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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional Development Cell

Many of you will probably be aware that we ran a “Human Osteology” workshop at Auckland University on the 27th March 2009. The first email sent out was for “expressions of interest” and they just flooded in. Meri Low (administrative support) was even offered bribes for a place!



Figure 1. Human Osteology workshop.

The workshop was a success, due to Judith Littleton and her crew who ran the day like a well-oiled machine, kept us busy and very interested, and also to Chris Mallows who took up the job of getting all the presentations together. The feedback has been fantastic.

The large team of experts, headed by Judith Littleton (Biological Anthropology, University of Auckland), included Yolanda Vogel and Bev Parslow (New Zealand Historic Places Trust), Mat Campbell (CFG Heritage),

Chris Mallows (Opus), Jacqui Craig, Lisa Matisoo-Smith and staff from the Biological Anthropology Department, University of Auckland.

The workshop covered methods of identifying human remains in the field, especially how to distinguish human from animal bone; aging and sexing of human remains; legislation and other requirements; recording methods; and specialised analysis. A number of tests were set for the participants, and if we did not realise how difficult it was beforehand, we certainly did afterwards. We also received a very detailed working paper that we expect will be much used in the field.

We are in the process of organising a date for another on this subject, as we have enough interest from those who missed out the first time to fill places for another two workshops.

Professional Development Cell

Northland

Maria Butcher has been appointed as Ranger, historic/visitor assets at the Department of Conservation, Whangarei Area Office. Maria is a graduate of Otago University with a MA (Hons) in archaeology.

Hans Dieter Bader is undertaking a geo-physical survey of the area surrounding the Marsden Cross. The aim of the investigation is to map and locate subsurface features relating to the mission that was the first permanent European settlement in the country. Andrew Blanshard from the Department of Conservation Bay of Islands office has commissioned the survey.

There are road works taking place at Kohukohu which are on the site of reclaimed land associated with the kauri milling industry. The mill operated from 1879 until it was closed down in 1909. In association with the reclaimed land are also the remains of two slab jetties and a boiler from the mill. Lee Johnson will be monitoring the works under an archaeological authority.

Dianne Harlow will be developing a head for heights as she will be involved in recording and sampling middens that are 5 metres up a cliff face near Whangarei. More of Dianne's aerial antics in the future.

Bill Edwards

Auckland

The Auckland Archaeological Society met for the first time in 2009 on April Fool's Day. At our AGM the executive committee was elected. This year, Alex Jorgensen is President; Ben Davies, Thomas Barker and Ella Ussher are Vice-Presidents; Paul Haysom is Treasurer and Jennifer Huebert is Secretary.

The elections were followed by a meet and greet, welcoming all members for the new year.

At the second meeting, ArchSoc was pleased to have Jack Harris, from Rutgers University in the United States, as a speaker. Jack is a guest lecturer at the University of Auckland this year, as well as an alumnus. He described new finds from East Africa which include early stone tools, fossilised footprints and insights into the diet of hominins who lived between 2.5 and 1.5 million years ago. This lecture was followed by our annual T-shirt design competition. Entries were circulated and voted upon both at the meeting and by email for members not in attendance. The winning design this year depicts two trowels, created by Tim Mackrell. Orders were taken in time to distribute shirts before the NZAA conference in June, where many ArchSoc members will be in attendance.

During the last three months Hans Dieter Bader monitored earthworks at Stanley Street, Auckland. The area was deeply filled and must have originally been a mangrove swamp behind the beach. Dressed Sydney sand stone, pieces of marble together with a pocket of nineteenth century finds indicating high status show that towards the end of the nineteenth century an important building(s) was demolished and used for the fill. The buildings at the Britomart Fort and the old St Pauls Church spring to mind, but further research is needed to determine the origin of this fill. Crossing under the railway bridge at the bottom of Parnell Rise a stormwater/sewer drain from the late nineteenth century was found and followed using CCTV. The construction of bluestone sides and early reinforced concrete roof changed to a cobbled floor and bluestone roof on the eastern side of the railway bridge, which opened up into a large chamber with a brick vaulted roof. It is thought that this chamber was used – before the reclamations in this area – as a holding tank for sewage which was cleaned out by the outgoing tide twice a day.

The Auckland Regional Council and Department of Conservation have been undertaking coastal protection works at the Sunde site on Motutapu Island. Removal of the previous failed protective fence has provided an opportunity to re-examine the stratigraphy of parts of the site and obtain samples for further dating and analysis. The results of this work will be reported at the forthcoming conference.

