



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **AUCKLAND**

#### *Department of Conservation*

Andy Dodd will be co-ordinating an archaeological survey of the reserves administered by DoC in the South Auckland area. With the exception of certain areas such as the Waikato heads, Matakaitai Forest, Vining Reserve and Mangatawhiri Forest, the majority of the areas to be surveyed consist of smaller marginal strips along rivers and coastlines. The survey is currently scheduled to begin within the next couple of months. It will be similar in focus to surveys carried out by the Department in its reserves north of Auckland in the early 1990s in seeking to improve the quality of information regarding archaeological sites on DoC land and to identify any management issues affecting the sites. The south Auckland survey will also be able to provide baseline information necessary for the condition monitoring forms being developed by the Department's Science and Research branch.

#### *Auckland War Memorial Museum*

The Pitcairn Island stone technology project, funded by the Green Foundation for Polynesian Research, has been underway for some weeks now. Marianne Turner is well into the project's first stage: inventorying the hundreds of adze preform portions and other items associated with adze manufacturing and basalt working that comprise the museum's huge collection. The main aim is to assess the collection's significance in terms of what was being manufactured, then to interpret the reasons for the production of the tool types and for whom they were being made. Marianne's work will make the collection much more accessible, both physically and intellectually.

Nigel Prickett's new book titled "*Landscapes of Conflict: A Field Guide to The New Zealand Wars*" is due for release on September 20 and Bulletin of the Auckland Museum 19, by Louise Furey, called "*Houhoro: A fourteenth century*

*Maori village in Northland*' will hopefully be ready about that time too. A gathering to celebrate the publishing of these books will be held as an NZAA Auckland social event.

Brigid Gallagher, a former Auckland archaeology student who did volunteer work and established the archaeology database at the museum, is temporarily back in Auckland. She is working for a month with Dilys Johns in the Conservation Laboratory at Auckland University. Brigid is completing a BSc in Archaeological Conservation at the University of Cardiff and her placement with Dilys is an internship for that course.

#### *News from the University of Auckland, Conservation Laboratory*

This year a stage 3 paper convened by Dilys Johns entitled Heritage Conservation in Aotearoa was offered in semester one. The paper addressed the main principles of conservation, focussing on rationale rather than treatment method. Special emphasis is given to the fields of conservation of place, archaeological, ethnographic, fine art, architectural and textile conservation. The course equips students with a cultural orientation to conservation, where issues are examined through several contexts, including anthropological studies and conservation science. We were very fortunate to be able to have experts in the different areas of conservation available to participate and the course which well received. It will be offered again in semester 1, 2003.

2002 has also been a busy year for hui, laboratory and field conservation projects with artefacts being received from several locations in Northland, Te Awamutu, Taranaki, Waikato, Stewart Is, Great Barrier Is, Auckland Museum, Otorohonga and Britomart in Auckland.

We are in our final year of the Cultural Significance of Taranaki Wetlands and members of the project have just finished a paper with Harry Allen, Caroline Phillips, Kelvin Day, T. O'Brien and Nagati Mutaunga - 'Strengthening the Relationships between People and Cultural Wetlands' which will be published World Archaeology in October.

At the end of last year I participated in the 8th International Council of Museums Wet Organic Archaeological Materials conference in Sweden and chaired a session on in situ conservation. I have a paper in *Enduring Records - The Environmental and Cultural Heritage of Wetlands*, Oxbow Books, U.K. 2001 Ed B Purdy, 'The Conservation of Wetland Archaeological Sites in New Zealand/Aotearoa'. If anyone is interested in papers from these volumes or

issues surrounding in situ conservation please get intouch by email  
 d.johns@auckland.ac.nz  
 <mailto:d.johns@auckland.ac.nz> or phone 09 3737599 ex 8580.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

## BAY OF PLENTY

Ken Phillips has been carrying out volunteer work for Nga Potiki, at the Karikari Point Pa site, which has been affected by coastal erosion. Ken and 15 hapu members recovered artefacts from the inter-tidal zone that had eroded out of the coastal scarp and recorded features. A workshop was then held with Nga Potiki where Ken provided an interpretation of the artefacts, which included drill points, adze flakes, and obsidian, as well as mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century European artefacts. The site is important because it appears to have been occupied throughout the contact period. Nga Potiki are now working with Ken to stabilise the scarp in order to prevent further erosion and a monitoring programme has also been established.

