



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** **ARC**

Fine-tuning of the ARC structure continues, but it is business as usual in the meantime. Sally Burgess has taken over as heritage consents consultant while Kim Tatton is on maternity leave, and Sarah Ross has become Sarah Hume. Recent fieldwork has included monitoring and minor excavation at the site of a new wastewater system at Shakespear Regional Park by Vanessa Tanner, and assessment of the archaeological significance of a proposed composting facility on Puketutu Island by Ian Lawlor. Robert Brassey has been working with Andy Dodd and the Auckland Underwater Archaeology Group to research and examine the context from which an early anchor was found on the seabed off Te Muri north of Auckland. There is a record of a 19th century shipwreck in the vicinity but the remains found on the bottom appear to be from a different vessel, so the identity of the vessel remains a mystery. Further investigation will be undertaken on this and another unidentified Hauraki Gulf wreck later in the year when the water is a bit warmer.

*Robert Brassey*

### **DOC**

Fieldwork on Motuihe and Browns Islands for the Auckland City Council's Inner Gulf Island Archaeological Upgrade Project Motuihe and Browns Island has now been completed. Fieldwork was undertaken on Motuihe from 3-8 March 2006 by Mica Plowman and Andy Dodd, and on Browns from 26-28 March by Mica Plowman, Ken Phillips and Andy Dodd. Archaeological features on both islands are now becoming obscured beneath rank vegetation. Grazing stock have now been removed from both the islands following the termination of the current farming concession. Motuihe is now in the second year of its native revegetation project, and stock have been removed permanently, but it is hoped that grazing on Browns Island will resume shortly once a new concessionaire is found to continue running stock on the island.

*Andy Dodd*

### *Auckland Museum*

In May the re-installation of the 'Ancient Civilisations' gallery was completed. The gallery had to be emptied in 2003 in preparation for the Stage Two Project and was kept in storage while the major construction work proceeded near the gallery outer wall. As there are no longer risks from structural movement all objects formerly on display are back and accessible for students and the public. For those who may not have been familiar with the displays, they are 'object rich' in a basic layout style in older cases. The collection areas presented are: Egypt, from the pre-Dynastic to the Greek, Roman and Christian periods, Palestine, Cyprus, Crete, Mycenae, Greece and Rome; China and Korea; Mesopotamia, Persia and Europe; North, Central and South America.

The major special exhibition this year is "Vikings", due to open on 21 July. With much of the knowledge of Vikings resulting from archaeological sources, there are important artefacts from a number of European collections in the exhibition which will excite those of us who rarely get the opportunity to see such Northern Hemisphere things. The exhibition runs until the 8th October and will be accompanied by a lecture series in conjunction with the University of Auckland Continuing Education.

*Kath Prickett*

### **Canterbury/West Coast**

Dan and Alison Witter of Witter Archaeology remain steadily working at the Pegasus Town project. In addition to monitoring heavy machinery, tree harvesting and land clearing, we have been getting through a lot of test and salvage excavation. This has been with Bill Murphy and Joe Hullen from the Runanga at Tuahiwi to make up the rest of the team. There is great variability in middens (size and contents), as well as the cooking features. Our findings have been summarised in the six monthly interim report required by the HPT that was produced in April.

Katharine Watson, Ian Hill, Michael Cradock and Murray Thomas visited the site of the Mt Harper Ice Rink on 22 March 2006. The ice rink complex lies on the north bank of the Rangitata River, at the base of Mt Harper, and is on Department of Conservation land. Construction of the rink complex began in the summer of 1931-32 and skating began in 1933. The last entry in the Visitor's Book dates from 1954, although skating continued intermittently until 1976. Today, the remains of the complex are remarkably complete, with the ditch and bank walls of the rinks clearly visible. Water was taken from a nearby stream and channelled along ditches through control gates to the ponds. The ice surface was increased each night by flooding the rinks with

100mm of water. The ponds were then maintained at a depth of 300mm. Floodlights enabled night skating at the rink, and overnight accommodation was provided for skaters. The floodlights were powered by a generator that was turned by a Pelton wheel. The generator and Pelton wheel remain (as do some of the floodlights), and the water race and pipeline that fed the Pelton wheel are still clearly visible on the hill above. The wooden accommodation building is still standing, although it is in a poor state of repair.

The rink complex was constructed and maintained by Wyndham Barker, who lived with his wife on the site. Their stone cottage remains and is in good condition. Their chook house is also nearby, but not in such a good state of repair. The site is surrounded by exotic trees, and it is likely that remnants of the Barkers' garden remain. There is considerable historical information available about the site, including the aforementioned Visitor's Books and various photographs. The rink is reputed to be the first public skating rink in the Southern Hemisphere, and is known to have been used by a number of prominent Cantabrians.

*Katharine Watson*