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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

NORTHLAND

On the pretext of examining international techniques of historic site interpretation, Cathy Barr spent part of May and all of June visiting a variety of sites in Dubai, Scotland and Rome. James queried the historic nature of the distilleries on the list but they do have good museums (from vague memory!!). It was interesting to see how different places deal not only with interpretation, but visitor and site management, and ideas are already being looked at for sites in the north.

Of great news to many, we are able to report that progress is being made to get interpretive signs at Ruapekapeka. It was noted in a recent publication (*Going Public* by Bronwyn Dalley and Jock Phillips) that safety rather than historical information seemed to be the Department's priority at the site. Given the high profile of the site, and the still very strong emotions associated with it, there have been a number of meetings with tangata whenua representatives over the last few years to work on this matter. Recently a Management Trust for the site was formed, and in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, it is hoped that interpretive signs will be on site within 12 months.

Related to Ruapekapeka, a group of staff from DoC, in conjunction with kaumatua travelled to Auckland to pick up a collection of artefacts from the site. These form part of the Timperly Collection, and required conservation work to halt deterioration of the metal. The taonga was collected with appropriate ceremony and returned to Whangarei where it will be stored until such time as it can be displayed on site at Ruapekapeka.

The end of the financial year, also saw the completion of a report on the excavation of a wetland site near Kaikohe. Adrienne Slocombe directed the excavation of the site following its location by a farmer. A number of

agricultural implements, including ko and teka were recovered, as well as a collection of hinau berries and other organic material. This is one of the few well documented wetland excavation reports completed in New Zealand, and highlights the importance of these sites.

Once again, the rest of our time has been taken up with the ever increasing demand to fill in forms and complete reports.

Cathryn Barr, DoC

AUCKLAND

The winter months may have been chillier than we have become accustomed to in recent years but there has been no cooling of archaeological activities. There is space to cover only a sample of these this quarter.

With over a million visitors a year, the summit of Maungawhau – Mt Eden has suffered erosion. Auckland City Council have taken stock off the mountain this winter, are monitoring the effect of that and using the opportunity to restore some cattle damage on the slopes away from the archaeological areas. They have also commenced a programme to protect and restore some of the areas around the crater rim where the damage to the archaeological evidence was in places severe. Garry Law is advising them on the archaeological aspects of that.

The Cornwall Park centennial Maori History addition to the visitor centre at Maungakiekie – One Tree Hill, has entered the construction stage with the work on the addition to Huia Lodge now under way. Geometria (Hans Bader and Russell Gibb) are contracted to produce the audio-visual displays for the centre.

The downscaled Britomart project is finally off the ground and work will begin in October. Rod Clough reports that the heritage buildings around the periphery of the block are no longer under threat and archaeology will focus on three aspects of the site: Auckland's second railway station (1886-1930), reclamation of the harbour, and finds on the pre 1886 seabed. The Maritime Museum is slowly piecing together a story of the Auckland Waterfront and the project is expected to add to that.

Transit NZ is moving ahead with upgrading Auckland's motorways and arterials and extensive work is planned in Grafton Gully and Freemans Bay. In Grafton, Rod says the remains of the old Phoenix Foundry (1866-1950) will be recorded

before demolition. There are indications of extensive industrial remains. Sites along the old shoreline, both Maori and European, may also be exposed.

Auckland City Council has completed the trial area of the Gulf Islands Project and is now set to update all archaeological sites recorded on the inner Gulf Islands. This will link in with the NZAA site recording upgrade project and also provide an evaluation of archaeological significance of each site as a basis for scheduling sites on the district plan. There should be opportunities for graduate students to be involved in the project.

The Omaha Beach Subdivision (north of Auckland) is about to enter its second year with over 100 middens exposed during the first season. They range in size from the single meal to very large middens 20 metres in diameter and up to 600 millimetres thick. There is little internal stratigraphy indicating that formation occurred over a short period. They might represent processing of shellfish for winter storage or the result of a large hui or hakari. Rod has found no indication of long term occupation of the sandspit and few artefacts have been recovered during the project.

