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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

Our second stage of excavation near the visitor centre at Russell was highly successful, especially in terms of the number of features and artefacts recovered. Numerous postholes, a plethora of rubbish pits and two wells were excavated and the glassware, ceramics and metal objects they contained have filled over 40 large boxes. Some of the more unusual items include a female sperm whale's tooth, a worn foreign coin decorated with a laurel crowned head and a large obsidian core – at least some signs of interaction with whalers and Maori. We let James spend most of his time happily underground but dragged him up from the well intermittently to harangue the public as visitor interest was almost excessive. Many thanks to the willing volunteers from Whangarei, Auckland and even Wellington who slaved in the heat and dust, and especially to Brooke Jamieson and Chris Williams who have also sorted and cleaned the vast quantity of artefacts.

Apart from this, my single venture out of the office, James and Adrienne seem to have had all the fun lately. They have completed a detailed survey of Nga Iwi o Tuararoroa Pa (previously known as Ngaiwituararoa) in the Far North, for the purpose of site management and possibly interpretation if public access is considered appropriate. A visit from Ngati Kuri representatives while they were up there was very positive. A kaumatua provided information on oral history while others suggested that local school children could be shown round this and other sites to learn more about their heritage.

Nga Iwi o Tuararoroa is one of three pa and associated features in the area to be recorded in detail; the others being Paetotora and Tokatoka. These sites are all well-preserved and of high archaeological and traditional significance. From

surface evidence they appear to cover a time span from the pre-contact period to the advent of musket warfare. The project follows on (after two and a half decades) from recommendations made by Janet Davidson when she carried out her extensive surveys in Muriwhenua.

James has also visited Moekawa (South West Island) to almost complete our survey of the Three Kings. Like the other islands of the group it contains evidence of occupation and gardening. A flat and gently sloping area on the north-east is covered by terraces and large, high stone heaps piled up at the end of, or as divisions between, terraces. A small midden on one terrace contains fish bone, rocky shore gastropods including *Cellana denticulata*, *Cookia sulcata* and *Dicathais orbita*, and a fragment of dog bone. A seasonal stream runs down the southern valley and in the lower catchment a series of stone weirs has been built across the stream bed. While the stream only flows during periods of rain the weirs would have stored water for considerably longer periods. Stone lined channels running out from the weirs appear to have been constructed to carry water to gardens on either side of the stream.

While James was up in the most northern part of the country Adrienne explored Maungaturoto Scenic Reserve to the south of Whangarei with members of Te Uri o Hau. The summit of the hill contains the previously unrecorded site of Pukearenga Pa. For Te Uri o Hau this is the leaping off place of the spirits. It is a magnificent defensive site. The interior of the pa is approximately 80 x 100m with a ditch 49m long and 3.5m deep and more than 50 huge pits located outside the defences. Amazing that it has not been recorded earlier but then Northland is full of archaeological surprises. We can only be grateful that members of Te Uri o Hau are working in close co-operation with DoC to conserve places with historic and natural values.

Joan Maingay, DoC

AUCKLAND

Further changes at the Historic Places Trust have seen the departure of Kim Tatton from the position of regional archaeologist for the Auckland/Northland area and Cathy Barr (temporarily working out of the Auckland office) move to Hamilton while waiting for a new area office to be opened in Tauranga. Cathy is the Waikato/Bay of Plenty regional archaeologist. Kim's position has been advertised but an appointment has not yet been announced. Antoine Coffin has been Heritage Advisor since late last year.

At the Heritage Department of the Auckland Regional Council, Robert Brassey describes the situation as rather crowded over the last couple of months and just as well Sarah Ross is still overseas. Kim Tatton is there currently working on a project to define priorities for new archaeological survey work in the region. This is being based on a review of existing data and on threats to archaeological sites from future use, development and natural processes. Kim and Amanda Young are also continuing to work on the recording and upgrade of records of historic archaeological sites in the Waitakere Ranges. Lucy McIntosh is presently reviewing existing national and international monitoring systems and programmes with a view to setting up a cultural heritage monitoring network in the Auckland Region. A regional forum involving local bodies, heritage agencies, Ministry for the Environment, and consultants is planned for 7 June. Ian Lawlor is working with associates to develop a management and conservation plan for the Otuataua stonefields reserve. The plan is due for completion in February and a public open day will be held at that time. Sally Burgess and historian Tania Mace are working on various cultural heritage database upgrade projects, while six conservation plans are nearing completion, mostly by external consultants. Robert Brassey has been working with DoC to find an appropriate solution to coastal erosion at the Sunde archaic site on Motutapu Island, and has been recovering faunal remains (mostly pre-occupation) eroding from the site, for identification by Trevor Worthy. It is hoped this data will contribute to the reconstruction of the paleoenvironment at the time the site was first occupied some 600 years ago.

