



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NORTHLAND

The last few months have been rather disrupted due to the restructuring process currently under way in the Northland Conservancy. Although the dust has not completely settled it is now clear that Adrienne Slocombe and James Robinson will be moving to the new area office, while Joan Maingay will be staying in the Conservancy Office. At this point in time we are unsure how these changes will effect our ongoing work in the Conservancy.

A number of projects are progressing well. Firstly Adrienne Slocombe has now completed the draft report covering the Kaikohe swamp excavation. This investigation uncovered a cache of gardening tools and fern root beaters in association with a large number of seeds including gourd (Te Hue) and hinau berries. It is possible that the hinau were being processed in to hinau bread. Carbon dating suggests that the site dates back to the 18th century. A final report will be published before the end of June 1998.

Following on from the news mentioned in the last issue about the joint DoC/Iwi archaeological survey of "Whakaangi" near Mangonui, we can confirm that the Ngati Kahu people living at Taemaro Bay will be researching the traditional history of the area. When completed this history will complement the archaeological research, and will be published together in one report so providing a unique insight into the general history of this important but little known part of the north.

The Three Kings Islands off Cape Reinga have long been settled by Maori, and were the location of the first official contact between Europe and New Zealand when Able Tasman sailed by in the 17th century. Apart from survey

work carried out by Bruce Hayward in the 1970's little is known about the extent or state of the sites on the Kings, therefore in 1995 Joan Maingay started a programme to survey the islands. In late November of this year Joan Maingay and James Robinson will be visiting the Kings with a team of DoC staff and will continue the recording and revisiting of sites on the big island.

James Robinson, DoC

## AUCKLAND

On 2nd October, the Pukaki carving, a show piece of the Te Maori exhibition, was welcomed back to Rotorua. Returned by Auckland Museum to Te Arawa after a formal ceremony here, Pukaki will be displayed in the Rotorua District Council building in the centre of Rotorua city.

Egyptomaniacs, here's a rare opportunity for visual feasting. No need to pack your bags for the northern hemisphere this time. From mid-December Auckland Museum will present an exciting exhibition of over 300 pieces from the large and comprehensive Egyptian collection of the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. The objects include examples of papyrae, stelae, statues, models, mummys, baskets, jewellery and a great deal more. Many of them have come from the well known sites of Thebes, Abydos and Saqqara. The *BellSouth Pharaohs: Life and Death in Ancient Egypt* opens on December 13 and runs to February 1998. Auckland Museum will be the only New Zealand venue of a tour that also includes Japan and Australia.

It is sad to have lost Myfanwy Eaves, an archaeologist who worked as the History technician at Auckland Museum. Myf deserted us for the better resourced Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, where she has taken up a position as Project Assistant.

Nigel Prickett participated in the UNITEC hosted architectural heritage conference, *The Politics of Inheritance*, where he presented a paper on New Zealand country halls. He has been working with Kim Tatton and Amanda Young on plans for saving the site of Queens Redoubt, Pokeno, which is currently on the market.

Excellent progress is being made with the entry of the collections of the Archaeology Department on to the Auckland Museum database. **Brigid**

Gallagher is responsible for the archaeological entries and Pam Collins is working on data entry of the Ethnology collections. Both are on a Lotteries funded contract.

At Auckland University's Centre for Archaeological Research (CAR) Martin Jones reports that it is currently conducting an extensive obsidian hydration dating (OHD) programme on previously excavated "early" sites from throughout the North and South Islands. This is part of a FoRST (Foundation for Research Science and Technology) funded project looking at the timing and spatial patterning of pre-European settlement in New Zealand. In total 1,000 - 1,500 samples from approximately 50 sites will finally be analysed. In tandem with this dating programme, a series of cross-dating comparisons are being completed. These will allow a full appraisal of the current status of OHD as a tool for chronometric research. The results of the dating and cross-dating programmes will be finalised by April 1998, and publication will follow shortly after this.

I wondered why Rod Wallace had been impossible to get hold of lately. He has just returned from an exciting excavation on Norfolk Island directed by Atholl Anderson, but tantalizingly, we must wait for the Pacific report for the full and glorious detail.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum.

