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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

Its heartening to report that the Northland Conservation Awards for 1997 had a distinctly historic flavour. One of the awards went to Mim Ringer who was secretary of the Regional Committee of the HPT for many years; she has contributed to the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography and is still a voluntary curator for the Northland Museum archives. The main address at the awards ceremony was given by Neva Clarke McKenna who described the historic values of the Mangonui township, which she's worked hard to retain, and how these are threatened by the proposal for a vast marina on the waterfront - this was highly pertinent to other aspects for development along the Northland coast.

On another positive note, the people of Taemaru Bay (see last issue) have received a grant from the Logan Campbell Trust to conduct research into their traditional history.

Fieldwork on Manawa Tawhi, the largest of the Three Kings, is now virtually complete. No doubt there are still unrecorded stone structures lurking in the undergrowth but the majority have been recorded in detail. On the recent visit 10 groups of features were mapped in the Tasman, Baylis and Lady Fergusson Valleys. Of these three had been recorded briefly on previous surveys and seven were new. The most impressive of the new sites comprised a series of small semi-enclosed house sites backed by a high, well preserved stone wall, 22 m long. The overall results indicate that major areas of occupation were clustered around stream valleys with small campsites for 'mutton birding' on more isolated points and ridgelines. We hope to undertake a survey of North East Island in the next financial year as the stone features there are in a particularly good state of preservation.

Other fieldwork that is currently underway includes instrumental mapping of Whangamumu Whaling Station and Motukauri Island in the Whangaruru Harbour. Both of these require accurate plans for management purposes. The whaling station originated in the 1840s; it became the largest in Northland and is the only one that still retains clear and recognisable structures. Unfortunately boats have left their marks on every available wall. The graffiti has reached its zenith with a huge 'mural' of dolphin across the front of tow vats overlooking the shore. The cost of removing this needs to be assessed but could prove exorbitant.

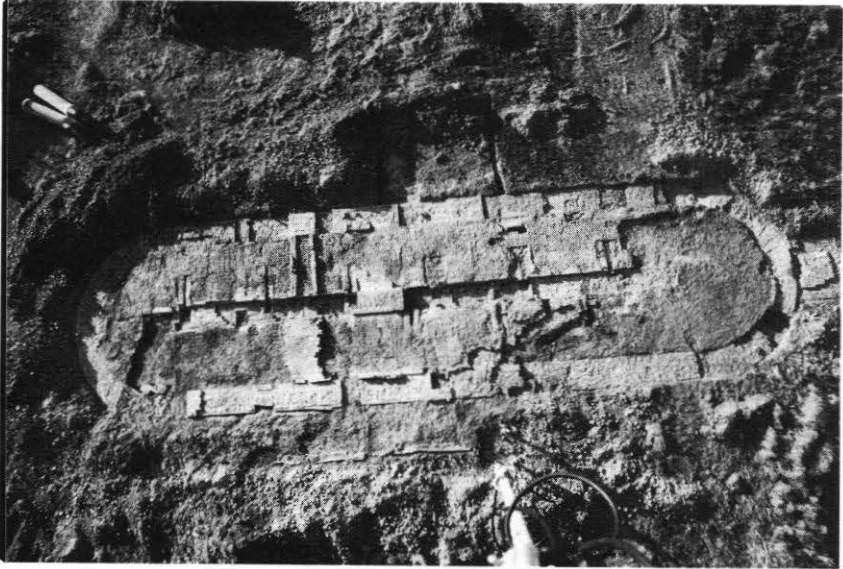
In between these occasional outdoor activities we have also been involved with a number of meetings. One of the most potentially valuable was concerned with the Bicultural Developments in Museums project. Northland was the only region where iwi insisted on a hui specifically for Maori so we also had one for Museum staff and other interested parties. We shall be meeting with iwi representatives later this month and hopefully will come to some agreement at least on basic principles for developing a positive relationship and some understanding of the problems faced in dealing with taonga Maori.

