



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

### Northland

Don Prince has started archaeological monitoring associated with building a new toilet block and upgrading of the visitor centre at Waitangi. So far nothing has been revealed in the monitoring of earthworks apart from spoil deposited in 1980 during the construction of the visitors' centre. However, there is still some trenching for electrics, stormwater and sewerage that may encounter some archaeological evidence of past events on this site.

Leigh Johnson and Elisabeth Callaghan have been monitoring earthworks associated with building a new foot bridge over the Kerikeri River just upstream of the Stone Store and Kerikeri Mission Station. There is the potential on this site to gain a greater understanding of Maori and early European settlement, however, so far nothing notable has been found.

The road and pavement improvements at Kohukohu have started and Elisabeth and Leigh are monitoring the earthworks. The area of the road and pavements is reclaimed land that is essentially kauri saw dust and fill from the heyday of the industrial phase of the kauri industry in the Hokianga during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is evidence of marine structures and historical artefacts dating from this period.

Hans Bader has been involved with geophysical work on an early European farming site at Waimate and has indentified a road and farm buildings.

John Coster and Gabrielle Johnston lead a party on a reconnaissance visit to the Houhora rock art sites. These art works are carved in the soft sandstone in water worn caves and date from prehistoric and historic times. The art works include manaia figures and later inscriptions carved by gumdiggers. Rock art in Northland is extremely rare so it was a privilege to see these artworks.

*Bill Edwards*

### Auckland

The Auckland Archaeological Society met for the second time in 2009 on 3 June to hear Richard Walter speak. His well-attended talk was about The First Hundred Years project, a new investigation of what was once more commonly referred to as the 'Archaic Phase' of New Zealand prehistory. Plans to attend this year's NZAA conference in Wellington were arranged, which

the entire ArchSoc executive committee and many members attended. Vice President Ella Ussher was awarded the student paper prize for her presentation on starch grain analysis.

There was no meeting in July. A group of ArchSoc members, in conjunction with the university and the Auckland Regional Council, spent a day surveying a site in South Auckland. The executive committee proposes that future archaeological work at this site be conducted with the help of ArchSoc volunteers.

The August meeting was an archaeological themed quiz night. Questions about various and sundry topics with an archaeological theme were enthusiastically answered by five teams. The winners, and recipients of the Golden Trowel Award, were “Team B” which included Greg Gedson, Bea Hudson, Josh Emmitt, Arden Cruickshank and Andrew Shaw.

*Jen Huebert*

CFG Heritage has been monitoring works and undertaking a small scale excavation related to the restoration of the house at Monte Cecilia in Hillsborough, Auckland. Monte Cecilia is a 12.3 hectare premier park and is what remains of the farm known as Pah Farm, which dates back to 1846. The park incorporates a large residence formerly known as The Pah. This large, Italianate mansion was built by James Williamson in 1879. It is seated on the location of an earlier Maori pa site named Whataroa, said to have been strongly fortified and occupied by a hapu of the Wai-o-hua. The Pah was not the first European house to be built here – a smaller house, the farmstead of William Hart, existed here first from about 1846. Hart’s house was demolished by Williamson to make way for construction of the mansion. Newspaper accounts of the construction of The Pah in 1877 reported that the hill was the site of previous fortifications and that the foundations of the house had to be modified and made deeper owing to the presence of previous Maori excavations. Bones were also encountered during the digging of these foundations and Maori artefacts were later reported to have been found during levelling undertaken in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After Williamson’s death in 1888 the property was taken over by the Bank of New Zealand and subdivided and leased until the main block was bought in 1913 by the Order of the Sisters of Mercy and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, when it was re-named Monte Cecilia. In 2000 it was purchased by the Auckland City Council and restoration work is now underway. Council have declared their intention to continue buying more land, expanding and developing the park over the coming decade.

Works being monitored at this stage include small excavations under the house for the installation of air conditioning equipment and the base of a

lift shaft. These are being monitored with a view to recording evidence of the history of the current house, the previous farmstead (Hart's house), or the pa sit itself.

Small trenches and test pits have also been dug as archaeological investigations to determine the original materials and extent of the carriageway leading to the house and the footpaths around the grounds.

*Beatrice Hudson*

## **Central North Island**

This report covers the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions, as well as bits of Taupo district.

On the Waikato west coast, between Port Waikato and Raglan, Clough & Associates report that the archaeological survey on the Waikato wind farm project has to date resulted in recording over 70 new sites and updating 70 previously recorded sites. Additional survey work is now being carried out for the final design layout to ensure that the effects of the wind farm on archaeological remains are minimised and that the larger and more complex sites are avoided. This work has been carried out in conjunction with Ngati Tahinga and will result in creation of a GIS database recording both archaeological and traditional information. From traditional knowledge and early maps, Ngati Tahinga have been able to reconstruct the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and probably earlier) settlement pattern, associating land blocks and specific hapu.

