



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

The University of Auckland 2008 field school was held at Puwera, Portland, Whangarei, in collaboration with Clough and Associates, during the last two weeks of February. Three sites were excavated on two knolls and ridges. These are located in a small sheltered valley near the Whangarei Harbour. There are several pa associated with this valley and numerous other terrace, pit and midden sites are recorded nearby. The excavated sites are in an area scheduled to become the Whangarei District Council's new landfill. Q07/1092 and Q07/1091 represented a complex of storage pits, house floors, terraces and cooking areas with some areas demonstrating a succession of events. Q07/1103 was a storage pit complex in association with a large number of fire scoops and several midden patches. Notable features included extensive drainage systems and some very long 'skinny' narrow pits. Artefacts included numerous pieces of obsidian and seven adzes and chisels, the majority of the latter coming from one of the house floors.

*Marianne Turner  
Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland*

Peri Buckley (ex Auckland City) has taken up the role of team leader of the ARC Cultural Heritage team, bringing the number of fulltime staff in the team up to five. Consultant Mica Plowman and summer student Andrew Flaws have now completed an archaeological survey of the coastline of Matakana Harbour and the area of Kawau Bay to the north, and the Oruawharo Basin in the Kaipara Harbour. Around 150 new sites have been recorded, mostly middens. The ARC cultural heritage team is planning to undertake an excavation at the Brook homestead at Awhitu in April. The excavation will focus on the surrounds of the 1870s homestead, as a precursor to restoration of the historic orchard. There is also underlying Maori occupation at the site.

*Robert Brassey  
ARC*

Dianne Harlow has been researching the history of a property at Moores Bay, Kawau Island and found that the early cottage on the site was built for the use of one of Governor Sir George Grey's gardeners. Although the property is at the far end of Bon Accord Harbour at some distance from Mansion House, Grey's home, it was used as a nursery and for growing veg-

etables. Grey bought the island in 1862 and sold it in 1888 so the cottage dates within that period. The cottage has suffered several additions and accretions but, with advice from Dave Pearson heritage architect and the Historic Places Trust, it is to be restored and adapted for use within the development.

*Dianne Harlow  
Architage*

## **Bay of Plenty**

CFG Heritage have just completed the investigation of three sites at Papamoa. All of the sites radiocarbon dated to approximately 1600 AD. Two were small simple middens which were badly damaged by ploughing. The third site was less affected by ploughing and included a shell midden up to 1 m deep in places which was included a number of discrete lenses. The site was also rich in features with over 500 recorded. Most of these were postholes, with many small bell-shaped pits and, of course, a large number of ovens and fireplaces. The site also yielded a number of obsidian flakes, a fishing sinker, a sandstone file, 2 bone fishhook points and a one piece shell fishhook. Work will continue on the analysis of the midden samples recovered.

*Warren Gumbley  
CFG Heritage Ltd*

## **Wanganui**

During late January representatives of the Department of Conservation and Historic Places Trust visited a number of Taranaki historic reserves containing significant archaeological features relating to prehistoric settlement practices and/or the Taranaki Wars of the 1860's. Issues discussed during these site visits included grazing concessions and manageable stock numbers, felling of trees and site protection, and the repair of minor damage to features as a result of previous grazing or visitor impact. Time was also taken out to visit Tapuinikau Historic Reserve, a little-visited but impressive pa site containing a number of rua dug into solid volcanic rock along with evidence of what must have once been considerable stone rivetting of scarps.

Radiocarbon dates have been returned from the University of Waikato for the East Egmont Roadend Umu (Egmont National Park) (P20/111) raising some questions with regards to the accepted date of the Burrell Eruption which require follow-up. Vegetation analysis carried out as a part of the radiocarbon dating process has also raised some interesting possibilities and further samples of the contents of the umu have been sent to the University of Auckland for analysis. In due course a detailed report of the findings and conclusions will be supplied for publication in an appropriate academic jour-

nal. Excavation of the East Egmont Roadend Umu was carried out, under HPT authority, by Ivan Bruce of Archaeological Resource Management and supported by the Department of Conservation and Ahitahi.

During the summer the Department participated in the New Plymouth District Council sponsored Smokefree Guided Walks Program supporting public walks to Boars Head Mines, the site of intensive periods of gold prospecting activity between 1860 and 1890 within what is now Egmont National Park, and the Category I registered Te Koru pa. Both tours were well supported by the public and provided not only an opportunity for the public to learn about Taranaki's significant heritage but also the importance of protecting and preserving that heritage. These walks were led by Ivan Bruce and staff from the Department.

