



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NORTHLAND

Mild and dry weather over the late summer and autumn has provided ideal conditions for fieldwork. James Robinson returned to the Whakaangi area and has now almost completed a survey of the rugged county between the Mangonui and Whangaroa Harbours and recorded numerous pa on both DoC and neighbouring land blocks. A group of us surveyed approximately 11 kilometers of Tokerau Beach covered with vast middens which unfortunately are suffering from hoons driving over them on farm bikes etc. A bonus of the trip was staying in the DoC hut at Maitai Bay which has glorious views and very few visitors in the autumn; we even had a volunteer cook who produced excellent meals. James and I have also had a fascinating day on Motuopao Island inspecting the old lighthouse settlement and making a detailed photographic record of the structures. This was the northernmost lighthouse in New Zealand until the light was transferred to Cape Reinga. It had a hand-winch cable with a flying fox that ran from the island over to the mainland to transport goods, mail and occasionally (though unofficially) people across 500m of turbulent water.

At last conservation treatment has been completed on the mural at Bream Head gun emplacement site. Sarah Hillary of Auckland Art Gallery has made an excellent job of the restoration and there has been a great deal of interest from local schools. This is a valuable trip for school classes as the reserve contains a variety of both Maori and European historic places. Other projects that are currently underway include realignment of a path up Maiki (Flagstaff) Hill at Russell and fencing of the wells at Okiato and Ruapekapeka Pa.

We recently visited the ground cover trials at Ahipara and Ruapekapeka with

Kevin Jones and collected some great mussels but couldn't find him any 'Kaitaia Fire'. The trials will be continuing for another year before Peter Woods completes his final report and recommendations. Spinifex is certainly still showing the greatest promise on the Ahipara dunes, while a variety of grasses, rata and small ferns are becoming well established in some of the plots at Ruapekapeka Pa.

We'll let you know if we're still here after the latest disorganisation of DoC is complete.

Joan Maingay, DoC

## AUCKLAND

Sarah Macready (DoC) reports:

Brenda Sewell retired from the Department and as NZAA filekeeper for the Auckland area at the end of May. She will be greatly missed, especially as I have had to take responsibility for the file for the time being. But she is not retiring from archaeology and will do archaeological consultancy work in the Coromandel, with occasional forays into Auckland and elsewhere as opportunities arise. We wish her good luck in her future career.

The rest of us (Robert Brassey, Dave Veart, Sarah Macready and Jan Coates) had to rush off to Tiritiri Matangi Island recently to carry out an emergency excavation of a stratified occupation site in the area where the new wharf and wharf shed were to be built. This project had been planned for some time and wharf had been located to avoid a known midden site to the south, but the recent cyclone activity had washed away a chunk of the shoreline, exposing a continuation of the site just before work was due to start. The site was up to 1.7m deep, covered in places by almost a metre of overburden. The earliest occupation appeared to date from the 'Archaic' period. Evidence of buildings or structures and numerous hangi was found in the overlying layers, but much of the site would have been eroded away by the sea over time. A variety of faunal remains including bird, seal, dog, rat and fish were recovered, along with quantities of obsidian flakes and other artefacts. A substantial portion of the site can probably be preserved beneath the concrete of the new landing area.

Recent projects BIORESEARCHES have been involved in are detailed below by Geoff Mosen:

Grafton Gully/Stanley Street upgrade - a study to evaluate different road

upgrade options. Several key sites of archaeological potential were identified (site of old Phoenix Foundry and old Maori Hostel).

Monitoring and excavation of a small shell midden site (R11/461) - sewer line construction works impacted on a small area of shell midden. The portion destroyed was excavated. No portable artefacts or features were recovered. Shell samples are currently being analysed, a report is due out soon.

Whangaparaoa Access Improvement Study options - a study to evaluate a range of options to improve access to the Peninsula. These included upgraded ferry networks, a new road off East Coast Bays Road through to Stillwater and across the Weiti River and widening Whangaparaoa Road. No new sites have been recorded to date, however, landowner issues have prevented access to a number of key areas.

