



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NORTHLAND

Sorry we missed the last issue but I was spending so much time reporting to all and sundry on what we were 'doing' that there was no time to do anything to report on. However we've managed to accomplish a few things recently.

One of the most interesting aspects of working in Northland is the number of new (to us) historic places that we continually discover. James and I recently lurched along the old Waoku Coach Road on quads to inspect the remains of two kauri bridges. While we were aware that the road existed in Mataraua Forest, we had no idea of the high quality of stonework in culverts, water flushings and on banks supporting the bridges. Work on the road began in the late 1800s when squatters from Marlborough were granted an area of wasteland on the Waoku Plateau. High rainfall and boggy ground resulted in the disappearance of road metal so a stonemason, William Archibald, was employed to construct the culverts and flushings. A twice weekly coach service travelled the 31 miles between Kaihu and Taheke until the road was closed by a slip in 1930. Understandably settlement here was shortlived; it is noted as the worst micro-climate in Northland and we can verify that from experience. We left Waipoua in brilliant sunshine and ended up wet and muddy eating soggy sandwiches in a leaking hut. Still the trip through the forest is great and we hope to work with the local community trust to keep the track open and conserve historic features.

The coastal battery at Waitata Point, Russell, is comprised of another interesting group of historic structures. Our visit there was similarly blessed with moist conditions and this time an almost perpendicular climb up the point through gorse and God-knows-what-else. Since there was a gentle meandering track back down to the beach it can only be assumed that we

were being deliberately subjected to trial by fieldcentre staff. The battery is very impressive with two 6 inch gun emplacements and numerous associated structures covering approximately 500m of ridgeline out to the point. It is currently in thick regenerating scrub but could be cleared for public presentation in the future.

It seems to rain every time we venture out. We were caught in a deluge on a preliminary trip to part of the Waitangi Endowment Forest where there are a number of stone features associated with Maori gardening. James and Adrienne will be inspecting the area in detail before final plans are made for clear felling. The rain has also caused problems at several archaeological sites on DoC reserves. Slips have taken place at Arai-te-Uru (South Head of Hokianga Harbour) and at Kororipo Pa and there is a large incipient slip at Bream Head Reserve. As yet features have not been directly affected but there is a possibility that they could be. We hope that an engineer can provide a solution to the problem before damage occurs.

On a more cheerful note, we have once again been fortunate to have the assistance of Conservation Corps students from Northland Polytechnic. They have helped James to remove young trees from the skyline of Motukiore Island, which is virtually covered in archaeological and historic features including a well preserved pa, middens and the remains of early European occupation. They have also been involved with applying the results of ground cover trials near Ruapekapeka to the pa itself. A selection of features suffering erosion were fertilized; the upper areas sown with chewings fescue and meadow rice grass and the eroding sides planted with small ferns and rata cuttings. The ferns and rata were collected from adjacent roadside banks. Further collection of native grass seed from the pa will be made this summer so that a larger area can be covered next year. Peter Woods, who has been in overall charge of the project, will be leaving soon for a VSA term in Tonga. We shall be following his instructions while he's away and hope to have some very positive results when he returns in two years time.

Joan Maingay, DoC

## AUCKLAND

The dominant concern this quarter has been the report of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Historic Heritage Management Review. Superficially, most recommendations seemed reasonable. However,

knowledge of the antipathy in the McShane review of the Resource Management Act to heritage definitions and protection requirements, the discovery of the \$1.8 million loss in next years budget for the Historic Places Trust, news of the Trust review before the H.H.M.R. has been completed, has caused a ground swell of considerable disquiet. On the 4 November a discussion meeting, led by Harry Allen, was called at the University of Auckland to assist us in making our review responses. Though submissions have now closed, the concern about greater organisational fragmentation of the heritage system and the plethora of unco-ordinated reviews, can still be voiced by contacting your MP, or through letters to Nick Smith and the newspapers.

Don Prince, with Rod Clough and Simon Best, has been monitoring the Auckland City Council's stormwater diversion work in the lower Queen Street area. This activity has exposed some spectacular sections of the successive methods of dealing with the sanitation of the city. When I visited, the gaping hole at the Queen Street/Fort Street junction showed the 1842 wood-lined Ligar Canal at the base with the later 1860s ovoid shaped barrel drain built above.



*The Queen Street sewer c.1860 showing the basalt keystones.*

The brick lined barrel drain is particularly aesthetic. Many passing members of the public commented on the desirability of preserving some of it. Hopefully their wish can be granted. The Auckland Museum has retained sections of the wooden canal timbers and bricks from the barrel drain to be reconstructed in the new History gallery. (It was harder to capture the pong of the sewer sludge!). Dilys Johns is undertaking conservation of the timbers in preparation for the proposed display. Dilys has just returned from Grenoble, France, where she presented a paper at the ICOM Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Conference.