The Department of Conservation featured in the NZ Herald on May 18th with the announcement that it will be opening its new reserve at Takapuna Head, the coastal stretch of land between Narrow Neck and Cheltenham beaches, to the public next month. Dave Veart will be involved with the restoration of Fort Takapuna, (Fort Cautley), a Category 1 historic building on the reserve, before it is opened to the public.

The North Taranaki Wetlands Project, supported by a Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden award and administered through the University of Auckland, is reported on by Dilys Johns in the Taranaki section.

At Auckland Museum a mihi mihi was held on the May 22 for the recently appointed Tumuaki Maori. Dr Paul Tapsell was welcomed to the staff as the new Director, Maori. He succeeds Mere Whaanga who was the Iwi Values manager.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

Over the last few months Dianne Harlow, who works under the name Architage, has been engaged in a variety of projects. Monitoring of earthworks has been undertaken over various stages at Stockade Hill, Howick, South Auckland. The historic reserve, R11/326, contains the earthwork remains of a stockade constructed probably in 1862 as a refuge for women and children of the area against the perceived threat of an attack by Maori. Howick had become the headquarters for the Third Battalion of the Auckland Militia which was responsible for the redoubts within the area. Surprisingly little is known of the construction and layout of the stockade or the history of the site. Manukau City Council have undertaken, through a new Management Plan, some changes in the reserve requiring the need for archaeological monitoring. Old plantings of exotics have been removed opening the 360 degree views, particularly out to the Hauraki Gulf, while historic plantings remain. Two water tanks and associated installations have been removed as well as the foundations of two flagstaffs from within the stockade area. A new foundation was laid in time for Anzac Day.

The prospect of a telecommunications cell site above Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier Island was temporarily stalled when the chosen site was found to contain a Maori settlement site along the ridgeline as well as a shelter cut into the side of the same ridge and facing Port Abercrombie. Exhaustive enquiries have not identified the nature of the site but the general consensus is that it is a W.W II lookout point. The search for a site lacking heritage features continues. Meantime a site in Tryphena, Great Barrier will go ahead, subject to resource consents (and the many local negative submissions).

Most of the projects Architage is engaged in are related to subdivision development in coastal areas. Inevitably there are precontact Maori sites which need to be considered within the development concept and seeking protection can be quite a challenging process! It is most often achieved through consultation and diplomacy with large dollops of imaginative planning not the dictates of the Act. Being an archaeological consultant can have nothing to do with archaeology!

Dianne Harlow, Auckland

TARANAKI

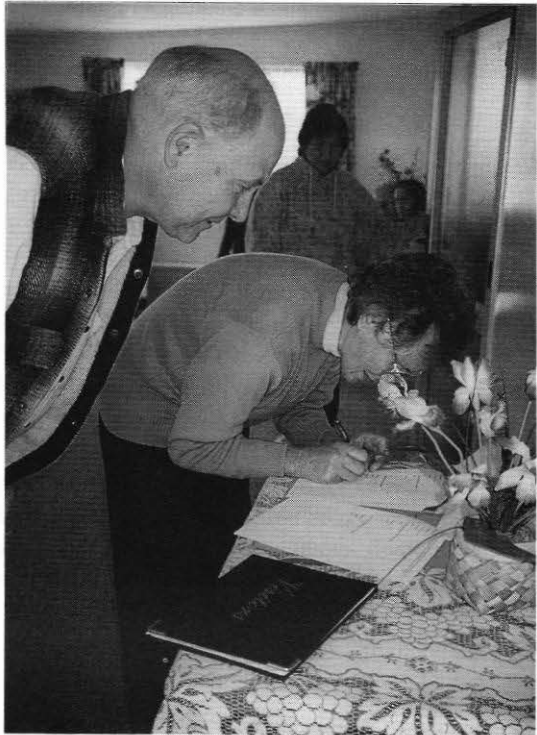
Auckland/ Taranaki research - **The Cultural Significance of North Taranaki Wetlands**. Funded by The Royal Society of New Zealand, Marsden Fund

