



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



This document is made available by The New Zealand
Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.



FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Auckland

In the first week of October the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and the Australian Association for Maritime History held a joint conference on Norfolk Island, on an “Islands and Coastlines” theme. Auckland was well represented and Angela Middleton and Nigel Prickett presented papers based on work at Te Puna, Bay of Islands, and Taranaki farmsteads respectively. Norfolk’s archaeological highlights included the Polynesian site at Emily Bay, the historic precinct at Kingston, the whaling station at Cascade Bay, the Captain Cook memorial, the Melanesian Mission chapel, a World War II radar station and gun emplacements, and, of course, shipwrecks.

Ian Smith (University of Otago) and Nigel Prickett (Auckland Museum) were successful in obtaining a grant from the Marsden Fund for the excavation of two shore whaling stations. The first excavation is planned for Oashore, Banks Peninsula, in the New Year.

Preparations for further work at Queen’s Redoubt are coming to fruition with a two-week excavation directed by Warren Gumbley planned for early next year.

Simon Holdaway has recently arranged for the University of Auckland summer field school to be held at Bell Block in Taranaki. Students will be carrying out further excavation of the site in the second half of February.

The last three months at Auckland Museum have had a lot packed in to them. The Peruvian exhibition was dismantled and a new exhibit telling the story of the discovery of DNA and its significance has been opened to mark the 50th anniversary. A lecture by Massey University’s David Penny on tracing the DNA of the women of the Maori founding population of New Zealand was one of a number the museum is holding to highlight the event. Also being dismantled and packed away is the ‘Civilisations’ gallery, in order to prevent any damage by the Stage Two Development work. This is due to start at the beginning of December and may affect some access to museum collections.

As many of you will have seen on national television some of the Wagener Museum collections were auctioned in October. The Auckland Museum was successful in bidding for a significant early pendant from Northland, though it had to pay \$31,000 to secure the unique piece for public ownership.

The museum brought Ben Finney to Auckland for consultation on plans for a proposed 'Waka Moana' exhibition. He gave two enjoyable talks (at short notice) on his experiences with the reconstruction of Pacific canoe voyaging.

The Association was delighted to learn that our nomination of Professor Roger Green for the Marsden Medal award for services to archaeological science was accepted by the New Zealand Association of Scientists. The medal was presented at the inaugural Science Honours Dinner organised by the Royal Society of New Zealand and held in Auckland, 13 November. Nearly a third of the tables were occupied by Roger's archaeological supporters, though we had tried to secure even more places! It was a proud moment to see Roger honoured with this award.

Kath Prickett

Wellington

Kevin Jones and Rachel Darmody took a flight for oblique aerial photography in the Tauranga area on 9 November. Areas covered included The Elms, Matakana Island (most sites under a scrub cover), Mt Maunganui, Motiti Island, Maketu Peninsula, Kaituna River, Papamoa (hills and flats), Kopukairua, Maungatawa, Matapihi and Otumoetai.

While on holiday, Kevin attended the conference of the Aerial Archaeology Research Group (Winchester, 2–4 September 2003). Highlights were papers on aerial survey in Ireland, pre-WWII German aerial mapping of parts of Poland, tin streaming in Cornwall (very relevant to the earliest alluvial goldmining in New Zealand), 3-D imaging of stereo photos on digital mapping systems, application of LIDAR (a high-precision laser scanning system for recording topography) on the Stonehenge landscape, and a not dissimilar photogrammetric paper analysing the Carnac (Brittany) megalithic landscape.

The LIDAR paper demonstrated the wide range of applications of that technique. LIDAR gives very precise and detailed maps of elevation (accurate to ± 3 cm). By filtering out modern intrusions on the landscape (such as belts of trees), it was possible to show the ground-level inter-visibility of the various classes of monument on that landscape and to show how they may have functioned for

ceremonies, such as processions to Stonehenge or to burial mound groups. The Carnac paper used older French manuscript topographical maps and registered and overlaid these on the modern landscape showing how the stones may have guided participants in ceremonies towards views of the sea horizon. It also showed that some of the better known ‘thickets’ of stone alignments are previously undocumented reconstructions from c. 1900.

