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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Auckland

Clough & Associates

Monte Cecelia

Monte Cecelia, formerly known as Pah Farm (Mt Roskill), a scheduled historic building set in part of its former landscape, has been purchased by Auckland City Council as a reserve. A conservation plan has been prepared for the building and a concept plan prepared for the grounds which still contain numerous elements relating to its 19th century history. Clough & Associates in conjunction with Matt Watson of Scantec have carried out detailed archaeological assessment and geophysical survey of the historic landscape in order to identify 19th century elements and provide input into the concept plan relating to constraints and interpretation of the landscape. Several features such as the grand entrance drive, earlier garden layout and other features were detected by a combination of geophysical techniques including GPR and Uberhauser GMS 19 gradiometer and will be investigated archaeologically in the near future. GPR appears to have detected remains relating to the pa site which was destroyed by site development throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Weiti Station

Weiti Station, at the junction of the Okura and Weiti Rivers north of Long Bay and to the west of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, is proposed for development. This area has extensive evidence of both Maori and early European settlement, and although the most significant elements of the landscape, Dacre Point pa and Dacre Point cottage, are protected within reserves, they are an integral part of the historic landscape. A detailed report on the history and archaeology has been prepared by Clough & Associates (Rod Clough, Simon Bickler, Jen Low) in conjunction with Dianne Harlow of Architage and will soon be supplemented by more detailed archaeological investigation.

Limeburners Bay

Limeburners Bay, Hobsonville, the largely destroyed site of the 19th and 20th century heavy clay industry of Rice Owen Clark and his sons, is soon to be developed as part of a residential subdivision. During vegetation and rubbish clearance in 2006 features relating to the works were exposed

and remains of a brick kiln damaged. Damage reports carried out for both Waitakere City and the Historic Places Trust suggested that these remains related to 19th century activities at the site, contrary to a draft report by Clough & Associates. Subsequent additional archival research has confirmed that most of the remains currently visible at the site date to the 20th century. The site and surrounding landscape have enormous potential as a heritage area as it contains substantial remains of the 19th–20th century Carder brick and pipeworks (established 1862), the scheduled historic Clark home (1902) and workers cottages relating to the Clark works. The broader landscape contains other buildings relating to these 19th century industries including a church and cottages. The developer is keen to develop the historic remains as part of the subdivision including walkways and interpretation of the remains. An s18 investigation of the remains will be carried out in September in part to establish what remains of the Clark works are present and to determine the best way of incorporating them into the development.

Puketutu Island

Puketutu Island has a significant role in the history of the Manukau Harbour. It was a landing place of the Tainui canoe, the location of extensive Maori settlements and stonefield gardens, and the scene of early European settlement (Weekes) and farming. It is part of a significant heritage landscape including Ambury Park, Mangere Mountain and the Otuataua Stonefields. Clough & Associates is currently upgrading the heritage records for Puketutu Island as part of a Watercare Project. The results will form layers of a full GIS coverage of the Island with a view to future management of the island's heritage. The southern half of the island has been extensively modified by quarrying which has removed the main volcanic cone and associated Maori settlement sites. The northern half of the island is still farmed and has some 19th century buildings, an extensive European dry stone walling system as well as some complex Maori sites. Archaeology in the southern half of the island is limited to the periphery as much of the interior has been quarried. It is likely that Puketutu will become a regional park in the near future.

Rod Clough

DoC

Sarah Macready has left the Department of Conservation after 20 years of working in the Auckland Conservancy. Dave Veart has joined the Auckland Area Office on North head as their new Program Manager for Historic Resources. Both Sarah and Dave contributed enormously to Conservancy and National historic work undertaken by the Department. Jan Coates is still with the Auckland Conservancy Office, but has left her role as

Technical Support Manager to take on a new role in CITES, the International Wildlife Enforcement Group, and Compliance and Enforcement for DOC in Auckland.

Andy Dodd

Bay of Plenty

Phil Moore has been monitoring storm water and roading works at Bowentown, as well as processing samples collected during various projects over the summer. He has also worked on a couple of artefact collections for other consultants.

