



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

Archsoc

March of this year saw Archsoc off to a roaring start with the annual membership drive in the HSB quad where a number of new recruits joined the ranks of one of the oldest student run societies on campus. Many familiar faces also turned up to show their support and renew their membership at the event – it was a great turn out.

The April AGM marked the appointment of a new executive committee with Ben Pick taking the reigns as Archsoc President for 2007, Dale Simpson serving as Vice President, Paul Haysom back for another year as society Treasurer, and myself, Andi Crown as Secretary.

Following the election formalities Archsoc was fortunate to have visiting Smithsonian Professor Bruno Frolich give a talk entitled: Burial Mounds, Human Mummies, Mass Burials and Early Hominid Remains: A Multi-Disciplinary and Multi-National Approach to Archaeological and Anthropological Research in Mongolia. The lecture given by Professor Frolich was excellent and sparked a great deal of lengthy discussion after the seminar – a fitting way to begin Archsoc gatherings for the year. Thanks to those who attended and we look forward to seeing you all at future meetings.

This opportunity should also be taken to acknowledge the contributions in 2006 of Victoria Wichman (President), Alice Storey (Vice President), Paul Haysom (Treasurer) and Stephanie Green (Secretary) to the success of Archsoc last year. Thank you to you all for your hard work and personal involvement in the continuation of the society.

Andi Crown

Architage

Barry Baquie and Dianne Harlow are monitoring earthworks at Kawakawa Bay, South Auckland as part of works for the area's new sewerage scheme.

To date 19th century farm implements have been recovered and various Maori artefacts. Initially two pounders were identified which were botanically analysed by Dr Mark Horrocks and, more recently, a carved section of a canoe bailer, a wooden spinning top and agricultural artefacts have been

uncovered. All wooden artefacts have been deposited with Dilys Johns at the University of Auckland for conservation.

Kath Prickett

Bay of Plenty

CFG Heritage

Warren Gumbley, Mat Campbell and crew excavated three midden sites at Tara Road on the Papamoa dune plain in April and May, as well as some relatively deep, stratified middens and earth ovens several small pits, numerous postholes and a rather enigmatic long narrow trench were found. These sites were among the last remaining west of Parton Road and the OTS block. Of the numerous middens that existed at Papamoa a couple of decades ago few have been properly investigated and fewer reported, to the shame, we think, of the archaeological community.

Matthew Campbell

East Coast

InSitu Heritage have initiated work on a Conservation Plan for Young Nicks Head. The headland is partly Historic Reserve and partly a QEII covenant and has two pa as well as a range of other archaeological features. The Historic Reserve was created due to the public interest shown in the sale of the land a number of years ago.

Pam Bain

Whanganui/Taranaki

DOC Te Tai Hauauru/Wanganui

Mangapurua Return Servicemen Settlement Scheme, Whanganui National Park

During March track baseline survey work on those parts of the northern section of the Mangapurua road line on public conservation lands was completed by Dave Brockway and Jonathan Welch (both DOC) in advance of exploration of potential management options for this part of the valley. This survey work forms part of an on-going archaeological survey of the valley, commenced in 2004, to identify and record historic features associated with the Mangapurua Return Servicemen Settlement Scheme (*HPT Registered Historic Area*). Some features identified and mapped to date include house sites, road and other track lines, bridges, hand-dug storage ‘caves’, water diversions/tunnels, fence lines, etc.

Within the Kaiwhakauka Valley, a few kilometres to the north of the Mangapurua Valley, DOC staff have also been involved in recording in detail three intact structures, including a house site, relating to the Mangapurua Return Servicemen Settlement Scheme. Although directly associated with the scheme these three structures are on private land and do not fall within the present extent of the associated Historic Area. The landowner wishes to preserve these significant features relating to our ANZAC heritage and, once recording is completed, will covenant.

It was noted, during the above survey work, that features relating to the Mangapurua Return Servicemen Settlement Scheme but off public conservation land or private lands, that is on local authority lands (paper road), have been largely destroyed over the last three years. These features were located along the line of the former Mangapurua Road and included an outstanding example of a box culvert constructed from hand-hewn timbers, concrete culverting, and a formerly intact section of corduroy. The line of the paper road is not contained within the Historic Area.

The Mangapurua Return Servicemen Settlement Scheme is one of New Zealand's largest and newest Historic Areas. It contains the iconic Category I 'Bridge to Nowhere'. The settlement scheme was established in 1916 and, due to difficulties in farming the locality, the Mangapurua Valley was 'closed' in late 1942 with the remaining farming families at that time required to move elsewhere in New Zealand.

East Egmont Umu Radiocarbon Sampling, Egmont National Park

During April Ivan Bruce and DOC staff from Stratford Area Office undertook an excavation of the 'Egmont Roadend Umu', site P20/111, for the purposes of radiocarbon dating (NZHPT Authority 2007/152). Ivan Bruce was assisted by representatives of Atitahi including Otago University student Jordan Luke. This umu had been eroding out of a bank adjacent Pembroke Road for a number of years now and this excavation/sampling represents another stage in a seventy year history of archaeological investigation at this above winter snowline prehistoric site. A progress report and full report will be supplied to AINZ as and when further information becomes available.

