the Bay of Plenty. Both parties are still coming to grips with this change!

Yet another pa has been blitzed in the eastern Bay of Plenty, and yet again the HPT turn a blind eye to the damage claiming a lack of legal funds to be the reason. In this latest case, on the shores of the Ohiwa Harbour, a land developer roared around with a bulldozer destroying about 70-80% of the pa and much of the associated kainga, along with a series of pits and terraces further along the ridge system. It is hoped the Regional Council may prosecute as he didn't have any earthworks consents either.

In late November there was a volunteer weekend doing vegetation management on Te Tapiri Redoubt. This is on the edge of the escarpment overlooking Kaingaroa Forest (great views !!!), south of Murupara, and was built in May 1865 by Ngati Manawa to prevent Ngati Whare and Tuhoë adherents of Pai Marire under Kereopa crossing onto the plains below. It is one of 5 pa which were built for this particular engagement. The pa came to national attention in 1988 when ForestCorp drove a bulldozer through the northeastern transverse breastwork as part of a fire-break. The damaged section was reconstructed under Kevin Jones direction only to have ForestCorp do the same thing in 1992. Ngati Manawa have subsequently sued ForestCorp for \$4M and claimed the pa back as part of their Waitangi claim. Until that is all settled it is one of my actively managed sites, and we are gradually clearing all the rubbish off it and establishing more 'pa friendly' vegetation.

In response to large-scale and constant pressure of development, Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga District Councils, in conjunction with Ngati Kahu, Ngati Ranganui and Ngaiterangi, are putting together a Heritage Register for Tauranga Moana. I have been attending the hui to provide archaeological input and to make them aware of the NZAA Site Recording Scheme and the work that the Association is doing.

Over the winter there have been a number of gatherings of archaeologists in the backblocks of the Ohiwa Harbour for experiences of the midden sorting type, as we gradually work our way through the 3.5 tonnes which was recovered from the Tokitoki excavations in March. These weekends are usually accompanied by parties and bonfires, and at the last outing Kim Tatton was offered up to be burnt as a 'virgin'. Say no more.

Lynda Bowers and Ken Phillips have formed an unholy alliance, based in the Bay of Plenty, so that is bound to bring increased problems for us all. They

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recently undertook an excavation near the Wairoa River for a proposed house site, and have been working on a number of forestry projects in the region. Ken has recently completed his MA thesis at Auckland, on the 'Settlement History of the Ohiwa Harbour', and has a couple of excavations planned over the summer as ongoing work arising from his thesis. In addition, the Bay of Plenty Midden Project will be continuing as part of my DoC work, and I have testpits and larger excavations planned around Tauranga over the summer.

Finally, I have recently been appointed Bay of Plenty filekeeper for NZAA and ask that all inquiries be directed to me at DoC, PO Box 1146, Rotorua. The Association thanks Bob Regnault excellent and long service with this file.

Rick McGovern-Wilson, DoC

## EAST COAST

The organising group is getting into action to arrange the NZAA Conference 1997 in Gisborne (see announcement in Notes and News).

Victoria Grouden is back from a sojourn in India and has replaced me at DoC while I am on parental leave. She is busy working on a range of tasks including the completion of a covenant for a whaling station at Mahia and a pamphlet for the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve.

Assessment of the conservation needs of the taonga held at the Aniwanuiwa Museum is continuing.

Gordon Jackman has concluded excavation work at the Weddel Kaiti site locating archaeological evidence from moa bone through to modern industrial material. This site may well have been occupied when Cook landed close by in 1769. Only part of the site was excavated. It has now been covered and will be used for log storage.

Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre recently opened a spectacular exhibition on 'C' Company, 28th Maori Battalion. In the last three years the local branch committee of C Company and staff of the Maori Studies Department at Massey University began compiling a history and archive of the Maori Battalion. Recently the archive has been deposited with GMAC who have installed a permanent exhibition as a tribute to the men and their families.

Pam Bain, DoC

## OTAGO

The Anthropology Department at Otago University has a large and vibrant

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group of post-graduate students in archaeology and biological anthropology.

Current thesis research topics include:

PhD: Nigel Chang - Bronze age jewelery from Thailand; Patrick Chapman - Microevolutionary processes in Pacific human biology; Kate Domett - Biological relationships among prehistoric South East Asian populations; Warren Gumbley - Noen U-Loke, an iron age site in North East Thailand; Dougal O'Reilly - Non Muang Kao, an iron age site in North East Thailand.

MA: Matt Bilton - Taphonomy of fish remains from the Marshall Islands; Jacqui Breen - Application of bioanthropological studies to Polynesian prehistory; Amanda Brookes - Ethnoarchaeology of settlement patterns on Mitiaro, Cook Islands; Gretta Burnside - Analysis of fauna from Fa'ahia, Society Islands; Alan Farquharson - Dental palaeopathology from Ban Nadi, Thailand; Karen Fraser - Archaeology of tuna fishing in the Pacific; Dean Grogan - Methods of glass analysis in historical archaeology; Kyle Murdoch - Ethnohistory of Pacific voyaging; Rachel Palmer - Ethnicity and architecture in 19th century South Otago; Melanie Pierson - Mitochondrial DNA in prehistoric Thai skeletal remains; Paul Rivett - GIS analysis of sites in the Phimai region, Thailand; Teresa Smith - Analysis of assemblages from Uki Island, Solomons; Graeme Somerville-Ryan - Taphonomy of shellfish from the Marshall Islands; Tim Thomas - East Polynesian colonisation; Helen Widdicombe - Technology of shell adzes from the Marshall Islands; Ann Wiltshire - Anthropological history of museums.

BA(Hons): Leanne Chiles - Reanalysis of the Aitape cranium, and its place in Pacific prehistory; Jeremy Haberfield-Short - Chronology and rim form at Ban Bon Noen, Thailand; Kirsten Nelson - Enamel hypoplasia in prehistoric Maori and Moriori; Jenny Stone - History and archaeology of Chamouni, Central Otago; Ros Wealthall - Cranial base flexure and facial form in Polynesians; Amanda Wilson - Technological analysis of polished basalt flakes from Pitcairn.

Other 400 -level projects have included: Simon Duff - Analysis of obsidian from W15/582, Ohiwa; Amanda Symon - Analysis of German and Japanese period artefacts from the Marshall Islands; Sarah Talbot - Differential screen size effects on bone from Henderson Island; Amanda Wilson - Differential screen size effects on bone from the Marshall Islands.

Ian Smith  
Anthropology Department  
Otago University

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### OCEANIA

Matthew Felgate has recently returned to New Georgia, Solomon Islands. He has now set up his base in Sasavele village on Roviana Lagoon from where he is carrying out research towards his Ph.D. and as part of the New Georgia Archaeology Project.

At Otago and Auckland preparations are being made for the summer field projects. Charles Higham will be returning with a bunch of students to work in Thailand on the Origins of Angkor Project over the summer break. Marshall Weisler will be continuing his field programme in the Marshall Islands. Richard Walter and Peter Sheppard are returning to the Cook Islands in November to complete the third phase of a stone sourcing project. They will be working on Rarotonga, Ma'uke and Mangaia.

Richard Walter  
Anthropology Department  
Otago University

The Second International Congress on Easter Island and East Polynesian Archaeology was held on Rapanui from 17 to 21 October 1996. The conference was organised by Patricia Vargas Casanova, Claudio Cristiano,



*Conference participants at Anakena, Easter Island, 21st Oct. 1996.*

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Edmundo Edwards, Terangi Cristino Vargas, and Carolina Pimentel Melo and took place 12 years after the first congress in 1984. Most papers focussed on Rapanui archaeology and prehistory, but recent settlement pattern surveys and excavations on Tubuai and Raivavae conducted under the auspices of the Département d'Archéologie du Centre Polynésien des Sciences Humaines, Tahiti, Pat Kirch's work on Maui, Hawaiian Islands, Marshall Weisler's interdisciplinary research on the Mangareva - Pitcairn Group interaction sphere, and Roger Green's overview of East Polynesian languages and artefacts set a broader context for the conference.

Papers were presented in morning and early afternoon sessions followed by discussions held at the end of each day, most of which carried on long into the night. Because the conference was small, with perhaps 30 people in routine attendance, papers were informal and presentation length depended on the speaker. While not a format that is possible at larger conferences, the informal nature of the presentations permitted greater audience participation and discussion.

Visits were made to the major ahu sites, statue quarry, and numerous residential complexes both before and after the conference. It was a rare treat to have been shown these sites by Patricia Vargas, Claudio Cristino, and Edmundo Edwards who - together - have 70 years experience in Rapanui archaeology. The hospitality shown during the week will not soon be forgotten.

Marshall Weisler  
Anthropology Department  
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