## **WAIKATO COROMANDEL**

DoC historic resources people have been concerned more with historic issues than with archaeological action. In particular Neville Ritchie has led another party to Cuvier Island, this time making the World War Two naval radar barracks weather-proof. In Whangamata Cathryn Barr is continuing with survey and recording in Carter Holt forests. Recently a terrace with hearth, probably part of the Phoenix gold mine, was found by a logging crew. Within 10 minutes they had notified the CHH office, and within the hour the CHH archaeologist, Cathy, was on the spot. A plan to protect this feature was worked out without any holdup to logging. The system is working!

### **Litigation about sites**

An August 1997 decision by the Environment Court sitting in Thames upheld an authority to modify granted by the Historic Places Trust (HPT). Ngati

Maru had appealed against it.

Background to the case was that a Mr C.J. Kruithof had bought a section and got rid of two existing houses with the intention of building four units for disabled people. He applied for a planning consent and advertised his intentions. No submissions about cultural or heritage concerns were received, the consent was granted and excavations commenced in April 1996. At this stage a Ngati Maru person living 90 metres away complained that shell midden was being exposed. Excavations ceased immediately and the District Council contacted the HPT.

The midden was investigated, first by Alexy Simmons (HPT regional officer) and then by Ian Barber (HPT senior archaeologist). They found it to be a very small part of site T12/96, located mostly outside the Kruithof property. Both wrote assessments and on the basis of these the HPT granted authority to destroy part of the midden. Ngati Maru immediately appealed.

At the Court Ngati Maru testified that the midden was part of a wahi tapu, namely the big pa lying outside the Kruithof property. They said the spiritual value, or wairua, of the whole was to be found in all its parts, and that if midden were destroyed they would suffer "irreversible loss of mana". Ngati Maru also called evidence from Warren Gumbley (consultant archaeologist) to the effect that the Trust had insufficient information about the whole site to allow destruction of part of it. However it turned out that Gumbley had not inspected the site in whole or in part, and his evidence was effectively restricted to criticising the methods of Simmons and Barber. This criticism was rejected by the Court.

The court found that the issue concerned "the peripheral portion" of a shell midden which extended over several properties and which had an area of several thousand square metres, and that "drawing from what the two archaeologists who actually inspected the site had to say, we accept their evidence that the midden area sought to be modified or destroyed has little archaeological merit". The court upheld the HPT decision to grant an authority. After 16 months of expensive delay Mr Kruithof was able to resume his now badly eroded excavations. This sounds like a victory for common-sense, even if it was a long time coming, and is a welcome contrast to the outcome of a case which came before the Planning Tribunal sitting in Hamilton a year earlier.

In this case a Raglan tangata whenua group called Tainui Awhiro ngungaru te po, ngunguru to ao management committee had appealed against a planning consent being granted for the erection of a TV translator on the northern side of the Raglan harbour. This translator was to serve TV 1, 2 and 3, and according to technical evidence no other location would provide reception to all areas of Raglan town the way this one could. The translator would consist of a single wooden pole 13 m high located in a paddock right beside a fenceline and drawing power from a nearby transmission line. Cathy Barr, then with DoC, had inspected the site for TV 3 and found no evidence of earlier occupation.

At the hearing Tainui Awhiro representatives testified that the site was archaeologically significant, and that it had been settled for over a thousand years. Under cross examination they admitted that there were no recorded archaeological sites there, and that no traditions had been passed down to indicate that the precise location was of particular significance. Nor had they sought to have the general area included in the District Plan as an area of cultural heritage value. They admitted that the land had been farmed for decades and that fencing, stockyards, bulldozed tracks, buildings and power poles had already caused far more disturbance than would the translator.

Eva Rickard was one of those who gave evidence for the appellants, and the Tribunal in its decision observed that "much of [her evidence] was not relevant to the issues of the Tribunal" and the "it did not appear that [she] was familiar with the location of the translator site other than in the most general terms". The Tribunal found that "the installation of the translator pole would have only minimal disturbance on the ground (sic), much less than normal farming activities permitted there; and that the precise site is not known or identified as containing any archaeological remains or as specifically being a place of spiritual or cultural significance".