Ray Hooker has been busy writing up the Waihi Pumphouse excavation, and also forestry site damage reports. Many of these site damage situations occur when parts of the forest estate are sold off and new owners are apparently not aware of archaeological sites or their protection under the HPA.

InSitu are about to prepare a conservation plan for the Otumoetai Pa Historic Reserve, and are also preparing an assessment for Yatton Park as part of a management plan for Tauranga City Council.

Tiffany James-Lee

CFG Heritage Ltd

A team from CFG Heritage led by Mat Campbell have recently excavated the Mataraua site at Tauriko. Unfortunately, much of this open settlement site was contoured away for kiwifruit orchards in the 1980s, but enough remained to show at least three phases of occupation had occurred at the site. Not surprisingly, pits were the most common feature, with the last phase consisting of cooking in numerous ovens. One truncated house floor was also excavated.

Matthew Campbell

During August, Louise Furey and a team spent two weeks excavating at Omokoroa in adverse spring weather conditions. Gale force winds made for an interesting excavation experience. A natural slump terrace low on the slopes of pa U14/712 had 247 postholes, firescoops and storage pits in an area of 10 x 9 m. Unusually for a site at Omokoroa it had not been ploughed. The saddle outside the defences of another nearby pa, U14/715, was also excavated but occupation evidence was relatively sparse compared to all other sites excavated in the area. These excavations complete the archaeological work ongoing at Lynley Park subdivision since 2004.

Louise Furey

Wellington

Rescue archaeology continues intermittently in the Wellington CBD as redevelopment continues apace. Two sites recently the subject of work are the Supreme Court building site on Lambton Quay (demolition and site clearance April/May 2007) and the former Warehouse site near Te Papa which uncovered the platform and track from the old Te Aro railway station (1893–1917). An assessment has also been done for a proposed new visitor centre for the Karori Wildlife Centre which will impact on the historic 1870s Lower Karori Dam.

Kevin Jones undertook aerial photography along the Catlins and South Coast on 28–29 May 2007. Areas covered along the Catlins coast (28 May) were Cannibal Bay, Pounaweia locality, Hinahina, Rail tunnel north-east of Owaka, Jacks Blowhole, Tuhawaiki Island, Hinahina Cove, Irihuka (Long Point), Pillans Head, Tahakopa Bay, Papatowai site, the Beresford Range, Tahakopa River valley, Tautuku vicinity, Waipati estuary, Waikawa, Porpoise Bay, Curio Bay, Waipapa lighthouse and reefs. Areas covered along the South coast (29 May), with Rachael Egerton, were Mahinerangi dam, Lawrence Chinese camp and hall, Tuapeka Mouth punt, Matura, Riverton township, Riverton quarry, Te Waewae Bay, Takitimu anchor, Sand Hill Point, Port Craig, Port Craig viaducts, Pahia and island pa nearby, Centre Island lighthouse, Pig Island, and the Longwood Range.

Recently released by DoC in digital form is T. Nightingale and P.R. Dingwall 2003, *Our Picturesque Heritage: 100 years of scenery preservation in New Zealand*. Available (3.89MB) at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/OurPicturesqueHeritageentire.pdf>

Tony Walton

Canterbury/West Coast

Several archaeologists have been involved in assessments and monitoring at Birdlings Flat, Canterbury, as a result of subdivisions and recent sales of residential sections. As Matt Schmidt remarked in 2004: “Birdlings Flat presents an interesting archaeological landscape in terms of the visibility of archaeological sites. It is immediately apparent on visiting the area that archaeological sites and associated artefacts are exposed on the ground surface rather than being buried under a layer of turf and topsoil. A greywacke pebble/brown soil matrix makes up the surface geology of this location and little topsoil has formed.” The loose nature of this “surface geology” means that surface archaeological evidence tends to get scattered, and it also means that holes dug for power poles become craters and excavations for sewerage tanks become large craters. Michael Trotter has been monitoring some of this

work as well as checking and updating earlier site records and reports, and adding new records where appropriate.

