



NEW ZEALAND
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ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Auckland *ArchSoc*

It has been another fascinating year of talks and activities for the Auckland Archaeological Society (affectionately known as ArchSoc) and the year is only half way through! We started as we normally do with a membership drive BBQ in the quad and we were thrilled not only to sign up a good number of new undergraduate students but with the number of members who returned to join up yet again. The BBQ was held on a sunny day and good times were had by all. Our new executive committee was voted in during the March meeting with Victoria Wichman as President, Alice Storey for Vice-President, Paul Haysom at Treasurer and Stef Green as Secretary.

Our first talk of the year was by the eminent Professor Dibble who gave us a practical course in how to set up all the comforts of home while in the field, relying heavily on the use of car batteries. The talk was standing room only! Our next presenter was Dr. Louise Furey from CFG Heritage who told us about some of the homesteads she has been working on and the archaeology of rubbish found under a house. Several of our members attended the NZAA conference in the Coromandel and found out how fun archaeologists are after the work stops, some of them also managed to get themselves jobs!

ArchSoc held a workshop in June entitled ‘So you Want a Job in Archaeology?’, aimed at undergraduates. Alice Storey talked them through how to design a CV, what employers are looking for and how their current skill sets can benefit consultants. Fortunately, Louise Furey and Caroline Phillips also came along to answer questions from the students and provide practical advice and volunteer opportunities. Of the 15 students that attended more than half have already worked in the field gathering valuable practical, albeit cold, experience in their chosen discipline. June was also the month in which we held our first ArchSoc Pub Quiz. We ordered in pizza and stocked up the beer and split our attendees into four teams to battle it out for the honour of knowing they had supreme archaeological knowledge. To the embarrassment of many the team which won first prize, including trowels, brooms, compasses and other tools of the trade were, in fact, Not Archaeologists, consisting of a classics student, a biology student and a film student—but only after a tie breaking question with a team of post-graduates. In July we learned about the

applications of GIS and other technology to consulting archaeologists from Dan McCurdy, who showed us 3D images which bring archaeological sites to life.

Finally we'd like to thank Dr. Bruce Floyd for giving us the opportunity to participate in the New Zealand Federation of University Women Book Sale by moving books from the Piddington Room and other locations to and from the sale. This earned ArchSoc enough money for two more meetings this year and we are very grateful. Thanks also go to Paul Haysom, Ben Pick, Anne McKenzie and Catherine Finn for helping out.

We still have several meetings planned before the end of the school year and look forward to announcing the winner of the T-shirt design contest and nominating a new executive committee for next year.

Alice Storey

DoC

Dave Veart has taken advantage of having ground penetrating radar available on North Head for determining the extent of the scoria and tuff in the vicinity of the upgraded car park drainage system. While it was available, GPR was used for scanning the field gun emplacement at the lower car park, investigating an area of disturbance shown on historic photographs, and mapping the extent of fill documented in previous excavations. Dave has also been involved in the creation of a new historic reserve comprising the remnants of Wiri mountain, to be jointly managed by DOC and Manukau City Council. The reserve will extend the area administered by DOC, comprising the Wiri lava cave and pa site remnants that have not been destroyed by quarrying. Vegetation clearance on the reserve is being undertaken on disturbed area., and the reserve will ultimately be maintained under grazed pasture.

In June Andy Dodd co-ordinated a three week archaeological survey of the coastline on Great Barrier Island. Prior to survey low level aerial photography of prominent coastal sites was carried out by Kevin Jones, and this was followed up with a pedestrian survey carried out in accessible areas within 100 m of the coast. The survey was carried out by DOC staff, archaeological consultants, and Ngati Rehua representatives. Participants included Don Prince, Greg Gedson, David Carley, Kevin Jones, Rodney Ngawaka and Lynette Hoey, with logistical support provided by the DOC Great Barrier Area Office. Areas revisited were mostly limited to DOC reserve, but included some private land where land owners gave consent. In August site records were updated for Motuora and Saddle Islands (off Mahurangi) by Andy Dodd, Vanessa Tanner and Noel Hill.

