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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland *DOC*

In late August Sally Burgess's replacement, Andrew Blanshard, started work at the DOC Bay of Islands Area Office. Andrew reports: "since arriving in Kerikeri in September I have spent my time getting up to speed with Northland archaeology and DOC procedures. The range and types of sites here is huge, everything from high profile lighthouses to kikyuu-covered archaic middens. In order to help get an overview of all these different features I have been visiting as many as possible: with trips to St.Pauls, Lane Cove and Ranfurly Bay in the Whangaroa Harbour; Motukawanui Island in the Cavalli Group; and to Urupukapuka and Motuarohia in the eastern Bay of Islands. The main project for the current financial year is the restoration of the Cape Brett Lighthouse so there have been several visits to look at its condition. I am also assessing the location and conditions of the associated maritime structures, and the structural remains from the Navy's use of the area in World War Two as there is the possibility of a further upgrade to the interpretations of the site as a whole."

James Robinson accompanied by Janet Wilmhurst and Peter (Landcare Research), Jonathan Carpenter (DOC) and Rewi Hepi (Ngatiwai Trust Board) visited Aorangi and Tawhiti Rahi (skipped by Shaughan Anderson in the DOC boat Rako, and Noel Henry in the tender) to take pollen cores as part of James' PhD research. A previous trip had to be aborted due to bad weather preventing landing but the sea conditions were almost perfect for landing on both the northwest side of Aorangi and the west side of Tawhiti Rahi. The morning was spent unsuccessfully looking for suitable material to sample in Aorangi's northern valley, however several lithic samples were collected. The afternoon was spent successfully retrieving three samples from Tawhiti Rahi. James Robinson has also been kept busy with a trip to Motuapao Island, off Cape Maria Van Dieman to do an assessment for an emergency shelter being built there by the DOC Kaitaia Area Office and will be undertaking the desk-top review of archaeological sites on public crown land in Northland for the NZAA DOC upgrade.

Jonathan Carpenter is still working on DOC's Ruapekapeka Pa redevelopment programme and, with CFG Heritage Ltd, assisting the planning for the upgrade of the Bream Head track system in Whangarei. In September he revisited Tawhiri Pa (Q09/264, featured in Geoff Irwin's *Land Pa and Polity*) to do an assessment for a private protected land agreement, and remains busy managing the archaeological impacts of various smaller DOC projects around the Whangarei Area, and providing advice to staff in other offices in Northland on historic heritage matters.

HPT

In late October, Yolanda Vogel started work at the Historic Places Trust Northern Area office in Kerikeri. She will be replacing Marianne Turner.

Jonathan Carpenter

Auckland

Auckland Museum

The Archaeology and Ethnology office spaces are gradually being restored to normal after a two month period of disruption for building alterations. Access to limited areas of the collections has resumed but much remains at the offsite location and will not be available until well into the New Year. The "Vaka Moana" exhibition featuring Pacific exploration is almost ready. Developed by the Museum, the exhibition opens on the 9 December and runs until the 1 April 2007. Objects on display of particular archaeological interest will be two large sections of reconstructed Lapita pots. They are carinated pots, one featuring an undulating decoration, and the other a characteristic face motif. Both are from Foué, New Caledonia (delivered by Christophe Sand and Jacques Bolé).

Nigel Prickett

ARC

Sarah Hume (nee Ross) has resigned from the ARC Heritage team to make louvres and is expecting a third child. Leah Stevens has had her contract extended to help out in the short term and we have applied to create two new permanent positions within the team. Lucy Schwaner will be working in our student position over summer and will be assisting Sally Burgess to undertake a survey of parts of the region's coastline, probably around the western Kaipara Harbour.

Robert Brassey

Bay of Plenty

John Coster has been appointed to the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. The Board's primary role is to provide community input and advice to the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Appointees are expected to have knowledge, skills and commitment which can enhance the protection of natural and historic resources in the Bay of Plenty region.

John Coster

East Coast

The people of Gisborne came out in force on October 8 and 9 to support Te Unga Mai, a cultural festival to commemorate voyaging traditions. Organisers were delighted with the response to what is envisaged as a major annual event. As a celebration of the voyaging traditions of Polynesian and European navigators, explorers and settlers, the festival has the potential to become an event of national significance.

Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve is a key part of this big picture. It commemorates the site of the first meeting of Maori and Pakeha. The bigger picture involves the many stories associated not only with the historic reserve but also the wider area of Tairāwhiti. Traditions relating to the arrivals of waka in the region link to sites ranging from Muriwai in the southern part of Poverty Bay, to areas of East Cape including Mount Hikurangi, said to be the resting place of Maui's waka.

The festival started with an interfaith, multi-cultural church service held at the Cook Landing site on Sunday 8th October. The day was the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the monument on the site that had been partly funded by contributions from school children from throughout the country. A powhiri and church service involving representatives of many faiths highlighted the significance of the site as a place of meeting and reconciliation for the many cultures that make up modern NZ society.

Sheila Robinson, Life Member of the Historic Places Trust, took participants back to the scene of the 1906 unveiling, with her description of the day 100 years earlier. Highlighting the scientific significance of Cook's voyage, local children planted native trees in memory of species collected by Joseph Banks and taken back to Europe to completely change the way 18th century botanists viewed the world.

Other activities included a variety of performances and artistic displays at Heipipi Park, a site that commemorates Polynesian voyaging traditions. Dual heritage bus tours and a steam train trip gave participants an opportunity to hear a range of stories about sites of historic significance. Evening



Opening of the Cook Monument, 8 October 1906. Photo Crawford Collection, Tairāwhiti Museum.

lectures to an appreciative audience completed Sunday's activities. The celebration concluded the next day with education activities at four local heritage sites for 150 primary school students.

Underpinning the celebration was a publication, *The Turanganui River: A Brief History*, collating much of the historical research and oral tradition of the waterway that once bounded the Cook Landing Site. Written by former Director of Tairāwhiti Museum, Michael Spedding, the report examines the significance of the river and its surrounds, pulling together many strands of the big picture. It was published by DOC in association with NZHPT, Tairāwhiti Museum and Eastland Port Ltd. It is available free of charge from: pbain@doc.govt.nz.

Pam Bain

Whanganui

Department of Conservation

Submissions on the draft Whanganui National Park Plan recently closed with a considerable number addressing historic and archaeological

issues associated with the management of this national asset. The submissions from NZAA and HPT were of a particularly high standard and constructive in their comments. Responses to submissions will be made available by the Department to submitters in due course.

During the winter months a survey team comprising Jonathan Welch, Dave Rogers and Glenn Fyfe (all DOC) undertook detailed mapping of the Boars Head Gold Mines in the Egmont National Park. Subsequent research back to the original archived newspaper reports and other documents has revealed that much of what is repeated in modern publications regarding former gold mining activity in the Kaitake Range is incorrect or misleading. An upgraded site record form will be shortly lodged and the Department will seek to present a revised history of Boars Head Mines and associated gold prospecting via the internet during 2007.

The Department has approval or is seeking approval for the radiocarbon dating of two archaeological sites in the Wanganui Conservancy. The first of these is Waitaha pa, just up-river from Wanganui, which may produce some interesting results regarding the construction of defensive features. The second is an eroding umu on the slopes of Taranaki–Mt Egmont.

Jonathan Welch

CFG Heritage have begun excavation on the Whanganui UCOL site on Taupo Quay in the city. This promises to reveal some of the earliest settlement of Wanganui dating back to 1842, and subsequent use of the site for hotels, bonded stores and light industry. So far the house of Thomas Bamber, an early resident and mayor, has been revealed, along with some evidence of the city's military history. Weather permitting, the crew will be home by Christmas.

Matthew Campbell

Wellington

The revamped Antiquities Act 1975, now known as the Protected Objects Act 1975, came into effect on 1 November. The term 'artifact' is out, and is replaced by 'taonga tūturu.' Taonga tūturu does not, however, mean the same thing as artefact. The term 'taonga tūturu' is applied to objects handed down or found that have some 'worth and value.' Ministry of Culture and Heritage's list of things that are taonga tūturu includes adzes, fishhooks, taiaha and patu, wooden spades, etc. On the other hand, taonga tūturu does not include debitage and any other flakes without signs of use.

Taonga tūturu are prima facie the property of the Crown and there is a procedure, run by the Ministry, for determining ownership or custody. All other artifacts that are not taonga tūturu, however, probably belong to the landowner (common law principles apply).

The Research Development and Improvement Division of the Department of Conservation has published the works (listed in Recent Reports, below) by Louise Furey, John Gray, and Peter Petchey and these are available in printed form or as pdf files on the internet.