Notwithstanding all of the above, the Tribunal found in favour of Tainui Awhiro. Tough luck for Raglan's couch potatoes. At a time when many important sites are suffering grievous damage, it is sad to see so much litigation being deployed on minor damage and/or apparently trivial sites.

Owen Wilkes, DoC

## BAY OF PLENTY

The most exciting news from the Bay is that the Whakatane District Council was recently successful in a prosecution against a pair of developers who transgressed a number of conditions in their resource consent including not having an archaeologist on site to monitor all their earthworks. They were convicted and fined \$1000 plus costs for the archaeological issue, and while this may not be much, it is important to note that it was a criminal case taken under the Resource Management Act 1991 and so was in the District Court rather than the Environment Court.

The Regional Council (Environment BoP) is also pursuing a prosecution against a developer who damaged a pa site on the eastern shores of the Ohiwa Harbour. They have dropped the case for intentional damage to the pa site, because the Land Plan does not have reference to cultural heritage sites and because they believe the Historic Places Trust should be the agency pursuing that issue (and quite rightly so). The angle they are taking is that the developer did the tracking work on the property with a land-use consent and, as a result of the illegal track work he caused damage to the archaeological sites. If he had applied for a land use consent this would have shown the presence of recorded archaeological sites and conditions would have been built in to mitigate or avoid them.

Recent fieldwork that I have undertaken includes splashing around streams in the Stanley Track/Waimana Gorge area to confirm a previously unknown chert source. It would appear that most of the chert material in the Tokitoki site, Ohiwa Harbour, derived from this source. Discussions with a serious rock-hound in Rotorua have confirmed the high quality nature of the rock.

I attended a meeting in Wellington in mid-October with Chris Jacomb, Lynda Bowers (NZAA), Aidan Challis (DoC), Ian Barber and Tack Daniel (HPT) to discuss the issue of standards and "best practice guidelines for archaeologists". This is a major NZAA Council initiative which we hope to bring to the membership before the next AGM. I also attended a heritage hui at Korongata Marae, Bridge Pa (Hastings), which is one in the series being organised by the Maori Heritage Unit (HPT) to provide tangata whenua with guidance in heritage management and the provisions that are available to them.

Rick McGovern-Wilson, DoC

## EAST COAST

### *Joe Te Maipi*

I te ata nei i hoki a wairua atu to tatou papa rangatira ki ona matua tupuna ki to tatou Kaihanga. E tika ana te tangi a nga tupuna ... Kua hinga tenei totara rangatira o te Wao Nui a Tane, a, e papaki tu ana hoki nga tai ki Te Reinga ... moe mai e te Papa.

Chairman of the East Coast Conservation Board, Joe Te Maipi passed away on 7 November after battling over the last three months with cancer. Joe's wife Betty pre-deceased him only three weeks ago.

His contribution to Te Papa Atawhai (Department of Conservation) and to the East Coast Conservancy in particular, is immeasurable. Conservation and the people of this area are the poorer with his passing.

### *Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve*

October is always a busy month for activities relating to the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve. A special tribute to the friendship between the people of Anaura Bay and James Cook and the crew of the Endeavour was made at a moving ceremony at Anaura Bay on October 4th.

The Historic Places Trust installed a new plaque over the original plaque with detailed input from kaumatua Jules Ferris who died recently. The plaque, in Maori and English, states that Ngati Wakara, the people of Anaura Bay, welcomed Lt James Cook and the crew of the Endeavour on October 1769, with hospitality, co-operation and friendship. Dame Anne Salmond gave the crowd an account of what happened when the Endeavour arrived in Anaura Bay. The plaque was then unveiled by Dame Anne and Mr Ferris' son Paumea.

Then, on 7 and 8 October, a Swedish television film director visited the three East Coast landing sites as part of a programme focusing on the life of Daniel Solander. Filming was completed in NZ, Australia, London/Plymouth and Iceland. The crew interviewed local kaumatua and historian Sheila Robinson. The programme will be shown in primetime on Swedish TV in November and then in Finland and Norway.



