



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



This document is made available by The New Zealand  
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons  
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND

---



This document is made available by The New Zealand  
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons  
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>.



## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NORTHLAND

We've just returned from our second trip to Tawhiti Rahi, the northern island of the Poor Knights, and have reached the conclusion that the whole island is an archaeological complex. This time we made detailed drawings of a pa, several extensive terrace sites and numerous garden features. The stone work on the pa and terrace facings is the most impressive that I've seen in Northland. Ngati Wai representatives who visited us while we were there were equally impressed and showed great enthusiasm in searching the bush for archaeological features. It was great that they reached an understanding of what we were doing and why.

The wildlife on and surrounding the islands is just as fascinating. Shoals of Blue maumau visited the bay below our campsite each day. One morning the blues were joined by a few of their bright pink cousins and sudden flashes of turquoise showed below them from the wings of stingrays - an amazing sight, like watching moving stained glass. The Buller's Shearwaters are still there in their thousands burrowing into terraces and bumping into tents at ungodly hours of the morning, then stumbling around until re-united with their mates. Initial greetings are amicable if raucous but sounds intensify into shrieks that suggest domestic violence. By 5.00 a.m. they've decided whose turn it is to go fishing and you doze off until woken by the bellbirds at 6.30. Still it's paradise compared with sitting in front of a computer.

After a brief and hectic week of doing just that we are off to Russell again to investigate an area behind the visitor centre where a carpark is to be constructed. This is adjacent to the excavation undertaken last October (see last issue). We

hope to find further evidence of early contact between Maori and whalers and of the store that was located here in the later 19th century.

Back in Whangarei, Leigh Johnson has been monitoring the initial stages of Kamo Bypass with the enthusiastic assistance of two young Ngati Kahu representatives. The route has avoided major sites in the area but Leigh and crew have found some evidence of Maori agriculture and remains of more recent coal mining.

Finally for those of you who are excited at the thought of early Celtic occupation of Waipoua, I sincerely regret to say (being of Celtic extraction myself) that during 15 years of working in Northland I have seen no evidence of this whatsoever!!

Joan Maingay, DoC

## AUCKLAND

Sarah Macready recaps on the recent activities and achievements of the Department of Conservation's Auckland Conservancy:

"The main news that we are struggling to come to terms with is that Robert Brassey has left to take up a job at the Auckland Regional Council (Heritage Division). There he will be doing much the same work (research, significance assessments, conservation planning, a tad of archaeology) but, of course, for rather more money. We're going to miss him and will have to wrap our minds around some of the things that he alone tended to handle, like protecting historic vegetation from those who believe that the only good exotic is a dead exotic. A replacement for him is under discussion at the moment, but it won't be for at least a year and may not be on a permanent full time basis. That leaves Dave Veart and myself as the residue of Sue Bulmer's team that originally came to DOC (about ten of us), plus Jan Coates, who has gone on to higher things.

The last year has been very good as far as management of historic sites goes in that we had quite a bit of funding to carry out some of the conservation plans. The Kaiarara Dam on Great Barrier Island has been repaired and stabilised. More of the structural problems at Mansion House, (Kawau Island) including the unsafe verandah, have been sorted out, and the house has had its first paint job for about 15 years. The historic jetty built of slag blocks has also been repaired and stabilised North Head is also looking very different, with a lot of

work done to the tunnels and the buildings that are being kept - especially the 1885 kitchen and barracks on the summit, and a WW2 building being used as the Auckland Area office. The 19th century 8-inch disappearing gun, of which there are only a few left in the world, has been conserved and repainted. (Called a disappearing gun because after firing it used the force of its recoil to take it down below ground level where it could be reloaded in safety. Technologically they were very impressive, but went out of fashion when it was realised that the chances of a ship at sea being able to fire with enough accuracy to hit the gun were fairly minimal).

And it seems as though we will soon be managing Fort Takapuna, another 19th century defence site - with a Category 1 historic barracks building. Its future was in doubt for some time while arguments over the status of the land raged, but the intention now is to hand it over to the department as historic reserve as part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park bill."

At Auckland Museum the new galleries have been officially opened, leaving only a few installations to be completed in the Maori Natural History section and fine tuning elsewhere. Now that all gallery areas have been refurbished there is a great deal to be seen. The emphasis has been on ensuring as much as possible from the collections is out on display.

Staff members of the Human History departments are currently tidying up after the high pressure gallery development and will be involved in tackling work that has had to be postponed. Access to research collections should become easier. However, preparation for the refurbishment of the Library has begun. The refurbishment will result in the Library being closed to the public from 1 April 2000. Reopening is scheduled for early February 2001.

