



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### AUCKLAND

Since the last report I seem to have been so involved with the logistics and physical work of collection relocation at the Museum that there seems to have been scant time to cast about for the news and gossip. For those of you who feel you suffer from isolation I can recommend the archaeological gatherings at the Mezze Bar and KXQ Cafe. There are representatives from DoC, the University, the Museum, HPT, ARC and the consultancies. Such a pleasurable and mellow way to catch up! Thanks to Sarah for organizing reminders. It was at the Mezze Bar that I gleaned these snippets: Sarah Ross's position at the Auckland Regional Council has become permanent - excellent news that there are now two permanent archaeological positions in the organization. Michael Taylor and Anetta Sutton are intending to move to Wanganui to give their children more social and educational scope than was possible in the north.

Jeff Mosen offered details of three of the larger projects Bioreserches have been involved in recently:

#### **A feasibility study in the uses and application of GPS in recording locations of historic places.**

Undertaken on behalf of the Auckland Regional Council (ARC). A study to evaluate the different methods for recording locations of places situated in the Coastal Marine Active (CMA) zone. Developing solutions for integrating GPS data with ARC GIS data.

Report: *A feasibility study in the uses and applications of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in recording locations of historic places* (draft completed, final in prep). 1998

### **Monitoring and excavation of a small shell midden site (R11/461).**

Waimanu Bay subdivision destroyed a coastal shell midden. The site was excavated by Jeff, Mike Taylor and a Ngati Whatua representative. No portable artefacts were recovered, several small hangi were recorded and C14 dates were determined from a shell sample.

Calibrated age ranges = One sigma cal AD1516-1652 (434-298 Cal BP)  
Two sigma cal AD1478-1679(472-271 Cal BP)

Calibrated age = AD 1577 (Stuiver & Braziunas 1993).

Report: *An archaeological excavation of site R11/294, Waimanu Bay, Te Atatu Peninsula. 1998*

### **Eastern Corridor Transport Options Study**

A controversial one this! A preliminary assessment of the eastern corridor designation, Hobson Bay through to Mt Wellington. A four lane highway is being proposed.

Report: *Eastern Corridor Transport Options Study: A Preliminary Assessment of Effects on Archaeological Sites. 1997*

It is pleasing to learn that the Department of Conservation will move the Auckland Conservancy Area Office to North Head where it will occupy some of the former barracks. This will provide greater security for the group of historic buildings on North Head summit.

Help is at hand for the many fortunate archaeophiles (is that the right term?) who visited the Waipuna Site on the route of the south east arterial motorway, Tamaki, during excavation. Many impressive features were emerging that challenged interpretation. The final excavation report by Rod Clough and Marianne Turner has now been completed. The site provided a valuable addition to the corpus of knowledge of Maori settlement of Tamaki. Excavation revealed a complex of storage pits, drainage systems, hangis and midden and the stratigraphy and radiocarbon dates indicated the site had been occupied intermittently for over 200 years between the 14th and 17th centuries AD.

Stratigraphical evidence supported oral traditions that settlement was based on shifting agriculture with occupation for a period then abandonment followed by return a decade or generation later. Artefacts were few but indicated long distance contact (Mayor Island obsidian, Tahanga basalt) and use of resources closer to home (Great Barrier Island obsidian, Motutapu greywacke). Most notable of the features was a late mega storage pit

measuring nine by nine metres with a depth of one and a half metres, representing one of the largest storage pits in New Zealand!

Conflict returns to redoubt - one land war isn't finished yet; the Weekend Herald headline used to report the efforts of Nigel Prickett, Kim Tatton and Amanda Young and the Historic Places Trust to save Queen's Redoubt at Pokeno from development. The land owners want to turn the property into a motel complex or caravan park and have previously been charged with wilful destruction of an historic site. The redoubt's importance stems from its use in 1863 as the headquarters for the British invasion of the Waikato which became one of the pivotal campaigns of the New Zealand Wars. Thousands of British troops passed through it on their way to the front. The land needs to be transferred to public ownership as quickly as possible and it is hoped a charitable trust would be set up as soon as possible. James Belich of the recent television series "The New Zealand Wars" fame has expressed an interest in this. It would try to raise money from lottery grants and other sources.

Museum news: the old "Hall of Man", the repose of the Egyptian mummy and other items of archaeological origin from around the world, has now been dismantled in preparation for a gallery featuring New Zealand history. So too has the east wing of the Maori gallery. The Maori Galleries will also be revamped. The Mackelvie Gallery has just opened; this features a small amount of Greek and Roman material.

