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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

At last two long drawn out projects have moved forward. A waterproof protective coat has been applied to the gun emplacement site at Bream Head to save the mural it contains from further deterioration. We hope to have the painting restored this year with funding from a Lottery Grant obtained by the Urquharts Bay Residents Association. Toward the other end of the historic sequence two pa sites at Onepu, generally known to archaeologists as Taumatewhana, have been re-surveyed to include archaeological features previously outside the proposed historic reserve. This was initially recommended by John Coster in 1984!

The trip to the Three Kings Islands was highly eventful. Gear carried under the helicopter fell into the ocean, and while some was rescued by a fishing boat one staff member lost all his personal possessions, including a bottle of whisky which possibly sank his pack. The huge centipedes were again in full force much to the delight of an entomologist from down south but not to the guy who found one in his tent. The paua were also huge - first time I've eaten paua steaks for breakfast. A week's stay this time resulted in accurate drawings of several recorded sites and the discovery of others that were previously unrecorded. Botanists who were covering numerous transects of Great Island at high speed were particularly helpful in site identification.

Years ago now Stan Bartlett and I lobbied the old Whangarei County Council for protection of the stone walls that provide an aesthetic and historic setting for the town. Finally they are receiving some attention owing to the combined efforts of local residents, DoC staff and a Council planner with a genuine interest in history (not a common occurrence in Northland). Sections of walls along the roadside at Kiripaka have been cleared of rank vegetation and

demonstrations held of wall mending and construction techniques. Fortunately the same planner is involved with revision of the Whangarei District Plan and is making every effort to accurately transpose archaeological site locations from the NZAA maps on to district planning maps. One can only hope this sets a precedent for other districts of the North.

Joan Maingay, DoC

AUCKLAND

Robert Brassey and Brenda Sewell recently spent a week on Kawau Island carrying out a small investigation of a terrace site accidentally damaged by a tractor last year. The site was originally thought to be Maori, but some brick was exposed by the tractor, and limited investigation was carried out to determine the extent and nature of the site. Results are not known as yet.

Earlier in the year Robert surveyed Motuora Island and parts of Motuihe. Motuora Island has been proposed for partial revegetation, which will be planned to avoid impacting on archaeological sites. The Motuihe survey was not completed in the time allowed for owing to an unexpectedly high number of unrecorded sites, and will be continued next year.

We have recently published a detailed archival report on the World War 2 defences at Stony Batter and Whangaparaoa by Peter Corbett, a volunteer researcher working for the Conservancy - 'World War II Defences at Stony Batter (Waiheke Island) and Whangaparaoa. 9.2 inch counter bombardment batteries A-1 and A-2,' *Auckland Conservancy Historic Resources Series 14*, Department of Conservation 1996. It sets out the history of the planning, construction and use of the defences, with a detailed summary of construction and events in tabular form based on archival research.

Apart from that we are enjoying yet another round of restructuring, getting used to the concept of 'line management', and employing ourselves usefully in preparing various conservation plans - for Mansion House Valley at Kawau, Stony Batter, the Reid homestead and military sites on Motutapu Island, and North Head, to name but a few.

The best news from our part of the world is that the historic Wilsons Cement Works ruins at Warkworth (c.1884 on, but with possible archaeological

remains of an earlier limeworking industry dating to the 1850s), are to be bought for Rodney County Council by a member of the Wilson family. The ruins are spectacular, are registered as a Category 1 historic place, and their future had been rather uncertain.

Sarah Macready, DoC

The Anthropology Department of Auckland University is currently conducting its annual field school. A group of 15 students under the supervision of Mike Taylor, Simon Best, Rod Wallace, and Geoff Irwin have again been carrying out excavations on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf. The work is an extension of the project reported in the last issue of *AINZ*. Excavation has proceeded on two undefended sites. On one site, two areas were opened up. One revealed structures, house posts, pits and drainage features and a stone working area. The other contained posts but no other occupation evidence. The second site opened looks to be a house with an associated terrace and midden. I am happy to report that Thegn Ladefoged is recovering well from an unfortunate tangle with a horse; an incident that has prevented his attending the full field school!

Claire Reeler has been mapping pa sites in the city over summer as part of her PhD work investigating the internal organisation of pa.

At Auckland Museum Nigel Prickett is currently working on the manuscript for the next NZAA monograph. The subject of Monograph 21 will be Doug Sutton's full report on the Chatham Islands project. Louise Furey is progressing well on her FRST funded research of the Houhora collections. On the 18th February Bruce Hayward launched his book "Precious Land. Protecting New Zealand's Landforms and Geological Features" at a well attended ceremony on Eastern Beach. Published as Geological Society of New Zealand Guidebook No. 12, this attractive addition to the series makes a plea for action now to protect our geological heritage. It is an inspirational model that the archaeological community could follow as a means of publicising our threatened archaeological heritage.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

EAST COAST

The Department of Conservation has recently completed three conservation related projects at Aniwaniwa, Te Urewera National Park. Sarah Hillary has completed conservation work on the Colin McCahan triptych and Nick Tupara has been assessing the conservation of the *taonga* held in the museum.

A fence has been erected to protect the Orepotu petroglyphs, which consist of names of members of the Armed Constabulary camped at Orepotu from 1870-71. This includes the name of Sir James Carroll who was 13 years old at the time.

Gordon Jackman is working with a local iwi to research, identify and protect sites in their area.

The Draft District Plan has recently been released for comment. Considerable work has gone into the heritage section. This includes a 'Heritage alert layer' showing general areas where sites are likely, NZAA recorded sites (all landowners have been contacted) and a *wahi tapu* layer. This is a very interesting model for heritage protection.

Pam Bain, DoC

WELLINGTON

Kevin Jones has been on long service leave in the UK, attending an aerial archaeology conference, and visiting sites in north Wales and south-west England. He has written a report on the state of some large earthwork sites he visited in the UK.

Tony Walton and Kevin Jones were amongst a group from the Department of Conservation to attend a hui at Owea Marae near Waitara on 31 October 1996 to discuss the proposed conservation plan for the Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve. Bruce McFadgen and Tony Walton later spent the first week of December at the reserve where they continued the work of detailed topographic mapping of the reserve using high precision GPS. A television series on the New Zealand Wars, written and hosted by historian James Belich, is currently being filmed and may feature footage shot at the reserve.

Bruce McFadgen and Ann Williams spent the second week of November at Opepe Historic Reserve (Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy) where they continued the mapping of the historic features of the reserve. A literature review and significance statement for the reserve have been contracted out.

The NZ Archaeological Association Filekeepers' Conference was held in Wellington on the weekend of 23-24 November 1996. A range of issues were covered in the sessions. There was a lot of discussion about the use, and misuse, of the site data for Resource Management Act purposes and whether the site lists could be more selective so as to avoid imposing costs on landowners where the recorded sites were 'trivial' or already destroyed. The opposing view was that, as few areas were exhaustively surveyed, so-called trivial sites often acted to flag the potential for further, as-yet-unrecorded, sites being present. This is a problem which has arisen largely because the 1993 Historic Places Act puts all the onus on the developer and much of the guidance and advice formerly available has been withdrawn. The information and compliance costs of the Resource Management Act are significant issues.

A hui arising from recommendations in the PCE's report was held at Victoria University's Te Herenga Waka Marae on 29 November 1996. The situation was described as a 'crisis' by Peter Addis. Comments by Sir Tipene O'Regan that DOC had failed Maori by focusing on 'green values' rather than its wider responsibilities were also widely reported (e.g. *Evening Post* 30 November 1996). It is far from clear where the process initiated from the PCE's report is headed. Meanwhile, DOC Head Office is undergoing a downsizing and this will undoubtedly impact on how at least one significant player in historic resources handles its responsibilities in the future.

The work on the national thematic review of coastal defences is continuing and a workshop is planned for 12-13 April in Wellington. It is likely that sealing and whaling sites will be the subjects of similar treatment in the near future.

