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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

Following on from our last report, by the time you read this the first lot of remedial repairs will have been carried out on the wooden Motuopao Lighthouse. Based on the alarming report we got on the state of the structure from Peter Reed (conservation architect), we have cobbled together some \$\$\$ and managed to get the walls closed in with plywood. At the same time detailed measurements of the top of the structure will be taken so that we can be sure that the roof we have had designed will fit. It is planned that the roof will be flown out later in the year. Once this is done, the structure will be weatherproof, and more detailed conservation work will be carried out over the next 10 years.

Visitors to Kerikeri over the next few months will receive a bit of a surprise. A number of the eucalyptus trees on Kororipo Pa (across from the Stone Store) have been removed. Staff in the Kerikeri Area Office raised concern over public safety in the area, as many of the trees had contracted a virus that in dead limbs, increasing the possibility of these falling on people using the walking track. Part of this pa was modified in the 1960s during an attempt to subdivide the area, but the face overlooking the basin was not affected, and there are a number of terraces and midden exposures along here. Work in the area of archaeological features was monitored by Department archaeologists. Although a lot more trees than were envisaged were taken, archaeological features remain in good condition, and it is planned to map these in detail over the next few months, allowing a better picture of features outside the main defended area.

Of note to those who may be carrying out any work in Northland and may need to consult the files, these are now being jointly managed by Stan Bartlett and Joan Maingay. Someone will be in the DoC office to allocate site numbers, file forms, answer queries etc. on **Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm**. Please make note of these times, and if possible, make appointments! In line with Association policy, file searches will also incur a charge (and while consultants

may moan, this is a cost you can pass on to clients, and it assists in covering the cost of managing the file!).

Otherwise, life is ticking by in a blur of reports, meetings and more reports.

Cathryn Barr, DoC

AUCKLAND

'Honestly, the things archaeologists have to do!' Dave Veart, from the Department of Conservation supplied this account of his travails relating to North Head, Tunnels, Boeings and a Court Case.

The long running saga of the claims that the old fort at North Head on Auckland's North Shore contains hidden tunnels, old ammunition and aeroplanes appears to have reached some sort of conclusion. On the 14th May the Chief Justice released her judgement on the court case involving this popular public mystery.

For many years there have been stories of hidden and blocked off tunnels under the DoC managed Historic Reserve at North Head. These hidden tunnels were claimed to contain variously, decaying ammunition, maps, jeeps and the fist two aircraft built by aviation giant Boeing. These stories remained as part of local mythology until taken up by a film-maker named John Earnshaw who collected large numbers of alleged eye-witness accounts of hidden tunnels and aircraft and brought pressure to bear on the Departments of Defence and Conservation to investigate these stories. The army started investigations at North Head in the late 1980s and DoC undertook major archaeological and archival searches during the early 1990s. No trace of hidden tunnels was found during these investigations.

The Defence Department had however signed an agreement with Earnshaw and on the strength of this he successfully sued the Crown for breach of contract in 1997. This case however stated that he needed to prove loss in order to receive damages. To prove loss he must show that there was truth in the hidden tunnel stories. In a three week hearing held last year Mr Earnshaw claimed over \$10,000,000 in damages and called over 40 witnesses to argue that they had seen or heard of hidden tunnels at North Head. He also contested the outcome of the investigations carried out by DoC. Preparing evidence for all of this took weeks of work by the Historic Resources section of the Auckland Conservancy and one and a half days in the witness box for Dave Veart who had carried out the DoC

investigation. The claimants also subpoenaed former Auckland Conservators Graeme Campbell and Gerry Rowan to give evidence.

The decision however vindicated all this work. The Chief Justice stated in her judgement that she was not persuaded by any of Earnshaw's witnesses and was not of the opinion that there were any hidden tunnels containing aircraft or any other militaria under North Head. She determined that no loss had been suffered by Earnshaw and damages were set at a nominal \$100. The judgement itself gives an excellent summary of the issues and the arguments both for and against and will become part of the history of this popular reserve.