The research capacity of the Archaeology Department will be greatly diminished with the departure of Louise Furey. Louise has accepted a position as Research Archaeologist at Auckland University working as assistant to Doug Sutton, Dean of the Arts Faculty. She will be very sorely missed here and we thank her for her enormous contribution to the department over the years.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

PS. If it would be more comforting Sarah Ross will give you the grid references to the Mezze Bar and the KXQ Cafe for those who have not located these meeting places yet.

## WAIKATO

The previous issue of AINZ had fieldwork reports from Northland and Auckland only, leading the editor to wonder whether this might be the final proof that nothing significant ever happens south of the Bombay Hills - a hypothesis which Aucklanders are apparently given to entertaining.

On that occasion, however, it had to be admitted that there actually wasn't much happening, in an archaeological sense, immediately south or west of the Bombay Hills. Since then another three months have gone by, and there still isn't very much to rave about from the Waikato/Coromandel region.

### **The "Bombay Hill effect" tentatively explained**

One reason there is so little happening here is that so few Aucklanders are prepared to venture beyond the aforementioned Bombay Hills with fieldwork in mind. There is no one down here to do it.

For several years there has been virtually no archeological establishment based in the Waikato. The Department of Conservation has 1 1/2 employees who call themselves archaeologists but who the Department calls historic resource technical support officers. They have very little mandate to carry out archaeological work, and what work they do is either concentrated on DoC land or is concerned with maintaining (as distinct from expanding) the NZAA site record file. There is one archaeologist at the university, whose job is to help run a carbon dating lab, rather than be an archaeologist fulltime. There is one archaeologist with the Historic Places Trust, but her job as a regional officer allows but little archaeological practice. There is no archaeology being done from the Waikato Museum, and there is no organization to encourage or organize amateur activity. There are several contract archaeologists, but the very nature of their calling means that, for reasons beyond their control, the thoroughness of their investigations tend to be inversely proportional to the significance of the sites they are investigating. (Important sites aren't supposed to be destroyed, hence don't even need to be mapped. Minor sites are being destroyed in droves, hence are mitigated, mapped, trenched, sectioned, and dated in dazzling detail.)

Another reason, in my opinion, is that it is becoming so much harder to do archaeology. Landowners are becoming ever more cautious about allowing access for fear of becoming ensnared by acronyms - by the much-feared RMA or the less-understood HPA, not to mention the awful OSH morass.

Maori groups, while using archaeological data for the production of wahi tapu lists etc, seem only too keen to interfere in the collection of such data. Changing land tenure patterns, particularly "lifestyle" subdivisions, make fieldwork more difficult. The Wellington-based heritage police are not making life any easier either - in a recent instance the HPT wouldn't grant an authority to collect a few samples for carbon dating until written permission from landowners and local Maoris had been presented to them. Has the Trust nothing better to do with its time and money? For every trowel-slice of midden taken for carbon dating, several truckfull at least of midden are being destroyed without record somewhere else. Shouldn't the HPT be keeping tabs on the trucks rather than the trowels?

Archaeology is also becoming harder to do because information is becoming much less accessible.

Since the latest restructuring of DoSLI into LINZ their kind of information has become almost prohibitively expensive. A2 photocopies of old survey plans now cost \$8 each, an A4 cadastral printout \$10. Old 1940s air photos which until recently were available for inspection free, are now not available at all. The copyright has been sold back to the company that took the photos, and photos now have to be ordered, sight-unseen, pay-in-advance, from Hastings. Back in the 70s Steve Edson was able to borrow for free a whole run of air photos at a time, and take them back to his lair at the Museum to search for pas and pits! DoSLI's once very helpful Maori Land section has been shut down.

The National Archives have also been restructured, and are now a business unit of the Heritage Group within Internal Affairs. This supposedly makes no difference to the visiting researcher at the front desk. I agree that the staff are as wonderful as ever, but I find the service slower and searches less thorough than they used to be - or am I just imagining it? Here in Hamilton the Maori Land Court is undergoing restructuring, and the staff admit that their service to researchers won't be as good in future as it has been in the past, if for no other reason than a 20% decline in their numbers.

Having got all that off my chest, I will now proceed to relay the real news!