Andy Dodd

Auckland Museum

As the December finishing date for the Stage II project looms, the noise levels and complications from construction have compounded. The Archaeology and Ethnology Departments will be inaccessible from September 15 until at least December 1, for the installation of air conditioning. Staff can still be contacted by phone and email but there will be no access to most of the collections during that period.

The ‘Vikings’ exhibition has been open since mid-July and has a significant content that is archaeologically based. While some may be disappointed that there is not much on rape and pillage and then to be disavowed of the image of Vikings wearing horned helmets, there are excellent compensations. Weaponry, including a number of very large swords, is displayed. There are funerary objects from a horseman’s and from women’s graves, silver hoards, coins, farm tools, blacksmiths’ tools, fishing gear, iron cooking equipment, ceramics, a mouth harp, board games and ship building items. There are many superb pieces of jewellery, including the large cloak brooches. To get close to objects such as the two Lewis chessmen (from the famed set found on the Isle of Lewis on Scotland’s Outer Hebrides) is a treat. The exhibition will run until October 8 and will not be shown at any other New Zealand venue.

Nigel Prickett attended the Royal Society of New Zealand’s Auckland Islands Symposium (18–19 August) in Wellington where he gave a paper on ‘Sealing in the Auckland Islands.’ Kath Prickett participated in the NZAA Professional Development Cell radiocarbon workshop, 28 July, in Hamilton.

University of Auckland

Marianne Turner has been appointed to a lectureship in archaeology with the Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. She will finish her term with the Historic Places Trust as archaeologist for Northland by Christmas this year and take up the lectureship on 1st January 2007.

Kath Prickett

Thames Coromandel

The Martha Mine (Waihi) Cornish pumphouse, one of the New Zealand’s most iconic industrial monuments, is on the move. Completed in 1904, the pumphouse, based on a long-established design used in the tin mines of Cornwall, England, housed a huge steam-driven pump used to dewater the mine workings accessed by the 400 m deep No. 5 shaft. Constructed by Hawthorn–Davey, the horizontal beam Cornish pump was the pride of the New Zealand mining industry. With a stroke of 4 metres it continuously dewatered the mine workings at a rate of 7000 litres per minute. It was used until



The Cornish pumphouse on the move. Photo Newmont Waihi Gold.

1913 when the Waihi Gold Mining Company completed the first hydro electric power station on the Waikato River at Horahora (now below the waters of Lake Karapiro). The power was brought 80 kilometres to the mine via wires supported by 469 steel towers. Electric centrifugal pumps deep in the mine were then used for dewatering. The pumphouse was kept in working order until 1929 as a back-up. By the early 1930s the building was stripped of machinery and left derelict as the mine continued to operate.

The imposing structure with its cathedral-like windows has become a symbol of the town and the industry which created it. In recent years its continuing existence has been under very serious threat. The pumphouse had developed a list of 280 mm which was gradually increasing, and it was likely to fall victim to the collapse of the adjacent No. 5 shaft or a catastrophic failure of the wall on the south side of the huge modern opencast mine, barely 50 m from the pumphouse. Faced with this threat a decision was made and approved by NZHPT that the Category 1 pumphouse would be moved to a stable location 270 m west of the original site. The mining company Newmont Waihi Gold Ltd is stumping up the \$4 million dollar cost of the shift and re-establishment of the pumphouse. The first stage (now completed) sees the structure (estimated to weigh 1840 tons) moved 26 m to the south and the tilt corrected. At the change point the building will be rotated 9 degrees before it is winched

on precast concrete beams along a deep cutting to its new site. The heavy engineering involved is a significant modern New Zealand engineering feat. The company involved has some experience. They moved the Museum Hotel to make room for Te Papa. The archaeology has not been overlooked either. Ray Hooker has been working on the site off and on for months. For further information on the history of the pumphouse and the technology involved in the move refer www.newmont.com or www.marthamine.co.nz or the Winter 2006 edition of *New Zealand Heritage*, specifically the article “Move it or lose it.” There is a working model of the pumphouse in the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum.

Neville Ritchie

Bay of Plenty

In the last few months forestry sites in Puhoe have been visited by Ray Hooker; otherwise he has been keeping himself busy with the shifting of the Cornish pumphouse in Waihi. He has excavated old hut and house sites on the route that the pumphouse is currently journeying along, as well as immediately around the pumphouse itself. Amongst other interesting finds have been the ceramics with scenes of Waihi, dating to 1912.