It has been a long cold winter out at Pegasus, but the team has continued to turn up an extensive series of middens and ovens, as well as a variety of artefacts. An area next to the Hohouponamu site has produced postholes galore below the plough zone.

An unexpected event has been a water-logged palisade post in a stream channel about half a kilometre south of Kaiapoi Pa. It appears to have been worked with metal tools and was designed to have a carved figure lashed on the top. It had been burnt and hastily chopped down, possibly at the climax of the siege by Te Rauparaha. With the assistance of Roger Fyfe of the Canterbury Museum it was transported to Dilys Johns in Auckland for conservation. This taonga was accompanied by nearly the entire team of cultural observers who were made very welcome there.

The Pegasus archaeology team has been joined by a second archaeologist, Jeremy Habberfield-Short, who has taken a period of leave from Opus.

Les Wright and Reg Nichol, working at the Globe–Progress mine, have exposed the concrete floors, located the main flue base and dug out the well in the machine foundations, finding a range of artefacts including rather hefty fragments of machinery that had been dismantled using the ‘West Coast spanner’ (i.e., a stick of gelignite – or quite a few sticks in this case). Finds on the adjacent mullock heap included several ‘widowmaker’ pneumatic drills, pieces of shaft cages and the complete boiler and firebox of a portable steam engine, all discarded and buried in ash and waste rock, along with the tramway to the last mullock dump.

No trace at all could be found of one of the 5 m long mine boilers, so there are hopes of finding it (along with other treasures) in the crater formed when the shaft subsided during the pre-scraping days.

Elsewhere, a 5 m high, triple-brick strongroom/explosives magazine was shifted away from the pit area and now resides adjacent to the mine office with a plaque on it proclaiming the opening of the Globe–Progress mine and plant.

Recently Les and Reg investigated the storage bin and loading site for the bi-cable aerial tramway that took quartz from B shaft to the Progress battery down at Crushington. They have also found parts from the monocable system (the West Coast’s first aerial) that preceded it.

Away from the Globe Les has measured and photographed the grand old Granity tavern (1901) that is being demolished to make way for a subdivision, and also recorded one of Greymouth’s early houses, ‘Oruba’ (1887) which is being relocated to the country to make way for a school playground.

Les has also revisited old haunts at Denniston for a heritage management plan and Greenstone to steer a gold miner clear of 19th century settlement sites and early 20th century dredge tailings.

Katharine Watson has undertaken monitoring at three very different central Christchurch sites. Two of these were residential sites, one of which had little in the way of archaeological remains (which was perhaps unsurprising given its close proximity to a nineteenth century rubbish dump) while the other had thirty odd rubbish pits. These pits had been dug into the sterile sand and contained very few artefacts in relation to their size. Initial impressions suggest that the artefacts are dominated by faunal remains and particularly by legs of mutton. The relative paucity of artefacts is intriguing, and is it possible that the pits had contained substantial quantities of organic material.

The third Christchurch site was that of Nancy's Hotel, where archaeological work is now complete after a year. The most recent investigations have focused on the southern-most part of the site, where 1930s plans had shown a stables and other outbuildings. Only one of these buildings was relocated, the remains of the others having been removed during the creation of a car park in the twentieth century. A number of rubbish pits were found, several of which dated to the early twentieth century. Nineteenth century rubbish pits were also found and the artefacts from these will provide a valuable insight into the operation of a nineteenth century hotel in Christchurch.

Katharine has also undertaken some work on the West Coast, recording gold mining remains at Waimea near the site of the Big Dam township. These remains consisted of hand-stacked tailings and are likely to be from the earliest period of gold mining at Waimea (where ground sluicing was soon replaced by hydraulic sluicing). The remains of hydraulic sluicing were also seen in the area. Other work on the West Coast has included recording sites at Diamond Gully and some survey work at the Brunner mine site.

Katharine Watson