Auckland Regional Council

The end of the financial year is always a busy time finishing off projects and completing reports. Sarah Ross says some milestones this year have been:

- Completing a draft Cultural Heritage Monitoring Network report which includes a methodology for systematically monitoring and reporting on the condition and management of cultural heritage places throughout the region. A series of meetings have also been undertaken with iwi leading up to a regional hui focussing on the implementation of a parallel monitoring network for wahi tapu and taonga. Funding has been received from the Ministry for the Environment to take this through to a pilot stage in the field. This work has been undertaken by Lucy Mackintosh.
- Kim Tatton has completed her report 'Cultural Heritage in the Auckland Region: Priority Areas for Survey and Assessment'. This covers the parts of the Auckland region which have been systematically surveyed for cultural heritage places and areas, proposed areas of future growth and potential threat, and those areas where there are gaps in the field survey of areas of high probability for heritage sites. The report also contains a comprehensive bibliography of consultant reports for the region.
- A new interpretive poster continuing the education and advocacy work of the Council. Hot off the press is a poster about Auckland's clay industry. The poster features a reconstructive image by artist Chris Gaskin of the Limeburner's Bay brickworks. It is a timely release with the future of the Hobsonville Airbase and Clark House under consideration.
- The Community Relations team of the ARC has launched 'City Issues' which is a primary level teacher's resource focused on key regional issues.

One of these is cultural heritage. Included in the resource are ARC's interpretive posters, landscape posters, postcards and other resource material promoting environmental conservation by the community.

In March, Janet Davidson, all the way from Wellington, gave a talk on the FORST- funded project "Bridge or Barrier", the archaeology of the Cook Strait region. One student attending the lecture was so stimulated by what Janet presented that she told me later, it convinced her to pursue a career in archaeology!

At the end of March, Roger Green held a book launch at the University for his new volume with Pat Kirch, "Hawaiki, Ancestral Polynesia"

Also during March, Geometria (Hans-Dieter Bader, Russell Gibb) and Simon Best carried out an extensive geophysical survey at Scott's Point, Mahurangi for the Auckland Regional Council. Ground penetrating radar, conductivity, auger probes and surface surveys were undertaken on an area of land adjacent to Scott's homestead, to investigate possible sub-surface features. Results from the survey have been passed to the ARC who, along with Simon Best, are investigating further.

Sue Bulmer reports that "several archaeologists, including Russell Foster, Garry Law and herself, have become active (again) in a community group, the Friends of Maungawhau (Mt Eden), aimed at being involved in the protection and public presentation of this beautiful and much loved mountain. The Eden-Albert Community Board has been very keen to solve some of the problems of the mountain. Now the advice has been formalised in the Maungwhau Advisory Group (MAG) composed of representatives from the Community Board, the Friends, the Maori Advisory Committee and the City Council staff. We meet monthly. Watch this space!"

A group of people at the Archaeology Department of the University of Auckland, have started an underwater archaeology "club" known as WaterTribe. If you are interested in learning more about this exciting field of archaeology and perhaps even participating in an underwater site survey and excavation, contact Naomi Luckett on 021 210 6444 or naomiluckett@hotmail.com

Stuart Bedford is undertaking research in Vanuatu during July and August. John Coster will fill in as Auckland Regional Archaeologist for the Historic Places Trust while he is away.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

WELLINGTON

The Department has been looking at both research and historic heritage priorities over the last couple of months and has now set some directions for the next few years. New external science contracts in the offing are *in situ* iron and steel conservation, an historic landscape pilot study, Maori horticulture theme study, and an archaeological resource statement for the Bay of Plenty. Projects that are completed or near completion are the whaling theme study, sealing theme study, Macetown/Arrow River survey, practical site conservation methods, and the Otago archaeological resource statement. Tony Nightingale, an historian, has joined the small historic resources group at Science and Research Unit.

Bruce McFadgen has been investigating geomorphic processes adversely affecting historic places managed by Department and has recently visited a number of coastal sites in Canterbury. Kevin Jones and Tony Walton have been in Taranaki completing condition reports for a further group of DoC actively-managed historic places.

Recent archaeology publications by Science and Research Unit or its staff include Shepherd, Betts, McFadgen, and Sutton (2000), Goff and Chague-Goff (2001), Goff and McFadgen (2001), and Chong, McFadgen and Khaw (2001). See list in Recent Reports section of this publication.

