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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

We spent an interesting fortnight in October excavating an area adjacent to the Russell Visitor Centre where we expected to discover remains of both European and Maori occupation (see last issue). And our expectations were fulfilled. Numerous European artefacts were recovered comprising a wide range of 19th century ceramics, glassware, clay pipes and gun flints, and even suggestions of an early disposable economy from a small area that contained beef bones, a large pie dish and cutlery. Maori artefacts included an adze, a stone scraper and a few flakes. There was also indications that the settlement had associations with the Marist Mission just along the waterfront. A wooden cross, possibly of ebony, was retrieved and also a 'miraculous medal'. These were distributed to Maori by the Marists and were credited with bestowing minor miracles on those who wore them. Adrienne found the medal so she and two other members of the crew rushed off to the Pompallier Printery and bought replicas. The rest of us waited for proof of their efficacy before parting with our money. Sadly the replicas don't have the same potency (or you need to be Maori or Catholic) - Adie was wearing hers when the engine of her car blew up a few weeks later.

A shorter and very soggy investigation followed under the direction of Simon Best. This was on a stream bank south of Whangarei where a cache of wooden gardening tools had been found previously by the landowner. No additional implements were discovered but a number of cut and burnt sticks were found in the same area and also other organic material including leaves and bracken fern. This material with a pollen core sample and shell from a midden on a nearby knoll should give an indication of when the valley was occupied and the environment at that time. The information will be of particular interest to DoC as we administer land adjacent to the valley.

Meanwhile there has been progress in historic conservation up in the very Far North.

The small shop at Cape Reinga was initially a schoolhouse at Matarau, just outside Whangarei. A building next to it was burnt down earlier this year and the shop was partially damaged. Ngati Kuri have requested that the buildings at the Cape should be removed so the Matarau School Board voiced an interest in the return of their old schoolhouse. At first there was a negative response from Ngati Kuri but after some apposite *korero* from one of their *kaumatua* they have agreed that the building should be sent back.

Ngati Kuri have also agreed to appropriate fencing of Paetotara Pa to exclude large stock and have asked that *urupa* at Tom Bowling Bay should be fenced off.

Finally, we are setting up a historic resource team with representatives from the Area and Conservancy offices. It will meet regularly to discuss issues, determine priorities and ensure that projects are up to date. This should result in closer communication between the various offices, a higher profile for historic places and a less 'area oriented' approach to their protection and conservation.

Joan Maingay
Northland Conservancy

AUCKLAND

The winds of change have ruffled the job situation in the city recently. We have Brent Druskovich replacing Jeff Mosen as the archaeologist at Bioreserches, and Robert Brassey will take up the position of Historian, formerly held by Graeme Murdoch, at the Auckland Regional Council. This leaves a gap in the Department of Conservation ranks. Sarah MacCready says that the strongest possible arguments will be made to retain Rob's old DoC position.

From the beginning of October to the end of December, Keay Burridge and Warren Gumbley have been job sharing the Regional Archaeologist (Auckland/Northland) position at the Historic Places Trust, while Kim Tatton has been overseas on extended leave. Warren has been handling authority issues while Keay has been dealing with the public enquiries at the Trust office.

Key is also involved with the University of Auckland Anthropology Department's FoRST research project "Identifying multiple colonisations of New Zealand/Aotearoa." Key reports that after two hui, staff have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ngati Wai and Ngati Rehua to carry out research on Great Barrier Island. The Department of Conservation has granted a permit for fieldwork that will be conducted on DoC land, and a Section 18 application has been lodged with the Historic Places Trust. A survey programme is currently underway on the island, with an excavation season proposed for February-March 2000.

Cornwall Park Trust Board is to undertake a centennial project of an addition to the Huia Lodge visitor centre in the Auckland park. The addition will focus on Maori history of Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill) and its immediate surrounding area. Auckland University has started a detailed survey of the area that will be used to produce a terrain model stripped of the modern changes to the hill. It is anticipated the centre will house a projected video "flyby" of the model of the hill and work stations, where the model can be seen in more detail, with digital reconstructions. The model will have 'hot points' to bring up more detail on the archaeology and traditional history of the site. Garry Law is project manager and Uniservices will be the major supplier of the model. The centre will be at the leading edge of archaeological site interpretation. More information can be found on the Cornwall Park home page on the web: home.xtra.co.nz/hosts/cornwall_park

John Coster has been spending time in South Auckland lately. He has been helping the Papakura District Council and local Historical Society develop a small but perfectly formed museum next to the District Council. In the course of this activity he has stumbled across traces of Drury's basalt cube industry.

Several outcrops of the Bombay basalts, extruded along the Drury fault line, occur along the Drury hills, about three kilometres east of Drury township. Large basalt boulders are scattered over the lower slopes of the hills. Around the turn of last century, many of these boulders were split and worked by local farmers and stone masons to provide "cubes" for kerbstones in Auckland. Sites recorded (R12/673, 675) include small-scale quarries, debitage from stone dressing and the remains of tramways.

The northernmost extension of the Waikato coal measures also occurs in the Drury hills. Coal was mined from 1859 and a brick and pottery works was established shortly afterwards. A horse drawn tramway to Drury was opened in

1862 and it is probably this that the tramways from the basalt quarries connected with.

Rod Clough has conducted, or taken part in, a variety of projects around the Auckland region over the year. He supplies the following report.

The Stonefields of Otuataua, Mangere and Matukuturua, Wiri.

The successful acquisition of the Otuataua stonefields was reported in an earlier issue of this journal. I would like to emphasise the considerable commitment of Manukau City Council and in particular the efforts of one of their planners, Brigitte de Ronde, without which this project would not have succeeded. The 80ha of historic settlement have now been mapped by accurate aerial photography and a digital terrain model (computer generated 3D) has been produced. The aerial photographs are now being field checked and decisions are being made concerning interpretation and walkways. This work is being carried out by Clough and Associates Ltd, and Dave Veart (Department of Conservation). The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) are co-ordinating both a biological study and weed control of the area.

Also of considerable interest is the present combined efforts of Winstone Aggregates, in association with iwi, Manukau City Council, the ARC and the Department of Conservation towards the acquisition of the 40 ha remnant of the Matukuturua stonefields at Wiri, South Auckland.

Rodney District

Rodney District Council has commissioned a study to identify significant archaeological sites within their district for scheduling on their District Plan. The study is nearing completion and should result in almost 900 sites selected for scheduling. These consist of the larger and more complex sites on private land and all of the sites recorded within existing reserves. Ranking of archaeological sites will always generate dissent amongst the archaeological community, but this is the real world and for most part an intact pa site has more potential to inform on many aspects of the past than a stock trampled or wind deflated midden! All efforts to schedule archaeological sites on district plans should have the support of the archaeological community. Archaeological sites not included in the schedule would continue to be assessed on a case by case basis as development proposals arise, through the resource consent and HPA authority process.

Resource consent is close for the 100ha + development of the southern section of Omaha sandspit. Over 45 midden sites have been recorded on the old dune systems, some deflated, but many relatively intact. The development has protected all recorded sites and is committed to archaeological investigation of sites revealed during the development. Part of the sandspit, a kahikatea forest wetland, has also been given over to joint iwi - DoC management.

Auckland Central

Several projects are revealing significant aspects of early Auckland. The drainage upgrade of Auckland's stormwater drains in Queen Street uncovered not only the original brick barrel drain of the 1850s, but also the infamous Ligar Canal which it displaced. The Horotiu stream, running the length of Queen Street, had been lined by kauri planks and piles, and by the late 1840s had become an open sewer. Simon Best, Rod Clough and Don Prince excavated a section of this canal and revealed a stinking black ooze with numerous artefacts dispersed among a fine gravel. A section of the canal timbers was retrieved for an exhibit in the Auckland Museum.

The Britomart development has been temporarily halted until new plans can be presented. Hopefully these will result in the retention of a greater proportion of the heritage buildings with more than just facades. In the meantime excavation of the Britomart Tunnel to the east proceeds through the old infill of Mechanics Bay. A few artefacts have been recovered: of particular interest was a large 19th century single fluke anchor – thought possibly to be a mooring anchor – extracted from the blue marine muds at the base of the reclamation.

The old Winstones Stables, just off Newton Road, has been stripped back to reveal its original fabric. Archaeologists and conservation architects have been working to provide information for the conservation of the building. Cobbled lanes and courtyards have been uncovered along with the remains of earlier stalls and stables. One stall was devoted to a horse named Wallace, whose stencilled name survived beneath later linings.

New Zealand Sugar has commissioned a conservation plan for the historic Chelsea Sugar Refinery (1880s). The refinery is unique in that it is still being used for its original purpose and many of the 1835 buildings are still an essential part of the industry. New Zealand Sugar has already donated its large archive of historic maps, plans, photographs and documents to the Birkenhead Library, as well as conserving some of the early workers' cottages and the manager's house.

Auckland Museum

The Pacific Lifeways Gallery is now complete and the new Maori Galleries are scheduled to open on the 18 December. Much work has been accomplished on the two social history areas called "Wild Child" and "City Life" and on the Maori Natural History Gallery. Displays of the Castle collection of musical instruments and a "Civilisations" exhibit are nearing completion.

On the 12 November the Museum paid tribute to the special contributions made to it by seven people, mostly past staff members. Medals of argillite in circular wooden boxes made by John Edgar were awarded. One of the recipients was Janet Davidson who was honoured for her outstanding contribution to the Archaeology Department and to archaeological scholarship and the wider



Dr Janet Davidson being presented with the award for her outstanding contribution to Auckland Museum by Trust Board Chairman, Barry Turley.

Auckland Archaeological Society

Arch. Soc. concluded the year with the field trip on the 14 November to the southern Waitakere Ranges. Although attracting only eight participants, including leader Bruce Hayward, those lucky enough to participate visited sites at Kakamatua, Huia, Karamatura and Henderson. Bruce's wealth of experience in recognising the signs of logging and milling activity was greatly appreciated.

Kath Prickett
Auckland Museum

EAST COAST, HAWKE'S BAY

Upgrade Project

NZAA upgrade project continues. Thanks to all those who have offered to work in the area. It has been a really valuable experience for me to re-look at the archaeology of the East Coast from other peoples eyes.