As some of you may be aware that the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for the Wanganui Conservancy is due to expire in April 2009. Should you wish to contribute to the direction of conservation efforts in the Wanganui Conservancy for the next 10 years, including the management of historic and cultural heritage, please complete the CMS feedback form available online at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=45721> or, for a hardcopy of the feedback form, email [wanganui.cms@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wanganui.cms@doc.govt.nz) or write to the Department of Conservation, Private Bag 3016, Wanganui 4500.

*Jonathan Welch  
Department of Conservation*

## **Wellington**

While Wellington has been basking in a glorious hot summer, archaeology continues. But the best bit has been welcoming back our loved friend and colleague Tony Walton.

The Opus team have a range of interesting projects, including excavating a possible kainga at a new housing estate being developed in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast. This site could be an important one with regard to the history of the Kapiti Coast. The Opus team have also been undertaking a small investigation in inner city Wellington, and are about to begin analysis for the material found on the new Supreme Court site, with recovered material including garments, shoes and fibre as well as a large amount of ceramic and glass, reflecting early occupation of Lambton Quay. Kiri Peterson, of Opus, was featured in the Timaru Herald in early February, discussing the likely origins of a large bottle dump on the site of the original Timaru court house.

Bruce McFadgen is monitoring earthwork at Meridian's Westwind windfarm site, west of Wellington, with construction of roads to facilitate bringing the large equipment and components on site.

Kevin Jones reports he has recently carried out a flight to Golden Bay 20 November 2007, photographing Kapiti north end new facilities, D'Urville east coast to Cape Stephens, Mukahanga, Te Marua, Stephens Island light-house landing etc., Kaiteriteri and Motueka River mouth, Abel Tasman coast including Adele Island, Astrolabe Roads, Torrent Bay, Frenchmans Bay, Bark Bay, Tonga Roads/Island, Awaroa, Sawpit Point, Totaranui, Separation Point, Taupo Pa, Wainui Bay, Tata Island, Ligar Bay, Plischke Abel Tasman monument, Pohara Cement Works, Motupipi wetlands, Farewell Spit light and drying islands, gannets, spit general, Triangle Flat, Cape Farewell Light, Puponga Pa, Archway Islands, Wharariki Dunes, Mt Lunar outcrops, Whanganui Inlet entrance, Mangarakau vicinity, Collingwood, Parapara Spit, Pariwhakaoho pits, Rangihaeata Headland, Ragged Point and north end Greville Harbour, Mt Ears, east side Kapiti under cloud

Mary O'Keefe is working on another windfarm site for Meridian, just north of Westwind, and a third windfarm site north of the Pauatahanui inlet. She is completing two assessments around the Tawa area, just north of Wellington, a fascinating area rich in history from the early period of early European occupation and land acquisition.

*Mary O'Keefe*

## **Canterbury and West Coast**

### *Pegasus Town*

There has been an unexpected development at Pegasus. When a digger began operating in the dry channel next to a small pa site, it was found to be wet and bog-like underneath. This deposit was discovered to have wet wood and other perishable material. In addition, the crania and skeletal parts of two different individuals were found.

The contents of this wet deposit are currently in the process of excavation, recovery and preservation. A sluice wet sieve system has been constructed by Jeremy Habberfield-Short who has recently joined the Pegasus archaeological team. This has been effective for extracting additional wooden artefacts and human bone from the mud and other organic material. Some of what has been found includes: part of a waka, a carved and burnt palisade post, adze handles, pounders and beaters, digging sticks and other cultivation implements, spinning tops, part of a manaia carving, pieces of a comb, a bowl fragment, and other items which have been cut, adzed and chiselled. There are a large number of pieces of split wood, as well as wood chips. In addition, there are some pieces of knotted flax cordage, a kiti, and supplejack hoops (presumably for eel traps). A substantial number of raw and polished pieces of greenstone were also present as well as other stone artefacts.

This side channel opens out to the larger Taerutu Gulley and forms part of the defences of the palisaded pa. The slope next to the pa consists of an extensive midden at what is thought to be the entrance. A large quantity of stone and bone artefacts have been excavated from this midden. At the base of the slope next to the channel are sets of parallel logs which seem to be part of structures. Some very large logs were found to be bordering this part of the channel bank, and may have had a wharf-like function, and some logs spanned across the channel. The wood of the logs and stumps in the channel have been extensively sampled.

The type of midden material on the pa slope appears to be consistent with that dated to about 500 BP, and this may be the approximate age of the wooden artefact assemblage. These findings give a new and exciting dimension to the archaeology at Pegasus Town.

*Dan and Alison Witter  
Witter Archaeology*

Kiri Petersen of the Opus Wellington team has carried out investigations around the Timaru Courthouse, as preparation for the construction of structural extensions. The Timaru Courthouse (built in 1877) is on the same spot as the original courthouse built in 1863. The proposed extension is located to the rear of the courthouse, and it was considered likely that there would be some remains of either the old courthouse or the backyards of those houses which were previously located on this back section. Six small to medium-sized rubbish pits were found, and one large pit, containing almost exclusively torpedo bottles. Numerous post holes were also found, as well as the blue-stone foundations of a small structure.