### **Intensive site survey west of Taupo**

For anyone who hasn't been there before, entering the domain of Carter Holt Harvey south of Putaruru is like crossing a border into another country, o

even a bit like Alice passing through the looking glass. Carter Holt has a world of its own down there, including a gigantic roading network totally separate from the public roads, complete with traffic signs, tarsealng etc, and whole fleets of vehicles which never set rubber on a public road. CHH seem to be more supportive of archaeology in their domain than the Government is in the rest of the country. Amongst other things they can always lay on a supply of up-to-date and free aerial photographs whenever there is work to be done in the forest.

Perry Fletcher, filekeeper for the Taupo district, has been kept busy doing site surveys for CHH. Much of his work is done in mature pine plantations which were not site surveyed before planting, and he has had remarkable success in locating all kinds of sites under the pines. Because most of the forest is destined for pulp rather than timber it is not pruned or thinned, and hence movement and vision are not hindered as much as in forests where there is slash lying all over the place.

Perry has recently finished a very intensive survey of a 42 square kilometre area west of Lake Taupo near Tihoi, on the eastern margins of Pureora forest park, which is destined for planting. Here he has discovered a surprising density of sites, given the location far from waterways and coastline, the poor pumice soils, and the somewhat less than benign climate. Roller-crushing of scrub in preparation for treeplanting helped to reveal (and damage) some of the sites. A total of 97 sites were recorded, and in the areas where sites are found the density of sites can be as much as ten per square kilometre. About one third of the sites are small rock shelters, 11 of them with rock art or ochre markings. Pits are fairly common, although pits likely to be the remains of the pit dwellings (wharepuni) which early travellers to the region described are rare. There seems to be a remarkable mount of wooden material remaining on these sites. Palisade remains are still visible on pa, and a waka huia was found in a rock crevice.

### **The "hard water effect" and carbon dating.**

Hard water from limestone terrains can contain bicarbonate in solution which is extremely old, and which will deplete the carbon-14 content below prevailing levels elsewhere. This could show up in archaeological samples, especially of estuarine shells.

Helen McKinnon, Lab Manager at the University of Waikato Radiocarbon dating Laboratory is attempting to determine whether there is any evidence

for a hard water effect at Aotea Harbour on the Waikato West Coast. West of the southwest-trending fault which bisects the catchment are the Aotea Sandstone and Whaingaroa Siltstone of the mid-Tertiary Te Kuiti Group. Radiocarbon dating of estuarine shellfish collected live from the harbour is being undertaken to see if there is evidence for a hardwater effect here. Dating of stratigraphically paired samples of shell and charcoal will also be carried out to calculate a factor,  $\Delta R$ , which will describe the difference between the radiocarbon activity of the surface layers of the regional ocean and the surface layers of the average world ocean in AD 1950, and so constitute a correction for local and regional effects. Variation of  $\Delta R$  for New Zealand may reflect evidence for a hardwater effect.

Four prehistoric sites south of Aotea harbour entrance are to be investigated as well as material from terraces excavated by Richard Cassels in the 1970s from site R15/10 on the north head of Aotea. A number of new dates for sites will be generated from this study, being undertaken for a PhD.

#### **Other fieldwork**

Louise Furey is updating site surveys along the length of the Waikato River as part of a process for obtaining resource consents for all the hydroelectric dams on the river. Brenda Sewell has been site surveying between Huntly and Hamilton as part of the process of selecting a route for the out-of-Auckland motorway which keeps creeping closer and closer to Hamilton (and which, with time, might eliminate the "Bombay Hill" effect, to the chagrin of at least some Hamiltonians). Nick Twohill of Thames School of Mines Museum has been doing assessments at Te Mata, Thames, Port Charles and Onemana. Nick contributes more records and updates to the site recording files than anyone else these days. Warren Gumbley recently carried out an excavation of a midden and terrace site threatened by lifestyle subdivision at Te Mata.

Owen Wilkes, Hamilton

#### **BAY OF PLENTY**

Despite the weather reports and the noticeable absence of contributions to notes and news, The Bay of Plenty, as its name rightly implies, continues to be the sunniest and most exciting archaeological landscape south of the Bombay Hills. The development frenzy in the Tauranga District appears to be slowing down for the moment, however, archaeological surveys and

investigations continue at a steady pace. Historic Resource Management Services have undertaken a number of archaeological investigations over the last six months including 'more' residential and commercial developments on the Papamoia dune systems, ongoing involvement with the proposed Tauranga motorway system and an increasing number of lifestyle block subdivisions involving site avoidance and mitigation.