A joint agency archaeological excavation was undertaken at a coastal wahi tapu at South Medlands Beach on Great Barrier Island during April. The objective of the excavation was to remove exposed and eroding koiwi, record the archaeological context, and stabilize the coastal escarpment for Ngati Rehua. The exercise was funded by and involved staff from the Auckland Regional Council and New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The Department of Conservation, the Community Board and University of Auckland also contributed

personnel and/or financial resources and a number of Ngati Rehua people and volunteers assisted with the fieldwork, which was directed by Don Prince. The remains of nineteen individuals uplifted from the site will be reinterred after a sample of the koiwi has been examined and recorded.

Mat Campbell

Bay of Plenty

The archaeological highlight of the year so far for the Bay of Plenty was a well-attended presentation by Warren Gumbley – “Life in 15th Century Tauranga” – on 23 April at the Papamoa Library. The lecture marked the publication by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust of a booklet “First Footsteps – Insights into the Earliest Settlers of Western Bay of Plenty”. This 25-page A5 glossy is available from the Trust’s office in Tauranga. It is aimed at the general public and designed to communicate some of the results of the extensive series of investigations carried out over the last fifteen years at Papamoa, on the east of the advancing city of Tauranga. Warren’s lecture focused on the archaeological excavation of an early fishing village and aspects of life on the Papamoa dune plain in the mid-fifteenth century.

Over the last three months, eleven archaeological authorities have been issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for monitoring or investigations in the Bay of Plenty, at Katikati, Tauranga, Mount Maunganui, Matapihi, Papamoa, Welcome Bay, Thornton, Ohope and Mangorewa Gorge.

Phil Moore reports the excavation of three middens at Tanners Point (Tauranga Harbour) with Ray Hooker and visiting French archaeologist Anthony Byledbal. Anthony was in New Zealand to research his PhD on the WWI New Zealand Tunnelling Company.

Phil is also involved, with two local people, on a conservation plan for the Union Hill gold mining complex at Waihi. The plan follows on from Clough & Associates’ 2004 assessment of the Union Hill remains.

Archaeologists from Opus International Consultants Ltd. are also working in the Bay of Plenty, but no details are available, while CFG Heritage reports no new work, but some completed reports (see Recent Reports).

InSitu Heritage Ltd has been monitoring works for the southern wing extension of the Rotorua Museum of Art & History (the Rotorua Bath House). Construction of the extension is expected to begin late in 2009, but prior to that the underground services and the road on the southern side of the building have to be relocated. The work was not expected to encounter pre-1900 archaeological sites so the archaeological monitoring is being carried out as an

exercise in best practice, due to the significance of the building, rather than as a requirement of the Historic Places Act.

In April contractors working on lowering the road level to the south of the Bath House exposed a section of what appeared to be a wooden culvert at the southern edge of the road. On investigation, it was identified as a wood staved water pipeline. The Conservation Plan for the Bath House notes that a wooden pipeline was installed after the opening of the Bath House in 1908 to transport alkaline water from Roto-a-Tamaheke spring at Whakarewarewa to the baths within the building (a distance of approximately 3 km).

Wood staved pipes were used extensively in the USA for both water and sewerage services from the 1880s through to the early 20th century. In some cases these pipes were still in service in various US cities well into the 1980s. Rotorua's first municipal water supply was transported by wood staved pipes, so it is not too surprising that a wooden pipeline was installed at the Bath House. The pipe timber has been identified by Scion Research as Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Given the age of the pipe there would have been no locally grown Douglas-fir available, so it appears highly likely the pipe was imported from the USA. The majority of it was collapsed and much deteriorated but a reasonably sound section has been recovered and will be conserved by the Museum for a planned display detailing the redevelopment and extension of the Bath House building.

InSitu Heritage Ltd has also recently commenced archaeological monitoring as part of conservation work to be carried out by Tauranga City Council on the summit of Mauao (Mt Maunganui). High visitor numbers on the summit have caused widespread damage and loss of archaeological features due to erosion from foot traffic. Over the next three years the erosion damage will be progressively infilled and covered by grass turf. A hard surfaced loop walkway will be constructed on the summit and foot traffic will be restricted to that area in the future. It is hoped that the walkway, in combination with vegetation barriers, signage and public education, will succeed in modifying the behaviour of visitors on the summit so that the archaeological features can be conserved.

The Whakatane & District Historical Society is proposing to reprint a selection of its monograph series, issued over the last 50 years. The series includes Maurice Lennard's "Road to War" and a number of biographies and

local histories. Issues reprinted will be those for which demand has been demonstrated. For a list of titles, contact meri.low@xtra.co.nz.