*Rev. Kirikiri, Mrs and Rev. Paenga, Dame Anne Salmond, Ingrid Seancke, Sheila Robinson(HPT), Paumea Ferris at the of the Anaura Bay plaque.*

The Department of Conservation, Port Gisborne Ltd, supported by Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre, Historic Places Trust and Ngati Oneone held an Information Day at the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve on October 12th in response to ongoing requests for information about the issues surrounding the site. Over 100 people took advantage of the opportunity to view videos, photos and ask questions.

### *Aniwaniwa Museum*

Research into the acquisition of the taonga at the Aniwaniwa Museum is underway as part of a project with Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre to establish registration procedures for the heritage collection there. To date, little information is known about many of the items or their acquisition history.

Pam Bain, DoC

## WELLINGTON

BNZ archaeological investigation - in the ongoing work associated with restoration of the old BNZ building in Wellington Susan Forbes has recorded further sections of the "Inconstant". The bow and wooden structures likely to be associated with the shoreline were excavated last month along with later features associated with building fill (pits, and an area of brick paving). The conservation team is now investigating opportunities for in situ display of this section of the ship.

## CANTERBURY

A team from Canterbury Museum undertook salvage excavations at Rakaia River Mouth early in 1997, prior to the construction of a camping ground ablutions block. A range of artefacts typical of the moa-hunting period was found, along with post-hole evidence for a substantial structure, a cooking shelter and an enclosure or wind-break.

An extensive, intact midden deposit was exposed immediately in front of Monck's Cave during Christchurch City Council preparations for landscaping. The remaining landscaping work will be monitored and salvage excavations undertaken where necessary.

Ian Hill and I mapped the remains of the original Pukaki Hotel in the MacKenzie Country, in mid winter. The site is being rapidly eroded by the Pukaki River, which now functions as an emergency spillway for the Lakes hydro-electric scheme.

A group of Canterbury people travelled to Nelson in May to help Ian Barber with an excavation at Bell's Island. An interesting attraction we hadn't been told about was that the site was adjacent to Nelson's straining oxidation ponds!

Chris Jacomb, Canterbury Museum

## OCEANIA

The New Georgia Archaeological Survey continued research started in 1996 on Roviana Lagoon (New Georgia, Solomon Islands). Peter Sheppard, Richard Walter and MA students Takuya Nagaoka (Auckland) and Tim

Hazedine (Otago) joined Matthew Felgate who was been in Roviana since September last year for 2 months fieldwork (August-September) in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture Western Province and the National Museum of the Solomon Islands. Research focused on mapping of stone structures in old villages around the central ridge of Nusa Roviana and excavation designed to provide chronology for the construction of a large hillfort on the ridge. Three large village complexes were mapped and theodolite transects were run across the island. Excavation showed the continuation of a plainware ceramic tradition, at least at shrines, up to the historic period. A considerable number of early ceramic sites were recorded in the inter-tidal zone on the New Georgia mainland and barrier islands in the lagoon. Matthew Felgate recovered dentate stamped and curvilinear incised sherds from one site on Honiavasa in association with the usual rectilinear incised material. This supports the late Lapita or immediately post-Lapita age hypothesized for the bulk of these assemblages.

Marsden funding was secured this year to support two more years of fieldwork. Auckland University funding of a 2 year Post-doctoral position on Roviana ethnohistory was also obtained.



*Richard Walter, Matt Felgate, Peter Sheppard, Kenneth Roga, Takuya Nagaoka and Martin Jones homeward bound, Roviana Lagoon, New Georgia.*

Papers were presented on this years work at the Chacmool Conference (Calgary) and the Australian Archaeological Association meetings. Mr. Kenneth Roga (Ministry of Culture, Western Province, SI) visited NZ for 3 weeks in November and assisted Sheppard in translating videotaped interviews with Roviana Chiefs. Takuya Nagaoka continues his research on Roviana shrines for his MA thesis.