In late February Rick McGovern-Wilson directed a weeklong field programme on Moutohora (Whale Island), which also included NZAA members Ken Phillips, Kevin Jones and Janet Wilmshurst, and DoC staff from the Bay of Plenty. The objectives of the week were to complete a detailed plane table drawing of Raetihi Pa, obtain pollen samples from the swampy area behind the back dunes to determine the nature of the palaeoenvironment, especially that prior to human settlement, and to undertake excavations in the blown-out back dunes to recover material from an in situ midden site. The results were mixed - the drawing of Raetihi was completed, pollen samples revealed that the sediments in the swampy area only cover the period since the Kaharoa tephra, and there do not appear to be any undisturbed sites in the dune systems. All of the archaeological material, consisting of exposed hangi and deflated middens, is sitting on the surface of the dunes or in the upper 5 - 10 cm.

In early April Ken Phillips directed a two week excavation of an undefended river side fishing settlement in central Whakatane. NZAA members Don Prince, Barbara Proctor and Jan Worrall assisted with the excavation along with a steady trickle of local enthusiasts and students from the Wananga of Awanuiarangi. A road realignment project being carried out by the Whakatane District Council disturbed historic and prehistoric remains under a recently demolished building. The investigation revealed a complex fish processing site with large quantities of fish bone, several fish hooks and lures and numerous obsidian cutting tools. The site was excavated to a sufficient extent to allow the capping of the remainder of the site over which George Street now runs. The excavation was highly visible within the CBD facilitating excellent media coverage and public interest and illustrated the effective use of existing processes of the Historic Places Act.

At the end of May Rick McGovern-Wilson and Ken Phillips monitored the excavation of a house platform at Taneatua (inland Whakatane) on what had originally been recorded as a pa site. The undulating ground surface gave the appearance of a series of terraces down a relatively shallow slope, but

excavation revealed that the area had probably been extensively gardened during prehistory and this had resulted in the current ground situation. A large complex of rua, rectangular storage pits and house floors was recorded and the only artefact recovered was a Type 2B adze of Ohana (D'Urville) argillite in the bottom of a post hole. The nature of the site is a kainga surrounded by gardens.

In June Rick McGovern-Wilson, Ken Phillips and Don Prince spent a week on Tuhua (Mayor Island) conducting an archaeological survey. The Department of Conservation is embarking on a 5 year restoration and pest eradication programme and archaeological surveys will be part of the ongoing research. In particular the June survey was hunting for middens associated with inland sites so that excavations might be undertaken to recover evidence of fauna associated with early human settlement of the island. This, in turn, would guide any attempts at reintroduction of species. While no such middens were recorded, we did find a large number of previously unrecorded house floors, rectangular storage pits and rua, in association with areas of gardening, and three 'new' pa sites. A research proposal to examine the settlement patterns and history of the island, essentially ignoring the obsidian factor (which all previous research has concentrated on), is being prepared for presentation to the Trust Board.

Rick McGovern-Wilson, in his role as President of NZAA, has been actively involved in ongoing discussions about the Historic Heritage Review. This has included a number of meetings around the country, and the ongoing Te Kupenga series of hui which are being organised by Susan Forbes and the Maori Heritage Division of the Trust.

After contemplating the fieldwork frenzy undertaken by Ken Phillips and Rick McGovern-Wilson this year, Lynda Bowers has temporarily retired due to exhaustion. The last reported sighting of her involved a box of chocolates, a good novel and a comfortable sofa.

Ken Phillips, Ohope

## **EAST COAST**

A major item of news from the East Coast is that Victoria Grouden has left us and gone to Australia and India teaching and training in yoga. However,

Gordon Jackman continues to do contract archaeology in the area.

Hapu requests for information from the NZAA file continue at a great rate. Many hapu in the area are involved in researching their wahi tapu and there is a steady request for information.

I have finally completed the report on the conservation of the Category 1 Tauranga Bridge, Waioeka Gorge, and copies are available on request.

Rick and I managed to have a face to face conversation on the edge of our conservancies about coastal planning issues and other District Plans keep rolling in for comment.

A local resident informed the HPT committee that in the 1940s the headstone for the burial of George Read, one of the earliest settlers of the district, had been shifted but the burial remained. The committee have been involved in researching the history of this important burial site and are working with a local surveyor to relocate the area.