Phil Moore has been very industrious and is up to his ears in report writing. Aside from this exhilarating task he has also been looking at hangi stones from Papamoa.

Don Prince has been continuing with the St Michael’s sub-division project in Bethlehem, which has been keeping him busy for the past two years. He informs me that firescoops, shell middens and house floors have been uncovered, but that there has been a lack of artefactual remains, apart from obsidian debitage.

Louise Furey has just completed the first phase of the Historic Places Trust’s Coastal Coromandel Archaeological Project with Rachel Darmody. They are surveying the coast between Whangapoua and Whitiroa, on the east coast of the Peninsula, checking recorded archaeological sites and recording previously unrecorded sites. The next phase of the project is planned for September. It has been a really hard slog so far, walking along sunny Coromandel beaches...

CFG Heritage have been busy in the Bay. Warren Gumbley has excavated two sites at Papamoa, at the Gateway development, where a series of substantial middens and cooking areas was uncovered. A further excavation is planned for early September. Mat Campbell then returned to Rowesdale at Oahuiti, where further pits were uncovered including an 8 x 5 m ‘super pit’ with 130+ features in the floor.



'Super pit' at Rowsdale, Ohauiti.

Chris Mallows has been on the road so much recently that he has trouble remembering where home is. He says that the Hamilton Heritage team are gearing up for a very busy construction season. Recent archaeological assessments leading to future monitoring / excavation have included clients such as Tauranga City Council (The Mall, Mount Maunganui), Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Inroads), Whakatane District Council (Ohope Road and The Strand), Hamilton City Council (Wairere Drive and the Te Rapa Bypass), Tongariro Domain (Taupo), Kiri Farm (Thames), Thames-Coromandel Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades, as well as working in areas such as Northland (Waitangi Pipeline) and in the Auckland / Manukau area. In addition they have carried out heritage assessments at the Te Aroha Powerhouse and in Te Awamutu. The Hamilton Heritage Team have just completed a heritage inventory for Hauraki District Council.

Tiffany James-Lee is working at the Tauranga Historic Places Trust on a short-term contract as Assistant Archaeologist, helping out with authorities and general enquiries. So far she has only modified/damaged or destroyed one telephone socket.

Tiffany James-Lee

Taranaki

Excavations have been recently completed at a new subdivision on Wairau Road, near Oakura, Taranaki. The excavation undertaken by Ivan Bruce (A.R.M.) and Hans Bader (Geometria). Initial fieldwork in the area raised the possibility that the proposed subdivision was likely to affect the Lower Kaitake Redoubt, one of two built on the Kaitake Ranges by the 57th and 70th Regiments in 1864, following the battle for Kaitake that occurred during the 2nd phase of the Taranaki Wars. Although no visible surface evidence of the blockhouse remains today, the location of the blockhouse had been identified by Nigel Prickett and tentatively identified by a brief geophysical survey undertaken by Hans. Although the area of the blockhouse site was left out of the subdivision, driveway installation in the vicinity of the site was monitored with the expectation that outworks of the blockhouse and evidence of soldier's camps would be recovered.

Of course, as with all confident expectations, no such evidence was recovered. Instead the excavation was dominated by the recovery of a rather spectacular zigzag trench system, incorporating a complex of defensive features, such as bell shaped shelters, bastions and shooting galleries. Fragments of mortar shell, a musket ball and spent Enfield ammunition were located in and around the trench, indicating that the defences had been attacked. Other features recovered included numerous fire scoops, fragmentary shell midden and a rua that had been dug with a ko; all of which point to Maori rather than European occupation. In fact, the only evidence relating to the colonial occupation recovered from the site were glass fragments and a mid 19th century applied-lip whisky bottle found in association with a dead horse in fill near the bottom of the rua. No evidence of any outworks relating to the Lower Kaitake Redoubt was recovered and the exact location of this structure has still not been positively identified. However, the excavation has provided unexpected evidence of the Maori occupation and defences involved with the battle for Kaitake. The recovery of the trench defences has important ramifications for reinterpretations of the battle.