The Historic Places Trust has been run off its foundations. This is a particularly busy time being the earthworks season: lots of authorities are in process in the pre-summer rush (now up to 137 for the year). Amanda has been to Napier to deal with two tricky authorities and continues to provide support in Wellington. Kim has been working between the ARC and HPT. Both have been helping out at the Alexandra East Redoubt excavation at Pirongia. As a result they are looking for a student to take on processing of historic artefacts from the 1860s-1870s as a research project or course work. Another redoubt project has been the facilitation of forming a Trust to acquire the site of Queens Redoubt for public ownership applications have been made to Lotteries and the Witney Family Trust for purchase money.

The Trust has been involved in one environment court case where HPT refused two Section 12 authorities for a subdivision at Whangaparaoa (based on archaeological and iwi values). Auckland University have applied for a Section 18 for next year's field school at Butlers Point. New guideline pamphlets are being written along the lines of... "Now you have your authority...". Meanwhile the internal review of the Trust continues; the consultants have been to the Auckland office and the Auckland office has been to the PSA.

Doug Sutton gave his Inaugural Address as Dean of Arts in a fascinating talk called "Testing History: Archaeology in the New Millennium, on October 7. Among activities rounding off Auckland Archaeological Society's activities for the year was a field trip to North Head led by Dave Veart of DOC and a talk by Keay Burridge on the archaeology of Mexico for touring archaeologists.

Bioresearches has announced the completion of His Majesty's Theatre Report (3 years in the making). It has been produced in 2 volumes.

*His Majesty's Theatre Site Excavations (R11/1624), Final Archaeological report, Volume I*

*His Majesty's Theatre Site Excavations (R11/1624), appendices to the Final Report, Volume II*

Copies are quite expensive. Anyone wanting further information should contact Jeff Mosen.

At Auckland Museum, a new small temporary display of Maori taonga has opened on the second floor. It will provide a window to the collections while the new Maori Galleries are being designed and reconstructed. The Maori Court closes completely on 7 December. As well as participating in planning for the new Maori Galleries, the Archaeology and Ethnology Departments have been working with Mere Roberts and Brad Haami on the Maori Natural History Gallery and with Margaret and James Belich on the History Gallery concepts.

Nigel Prickett has been assisting Warren Gumbley in efforts to save the important Alexandra East Redoubt site at Pirongia from incorporation into a housing subdivision.

In early October, Kath and Nigel Prickett attended the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) conference held at the new Museum of Sydney. The conference was well organised, the venue superb, and the papers stimulating. Neville Ritchie, Rick McGovern Wilson and Chris Jacomb swelled the NZAA representation. Nigel presented a paper on his compilation of New Zealand sites, Neville talked about ore roasting structures in the Coromandel and Chris spoke on the accommodation houses of Canterbury. Hopefully there will be an encore at the coming NZAA conference.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Wynn Spring-Rice who broke her leg while site surveying with Ian Lawlor.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

## TARANAKI

Following on from the success of Keith Holswich and his recording of sites within the rohe of Ngati Rahiri the neighbouring hapu of Otaraua have begun a similar project. Keith has also demonstrated his computerised database to Ngati Ruanui and Taranaki iwi representatives, both of whom have expressed

a desire to do the same for their areas. South Taranaki District Council have indicated that they may be able to financially assist with such projects.

Kelvin Day recently spent two days on Motumahanga Island (one of the SugarLoaf Islands off Port Taranaki) surveying archaeological features for DoC. Stone revetting, pits and a disused trig point were the main features recorded.

On 14 February 1999 Nigel Prickett be taking a field trip around the North Taranaki Land War sites. This fieldtrip is being sponsored by the Taranaki Branch, N.Z.H.P.T."

Kelvin Day, Taranaki Museum

## **EAST COAST**

The exciting news from the East Coast is that I almost felt like an archaeologist for a few hours recently when I went with Ian Barber to map a site, the proposed development of which is proving contentious. The issue continues to rumble.

### **East Coast Forestry Project**

This is a Government funded forestry project which has no particular safeguards for archaeological sites. We have however developed a local process which allows me a chance to check all areas proposed for approval. Ministry of Forestry then inform landowners of the known sites or likelihood of sites in their block and their responsibility under the HPA. This process was enormously simplified this year with the Proposed District Plan. The plan locates NZAA sites and Kevin Jones has developed what we call a Heritage Alert Layer which identifies the areas where sites are possible. Rules in the District Plan then support archaeological survey for these areas. ECFP applicants could therefore be clearly referred back to the District Plan which informed them whether their block

- has known sites
- is within the Heritage Alert Layer and therefore survey is recommended, or
- outside the HA Layer and therefore sites unlikely.

There are however no measures in place to monitor whether ECFP applicants abide by the HPA.

### Archaeological Excavation

As part of Gisborne District Council's Central Business District upgrade, Gordon Jackman completed an excavation of part of a defensive trench dug on 19 April 1869 between the military blockhouse (now the site of the Police Station), and the court house (east corner of Lowe Street and Gladstone Road) by volunteers called the Armed Constabulary. The trench was dug during the East Coast Land war. The settlers were very nervous of Te Kooti's forces after the raid on Matawhero 6 months previously and feelings were running very high in the district.

The archaeological remains of the defensive trench are significant in that it is one of the few remaining features in Gisborne city from that period of history. The shallow trench was located on the courthouse side of the road but across Gladstone Road it had been destroyed by previous utility work.