Heipipi Historic Reserve

Heipipi Historic Reserve is traditionally one of the oldest pa in Hawke's Bay. The hapu associated with the pa include Ngati Whatumamoā, Ngati Awa, Ngati Maruiwi and Ngati Kahungunu. The pa contains remains of pits, house sites, midden and a defensive ditch and bank. Considerable work has been undertaken recently controlling weeds and fencing the pa. When this is completed, the management options for the site will be reassessed.

Staff Training

I have just attended training in the Wanganui Conservancy run by Elizabeth Pishief and we are about to undertake a one day training for field staff in the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy on Historic Heritage Protection. As staff are expected to be generalists, all field staff will undertake training this year.

Marine Reserve

Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve, a joint DoC and Ngati Konohi application, was officially opened with a dawn ceremony on Sunday 14th November at the beach at Whangara and then at Whangara marae. Rongokako is remembered as the legendary strider who outwitted his opponent Paoa to win their race from East Coast to the Hauraki Gulf to claim the hand of Muriwhenua. Rongokako's footprint is imbedded in the reef which is part of this marine reserve. Also located in the southern part of the marine reserve is the wreck of the "Star of the Evening", an iron screw-steamer of 166 tons net

register and 130.4 ft in length. The vessel was built in England in 1863 and sank on 13 February 1867 with the loss of six lives. It was commercially salvaged shortly after its discovery in 1969, and is now completely broken up. Large steel plates and some machinery are scattered over a wide area.

Pam Bain, DoC

This is Hawke's Bay notes with a Wanganui twist.

I am well settled in Wanganui and enjoying the work over here. Conservation planning has started on three sites - two beautiful Taranaki Pa and one close to Wanganui. The Department has signed a contract with the hapu of the Taranaki Pa - they are going to provide the historic and cultural significance section for the Plan. These sites will probably be returned to the hapu as part of the Treaty settlement process so we feel very positive that the hapu are involved at this stage and that if the sites are returned they will have plans to aid their future management.

I am still providing regular advice to planners and developers in Hawke's Bay. Wanganui is closer to some parts of my district than Napier!

Elizabeth Pischief, DoC

WELLINGTON

The archaeology database (CINZAS) is up and running on the Department of Conservation's new computer system but there have been the usual teething problems which are only gradually being worked through. As previously reported, CINZAS data is currently held in an ACCESS database. This is an interim solution and the final arrangements should be in place by mid 2000. The current ACCESS database lacks a number of features, including data checking routines, so it is not intended to add new records during this interim period. Updates will, however, be done as usual. A complicating factor is that the Science and Research Unit (SRU) is leaving its long-established Tory Street base in early 2000. The Central File is thus going to have to be packed up and moved to a new home in the near future - no small undertaking with 53,000 records, hundreds of site survey reports, and hundreds of topographical and cadastral maps.

Kevin Jones and Reg Nichol monitored building drainage and foundation works at Big River near Reefton in August. Big River is one of the most intact of all

historic hard rock mining sites in New Zealand, with an intact poppet head, winding engine, and ruined aerial cableway and stamper. A new building is to cover the winding engine and adjacent boiler stack. The foundations of the original engine and boiler house, the bathhouse and engineer's workshop were uncovered plus quantities of rock drills and a horse-powered whim spindle (used to assist the first aerial cableway, late nineteenth century).

Kevin Jones, accompanied by Peter Bristow, photographed historic places in Otago from the air on 22 July 1999. Places covered in the flight included Cargill's, Donaghy's ropewalk, Larnach's, Harrington Point, Taiaroa Head, Long Beach, Mapoutahi, Seacliff rail cutting, Huriawa, Cornish Point, Matanaka Buildings, Pleasant River, Shag River, Katiki Point, Moeraki wharf, Dunback lime quarry, Golden Point tailings, Nenthorn, and Gabriel's Gully. Key areas of the Arrow River in Central Otago have also been photographed from the air for a site recording project being undertaken for the Department of Conservation by Peter Petchey.

Tory Street has farewelled Vanessa Tanner, who had a productive 6 months producing plans and compiling Site Record Forms from Kevin's vertical aerial photographs of coastal Hawkes Bay.

Bruce McFadgen has been involved in recovering core samples of bat guano from a wind-damaged hollow tree in a forest near Raetihi in the Central North Island. The tree has long housed a bat colony and the core potentially documents environmental changes over the last 250 or so years.

A lot of work is being done on documentation and conservation planning for the Opepe Historic Reserve at Taupo. Bruce McFadgen and Ann Williams have been mapping the place in detail and Kevin Jones and Lynda Bowers have just completed a condition report. A Conservation Plan is currently being drafted.

Tony Walton spent 38 days in September and October in the UK visiting a host of historic places from Dover in the south-east to Inverness in the north and St Davids in the west. This was the second leg of a holiday begun in 1997 specifically to visit ancestral and other historic places in England, Scotland, and Wales. Kevin Jones has been to Vanuatu for a World Heritage Strategy meeting for the Pacific region.

Tony Walton, DoC