



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **NORTHLAND**

The last few months have been rather hectic in Northland, and made no easier with an ogre in the form of restructuring hanging over those within the DoC.

In March DoC Northland was host to around 20 historic (DoC) staff from around the country, attending an historic workshop on Urupukapuka Island. The group had gathered to share experiences and learn interpretive and management techniques, using the archaeological walk on the island as an example. Established over 20 years ago this type of walk is still rare, and innovative. It is well used by the public, but today needs a fair amount of work to bring it back up to scratch. The workshop also provide opportunity for us to receive a run through of Kevin Jones' 'Caring for Archaeological Sites' book, again using the Archaeological walk for examples.

April saw NZAA conference participants descend on the unsuspecting town of Russell. Over 70 people registered for the conference, and most that I spoke to seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and hospitality of the north. It was also great to see a number of faces from the past, renewing their association (and subscriptions!). A wide range of papers catered for all interests and the weather was kind for the three field trips. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Simon Best, Joan Maingay and Kate Martin who assisted with the Pompellier / Russell walk, and the Kororareka Marae Committee who welcomed us so warmly, and looked after us so well with their wonderful catering.

Following on from conference, I attended an interesting meeting in New South Wales on historic lighthouses. Held in the light station on Montague Island (estb. 1881) the meeting highlighted the importance of not concentrating on individual features or sites, but managing or reviewing the cultural landscape.

It was interesting to see how the Australians are managing these challenging historic features and to see the resources they have available !

Cathryn Barr, DoC

### **Northern Archaeological Research**

Surveying, marking out, monitoring, report preparation and routine office work have kept us all busy over the last few months.

Leigh Johnson, Ivan Bruce and Tony Fiske have been occupied with surveys and marking out forest areas that include Mt Camel, Aupouri, Waitangi and remote Mitimiti in the West. Further surveys of proposed subdivisions within the Whangaroa, Bay of Islands and Kerikeri areas and the survey of a proposed Transfer Station at Whangarei were also undertaken. Ongoing Authority monitoring work for clients in the Bay of Islands and the North Kaipara Peninsula means a great deal of driving and juggling timetables to accommodate last minute requests. Added to this was the Kamo By-Pass report which covered the 16<sup>th</sup> century garden systems and the historic coal mining operations that were affected and/or modified during the construction of the By-Pass.

Diversions to the routine were Leigh's attendance at the NZAA conference, and Elisabeth's teaching sessions at Devonport Primary, consolidating the series of talks on archaeology in NZ and field trips that were undertaken with primary school students last year.

Elisabeth Callaghan, Northern Archaeological Research

### **Pohue Pa**

Of the recent work involving the Northern Regional Office of the Historic Places Trust, Stuart Bedford is able to report on archaeological investigation in Northland of Pohue pa at Kaeo.

The Trust has been involved in negotiation and discussion with Te Runanga O Whaingaroa in relation to Pohue since mid 2000. The Runanga is planning to incorporate the pa into its design for the promotion of cultural tourism and educational programmes in the Kaeo/Whaingaroa region. The pa is of high cultural and historical significance, it is a recorded archaeological site, a registered wahi tapu and a scheduled site of significance to Maori. Oral traditions talk of the pa being established in the late 1700s by Ngati Uru following their move into the area from the Bay of Islands. The pa is also

associated with the burning of the Boyd in 1809. There are historic references to the pa along with a stylised painting but detailed description is lacking.

The Trust suggested that archaeological investigations had the potential to contribute to understanding and knowledge of the occupation of the pa. Information could then be used in the design of interpretation or promotion of the site. Two periods of excavation were carried out under authority number 2001-160 with the support of the Department of Conservation, Northland.

Test-pitting took place from 30 November to 4 December 2001. Excavation occurred on the top of the hill and on the large upper terraces, and revealed that these features were substantially intact despite the fact that a bulldozer had more than once visited the site. There was however very little evidence for permanent activity on any of the upper terraces. Trenches, some up to 5 m long, revealed mainly sterile surfaces with only occasional artefacts or postholes. Evidence for substantial palisading was not apparent. The sterile nature of the terraces contrasted with the top of the hill (tihi) where many artefacts were recovered. These included obsidian and historic items such as nails, bottle glass and miscellaneous metal objects. A small drain feature was also recorded. Mapping of the pa was largely completed during this earlier stage of the investigation. Test-pit excavations on the lower eastern terraces revealed that more permanent occupation had occurred on that area of the pa.