Tony Walton, DoC

OTAGO

A team of archaeologists led by Ian Smith spent two weeks in Dusky Sound during February investigating sites associated with the first European

settlements in New Zealand. The Dusky Sound Historical Archaeology Project is being conducted jointly by the University of Otago, Southland Museum and Art Gallery, and Southland Conservancy of the Department of Conservation. Its main objectives are to locate and investigate sites associated with the "Britannia" settlement in Luncheon Cove (1792-93) and the "Endeavour" settlement in Facile Harbour (1795-97). The first season's work was focused on Luncheon Cove and involved survey, testing and excavation of several areas that have been suggested as sites of the first house built in New Zealand by Europeans. None of these produced convincing evidence of the house or domestic rubbish, but one yielded abundant remains of iron working and other industrial activity associated with construction of the first ship built in this country, as well as fragments of what are almost certainly the earliest ceramics. Further excavations in Facile Harbour are planned for next summer

Ian Smith, Otago University

OCEANIA

Simon Bickler (squatting in the Auckland University Anthropology Department) finished his fieldwork on Woodlark Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea late last year. He is currently working through the piles of pottery and stone artefacts from sites which included the famous Suloga stone tool quarry and the stone arrangements of the Northern Massim.

In Auckland, Thegn Ladefoged is preparing for three weeks fieldwork in Hawaii to be carried out in July. This will be a continuation of his research on the Kohala field system and this year he will be joined in the field by one graduate student, Blaze O'Connor. They intend to carry out field checks of previous maps and to map some of the coastal villages.

Matthew Felgate is now well established in his base at Sasavele Village on Roviana Lagoon, New Georgia, Solomon Islands from where he is continuing his survey of archaeological sites along the lagoon and mainland interior. Matthew's work is part of the New Georgia Archaeological Project (N.G.A.P.) directed by Peter Sheppard. As part of the multi-disciplinary approach of the N.G.A.P., Richard Hamilton, a graduate student from the Department of Marine Science at Otago University, spent November in Roviana Lagoon investigating the feasibility of undertaking a marine survey of the reef passages. Richard's survey of fish abundance, diversity and

feeding behaviour will tie into one of the goals of the N.G.A.P.; to investigate the development of marine production systems in the Solomon Islands.

Over the last two months Charles Higham has been directing the excavation of None U-Loke, an Iron Age moated site in northeast Thailand. This summer Charles was joined in the field by seven graduate students from Otago. At the same time, Dougald O'Reilly was completing the excavation of Non Muang Kao, another Iron Age site about 20 km from None U-Loke. These excavations are part of the Origins of Angkor Project (see the Otago Web Pages). Dougald has recently completed the analysis of material culture from seasons 1 and 2 of the Origins Project at the Department of Fine Arts at Phimai, Thailand and is back in Dunedin to finish writing his dissertation.

During December 1996 Richard Walter and Peter Sheppard returned to the Cook Islands to complete the geological sampling phase of their project on Cook Island stone tool manufacture which they began in 1994. They collected stone from the high valleys of Rarotonga to complement their earlier collections from the valley floors. On the island of Mangaia they surveyed and collected stone from every major river valley and were able to locate a 'missing' stone extraction site referenced in mission records. They also photographed and measured the stone tool collections in the Cook Island Museum on Rarotonga. At this point every significant potential extraction site in the southern Cook Islands has now been sampled and further geochemical analyses will be carried out during the year. After leaving Mangaia, Peter and Richard spent a week relaxing on Ma'uake.

Marshall Weisler recently returned from a successful field season in the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, where he was working with a graduate student, Jim Samson. Marshall and Jim worked in the northern atolls this year where they recorded and excavated sites on Utrik Atoll. In total they excavated more than 50m² on five different sites with a large team of local workers. This work represents the final field phase of the Marshall Islands Prehistory Project with fieldwork now complete from the islands of Ebon, Maloelap and Ujae. Following the completion of the Micronesian fieldwork Marshall travelled to the island of Maui, Hawaii where he joined Pat Kirch (Berkeley) to continue their ongoing collaboration on Late Period Hawaiian social dynamics.

Richard Walter, Otago University