Sarah Ross tells us that the Auckland Regional Council's latest claim to fame is the national viewing of the Heritage Landscapes posters of Mangere Mountain and Maungakiekie on primetime television. The ARC has had exposure on Shortland Street. Look closely in the staff room for the two new posters just produced - North Head and Brown's Island.

Robert Brassey has been launched into the heady world of ARC Parks and is confronting the poor state of preservation of some of the buildings and structures. Remedial stabilisation works have commenced on the Scandretts Regional Park at Mullet Point, Mahurangi. Rob has found some new friends at Shakespeare Regional Park - Reta, Milo, Woko, and Kati. These are code names

of the pillboxes associated with the gun emplacements of the Whangaparoa Peninsula for which Rob is writing a conservation plan.

A Regional Monitoring Network is being established to monitor the state and condition of a diverse and representative sample of historic places and areas. The ARC is currently looking for external expertise to develop a sampling methodology focussing on the identification of useful monitoring indicators and measuring standards. There will be a workshop/seminar on this topic in May - expressions of interest to Ian Lawlor (09) 379-4420 or email [ilawlor@ar.govt.nz](mailto:ilawlor@ar.govt.nz)

#### Auckland University

The Auckland University Fieldschool led by Peter Sheppard was held this year during the first 2 weeks of February at Waihou Beach just south of Tolaga Bay in cooperation with Te Aitanga a Hauiti. A total of 17 students from Auckland attended along with Kenneth Roga from the Solomon Islands Ministry of Culture and Polytechnic classes from Tolaga Bay and Gisborne under the guidance of Ann McGuire and Victor Walker.

Excavation and mapping was conducted on a small defended site (Z17/16) located just behind the beach road. A total of 5 areas were investigated, revealing a defensive ditch, historic burials and what appears to be an early historic occupation over earlier large storage pits. A wide variety of artefacts including clay pipes, writing slate, greenstone, obsidian, chert and shaped pumice were recovered.

The preliminary results of this investigation will be made available at the end of term as student reports on the Departmental Web site <http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ant/>.

In December Dilys Johns attended a Wetland Archaeology conference at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida USA and gave a paper entitled 'Conservation and Wetland sites in New Zealand/Aotearoa'. Many subjects/themes were discussed including paleoenvironmental studies, wetland ecology, conservation of wetland sites and artefacts, regional studies, cultural resource management, fishweirs and wetland archaeological assemblages. She is happy to send copies of the conference abstracts to anyone who is interested. The conference proceedings have been promised within the next few months.

Recently Harry Allen, Dilys Johns and six colleagues from throughout New Zealand, Caroline Phillips (Auckland), Kelvin Day (Taranaki Museum), Janet

Wilmshurst (Landcare Research), Nigel Prickett (Auckland Museum), Tom Higham (Waikato University) and Tipene O'Brien (Taranaki Museum) were successful in securing funds from the Royal Society of New Zealand, Marsden Fund, to conduct a three year research project on the cultural significance of North Taranaki wetlands. A multi-disciplinary team has been assembled which consists of archaeologists, a conservator, a dating specialist, a palynologist and Maori researcher. The project proposes integrating North Taranaki's wetland and adjacent dry-land sites using archaeological, conservation and paleoenvironmental studies.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

## **EAST COAST, HAWKE'S BAY**

### **NZAA Site Upgrade Project**

The upgrade project continues after a break over the Christmas period. The update information continues to be very useful for site protection and statutory planning processes.

### **Aniwaniwa Visitor Centre Re-development**

Over the last three years considerable work has been undertaken on the systems and process of the Aniwanuiwa Museum with assistance from the Gisborne Museum and Arts Centre. A steering group involving iwi, Conservation Board, DoC staff and Friends of Te Urewera National Park then developed a plan for redevelopment of the first gallery. This work is currently underway with assistance from the Clark Charitable Trust and will involve the display of taonga held at the museum and the Colin McCahon *Urewera Mural*. It is planned for the gallery to be re opened in mid- March.

Pam Bain, DoC

## **WELLINGTON**

Ann Williams has left the Department of Conservation, reducing the archaeologists in the Science and Research Unit to three and necessitating yet another hard look at priorities.

Tony Walton and Steve Bagley spent 12 days in the field at Puoponga Farm Park at the base of Farewell Spit in late November-early December. The time was spent recording, mapping, and test pitting to define the areas of archaeological interest. Ian Barber (University of Otago), Fiona Kirk, Karen Greig (NZHPT),

Nick Koirala, and Nigel Mountfort (DOC) also participated in the fieldwork for part of the time. Ian collected samples from two midden sites for detailed faunal analysis. Two midden samples have been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Kevin Jones has been working on the new archaeological site conservation guidelines.