Ken has also been surveying the Ohope Scenic Reserve, where he found a number of unrecorded sites including a pa, shell middens and terraces.

Phil Moore has almost completed his East Coast Main Trunk Line project, which involved recording features associated with the rail line between Athenree Gorge and Apata. The *Bay of Plenty Times* recently featured an interesting article about the project. Phil has also been working on the Upgrade Project around Athenree, where he estimates 70% of sites have been relocated.

Garry Law continues to work on the Bay of Plenty Archaeological Resource Statement for the Department of Conservation. Garry has developed an amazing web site that can be found at [www.lawas.co.nz/bop/](http://www.lawas.co.nz/bop/) and includes a bibliography (interim listing) for the Bay of Plenty.

Chris Currie recently prepared a well-presented historic area application for the Buried Village, Te Wairoa in Rotorua. The Buried Village is also planning some innovative changes to interpretation that will be implemented over the next 3-5 years. After excavating whare sites and sampling the remains of the Rotomahana Hotel site in January 1990, Alexy Simmons has continued her involvement with the village and will be helping them with their new project.

Alexy has also been working on a prehistoric occupation site exposed by earthworks associated with the construction of the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic's new aquatic centre, at Windermere, Tauranga.

Rachel Darmody, NZHPT

### **EAST COAST**

A draft conservation plan for Otatara Pa Historic Reserve has been completed by Lynda Bowers. This plan addresses issues associated with the grazing management of this large earthworks sites, weed and vegetation management and issues associated with the management, interpretation and development of the reserve.

Geometia have been commissioned to undertake a 3d plan and condition report for Otatara Pa Historic Reserve and set up a condition monitoring programme. This report will then be appended to the Conservation Plan. The long term plan is to work with iwi to develop some 3d interpretation of the Reserve.

Ken Phillips has continued to do some monitoring and assessment work on the East Coast, most recently for Port Gisborne Ltd who are developing a new road along the base of Titirangi hill.

Tairawhiti Museum hosted another very successful Maori arts festival in January. As with previous festivals the purpose was to raise the level of community awareness of Maori arts and culture by providing a forum for local Maori visual and performing artists to showcase and demonstrate their various art forms to the public. More than 3,500 people attended the festival over the two days to participate in what is now a major cultural offering to this region.

During April the Toi Hauiti exhibition was opened with in excess of 200 people at the powhiri. This was the first exhibition of its type hosted at the museum in that members of Te Aitanga a Hauiti acted as curators for the exhibition.

Pam Bain, DoC

### **WHANGANUI-TARANAKI**

The past few months have been a busy time for archaeology in the region, particularly for those of us in the private sector. This, in part, has been due to a much greater awareness of the place and importance of archaeology in understanding New Zealand's past by developers, landowners and councils.

Michael Taylor and Jonathan Welch have been involved in the investigation of the Whyte's Hotel site, Foxton, which is being developed by Foodstuffs (Wgtn). This was the site of hotel and commercial operations from the 1870s through to 2000. With a complicated history of development and redevelopment of the site - the original hotel and commercial buildings burnt down and surface of the land cleared shortly after WWI - both archaeologists have been busy with in excess of 70 rubbish pits of various sizes, two subterranean storage features, a couple of long-drops, evidence of rebuilding activity following the fires, buildings, pathways, etc., being revealed during the current redevelopment process. A considerable amount of artifactual evidence has also been recovered which related to hotel and commercial operations spanning the period of ca. 1880 on into the twentieth century.

Under the supervision of archaeologists, the Wellington Antique Bottle Club undertook a 'club day' on part of the Whyte's Hotel site (with knowledge and approval of HPT and Foodstuffs). This was a good opportunity to talk to and demonstrate what archaeology is and how it is carried out in the field to club members. Club members have also participated in the identification and recording of some of the Whyte's Hotel assemblage.

Following on from the recent scoping study of archaeological sites within the Wanganui District Council boundaries, Michael Taylor and Annetta Sutton have also recently completed the field work part of a survey of Maori sites alongside the Manawatu River (Ashurst-Palmerston North stretch) for the Manawatu District Council.