If the project gains resource consent, some archaeological sites will be affected, but the Historic Places Trust, iwi and the consulting archaeologists see this as an opportunity to provide greater understanding of the historic heritage landscape along this section of the Waikato Coast.

Also in the Waikato, Simmons and Associates recently completed several projects in Hamilton East – a history of Grey and Clyde Streets (Simmons and Tanaka 2009) and an archaeological excavation report on Hamilton East Redoubt (Simmons 2009). Hamilton East is an area rich in Maori and European history and archaeology. At the intersection of Grey and Clyde Street were the Waikato Hotel, the first Catholic and Protestant churches, LeQuesne's Store (one of the first shops), the Sisters of Notre Dame Convent and the Borough Council offices. Prior to European incursion, Maori land use included cultivations surrounding Tara-ahi pa.

Hamilton East redoubt was built in 1864 on or near Tara-ahi pa and was occupied by a military force until about 1878. Initial testing by Simmons and Associates on the site of the new Deloitte building proved fruitless but mechanical excavation resulted in the exposure of the redoubt ditch. Hand and mechanical excavations followed, revealing the south ditch, southeast bastion,

and part of the east trench. The remaining trenches had been destroyed by street construction beginning in 1878. Approximately 90 artefacts were recovered from the ditch and 115 artefacts that related to the domestic use of the site from the early 1900s onward.

In Taupo, Simmons and Associates have been involved in excavations associated with the Council's Eastern Taupo Arterial Road and are currently preparing a report on this work. In July Alexy Simmons ran a second hapu monitor workshop for iwi monitoring the works. Monitors trained earlier in the year assisted with an excavation and are helping to orientate the new trainees. Training Maori monitors is a satisfying exercise which helps raise the level of historical awareness within the community.

In the Bay of Plenty, the Historic Places Trust issued 15 authorities between May and July for areas throughout the Bay, including Ohope, Tauranga, Katikati, Athenree and Matakana Island.

NZHPT's "First Footsteps" booklet about the archaeology of the Papamoia dune plain, produced with Warren Gumbley and funding from Environment Bay of Plenty's Environmental Enhancement Fund, is pitched at the general public to explain why archaeology is important and to let people know what has been discovered in their local area. Copies are free – email Rachel Darmody [rdarmody@historic.org.nz](mailto:rdarmody@historic.org.nz).

At Tauranga, InSitu Heritage Ltd has completed archaeological monitoring of repair work on the summit of Mauao (Mount Maunganui). The first stage involved infilling of informal tracks through a series of terraces on the summit, capping the exposed archaeological material, and covering the infilled area with a new grass turf layer. Similar work was also completed in severely eroded areas around the summit trig, seating, and the World War I Memorial. A hardened track surface, consisting of compacted metal, was laid on the summit over the top of the infilled erosion surface in walking areas. Further stages of the erosion repair work on the summit will be carried out in 2010 and 2011.

InSitu has also completed a conservation plan for archaeological sites at Welcome Bay, focussing on the conservation of Kowhararahi Pa (U14/205) and associated terrace features within the context of a planned subdivision of the property. The conservation plan was funded by a grant from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund.

Ray Hooker has been busy with rural subdivisions in the Western Bay of Plenty (due to changes in the district plan) and forestry related field work

around Taneatua, revisiting sites recorded by Kevin Jones in the early 1980s and in one case looking at a pa recorded in 1978 and not visited since.

John Coster continues the odd bit of monitoring work in iwi-owned exotic forests east of Opotiki and carries on with the Upgrade Project in the Waikato Region.

A near-fatal rockfall on the Rotorua-Tauranga Road, mentioned in the papers in August, resulted from road-widening work in the Mangorewa and Ohaupara gorges. It is not known whether the two historic bridge abutments (U15/717, 718) recorded there survived, but Rotorua District's website notes that the project site "has historic World War II fortifications nearby and...was also the original water stop for the Rotorua/Tauranga stage coach, with an original trough still remaining." In keeping with longstanding New Zealand heritage practice, some of these features have been removed and will be relocated with appropriate interpretation at a new rest area.

Reorganisation of the Department of Conservation sees a new East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancy created, stretching from Paeroa to Gisborne. Neville Ritchie (DOC's Waikato Conservancy archaeologist) and Pam Bain (Gisborne) provide historic heritage management advice to the new conservancy. John Coster continues to represent heritage interests on the ECBoP Conservation Board.