The second phase of the investigation occurred 10-12 April. This involved further excavation on the tihi and the lower eastern terraces. Mapping was also completed, a draft copy being sent to the Runanga. Archaeological remains on the tihi indicate several phases of activity including small rock-filled hearths, some buried by later levelling activities. No shellfish or faunal remains were identified. Recent holes on the tihi were probably associated with fossicking on site in the search for the 'elusive gold', said to be part of the Boyd cargo.

A series of postholes on the eastern side of the tihi might represent the remains of a shelter. The hearth features noted above were located inside this line of postholes. Further excavation on the lower eastern terraces revealed evidence for more permanent occupation.

Despite the fact that the pa has been subjected to repeated vandalism in the form of a series of bulldozing events damage appears to be largely restricted to scarring (tracks) around the base of the pa and across the eastern face. The substantial upper terraces can be seen in early 1950s aerial photographs and it

appears that any bulldozing in the upper part of the pa was mainly associated with the construction of access tracks in between the earlier terraces.

Any defences on the terraces may well have utilised some form of palisading. However the palisading need not have been terribly substantial. The pa is very steep sided and relatively easily defended. It also must be borne in mind that it was established at a time when muskets were just being introduced into the Bay of Islands. Pa design was quickly adapted to this newly introduced weapon. There is no evidence for defensive ditches or any underground tunnels or bunkers, the latter being further adaptations to combat cannon fire. There is also no evidence for storage pits of any form.

The upper terraces are largely sterile i.e. there is virtually no archaeological evidence for habitation or other activities suggesting they were purely for defensive purposes. This is in contrast to the archaeological features and artefacts on the tihi which indicate that more regular, possibly ceremonial activity took place there. More permanent occupation was on the lower flanks of the hill with easy access to the defended part of the pa. Shell midden can be seen eroding along much of the lower eastern flanks of the pa and a series of terraces, both inside and outside the area leased by the Runanga, indicate that the pa was a focal point for a substantial population. It is in this area that evidence for occupation (house sites), food preparation and consumption is in evidence.

Artefactual material from excavated areas comprised one or two pieces of historic material, i.e bottle glass, nails etc, suggesting that the occupation period was limited and ties in well with the oral traditions which indicate that the pa was occupied in the late 1700s and into the 1830s.

Only a very small percentage of the pa was excavated but it has clearly demonstrated that much of the site remains intact despite the bulldozing episodes. Larger scale excavations have the potential to reveal much more information but at this stage of the investigations it is considered that the information already gleaned is sufficient to address the initial planning needs of the Runanga.

A report on the excavations along with reference to historical records and oral traditions is in preparation. Future analysis will also include a closer look at the collections of obsidian. These flakes which are almost certainly from the Kaeo

source can be dated (hydration technique) and they are likely to provide further detail on the timing of occupation.

In the past members of the Runanga have talked of a 'full reconstruction' of the pa as being part of its plan for cultural tourism and educational opportunities. The Trust while recognising the aspirations of the Runanga have, as the statutory authority responsible for the protection of archaeological sites, urged caution and emphasised the need for a detailed assessment and feasibility study of such a venture. The Trust is guided by the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in relation to the issue of reconstruction. The Charter states that reconstruction

"may be appropriate if it is essential to the function or understanding of a place, if sufficient physical and documentary evidence exists to minimise conjecture, and if the surviving heritage values are preserved. Reconstruction should not normally constitute the majority of a place. Generalised representations of typical features or structures should be avoided."

The Trust encourages the Runanga to assess the potential of recently developed digital software which could recreate the pa as a 3-D model. Such technology would enable the Runanga to explore the possibility of ultimately incorporating all pa within their rohe as a component of a visitor and/or cultural centre. The set-up and on-going use of such technology would be particularly beneficial in terms of any educational component to the plans of the Runanga.

## AUCKLAND

### *From out in the field*

The annual conference at Russell in May brought forth several papers on recent fieldwork by Auckland practitioners. Reports on fieldwork carried out beyond the Auckland region were Angela Middleton's excavation in April of an early mission house at Te Puna, Bay of Islands and Brenda Sewell's excavation of Arthur Blacks's midden at Opito, Coromandel. Simon Holdaway spoke on the University field school excavation of the large post-contact house site at Oropuriri, Bell Block, Taranaki. Harry Allen gave an update of the 'Cultural Wetlands Project', also in Taranaki. On work within the Auckland region, Matt Campbell described results of the Omaha Sandspit project, (See paper in this issue) Hans-Dieter Bader recounted more on the Albert Barracks excavation and Rod Clough provided updates of the Britomart and Grafton Gully

developments. Rod also talked about the site survey upgrade fieldwork undertaken on Waiheke Island as the first step in Auckland City's Gulf Island project.