Ivan Bruce

Wanganui

Excavations were recently completed as a result of monitoring work of a new building under construction at the corner of St Hill Street and Ridgeway Street, Wanganui. The excavation was undertaken by Ivan Bruce (A.R.M.). A brick structure consisting of the remains of the Swan Brewery malting kiln was partially excavated, restored and then capped for future protection. This malting kiln has had a history of being lost and found. Originally constructed

in the 1867, it was the kiln of the original Crown Brewery malting house. Later to become the Swan Brewery, this operated until 1909. The building gradually fell into disrepair and the kiln was forgotten until it was rediscovered in 1980 as the old malt house was being demolished. Vain attempts were made to preserve the building, but ultimately to no avail; as a form of compromise the brick furnace of the kiln was filled with sand before being covered over with an ornamental garden. The structure was then lost again until Mike Taylor and Annetta Sutton (Archaeology North) became aware of its existence while undertaking an assessment of the building site. At this point the exact location of the feature was unclear. The structure was eventually uncovered during the excavation where it became apparent that since 1980 it had been partially damaged by the installation of a power cable. The structure was restored using the original bricks and then capped in such a manner that the feature can be uncovered in future without further damage. Evidence has been recovered relating to the remains of a malt house and kiln, settler cottages, shops and dwelling houses all situated on the St Hill Street and Ridgeway Street frontages of the property from 1863. For the most part this evidence is in the form of a mid to late 19th C settlement glass and ceramic assemblage recovered from the surface evidence left by numerous rubbish pits and the excavation of a brick lined well.

Ivan Bruce

Wellington

A joint Department of Conservation and New Zealand Historic Places Trust workshop was held in Ohope on 27–30 March. The theme was ‘making connections’ and a range of issues relating to better co-ordinating the work of the two parties in historic heritage were discussed. Field trips included visits to Tauwhare pa and Motuhora Island.

Kevin Jones gave a paper on the Shotover River and also on goldfields as World Heritage at the ‘Buckets of Gold’ conference (theme: dredging) in Alexandra in April. The media seemed to take a great interest in the notion that ‘piles of stones’ could be World Heritage but seemed to be placated when they were referred to as a ‘technological ensemble’ (the phrase used in the official criteria). At that time Kevin also took aerial photographs of the Criffel goldfield (the highest in New Zealand at about 1600 m a.s.l.) and further work up the Shotover. On a separate flight Kevin also covered the Taieri Gorge railway and the Middlemarch sectors of the Otago Rail Trail.

DOC said farewell to Dr Matt Schmidt from the Otago Conservancy, who is taking up the job as Regional Archaeologist with the Historic Places Trust in Dunedin. He was a great asset in recording and advocating for his-

toric resources in the course of pastoral lease reversion and we look forward to him popping out of hides and nabbing DOC staff who might over-zealously apply cement mortar to stone ruins.

Mid-winter flying by Kevin included Great Barrier and the Warkworth area (in collaboration with Andy Dodd) and the area from Cape Rodney to south of Whangarei Harbour, south of the Tangihua Range and across to the great grey greasy Wairoa River. Another sortie was across Cook Strait to Tory Channel, The Brothers and outer Queen Charlotte Sound (images for the new interpretation at Ship Cove). Thence to Wairau Bar and Molesworth Station and some rather challenging exercises in picking up huts, yards, sod foundations, sheep dips, cattle-worn passes, bridge abutments and some general scenic photographs from 9,000 feet looking over the Molesworth setting. DOC now administers the land of Molesworth (about 100,000 ha) on behalf of the Crown. Further ground work on the archaeology of the station is planned with Steve Bagley.

Coming up on 20–25 August 2007 is the Easter Island Foundation VII International Conference – Easter Island and the Pacific: Migration, Identity and Cultural Heritage. The venue is Gotland University, Sweden. Amongst others, sessions are being steered by Atholl Anderson, Geoffrey Clark, Christophe Sand and Glenn Summerhayes, Thegn Ladefoged, and Kevin Jones and Anna Kallen.

The Head Office of the Department of Conservation, including the Research, Development and Improvement Division, will be moving office in early December. The new office is in Conservation House in Manners St. Only the street address is changing, the post office box, phone and fax numbers, and email addresses will remain the same. Please bear with us in the lead-up, and immediately after, as we pack up the Central File and settle it in the new location.