*John Coster*

## **Wellington**

Kevin Jones has completed a report on co-management of the Whirinaki Conservation Park and attended the signing of the Ngati Whare Agreement in Principle signing at Murumurunga Marae. The agreement may be found on the website of the Office of Treaty Settlements. He has also started the first of a series of winter aerial photo runs in the Bay of Plenty, Whakatane, Ngati Awa Block, Ohiwa, former Tuck property (Ohiwa headland), Moutohora, Rurima Rocks, Maketu, Papamoa plains and hills, north edge Lake Rotorua, former Rotorua bath house, Whakarewarewa thermal area, Te Wairoa Buried Village, Lake Tarawera and Mount Tarawera. Future runs are planned in Wanganui district, Hawkes Bay and the Canterbury high country.

Bruce McFadgen reports that he spent 10 days at Greville Harbour on D'Urville Island in late July, with a team of nine tsunami hunters from University of New South Wales, Sydney, Victoria University, and NIWA. A lot

of data was gathered and many holes bored in the wetland, with samples and measurements taken from peat, tree stumps, water, etc.

Bruce has completed the report on the old Te Aro Railway Station and sea wall, and, with Rod Clough, the report on Chews Lane.

Mary O’Keeffe is working on an infrastructure project in Wairarapa, and is formulating “heritage layers” for Wellington City Council’s future planning.

*Mary O’Keeffe*

## **Nelson – Marlborough – Golden Bay**

The Top of the South archaeologists have been finally shamed into writing an update of work in our region. If anybody else is working in the area please let Amanda Young know and she will add you to our update in the future.

Reg Nichol is trying to catch up on report writing. Steve Bagley is frantically busy with the conservation estate.

Deb Foster has undertaken an assessment of effects of establishing a tramway to take visitors along an old haulage route into the Banbury Mine, the first coal mine to operate on the Denniston plateau. The mine is unusual in that it remains accessible: the main tunnel was maintained as a haulage route until it was replaced by a surface route in 1904. The mine contains many pre-1900 relics and the mine drives are highly visible, making it a fascinating opportunity for visitors to gain insight into the miner’s lot. The introduction of a tramway into the environment requires modifications to the tunnel that will have a significant impact on the historic fabric, so there are numerous issues to be overcome.

Deb has also been monitoring toilet block construction at Marfells Beach where holes were excavated for septic tank, holding tank, soak holes, and trenches – all of which cut through a compacted occupation layer which contained moa bone fish hook components lying beneath about 300 mm of pea gravel (report to come).

Deb has also investigated reported fish traps in the Wairau Lagoon area, revisited the “Motueka pa” site ahead of subdivision plans in the area, and undertaken work in relation to a vineyard expansion over an area of sand dunes at Riverlands near Blenheim. There is anecdotal evidence of prehistoric occupation, but little visible evidence. The landowners have been granted a Section 12 Authority to modify, and have indicated they are prepared to negotiate to set aside areas containing evidence of occupation.

Finally, Deb has been involved in monitoring on-going track construction on Motuara Island, Marlborough Sounds – the site of Cook’s 1770 visit in which he hoisted a flag and proclaimed sovereignty over Motuara and ‘adjacent

lands' on behalf of King George II; there are also numerous references in Cook's journals to Maori occupation of the island. The track has been routed to avoid known sites, but monitoring of likely areas of occupation is required.

Amanda Young has been doing a variety of historic and Maori assessments, investigations and research. These include investigating the 1860s Railway Hotel in Richmond. The building, which was surprisingly intact under later additions, was recorded with the help of Nelson Provincial Museum staff. Fun was had chopping holes in the floor boards and retrieving decades of empty bottles. Amanda also recorded the subsurface evidence including a gorgeous brick well. This was uncovered with great excitement by all but turned out to be a fizzer containing only mud and mutton bones.

Amanda is working with Nelson City Council on the Dun Mountain Railway, one of New Zealand's earliest railways. It was built in 1861 to access copper and chrome mines on the hills behind Nelson. The council is restoring the bench to create what is hoped to be one of the best one-day mountain bike rides/walks in the country, providing superb scenery and plenty of historic interest. There are a number of in-situ features along the railway including sleepers which need protection.

Amanda is also working with Nelson City Council on the Nelson inventory of historic sites. As part of a team of heritage experts she is upgrading the information held on scheduled historic sites in the district, and providing advice on what sites should be added to the schedule. Amanda is also involved in a separate but connected project on Maori archaeological sites with the similar aim of upgrading information held by the council and to propose any new sites for scheduling.