John Coster

Wellington

Kevin Jones and Steve Bagley have finished a survey of Muller station, adjacent to Molesworth, South Marlborough. Kevin has been busy with Treaty settlement work in the Bay of Plenty. Kevin is also planning new aerial surveys in the winter period, probably in Hawke's Bay and Canterbury. If anyone has a large area project that could use high-resolution and oblique aerials, please get in touch with Kevin (kljarchaeologist@paradise.net.nz).

Mary O'Keeffe has been continuing her recent disturbing train theme by monitoring earthworks for Ontrack, as they double track the suburban line on the Kapiti Coast. She has been searching for an 1840s European burial at Glenside, a northern suburb of Wellington, where a local purposes road is planned, and she is assessing proposed developments of the Wellington waterfront.

Mary O'Keeffe

Canterbury

At Pegasus there has still been some earth moving and excavation. We have dug some more "terminal Archaic" deposits and improved our lithic and faunal assemblages. The assemblage of stakes from the fish trap site in the swamp was processed and is probably unique.

Katharine Watson has undertaken an archaeological survey of the Mt Harper ice rink. This is a remote ice rink in the high country and is purported to have been the first man-made outdoor ice rink in the southern hemisphere (if anyone has any information to the contrary, I would be grateful to know). Even today the ice rink takes at least an hour to reach from the nearest town and requires a jet boat ride (or wading across the Rangitata River) – to drive the whole way there takes much longer. As such, it is amazing that the rink's busiest day was when some 3000 people visited the rink in 1939.

Construction of the first rink began in 1931-32. Public use of the rink ceased in the 1950s but private use of the rink continued until the early 1970s. Today the remains of the rink are on land owned by the Department of Conservation. The complex that remains is remarkably complete, a testament to how recently the rink was used and its remote location. The rinks are all clearly visible, including the rink built in 1931-32. The concrete 'walls' used to demarcate the ice hockey field are still present, although mostly buried in the long grass. As well as the rinks, there are the remains of nine buildings,

including a house (with central heating), two toilet blocks and the remains of a refrigeration unit used for one season in 1948. One building (known as the White Hut) remains habitable. Plantings, in the form of poplars, survive and the original pattern of the planting can still be discerned. Much of the line of the water race that supplied the Pelton wheel is still intact, and the track up a scree slope to maintain the race can still be followed. The embankments of the first rink remain intact, as do the two water races that filled it. The means of filling the later rinks appears to have been a reservoir and water race system.

Katharine Watson

West Coast

Katharine Watson has carried out an archaeological survey of the Sandcap mine at Stockton. This was an underground coal mine that operated in 1919-20. The remains consist of several portals and the remnants of two systems for transporting the coal. The first of these was an above-ground tramway, powered by a winch and the second, later system was an underground tramway that would have connected with the electric loco line.

Katharine has also carried out archaeological surveys of nineteenth century gold mining at Waimea and, with Tiffany James-Lee, of mid-late twentieth century coal mining at Reefton.

Katharine Watson

Dunedin

Amongst other field work, Angela Middleton has recently surveyed an early wool scour, recorded as a sheep dip (site G40/66), that was associated with the first fifteen years (from about 1858 to 1873) of operation of the extensive Morvern Hills Station in the Lindis Pass. The site has a complex of features including the ruins of stone huts, a water race and two stone-lined “dips”. One of these was a large rectangular depression approximately 22 m x 10 m. Historical research suggests that the practice in the early days of the run was to wash the wool while still on the sheep’s back prior to shearing, with great flocks mustered off the surrounding hills and put through the dip. A small creek that runs through the gully, Dip Creek, is named for this practice. It appears that the wool scour was used until the construction of the second Morvern Hills shearing shed, built in about 1873 some kilometres south of Dip Creek and now registered as a Category I Historic Place. The later, more usual practice was to wash the wool after shearing.

Shar Briden, TSO at the Department of Conservation Otago Conservancy writes that two tenure review field inspections were conducted over the

past three months, with historic resources reports completed for Mt Alexander station and Emerald Hills station. An archaeological assessment including survey work is near completion for Gabriels Gully (undertaken by a contractor, Matthew Sole) which will indicate some of the water supply systems that were in place. The upgrade of the Bannockburn sluicings interpretative loop track is under construction and drainage works have been carried out at the Naseby post office and the Bannockburn post office.

Tiffany James-Lee