Pam Bain, DoC

## WELLINGTON

The three archaeologists of the Science and Research Unit (SRU) of Department of Conservation have spent most of the last few months on writing and other office-based duties. Bruce McFadgen and Fred Knox have published a paper on 'Least-squares fitting a smooth curve to radiocarbon calibration data' in *Radiocarbon* 39 (1997):193-204. Kevin Jones's paper on the state of large earthwork sites in the United Kingdom has been published (*Antiquity* 72 (1998):293-307). Tony Walton has been working on a project on assessing the archaeological values of historic places and has completed work on the first part which now awaits publication. Two smaller papers have also been completed. One is on a pumice head from a Papamoa midden (Warren Gumbley, Bruce McFadgen and Tony Walton) and the other is on the Heavy Anti-aircraft Artillery position on Somes Island (Tony Walton, Kevin Jones, Richard Nester and Vanessa Tanner). A contract for mapping two reserves (Nganana and Te Awa-te-take) has been completed by Warren Gumbley, as part of the SRU Taranaki Earthworks project. Other general work has included advice and other inputs to the Ministerial Advisory Committee as part of Historic Heritage Management Review process.

Vanessa Tanner, an Otago graduate, has been assisting Bruce with the compilation of the radiocarbon database. This has involved checking the lab records against publications and identifying the sites that samples came from. Some dates have provided a few headaches as the available information is so muddled. The database is now complete but needs a final check done before it will be available for routine use.

Kevin Jones has been making progress with the proposed publication on guidelines for conservation of archaeological sites. A format and style for the guidelines has been agreed. The publication will begin with a matrix of site types against ecological setting from which users will be able to go straight to the combination of advice which best suits their problem. There they will find an analysis of management issues and reasonably punchy dos and don'ts. General cases and work specifications will be worked through, avoiding reference to particular sites (since that has already been done in two earlier publications). In late March, Kevin visited Big River, Waiuta, Brunner and Denniston on the West Coast. The management of Brunner, where problems are accumulating, needs thorough review and some urgent work undertaken on drainage and structural stabilisation. Kevin also attended Indo Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA) in Melaka, Malaysia, and gave a paper on advances and issues in archaeological site conservation.

Recent fieldwork has included final phase of detailed mapping of Pukerangiora pa Historic Reserve in late March (Bruce McFadgen and Tony Walton), inspection of areas being bulldozed to create wetland on Mana Island in April (Kevin Jones), on-site liaison with iwi at Nganana pa and an updated condition report for Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve in April (Tony Walton), testing of underground radar in May (Bruce McFadgen & Tony Walton), the final phase of detailed mapping of Opepe Historic & Scenic Reserve in early June (Bruce McFadgen & Tony Walton), and mapping on Matiu/Somes Island in June (Kevin Jones with Richard Nester and Vanessa Tanner). The underground radar was tested at the Upper Hutt Blockhouse site by running the instrument across the filled-in trenches there. The radar readily detected the trench and a well but it is our estimation that, without prior knowledge, interpretation of the output would be very difficult. The big advance since the equipment was last tested in mid 1980s is in the graphic presentation of results on laptop computer in the field and the ability of the software to create three dimensional images.

Kevin Jones has undertaken a number of flights recently to photograph

archaeological sites. Areas covered have been Waihou River (March), Kaipara Harbour and Bay of Islands (May), Mana Island/Battle Hill and Southern Hawkes Bay (May & June). A selection of Kevin's air photos have gone on the NZAA web site at:

<http://www2.waikato.ac.nz/c14/nzaa/aerial/opacs.html>

The museum exhibit 'Nga Tohu Whenua Mai Te Rangi', consisting of a selection of Kevin's aerial photographs, has been archived at the Hocken Library. Posters featuring aerial photographs of Central Otago and Hawkes Bay have been produced and are available. Contact Kevin ([kjones@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kjones@doc.govt.nz)) for details.

Tony Walton, DoC

The Archaeozoology Laboratory at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa has just begun a new programme of archaeological research, entitled "Bridge and Barrier: 800 years of Maori Culture in Cook Strait". The aim of the programme is the improved understanding of pre-European Maori history in Central New Zealand and of the nature of Maori-European interactions in the Cook Strait region during 1770-1850. The focus in the first two years is on fishing and shellfish gathering behaviour. Part of this study includes reconstructing and testing replicas of Maori fish traps and hooks to better understand how they worked, and how effective they may have been. The programme also involves the analysis of faunal material from archaeological sites. We have been fortunate to gain access to a large sample of faunal material from the Foxton site, and a group of volunteers have recently started work sorting shell midden samples. It is also hoped to be able to analyse material from many sites in the region which were excavated in the past and are currently held in museum collections.

Karen Fraser  
Archaeozoology Laboratory  
Te Papa Museum of New Zealand

## **CANTERBURY AND SOUTHERN MARLBOROUGH**

During the past three months, the main archaeological activity for us has been our involvement with a hearing by the Waimakariri District Council and the Canterbury Regional Council of submissions on a developer's proposal

to build a town of some 1500 houses in North Canterbury between the Waikuku and Woodend Beach settlements. Around 45 archaeological sites have been recorded in the area proposed for development.

Two principal points of interest were:

1. Permission and support for the development had been given by the upoko of the local tangata whenua, Te Runanga o Ngai Tuahuriri, but this was not supported by the runanga's Resource Management Committee nor by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu who claimed that he had been speaking as an individual and that the consultation process had been flawed.
2. Of special archaeological interest was the fact the village site of Hohoupounamu lies within the development area. Long-time Association members (note that with great sensitivity we refrain from referring to anyone as our contemporaries!) will recall 'Hohou' as an important greenstone working site on which excavations were carried out (including by us) under the instructions of the late Roger Duff, between 1967 and 1974 - an exercise that was little more than a hunt for artefacts.

Michael appeared as an expert witness for Te Runanga o Ngai Tuahuriri (following up our personal submission), detailing the work we had done in the area in the past and indicating that the archaeological evidence supported the traditional and historical information that this was an area of mahinga kai. We maintained that the proposed setting aside of Hohou as a reserve was not practicable and would not ensure its long term protection. The Commissioners' verdict is still awaited.

We were also delighted to see that a Fyffe Historic Area in Kaikoura was approved and registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust at its June Board meeting. The area around the historic Fyffe House contains over 20 sites, both historic and archaeological; we have both been actively involved with the area since 1980 and proposed its setting aside to the Trust in 1991.

Earlier this year we completed a contract with Transit New Zealand to survey 50 metres on either side of approximately 100 kilometres of State Highway One in southern Marlborough. The area extends from Okarahia Stream, some 20 kilometres south of Kaikoura, to Tirohanga Stream, north of Kekerengu, and includes such sites as the 'Elms' Pa and the Clarence agricultural complex. The work is in preparation for Highway maintenance and reconstruction, and will hopefully lead to other such surveys in archaeologically rich areas.

Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch

## OCEANIA

Beginning in early June the New Georgia Archaeology Project carried out a six week field season in Roviana Lagoon, New Georgia, in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. This was the 1998 field season of a joint project directed by Peter Sheppard (Centre for Archaeological Research, University of Auckland) and Richard Walter (Anthropology Department, University of Otago) which commenced in 1996. During the 1998 field season Takuya Nagaoka completed the field survey of shrines on the island of Nusa Roviana for his MA project and Matthew Felgate (University of Auckland) continued his survey of ceramic sites along the New Georgia coast as part of his PhD research. Peter, Richard and the Solomon field crew began a survey of the New Georgia mainland and continued to carry out excavation and survey programmes within the lagoon region. This year the New Georgia Archaeology Project was joined by Geomorphologists from the University of Western Australia who are looking at processes of landform change in the region.

Marshall Weisler (Anthropology Department, University of Otago) recently returned from a field season at Kahikinui, on the island of Maui. Marshall's work on Maui is part of a joint project with Pat Kirch from the University of California, Berkeley. The Kahikinui project involves a large settlement pattern survey and excavation programme aimed at examining late prehistoric social systems in Hawai'i.

Tim Thomas (University of Otago) has recently taken up a short term appointment with the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO). Tim is part of a team working with Julie Endicott (ASHPO) carrying out a survey on the Tafuna plain prior to development work by the American Samoa Power Authority.

Roger Green and Dimitri Anson have recently completed the final stages of the Watom publication and the results are expected to come out as a series of papers by various authors in a regular edition of the *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology*. Pacific archaeologists are eagerly awaiting the reports from this extremely important Lapita site.

Harry Allen is excavating a rockshelter near Maningrida, Winnellie, Northern Territory, Australia.

Richard Walter, University of Otago