Tasman District Council is placing a new rising main across Rabbit and Bell Islands in the Waimea Estuary. After testing and assessing the route Amanda is about to start monitoring the trenching. Little damage to archaeological material is expected.

Amanda has on-going work monitoring the Ruby Bay By-pass in Tasman. This is a huge new by-pass going from Waimea Estuary through the Moutere Hills to Tasman. Most of the earthworks have been completed with, as expected, little archaeological evidence found. Monitoring concentrated on the two ends of the by-pass adjacent to estuaries. The iwi monitors and Amanda have located three hangi adjacent to the Waimea Estuary and a probable net weight/light anchor stone. At the Tasman end of the by-pass Amanda recorded a beautiful historic ford, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century bridge and uncovered a punt buried under flood debris.

On-going monitoring is also occurring of Nelson Forests's harvest operations on the north bank of the Wairau in Marlborough. The area is full of 19<sup>th</sup>



and 20<sup>th</sup> century goldmining sites. Nelson Forests have a general policy of preserving sites which is very helpful. Amanda is involved in forestry operations at Parapara, Golden Bay where trees are being harvested off a peninsula containing Maori occupation as well as 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century goldmining evidence.

*Amanda Young*

## **West Coast**

In the first week of June, Gary James (Friends of the Hill) and Tiffany James-Lee carried out a survey of the main residential areas of the Denniston township, focusing on the Bridle Path/Brakehead, the Plateau and the Camp. Gary's in depth knowledge of features lost in the dense broadleaf and gorse colonising the township proved invaluable. The main features identified consisted of old coal ranges and open fireplaces, but other remains such as concrete steps, concrete and pumice coppers, picket fences, tin bathtubs and outhouses were also recorded. Unexpectedly, sites relating to at least 60 former miners' huts and houses were identified. The survey is mainly concerned with sites located on private land. Due to the complications caused by dense gorse, scrub, a modern bulldozed road, contradictory LINZ records and the lack of definition of much of the original surveyed streets, working out exactly which sites are on private land is easier said than done. All remains identified have therefore been recorded with GPS co-ordinates. A report is being drafted for NZHPT and will be submitted for community comment.

As a follow-up to last year's Golden Lead battery reconstruction, Jim Staton and Les Wright found a cable and several buckets of the c.1890 Golden Lead (ex Lone Star) aerial tramway, and cleared tree growth from around the loading area so that remains of the holding bin can be better photographed and recorded.

Les also went looking for part of one of the West Coast's most famous 19<sup>th</sup> century water races, the Erin-go-Bragh ('Ireland Forever') near Greenstone, and was glad to find it in as good condition as when last seen more than 20 years ago and outside the present proposed mining area.

Katharine Watson has recorded a number of railway bridges on the West Coast, on the Midland, Stillwater and Hokitika lines, as well as a tunnel on the Midland line. These features are being replaced due to safety concerns.

Katharine has also recorded the remains of the Stockton incline. This incline was built in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and was actually two inclines, with one tunnel on the upper incline. Coal tubs were hauled down the last part of the terrace face from the mine to Ngakawau by a winch. While some sections of the incline are in excellent condition, the upper 600 m has been

disturbed by recent activity and the mouth of the lower tunnel was blasted some years ago. Most of the features at incline interchange have also been destroyed since the incline was last recorded (in the early 1980s).

*Katharine Watson*

## Canterbury

The extension to the store rooms at Akaroa Museum unexpectedly disturbed the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century house on the site. These remains included a fireplace, cobbling at the back entrance and a well. The design of the building has been altered to leave the well in situ. Colleen Stuart carried out the monitoring and investigation and recovered a range of historic artefacts from a rubbish pit or two.

Witter Archaeology is doing a combination of small jobs and preparing detailed budgets for the Pegasus write-up.

*Katharine Watson*

## Otago

Reg Nichol and Les Wright searched in snow at Macraes Flat to re-find and assess 19<sup>th</sup> century quartz mining features noted by Peter Petchey in the early 1990s. These were mostly just shallow prospect trenching, some of which may be covered by a proposed tailings facility.

Angela Middleton recently visited Butler's Farm, at Fruitlands in Central Otago, in the process of carrying out an archaeological assessment. Fruitlands was once a gold mining area known as Bald Hill Flat, where a number of small pastoral sections were subdivided off the original large Teviot station in 1869. Butler's Farm consists of a series of farm buildings (barn, stables, cart shed, cow byre and dairy) and a two-storied homestead, all built of local stone in about 1873, now listed as a Category I Historic Place. The house was probably abandoned in the 1950s, falling into disrepair. Following their sale to a new owner, the buildings are now being restored with a view to adaptive reuse in the future. Potentially interesting features include the floors of some of the outbuildings, a cellar, well, and a stone feature marking the site of another possible structure.