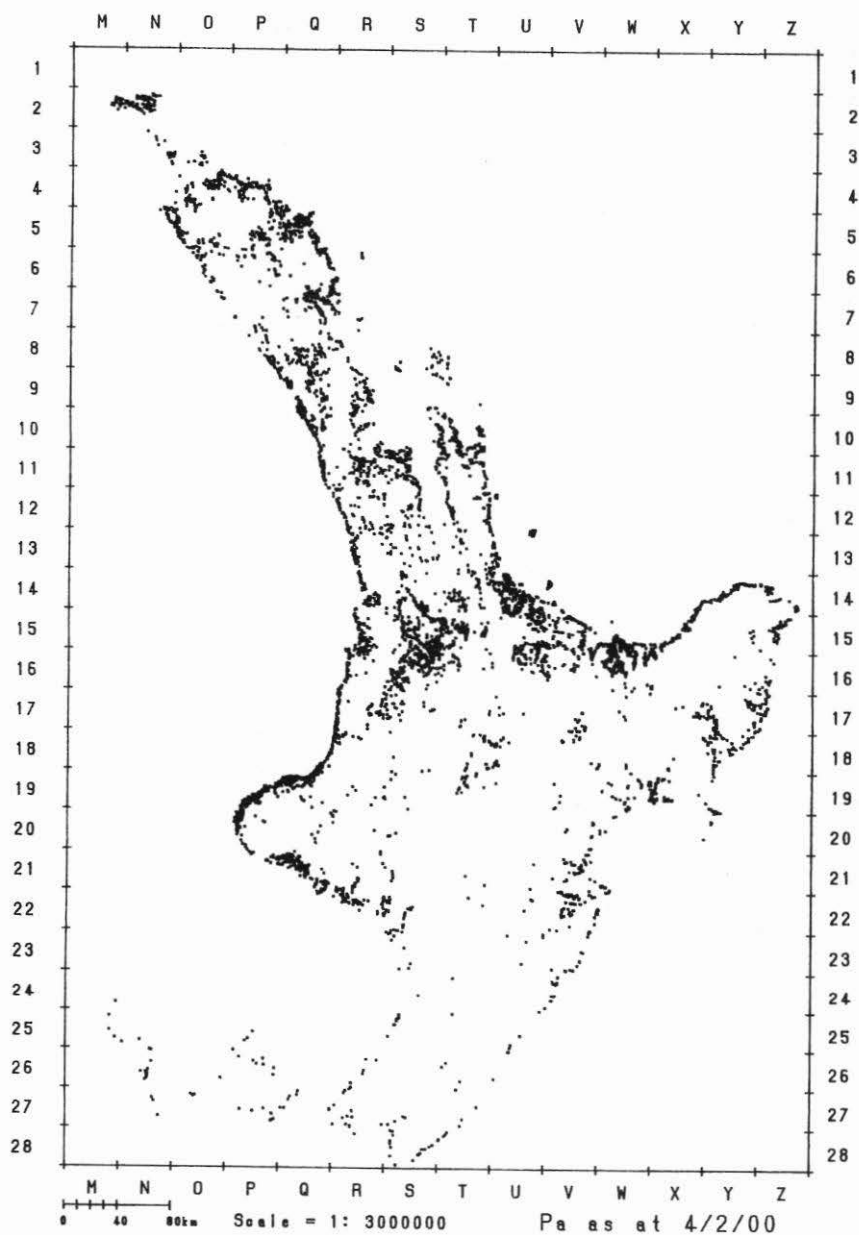
Archaeologists held a somewhat belated party in January to welcome Rick McGovern-Wilson to Wellington. The archaeology contingent at the NZ Historic Places Trust currently consists of Rick and Karen Greig.

The old Wellington Maritime Museum re-opened in November 1999 as the Museum of Wellington City and Sea. The old Bond Store which houses the museum has undergone extensive refurbishment and it now contains a new set of displays highlighting various aspects of the history of Wellington. Te Papa Tongarewa hosted Ancient Lives: Greeks, Romans and Etruscans, between 20 November 1999 and 23 January 2000. The exhibit is made up of artefacts from the collection of the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden in the Netherlands. The replica of HM Bark Endeavour has been visiting Wellington and was open to the public over the Christmas-New Year period and later.

Two prehistory items appeared prominently in the local papers, and presumably nation wide, in January. The first, "Pre-Maori Celtic 'Stonehenge' in Northland forest, says writer" (Dominion 11 January 2000), attracted most attention - particularly the claims of suppression of evidence. A welcome rebuttal from Joan Maingay appeared three days later (Dominion 14 January 2000). The second story, "Pollen shows Maori here for 1400 years" (Evening Post 17 January 2000), gave no reason for why it's findings should take precedence over the very different results of a raft of previous projects.

A distribution map of pa in the North Island is provided below as an illustration of the use of CINZAS data. It was plotted at a scale of 1 to 3 million, but is reduced for publication. It is important to remember that, at the plotted scale, single isolated pa appear somewhat more prominent, while numerous closely spaced pa are somewhat less prominent, than the numbers would warrant.





*Distribution map of pa in the North Island using CINZAS data.*

## OTAGO

Archaeology was in the news in Otago over summer. On 26 January 2000 the *Otago Daily Times* reported that Queenstown-Lakes District Mayor Warren Cooper was unhappy over a bill received by his Council for archaeological work on a car park development at Church St, Queenstown. The archaeological work was required under the conditions of an archaeological authority granted by the NZ Historic Places Trust to Council in 1999. Cooper was reported telling the *Times* that “such ‘political correctness’ was a scandalous use of public money”. Further comments by Cooper on the archaeological requirements of the authority were also reported. “These are Draconian actions resulting from the obsessive use of government legislation and it must be resisted”. Cooper was reported as adding: “We’re not in Rome. We’re not in Greece or England. We’re what you would call very late starters in the settlement stakes”. The *Times* observed further that “Mr Cooper was embarrassed to find out that the council’s regulatory contractor, Civic Corp, had included provisions for the removal of historic material” under a resource consent granted for a casino building site Queenstown. The *Times* noted: “He [Cooper] said he would talk to Civic Corp about that”.

On 27 January 2000 the *Times* carried a story on the archaeological excavation of the casino site by archaeologist Peter Petchey. The *Times* reported that although the archaeological team was working “as quickly as it can”, the site manager “says if the archaeologists have not finished their work by tonight, it will affect the casino project, with delays in the building work and increased costs.” The paper added tersely: “He has asked them to leave tonight”. Petchey was reported as saying “he would try and meet the demands of the site manager”, but “would not give any guarantees”. The paper quoted Petchey further: “I’m not interested in holding up development ... but I’m not leaving until I’ve done my job properly”.

Archaeologist Jill Hamel who had carried out the Church St work also responded to Mayor Cooper in a *Times* article of 31 January 2000. The *Times* reported Hamel referring to the cost of the Church St work as “another part of the user-pays society”. Comments were reported on the historical importance of Queenstown, Hamel working closely with the contractors “in order not to hold them up”, and a response to the Mayor’s claim that only a few historical items were found at the car park site. According to the *Times* Hamel described three clay floors, two wells, 39 rubbish pits and four latrines. The paper noted: “The New Zealand of three generations ago could almost be viewed as a foreign

country by today's generation and it was important to be able to recognise our roots, Dr Hamel said".

The same issue of the *Times* (31 January) also carried a further story on the casino site. The paper referred to the archaeological work undertaken by Petchey and his team as "the most important urban dig to have been done in the South Island". Petchey was reported as observing that "we weren't just digging rubbish pits, or finding structures; we had the whole range". The paper described earthenware whiskey jugs, a coin minted in 1817, a possible silver ring, and several other coins among "some of the interesting finds". Petchey was quoted as saying: "You can see how Queenstown rapidly developed into a reasonably permanent town".

With less controversy, Marshall Weisler directed the third and final season of excavation at the Shag Point site (J43/11) from 14-26 February 2000. This work was carried out as part of the University of Otago Archaeological Methods paper. A total of 94 sq m were excavated during the three seasons to define site boundaries and retrieve economic and other cultural information. Two discrete archaeological areas were excavated in the northern and southern parts of the site. A summary of the project will appear in *Archaeology in New Zealand* later this year.

Ian Barber, University of Otago

## **SOUTHLAND**

### Stewart Island

During February-March there is to be an excavation of a site on Rakiura (Stewart Island). The site is at the south end of Mason Bay, sheltered behind some small islands. It is apparent in eroding sand dunes and it is possibly the remains of a late prehistoric village. From the shore in front of the site, the remarkable carvings described by Gillies (NZJA 18, 1996), were recovered several years ago. The excavation is a tribal venture, by Ngai Tahu Whanui, and the logistics and excavation teams will consist primarily of Ngai Tahu. Fieldwork and analyses will be directed by Atholl Anderson, supported by Gerard O'Regan, Brian Allingham and Karl Gillies, with Te Awhina Arahanga as Project Manager. We expect to be at Mason Bay for three weeks and to excavate both in the dunes and in a nearby peat deposit.

Atholl Anderson, Australian National University