Brent Druskovich of Bioresarches has been looking at dry stone wall systems relating to historic farming in the Tamaki area. A section of wall will be retained as a road divider in the subdivision where the wall systems were recorded.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

### *Heritage Study*

Sarah Donaghey writes: Association members might like to be aware of a piece of research I'm currently engaged in at Massey University for a doctoral study. It centres on the valuation of historic and cultural heritage in this country - a topic which, as many of you are aware, has generated much debate yet seen little in the way of definitive progress. Critical issues such as national standards, assessment criteria, national importance versus representativeness, the pros and cons of a thematic approach, local authority assessment, etc. etc., will all be subject to close scrutiny. Information gained from a study of overseas literature and systems operating particularly in Australia, USA, Canada and the UK, together with a fact finding visit to Australia planned later this year, will all provide valuable comparative material.

Stage I is well underway and comprises an analysis of assessment criteria in the Historic Places Act and the Register of the Historic Places Trust together with a survey of local authority assessment mechanisms and scheduling procedures in the district planning process.

Stage II involves seeking the opinion of as many of us working in or having knowledge of heritage matters in New Zealand via a questionnaire and subsequently, by holding a forum of experts which will focus on the valuation and assessment process. And this is where the assistance of members of the NZAA would be most valuable. If you are willing to participate in the QUESTIONNAIRE - a relatively brief survey of your opinions on current valuation mechanisms and your thoughts and recommendations on how it can be improved - then do contact me. The greater the response, the higher the validity of the study and the significance of the survey. The outcome will assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the current system and make appropriate recommendations to improve it.



And still focussing on heritage, it is not widely known that an undergraduate paper entitled 'Managing Heritage Attractions' is offered at Massey University in the Department of Management and International Business at the Albany campus, Auckland. This paper focuses on an extensive range of issues related to the management of natural and cultural heritage in New Zealand. Topics covered during the course include the values of heritage, heritage tourism, visitor management and interpretation, resource management planning, relevant legislation, world heritage organisations and sites.

For further details contact:

Sara Donaghey

Dept. of Management and International Business

Massey University - Albany

### **BAY OF PLENTY**

Shirley Arabin recently joined the Trust's Tauranga office to update the Trust's Register for the Bay of Plenty region. The Trust received a grant from Environment Bay of Plenty's environment enhancement fund allowing research to be undertaken on buildings and structures listed on the register. This involves providing a current description and assessing the historical, cultural and physical values, greatly adding to information the Trust holds.

Phil Moore is surveying significant features associated with the East Coast Main Trunk line, which closed in 1978. Phil is focussing on the area between the Athenree Gorge and Apata, which was constructed between 1920 and 1928. The survey involves recording surviving features of the line including bridges, underpasses, station platforms and well-preserved sections of the rail line. The Bay of Plenty Branch Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust is funding the project.

Ken Phillips and Phil Moore recently investigated a defensive ditch at Athenree, when earthworks associated with the Waihi Beach Sewerage Scheme uncovered the south-western corner of Anatore Pa. A number of archaeological features have been recorded as part of the project in the Athenree Heights subdivision, particularly middens and pits representing undefended occupation surrounding Anatore and Koutunui pa sites.

An extensive occupation site was exposed by road widening on Paparoa Road, in the Opotiki District. As a result, the Opotiki District Council employed Ken Phillips to complete a damage assessment report.

In April Don Prince investigated a large kumara pit, inland from Matata. According to Don the in-fill was highly organic and of indeterminate origin, and there were no internal features.

Ray Hooker returned from two weeks of rain on the South Island's West Coast, to excavate midden sites at Papamoa in what will be the Palm Springs residential subdivision. Ray reports that he found evidence of "incipient occupation" representing shellfish preparation and consumption.