The conference of the European Archaeological Association (10–14 September 2003) was held at the University of St Petersburg. This was an occasionally cramped and steamy experience due to the unpredictable numbers at sessions and the double-glazed, generally small rooms available. Kevin presented a paper ‘Aerial archaeology and settlement modelling of New Zealand pa’ and also followed some of the broadly administrative policy sessions titled ‘Roundtables’ and ‘Ad Hoc Groups’. ‘Archaeology and legislation’ focussed on the EU’s Valletta Convention which sets a standard for heritage legislation in member states. The French deputies have recently thrown out parts of their heritage legislation. However, there was an extended debate about so called ‘strong’ legislation which may lose credibility by virtue of poor compliance. It was concluded that the EAA’s legislative policy function was:

- Standard-setting for professional practice
- Survey and find out what is going in member states
- Try to influence international agenda at EC level
- Transmit best practice.

At another session on training there was a description of the Irish system of licensing archaeologists according to specified competencies. There was the usual but interesting dialogue between academics (we provide an education, not training) and consultants (universities are not providing training), but good to see it discussed in a large forum with both sides effectively and courteously speaking and listening.

A general session on ‘re-inventing field archaeology’ was a disappointing insight into the mindset of the larger English archaeological consultancies, with phrases like ‘reflexive and responsive to the emerging narrative’ used to refer to the management of excavations. It would appear that much English contract

archaeology combines the dullest of routine data-gathering with strictly hierarchical management (hence needing re-invention) in contrast to the hotbed of debate and consensus that marks most New Zealand excavations.

A recent DOC publication is McFadgen and Goff (2003). This is an assessment of the current state of the Heaphy River archaic site (L26/1). The site is situated on shoreline deposits uplifted about 3 m prior to occupation and is directly exposed to erosion by both marine and fluvial processes. During the last 105 years, the river bank has eroded at an average rate of 0.31 m/yr, and the erosion is likely to continue. By 1961–63, when the site was excavated, it had probably already been substantially eroded. Of the site that was present then, only about half now remains. Options for DOC to mitigate further losses of information are discussed in the light of present and inferred future stability of the site.

In May Mary O’Keeffe visited Lake Kaniere on the West Coast of the South Island and dived on a small canoe located by DOC divers. Jackie Breen of DOC commissioned a management plan on it. It was found to be made of kahikatea, and of early European origin. Mary has been doing policy work for Aidan Challis of HPT on the Trust’s proposed Historic Heritage Incentive Fund, and is about to begin an archaeological assessment of the site of a planned new building for Wellington Hospital. She has also completed an assessment of a proposed subdivision at Riversdale on the Wairarapa Coast, and is working with Greater Wellington Regional Council as they review and update their parks management plans. She has recently been in Kaikoura looking at an alternative location for passing lanes on SH1 proposed by Transit New Zealand.

On the 8th and 9th of November, Bruce McFadgen, Peter Addis, and Simon Hodge ran a Victoria University Continuing Education course on archaeological field recording. There were 11 students from a variety of occupations all keenly interested in finding out more about archaeology. They visited sites on the Wellington South Coast between Oterongo Bay and the Waiariki Stream mouth, on the coast south of Titahi Bay, on Whitireia Park, and around the Pauatahanui Inlet. There was a lot of walking involved, including a marathon 15 km on the Saturday, but undaunted, everyone turned out for more on the Sunday. An important part of the course was to consider the processes that result in “archaeological” sites, including natural processes, and there was considerable discussion about what constitutes a midden and how to tell a cultural shell deposit from a natural one.

A Filekeepers' Workshop was held in Wellington on 1–2 November, with DOC and NZHPT participation.

