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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional Development Cell

The latest workshop in the PDC series was held at Auckland Regional Council on 15 October, on the analysis and care of historic artefacts. We were very fortunate to have the expert services of Brigid Gallagher (formerly of Time Team and Cardiff University) who compressed what was normally for her a week-long course into one day.

Brigid was assisted by professional objects conservator Annette McK-one. Bev Parslow was to have talked about the NZ Historic Places Trust's authority requirements, but had at the last minute to attend an Environment Court hearing, so Caroline Phillips spoke to Bev's notes.

The workshop covered current legislation, the effect of burial on different artefacts (especially metal objects), analytical techniques and conservation treatment, long and short-term packaging, disposal protocols and other practical information. The discussions were far-ranging, and reminded the delegates that 19th century artefacts have a value and must be assessed for long-term protection and conservation alongside those of earlier periods. Conservation of metal objects as an aid to identification and analysis, rather than just to stabilise the end product for museums was an important message. We were also directed to a number of texts on the subject of first-aid for artefacts, as well as guidelines and ethics for conservation and packaging. Some of us had developed our own methods of conservation, which Brigid explained were not good for the long-term preservation of the object. She also discussed the reasons for not using other previously-used techniques and chemicals.

Hands-on practicals had those attending packaging up coins and other metal objects, and explaining the methods they used, which caused much hilarity at times, as well as watching objects seated on a cushion of acid-free tissue paper (Figure 1).

Brigid expressed her desire to see comparative collections of historic artefacts with reference books for future archaeology. She will be preparing a document with costs and places to obtain or hire equipment, such as portable x-ray units for on-the-spot analysis.

Professional Development Cell



Figure 1. Delegates attending the PDC workshop on the analysis and care of historic artefacts watching over buttons on cushions of acid-free paper – one of the hands-on practicals (photograph by Meri Low).

Northland

Northern Archaeological Research (NAR) has been undertaking initial assessments for a wind farm project on the Pouto Peninsula and the upgrading of the 110 kVA line between Kaikohe and Waipapa. Monitoring work has included the Kerikeri River footbridge, the Pompallier hillside project and Clendon cottage drainage works. In addition NAR has been monitoring several smaller residential developments in the Bay of Islands and at Mangawhai.

Clough and Associates have written an archaeological assessment of some Northland streams where the Northland Regional Council (NRC) are undertaking remedial work to alleviate impounding of stagnant waters and reduce the risk of flooding. The report has a number of recommendations that will guide the NRC in its work to avoid damaging archaeological sites.

Hans-Dieter Bader and Andrew Blanshard have been doing geophysical surveys of a number of archaeological sites on the Department of Conservation (DOC) estate in the Bay of Islands. They include Kororipo pa, Marsden Cross

and Okiato. A number of features have been identified including the extent of the kainga at Kororipo, the extent of the archaeological site at Marsden Cross and the location of the palisade that surrounded Clendon's trading post and the first government house at Okiato. This survey will guide DOC in the long term management of these sites.

The high site density and continuing development along Northland's coastlines is keeping Jono Carpenter busy, as is his continuing association with DOC, for which he has undertaken projects for recreational developments and timber harvests.

Bill Edwards

Auckland

Dan and Russell of Geometria are starting on a review for the North Shore City Council, as well as undertaking geophysical surveys for various projects. The slow down in excavation work has enabled several outstanding projects to be written up, including the mammoth Pohokura/Waipapa excavation undertaken for the billion dollar Pohokura Production Station site at Motonui. Geometria are developing mitigation for the proposed redevelopment of the Masonic Tavern in Devonport, along with conservation architects Archifact. They are also working with Ian Lawlor and Manukau City Council/Makaurau Marae on the proposed new visitors centre for the Otuataua Stonefields Historic Reserve.

The Auckland Archaeological Society met on 16 September to host a presentation from Raysan Al-Kubaisi and Brigid Gallagher of the popular British television programme 'Time Team'. The pair discussed how the public understanding of archaeology in Britain has undergone a revolution over the past decade, and why the programme has been so successful. A receptive audience followed up with discussion on the spread of the recent debut of 'Time Team America', and the potential this format may have for World Heritage archaeology.

