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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Auckland

Department of Conservation

Andy Dodd and architectural student Callum Dowie were on Raoul Island from 17 March to 21 April to prepare conservation plans for the meteorological station buildings. While on the island an opportunity to investigate the airstrip prior to re-leveling was undertaken. 14th century Polynesian occupation has been documented on the limited flat land available on the northern side of the island, and the artefactual assemblage collected by the Bell family in the late 19th century has been largely attributed to this area, previously known as the Farm Terrace. The area was test pitted prior to the formation of the present airstrip in the early 1990s, but it was uncertain if additional deposits would be encountered below the area modified or in the natural hollows. A precautionary authority to investigate any remains was obtained, and a half a dozen navy recruits provided field labour for a more thorough assessment of the 300m long grass airstrip. No archaeological deposits were encountered. While on the island heritage assessments were carried out for the four huts on Raoul, and a plan for the conservation of 19th and early 20th century vegetation remnants on the island is also currently being prepared with botanical input from David Havell and Carol West. The vegetation plan, buildings conservation plan and a strategy for targeted historic research and archaeological investigation will be incorporated into a working plan to be developed for the Kermadec Islands in the 2008/09 financial year.

At the Auckland Area Office Anne McKenzie has been employed on temporary contract, and has been liaising with Frame Group and consultant Russell Foster with regard to the Auckland City Council's proposal to upgrade the walkway facilities on Waiheke Island. The walkway is an upgrade of an existing track through the Matietie Historic Reserve which incorporates a number of headland pa and coastal middens. The project has involved the mitigation of visual and archaeological impacts from the proposed walkway structures, and is progressing through the initial planning phase. Work is expected to be underway in the 2008/09 financial year.

Andy Dodd and Anne McKenzie also spent a week on Little Barrier Island updating site records. Areas visited included the Orau ridge and Te Hue areas. New sites recorded included an 1880 tree carving attributed to Austrian

naturalist Andreas Reischek. Specifications for proposed conservation work on the Waipawa pa (drains to redirect water flow away from the pa), and Te Hue stone terracing sites (vegetation clearance from stone facing) have been prepared for discussion with Ngati Manuhiri and the Historic Places Trust.

Andy Dodd, Auckland Conservancy, Department of Conservation

Auckland Airport



CFG Heritage spent most of March excavating an extensive occupation and midden site (R11/859) on the Manukau Harbour prior to earthworks associated with the Auckland Airport Northern Runway Development. The excavation will be completed later this year, but so far house sites, fences, middens and associated earth ovens (one of which is illustrate in Garry Law's paper in this issue of *AINZ*) as well as several burials have been found. Of particular interest are a series of round, deep pits that we currently interpret as rua kopiha, as illustrated in Davidson et al's recent paper in the *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology*, p. 10. If

any readers out there have any ideas about these unusual features, which are certainly not bell-shaped but straight-sided, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Matthew Campbell, CFG Heritage Ltd.

Arch Soc

After an exciting summer of excavations and other archaeologically-orientated pursuits both here in New Zealand and further afield, members of the Auckland Archaeological Society met for the first time this year at the start of April. First on the agenda was the AGM, through which a new executive committee was elected. The committee now consists of Andi Crown as President; Ben Davies, Thomas Barker and Alex Jorgensen as Vice-Presidents;

Paul Haysom as Treasurer and Ella Ussher as Secretary. Our speaker for this initial meeting was Dr. Marianne Turner from the University of Auckland, who spoke about the recently completed University field-school at Puwera, Whangarei. This presentation functioned as both a re-cap for many of our members who had participated in the field-school, and also as an exciting insight into this amazing site for those who had not.

For our second meeting, Arch Soc members were treated to a presentation by Dr. Carney Matheson from Lakehead University in Canada. He spoke on the identification of World War One soldiers from Canadian Battalions using a multi-disciplinary approach, with a focus on the application of ancient DNA in historical archaeology.

A competition was also run this year for the design of the Arch Soc T-shirts. Our winning design of a kumara pit, submitted by Tim Mackrell, was chosen in a vote opened up to all members, and orders have been made so that the shirts should arrive before first semester ends. Finally, the executive committee hosted an archaeologically-themed quiz at our most recent meeting, with a grand prize in the form of a 'Golden Trowel Award.' The trophy can be viewed in all its glory in the Anthropology tea room in the Human Sciences Building, along with the names of the winning team. Well done to all participants, it was a very successful evening!

Ella Ussher

Auckland Regional Council

Andy Dodd and members of the Auckland Underwater Archaeology group have relocated and recorded the remains of the scow *Waipu*, which sank off Tawharanui in 1904 and was rediscovered by a member of the public earlier in the year. ARC Heritage staff carried out an archaeological investigation at the Brook Homestead at Awhitu in April. Excavation revealed the remains of the first homestead (1870s) and a number of outbuildings, paths, and the footprints of trees that contributed to the setting for the homestead. Assemblages of ceramics and other artefacts, and midden samples, were recovered for analysis. Underlying evidence of Maori occupation, since dated to the 17th century, was also uncovered.

Robert Brassey

Wellington

Kevin Jones has been in Tasmania on a World Heritage 'reactive monitoring mission'. Late in April, Kevin and Chris Edkins were up on the Criffel Range (the northern part of the Pisa Range, south of Wanaka). Each day involved a walk up to the field from about 400 to 1400 m altitude. Luckily, the

weather gods smiled for two days, long enough to take GPS points to calibrate the large-scale vertical aerial photographs from which mapping will be done. The rest of the week it snowed down to 300 m and no more work was feasible.

Victoria Grouden reports she has been doing some monitoring at the Otaki Railway Station, as Kapiti Coast District Council is upgrading the car-park there. The archaeologists found some piles relating to the station master's house and also several rubbish deposits so far.

Clough and Associates, with Pam Chester, have been investigating a central Wellington site (R27/282) thought to have been occupied by colonial European retailers since the 1870s. The foundations of a two room "shop" (approx. 4.2 x 6.5 m) were uncovered at the front of the site (close to Cuba St) under the recently demolished retail structure, which was shown on an 1891 plan. The Aro Stream formerly ran through the site. The stream was rechannelled further west across the site through a brick culvert in the late 19th century. Coarse fill of mostly broken bricks, glass and ceramic sherds dating to the 19th century has been exposed, which was probably dumped in the course of the stream.

Christine Barnett has completed an Archaeological Assessment of a proposed subdivision at Glenburn Station on Wairarapa's coast.

Mary O'Keeffe has been working on several archaeological assessments for inner city Wellington sites – the usual tension between loss of heritage buildings and potential gain of further archaeological data. She is also working on a windfarm on Wellington West coast, immediately north of Meridian's West Wind windfarm currently under construction, and another windfarm north of Wellington.

Mary O'Keeffe, Heritage Solutions