Enerco Gas Pipeline - an AEE Study to assess the effects of construction of a new gas pipeline (Waitakere to Albany). Several archaeological sites including shell middens (one of which is believed to represent the village site of Te Arai-te-Tiriti located in the upper reaches of Paremoremo Creek) and historic European sites (remnant wharf structures) were recorded.

News from Dilys Johns of the University of Auckland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory:

Conservation of a selection of waterlogged artefacts has recently been completed for Taranaki Museum, Te Awamutu District Museum, Waikato Art Museum, Auckland Museum, Aotea Ngatiwai, DoC in Northland and the Pouto Trust Board.

I am in the process of organizing a workshop on the conservation of wet organics which will hopefully be held at the Waikato Art Museum in July or August. The workshop will include sections on: the effects of waterlogging, the object of wet organics conservation, on site conservation, wet organic treatments and storage of wet organics before and after treatment. If you are interested in this workshop please contact Dilys Johns ph: 09 360 1000. The class size is limited to 12.

I will be attending the AICCM '97 conference to be held on Rottnest Island, Western Australia in September and will be participating in the Wet Organics

### Special Interest Group session

Finally from me: I am delighted to report that the NZAA membership phone tree for the whole of New Zealand has been completed and we are now in a position to begin lobbying on a broader front.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

### BAY OF PLENTY

Much has happened in the Bay of Plenty since my last report in December last. Further to the December story about a pa being destroyed on the Ohiwa Harbour, I can report that Environment BoP (the Regional Council) are intending to prosecute the individual responsible. I will keep members informed of the outcome.

In February I attended the Sixth Australasian Archaeometry Conference in Sydney. The conference was titled 'Australasian Archaeometry: Retrospectives for the New Millennium' and examined the role that archaeometry might play in archaeology in the new millennium. There were a wide range of papers of direct application New Zealand, including: human impact and environmental change on initial colonisation, obsidian sourcing and dating, radiocarbon dating and problems associated with it, dating of rock art and the ochres, and studies in palaeobiology.

As part of my ongoing research into the taphonomics and chronology of coastal middens in the Bay of Plenty, I have recently undertaken, or assisted with, excavations on sites at both Papamoa and Paerata Ridge, Opotiki. The Papamoa site consisted of a large number of occupation sites scattered across a high dune system suggesting that occupation of these dunes was on a seasonal basis as part of a regular round of shellfish gathering and preservation. The Opotiki site has numerous Archaic style artefacts collected from it over the last 20 years and test excavations were undertaken, by Ken Phillips, to determine whether intact Archaic material still exists, and to collect dating samples.

Environment BoP (the Regional Council) are currently undertaking a large retirement and tree planting operation around the western shores of Lake Rotoehu. The Department of Conservation has been advising on routes for the new fencelines such that pa sites and other archaeological features are avoided as much as possible. To date, 50% of the planting has been

completed with only minimal impact on the cultural record.

Work is continuing with the conservation and restoration of the Piako County Tramway at Waiorongomai, Te Aroha. A Task Force Green gang has recently completed 4 months work clearing the upper track levels of vegetation, slips and other debris. We are currently putting together two A1 size interpretation panels as well as a number of smaller ones. This work has been funded by National Priority Pool and Conservancy funding for the past three years and we are working towards establishing track systems for visitors to the valley.

Large areas of the southeastern extent of Bay of Plenty Conservancy are former Forest Service pine forests, now in the ownership of Fletchers. These are now coming due for harvesting and we are starting to have the problem of removing large mature pines from pa sites. Many of the pa were recorded by David and Glenys Nevin in the 1970s and a few were retired from planting but many were not. Recently I have been working with Fletchers harvest planners to provide advice on the removal of pines from the Ngati Whare site of Otutakahiao. We are also looking at removing young Douglas firs from the Hinemoa I and II pa sites which date to the 1865 conflict between Pai Marire forces and Ngati Manawa.