The final meeting for the year was held on 7 October. Archaeologist Simon Bickler gave a presentation entitled "Putting the Archaeology Back in Radiocarbon Dating". He reviewed the principles of radiocarbon calibration, using examples from Pacific archaeological sites including those on Rapa Nui. Simon then demonstrated how radiocarbon dates can be used to create and test archaeological models.

Jen Huebert

Central North Island

Things seem to have been a bit slow in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato over the winter. Phil Moore is reputed to be doing some work on the historic Stewart homestead at Athenree and John Coster has just completed a survey of a 60 hectare property at Kaitemako, near Tauranga, which increased the number of recorded sites on it from six to eighteen.

One recent heritage high point in Tauranga was the two public open days held at the new Otumoetai Pa Historic Reserve, managed by Tauranga City Council. Accompanying these was the launch of a 30-page booklet *Otumoetai Pa Historic Reserve: Archaeological Findings from Tauranga's Historic Capital* which is an exquisite little gem, liberally illustrated with contemporary and historic material. All 1000 copies have been snapped up by local schools and at the open days. The booklet, initiated by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) in Tauranga, under the guidance of Rachel Darmody, was a joint effort, also involving Tauranga City, Alistair Matheson (the reserve's former owner), Te Runanga O Ngai Te Rangi Iwi Trust and Te Runanga O Ngai Tamarawaho. It may be reprinted if funding becomes available.

We are happy to learn that the historic Mangorewa and Ohaupara bridge abutments on the Rotorua-Tauranga Road have survived the rockfall mentioned in the last issue of *Archaeology in New Zealand* and are safely buried below a new culvert, as intended. More will be reported on these fascinating structures in the near future.

InSitu Heritage Ltd has been working on projects in Northland and Southland, as well as the Bay of Plenty. Their recent work in the Bay has focused on projects for the Regional Council (Environment Bay of Plenty). These have included supervision of tree planting in the Papamoa Hills Regional Park, advice on the development of the Onekawa Regional Park at Ohiwa and providing some refresher archaeological site management training for Environment Bay of Plenty Land Resources staff. An archaeological site management training course was also run, in conjunction with Te Runanga o Ngati Awa, for logging crews engaged by Matariki Forests Ltd.

Karen Greig and Lynda Walter spent a couple of cold but very beautiful late winter days at Lake Waikaremoana carrying out fieldwork for a conservation plan for the Onepoto Redoubt complex. The visit included an inspection by Andrew Thorn (Artcare Ltd, Melbourne) of engravings on a rock overhang at Onepoto. They consist mainly of names and dates, including those of many of the people who spent time at Onepoto between 1869 and 1888. One was James Carroll, later one of the first Maori members of parliament. A draft conserva-

tion plan has been prepared for the redoubt complex and it is currently being reviewed by Tuhoe and Ruapani representatives.

Alexy Simmons has been involved with heritage planning work (primarily buildings) for Waipa district. She is moving to Dunedin for the summer, but will be back in the Waikato before long.

Clough Associates report that archaeological work is progressing on the proposed Contact Energy Haururu Ma Raki Windfarm located between Port Waikato and Raglan. Work on the layout and engineering details of the project is being carried out in conjunction with refining the archaeological mapping. This has involved mapping site extents using a combination of 3D digital imagery and field checks with accurate GPS survey. The 3D imagery is based on high resolution aerial photography (a blend of high resolution grey scale for accuracy with colours provided by lower resolution colour photography). The high resolution and a 2.5 times vertical exaggeration enabled very clear identification and mapping of extents on screen. This process makes it possible to measure the depth of pits or ditches and the heights of banks or terracing. Mapping enables engineers to determine the best way to design turbine sites and related infrastructure to minimise the extent of impact on archaeological sites. Des Kahotea is also undertaking assessment work on this proposal for Maori interests.