Joan Maingay, DoC

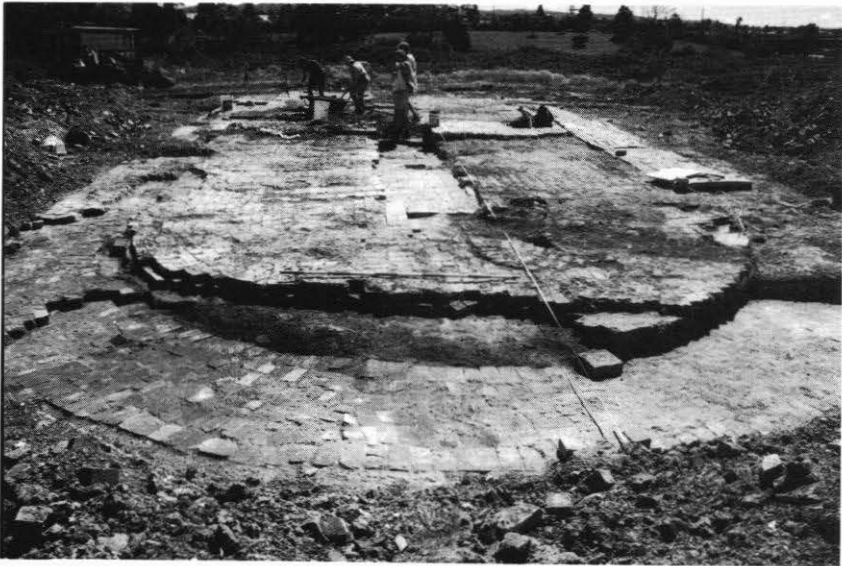
AUCKLAND

In January, the University of Auckland conducted their annual archaeological field school on Motutapu Island. Under the direction of Thegn Ladefoged and Rod Wallace, fifteen participants excavated an undefended site (R11/494) containing several terraces and pits. Excavation focused primarily on a large house which contained several internal rock alignments indicating possible activity areas. A range of artifacts including a shell pendant, a fragment of a wood comb, pieces of ground stone, and a small amount of faunal material were recovered from the house. The team also found a concentration of Great Barrier and Mayor Island obsidian in front of the house.

Additional excavation took place on a large 5 by 3 metre storage pit with internal post holes, drains, and a sump, as well as at a terrace containing a high density of shell and faunal midden. As part of the field school's activities, Blaze O'Connor directed a global positioning system survey on the eastern side of the island which recorded over 200 individual features.



Blimp view of the 34 x 9 m excavated kiln, Burke Brickworks, on the banks of the Whau River, Avondale, Auckland.



Oblique view of the kiln.

There was a striking photograph in the New Zealand Herald recently of work carried out on the Burke Brickworks in Avondale. Investigations in advance of an Auckland subdivision carried out by Simon Best, Rod Clough and Don Prince revealed the impressive remains of the Burke Hoffman Kiln extending over some 34 metres by 9 metres on the banks of the Whau Creek.

Rod points out that the discovery of the kiln fills a gap in the archaeology of Auckland's heavy clay industries. Sites ranging from simple clamps and Scotch kilns of the 1850s (Pollen Site) through to later 19th and 20th century beehive kilns of Limeburners Bay have now been investigated. Kim Tatton (Historic Places Trust), Martin Jones (UK), Liz McCracken along with others provided invaluable on-site assistance.

Archaeological investigations of the S.W. Interceptor transecting a small part of the Matukuturua Stonefields are now complete and are fully described in a 90 page report prepared by Rod Clough and Marianne Turner. Rod advises that this report details the archaeological investigations undertaken both prior to and during the construction of the Southwestern Interceptor, (including the more extensive mitigation investigations of 1979/80 by Auckland University in the stonefields) along part of a 50 metre wide designated strip approximately 5 kilometres long and running from Pukaki Creek in the north to Homai Creek in the south.

A simple stratigraphy was revealed along with features and artifacts characteristic of a short lived settlement gardening system. The remains provided insights into the relationship between field structures, garden soils and activity areas.

Overall the results reveal the pragmatic approach of Maori to the environmental conditions of the Manukau area and the demands of subsistence agriculture.

The pipeline project has been a controversial one with extended legal battles between Watercare Services and one of the affected iwi. But the validity of all consents and authorities was upheld by the courts and the project proceeded as planned. However, the archaeologically sensitive nature of the stonefields resulted in Watercare commissioning investigations considerably more detailed than required by the original authority.

Rod Clough points out, however, that it is important to note that the

authorities and designations were issued under earlier Acts. The real failure of the Historic Places Act 1993 was the lack of a sunset clause to cancel authorities issued under the old legislation. Therefore it should not be used as a case study to examine the current legislation. The case relating to the Ngunguru sandspit is more indicative of the ability of the current legislation (Resource Management Act 1991 and Historic Places Act 1993) to protect heritage sites and wahi tapu.

The legal battle to stop the construction is the most protracted and comprehensive to date and has important ramifications for the management of historic resources. Sue Bulmer has prepared a draft report, *Minhinick vs the Historic Places Trust, The Auckland Regional Council, The Manukau City Council, and Watercare Services Ltd. Summary of legal proceedings and decisions, 1997*. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy should contact Sue at 10 Tansley Ave, Epsom, Auckland 1003.

I trust you are all aware by now that the Historic Heritage Management Review is well underway. The first public meeting for the Auckland area was organised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and held at Highwic on the 17 February. Dame Cath Tizard chaired the packed lunchtime meeting which prompted a range of responses. I hope the collapse, at the start of her address, of a publicity board showing an aerial photograph of One Tree Hill is not a bad omen for archaeological site protection! Attendance at the meetings is an important indicator of concern for our heritage management, but even more crucial is the completion of questionnaires and preparation of submissions.

