



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Northland

The winter months have brought some exciting opportunities for field work on the Department of Conservation estate in Northland. In June a team including Department archaeologists, Geometria personal and six volunteers spent a week on Motukawanui Island, Cavalli Islands. The Cavalli Island group is located on the east coast, about 3km north-east of Matauri Bay and 16km east of the entrance to Whangaroa Harbour. Motukawanui Island is the largest in the group and presents a particularly complex and valuable pre-European Maori landscape. The project included detailed mapping of the southern part of the island and restoration of a historic homestead. The volunteer group was led by Dr Dudley Gardner of Wyoming University and the team worked really hard with excellent results. Further south, the Poor Knights Island archaeology project led by James Robinson and done in cooperation with Department of Conservation, Ngati Wai and Otago University continues. Excavation of gardening, living and cave sites is currently underway in the hope of finding soil and charcoal samples for later analyses. Further work at Ruapekapeka pa is also planned. Michael Taylor and the Te Roroa archaeological team have spent a further few weeks deep in the Waipoua forest on the west coast surveying for archaeological and tangata whenua sites including gum holes and pit and terrace sites.

*Sally Burgess*

### Auckland

#### *HPT*

Nothing of any great scale to report from the Auckland Area. We have finally been reorganised and taken on a raft of new staff, including: Megan Patrick, the new Heritage Planner, whose last job was with DOC in Marine Reserves; Robyn Byron, the new Heritage Architect, previously an Architecture lecturer at the University of Auckland; and Judy Grieve, our new Area Coordinator, who has a marketing background and was a private consultant involved in heritage prior to her coming to the Trust.

Greg Walter has been confirmed in his position as Assistant Archaeologist (part time, Wednesday–Friday). Greg and I are also sharing the role of NZAA filekeeper. The fantastic roving whirlwind that is Meri Low has refreshed the files, updated the records and undertaken an audit, highlighting around 150

sites numbers so far (over half way through), with no corresponding site record forms. You will all, if you don't already, know who you are very soon. Needless to say no further SRF numbers will be allocated to repeat offenders, so please get in any back logs you are harbouring. If in doubt please contact either Greg or myself directly.

Greg and I will endeavour to process file searches on Wednesdays. We would prefer that people e-mail requests for file searches so we have a record of them. Numbers can be given on e-mail request to [bparslow@hsitoric.org.nz](mailto:bparslow@hsitoric.org.nz) and cc [gwalter@historic.org.nz](mailto:gwalter@historic.org.nz) or phone 09 307 0413. We realise the need for a quick reply so we will attempt to answer on the day, however if we are out of the office it is best to contact Tony Walton for urgent searches.

We are getting an increasing number of authority applications, reports and assessments sent in to the Trust with either no SRFs attached or with new or up dated SRFs that have not been filed. It is a requirement of an authority application that SRFs are attached, many applications are not complying with this, in which case, if we have to search for them to complete applications we will levy the appropriate charges. The timely return of site record forms for filing after numbers have been issued is imperative for the site recording system to function properly, otherwise it puts all those who use the system in the position where they may be inadvertently passing along incomplete and or out of date information.

On a lighter note, we have also officially taken over Thames/Coromandel/Hauraki areas under the Auckland umbrella, however the Coromandel/Hauraki NZAA files are still with Neville Ritchie. Greg, Dave Robson and I did a two day car trip visiting iwi and introducing ourselves in general around the area and plan to do regular trips to coincide with monitoring/compliance and authority applications.

*Bev Parslow*

### *University of Auckland*

Lisa Matisoo-Smith, Judith Robins and PhD student Alice Storey have been keeping things ticking over in the DNA labs at the University of Auckland. Lisa has been working on extracting ancient DNA from the Lapita burials from Teouma, Vanuatu; Judith has been continuing work on *Rattus exulans* and other *Rattus* species in the Pacific; and Alice has begun her research on ancient DNA from Pacific chicken remains (if you have any from prehistoric Pacific sites – PLEASE let us know!). In November Lisa is planning on collecting more rats (both modern and archaeological) working on Koil Island, PNG with Glenn Summerhayes.