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 and also getting in some annual leave. Tony Walton has been visiting Australia (family history in Hobart, various museums in Hobart and Sydney, Port Arthur and Sydney Quarantine Station heritage places etc). Kevin Jones has been on a quick visit to the UK and the USA (attending the Aerial Archaeology Research Group Conference in York and visiting Little Big Horn/Custer Battlefield etc). Bruce McFadgen has been in Canada.

Kevin Jones and Lynda Bowers were on site for the felling of selected trees at Te Koru Pa Historic Reserve in Taranaki in October, an outcome of the conservation plan produced earlier in the year. On the same trip, Kevin held negotiations with consultants over proposed changes to the road which runs through Pukerangiora and Te Arei and alongside the Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve.

Tony Walton has written an information sheet on the Heavy Anti-aircraft Artillery position on Matiu/Somes Island for visitors. Large numbers visit the site as a lookout point each year so it presents an ideal opportunity to promote historic heritage. A sizeable chunk of his time recently has been spent on revision of the site recording handbook. The world has changed

dramatically in the 20 years since the last edition and what was going to be a minor updating of the text has turned into a major re-write of some sections.

The Maritime Archaeological Association of New Zealand has produced a report on the *Hydrabad*, a ship which came ashore last century and now sits amidst the sand dunes in the Manawatu. The local Waitarere community sought the opinion of MAANZ as to the future and maintenance of the shipwreck, as they were concerned about its swift degradation. MAANZ recorded and mapped the shipwreck over a weekend, and also took core samples of the hull. The original metal of the ship's hull has nearly all degraded into a "sludge"; clearly any intervention or conservation would be so costly as to not be feasible. This was conveyed to the local community, who had expressed the desire to cut off the bow and relocate it near the *Hydrabad* memorial in the township. MAANZ advised that the wreck should be left to degrade naturally, and that a fiberglass copy of the hull would be appropriate for a memorial.

The report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on *Kaitiakitanga and Local Government* (1998) was released some months back and has a useful review of the current situation in relation to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in the context of the Resource Management Act. One section is devoted to destruction and desecration of heritage and notes: "Tangata whenua spoke of loss or damage being caused to sites with physical evidence remaining of terraces, food storage pits and hangi pits. The loss of irreplaceable archaeological information was a concern for many tangata whenua." This gives some indication of the extent to which archaeological concerns have been adopted by Maori as part of their own approach to heritage matters.

Commissioners hearing an application for a designation for the proposed Western Link Road have recently reported. The application was made by Kapiti Coast District Council under Resource Management Act. A key finding for archaeologists was the acceptance by the commissioners of the argument that there were distinct sets of values involved in assessing Maori heritage places and that these needed to be treated separately so that the various values involved could be established and assigned in their appropriate context. Archaeologists, it was noted, have neither the mandate nor the professional brief to judge or rank Maori values.

There is no doubt that the legal system prefers to deal with heritage when it is presented in the form of observable, measurable data and is much less comfortable with more-difficult-to-measure social and spiritual values. The increasing emphasis on the use of established standards and practice means that a robust framework is needed for archaeological work to lend credibility to practitioners. NZAA, with the assistance promised by DoC, NZHPT and ICOMOS, needs to press on with putting in place as soon as possible a "module" or "kit" of standards and guidelines for those working professionally. None of the codes will be binding and they will rely on the desire of practitioners to maintain a professional reputation and standing for any force they might have. An email network for interested parties, currently sixty strong, has been established to pursue this and related issues. Contact [twalton@doc.govt.nz](mailto:twalton@doc.govt.nz) for further information.

Tony Walton, DoC

## NORTH CANTERBURY

We have not been involved in much field work over the past few months but have done a little site recording (including a series of pre-European borrow pits in the paddocks adjoining our property at Tuahiwi - these are south of those recorded by Tony Fomison in 1964). We also carried out a survey of a proposed 62 acre subdivision a few hundred metres away in the other direction. Living at Tuahiwi is like living on one great archaeological site.

A submission we made with respect to the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan notes that while Heritage Structures and Significant Trees are listed and marked on maps, no archaeological sites have been included, although many have been recorded in the District, particularly along the coastal strip. (Ironically, the *concrete monument* at Kaiapoi Pa is listed as a Heritage Structure with archaeological significance, but not the Pa itself!). We hope we can get all the omissions rectified. We have also been involved in the Kaikoura District Plan.

The Cust and District Historical Society, fired with enthusiasm by their excavation of a Scottish cob cottage two summers ago (*Archaeology in New Zealand*, 41 (2) 1998) have approached us about the possibility of doing a similar investigation of an Irish cob cottage in the Cust area, but nothing has been finalised yet. We are pleased to note that amateur archaeology is still alive and well in Canterbury, as it always has been (*vide* Fomison and

Wilkes). Conscientious and very able excavators who *don't want to be paid!*

Finally, we have not yet received the Commissioner's findings on the proposal for a Woodend coastal township (as reported in the September issue of *AINZ*).

Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch