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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Northland has recently welcomed a new Regional Historic Places Trust Archaeologist, Marianne Turner. Since accepting the newly created role and moving to Kerikeri Marianne has been kept busy processing authority applications and assessing compliance with authority conditions. She has found a lot of her time is spent assessing some of the many developments currently underway in the Bay of Islands, Ruakaka and Waipu areas, but she is also trying to get to know the archaeology of the wider northland area. Recently Marianne spent several days with Michael Taylor and Te Roroa crew looking at sites in the Waipoua forest and discussing their future management. Sally Burgess has also assisted Michael Taylor and the field crew with a forest survey.

Some of the most exciting fieldwork undertaken recently in Northland is a survey on Tawhiti Rahi, an Island in the Poor Knights group, a Marine and Nature reserve some 24km off the east coast of Northland. The survey is part of the doctoral research of James Robinson and has been undertaken with the support of the University of Otago, Ngati Wai Trust board, and the Department of Conservation. Survey and mapping was undertaken over five weeks, split into two trips. James had the assistance of DOC staff Jonathan Carpenter, Jonathan Welch and Lynnell Greer, and volunteers Ivan Bruce and Adam Goddard.

The Poor Knights have a complex pre- and early historic period archaeological landscape of stone and earthwork. This has remained largely unmodified since the island was abandoned in 1823, although re-colonisation of ground burrowing mutton-birds adds a certain urgency to current site recording and historic management. James describes the historic landscape as pristine and is inspired by the features and artefacts that can be found under a dense canopy of vegetation. Field work will probably continue until mid 2006.

A major archaeological project for the Department of Conservation has continued to be Ruapekapeka Pa and Battlefied. The new carpark and associated works are all but complete, and a planting day involving children from 15 local schools was a wonderful way to celebrate the completion of this stage of an important project. Accompanying the work on the ground, DOC Historian Peter Clayworth is working on a Ruapekapeka oral history project and the Geometria team have also been contributing to ongoing work at Ruapekapeka with exciting preliminary results on the British Lines. They have also surveyed the grounds and buildings of the Subritzky Wagner Homestead at Houhora.

DOC Northland is also pleased to note that the recent May budget included an initial grant for FY 05/06 to develop plans for preserving and interpreting the impressive archaeological landscape at the Mimiwhangata Coastal Farm Park. Mimiwhangata is located on the east coast, midway between Whangarei and the Bay of Islands, and sports 100 recorded archaeological sites including a dozen Pa.

In the far north the Kororipo-Kerikeri Sustainable Development Plan has continued to be a focus for heritage planning and historic research. The Department of Conservation has particularly been working towards improving the conservation planning for Kororipo Pa.

Doug Sutton and friends have completed the first phase of a research project on the East Coast of Northland between Whangarei and Mangawhai. It involved recovery of 6 pollen cores which are now being analysed by Xun Li in John Flenley's laboratory at Massey, Palmerston North. Subsequent research will involve mapping landform changes in the period covered by the pollen cores, the reconstruction of ecological change consequent upon human discovery and settlement of the region, and then work on the detection and mapping of Maori and pioneer settlements there. A GIS platform is being developed to manage data and visualise the processes in question. The overall purpose of the work is to document cultural, processual and taphonomic issues which have affected the archaeological and ecological records in the study area and to apply some new methods, which are now being used in comparable research situations elsewhere in the world.

Auckland

Historic Places Trust

The rainy season has arrived and earthworks have finally slowed down to a trickle in the Auckland Area. The Trust has been concentrating more recently on stakeholder relationships and liaison through submissions to the Rodney District Council on their District Plan review, supporting recent calls for an upgrade of the archaeological site recording scheme in the area. Trust staff are also involved in the North Shore City Council structural plan review for the Long Bay area and have recently completed workshops with Waitakere City Council on heritage issues in relation to the identification and protection of archaeological sites.

Don Prince and Barry Baquie are beginning their archaeological investigations at Tupare Farms in the Kaipara. Although all the known archaeological sites are to be avoided, the potential exists for some unidentified sub surface sites. Matt Felgate, Simon Best, Barry Baquie and crew undertook field investigations at North Rd., Clevedon which, due to the nature of the expanding works, have become on-going. Early investigations suggested that

the occupation was related to short term bulk shell processing during summer months. However, during an expansion of the area to be investigated, the site revealed itself as a 2 phase occupation. It included occupation terraces, midden rich in obsidian, two storage pits and a line of palisading on an indistinct terrace of compact clay containing fire cracked rock, charcoal and obsidian suggestive of a small, lightly constructed whare. Umupuia are also involved in the investigations and are currently negotiating with the owners to erect a po signifying the importance and history of the site to local iwi.