In the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, Lisa is also supervising PhD students at Massey University (Andrew Clarke) and University of Canterbury (Melanie Pierson) as part of Project 3: The Settlement

of the Pacific (see <http://awcmee.massey.ac.nz/index.htm>). Andrew is conducting research tracking the genetic origins of the kumara and the bottle gourd and Melanie is studying complete mtDNA genomes of Pacific peoples. Both are conducting this research to better understand Pacific settlement and interactions. Also as part of Project 3 of the AWC, PhD student Abby Harrison is studying Hepatitis B evolution and Y chromosome variation in Pacific populations. All of this genetic research (plants, animal, viruses and people) has been presented recently at international conferences including the Molecular Biology and Evolution meetings, hosted by the AWC held in Auckland in June, and at the Lapita conference in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

*Lisa Matisoo-Smith*

### **Bay of Plenty**

In April work started on the NZHPT excavation of a small section of Otumoetai Pa, on the Matheson property in Matua, Tauranga. The property represents the last undeveloped part of Otumoetai Pa, which has been purchased by Tauranga City Council for a historic reserve. Directed by Ken Phillips, the



*Excavating at Otumoetai Pa, April 2005*

excavation involved volunteer archaeologists from the Bay of Plenty and Auckland, Ngai Tamarawaho hapu, as well as staff from Tauranga Museum, Environment Bay of Plenty, DOC and NZHPT. In May Ken Phillips and Rachel Darmody presented a submission to Tauranga City Councillors as part of the annual plan hearings and were successful in getting funding of \$24,000 to complete the excavation. This will take place later in the year.

Ken Phillips was also involved in the major work to re-open the Mauao Historic Reserve to the public, following the serious flood and storm damage in May. Considerable damage was caused to the archaeological sites on Mauao and Ken assisted Tauranga City Council with their restoration work.

Ray Hooker and Phil Moore investigated a large storage site at Whakamaramara where there were 30 pits, including three very large ones. Work continues at Martha Mine in Wahi where Ray has been monitoring their drilling programme around the pumphouse. Ray also excavated a historic site within Tauranga's CBD.

Over the winter Don Prince has been directing excavations at Hiruharama Ponui, Acacia Bay, Taupo, where intact house floors and small activity areas have been uncovered.

Work has recommenced at the Carmichael Block in Bethlehem, Tauranga where Don Prince will direct another season of excavations for this residential subdivision.

Charlotte Judge has worked on a number of Bay of Plenty properties including work for Environment Bay of Plenty land management staff on their Environmental Protection Programmes in Tauranga.

Elizabeth Pishief reports that Opus is doing increasing numbers of archaeological assessments for infrastructure development in the Tauranga area. Elizabeth has also nearly completed the project for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on identifying water bodies of national cultural heritage significance. This is part of the much larger Government's "Sustainable Water Programme of Action." NZAA has made a useful submission on the draft "Final List..." and several filekeepers, DoC historic staff and NZHPT staff have (as well as local bodies, regional councils interest groups, etc.) contributed valuable information, which has made the task easier.

*Rachel Darmody*

### *Tauranga Museum*

John Coster has completed a two-year contract with Tauranga City as Manager of Tauranga Museum. During this time the museum's collections were moved to improved temporary premises and planning for a new museum in Tauranga focussed on governance, site selection and gaining a commitment

to funding from the City Council.

John is resuming his work in heritage management and museums consultancy. He will also manage the NZ Archaeological Association's Site Upgrade Project in the Waikato region over the next two years. Formerly operating from Auckland, he will now be based near Tauranga, on the Kaimai ranges.

*John Coster*

## **East Coast**

On 27th July 2005, during Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori, an opening was held to celebrate the completion of the first stage of a programme to upgrade information on Otatara Pa Historic Reserve. DOC, Ngati Paarau of Waiohiki Marae and HPT invited the community to an unveiling of a new whakairo, waharoa and interpretation at the carpark entrance to the reserve.

On a stunning Hawkes Bay day approximately 200 people were welcomed to Otatara Pa Historic Reserve by Ngati Paarau including a group from Northland representing the Ruapekapeka Trust and DOC. The opening included a guided walk to the lower part of the archaeological site by Nigel Hadfield of Waiohiki Marae and a discussion about future work by Russell Gibb of Geometria. There was acknowledgment of Mary Jeal's recent death and her passion and commitment for the site.