Tony Walton

Canterbury/West Coast

Work continues on the Pegasus Town salvage project 15 km north of Christchurch. The sites are mostly middens, ovens or a combination. By now over 50 sites have been test excavated and about 20 have been fully or partly excavated. There also is a pre-1900 European house, a small canvas on wooden frame structure with a chimney, and excavation of this has been completed.

A group of seven oblong pebbles was found by Joe Hullen on a sand bar in the eastern wetland area close to a stream channel. A six square metre area was excavated and a total of 100 oblong pebbles averaging 6.5 cm long

and 2.5 cm thick were recovered. Some of these pebbles formed zigzag and linear patterns. These are thought to be fish net weights, probably from a net which had been hung up and never retrieved. The elongate pebbles are consistent with a description of Maori net sinkers (*karihi*) in Best's *The Maori as He Was* (1952: 268). Although a literature search is yet to be made, it is suspected that archaeological examples of such fishing nets are rare. We would be interested in hearing if anyone else has found (or knows about) something similar.

In the last week in June and the first week in July we increased the field team to tackle the larger and more complex sites. This included Amy Findlater, Erin Williams, Bill Edwards, Matt Carter and Joanne Scott from the University of Otago, as well as Bill Murphy and Joe Hullen (our usual crew) and Tui Falwasser, Cherie Williams and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash from the Tuahiwi community. We had marquees set up over the sites for bad weather, and these proved to be very useful.

Dan Witter

Jackie Breen (DOC) undertook a site visit to Open Bay Islands (off the coast near Haast) in June and has just finished a report on the condition of the archaeological sites there that is to be presented to the island's owners. One of the sites is the stone remains of a fireplace likely to be associated with a gang of sealers marooned there around 1810. Jackie also recorded two new sites (the remains of another piece of stone work that was also probably the remains of a hut site that was dismantled by zoology students some years ago, and an adze findspot). Jackie has also finished another couple of major pieces of assessment: one on a government deer cullers hut built in 1941 that began its life as a depression era work scheme tent frame hut in the 1930s; and one on recording the historic features of the Croesus Track (late 19th century pack track), where she tested out a method for recording tracks that she and Mark Nelson (a DOC colleague) have been working on.

Reg Nichol and Les Wright are about to start a survey of Oceana's proposed Supreme Pit, about 2 km south-east of the Globe, where mining is scheduled to start in December. The centrepiece of the Supreme is the famed Big Blow, a surface body of quartz 50 x 30 x 10 m high, discovered in 1872. It and the adjacent area were worked by the Rainy Creek, Supreme and New Inkerman companies up to the early twentieth century without success, but the values are believed payable with modern technology. Several interesting features were found when the drilling sites were inspected last year.

Les is also finishing a baseline report on the Britannia quartz mining area, north of Denniston, for DOC. Fieldwork has turned up some interesting

remains, including what is possibly the site of the original 1899 Britannia battery. Research also indicates that the existing 5-head A&C Price battery, known as the Britannia battery, wasn't used by the original Britannia company at all.

Les and Katharine Watson have undertaken the recording of some tailings on the Ross Goldfield Historic Reserve walkway. This small area of amorphous tailings will be affected when the track is rerouted. The tailings may be associated with the earliest era of alluvial gold mining in Ross.

Katharine has also been carrying out survey work for Solid Energy, investigating the twentieth century settlements of Mangatini and Mine Creek. These settlements developed in the early years of the century as the Westport Coal Company's operations at Millerton spread across the Stockton plateau. The settlements lasted until the early 1930s, with Mangatini's population reaching 100 people at one point. Little remains of Mangatini, although Les Wright found the remains of the Mangatini rope road, which was a self-acting incline, as well as the remains of fluming from hydro mining. The remains at Mine Creek are more extensive, particularly in relation to the mining infrastructure. The most striking feature is a brick ventilation flue.

Katharine has also just started monitoring earthworks on the site of the old Nancy's Hotel, in Christchurch. There has been a hotel on this site since 1851, although the earliest building was demolished and replaced in the late 1870s. So far, earthworks have turned up a large dump of broken bottles, probably deposited in the 1870s. The dump contained a small range of bottles, including torpedo bottles used by a local aerated water company.

Katharine Watson