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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Leigh Johnson reports on surveying part of the old coach road that ran between Whangaroa and Kaeo. The coach road was built in 1879 and a number of the causeways still exist over small tidal streams. There is probably about 1.5 km of the original coach road left in an undisturbed state with much of the older road being incorporated into the modern highway.

Shelagh Norton and Bill Edwards have recorded a large fish trap near Kerikeri. The trap is 66 m long and 35 m wide. The trap is made of dry stacked stone and utilises natural lava flows and a spit of land to enclose a small arm of the Haupara Inlet. The mouth of the trap is 70 cm wide and 1.5 m high. A stone wall on the southern side of the trap is recorded as part of a property boundary in an 1871 survey map.

Melina Goddard, an Auckland University graduate student, is working as a temporary historic ranger with DOC Bay of Islands area office. She will be assisting with archaeology and historic research connected with upgrading visitor assets on Urapukapuka Island.

Bill Edwards

Auckland

CFG Heritage have recently completed the excavation of a site, R11/859, at Otuataua on the Manukau Harbour, south of the stonefields and on the alignment of the Auckland Airport Northern Runway Development. This was originally reported in Notes and News in June 2008 after the first stage of excavation was undertaken in March 2008. The site is an extensive kainga, probably, although it has to yet been dated, representing periodic occupation over a considerable span of years. It is located on both a 6 m high bluff of fertile volcanic clays and a sandy beach terrace below this, adjacent to a fresh water stream and a sandy beach, the only canoe landing place for some distance around the harbour. Early phases on the beach terrace are marked by kumara pits with elaborate drainage systems – even though they are dug in sand they are close to the tide and would have had poor natural drainage in winter. On the beach terrace and the bluff there were houses, extensive middens, fences and earth ovens. Artefacts recovered included numerous small chisels, two piece

fishhook points and bone needles, giving the impression of a domestic setting – there was no evidence of defences. The middens contained shell, fish, bird, dog and seal bone. The beach flat included two areas containing koiwi which were also excavated and will be reinterred by tangata whenua.

Matthew Campbell

Queen's Redoubt

A short but productive dig and further restoration work were undertaken at Queen's Redoubt over New Year. The contribution of an American team of eleven from Wyoming organised by Dr Dudley Gardner of Western Wyoming College is gratefully acknowledged. They not only provided the incentive for the work but also three-quarters of the people-power. The Americans hailed from three small towns in western Wyoming – Evanston, Mountain View and Rock Springs – and most had a connection through being involved as volunteers at Fort Bridger which is the largest historic site in Western Wyoming (about six times bigger than Queen's Redoubt with a big on-site museum and separate interpretation centre). They were all willing to come out to NZ and work for a week at Queen's Redoubt before touring for another week or so. Another incentive was to escape the snow and -20 degree weather in Wyoming at present. Six of the visitors stayed in the new Pokeno Motel, which being less than 100 metres from the redoubt, is nicely located for future visitors when the site is developed further.

The fieldwork involved a traditional archaeological excavation in the redoubt adjacent to the southeast bastion area which had been partially investigated in 1992, and further restoration work on the earthworks. In addition the form and size of the southeast bastion was further defined. The east side wall is now substantially complete, and work has begun on the south wall. The round shaped protrusion is the partially-excavated ditch around the southeast bastion (Figure 1) which, when surmounted by a replicated blockhouse, will be a major feature of the restored redoubt.

The Queen's Redoubt Trust has recently learned from Franklin District Council that a proposal to build a quarry haul road which would have been constructed on a paper road on the south side of the redoubt property has been dropped. The Queen's Redoubt Trust (and other affected landowners) strenuously opposed the proposed haul road. It would have had a very adverse impact on the Queen's Redoubt project (from reduced opportunities and heavy quarry trucks lumbering past a few metres from the redoubt) and compromised the existing vision corridors. The Trust is now planning to resume discussions with Franklin District Council with regard to acquiring the paper

road and using it for the main access to the redoubt and the proposed parking area, visitor centre and war memorial.

Neville Ritchie



Figure 1. An overview of the excavation site and partially restored east ditch and wall. In the foreground in the partially exposed SE bastion of the redoubt, January 09.

Bay of Plenty

Recent fieldwork in the Bay of Plenty can be summed up in Phil Moore's phrase "just the usual monitoring of infrastructure projects and report writing". The Historic Places Trust has issued some twenty authorities for the area since June 2008.

Over the last three to four months, Ray Hooker has been working on assessments and monitoring of earthworks, road lines, forestry operations and rural subdivisions at Omokoroa, Athenree, Kawerau and elsewhere.

John Coster has undertaken a couple of assessments on the Tauranga Harbour for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Environmental Enhancement Fund, as well as some forestry monitoring in the Eastern Bay and subdivision

assessments near Tauranga. John also represents heritage concerns on the Department of Conservation's Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, an advisory group representing community interests, which has been closely involved recently in the preparation of the Department's 10-year *Conservation Management Strategy* for the Bay.

Lynda Walter reports that monitoring by InSitu Heritage Ltd. of the earthworks associated with the northern wing extension of the Rotorua Museum of Art & History (the former Rotorua Bathhouse) revealed two small post-1900 rubbish pits associated with the operation of the Bathhouse. The early phase of operation was represented by a cache of broken Codd bottles and various patent medicine bottles, and the 1970s nightclub phase of the buildings life by an impressive array of broken pint beer handles. Monitoring of the southern wing extension of the building began in February 2009. Archaeologists from Opus International Consultants Ltd. are also known to be working in the Bay of Plenty, but are unable to report on details.

Further inland, Alexy Simmons is monitoring the Taupo Eastern Arterial road route and training hapu in monitoring methods.

The Department of Conservation has recently completed a Conservation Management Plan for Moutohora (Whale Island), Ohope Scenic Reserve and Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve, near Whakatane, on behalf of Te Tapatoru a Toi, the joint Ngati Awa/DOC management committee. These three reserves contain around 50 archaeological sites, over 15% of the Maori heritage sites administered by the Department in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. The plan (*Te Tapui Tokotoru Conservation Management Plan*, 2008, Department of Conservation, Rotorua) covers the next ten year's operations and is available on line at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/land/jmc/ttt-management-plan-finaldraft.pdf>.

The Department has also been involved recently in the preparation of a draft Conservation Plan for Te Ana a Maru, the Kaingaroa Rock Art Shelter (V17/3).

John Coster

Wanganui

Kevin Jones has been working on some building platforms off Rapanui Road, near Wanganui, where a few umu and a small midden were investigated.

Jonathon Welch

Wellington

Bruce McFadgen records that he has been bobbing about on a yacht in Tasman Bay researching the big wave that is said to have wiped out Maori settlements on D'Urville Island, and chopping bits off tree stumps to see what event resulted in a widespread rise of the ground water table along the Horowhenua coast about 500 years ago, affecting archaeological sites.

Over in the Wairarapa Christine Barnett has been working with historian, Bruce Stirling, on a heritage project for the Wairarapa Moana area. Commissioned by the Greater Wellington Regional Council the initial scoping work was started in the later half of 2008 and will continue into 2009.

Christine has also been monitoring the removal of a former church at Fordell to be relocated in Greytown's Heritage Precinct. Assessment works continues with projects in the Lake Wairarapa Narrows area, Waiwhero, and the racecourse totalisator at Opaki.

Mary O'Keeffe has been investigating a development site in Boulcott St, in inner city Wellington. Several rubbish features have yielded a wealth of artefacts, including fabric, bottles, ceramics, beef bones, pipes and leather shoes. One corner, dubbed the place where ginger beer bottles go to die, revealed 17 intact ginger beer crocks, apparently used for a building floor. A 6 m deep brick well also yielded many artefacts, to the fascination of the work crew. A vast amount of fabric down the well, accompanied by over a dozen wooden clothes pegs has lead Mary to conclude that the laundry maid cracked one morning and just couldn't take it any more. On a somewhat duller note, Mary is presenting evidence at two upcoming hearings, for proposed developments on the Kapiti Coast. Mary is also involved in the conservation work on Government House in Wellington.

Mary O'Keeffe

Canterbury/West Coast

As earthmoving continues, there has been a sudden run of new discoveries at Pegasus. One of these is a village-like settlement about 80 x 40 m with over 100 post holes as well as various ovens, scoops, pits, etc. Remarkably, many of the house post holes still have wood fragments in them. Because

of this, the preservation of fish and bird bone along with other factors, Dan Witter believes this is quite a late site. Another recent find is a large fish trap facility in a swamp. This is made out of bark, brush and numerous sharpened stakes and pegs lining a system of channels and small basins. This is believed to have been designed for taking lampreys. Also in the swamp, a line of posts has just been exposed which may be part of an eel weir. The process of wet wood conservation continues, and the quantity has substantially increased due to the fish trap material.

Les Wright's big job at the moment is a 'baseline inspection' at Waiuta for the Department of Conservation. That is, recording every remaining feature of the township – chimneys to rambling roses – that can be found amidst ever encroaching regenerating bush and its nursery crops of manuka and gorse. No mineshafts, but some of the long-drop toilets cause moments of anxiety. Les is tying in old photos, archival material and about 25 years of oral history to try and come up with a record of each building, when it was built and by whom, who lived in it, where it went and (in a surprisingly high number of cases) where it is now.

Les reports that things are pretty quite at the Globe for the moment – the last big thrill was the unearthing just before Christmas of aerial tramway return wheels and brake bands – possibly from both the early Globe monocable aerial and the Progress bicable. Also (near B shaft) a collapsed spool with hundreds of metres of flat winding rope. The collapse area of B shaft awaits – and anticipation is eager!

Katharine Watson has started work on a survey of the Koranui incline. This incline is on the other side of the Waimangaroa River from the Denniston incline and it is considerably longer than the latter. The Koranui incline was only used for a short period of time in the 1880s, before the company that operated the mine was taken over by the Westport Coal Company. The lower end of the incline has been destroyed by later hydraulic gold mining, but above this it runs through some impressive cuttings. Higher still, the incline runs along an embankment. This is faced with stone quarried from the surrounding ground – these borrow pits can still be seen. Katharine has also surveyed two tenure review properties – Hunter Hills (Hakataramea Valley) and Middle Hill (Clarence River).

Katharine Watson

Otago/Southland

Jill Hamel's efforts have been very hands-on this summer – she is slowly stabilising an 1870s stone farmstead that she own near Purakaunui. Jill had

stone masons working on the house itself in 2005, and this January has dealt with the massive block of stonework used to create a small dairy, two pig or calf pens and a platform for a horse mill to drive a chaff cutter. There were few artefacts, and most of the interest lies in the layout of the farmstead and the building methods used. There is still the barn and cowbyre to retrieve from the gorse.

Tiffany James-Lee