Rick McGovern-Wilson made the announcement that the HPT Trust Board had recently approved the revision of the registration to Category 1, which is fantastic.

Otatara Pa Historic Reserve is one of the largest and oldest archaeological sites in Hawke's Bay and is of international significance. Iwi from throughout New Zealand have links to Otatara, particularly through connection with Ngati Kahungunu, who spread through and beyond Hawke's Bay from this area. Ngati Paarau of Waiohiki Marae are kaitiaki of the site, and work closely with DOC and HPT staff in managing and protecting the site.

Not all of the archaeological features in the area are within the reserve. In recent years DOC has embarked on a programme of purchasing areas adjacent to the reserve to preserve the archaeological integrity of the site. Since 2003, over nine hectares have been added to the reserve.

The opening was an acknowledgement of all the people who had been involved in this site over the years, and the start of an ongoing programme that in the coming years includes further interpretation, non-invasive investigations and developing a long term monitoring programme.

*Pam Bain*

## Taranaki

In June 2005 a team from Geometria, including volunteers, undertook an excavation of a 19th century homestead in Bell Block, New Plymouth. The investigation was required due to a housing subdivision being developed on the site. The homestead was one of the many European settler houses burned and destroyed during the 1860-61 land war and, as such, represents part of an important archaeological resource. Many of these homesteads were occupied for a short time only, and therefore have the potential to allow for a greater understanding of the European settler experience within a tight temporal context.

The site excavated was purchased in 1856 by brothers of the Street family, who arrived with their parents as children on one of the first ships into New Plymouth in 1841. Two of the brothers subdivided a portion of the land and set up businesses, one as a wheelwright, the other as a blacksmith. John and Romulus Street farmed the remaining 42 acres and would have been able to keep a watchful eye on the farm from the Bell Block Stockade, where they were stationed when they joined the Militia during the land wars. The Officer in Charge of the stockade witnessed the burning of Romulus' house on Friday 26th October 1860. This was the property on which the excavation took place nearly 145 years later.

A number of valuable resources associated with the Taranaki land wars are held in Archives New Zealand and, prior to excavation, these were viewed. It was found that Romulus Street made a claim for compensation, and this lists in some detail the property he lost. The claim includes materials and dimensions of the house and other structures, each individual piece of farming equipment, as well as livestock. Interestingly, unlike other claims that have been viewed, Romulus does not claim for the loss of furniture and crockery, which suggests either he did not possess any or, more likely, he was able to get it out of the house before burning, or it was cached. Caching of valuables and ceramics was a common occurrence by settlers forced to leave their homes in a hurry.

One important question at the beginning of the excavation was just how much of the homestead site remained after extensive ploughing over many years. During the excavation however, it became apparent that a number of features and finds had survived, allowing understanding of the organisation of an early homestead and its adjacent structures at the centre of a small 19th century farming operation.

In total, 362 features were recorded, the majority being postholes relating to five structures over two phases, and fence lines. The first phase relates to a previously unknown Maori occupation of the site prior to European settlement, and includes kumara pits, a house, palisade or fence line, and a collapsed rua

pit. This was re-used later as a rubbish pit during the Street family period of occupation. The second phase, that of the European occupation, showed postholes relating to what would have been the house. Unfortunately, the cut for the new road was made through here, and this process, which occurred prior to archaeological investigation, destroyed much of the remains of the house. However, one exciting find, in the middle of the excavation area, was a pit with a cobbled stone floor, about one metre deep. Romulus Street accounts for a potato house in his claim for compensation, and it is likely that this is that feature. In this pit a number of items relating to farming were found, together with household implements such as a “go-ashore” cooking pot. In addition a well was found and partially excavated, postholes relating to a barn type structure, and a very deep pit, with no artefacts in it, that could have been a long-drop, or even possibly a deep cache pit.