John Coster

New Plymouth

Dan and Russell of Geometria have been busy re-recording sites for the New Plymouth District Council.

Wellington

The Wellington archaeologists have formed an informal group – WAG – which meets occasionally for coffee and a gossip, or to talk about topics of mutual interest, fuelled by pizza. WAG met in September to informally outline results from recent consulting jobs, what was learnt from the results in terms of our understanding of history/prehistory, what research issues the results highlight, and what information future consulting jobs or research proposals could be designed to obtain. As I write this WAG plans to meet in mid November, to compare sources on historic archaeological sources for Wellington, and tips and traps for using and interpreting the data.

Kevin Jones has been keeping his flying hand in with aerial surveys of Kaikoura, the Clarence River and Molesworth on 1 November; highlights were Fyffe House, the abandoned Langridge Station and St James Station. On

2 November he flew in a late model Auster (c. 1960?) up the Rakaia River, across the Ashburton lakes and down the Rangitata River. Highlights were the Deans's homestead, Coleridge hydro station, general scenics, Lake Heron and Mesopotamia Station. Kevin has completed some assessments at Waikekeno and is working on the Mahia Beach waste water scheme where a number of new sites have been recorded.

Bruce McFadgen reports he spent a week at Kaikoura in late August, with a PhD student from University of Canterbury on a tsunami search. The weather was kind, and lots of data was gathered. Bruce is now a Research Associate of the School of Maori Studies at Victoria University of Wellington.

Mary O'Keefe has been monitoring construction work at the Karori sanctuary, across the historic lower dam; investigating a brick lined soak pit in the central city; assessing the impact of track upgrade work for DOC at the Waikanae river estuary; and keeping an eye on work at Government House in Newtown.

Mary O'Keefe

Nelson – Golden Bay

Deb Foster has been monitoring the demolition of the pre-1900 cottage at Dovedale. There was a dump of domestic-related goodies beneath the lean-to part of the house dating from 1930s to 1960s. The report is to come. Recent fieldwork at the Riverlands sand dunes on site of vineyard development revealed plenty of evidence of occupation in numerous ovens and fire scoops. There was a single small shell midden deposit. Trenching revealed possible pit features. It was interesting because there was a complete lack of artefacts, fish or mammal bone, and minimal shell midden. Ovenstones may have been brought to the site from the Wairau Bar. Agreement was reached with the landowners to preserve part of the dunes from development. Again the report is to come. The Motuara track monitoring is on-going. There is evidence of occupation but mainly in re-deposited slump material.

Amanda Young is still wading through a backlog of historic analysis from the Railway Hotel; working on the Nelson Inventory project; and doing on-going monitoring of the Dun Mountain Railway, gold mines in Marlborough, and the Ruby Bay by-pass. She has also carried out an assessment at Torrent Bay in Tasman Bay. Innumerable test pits over a tiny section failed to find any evidence of a Maori village noted by D'Urville.

Both Amanda and Reg Nichol have been involved in a subdivision at Marahau, the gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park. The subdivision is on the edge of a major Maori pre-European and historic period settlement (N26/40). Amanda has had long involvement with the project as the project

archaeologist; assessing the development, carrying out a section 18 investigation and working with Hans-Dieter Bader on a geophysical survey of the area. Reg was appointed by the iwi as the result of Environment Court mediation. An interesting situation. All earthworks were monitored by archaeologists and iwi monitors with little archaeological information resulting. A large amount of time, effort and resources had been put into designing an access way to preserve as much as possible of a large and dense area of midden. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, when a narrow strip of the midden was investigated recent rubbish was found throughout. This modification did not show in test trenches, test pitting and geophysical survey. However, some lovely adzes were recovered and a possible pit area was recorded. This appeared to be two pits cut into each other and backfilled with shell.

Amanda Young

Marlborough

Reg Nichol has recently carried out small site surveys in connection with proposed subdivisions at Waitaria Bay on Kenepuru Sound and Hakahaka Bay on Port Underwood. Both had alarming aspects. At the former there was yet further confirmation of the devastating effects pigs are having on archaeological sites in the Sounds. At the latter a marker was pointed out to Reg showing that the coast in part of the Bay has retreated about 2 m in 15 years.