Rachel Darmody, NZHPT

### **EAST COAST**

In the last few months Ken and Don have been busy on the East Coast on a number of projects. Work has continued at the Heinz Wattie site at the site of the old hotel and Colonel Porter's house. Analysis of that material is underway. Ken has also completed an archaeological assessment of Titirangi Reserve (Kaiti Hill) for Gisborne District Council. This reserve is a prominent hill beside the beach in the rohe of Ngati Oneone. Traditional information and development over the years indicated that a range of archaeological features would be located on the reserve. Also, significant earthworks had occurred post 1900 through roading, during World War II and more recently. Gisborne District Council propose completing a management plan for the reserve and commissioned a survey and report to identify the nature and extent of the archaeological resource.

Ken and Rachael have also made an assessment of the Albion Hotel site post demolition of the building. This site contains potential pre-European archaeological remains as well as archaeological remains associated with early European settlement and the subsequent hotels. Further archaeological excavation of this site will be undertaken before the development of the proposed new hotel.

Otatara Pa in Hawke Bay is a significant traditional and archaeological site. Not all the archaeological features are included in the Reserve. A subdivision of the land outside the reserve has proceeded. The Department of Conservation has reached an agreement with the landowner to purchase some of that land to include in the reserve. This is a major protection measure for the archaeological features although some still remain outside the reserve.

Pam Bain, DoC

## WANGANUI-TARANAKI

A really big mistake on the part of the Wanganui District Council has resulted in a 7 m x 70 m trench being dug at Queen's Park, in the centre of Wanganui, near the Sargeant Galley and Whanganui Regional Museum. The trench, cut in preparation for a pathway leading up to the cenotaph, has cut right through a military redoubt built in 1847. The council omitted to seek an authority from the Historic Places Trust. Luckily, Annetta Sutton of Archaeology North spotted the trenching work in progress and was able to get the council to call an immediate halt to the digging. This allowed for Annetta, together with Michael Taylor, Jonathon Welch and volunteer Nic Edwards to assess the archaeology. There is further potential to excavate the stockade floor and wall in the future. This whole episode has clearly been a learning curve for council staff - lack of communication and not following guidelines. Touch wood, we don't expect something like this to happen again.

Other happenings include the University of Auckland Field School excavation of a house site in Bell Block, Taranaki – a report on this will appear elsewhere in *AINZ*. Tony Walton, Robyn Burgess and other DoC area staff have continued to monitor historic reserves and other archaeological sites on conservation land in the Taranaki area. We continue to explore options for site stabilisation. A site 'clean-up' and installation of new interpretation signs at Te Koru Pa Historic Reserve is planned for this month. Two new conservations plans – for Awa-Te-Take Pa Historic Reserve and Ngangana Pa – are in the final stages of printing and will be available shortly as working documents for the use of Otaraua hapu as well as DoC. An unveiling of the Katikara Memorial, commemorating the deaths of the warriors who died in the battle of Katikara in June 1863, will take place at Tataraimaka Pa Historic Reserve/St George's Redoubt next month.

Robyn Burgess, DoC

## CANTERBURY

Chris Jacomb has been recording site damage at Goose Bay, near Kaikoura, and Ducksfoot Bay, on Banks Peninsula. In both cases, the damage has been caused by coastal erosion. At Goose Bay, ovens have been extensively damaged by high seas caused by storms. Chris visited this site with Te Awhina Arahanga. The site at Ducksfoot Bay is an occupation layer and was visited with Murray Thacker and family and Kelvin Day. Chris has also been helping Katharine Watson with the Selwyn District upgrade project.

Katharine Watson has carried out excavations in Hokitika, where a new New World supermarket is being built on Revell St. She was helped by Alys Mendus, Sarah Dwyer and Jackie Breen. Relatively good historical information was available about the site and indicated that buildings had stood there since at least 1867. Some of the more notable buildings were the Prince of Wales Opera House, a fishmonger, an oyster and supper rooms, and a variety of pubs. Over sixty features were located, and there were a large number of foundation posts. A number of the features contained large quantities of oyster shells and could be directly associated with the fishmonger and the oyster and supper rooms. Most of the remaining features were small rubbish dumps, but there were also several unusual box-like features. Katharine has also spent a day monitoring at Redcliffs School, which is built on a large moa-hunter site. Nothing was found. Another day was spent excavating in a cellar that was part of a mill house at Lincoln. She has also been working on the Selwyn District Upgrade Project with Chris Jacomb, Te Awhina Arahanga, and Alys Mendus.

Katharine Watson