Michael Trotter has been working at Kaikoura, mainly on assessments, monitoring and a bit of site recording. At one site at Seddons Ridge, which he had last worked on forty years ago, four pits out of a total of seven had been destroyed by bulldozing since he last saw it. And at a coastal toilet installation, which he had advised did not need monitoring, some bones were uncovered, identified by the workers as human, and ceremoniously reburied elsewhere. When Michael finally got to inspect them, they proved to be calf! Michael has also completed a brief review of the archaeology of South Bay, Kaikoura, summarizing the archaeological investigations that have been carried out there since the 1960s (available from him in electronic format).

A team of Department of Conservation staff (including Jackie Breen), a contractor and volunteers recently did a whirlwind one and a half day trip to Chancellor Hut, a 1930s tourist hut replete with congoleum lining, to install new period windows and doors. The hut is sited above Fox Glacier. A big dawn to dusk work day saw the old windows ripped out, doors replaced and

the first lick of paint applied, all in time to catch the last flight down before the glacier valley clagged in. The old hut looks amazing – the new four pane windows are definitely better than the single pane perspex windows that have graced the building for the past 30 years.

Matthew Carter has undertaken recording of two standing buildings, Devaney's Hotel in Hokitika and a private house at 381 Papanui Road, Christchurch. The ground floor of Devaney's Hotel had been altered substantially since the hotel was built in the late 1890s but the first floor was still relatively original and revealed that this floor was built as accommodation for guests at the hotel, rather than a manager's flat. The house at 381 Papanui Road had grown and changed considerably since it was built in the early 1870s. As originally constructed, the house was a two-storeyed weatherboard building. Later extensions included adding two single-storeyed wings to the rear of the house. The building was eventually divided into flats. During the course of the buildings archaeology work, numerous receipts and invoices were found. These were from local Christchurch businesses and dated from the early 1870s. The invoices related to the Empire Hotel, which was owned by John Karl, the owner of the house. Subsequent monitoring of site stripping by Rosie Geary Nichol revealed a shallow concentration of glass bottles and a small rubbish pit containing a variety of glass, ceramic and metal artefacts. The majority of material excavated from the site was glass, including a number of interesting complete historic bottles.

Bill Edwards and Katharine Watson have monitored site stripping and foundation excavations on the corner of Antigua and Halkett streets, Christchurch. The sections monitored had been home to a cordial factory and a shoe maker during the nineteenth century. In spite of construction on one of the sections (the cordial factory) in the twentieth century, a substantial quantity of archaeological material was recovered. Unsurprisingly, a large number of bottles were recovered from the site of the cordial factory. These included a reasonable number of stoneware bottles and bottles from other local cordial factories. Leather fragments formed the bulk of the artefacts recovered from the other section.

Rosie Geary Nichol and Katharine Watson have undertaken monitoring at the Canterbury Club site. The Canterbury Club (a gentleman's club, formed by Christchurch's businessmen in opposition to the Christchurch Club formed by the pastoralists) has occupied the same site since 1872 and is currently being redeveloped. This has involved demolishing mid-twentieth century additions to the club and moving one of the Club buildings. New rooms are now being added to the club and have required the excavation of foundation trenches. Two large rubbish pits were uncovered while trenching

in the southern half of the site, in the former back-yard of the caretaker's cottage. Glass bottles, faunal remains, large and small ceramic vessels and various leather and metal artefacts were excavated from these pits in surprisingly good condition.

Katharine Watson and Bridget Mosley carried out an investigation at 22 Lake Terrace Road, Birdlings Flat. This is a bare section within a recorded pa site (Te Mata Hapuku) at Birdlings Flat. Seven squares were opened up. The only cultural material in six of the squares was scattered fire-cracked rock. The remaining square contained a shallow hearth, consisting of charcoal-stained soil, fire-cracked rocks and one shell.

Katharine Watson has also been undertaking recording work at Mangatani, an early twentieth century settlement that was part of the Westport Coal Company's Millerton mine (now part of Solid Energy's Stockton mine). The remains of the settlement are now few and far between and will soon be completely destroyed by the construction of a sump. The work undertaken at Mangatani included collecting scattered artefacts (and recording the location of these) and monitoring the demolition of a stone culvert. A range of artefacts were recovered, including a relatively large number of boots. Solid Energy have also started three-dimensional laser scanning of the underground workings at Stockton that have not been pillared. Some of these workings date to the early years of the twentieth century. Exploration of these workings is revealing interesting details about mining techniques and approaches, particularly with regard to the control of water and fire – fire has been a problem at Millerton since the early twentieth century.

*Katharine Watson*