Site surveys have been undertaken on a number of DoC reserves, including Lake Rerewhakaaitu, Awakeri, Horomanga Wash and Oruatawehi. As always, the lack of funding within the Department means that many of our land holdings still remain unsurveyed but I am endeavoring to complete some every year.

I have just returned from two weeks excavating with Geoff Clark and Atholl Anderson in Fiji. The focus of the work was on Ugaga Island in Beqa lagoon for Geoff's PhD research - a lovely little island with a site dating to the late Lapita period, containing Lapita and Paddle Impressed pottery, as well as stone chisels and the like. The second site we investigated, at Kulu on Beqa itself, had been recorded by Crosby in 1987 as having Lapita sherds on the surface. The small test excavation revealed 1.5 m of cultural deposits, including Lapita pottery, chert tools and basalt adzes and faunal material from 80 cm to the base. A tough time of it was had by all.

Warren Gumbley is currently working on a project funded by DoC Science and Research Division to examine the extent and distribution of gardening



*Geoff Clark, Rick McGovern-Wilson, Epanesa and Atholl Anderson preparing for church - Naceva Village, Beqa Island, Fiji. May 1997.*

soils in the coastal Papamoa area. As a result of the development occurring along this strip of coast in the past two or three years, large areas of gardening soils have been recorded, and Warren's study will examine the nature of these soils, their extent and distribution, their relationship to archaeological site distributions, their age, and such like. This is a very under-represented class of site in the site recording scheme, and more attention should be paid to their distribution in favorable areas.

Resource management related archaeology continues unabated in the Bay of Plenty with surveys, excavations and monitoring of earthworks continuing at a furious pace. Several buildings in Tauranga are earmarked for removal, and Ken Phillips, Lynda Bowers and myself are keeping an eye out for a suitable gift that may emerge from beneath one of these buildings to send to Phil Parker at Smash Palace (Gisborne) as a thank you for his hospitality during the recent NZAA Conference.

Rick McGovern-Wilson, SCO Historic Resource

## EAST COAST

The highlight of our last few months has been the NZAA Conference. Great to have lots of support from around the country. Victoria has recently completed a pamphlet for the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve. If anyone wants a copy, please contact me.

The Department has recently and reluctantly closed the Cooks Cove Walkway. This walkway easement has given access for a number of years to Cooks Cove where the Endeavour anchored in 1769. However, discussions with the landowners since 1992 have not been able to secure a legal lease for access and due to concerns about the state of the track the walkway has been closed. This limits public access to an important historic area, although the landowners may continue to allow access.

Pam Bain, DoC

## WELLINGTON

The New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Record Scheme has reached a milestone with the Central File processing of the 50,000th record. The system, as at the end of March 1997, held a total of 50,527 records.

Cathy Tuck (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England) worked as a volunteer with Science & Research Division of DOC from late March to mid April. Cathy works on archaeological mapping side of RCHME and spent a week assisting S&R staff to continue the mapping of Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve and adjoining land. She also spent time with NZHPT. The GPS work at Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve (and neighbouring properties) has been done but the areas under bush require a different method of mapping and some further work is needed to complete these areas.

Two members of S&R staff and Cathy Tuck attended the NZAA Conference in Gisborne and Tony Walton attended the National Thematic Study on Coastal defences workshop held here in Wellington on 12-13 April.

Recent fieldwork has included a visit by Bruce McFadgen, Tony Walton, and Cathy Tuck to the Wairarapa coast (Flat Point and Waikekeno Stream). An unrecorded stone row system was recorded and brief updates filed for a pa and a stone row system. Kevin Jones has made two flights to photograph



sites from the air. In February he took photographs in the Kaikoura area and in May it was the turn of the Nelson mineral belt.

Between 10-15 March Kevin Jones, Tony Walton and Jo Dickson, assisted by Elizabeth Pishief, carried out a small excavation at Otatara Pa in Hawkes Bay. The pa has largely been quarried away except for a small remnant intact area. Shell (mostly cockle and pipi) and bone were recovered and a line of postholes was located. A preliminary report has been completed. A visit was also made to Cape Kidnappers to examine middens in sand dunes being eroded by the sea.