The coastal fringes of the Mahurangi Peninsula continue to be the centre of development within the Rodney District, with works beginning on the Snell's Beach residential development. Clough and Associates are investigating three large middens under authority and Ngati Manuhiri are working closely with the developers and archaeologists in regards to the investigations and the on-going management and protection of numerous middens within the esplanade reserve. The Trust is currently considering a number of applications for historic remains associated with the removal and relocation of early 1850s–1880s structures.

Bev Parslow

Auckland Regional Council

Charlotte Judge and Angela Scott are close to completing an archaeological survey of the Mahurangi Harbour coastline. Around 70 new sites have been found to date and accurate locations established for a number of previously recorded sites. The crew from Geometria have also been undertaking work for the ARC in the Mahurangi at the 1830s Browne's spar station site. This has included further detailed mapping, along with conductivity and magnetometer surveys to define the location of the associated village. Vanessa Tanner and Andy Dodd (DOC) have been recording and mapping ship hulks on Browns Island and at Moturekareka, and have undertaken a baseline monitoring survey of the Sunde site on Motutapu to monitor changes to the site.

Robert Brassey

Department of Conservation

A group of students from the Auckland University Archaeological Society spent the day in the Historic Reserve on Kawau Island on May 8. Magnetometer and resistivity surveys were undertaken at the Boyds Hill cemetery in an attempt to relocate unmarked graves dating from the 1840s copper mining settlement. The 2005 field trip was a continuation of a similar survey carried out in 2003 that relocated what has been interpreted to be an additional row of unmarked graves and the original access road to the cemetery.



Victoria Wichman and Nicola Howard using the resistivity meter.

It is hoped that the geophysical survey will help to define the area of the cemetery, and that any relocated graves can be marked. A Kawau Island volunteer community group, the Friends of Mansion House, are keen to assist in this work. Those in attendance were Daniel Parker, Victoria Wichman, Angela Scott, Alex Baer and Nicole Howard from Auckland University and Andy Dodd of DOC.

Andy Dodd

Auckland Museum

After a lengthy period of conservation treatment the museum's female Egyptian mummy was timed to be returned to public display at the start of the April school holidays. A flurry of interest in this perennially fascinating preserved

Historic records for the cemetery are inconsistent, variously describing the area as 1 or 2 acres, and reporting between 30 and 60 graves. At present there are 5 grave markers remaining relating to 4 burials from the 1850s, and 3 more recent burials from the 1940s and 50s. It is believed that many of the original grave markers were wooden crosses that have subsequently been destroyed by fire and deer.



Daniel Parker surveying with the magnetometer.

body made for a very hectic two weeks, with talks and activities on the theme of life and death in Ancient Egypt proving to be as popular as ever.

The mummy is a young woman aged between 20 and 30, named Ta-Sedgemet. In the course of conservation treatment radiocarbon dates were obtained from the Waikato Laboratory on wood and linen samples that placed the mummy somewhere in the Third Intermediate to Late period, between the 22nd to 26th dynasties, consistent with the stylistic elements of both coffin and mummy. Wood used in the coffin construction has been identified as one of the *Ficus* species, probably the Sycamore fig, and an *Acacia* species. In February a CT scan was carried out at Mercy Hospital showing the organs in place, indicating she died when separate special treatment of the organs was no longer practiced. There was no immediate evidence of the cause of death. A large number of images were taken which are in the process of being analysed by John Dennison at the Anatomy Department, Otago University. A full report on the mummy and conservation process is in preparation for publication in the *Records of the Auckland Museum*.

Kath Prickett

East Coast/Hawkes Bay *Otatara Pa Historic Reserve*

Substantial work had been undertaken in the last three months at the base of Otatara Pa Historic Reserve in Hawke's Bay. Over the last few years DOC, Waiohiki Marae and HPT have been working towards raising the profile of this amazing site. This work has included adding parts of the pa outside the Reserve into public ownership, a baseline survey by Geometria and a Conservation Plan by Lynda Walter and Derek Gosling. These plans identified a number of issues associated with the management, profile and conservation of the site.

The first task to be undertaken is the development of a large car and bus park that allows for a greater number of visitors



Otatara Pa Historic Reserve: carpark and entrance redevelopment, May 2005.

whilst raising the visibility of the site. The concept of the carpark was to make the site more visible from along the road and to allow a place for Ngati Paarau to welcome people onto the site. Development of interpretation panels that will be placed in the waharoa is underway and the project is planned for completion at the end of July.

This is stage 1 of a long term project planned to develop on and off site interpretation in association with Waiohiki Marae and Hawkes Bay Tourism. Those of you at the HPT 50th in October will get a chance to visit the site as part of the fieldtrips planned.

Waioeka Gorge Interpretation Project

In the last year there have been a number of fatalities in the Waioeka Gorge between Opotiki and Gisborne. This area is mostly Scenic Reserve and DOC is currently working with Transit and ACC to develop some interpretation throughout the gorge in an attempt to encourage people to take a break during this trip. The gorge has a very interesting history and the range of themes to be developed include Maori History, 1870's settlement, early farming, the successive stages of the road development and biodiversity.