Moria Doherty (Auckland) began her PhD fieldwork on the post-Lapita archaeology of the Reefs/Santa Cruz (Solomon Islands) in August/September. She visited sites and made local contacts in Santa Cruz and the Reefs before joining the New Georgia team in Roviana for 2 weeks.

Geoff Irwin reports that faunal analysis of excavated material from Wetef Cave on Gebe Island shows the presence of a wallaby, *Dorcopsis mulleri*, in terminal Pleistocene deposits. Gebe is located in the Northern Moluccas and is intervisible from the main island of Hamahera and the Birds Head region of New Guinea. According to Dr Tim Flannery of the Australian Museum this wallaby was translocated by humans from western New Guinea to Gebe and subsequently hunted. This case supports a number of other reported instances of animal translocation from New Guinea to the Bismarck Archipelago at the eastern end of New Guinea. These are apparently the earliest cases known in the world.

A joint research project involving the University of Auckland (Thegn Ladefoged, Blaze O'Connor) and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Michael Graves) conducted preliminary field work in Kohala, Hawai'i during July 1997. An objective of the research is to understand the relationship between the upland agricultural field systems and the coastal residential settlements. We were also interested in evaluating the potential of global positioning system receivers for effectively gathering archaeological data. The coastal settlement of a single ahupua'a known as Pāhinahina was surveyed, mapped, and recorded. We also did less intensive work in two nearby ahupua'a (Kahuā 2 and Mākiloa) one of which had been previously surveyed. The work in Pāhinahina represented our initial effort to integrate GPS with the on-going GIS we have developed for North Kohala.

In June/July of 1997, Melinda Allen spent five weeks in French Polynesia, primarily on Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands. Her research is focusing on spatio-temporal variability in resource exploitation. Excavations were initiated along the shores of the deep, well-protected Anaho Bay. The site

was chosen for its anomalous extensive coral reef and proximity to Ha'atuatua, an archaeologically well-known area with settlement of considerable antiquity. David Addison (U Hawaii), and Andrew and Lehua Dedrick (Hawai'i) and local community members assisted with the field work. Analysis of the excavated materials is underway and Allen will continue field studies along the northern coast of Nuku Hiva in 1998.

Esma Holden, a post graduate student who completed her MA at Auckland last year, has been the Archaeology Department volunteer at the Auckland Museum for the past two years. Recently returned from a winter working trip to Samoa she writes:

In July, myself and Fiona Tarlton travelled to American Samoa to participate in a month long archaeological survey co-sponsored by the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) and the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office. We were the two kiwi members of a crew of seven, the others having come from the US, Hawaii and Australia. It was an exciting experience to meet and work with archaeologists from other countries. ASPA are installing a sewer line through the Tafuna Plain so it was our job to survey the coverage area for any occupational evidence.

The most common structures found were walls. However, in many cases it was difficult to determine the age of these. It is more than likely that many of the pre-European structures, not only the walls but platforms and terraces, continued to be used and/or modified in historic times. The presence of flakes or pottery around such structures strengthened the argument for their pre-European origins. Newly cultivated gardens provided good circumstances for discovering flakes and pottery. The abundance of lithic material - as adzes, preforms, and flakes on the Tafuna Plain is astounding. It saddened me to have to merely record their positions, draw them as best we could in the field, then leave them where they were found as there seemed to be no central repository for the curation of pre-European artefacts. Once structures or other evidence of occupation were located, they were cleared of overgrown vegetation and mapped. Perhaps the most exciting discovery was of a large star mound complex with an associated walkway and other features. Unfortunately the mound was heavily overgrown so for two days we doubled as gardeners to clear it!

Aside from the many curious looks we got from the Samoans as we passed through their back yards, we also recieved many thanks for clearing their

overgrown gardens!!

For one week we worked in a village digging testpits to determine presence/absence of pre-European material for a proposed waterline. Dressed in singlets, shorts and jandals and having lunch on the beach everyday, it provided a nice week's break from the rigours of tramping through the jungle with machete in hand.

Peter Sheppard  
The University of Auckland



*Stone platform, American Samoa*