Mary O'Keeffe has recently been splashing round in Lake Waikaremoana, assessing an 1869 boat in the lake for DoC. In the slightly less fun category she has been doing an archaeological assessment of a subdivision at Waikanae, north of Wellington, where koiwi were disturbed.

The second stage of the Plimmer's Ark display is opening on the Wellington Waterfront on 18 May. This is the second of the displays associated with the wreck of the *Inconstant* which was relocated beneath the refurbished BNZ in 1999. The parts of the ship which were removed from site are now displayed in a custom built conservations space on Wellington's Queen's Wharf.

The Maritime Archaeology Association (of which Mary is vice president) continues mapping an historic Russian-scare era wharf located in Mahanga Bay in Wellington harbour. All romantic Discovery-channel induced images of maritime archaeology have been washed away by 500 mm visibility and 12 degree water.

Tony Walton, DoC

OTAGO

The 2001 Department of Anthropology excavation field school (ANTH 405) was carried out between January-February at a coastal Otago midden complex site (NZAA No. I44/21 at Purakaunui Inlet). This site has been affected adversely by ongoing estuarine erosion. The site was first excavated systematically by Atholl Anderson in 1978 (as reported in *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 11 (1981) 3: 201-221). The field school was planned as a further salvage mapping and excavation exercise as authorised by the landowners, the mana whenua authority Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki and the NZ Historic Places Trust.

The investigation was undertaken by enrolled 400 level students assisted by other post-graduate students under the joint direction of Ian Barber and Richard Walter. An extensive map of the site components in relation to the dynamic coastline has been prepared. An excavation grid was set out over the southern part of the site complex. This area is considered to be at the most immediate risk of archaeological information loss from erosion.

Stratified midden deposits including shellfish valves, fish and occasional mammal, bird and moa bone elements were recorded and recovered. Several *in situ* features were identified including umu, postholes and what appear to be excavated pit-like structures in a primary archaeological context. ANTH 405 students are currently processing the midden samples at Otago laboratories. An interim excavation report is in preparation. A further report with a focus on site values and erosion effects will be submitted to *Archaeology in New Zealand*.

Ian Barber
Department of Anthropology
University of Otago

OCEANIA

Richard Walter and Michael Reilly (Maori Studies Department, University of Otago) spent two weeks setting up a research project on Mangaia, in the southern Cook Islands during April. The Keia Project is a three way partnership between Walter, Reilly and Matura Harry, the Kavana or high chief of the district of Keia. Reilly is an historian who specialises in Polynesian oral history and has worked extensively on Mangaia. Henry is one of the leading experts in Mangaian history and tradition. The Keia project links archaeological and indigenous knowledge systems in an investigation of long-term social and political change in the Keia district. The project is an exercise in landscape archaeology and the following fieldseason, scheduled for November 2001, will

involve intensive mapping of agricultural systems and archaeological features in the Keia district.

During February 2001 Thegn Ladefoged spent three weeks on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) working with archaeologists Dr. Chris Stevenson (Virginia Department of Historic Resources) and Sonia Haoa, soil scientists Professor Roger Langohr and Geertrui Louwagie (University of Ghent), and a group of Earthwatch volunteers. Stevenson has worked on the island for many years and has recently become interested in processes of agricultural development. The 2001 fieldwork focussed on an agricultural complex near Maunga Okoro, located approximately 5 km from the coast near the centre of the island at an elevation of *ca.* 200 metres. The area contains extensive tracts of lithic mulch gardens. These gardens were created by breaking apart the basalt outcrops in the area and spreading a thin veneer of rock over large tracts of the 74 ha. study area. The lithic mulch would have reduced water evaporation (thereby increasing the available moisture for the cultigens) and contributed nutrients to the underlying soils. GPS units were used to record the location and dimensions of 219 archaeological features spread throughout the gardens. A range of residential and religious complexes were documented, and test excavations were conducted to recover obsidian and charcoal for dating. The fieldwork was the first phase of a project in the area, and the researchers are expecting to return to Rapa Nui in 2002.

Richard Walter
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