On May 12 six out of town investigators Harry Allen, Dilys Johns, Caroline Phillips, Tom Higham Nigel Prickett and Janet Wilmshurst gathered in New Plymouth together with other members of the team Kelvin Day, Tipene O'Brien and Ngati Mutunga for a weekend of discussions, wetland site visits & core sampling and the signing of our Memorandum of Understanding with the Ngati Mutunga

Fine weather enabled special attention to be given to one of the most promising wetland archaeological sites in the Ngati Mutunga rohe, our study area. This site which includes a pa, house sites, and distinct midden areas is situated near a swamp which the land occupier has begun draining over the last two years. Many waterlogged artefacts have been recovered from the site.

Preliminary archival studies and the pollen cores taken from the swamp during our visit have provided interesting, exciting results. Three members from the team Johns, Phillips and Wilmshurst will be returning in two weeks to carry out further fieldwork and complete archival studies for the study area.

Dilys Johns, The University of Auckland



Members of Ngati Mutunga Theresa Wallace and Jean Matuku, and Dr Harry Allen (on behalf of the University of Auckland) signing the Memorandum of Understanding which will enable work on the project to begin.

WELLINGTON

Science & Research Unit (SRU) staff (Kevin Jones, Bruce McFadgen, Tony Walton) have been busy preparing for the move from Tory Street to the Public Library building in Victoria Street. The move is scheduled for late June and will put the NZAA Central File out of action for a couple of weeks. An analysis of requests for information from the NZAA Central File shows requests are currently running at a rate of over 5 a week. A turnaround within one working day is being achieved with most requests.

The NZAA Conference was held in Wellington between 5-8 May with a team of Rick McGovern-Wilson, Karen Fraser, Mary O'Keeffe, and Tony Walton handling most of the local organisation. Mary has also been busy in Canterbury of late, assisting with the Upgrade Project.

The Arrow River in Central Otago has never been the subject of formal archaeological survey. Two 10-day spells of archaeological fieldwork were squeezed into April before the winter snows. SRU contractor Peter Petchey, Kevin Jones and Katharine Watson were camped near Macetown at Easter where they were able to link up and compare notes with a group of devoted and very well informed recreational panners. Over Easter some 20 4WDers and some motorcross bikers (audible from a distance of 3 km) came through the town each day. Any rumours that Peter managed to lose a DOC vehicle in the Arrow are incorrect. (That vehicle had been lost 48 hours before the survey in the Waitaki River by someone else all together!) Peter and his team have been mapping off purpose-flown vertical aerial photographs where possible, undertaking ground inspections, and making measured drawings and plans of more significant sites. The sites include alluvial tailings, tracks, cuttings, races, tramways, dams, wing dams, building foundations and terraces, mullock heaps, aerial cableways, tramways, an ore roasting floor, stamper batteries, and shafts and drives. The last items mostly in the steep snowgrass country adjacent to the Shotover at altitudes of up to 1,900 m. A systematic photographic survey of Macetown built features was also carried out.

Bruce McFadgen has been working on a review of the archaeology and prehistory of the Wairarapa, a companion to his earlier-published survey of Horowhenua-Manawatu region.

Tony Walton, DoC

CANTERBURY

Over the last three months Michael has carried out a full field survey of Quail Island and King Billy Island in Lyttelton Harbour, recording archaeological and historical sites for the Department of Conservation. This was a follow up to preliminary work noted in *AINZ*, September 1999.

A total of 32 sites has been recorded, seven of Maori origin and the remainder relating to early farming, quarrying and the use of Quail Island as a human and animal quarantine station.

The survey was largely prompted by a proposed programme (already under way) to ecologically restore Quail Island insofar as possible to its state before human modification.

Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch