



NEW ZEALAND  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **AUCKLAND**

There is no doubt about the magnetism of mummies. Auckland Museum has recently attracted a grant of just over \$100,000 from the Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust to carry out conservation, a CAT scan and construct a new custom made case to enable the popular mummy to be returned to public display. The money will allow analyses of the materials used to embalm the body and decorate the coffin and undergo the CAT scan which will give more information than the previous X-rays. The mummy will be back on view in the special controlled-atmosphere display unit in time to mark the museum's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday next year.

In October, the ARC held a Heritage Department meeting at Ramarama Hall where the management of the Te Maketu Reserves was in the spotlight. Huakina and other local people are now caring for the reserves and it was great to see the progress made in clearing invasive weeds from the cemetery environs.

Congratulations to Sarah Ross, who has announced that she is expecting a baby in April and will be taking parental leave from her position at the Auckland Regional Council. Vanessa Tanner has joined the ARC for summer. She is working on database development and on a survey of coastal heritage sites around the western side of the Kaipara Harbour with Kim Tatton. Kim is also working on an oral history of the Otuataua area, interviewing and recording the recollections of people who have lived in the area that is now reserve. Digitizing of the archaeological survey of the stonefields has recently been completed by Don Prince of Clough and Associates.

The ARC will shortly be seeking expressions of interest from consultants interested in preparing a conservation plan for the 1860's military mile posts along the Great South Road, and in undertaking an archaeological monitoring pilot programme. The monitoring project will test the methods and processes recommended by Lucy Mackintosh in her report on cultural heritage monitoring completed earlier in the year.

The Department of Conservation is responsible for the heritage sites of North Head near Devonport, on the North Shore. Dave Veart who has been co-ordinating work there at the 1885 Barracks describes some of the results.

The wooden barracks building on the summit of North Head was built by the Armed Constabulary in 1885 as part of the fortification works brought about by the Russian war scare of that year. Since that time it has been variously a barracks, a prison, a band room and part of a naval training school. It was continuously occupied as part of New Zealand's defences from 1885 until the navy left the top of North Head in 1996. During its history a number of alterations have been made. Additions have been built at either end, it lost its full length verandah and numerous partitions had been built inside, most over the last 20 years.

Until recently little maintenance had been carried out. Soon after DoC took over the summit area from the navy the building was painted and urgent repairs to the roof were done. In the last 116 years the building had settled and in places the foundations were found to be almost non-existent. The building therefore was badly in need of repiling. Before this could begin the recent partitions were removed which in turn created the need to build internal sheer walls inside the original wall structure to meet modern structural requirements. To do all this required the floors to be lifted, exposing the detritus of over a century of military occupation. This work was supervised by DoC historic staff and a record was kept of where the different materials were found. When the floor was lifted we found that the original piles were huge slabs of puriri, still with bark. These were intact where they were protected from water in the centre of the building. On the edges, however, where water had entered, very little of the original material remained. This work also unfortunately showed that the original floor boards were in a fragile state and very little was recoverable.

Under the floor however was an extensive array of 100 years of military rubbish. Parts of the floor had been lifted at different stages so that artefacts from all periods were present. This material is still being sorted but included;

match tins, tobacco tins, cigarette packets, bone handled brushes, a meerscham pipe, drum sticks, bottles from all periods, pocket knives, cutlery, animal bones, newspapers, a WW I cartridge case, tiny plastic ship models used for training by the navy, the foundations of a fire place and perhaps most intriguing, two time capsules.

The earlier of the time capsules consisted of a Brylcreem bottle containing a note left at the very beginning of the Second World War and reads,

*Special Reserve*

*4<sup>th</sup> October 1939*

*Whoever finds this get in communication with*

*Gnr RR Anderson*

*Maunui (?) Nth Auckland*

*Gnr M.V. Robinson*

*23 Waiaatarua Rd*

*Remuera*

*Auckland*

We are attempting to find more on these men so if the names ring any bells with readers please contact DoC in Auckland. The second time capsule was more recent, 1983, and had been deposited by navy staff on the hill. It was in a drawing tube and contained a group photo, orders of the day, a newspaper and a list of staff.

Work on the building is continuing with drainage work around the perimeter which is well below the modern ground surface. Now if anyone has a cheap source of kauri floor boards.....

