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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional Development Cell

Due to a flood of expressions of interest when we announced the first Human Osteology workshop, the Professional Development Cell ran a second Human Osteology workshop at the University of Auckland on 20 November 2009.

The workshop was a great success due to Judith Littleton and her crew – Shirley and Kristen – who kept the participants busy and very interested. Thanks also to Vanessa Tanner (Auckland Regional Council) who organised printing the presentations. The feedback has been fantastic.

The large team of experts, headed by Judith Littleton of Biological Anthropology at the University of Auckland, included Bev Parslow (New Zealand Historic Places Trust), Bea Hudson (CFG Heritage Ltd), Chris Malloys (Opus International Consultants), and Dilys Johns and Judith Robins (Anthropology Department, University of Auckland).

The workshop covered legislation and best practice guidelines (check out the New Zealand Historic Places Trust website for Number 8 in the Archaeological Guidelines series); methods of identifying human remains in the field, especially how to distinguish human from animal bone; aging and sexing of human remains; excavation; recording and conservation methods in the field; and specialised analysis. A number of tests were set for the participants (Figure 1), and if they did not realise how difficult it was beforehand, they certainly did afterwards. The participants received a detailed workbook that will be much used in the field.

There are more workshops planned for the coming year, so keep your eyes on your emails.

A special thanks to everyone who help make these workshops such a success.

Professional Development Cell

Northland

Hans Bader (Archaeology Solutions Ltd), together with Andrew Blanshard and Melina Goddard (Department of Conservation), has carried out a geomagnetic survey of a variety of sites in the Bay of Islands recently. These

included completing the survey on Marsden Cross; establishing the most likely position of the first Government House in Okiato; a survey outside the defensive earthworks at Kororipo Pa in the Kerikeri Basin to establish the extent of damage that occurred in the 1970s; test surveys and exploring the extent of a midden site on the Du Fresne site on Moturua Island; and a test area on a habitation site on Motukawanui. Good results were achieved at all sites. A gardening site on Urupukapuka Island also shows promising results and it might be that we can explore Māori gardens in a more comprehensive way in the future. Not far from the Bay of Islands at the Mission station of Waimate North, Hans surveyed a small area, now in private hands, with the gradiometer.



Figure 1. Participants at the PDC Human Osteology workshop trying to complete one of the practical exercises.

Don Prince has been monitoring a trench for the installation of cables associated with lighting for the forecourt of the whare runanga at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. During the trenching no cultural material was observed but it

did give an indication of fill and levelling during the construction of the whare runanga in 1934.

Jonathan Carpenter, Maria Butcher and Shelagh Norton have been involved with excavations of a midden (Q07/82) at Smugglers Bay, Whangarei Heads. The midden is exposed to storm events and the decision was made to gather information from the midden before it was further damaged or disappeared. Radiocarbon dates from the midden will ascertain its age.

Dianne Harlow has sketched an unnamed pa (P04/396) near Takou Bay that was covered in thick gorse until recently. The gorse has been sprayed by the landowner and many of the features that were obscured have now been revealed to the archaeologist.

James Robinson has visited the Poor Knights Islands to recover pig bone to test the DNA. James is exploring trade networks between Māori and pākehā on the Poor Knights and wants to ascertain if the pigs came to the islands from Norfolk Island during the historic period.

Bill Edwards

Auckland

In December 2009 a member of the public reported finding a possible Māori waka exposed in a stream bank at Muriwai on Auckland's West Coast. The find was excavated under urgency just before Christmas by the Auckland Regional Council (ARC). It turned out to be a dugout kauri hull more than 7 m long, buried in stream sediments. Although in a damaged/incomplete condition, the waka is reasonably well preserved and is of particular interest because it appears to have been fitted with a mast. The waka is currently in a water tank and will be conserved at Muriwai under the supervision of Dilys Johns.

James Robinson, Rachael Ford and Matt Carter have been surveying the south Manukau coastline as part of the ARC's annual coastal survey programme. Numerous unrecorded sites are being found, particularly where coastal erosion is occurring. Survey of the southern part of Kawau Island is scheduled for February.

In March a small-scale investigation is planned at the 1830s Browne's spar station site in the Mahurangi. The aim of the investigation is to salvage information about deteriorating components of the site, including a probable house site, and foreshore timber structures. The project is being managed by Archaeological Solutions Ltd on behalf of ARC.

Hans Bader resigned as a Director of Geometria Ltd in the middle of 2009. Hans and Janice Adamson have established a new company called Archaeology Solutions Ltd (ASL; www.archaeologysolutions.co.nz; see also their Facebook page), complete with the geophysical equipment from Geometria.