John Coster, who has been standing in for the regional archaeologist at the Historic Places Trust, says one of the major activities of the Trust recently has been making submissions on draft district plans. Stuart Bedford will be back from a two-month field work stint in Vanuatu at the end of August. Upwardly mobile Antoine Coffin has moved up the hill to the Auckland Regional Council where he has taken the position of Maori Planner. He will be much missed by the Trust, having made a major contribution to work in the Auckland and Northland regions.

The Auckland Museum's decision in July to decline the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition made headlines both nationally and internationally for supposedly being turned down in favour of a sensationalist exhibition of body art. Vodafone Body Art, on display from 15 December, does not replace the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition. The cost of hosting the show was considered by the Trust Board to be too expensive, exposing the museum to financial risk as very high attendances were required for the show to break even. Both exhibitions were planned to run as part of the museum's public programmes for 2001-2002.

Nigel Prickett has produced another book in the David Bateman/Auckland Museum series. The title is "Maori Origins: From Asia to Aotearoa" featuring objects and photographs from the museum's collections to illustrate the story.

Harry Allen, Auckland University, notes that, dependent on iwi permissions, the "Cultural Significance of Wetlands in North Taranaki" project will embark on a new period of field surveys in September, October and November. Harry recently had the pleasurable task of introducing Dr Peter Gathercole at two seminars he gave at the university on the subjects of Gordon Childe, and the Forster Collection and his ongoing involvement with the Pitt Rivers Museum. Peter is back in New Zealand on a two-month visit based at Otago University.

The Archaeological Society has been active in the field this winter. Hans-Dieter Bader reports on what the Society's mainly student members and the Water Tribe, a student underwater archaeology club, have been up to.

Alerted by the Historic Places Trust to a recently uncovered part of a shipwreck at the northern Kaipara Heads drew our attention to this magical part of the country. The survey of the pa site in Blockhouse Bay had been planned last summer semester as a training exercise for the students and to produce urgently needed documentation for a site threatened by erosion. Both field trips were lead by Hans, recently appointed as Honorary Research Fellow to the Anthropology Department. He plans to lead practical field trips on a regular basis during the semester breaks to enhance student training and provide a service to the public not usually covered by research or contract archaeology. If you have a project you have long wanted to do but never have time for, Hans says "please let us know and we will see what we can do!"

David Rudd has provided the following account of the fieldwork carried out on the shipwreck near Pouto.

Over the weekend of June 29, members of the Water Tribe travelled to Pouto, North Kaipara Head, to excavate and survey a recently discovered shipwreck. We arrived mid-Friday afternoon, dumped gear in the hall and went out to the site during low tide in the four-wheel drives. We found the wreck using probes and began clearing the wooden surface. Liz Fairgay gave us valuable information on the location and nature of the wreck, and went with us to the site on her quad bike. It was immediately clear that the ship had copper sheathing on its lower hull and we were able to clear almost all of the wreck in a few hours of furious digging. A rough sketch was made of the hull section and an attempt was made to build a barrier of sand around the seaward side of the excavation to prevent the site being completely re-covered during high tide. Unfortunately time and the tides were against us and we had to leave the site as the sea would soon cover the areas of firm sand needed for our 4x4s to return

to the hall. That night most of us went to Liz's house and learned about her extensive research into the archaeology of the area, and the numerous shipwrecks that had occurred in and around the Kaipara Harbour.

The next morning we got up very early, ready to return to the site for the low tide. With only one four-wheel drive at our disposal this time, one group went ahead of the rest. By the time we had all been ferried to the site it was painfully clear it had been entirely reburied and we had to set to clearing it again. There was less time to dig than the previous day and the group split up with one lot keeping the site clear while the others returned to the hall, but even a tarpaulin had failed to keep the tide from reburying it. As the diggers were working in high water some took their pants off, surprising the returning latecomers no end. The site was cleared once more and the laser theodolite was used to survey the wreck, plot the major features, correct and add to the rough sketch of the previous day and mark the wood sample locations. Buckets of seawater were used to flush the sand from the surface of the wreck so it could be photographed. Our work had attracted a lot of local attention and a tour bus stopped at the excavation for a look at what we were doing. After a hazardous 4x4 trip back from the beach we packed up and returned to Auckland that night.