Tony Walton

Brian Sheppard of the Department of Conservation's External Relations Division, announced on 16 October 2003 that Tumu Te Heu Heu of Ngati Tuwharetoa had been elected to the World Heritage Committee.

Brian said in his e-mail "New Zealand today received the support of 100 of the 163 voting countries present at today's World Heritage Committee elections. This is a resounding vote of confidence for New Zealand and the Pacific. The 8 vacant seats on the Committee were filled as follows: State Party with no World Heritage sites: Kuwait 1st open ballot: New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Lithuania. 2nd open ballot: Benin & Chile"

ICOMOS New Zealand considers this a potentially huge opportunity to focus on World heritage issues in New Zealand and the Pacific, and look to the department to fully realize this potential. ICOMOS considers the development of a tentative list in New Zealand as a high priority.

Mary O'Keefe

Canterbury

Katharine Watson undertook monitoring and recording work during the removal of a house from 88 Brockworth Place, in Riccarton, Christchurch. The house was built in two stages, one in the early 1850s (making it one of the earliest houses in Riccarton) and the other in the 1870s. The 1870s part of the house was demolished, but the 1850s cottage was moved to Ferrymead and restoration work is being undertaken on it. Following the cottage being removed, the foundations were exposed. These were bluestone blocks, probably from the Halswell Quarry. Further excavation will take place on this site in the future.

Katharine has also excavated a site on Halkett St., in central Christchurch. This was predominantly a domestic site, with a small area exposed that was part of an aerated water manufacturer. Large numbers of broken bottles were recovered from this area. The domestic part of the site yielded a number of rubbish scatters along the rear of the property, but no house foundations. Katharine was assisted in this work by members of the local bottle club, as part of a liaison and education exercise initiated by the Historic Places Trust.

Les Wright and Katharine Watson have undertaken survey work at Denniston as part of Solid Energy's rehabilitation of the areas mined during the twentieth century. The survey focused on the Whareatea, Sullivan and Sullivan West Mines and involved recording all the material (such as mine entrances, return airways, concrete foundation pads, etc.) in each of these areas and making recommendations about what should happen to this material. We hope to be able to convince Solid Energy to retain as much of this material as possible, as it is an important element in the story of Denniston and illustrates the changes and developments that took place in mining technology.

Katharine Watson

Otago

The Otago Daily Times of 17 July 2003 alerted Dunedin readers to the current archaeological excavation of the Farmers Car Park site in Great King Street, Dunedin, by Dunedin based archaeologist Peter Petchey. This work was required under a Historic Places Act 1993 authority granted for a \$12 million development of the site. The Times story included a colour photograph of Otago MA archaeology student Adrian Taylor holding earthenware recovered from the investigation. Peter advises that the work continued over about four weeks in the carpark area and inside the buildings.

“We found excellent evidence of the original ground surfaces in this area, with extensive areas of buried topsoil and scatters of artefacts. We have also found evidence of previous buildings on the site, including stone wall foundations and numerous post-holes (many clearly having been axe-cut timbers rather than sawn timbers). Organic preservation in some areas has been very good, allowing some environmental reconstruction of Dunedin's foreshore in the 1860s.”

Peter has also advised the following details of more recent work.

“I have recently carried out a survey of Campbell Park at Otekaieke in the Waitaki Valley for Project Aqua (the new Waitaki Valley power scheme). Campbell Park was the homestead of Otekaieke Station from the 1850s until 1908, when it was subdivided for closer settlement. The main house, stables and grounds then became the Otekaieke Special School for Boys, which closed in 1987. The house and stables that stand today were built in 1876, and were set in an extensive estate that included a formal garden (complete with ornamental lake), a kitchen garden, orchard, pine plantation and oak lined carriage drive. Elements of these grounds survive today, including about half of the oak carriage drive and a number of specimen trees in what was the formal garden.

Other work has included a survey of gold sluicing remains in the Longwoods in Southland and excavations at the Golden Bar Mine at Macraes [North Otago].”

Ian Barber