Contact the Department of Conservation Auckland Conservancy office: telephone 307 9279, fax 372 2919 for your copy of the "Historic Heritage Management Review A Discussion Paper for Public Comment" if you do not already have one.

Museum news: The exhibition of Egyptian objects "BellSouth Pharoahs" drew 75,000 visitors which augers well for future "exotic" exhibitions and sponsorships.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

EAST COAST

Issues relating to planning consents for coastal subdivisions have been a feature of the last few months. The draft District Plan has useful provisions for the protection of archaeological sites which will be tested with some of these applications. The draft Gisborne District Plan submissions close on Feb 20th. DoC and HPT have been working closely on submissions relating to the cultural heritage chapter and the Cone of Vision.

The Dept of Conservation, with support from Port Gisborne Ltd have set in place a watering regime in an attempt to save some of the plantings at the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve which are under stress due to the drought.

Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre/ Te Whare Taonga o Te Tairāwhiti hosted a hui looking at the relationship of the museum with its Maori community. Facilitated by Te Papa Tongarewa, the hui attracted approximately 60 participants from across Te Tairāwhiti. The main issue discussed and debated was the museum's proposal to change its governing structure. In particular the proposal is to replace the Maori Advisory committee with full representation on its governing board by each of the five iwi of the district. The outcome was that more discussion was needed and that the Museum was to provide more information to all interested parties.

Pam Bain, DoC

WELLINGTON

DOC Science & Research archaeologists have been involved in the inhuman drudgery of office routine for the last few months. Kevin Jones escaped briefly into the field to Kapiti Island in December and again (with Lynda Bowers) to work on a Conservation Plan for Te Koru Pa Historic Reserve in January. He has also undertaken a preliminary sortie to take aerial photographs as part of a recording and mapping project in southern Hawkes Bay. Bruce McFadgen has seen part of his synthesis of the archaeology of Wellington Conservancy through into print and is now working on a second part. The unit has also seen Warren Gumbley's report on mapping of reserves through to printing (see recent publications). Ann Williams departs temporarily on parental leave soon, necessitating some rescheduling of work programmes.

Tony Walton, DoC

OTAGO

The 1988 season of the Dusky Sound Historical Archaeology Project was focussed on the 1795-97 *Endeavour* settlement in Facile Harbour. An extensive area of scattered metal artefacts was located in the northwest corner of the harbour, about 300 m north of the *Endeavour* 'wreck'. Excavations there revealed the collapsed stone chimney and cobblestone floor of a hut, and on an adjacent terrace, nails and remnants of planking which probably mark the location of a storehouse. Other areas investigated may have been used for timber sawing and as a storage dump.

The University of Otago field school will take place in early March at Shag Point under the direction of Marshall Weisler. This site, just north of Shag River Mouth, was investigated in the 1950s and 60s by Michael Trotter. Further excavations are being undertaken at the request of the Moeraki Runanga because of recent damage to the site during carpark development.

Ian Smith, University of Otago

SOUTHLAND

On 7 January 1998 I investigated an exposed Polynesian burial at Mason Bay, Stewart Island (Gillies 1998). The burial was from site D49/28, not far from where the elaborately carved canoe prow was found in 1996 (Gillies and Skerrett 1996, 1998). Three pre-European artefacts were also found which are now registered under the Antiquities Act 1975. Specifically, these were a waste flake of porcellanite, an argillite flake (Riverton source) from a polished adze, and a curved, drilled bone pin. Also of relevance here is a notched bone point from a two piece fishhook (Z.4632) which was recovered from the site in April 1997.

From the surface of a dune overlooking the exposed burial, we also recovered three fragments of moa eggshell (from a single egg). They may or may not be contemporaneous with the burial and artefacts.

There were insufficient numbers of diagnostic bones for a detailed extrapolation. A rocker jaw with third molars erupted and well worn indicated an adult of approximately 20+ years (also see Gillies 1989, 1994 for other investigations of burials from this site). These artefacts now place site D49/28 firmly in the pre-European era, possibly even archaic period.

Another site (D48/1) some 16 nautical miles north at East Ruggedy has adze preforms and stone flakes typical of archaic Murihiku tools.

Although the canoe prow was discovered in the tidal zone of the site, it may well have eroded out of the site (or, on the other hand, it may have been wrecked and washed up on the beach). Whatever the case, the discovery of these artefacts adds further information to this interesting area.

In the adjacent Doughboy Bay, an enigmatic wooden artefact was discovered on the beach last year. Rod Wallace has now identified the wood as native matai. Although it is incomplete, it looks like nothing so much as a canoe bow cover!

Tom Higham is expecting a preliminary radiocarbon date from the prow, back from the NSF Arizona Accelerator Facility, which we are all waiting for with great interest!

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Karl Gillies
Southland Museum and Art Gallery