ASL has hit the ground running and are still catching up, with projects taking place throughout the country. Of primary importance has been processing the artefacts and writing the final report for the large Carlaw Park excavation. Enquiries overseas have indicated that the Chinese material from this site represents one of the largest assemblages of complete vessels recovered from Chinese diaspora archaeological sites in the world. Work has also been continuing around the railway overbridge at the bottom of Stanley Street in Auckland.

Mat Campbell

Central North Island

No news of archaeological activity in the Waikato this summer. In the Bay of Plenty, Phil Moore has undertaken further excavations at the historic Stewart homestead at Athenree, where evidence of what is believed to have been the stables has been found. In Katikati, Phil has also discovered some unusual pits with interesting spatial arrangements on the site of a new retirement village development. Near Welcome Bay, John Coster and Des Kahotea have been assessing a forestry block for the Māori owners.

InSitu Heritage Ltd and Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (SPAR, University of Otago) have been engaged by Te Runanga o Ngati Awa to carry out research and heritage management work on Moutohora (Whale Island), offshore from Whakatane. In Situ are currently preparing a conservation plan for archaeological sites on the island while SPAR are preparing a detailed map of Raetihi pa and are developing a GIS archaeological layer for use by the runanga. The In Situ-SPAR team have just completed two weeks fieldwork on the island with Ngati Awa representative, Jade Baker. The first stage of the work is due for completion by the end of June 2010.

John Coster

Taranaki

A hapu occupation last year on a Taranaki site triggered an interesting discussion for Hans Bader at the New Plymouth District Council regarding the relationship between archaeological sites and wahi tapu.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd have been consulting to Puke Ariki, and working with Raysan Al-Kubaisi on the development of 3D models of Taranaki land war sites in preparation for an upcoming exhibition later this year entitled

“Legacy of the Land Wars”.

Wellington

Mary O’Keeffe and Victoria Grouden are working on Transmission Gully. Kiri Petersen has been working with Hans Bader on a fascinating site on the Kapiti Coast.

Christine has been undertaking assessment work around the Wairarapa. Most of the pre-European site work is related to property development on the Wairarapa coast, and within Wairarapa Moana. This work involves working closely with Rangitane o Wairarapa and Ngati Kahungunu iwi. Historic assessment work has been largely focused on the south Wairarapa, particularly in Greytown.

Kevin Jones has been working at 13 College Street, Wellington, on a lens of demolition debris of a house from about 1870. He has also monitored trenching on the waterfront which uncovered the harbour frontage of the foundations of the Custom House.

Mary O’Keeffe

Nelson–Golden Bay

Steve Bagley (Department of Conservation), Andy Dodd and Kathryn Hurren (New Zealand Historic Places Trust) are currently undertaking an historic assessment of the Boulder Bank along with local experts and iwi monitors. This is a joint Department of Conservation–New Zealand Historic Places Trust project. They are revisiting recorded sites and recording and assessing previously unrecorded historic sites such as the lighthouse, the associated settlement and the infamous historic baches. Haulashore and the Cut have been thoroughly examined and one new midden and a number of historic features have been recorded.

Amanda Young is still catching up on report writing as well as finishing the Nelson Inventory Project. This is a re-examination of the schedules on the Nelson Resource Management Plan. Ian Bowman, along with John Wilson and local historian Miriam Clark, are looking at buildings. Amanda is considering the historical archaeological sites. Amanda has recommended that a number of new industrial and historical archaeological sites should be listed, including the copper and chromite mines of the Nelson Mineral Belt and the Dun Mountain Railway. As part of her research Amanda is taking every opportunity possible to enter the old 19th century sewer/stormwater drains around the city.

Bruce McFadgen is about to undertake a review of the Māori sites on the Nelson Resource Management Plan as a joint project with iwi. This project

will also review the rules and protection for Māori sites of significance and archaeological sites.

Amanda is monitoring a lengthy project at Ruby Bay (almost at an end), another project at Marahau and two separate projects on the Dun Mountain Railway. Assessments have been carried out in inner city Nelson and at Admiralty Bay. Monitoring of a new pipeline across Rabbit, Bells and Bests Islands is about to commence.

Amanda Young

Marlborough

Deb Foster has continued monitoring track construction on Motuara Island. The track cut through slumped remains of occupational strata which contained occasional shell midden, charcoal and imported beach gravels. Exploration of the island located a new site comprising a pit, a stone row and stone working, as well as numerous natural terraces with evidence of rock clearance.

