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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

AUCKLAND

Auckland Regional Council

Robert Brassey, Ian Lawlor and Kim Tatton have contributed this issue's ARC update.

Sarah Ross is planning to return part time from parental leave in February/March. Vanessa Tanner and Kim Tatton will be filling in, and then Kim will be departing for parental 'duty' in February as her due date approaches. Jonathon Carpenter will also be helping out over the summer.

The ARC Cultural Heritage team has done some preliminary investigation into sites that would potentially be affected by the proposed Eastern Corridor route. After some careful detective work the site of the first (1844-6) St John's College and settlement, and Bishop Selwyn's landing site, were identified. A number of unrecorded Maori settlement sites were also found along the tidal Purewa Creek during the site inspection.

Over the past 6 months ARC Heritage staff, as well as consultant archaeologists, architects and botanists, have been undertaking site inspections of the cultural heritage sites scheduled in the ARC Regional Plan: Coastal and a number of sites in the regional park network. This work is part of a pilot study to test a methodology for monitoring the state and condition of cultural heritage developed in the report - A Cultural Heritage Monitoring Network for the Auckland Region (Draft) by Lucy Mackintosh for the ARC (Mar 2001). The pilot study will result in a revised, recommended strategy for monitoring cultural heritage. However, it has also provided a site sample to make some evaluation of the state and condition of cultural heritage in the Auckland region and illustrates how the ARC and the region at large is protecting and managing these places. ARC staff, working with Jan Ramp of Snapper Graphics Ltd, have

finally completed the six panels that will mark the Manukau Timber Company mill heritage walk at Huia. The design work, now rebranded in the new ARC corporate fonts, textures and colours, was originally undertaken by Caroline Phillips. This project celebrates the Maori and European history of Huia and highlights the archaeological remains of the timber milling industry of the late 1800s. The walk takes an easy half hour, starts at the Huia Settlers Museum and will be opened by Christmas.

The Council's OUR HERITAGE - Landscapes poster and postcard series have also been rebranded. The new format and designs are near identical to the old ones but the new red textures form a boundary for the stunning aerial photographs of Alastair Jamieson (ARC Ecologist). The series will continue to be developed focusing on regionally significant heritage icons with the 2002 focus being on Pukekiwiriki (Papakura District) and Te Maketu (Ramarama - Franklin District). Suggestions of historic places to be considered in the future will be gratefully appreciated.

The ARC has formally accepted an invitation from the Mangere Education Centre Accord Partners (Manukau City Council, Department of Conservation and Te Wai o Hua Trust) to become a partner. These four agencies will continue to work together assisting with the development of the education centre and the curriculum. A major objective is the formation of a Charitable Trust that will manage the Centre that is to be formally opened February 2003.

ARC staff, working with DoC and Mountain View and Mangere Bridge Schools at Mangere have participated in the LEARNZ 'Mountains of Mana' programme focused on Mangere Mountain and Rangitoto Island. This is an innovative and exciting WWW online education programme integrating science, social studies and technology for levels 4 to 10. Visit the web site learn more about one company, Heurisko, which is working with the DoC and the Ministry of Education to bring real people in real locations together in real time for primary school students (<http://www.learnz.org.nz/2002/fieldtrips/index.htm>).

Council staff continue to work with the Manukau City Council, marae and other business interests and community groups, on the Mangere Gateway Heritage project. This is a strategic planning programme being promoted by Sir Barry Curtis to integrate conservation, economic development, marketing and tourism. It is focused on the natural and cultural heritage resources located on the eastern shores of the Manukau Harbour (from Weymouth to Mangere Bridge). To date, teams have been formed to focus on the primary tasks (e.g. education, economic

development) with a view to returning the findings to a broader community group later this year. This exciting initiative will increase local awareness of the unique heritage of Manukau City and present it to the regional community and international visitors. It is a work in progress.

University of Auckland

Simon Holdaway is on sabbatical until next July and was preparing to leave New Zealand when I spoke to him a couple of weeks ago. He was very excited about a project he was completing with a student that involved the use of Photoshop. He had been electronically recording every metre square of the site excavated by the field school at Bell Block, Taranaki, last summer, with an end to creating 3D imagery and eventually providing the ability to 'travel' through the site in any direction.

On a personal note we farewell Joan Lawrence, from her position as Illustrator in the Anthropology Department, after more than 11 years on the job. She will be very much missed for the work accomplished with staff and students at the University as well as those in the general archaeological community whom she did illustrations for. Joan will leave Auckland at the end of November to take on a winemaking life on her vineyard at Lowburn, Central Otago. We can look forward to meeting up with the 'new' Joan at the NZAA Alexandra Conference next April.