In total, several thousand diagnostic pieces of ceramic, glass and other farming and domestic utensils were recovered. These are still being analysed, but a preliminary viewing over the ceramics suggests some earlier pieces that date to around 1820, with the majority of the material dating from around the 1850–1860s. These will perhaps give us an insight into the kinds of wares



*Cobbled stone floor, probably of Romulus Street's potato house.*



brought over from England with the family, and those that were available in New Plymouth during the middle part of the 19th century.

Both the features and finds recovered will allow us to investigate the adaptation of the first settler generation in New Plymouth to their new environment. The successful excavation of this site reiterates the point that these early homestead sites are a valuable archaeological resource, despite their lack of visible surface features.

*Hans Bader*

## **Wellington**

In late March 2005 Kevin Jones, with assistance from DOC Area Office staff, conducted a survey of the upper Shotover River near Queenstown. Vertical aerial coverage has been taken at original scales of about 1:14,000 and this has been enlarged for mapping at a scale of 1:4000. The field visit was designed to observe relative and absolute control points to give a true scale and orientation for the aerial photographs. Local DOC staff, volunteer Barry Huddart and DOC's historian Dr Peter Clayworth were also involved. Areas visited were the Polnoon and Shiel Burns, the Flood Burn, The Amphitheatre, Muddy Terrace, Nugget Battery and the terraces in the Skippers area.

As part of the survey Kevin also did some new flying (12 March 2005) as follows: Chard Farm, Old Kawarau Bridge, Gibbston, Victoria Flats, Kawarau Goldmining Centre, Bannockburn, Stewart Town, Nevis Valley, Schoolhouse Flat, Brackens Gully, Hayes Creek, Macetown, Sunrise Mine, Rich Burn, Sawyers Creek, aerial cableway, Scanlan Gully, Sylvia Creek, Advance Peak, Stroehles Terrace, Muddy Terrace, The Branches Station, Hazeels, Flood Burn, The Amphitheatre, The Neck, Polnoon, Ironstone Creek, Skippers Creek, Bullendale, Skippers, Londonderry Terrace, Pleasant Terrace, Stony Terrace, Sainsburys Terrace, Lows Terrace, Skippers Road and Saddle, and the lower Shotover basin and bridge. Kevin says that he was impressed by the condition of almost all earthwork sites and took a special interest in the many newly recorded domestic and pastoral enclosures of the valley. The survey will be used to map a number of areas more or less at a scale which reveals the landscape pattern of a supply race, dams, head races, sluice face and tailrace.

Kevin Jones and Mary O'Keeffe have surveyed the wider area of Pencarrow Head at the eastern entrance to Wellington Harbour. It is a lighthouse complex with at least three phases of light building, one decommissioned prefabricated cast iron light, keeper's house platforms, winch platforms and tramways, cemetery, and some more cryptic stuff.

Kevin supervised an archaeological dig on the Ohakune Old Coach Road from 23 to 26 May 2005. The road was used from 1906 to 1908. While

the difficult section of railway between Ohakune and Raurimu was under construction, a passenger coach and mail link operated by road. North-bound passengers disembarked from the train at Ohakune. The next day they boarded horse-drawn coaches which took them to Raurimu over the 45 kilometres of road. The following day, passengers boarded the train to Auckland. It fell into disuse once the North Island Main Trunk line was completed but is currently being developed as a walking track. The excavation involved digging a trench 50 cm wide across the road at two points to reveal the profile.

A recent flight (20 June 2005) by Kevin to take aerial photographs covered areas of the Manawatu, Rangitikei, Tongariro National Park and Wanganui. From Paraparaumu to Tongariro National Park the weather was part cloudy with ceiling at 1800', but was clear at National Park. Reconnaissance of the mouth of the Waikanae and Otaki rivers, Lake Papaitonga, pa on west side of Lake Horowhenua, Bulls redoubt, 'Kakariki' viaduct, 'Ohingaiti pa', various rail hardware and viaducts, Mangaweka viaduct, Tangiwai various, Hapuawhenua viaducts (part in shade), various parts of Old Coach Road, Ohakune, Taonui viaducts, Mangaturuturu Viaduct, Manganuiateao Viaduct, Makatote Viaduct, Horopito/Smash Palace, The Chateau and Te Porere including some 'near verticals.' On the Wanganui leg, photos of pa, settlements, Atene, and general photos of Kaitoke and Wiritoa Lakes.