Back in Wanganui, Michael, Annetta and Jonathan participated in the Peace for Unity Sculpture, a community project situated atop Queens Park reserve. Monitoring and investigation of the small land area affected by the sculpture revealed a zone of compacted soils and evidence of the cleaning from the nearby Rutland Barracks floors/fires. Artifacts recovered and analysed included some 30 military buttons and badges, a similar number of clay tobacco pipes and bowls, and evidence of the early industry of Wanganui. Located close to the site of the proposed ANZAC walk (see last issue of AINZ), this small excavation will compliment the results of next months investigation of the site of the walk - the latter situated immediately atop the Barracks proper.

Other recent archaeological work has also been conducted in Ngarewa, near Hawera, and Urenui.

In other local news Michelle Horwood, curator of the Whanganui Regional Museum is currently on maternity leave. Her duties are being carried out by Fiona Hall. Also at the Museum Dean Flavell has been working with local archaeologists to develop an educational kit for schools concerning the archaeology of Queens Park and how archaeologists go about doing what they do and why. Although in early stages this project has exciting possibilities.

Jonathan Welch, River City Archaeology

## WELLINGTON

*Bridge and Barrier: 800 Years of Maori Culture in Cook Strait*, a project funded by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology, has come to an end. The programme co-leaders Dr Foss Leach and Dr Janet Davidson are leaving Te Papa and retiring to the Marlborough Sounds.

In mid-June the Department of Conservation said goodbye to Dr Aidan Challis who has moved to the NZ Historic Places Trust as their senior policy analyst. Karen Greig has recently left the NZ Historic Places Trust to work as a consultant and her position as Central Region archaeologist has been taken by Emma Brooks.

Recent Science and Research Unit publications of note are a thematic study of shore whaling by Nigel Prickett, a parallel study of sealing sites by Ian Smith, a study of aerial archaeology of coastal southern Hawke's Bay (Jones 2002, Jones and Tanner 2002), and a discussion document on caring for archaeological sites by Kevin Jones and others (see list below). The discussion document on caring for archaeological sites has been distributed widely and is available electronically from [www.doc.govt.nz/Publications/004~Science-and-Research/Miscellaneous-Science-and-Research-Publications.asp](http://www.doc.govt.nz/Publications/004~Science-and-Research/Miscellaneous-Science-and-Research-Publications.asp). Meetings to review its contents were held in August in Auckland, Hamilton, and Wellington. For details of other publications from Science and Research Unit, Department of Conservation, see [www.doc.govt.nz/Publications/004~Science-and-Research/index.asp](http://www.doc.govt.nz/Publications/004~Science-and-Research/index.asp).

Bruce McFadgen attended a tsunami workshop on behalf of Department of Conservation at Paraparaumu in February and presented a short account of tsunami events in Maori prehistory. Work on the Healy Caldera north of the Bay of Plenty was described by Dr Ian Wright of NIWA. The caldera is thought to have formed about 500-600 years ago and to possibly be a source of Loiseles Pumice. Tsunami deposits of about the same age that had washed over Maori



middens were described from Henderson Bay by Dr Scott Nichol, Geography Department, University of Auckland. In April, Bruce McFadgen, and James Goff (Geoenvironmental Consultants, Christchurch), examined 15<sup>th</sup> Century AD tsunami deposits on the Wairarapa and west Wellington coasts for the Wellington Regional Council.

Tony Walton joined the Defence of New Zealand annual field trip in March and visited a string of sites in the south Taranaki and Wanganui areas including Te Ruaki pa, Ohangai pa, Wereroa redoubt, Tauranga-ika, Alexander's redoubt, Woodall's redoubt, and the Landguard Bluff battery. He also spent six weeks in the west of England and South Wales in April and May and visited numerous historic places, and quite a few museums. The holiday included a behind-the-scenes look at the operation of the National Monument Record (English Heritage) in Swindon and the Somerset Sites and Monuments Record in Taunton.

Kevin Jones (SRU), Steve Bagley (Nelson Conservancy), Rod Jansen (Otago University) and DOC Picton Area staff have spent a week visiting and monitoring adze quarries in eastern Tasman Bay. Significant new records of major quarries on DOC-managed land were made, including the first and only record in the Pelorus Sound catchment. Typical problems identified were a lack of good maps of the sites, pig rooting, and wilding pines. Site records will be made and management recommendations entered into the Department's historic assets database.

Kevin has also been using the winter light for aerial photography. Five separate flights have been made. The first was from Timaru to the pa Waiateruaiti near Temuka and south to Waitaki River, Oamaru, Totara Estate and Waianakarua. The second, again from Timaru, was over the Waitaki Dam, Mt Buster goldfields, and a number of historic stations in the Middlemarch to Manuherikia areas. The third was to Molesworth Station including Rainbow and Acheron accommodation houses, with Steve Bagley in the back. The final mainland job was the Inch Clutha with pre-programmed advice from Rachel Darmody and practical guidance from Peter Bristow in the back, from there over Otago coast including Watsons Beach to views over Dunedin. The fifth, and outstanding occasion, was to the Auckland Islands in an RNZAF Orion. Happily, there was reasonable visibility with moderate winds, white-outs and snow on the high country, and clear and even sunny in the northern parts. A good crop of shipwreck, castaway, astronomical observatory, colonial and WWII

coastwatcher sites were photographed, along with the ships' nemesis, the mighty west coast cliffs, and some right whales.

Ten or a dozen Type-V concrete prism road blocks/tank obstructions dating to 1942 have been found directly in the path of a new bridge at Paremata. The Pataka Museum at Porirua and the Army Museum at Waiouru have taken specimens and the rest will be re-erected at a new spot nearby once the bridge and approaches are completed. No other surviving examples are known.

Tony Walton, DoC

## **CANTERBURY**

Chris Jacomb has been working on the Selwyn Upgrade Project with Katharine Watson. This work was completed in June. Few of the recorded sites were relocated. Chris conducted excavations at Totara Estate, an Historic Places Trust property just south of Oamaru, with Alys Mendus and Katharine Watson. Totara Estate is notable within New Zealand's history as the station from which frozen meat was first shipped. These excavations were carried out in conjunction with HPT work at the property. The areas that excavated were around the killing shed and in the yard next to the killing shed where 250 pigs were kept and fed the offal from the slaughtering. Most of the material recovered was sheep bones. Chris has also been carrying out training seminars with local authorities in the South Island and for the Otago branch of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

Aside from working on the Selwyn Upgrade Project and excavating at Totara Estate, Katharine Watson has been doing survey work in the Heathcote Valley, helped by Alys Mendus. This work was commissioned by the Christchurch City Council prior to the conversion of the area around Ferrymead Historic Park into the Heathcote Valley Park (which involves a Tamaki Brothers development and the renaturalisation of waterways). A number of sites were located, most of which were associated with the use of the Heathcote River for river transport from the 1850s through to the early 1870s. Katharine has also been doing some survey work in Kaikoura with Peter Petchey. This has involved studying the European history of the upper part of the Kaikoura Peninsula, where Whale Watch are planning a new development.

Katharine Watson

## OCEANIA

‘Pacific Archaeology: assessments and prospects’

This conference was held at Koné and Noumea, New Caledonia, 1–7 August 2002, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Lapita excavation, carried out by Edward Gifford and Richard Shutler in July 1952. For those of us who do not work in the area of Lapita archaeology it was an opportunity to visit the famous Lapita site, and meet and talk with luminaries in the field.

The conference was especially notable for the presence of Richard Shutler and his wife Jamie. The man who helped Gifford excavate the site all those years ago went on to have a distinguished career in archaeology, finishing up at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver. Early in proceedings he was delighted and genuinely surprised to receive a festschrift, published as NZAA monograph 25 (‘Fifty Years in the Field: essays in honour and celebration of Richard Shutler jr’s archaeological career’, edited by Stuart Bedford, Christophe Sand and David Burley).

The conference kicked off at Koné, 275 km north of Noumea by road. ‘La Grande Terre’ is the next largest island in Remote Oceania after the North and South Islands of New Zealand. It is about the size and shape of the Northland peninsula.