New Name for Wanganui Conservancy

The Wanganui Conservancy has undergone a name change to Te Tai Hauauru – Wanganui Conservancy, or just Te Tai Hauauru. Postal address/phone remains as before.

Jonathan Welch

Wellington

Kevin Jones and Neville Ritchie have undertaken a recent flight (14 May 2007) to take aerial photographs of the Coromandel. Approx 120 BW 6 x 6 images proof sheets and scanned to CD and 200 16 Mb TIFF (colour digital) photos were taken. Coverage included Cambridge town centre, Te Aroha Domain, Paeroa Maritime Historic Museum, Crown battery, the batteries at the junction of the Waitawheta and Karangahake, Waikino battery complex and rail station, Martha Hill Mine, the newly relocated pumphouse, Kauri Point pa (x3), Bowentown Heads, Whiritoa, Onemana Bay, Opoutere Bay and spit, Pauanui canals, Paku Mt and Tairua tombolo, Hot Water Beach, Hereheretaua pa, Hahei Beach, Whitianga Rock and Browns Bay and stone wharf, Wharetaewa, Opito pa, Tahanga Mt, Sarah's Gully/Whaorei Bay, Matakawau Pt pa, Maunganui pa (Gt Mercury), Cuvier Island radar, lighthouse and settlement, Raukawa pa (Te Rehutae Pt), pa south side of Coromandel Harbour (Esk Pt) and pa/pits (Ponui I).

Kevin has also been participating in an ICOMOS review of cultural heritage landscapes of the Pacific. This puts a cultural perspective on some atoll system proposals for the Pacific and also deals with wetland horticulture relict landscapes, landscapes of origin and discovery (including Lapita) and associative landscapes.

DOC will shortly be publishing Roberta McIntyre's review of high country pastoral heritage.

Tony Walton

Canterbury/West Coast

Fieldwork at Pegasus continues with monitoring earth works and excavating sites. The focus of work has shifted from the dune system east of the Western Ridge to the ploughed alluvial plain on the western side. Here the characteristics of the middens and ovens differ considerably. The middens frequently contain bone material, not only fish and bird, but rat and sometimes dog. One appears to have cooked human bone. Artefacts are relatively common in this area, particularly flakes of Kaikoura-type flint and greenstone, and a number of small greenstone chisels have been found. There was also a large argillite adze and various other ground stone artefacts, mostly broken, and there was a burial and an enigmatic row of post holes. A ten-day excavation of the southern end of the Western Ridge took place with a crew of students from the University of Otago in addition to the regular Pegasus archaeological team. This was highly productive and a nice assemblage of flaked stone artefacts was recovered.

Katharine Watson has undertaken a range of fieldwork in the last few months, starting with survey work on the West Coast in late March. This involved visiting several sites, including a mining permit and other areas of interest in the Waimea Forest and, with Matthew Carter, the old Mont d'Or claim in Ross and a mining claim at Antonios Flat near Reefton. The Mont d'Or claim was a hydraulic sluicing claim behind the township of Ross that was opened up in 1882 and finally ceased operations in 1917, making it a particularly long-lived for a sluicing claim. Based on the dividends paid it was one of the most profitable sluicing claims in New Zealand. The survey only focused on part of the claim (an area that has been logged recently) which consisted chiefly of tailings and tail races. Within the bush that surrounds the areas, items of machinery were found and sluice faces were evident.

In April, Ian Hill and Katharine Watson excavated the stables associated with the first Hermitage at Mount Cook. The first Hermitage was built in 1884 and was later extended in 1913. A photograph taken in 1912 shows the stables, along with a gallows for hanging a carcass on and a small shed, possible a killing shed or a smithy. In the 1980s Neville Ritchie excavated the rubbish dump associated with the Hermitage but no archaeological work at the site has been carried out since. The stables were exposed during earthworks for a new bus-parking area at the White Horse Hill camp ground. During the excavation, post holes from the stables and the enclosed area in front of it were found, along with numerous horseshoes and roofing nails (the stables were clad in corrugated iron). On the last day, a cobblestone floor behind the stables was exposed. The exact function of this is not known yet. DOC have left this floor exposed and interpretation will be erected next to it in the future.

More recently, Katharine has been monitoring earthworks on two areas of M36/24, a major archaeological site at Redcliffs, with help from Jeremy Habberfield-Short. A new water main has been laid down Main Road, Redcliffs, provided a section through part of the site. Two ovens were exposed in this section (one with seal bone in it), along with an occupation layer that extended for over 100 m. Little was found in the occupation layer, beyond charcoal and the occasional cockle shell. This trench has helped us gain a better understanding of the nature and extent of this important site. Further work has been undertaken at 45 Main Road, Redcliffs, to the southeast of the trench down Main Road. Initial foundation trenches on this site indicate that the occupation layer extends into this area. Further work will be taking place here after conference.

Finally, Katharine has been excavating at Nancy's Hotel. This is the site of one of the earliest (and longest-lived) hotels in Christchurch. Excavations in August last year yielded several rubbish dumps, at least one of which dated to

the 1850s or 1860s. The recent work has been looking at the southern half of the section which, in the 1930s, was home to the stables. So far three rubbish dumps have been exposed but very few structural features. One of the rubbish dumps contained a selection of fancy glassware and an interesting array of ceramics.

Katharine Watson