The data will be analysed at Auckland University. At the moment, ten or so of the ships known to have foundered at the Kaipara Heads are candidates for our wreck. Identifications of the wood samples taken and a 3D reconstruction of the ship's remains will hopefully narrow the field of possibilities. It is hoped this study will stimulate further maritime archaeological investigation.

The following report on the work at Te Whau (Blockhouse Bay) Pa has been supplied by Benjamin Thorne.

On the 10 July several members of the Auckland Archaeological Society headed out to Blockhouse Bay on the coast of the Manukau Harbour to do a survey of Te Whau Pa. The pa is situated on a headland at the corner of the bay, on Auckland City Council parkland. The focus of this work was not only to get accurate survey data but also to train group members to use the surveying equipment.

The pa was not very obvious and with the exception of a few possible terraces, could easily be missed. The first day started well with several people getting temporarily lost! They entered the bush on the other side of the pa only fifty metres away from where they were supposed to be but travelled away from the

pa. Once we finally reached the bay, survey stations were set up and matched into permanent survey points. After a quick refresher course in the use of laser theodolites we got to work taking shots of the landscape around the site area. This was hampered by patches of dense vegetation, not to mention the difficulty of setting up theodolite stations on the narrow ridge of a crumbling headland. Several stations had to be set up to work around the trees and avoid areas of unstable ground. The day's work ended after shooting in the most precipitous end of the headland.

The second day was far more productive. Two groups continued to work with the theodolites while the remaining members began to survey an area of particular interest using several geophysical techniques. The geophysical 'toolkit' consisted of a conductivity meter, resistivity meter, and a fluxgate gradiometer. This was the first time that many of the group had used such equipment, requiring a rather rushed study of the instruction manuals. A 20 metre by 5 metre grid was laid out covering a set of possible terrace features and points were taken at 0.50 metre intervals. This took the geophysical team the remainder of the day.

By the third day the number of available workers had fallen to six. We had to confine work to the intervals between rain showers. Divided into two groups, one continued to survey the landscape with the theodolite, while the other focussed on the geophysical survey of the terrace features. A second grid was set up adjacent to the first. By this point we had become far more efficient with the equipment, the new grid taking only half the time of the first.

Further work will hopefully be done soon to provide a fuller understanding of this area for improved heritage management. ACC, the HPT and tangata whenua, represented by Saul Roberts, were supportive of the undertaking. A report with plans will be supplied to them.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

BAY OF PLENTY

Among the many requests for information directed to the NZAA Bay of Plenty file in recent weeks was a query from Trish Waugh, a landscape architect, currently contracted by the Western BOP district council to prepare a landscape development plan for Koutunui reserve at the end of a peninsular in Athenree. The reserve is the site of the Koutunui pa. Trish is also researching the history of the area. Council has yet to adopt the plan. Trish is also working on the

Athenree Homestead garden restoration. A plan has been created for this project and funding is currently being sought to build the summerhouse and to have tree surgery carried out on the old trees in the woodland area. It is moving slowly but in about a years time apparently there should be something to see.

Kevin Jones made a lightning tour of some key sites for DoC's HAMS programme - this involves identifying the management needs of a number of DoC sites. The needs are costed and compiled as a forecast of future funding. With HPT staff and some local interested people, Kevin visited sites around Ohiwa, Matata (with hair-raising 'shortcut' over the seaward cliffs to end the day) and Whirinaki/Galatea. Many sites need some weed control and minor interventions to maintain forest or to control reversion in shrubland.

Over the next two years Garry Law will be carrying out a review of the archaeological resources of the BOP. Funded and managed by DoC Science and Research Unit, the project is to produce a detailed synthesis, of academic merit and suitable for publication, of archaeological research in the Bay of Plenty. It is one of a series of regional archaeological resource statements (ARS) or syntheses aimed at assisting the department and other parties in protection and management of archaeological sites and historic resources. An ARS is a form of research and protection strategy framework aimed at formulating a broad understanding of the resource and its potential. This region is one in which there is great deal of valuable and unpublished research done as mitigation requirements of development projects. This research needs to be collated and summarised to provide a more complete picture of the archaeology of the region. Research themes and priorities will be defined and will include reviews of survey coverage, first settlement, environmental factors, settlement pattern, horticulture, subsistence, other materials usage such as Mayor Island obsidian, tephara history in the area and its relationship to human chronology and other themes. Some localities or site complexes will be studied and described in detail. The final work, if suitable, may be published as a monograph of regional archaeology in the SFC series. The outcome will be that the department and other agencies are better able to understand, prioritise and manage protection of historic resources.