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

### **Albert Barracks**

For three and a half weeks from late October, consultant archaeologists and students from the University of Auckland's Anthropology Department participated in a salvage project at Auckland's historic Albert Barracks, in advance of the construction of a new Student Amenities Complex at the corner of Alfred and Symonds Streets. The removal of two late nineteenth century Merchant Houses and the demolition of a third on the site had already occurred (after recording by Heritage consultants) and preparations for the foundation of the Complex were in progress. When monitoring of the earthworks alerted archaeologists to the possibility of extant remains from the period of Barracks occupation (1845 to 1873).

documentation system linked to a laser theodolite survey will give the starting point for a 3D model of the site and excavations.

The Albert Barracks excavation is one of the largest salvage projects in the Auckland region, and human-interest articles in the New Zealand Herald, local newspapers and on local television resulted in a relatively high level of public awareness. This culminated in an open day attended by about 200 interested spectators, an event immeasurably enriched by the presence of the 65<sup>th</sup> Second Yorkshire North Riding Regiment of Foot, a military re-enactment/descendants society who with their period-uniforms and musket drills added great spectacle to the proceedings. The archaeologists and students also benefited from having their artefactual militaria put in context; replica regimental cap badges, buttons, buckles, rifle percussion caps and shot could be matched with archaeological finds as they were excavated!

Jonathon Welch, Anthropology Department.

## **EAST COAST**

The last few months have been a bit busier on the East Coast with a range of assessments being undertaken as a result of the East Coast Forestry Project working in with the Heritage Alert Layer in the Gisborne District Plan.

As noted previously Ken Phillips has settled in over here which is great. In August he undertook an excavation at the Heinz Wattie site and is currently waiting for analysis of the material to be completed. He has also undertaken a range of assessment and monitoring projects in the district and down in Mahia.

Some future projects coming up are the monitoring of the demolition of the Albion Hotel which has the potential to expose a range of pre-1900 material, and possibly further work at the Heinz Wattie site as development there begins.

I have visited 3 sites recently which have been damaged which seems to be a bit of a reflection of the fact that summer is rolling on. During those inspections I have found the material provided as part of the upgrade project to be invaluable, especially the photos. For me it has been good to be involved with the survey process and now see how the results can be used. Well done all those who have been involved. And finally The Waitangi Tribunal will in Tairāwhiti in the next few months hearing the claims for the district.

Pam Bain, DoC

## TARANAKI-WANGANUI

A farmer in the Waitotara area approached DoC for advice on 'best practice' for the management and protection of a ridge pa and storage pits on his son's farmland. The site is R22/111 (shown in Figure 10 in Tony Walton's publication *Archaeology of the Taranaki-Wanganui Region*, 2000). It was heartening to get feedback from the farmer on his new interest in protecting archaeological features and acknowledging the damage that could potentially be done through ploughing and stock trampling.

In a less positive note, someone with a digger has caused damage to a midden at Lake Kaitoke (just south of Wanganui). This is being investigated by DoC and the HPT at the time of writing.

A fence is being erected part way down the north slope of Waitaha Pa, near Wanganui, to better manage stock grazing this ridge pa. Sheep (and sometimes cattle) have been causing wear and tear on the ridge of this pa for some time but the grazing is desirable as a maintenance tool. Although we have attempted to set up a grazing regime with the farmer, it has proved to be a bit of feast or famine – too much grazing or none at all. The new fence will allow permanent grazing on the grassy northern slope, from which controlled grazing will be permitted on the ridge. Vandalised signs at Waitaha Pa have been repaired by the Wanganui branch committee of the Historic Places Trust.

A specialist engineer has inspected areas of instability at Te Koru Pa, Oakura, that had been highlighted in a conservation plan for the Te Koru Pa Historic Reserve by Lynda Bowers in 1998. To our great relief, we have been advised that the river is not undercutting the based of the east facing bank. Erosion near the top of the same bank (just below the safety fence on the top platform) provides some safety issues that will be addressed through monitoring and signage on the fence, but it is not as bad as was first feared. Currently DoC is working closely with Ngati Tairi to upgrade interpretation signs at Te Koru Pa.

Robyn Burgess, DOC

## WELLINGTON

Science & Research Unit (DOC) staff have been largely involved in routine office work over the last couple of months, with little to report in the way of fieldwork. Kevin Jones has been doing some winter flying in Canterbury. In July he and Katherine Watson did a circuit of Banks Peninsula in strange weather conditions (windspeed of 56 knots at 200' was reported, but not

experienced?). However, he couldn't suffer enough and in September also took photographs at Lake Guyon to the NW of Hamner Springs (an 1860s homestead), Castle Hill, Stavely limekilns, Rakaia River mouth (fresh ploughing but no ovens sighted), Taumutu, Adderley Head and the ships graveyard at Quail Island. On both occasions, he also took photographs of central Christchurch and particular buildings such as the Provincial Buildings. Tony Walton has completed a site survey of Whitireia Park at Porirua after inadvertent minor damage to a recorded site there.

A major event was the publication of Jill Hamel's *Archaeology of Otago* – an exhaustive review of the archaeology of both the prehistory and early history of the region.

Mary O'Keeffe has been engaged by Opus International Consultants to work on the archaeology of the proposed Wellington Inner City Bypass. She is shortly heading to Nelson to undertake the checking process for the Nelson file in preparation for the NZAA upgrade project to begin work there, and she and Ken Phillips continue to manage the upgrade process for the Bay of Plenty file. Mary is taking the Maritime Archaeology group to Matiu-Somes Island in Wellington Harbour for a weekend's work in November for DOC, surveying the bay beside the lighthouse at the south end of the island. Mary and the maritime archaeology group are also pleased to announce they are hosting a maritime archaeology training course to be run over two weekends in late February/early March. Details on this course are elsewhere in this issue of AINZ or contact Mary on [mary.okeeffe@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mary.okeeffe@paradise.net.nz).

Tony Walton, DoC

## CANTERBURY

### *North Canterbury*

Of most concern to us has been the continuing saga of the property developer who has plans convert a coastal area of some 300 hectares in North Canterbury into a new township not far from Kaiapoi Pa (M35/7). There are about 47 recorded sites in the area including Hohouponamu (M35/12), an extensive nephrite working village which has been referred to in a number of publications. The proposal has been opposed by many groups and individuals, and Michael appeared in support of a submission opposing the plan by Te Ngai Tuahuriri runanga's resource committee in a District Plan hearing in 1998 (see *AINZ* 41(3):175-176). In the event, that hearing went in favour of the developers. However, the Canterbury Regional Council has appealed against this decision, and Michael found himself again giving evidence for the protection of the

affected sites in an Environment Court hearing at the beginning of November 2001. The situation was, to say the least, "interesting" as an archaeological colleague appeared for the developers, while we disagreed with a number of the recommendations in his evidence. At the time of writing we await the Court's decision.

(One previously unrevealed piece of information that came out of all this was the discovery that the Waimakariri District Council had extensively root-raked and planted pine trees on the Hohouponamu site although it had specifically been excluded from the Authority granted to them to do such work nearby.)

A more archaeologically and historically intriguing project came about when another developer unearthed a series of hardwood piles while preparing the ground for housing and associated facilities in Kaiapoi. These turned out to be the remains of a major railway bridge of 1872 (though the local histories we consulted did not make any mention of the main trunk line having been shifted from this original location to its present one some hundreds of metres to the west). Further research revealed a fascinating story which we hope to write up for a future issue of *AINZ*.

And yet another subdivision, just a small one this time, had on it the concrete foundations of what we take to have been a creamery. In the early part of last century, such buildings were dotted around the countryside. The foundations themselves had had secondary use of some sort, perhaps as a pig pen.

Michael Trotter and Beverley McCulloch  
Tuahiwi, North Canterbury

### *Canterbury*

Katharine Watson recently carried out an excavation at Magazine Bay, Lyttelton, with the help of Peter Petchey, Chris Jacomb, Lauren Kaplan, Paul Rivett and Rebecca Jerram. Magazine Bay was the site of a torpedo boat shed and boat builder's yard in the 1880s. A gun emplacement was also built there, traces of which remain, and there is a magazine shed still standing (hence the name). The area is currently a historic reserve. Capt. John Cleaver, a maritime history enthusiast, has recovered parts of the torpedo boat from where it was buried in Purau Bay in the 1950s and is in the process of turning the magazine into a small museum. The excavation was undertaken for Capt. Cleaver and its purpose was to locate the foundations of the torpedo boat shed. It was possible to assess the approximate location of the shed as piles from the slipway are still

visible on the foreshore. The plan was to follow the line of piles back until the shed itself was found. However, the first square we opened up was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m, where asphalt was found. This was a by-product of the Christchurch Gas Works and could have been laid down up until 1985. It is not yet known whether this was associated with the torpedo boat shed.

In October, the road along Kaitorete Spit was graded wider than normal, exposing three Maori ovens. All contained charcoal and the largest one had freshwater mussel shell and moa bone in it. The bone was recovered by Ian Hill. Ian has had a meeting with the grader drivers and, as a result, the sites have been marked and the drivers have agreed to take steps to avoid damaging the sites in the future.

Katharine Watson