Koné is the nearest town to the Lapita site, which is more often referred to in New Caledonia as the Koné site, or Foué site (after the Foué Peninsula). I was interested to learn from Christophe Sand that the correct spelling is ‘Xapetaa’, in the local Kanak language, Haveke. The name refers to the beach area at the Foué Peninsula. The word ‘Lapita’ was first used in his journal by Gifford on 3 August 1952, and the site so-named in the 1956 publication on the New Caledonia expedition. In the 1960s the name came to be used for the pottery style, although it is not clear who started this.

The first conference day was taken up with presentations on the careers of Gifford and Shutler, by Pat Kirch and Dave Burley respectively. In the afternoon we all went down to the famous site. Much of the area has now been destroyed by a prawn farm, and the back of the beach is being eroded by wave action. The cultural layer was clearly visible in the beach section, and some of us with long experience (not including your reporter) found battered sherds of pottery.



*Stuart Bedford gets close to one of the pots recovered in 1995 at the Lapita site - in the Northern Province Cultural Centre, Koné*



*Jack Golson, Richard Shutler and Roger Green at the Lapita site.*

A moving ceremony was held at the site in which local people welcomed in turn delegations from a number of other countries with Lapita sites: Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. The travel bills and conference attendance of these delegations was paid for by the French. Welcomes from local people, of which we had several in the following days, always were accompanied by speeches and the exchange of gifts, notably bolts of printed cloth.

On our way back to the hotel for dinner we visited the Northern Province cultural centre near Koné, where there was a display of the truly astonishing pots recovered at the Lapita site in 1995.

The next day was taken up with general papers on Pacific archaeology, not confined to Lapita. On Saturday the 3rd we travelled by bus to the east side of the island, which is quite different to the dry west side. This was more like a tropical island with palm-fringed beaches, and surf on the reef off-shore. The day following we returned to Noumea, viewing sites on the way, including a remarkable landscape of steep hills sculpted into taro terraces near Bourail, the stone-built Fort Teremba first begun by the French in 1871, and a petroglyph site.

From the 5th to the 7th we had papers each day at the South Pacific Commission conference room in Noumea. In the course of proceedings, Richard Shutler was presented with another book, this time on the 1952 expedition: Christophe Sand and Patrick Kirch, 'Lapita was name of the village at this site: L'expédition archeologique d'Edward W. Gifford et Richard Shutler Jr. en Nouvelle-Caledonie au cours de l'année 1952 (Edward W. Gifford and Richard Shutler Jr's archaeological expedition to New Caledonia in 1952)', published by the New Caledonia Museum. Each evening there were drinks and food put on by the French.

When the conference proper wound up on the evening of the 7th, some of us went on a post conference tour to the Loyalty Islands. This was a magical part of the visit to New Caledonia. We flew first to Lifou Island, where some, but not all, of us went on the famous 'Lifou death march', which took nearly four hours and included a cliff descent. In the course of it we walked along a beach ridge with extensive Lapita evidence. Among the coconut palms was a simple concrete church, now ruined, dating from the first missionaries.



*Chrisophe Sand at Hnakudotit - a massive stone enclosure said to date from the third century A.D. on Maré, one of the Loyalty Islands. The part in the photo has been largely reconstructed.*



*Archaeologists looking at abandoned taro pondfields, Col des Rousettes, near Bourail. Conference organiser and guide, Chrisophe Sand, at right.*

Throughout Lifou and Maré are many lovely churches, built of concrete in a massive sculptural style. I also enjoyed the continued use of simple round thatched houses throughout the main island and the Loyalties. On the Loyalty Islands there is no private land, all of it being 'customland'. Family compounds usually have a traditional round thatched house, plus a small angular concrete building and a separate cooking shed, often comprising only a roof.

On Maré we visited a site where Lapita sherds have been picked up along 3 km of beach ridge, and also an astonishing stone-built fort or ceremonial centre at Hnakudotit. The bringing together of thousands of huge stones and using them to face 10 m high walls must have been a massive task. From Maré some went on to Ouvéa where, I was later told, the food was even better and the white sand beach went on forever. This I did not want to know. The rest of us flew back to Noumea. In 24 hours we were back in New Zealand. Many thanks to Christophe and his team of willing helpers for such a wonderful conference.

Nigel Prickett, Auckland Museum