More positively, other survey work by Reg has produced evidence of “prospecting” for chert, at an elevation of about 230 m on the limestone ridge south of Cape Campbell, and part of a wooden tramway for loading coal (probably during the 1880s), almost buried in the sand on the beach at Shakespeare Bay.

Reg also had an opportunity to revisit two alleged “not sites” at Admiralty Bay, where he found unmistakable archaeological material exposed in section at the ends of the new access roads to the two proposed building sites. Debris from one of the roads is also spilling onto, and will eventually obscure, what Reg will, for the moment, continue to describe as the clearest terrace he has seen anywhere in the Sounds. Reg’s best news relates to a survey he carried out in Ocean Bay in Port Underwood. The work identified a series of sites, including a garden line probably from the Archaic period, traces of the second (missing) whaling station, large depressions corresponding to house sites shown in an 1844 painting, and ploughing probably from about 1855. He is delighted to be able to report that the survey contributed in a small way (landscape issues did the “heavy lifting”) to a successful appeal to the Environment Court. This decision overturned a

resource consent previously issued for a new subdivision in the Bay that would have severely impacted on most of those sites and on other features.

Michael Trotter recently appeared as an expert witness in a Blenheim Environment Court hearing in which part of the case was about whether there were or were not archaeological sites on certain properties where people might want to build in Port Underwood. Michael said there were not – a colleague said there were. Apart from the question of what exactly constitutes an archaeological site, it is things like this that make life interesting.

And further south at Woodside, in the vicinity of Wharanui, Michael is currently looking at about 150 hectares of coastal railway land that once formed part of the historic Flaxbourne run. Some early Maori sites were noted here by Wayne Orchison in 1971, who later described the general area as “One of the most interesting yet archaeologically neglected stretches of coastline in the South Island of New Zealand.” Grid references for sites recorded here in the 1990s have errors of up to 200 metres and in one case over 500 metres. There are also other features visible on Google Earth, probably dating to the early twentieth century, that need investigation.

Reg Nichol

West Coast

Reg Nichol and Les Wright completed the annual return of artefacts from the Globe pit required by DOC and NZHPT. A great amount of the artefacts came from the bi-cable aerial foundation excavation that was covered in a previous report. The best recent find there was a spool of the unusual flat braided winding rope used in the Progress or B shaft. Les was hoping to find some decent remnants as they were quite rare - he was lucky enough to find 4-500 metres of the rope. Les is presently eagerly waiting for Oceana Gold to excavate the bottom of the collapse area in the shaft where there could be some interesting relics, maybe even bits of a Babcock and Wilcox water tube boiler.

Les went out with Grey Mawheranui Area DOC staff to find and follow the original pack track from the Little Grey/Mawheraiti into the Inangahua Valley, built at great expense during the gold rush in 1866. After the rise of Reefton in the early 1870s the track was abandoned in favour of the present highway route via Slab Hut Creek, so large parts of it remain in fair order, with some impressive cuttings. These cuttings were pretty narrow with not much room for saddle bags, let along the gin cases that were often used (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Jim Staton (DOC) stands in a cutting on the pack track from the Little Grey/Mawheraiti to the Inangahua Valley.

Katharine Watson and a team of archaeologists spent 10 days excavating the Mine Creek settlement site at Stockton in surprisingly good weather in September. The Mine Creek settlement was occupied from the late 1890s until the 1930s and was located within the heart of the Westport Coal Company's Millerton mine. The visible remains of the settlement include the fan house, boiler house and compressor sheds, as well as various other industrial and domestic buildings. Vegetation clearance of the site that took place during the excavation revealed further building sites as well as a network of tracks and rail lines that linked different components of the site. Initial excavation focused on one of the house sites, the fan house, boiler house and compressor shed. Numerous machine foundations were found within the compressor shed and fan house, and one of the boiler chambers was excavated. Few domestic artefacts have been recovered from the site but, unsurprisingly, there have been

numerous industrial artefacts. A team of archaeologists will be returning to the site in December for a further week of excavation.