Ray Hooker appears as busy as anybody. Apparently his forest survey of a block above Kaituna River has been intermittent during June and July. The country comprises rolling knolls and terraces above the gorge. It has so far resulted in 12 new sites being located in an area previously considered of low archaeological significance. These include pit/s and terrace sites. One site

comprises a flight of three terraces only some 200 metres from the Kaituna but 100 odd metres above on the escarpment edge above the gorge. This work fills in a hole between Paengaroa and Lake Rotoiti and proves prehistoric use of this block of country east of the Kaituna River. Further north in a neighbouring forest block a pit 11 metres long by 8 metres wide and upto 2.2 metres deep was recorded.

Forest roadworks had exposed two storage pits in a forest south of Matata. Of interest was the fact that an early (c. 1970s) ridgeline track had passed over the site modifying any surface evidence. A lesson for all concerned.

Ray has also contributed the following for anyone in trouble with wet forest maps:

“Forest maps as produced off a printer are usually in nice pretty colours (for planted areas, unstocked areas, bush, roads, streams and various coloured boundaries) and extremely useful. The big disadvantage is that at the suggestion of moisture they run into a colourful kaleidoscope. In the past I have used B & W photocopied sections for field work. Recent work has been carried out with laminated maps and apart from having to use marker type pens, have proved very versatile and durable.”

Ken Phillips is “FLAT OUT”! Among his many projects:

Currently monitoring the demolition of the old Heinz/Watties factory in Gisborne. An excavation is turning out to be very “juicy” with evidence of continual occupation from early pre-European through to 1870’s period of Gisborne township. Along with Phil Moore, Ken has been monitoring the Waihi Beach sewerage reticulation scheme. As the roadsides are trenched for the installation of sewers, many coastal sites have been discovered and recorded, including terraces and middens. The area previously had very few archaeological sites recorded. The scheme is part of the Waihi Beach urban growth strategy which Ken and Phil are also monitoring.

Back in late summer, Ken carried out another juicy excavation on Otumotai pa, a large pa in Tauranga which suffered much residential development in the 1960s. An old house was removed and the excavation was carried out under the footprint of the proposed new house. This revealed intense occupation pre and post European.

The local Whakatane newspaper, *The Beacon*, had a front page article on July 25th regarding the picturesque Raukokore church, near Waihau Bay towards the East Cape. The church is a category one heritage building built in 1895. It has two large norfolk pines growing beside it which are also regarded as significant landmarks. However an Opotiki district council survey has found one of the trees to be dangerously rotted inside. Due to the risk that it may fall on the building, HPT has recommended it be removed. Council is hoping to replace the pines with NZ native tree species.

Jan Worrall, BOP filekeeper

TARANAKI-WANGANUI

Repair to sheep-damaged banks of Te Arei Redoubt at Pukerangiora Pa Historic Reserve was carried out in April by DoC staff and members of Pukerangiora hapu under the supervision of Warren Gumbley.

In May, Jeremy Salmond of Salmond Reed Architects inspected the ruins of Lloyd's Lime Kiln, situated on the left bank of the Mokau River. It was built in 1895 to burn lime to transport down river for sale to farmers and builders. The kiln had become overgrown and was crumbling in places. Vegetation has been removed from the face of the kiln structure and Jeremy has prepared a specification for repair.

The Waipuku Quarry Complex (early 20th century) at the base of Mt Egmont/Taranaki was also inspected by Jeremy Salmond. He has prepared a generic specification for remedial and maintenance work required for the concrete, timber and metal components of the site. In February 2001 the remains of the crusher, sandtrap and sandtrap intake had been surveyed by Mary O'Keeffe, Kevin Jones and Chris Edkins. Chris Edkins has produced high quality measured drawings of these key features.