Kath Prickett, Auckland Museum

WHANGANUI-TARANAKI

Not a lot of fieldwork has taken place by DOC over the past couple of months in the Wanganui Conservancy, due to office-based commitments. These have included the production of a conservation plan for the toll-gate house at the North Egmont entrance of Mt Egmont/Taranaki and completing data entry for the national historic heritage asset management system run by the department. We have, however, managed to squeeze in a little project at Tataraimaka Pa Historic Reserve in Taranaki, exploring ways to combat soil erosion in the lower ditch and bank. A small fern, *Blechnum Filiforme*, is found on the pa and its translocation might just be the solution we are looking for to cover bare patches of soil to reduce erosion.

Robyn Burgess, DoC

Excavation of the site of the Rutland Barracks and Prison, Wanganui, took centre stage in terms of archaeological activity in the region during the past few months. Under the direction of Michael Taylor of Archaeology North the excavation sought to achieve three broad objectives namely (1) define the line of the palisade of the Rutland Barracks, (2) to determine the surface levels of both the barracks and the prison and reveal those surfaces, and (3) to recover, analyse and preserve a representative sample of cultural material associated with the barracks and prison. After battling strong winds, lashing rain and exorcet-like falling pine cones all objectives were met with some interesting initial results and finds emerging which, time willing, will be submitted in more detail for upcoming *AINZ* issues.

Initial documentary research showed that the area of the barracks was twice the area commonly quoted in historical publications and excavations showed that the floor level between the ca. 1850 barrack level and the ca. 1880 prison level had been raised by some 750 mm. It was also ascertained that when the barracks were converted into a prison, the outside wall of the structure was shifted out by some 1.5-2.0 m. Aside from the palisade and prison wall line, the concrete foundations of a structure – possibly the barrack magazine – were also partially excavated.

Artefacts recovered for further analysis included a range of military buttons, various items relating to weaponry, an almost mint condition 1828 sixpence [!?] and a healthy range of clay tobacco pipes. My personal favourite would be a pipe bowl on which has been added a human skeletal figure smoking a briar pipe.

One of the most pleasing results of the Rutland Barrack excavations was the high level of media and general public interest. At last count media interest included three radio reports and two newspaper articles. Excavations were also of interest to local historians, iwi, and school children with anything up to 20 visitors on site per day.

Finally, Michael would like to thank his assistants, Annetta Sutton of Archaeology North and Jonathan Welch of River City Archaeology and volunteers, especially Robin Burgess and Bruce Baldwin, for their continued enthusiasm throughout the course of the excavation.

Jonathan Welch, River City Archaeology

WELLINGTON

Mary O'Keeffe has been giving evidence in the environment court appeal against the Historic Places Trust authorities for the proposed Wellington inner city bypass. The planned bypass will cut through the Te Aro area of central Wellington, an area of older intact Victorian and Edwardian housing with potential for rich archaeological subsurface deposits. The judge and commissioners were dismayed at the apparent areas of difference between the archaeologists on each side and sent them away for a day to prepare a statement of principles. The court was subsequently pleasantly surprised by the wide ranging and large numbers of areas of agreement and unanimity, (with thanks to Historic Places Trust for lunch, venue, and wine to aid the thinking process). Mary has also been preparing a research strategy and management plan for the bypass archaeological work, should the appeal be unsuccessful and the work proceeds.

Mary has completed a report for Christchurch City Council on the archaeology of the Heathcote Valley near Christchurch, where she undertook documentary research on the early history of the valley then located extant archaeological sites associated with the early events and people. (See also Watson 2002 listed in Recent Reports this issue.)

With her small noisy daughter in the backpack, Mary has been monitoring realignment work of SH2 north of Upper Hutt, and has so far failed to find evidence of the Te Marua Hotel, which was a major coach and motoring inn for travellers over the Rimutaka Hill. Mary also assessed a malthouse (1870s) in Blenheim which the owner wants to demolish. Whilst in Blenheim Mary assisted HPT in a situation where a farmer had disturbed an archaeological site near Wairau Bar and raised the ire of the local iwi. The national media got hold of the issue and somewhat got their wires crossed, and were dismayed to learn that not only was the site not actually knee deep in disturbed burials, with people hurling rocks at each other, but it had been resolved very amicably and productively. Holmes sought elsewhere for that night's lead story.

Wellington City Council earlier this year had archaeological consultants investigating the remains of the patent slip facilities (R27/140) at Greta Point. More recently, there has been an investigation of a midden (R27/194) affected by a subdivision at Fort Dorset. The latest attraction at the Karori Wildlife Reserve is the Morning Star Gold Mine (pt. R27/201), a well-preserved goldmine with native inhabitants (glow worms and cave weta).

The archaeological staff of the Science and Research Unit (DoC) have not been involved in much fieldwork over the winter months except for occasional visits to places such as the Karori Wildlife Reserve and Whitireia Park. In September, Kevin Jones was on a technical mission for the World Heritage evaluation of Purnululu National Park, Kimberley, Western Australia. Recent SRU publications include Jones (2002) and Walton (2002).

Tony Walton, DoC