Susan Forbes (Kotuku Consultants) has been involved in a number of projects including two in the Waikanae sand dunes, one at Oteranga Bay near Wellington, and one beside the Manawatu River near Palmerston North. One of the Waikanae projects resulted in eight small midden and oven sites being recorded.

Kevin Jones has been doing aerial photography in northern Hawke's Bay, the Nelson mineral belt including D'Urville Island (sites of the argillite quarries) and most recently Motutapu and the Auckland cones. Anyone wishing to see proofs of these photos or to order prints should contact Kevin.

A proposed survey of southern Hawke's Bay using aerial photographic methods and GPS has been approved by the Science and Research Division. The work will be done with assistance from the local authority and the conservancy.

Tony Walton, DoC

## NELSON-MARLBOROUGH

Archaeologists continue to be active in this region in response to possible or proposed effects of development on archaeological sites. Consultant archaeologist Reg Nichol (Picton) completed a site survey and assessment of Kakapo Bay, Port Underwood, Marlborough, in late 1996. The bay is noted as the site of Jacky Guard's whaling station which was built by 1829. Pre-European sites recorded previously in the bay include a burial with grave goods and an adze cache, all of early New Zealand Polynesian type. Nichol gathered useful oral history information from Guard family descendants, and examined the area of a proposed development in the bay in some detail (including long sections in a stream bank). Although no archaeological

features were identified, the Marlborough Branch Committee of the NZHPT has expressed an interest in monitoring development work in this important locality.

Richard Cox, a consultant archaeologist from Takaka, continues work on the Transit NZ Stoke Bypass project in Nelson. This project will affect nineteenth century railway and possible house remains at least. Richard has already located the remnants of a train carriage and former railway bridge near the carriage (as reported in the Nelson Evening Mail, 12 February 1997). Richard will work with young people from local iwi in site recording and investigation on the project.

Steve Bagley, DOC, Nelson, and (subsequently) Reg Nichol were involved in the identification and investigation of a shell midden site at the base of Richardson Street, Rocks Road, Nelson (near Port Nelson) in October 1996. The midden was exposed in the course of a services trench. Reg is processing the material for the report required. In early 1997, Steve Bagley and your reporter revisited the extensive archaeological complex of Sawpit Point, Awaroa Inlet, in the Abel Tasman National Park, to assess the impact of recent cyclone activity on midden and working sites at the estuary face. Unfortunately, the greater part of a significant stone working and midden area (the subject of ongoing investigation since 1988) had disappeared into the estuary. A previously limited and seemingly stable midden face now presents several metres of an in situ but eroding section. The last is expected to disappear as well over time, and may be investigated further later in the year.

In eastern Golden Bay, monitoring work continues for residential connections to the Pohara Sewerage Scheme. This work follows the investigation of extensive archaeological soils and features encountered as the sewer trunk line was first excavated between March-June 1996. Since my appointment to the Trust mid-1996 from this project, the lateral connections have been monitored largely by Jack Walls, an experienced Nelson/Golden Bay archaeologist, and Trina Delaney, iwi secretary (Ngati Tama, Ngati Rarua, Te Ati Awa) in Golden Bay. Archaeological features continue to be encountered (albeit over shorter distances than the trunk line), including ovens, postholes, middens, and stone working areas. From Tata Beach where the greatest extent of evidence is found, Jack has recovered clay pipe remnants in lateral excavations. These appear to date from the time of very early European contact.

In May 1997 I undertook a further archaeological investigation for the Trust in Ligar Bay, eastern Golden Bay, in relation to a subdivision proposal. A deep stratigraphic section was identified close to a site where an early archaeological horizon had been identified in 1996. Dense midden remains from this early horizon were encountered again, and were investigated in some detail.

Ian Barber, NZ Historic Places Trust