Katharine has also assessed a number of rail bridges on the West Coast that Ontrack are proposing to remove and undertaken some monitoring work at the Brunner mine site.

Katharine Watson

Canterbury

In Kaikoura the construction of kerbing and associated channelling along much of the main street had the potential to reveal archaeological remains as a number of sites have been found on the opposite side of the road. The work was monitored by Michael Trotter, and in the event only two sites were uncovered. Out on Kaikoura Peninsula the Hutton's Shearwater Trust wanted to erect a predator-proof fence around a new nesting area to help protect this unique species. Because of the number of archaeological sites nearby, this required a detailed assessment of the area. While no significant discoveries were made, Michael took the opportunity to tidy up records of sites in the area.

Just south of Kaikoura the 138-hectare subdivision of Ocean Ridge has had a somewhat chequered archaeological history. A number of archaeologists have been involved in the subdivision, and Michael is currently attempting to correlate their notes and observations, in order to locate archaeological features on the ground, record them, and prepare a final report.

In North Canterbury a human skull unearthed during the construction of a sewer treatment pond showed signs that it had been in contact with other parts of the skeleton. Finding the remainder in a large area of much-disturbed sand dune took some time. An interesting feature of the burial was that large pieces of (possibly worked) pitch had been included as burial goods. Michael has a vague recollection of pitch being found on another site somewhere in the South Island, but has not been able to track it down.

Katharine Watson has recently undertaken a survey of the Mt Nimrod Pastoral Lease for DOC. A number of archaeological sites were recorded on the property, including the remains of an 1870s bridle track, constructed for Edward Elworthy to provide access to the country behind Mt Nimrod. The original Mt Nimrod homestead (built in the mid-1890s) was demolished after World War II and the new homestead built on the same site. While no evidence of the building remained, there was evidence of the garden, including a stone

structure, evidence of where trees had stood and a fence line, as well as the remains of the original loop driveway.

Katharine Watson

Otago/Southland

Currently, Guy Williams and Associates are undertaking a conservation plan for the Cargill Monument in the Exchange in Dunedin. The monument was built in the Octagon in 1864 in memory of Captain William Cargill, one of the founding fathers of Dunedin. It has had a pretty colourful history including being shifted to the Exchange in the 1870s, having a male public toilet installed underneath it in 1910, has survived numerous threats of demolition, and altogether has had a pretty hard life. The conservation plan, and a condition report written by Dunedin stonemason Marcus Wainwright will inform the Dunedin City Council in its repair and restoration.

Guy Williams and Associates have also completed a condition report and maintenance plan for Olveston, one of Dunedin's grand mansions, built for the Theomin family in the early 1900s; completed archaeological assessments for two separate proposals relating to Clark's Mill at Maheno; completed an archaeological assessment for Garrison Hall, Port Chalmers, which was built in 1887 to accommodate volunteer naval and artillery units; and a conservation plan for Deep Creek Hut, a NZHPT Category II mustering hut on the Mt Pisa Range near Cromwell. The original single gable hut was built c. 1891, and significant additions were made to the building between 1970 and 1990. The hut was part of the Mt Pisa Station and is now in DOC management after tenure review. The hut is alongside the Cromwell-Cardrona pack track, and it is hoped it will be opened to public use at some time in the future.

Tiffany James-Lee and Angela Middleton have been monitoring earthworks at the Takiroa rock art site in North Otago, where the New Zealand Transport Authority is developing a car park and safer access to the site for the public. Not surprisingly, there has been no evidence of any occupation so far in the rather windswept and exposed Waitaki valley plain; earlier investigation in the mid 1990s, however, had shown evidence of hangī, etc., within the rock shelter itself where the rock art is located. Monitoring is continuing with the development of a fence and landscaping in the environs of the car park, but much of this is likely to be drilled into limestone.

Tiffany James-Lee