Kevin has also been working on a thematic framework for Pacific World Heritage. Suggested themes include: the Pasifika-Europe 'encounter'; discovery in tradition and the first settlement story established by archaeology and other scientific disciplines; ceremonies or ceremonial centres which can also represent the intangible values of the Pacific such as Polynesian traditions of the founding of the earth, sea and sky; horticulture and horticultural landscapes; and the fable of societal competition and island environmental degradation that has arguably shaped many small islands.

A visit was made to a number of sites on Kapiti Island on 19 August 2005 during a trip that started out at the northern end of the island and ended at Rangatira. The party, which included Tony Walton, Chris Edkins and DOC conservancy and area officers such as Richard Nester, looked at the work programme for the island, including potential impacts on historic places.

In the year to the end of 30 June 2005, the Central File handled 435 requests for information from the NZAA Site Recording Scheme, an average of about 2 per working day. There has been a tendency for enquirers to ask more than one question, or to ask more complicated questions, or both. Nonetheless, most requests continue to be answered within 1 working day. It is essential to the credibility of the Site Recording Scheme that people can get timely answers to their enquiries.

*Tony Walton*

## Canterbury

Dan Witter has undertaken the task of preparing an HPT Authority for the construction of Pegasus Town. This is the development of a town for 5000 people complete with business and residential districts, a school, golf course, etc. Kaiapoi Pa is adjacent to the north, and the town area includes the Hohouponamu site. The Hohouponamu site is the largest greenstone working site known in Canterbury, and probably for all of New Zealand. Although this site is to be preserved in a conservation area, there is an abundance of surrounding sites including middens, settlements and plaggen soils (belonging to some of the southern-most kumara cropping) which are to be partly or entirely destroyed. The proposed authority provides for an extensive mitigation program.

Dan and Alison have been involved in a variety of small projects, including the salvage excavation of a trussed burial at Kaikoura for reburial by the Runanga. This was a female judged to be from 60 to 80 years old with extreme arthritis and deossification. She had a set of broken ribs that had mended, two of which had fused together. Her few remaining molars had heavy lateral wear from fern root eating. Common to trussed burials the head had been detached.

Les Wright and Katharine Watson have undertaken a survey of alluvial gold mining sites at Charleston, on the West Coast. A local community group is working with the Department of Conservation to establish various walking tracks in the area. Each of the three tracks crosses various gold mining remains and, in fact, these gold workings are a feature of the walks. One of the walks leads to the Argyle dam and control gate structure. These impressive works are the result of a nineteenth century Government plan and fed the Argyle water race, which a DoC walking track follows. The other features crossed by the tracks include numerous dams, water races and tailings, including a set of water races and tunnels known as Clapham Junction due to the number of water races that meet in the area.

*Katharine Watson*

## Historic Places Trust News

It has been some time since we have reported on activities at the Trust, so I'd like to take this opportunity to update the archaeological community of things that we're up to.

There have been some changes on the staffing front in the last few months. Marianne Turner was appointed Area Archaeologist at the end of last year, based in Kerikeri, and is now well ensconced. Stu Bedford left the Auckland office in February to take up a post-doc at ANU in Canberra, and Bev Parslow has since been appointed to the permanent position of Auckland Area Archaeologist. Greg Walter has been appointed as the Assistant in Auckland and with these positions

now established, archaeological services for Thames Coromandel and Hauraki District Councils were transferred to the Auckland office on 1 August. Chris Jacomb has relocated from Christchurch to Dunedin and we are working towards advertising the 0.5FTE position in Christchurch in the coming months. Emma Brooks has received a grant to spend a month working with the archaeologists in the Burgundy Regional Cultural Heritage Office in Dijon in October/November. Jo Wylie will be Acting Regional Archaeologist while she is away.

Chris Jacomb has been carrying out a pilot study of the effects of coastal erosion on archaeological sites along the Southland coast, in partnership with DoC, Environment Southland, NZAA and iwi. The results so far indicate that there has been a worrying increase in the rate of loss of archaeological deposits over the past five years or so. The Trust is interested in developing this project further in other parts of the country and would appreciate information from other archaeologists who may have been undertaking similar baseline studies.

Work will be beginning soon on updating the archaeology pages of the Trust's website. We intend adding a range of resources, conscious of the need to ensure we're not doubling up on the material on the NZAA site, but material prepared by Trust staff that may be of value to the community. It will also be a place where new developments can be notified. We will also have pages dedicated to fieldwork projects that the Trust and professional partners are working on. Of most importance, however, will be a searchable catalogue of the approximately 1300 archaeological reports held in the Trust library—see the insert in this Newsletter re the creation of a digital library.

The Trust has produced a new archaeological authority application form. This is now available on the Trust website, [www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz) and we expect everyone to use these new forms. If you have problems downloading the form from the website please contact us and we can email you a copy. This form has been redesigned to make it more user friendly. One significant change you will notice is the section requiring a research strategy and budget if a section 15 investigation is recommended.

On a technical and procedural note, consultants should be aware that the Trust requires research strategies and management plans to be included with authority applications where investigations are recommended. Consultants should also be aware of the most recent environment court decisions in respect of the protection of archaeological sites as they have implications for advice given to landowners on RMA and HPA process.

The next phase of the Lawrence Chinese Camp excavations, being undertaken jointly by the Trust and the Anthropology Department at Otago University in conjunction with the Lawrence Chinese Camp Charitable Trustees, is scheduled to take place from 23 October to 19 November. Planning is currently

underway so if you're interested in volunteering, for a minimum of one week, please advise Richard Walter at Otago, Chris Jacomb or myself.

Archaeological registrations are back on the radar screen again. Jo Wylie has been working on upgrading Te Koru and Otatara Pa sites from Category 2 to Category 1, and put through two archaeological registrations as part of our Central Region's work in the Rangitikei and Ruapehu Districts, with a third in progress. An audit has also been undertaken of all registered archaeological sites (approximately 1100), and six deficient registrations were identified. The Trust will be addressing these deficient registrations in the forthcoming year, and will be progressively updating information on all the remaining registered archaeological sites. If members identify sites they believe should be registered, then please get in touch with the Regional Archaeologist and work with them on preparing the documentation. Additionally, if you know of important post-1900 archaeological sites that should be protected, then we can use the s9 gazettal process in the Act to progress this—again, get in touch with your Regional Archaeologist and we can work with you on this.

Jo Wylie is currently creating an electronic spreadsheet of the Trust's archaeological photo collection, which numbers nearly 7000, and it is anticipated that this spreadsheet will be added to the archaeological pages of the Trust website for people to search. This spreadsheet will also be imported into the Trust's photographic database, so that Trust staff can search for an archaeological photo by various fields, including the NZAA metric site number.

Finally, many professional archaeologists may have had a letter in the last two years chasing up reports that they haven't completed, or supplied, as a result of investigations they have been undertaking. Archaeologists have a professional, ethical and, in the case of work undertaken as conditions of an authority granted by the Trust, a legal responsibility to write their reports. National Office have established a tracking system through the authority database that enables us to monitor compliance with this aspect of archaeological programmes.

The database currently shows a total of approximately 1550 reports as owing for authorities that have been granted. Of those, 695 are pre-1993 and have essentially been written off because of the difficulties in tracking 'ownership' through the files and cross-referencing. Many are probably held in DoC offices around the country, for which we do not have a copy, or a record. We undertook audits for the period 1993–2002, chasing up any reports that were outstanding and, as a result of that project, there are now *only* 260 reports outstanding. We have offered an amnesty until 31 March 2006 for these to be cleared. Any archaeologists with outstanding reports (for that 1993–2002 period) after that date, or who have not made a concerted effort to clear their backlog, will no longer receive section 17 approval for new authorities. There are currently five

archaeologists with more than 15 reports owing from that 9-year period, with the two worst offenders owing 25 and 24 reports outstanding respectively. And, just for interest, as an indication of the growing number of authority applications being received and processed by the Trust, there are a further 585 authorities which have been granted in the period 2003–mid August 2005 that will in due course have reports produced.

*Rick McGovern-Wilson*