Shar Briden of DOC Otago reports that James Knapp, (DOC Ranger, Project Management, Coastal Area Office), has plotted some of the features related to the quartz reefs at Nenthorn as a safety hazard exercise. This is to highlight the location of some of the historic features such as adits and pits that present a challenge to staff working in the Conservation Area of the town of Nenthorn and Deighton Creek. This information and GIS Mapping has been

passed to New Zealand Archaeological Association to upgrade site records for the Nenthorn area.

*Tiffany James -Lee*

## **Southland**

In October last year the Department of Conservation organised a trip to Port Pegasus, Stewart Island, with Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project partners. The partners are Environment Southland, Historic Places Trust, NZAA, and Southland Kaitiaki Runaka. This is the second trip to Port Pegasus to advance the upgrade of site records, to look for new sites, and to do some reconnaissance for extending the SCHIP project to the island. Visits to all previously recorded sites in Port Pegasus have now been completed, and a significant amount of searching for new sites also done. The research work that Amy Findlater did during her time working on contract for DOC proved very helpful in identifying places to look for new sites, and a number of sites were recorded as a consequence. Fulfilling the recommendations in the SCHIP final report for the Southland coast are a priority for the partners, and more work needs to be done on research and in planning to extend the project to Stewart Island.

In October last year Peter Petchey undertook archaeological monitoring of work to protect a pre-historic site at Lee Bay on Stewart Island. The site was damaged when a boat ramp was repaired, cutting through an oven and midden. The decision was made to cover the site to prevent accelerated natural erosion, and some further earth works were required. Peter recorded the site during the work, and a final report will be received soon, following the analysis of radiocarbon dates.

In December a visit was made to Hakapureirei (Sand Hill Point Historic Reserve) by Chris Jacomb of SPAR, Karen Grieg of InSitu, Rachael Egerton and Keri Tuna from Department of Conservation, and Oraka-Aparima Runaka representatives Stewart Bull and Phil Fluerty. The visit was undertaken to complete site monitoring work, and also to familiarise Karen with the site to enable her and Lynda Walter to prepare a conservation plan for it. The conservation plan will provide a management direction for the site, bringing together the knowledge gained from research and field investigation completed by SPAR, geomorphologists Mike Hilton and Teresa Konlechner, and botanist Brian Rance. The draft conservation plan will be presented to the Southland Kaitiaki Roopu in August, and completed soon after.

It was exciting to have a Southland site as the focus of this year's University of Otago Anthropology Department field school in February. The students and staff braved the variable Southland weather to investigate Kahukura, which

was identified as a high priority site for salvage investigation in the Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project final report. Local tangata whenua, Department of Conservation Staff, and other interested locals visited the site to see the excavation, and keenly await results of the analysis and write up.

In March Peter Petchey visited Stewart Island to undertake a survey of the Maori Beach sawmill site with Rachael Egerton and other Department of Conservation staff. The sawmill was the last of the Stewart Island mills to close down. Remains of the mill site are visited by walkers on the Rakiura Track – Stewart Island's Great Walk. Re-routing and upgrading of the track will soon take visitors past two log haulers that were left at their last hauling site when the mill was abandoned in 1931. It is rare to find log haulers in their operating positions, and the Johnston and McAllister haulers represent the two leading manufacturing firms of log haulers in Southland. Interpretation for the Rakiura Track is currently being upgraded to coincide with opening the new access to the haulers, and will also include interpretation of the Port William Special Settlement site. The survey of both of these sites by Peter Petchey has contributed greatly to the interpretation.

The review of registration for the Waipapa Point lighthouse tower by Heather Bauchop from NZHPT in Dunedin has been concluded. The new category one registration incorporates the wider lighthouse settlement site, the wreck of the Tararua, and the Tararua Acre (the burial ground of the shipwreck victims). In June contractors began work on redeveloping visitor facilities at the site for Department of Conservation. Rachael Egerton provided training for the contractors on recognition of archaeological features and protocols for accidental discoveries, and undertook monitoring of ground disturbance in high-risk areas. There were no new archaeological discoveries. In October there will be an opening of the new facilities which include a new car park, toilet and interpretation shelter, and an interpretative walk around the site. A plaque acknowledging the Historic Place registration, donated by the Southland Branch Committee of the NZHPT, will be unveiled at the opening.

*Tiffany James-Lee*