Numerous other sites in the Wanganui Conservancy have been inspected by DOC staff over the past months, and repair or maintenance specifications have been prepared. In June, Herb Spannagl, DoC's long-standing Historic Programme Manager in the New Plymouth Area Office, retired. He has a long association with historic reserves in Taranaki and will be sorely missed.

Robyn Burgess, DoC

WELLINGTON

Four Science and Research Unit (SRU) staff attended the Association conference at Akaroa on 31 May - 4 June. There was a well-attended workshop at Onuku Marae on 30 May that addressed a variety of issues relating to site recording and professional standards. At the conference itself, staff contributed papers on site conservation, interpretation, and predictive models. The unit has also contributed to work reported by others including research on middens at Puponga Farm Park and thematic work on sealers and shore whaling sites.

It has been a busy year for the Central File with the NZAA Upgrade Project resulting in an increased flow of record updates and a dramatic 50% increase in the demand for information. The latter probably reflects increased general awareness of historic resources issues, particularly at the local body level. Nonetheless, most requests continue to be handled within one working day of receipt.

Recent archaeology publications by SRU staff include Beavan-Athfield, McFadgen and Sparks (2001) and Knox and McFadgen (2001). See list of recent reports and publications in this issue.

Mary O'Keeffe has been working on a subdivision assessment at Fort Dorset in Wellington. She is also checking the quality of data on site record forms in preparation for the Upgrade Project to move into the Bay of Plenty (embarrassingly, many of the records are her own from 20 years ago).

ICOMOS New Zealand recently held its AGM in Christchurch, and NZAA members Kevin Jones, Aidan Challis, Martin Jones, Chris Jacomb, John Coster, and Mary O'Keeffe were elected onto the board.

According to the news media, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation) recently announced (July 2001) that a draft agreement had been reached to help protect underwater heritage, including archaeological sites drowned by rising sea levels and shipwrecks. Under negotiation since 1993, the draft convention has been driven by the advent of new technologies that have made deep-water wrecks accessible. Wrecks in shallower waters have also never been more at risk from divers, treasure hunters, and commercial exploitation. The draft has to be approved by two-thirds of UNESCO's 188 member states to become an international convention.

Tony Walton, DoC

OTAGO

Throughout 2001 University of Otago students have been involved in the monitoring and assessment of adverse effects to exposed coastal archaeological midden complexes. Several fourth year students have completed assessments of the continuously eroding estuarine midden site complex at Purakaunui on the northern margin of Otago Peninsula (see *Archaeology in New Zealand* 44 (June 2001): 99) under the supervision of Ian Barber. From late 2000 throughout 2001 MA students Brooke Tucker and Helena Christie mapped and described effects to a large midden and oven site complex at Watsons Beach, South Otago, under the direction of Richard Walter. Brooke and Helena presented a paper on this work at the Akaroa NZAA conference. With the completion of the assessment process, discussions are taking place with NZHPT archaeologist Chris Jacomb and local whanau over an appropriate future course of salvage excavation.

In May of this year Ian Smith and several postgraduate Otago students tested the possible site of the first 19th century Presbyterian 'First Church' at Dowling Street, Dunedin, by machine excavation. This work was undertaken in relation to a proposed development of the site which is currently a car park. No historical foundations were located, although material possibly associated with 19th century church occupation was recovered.

Still in the South Island (if slightly out of the district!) Ian Barber, students Jacinta Beckwith and Adrian Taylor and Ngati Rarua representative Amos Stafford opened an excavation in the area of a recorded archaeological garden site at The Anchorage, western Tasman Bay (Abel Tasman National Park) in June 2001. The investigation was arranged and coordinated by Steve Bagley of Doc, Nelson, who (with Vanessa Tanner) also assisted in-field. This work anticipates a holding tank development approved by DoC, local iwi and NZHPT on condition of prior archaeological investigation. The site incorporates a proposed garden soil profile developed on coarse granite sand to a depth of about 600mm below the surface. Postholes are recorded in one area at the base of the garden profile. The matrix includes quartz (artefact) fragments, metasomatised argillite flakes, a metasomatised argillite adze fragment and a chert core, all consistent with a pre-contact horizon.

Ian Barber, Department of Anthropology, University of Otago