Tony Walton

Canterbury/West Coast

Excavations continue out in the Pegasus Town area just north of Christchurch. The focus is still shell middens in the sand dunes. The responses to our question about net weights in the previous field work section in the newsletter were most helpful. We have encountered something else unexpected: scattered on top of a small midden heap was a series of tools made from fire-fractured greywacke cooking stones. Fragments with a sharp edge had been selected and showed use-wear and sometimes retouch.

Dan and Alison Witter

Peter Petchey, Carmen Sarjeant and Jackie Breen spent nine days surveying at Denniston, recording various coal mining infrastructure remains, house sites around the town, and spending time on and around the famous Denniston Inclines (the incline is actually two separate inclines, not one). DOC are planning visitor facilities and interpretation upgrade work at Denniston and this survey work was in preparation for that. An appreciation of the hardships endured by previous residents of the Hill was encountered, as there were only 2 days on the entire trip that did not have torrential rain and strong nor-west winds, and more tribulations were suffered courtesy of the ubiquitous dense gorse forest at many of the dwelling sites visited.

Jackie Breen and Katharine Watson carried out an archaeological survey of quartz mining remains at Murray Creek, to the east of Reefton. While rushed in 1867 for alluvial gold, the area around Reefton began a boom period from 1870 with the discovery of quartz gold at Murray Creek. The purpose of the survey was to update existing information about the sites (which were recorded in the early 1980s) for the purposes of site management, conservation and interpretation. The sites surveyed included the Ajax (1870–1911), with the remains of a 1872 boiler, engine and fifteen-head battery from the Union Foundry, Ballarat, Victoria; the Energetic (1871–1911?), site of the most work-related deaths on the Reefton gold fields; the Inglewood (1872–1939), with an in situ Robey winding plant, cyanide tanks, the remains of a boiler and a compressor plant dating from around 1912; and the Bolitho Brothers' cement mine (mined during the 1930s), with a water powered five-head stamper battery ('cement' is a conglomerate of gravels and gold bearing black sand). As well as the quartz gold mines, there were coal mines in the

area mainly exploited to provide fuel for the winding engines and stamper batteries at the quartz mines and to some degree the local domestic market. The remains of various coal and gold haulage and transport systems were also recorded, from horse whims, of which there were three, with associated chutes and inclines, through to tramways and dray roads.

Les Wright has undertaken an archaeological survey of part of the aerial cableway that carried coal from the Blackball coal mine to the railway at Ngahere, a distance of approximately 5 km. The bi-cable aerial was built in 1893, with 73 towers partly prefabricated in Germany, and could carry up to 138 buckets, each carrying 50 kg of coal. The aerial was powered partly by gravity and partly by a 20 hp engine at the mine. The aerial was used until 1909, when the government built a branch railway across the river from Ngahere. Part of the line of the aerial is within a mining permit. One of the few remaining in situ towers was relocated. It is, however, in poor condition. Les has also been working at the site of the old Supreme mine and recorded part of the original Blackwater–Waiuta pack track. This section of the track is approximately 1 km long with impressive side- and breast-cuttings, still in excellent condition.

Katharine Watson and Warren McKie spent three days surveying the gold mining remains at Kirwans Hill, Victoria Forest Park, to the north of Reefton. Kirwans Hill is the site of one of the few nineteenth century open-cast quartz mines on the West Coast. Mining began here after William Kirwan discovered a large area of loose quartz boulders on the slopes of what became known as Kirwans Hill in 1896. Initial investigation and prospecting of the area was undertaken by the Anglo–Continental Gold Syndicate Ltd, who held an option over the property for a year from October 1897. When this option lapsed, the Kirwan’s Reward Gold Mining Company took over operations and set about investing in infrastructure, including an aerial cableway (later extended) and a battery, and commenced collecting up the loose boulders and quarrying for more. They also continued prospecting. Mining at the site ceased in 1907, although prospecting continued until the early 1910s.

The remains of the mining complex are relatively complete, and include various areas of workings (including the Lord Brassey open cut, the main area of quarrying), mullock heaps, prospect pits, the upper and lower aerial cableway, several level tramways and an incline tramway (used prior to the construction of the upper aerial cableway), the winding gear for the incline, a hotel site, boarding house site, at least seven hut sites, and foot tracks. The battery site was outside the area of the survey.

Katharine Watson