Reg Nichol has completed a site survey at White's Bay at the entrance to Port Underwood. Several features were located which may be remnants of the early traditional pa, Puketea. Reg has also continued to record individual sites in the Picton area, and he has been working with Gary Buchanan of Waikawa Bay on a survey of Cullen Point and the Mahakipawa Arm of Pelorus Sound. The interesting results there include a dwelling outline (marked with stones apparently 'borrowed' from a ballast heap), which is under water at high tide.

Reg Nichol

Canterbury

Nothing has happened with the Pegasus analysis yet, with no funds being provided by the developer. Dan and Alison Witter have been doing mostly small jobs in the meantime. They have also been working on an overdue authority on Kaitorete Spit, south of the Banks Peninsula.

Hans Bader (Archaeological Solutions Ltd) has conducted a geomagnetic survey on an urupa on Purau Bay in Lyttelton Harbour.

Ian Hill (Department of Conservation) and Katharine Watson have recently carried out a survey of a number of historic sites in the St James Conservation Area (until 2008, the St James station). These sites included two 1860s sod structures, a pack track over Saddle Spur in the upper Waiau River, Fowler's woolshed, Fowler's hut and the St James homestead site. These sites

are just some of the archaeological sites within the conservation area, all of which are connected with the pastoral history of the area.

Fowler's woolshed was probably built in the late 1860s or early 1870s and is reputed to have been destroyed by an avalanche, probably after 1892. The remains of the woolshed today comprise the post holes from the yards, drafting race and woolshed itself, as well as a small hut site and a track that connected the woolshed with the Fowler's Pass track (which led from the Clarence River to Fowler's homestead at Stanley Vale).

Fowler's hut was not used by Fowler, but was built for a rabbitier who patrolled the rabbit fence alongside the Clarence River. The St James homestead site consists of the remains of the homestead (it burnt down in 1947), the stables, woolshed and cookshop, as well as more modern buildings.

Katharine Watson

West Coast

The Department of Conservation are upgrading the visitor facilities at Denniston, installing new interpretation, toilets and car parking. In the course of excavations for the main car park (monitored by Katharine Watson), the remains of the Westport Coal Company's directors' house and garden were exposed. This house was used by the company's directors when they visited Denniston. The remains included the concrete floor of a verandah and the steps leading down to this, a garden path and a garden feature that consisted of asphalt and brick edging. A re-design of the proposed car park has meant that most of the house foundations were preserved (and will be visible), although it was not possible to retain the garden feature. Further work at Denniston is being undertaken by Lynda Walter and Karen Greig (InSitu Heritage Ltd), who are writing a conservation plan, and Jackie Breen (Department of Conservation), who is recording remains associated with the roperoad that have been exposed during recent work. It is hoped to be able to view some of these recently excavated sites at Denniston during the conference fieldtrip.

Katharine Watson and a team of archaeologists returned to Mine Creek, Stockton, in late February and again in early March. Excavation has focused on exposing the remains of the boiler and compressor sheds and fan house, as well as investigating a number of house sites. The examination of the house sites has revealed a range of construction techniques and varying degrees of investment by the house owners/occupiers. Of particular interest was a small brick patio uncovered in association with one of the house sites, which historic photographs indicated were small, basic structures. While few domestic arte-

facts have been recovered, a wealth of industrial artefacts have been recovered from the fan house and compressor shed.

Katharine Watson

Otago-Southland

Over the last three months Shar Briden (Department of Conservation) has completed tenure review historic surveys, with reports in progress for the Kelvin Grove pastoral lease (Rock and Pillar Range), the Glencoe pastoral lease (East Otago), the Deep Creek pastoral lease (Tarras), the Long Gully pastoral lease (Tarras), the Beaumont pastoral lease and the Obelisk pastoral lease.

The University of Otago field school is currently being run at the Lawrence Chinese camp and is being directed by Richard Walter and Chris Jacomb. This is the fourth season at Lawrence and this year the team have been targeting the areas behind the main street where early photos, and a geophysical survey by Hans Bader, show evidence of a number of small temporary structures. The team believe that this area may have been occupied intermittently by visitors from the goldfields who erected small, makeshift structures where they stayed for periods ranging from weeks to several months while they enjoyed the delights of the Chinese camp. The previous field seasons focused on the excavation of private residences, stores, ritual structures and public spaces (roads, drainage systems, etc). This season's excavations suggest that there was a wide range of activities going on in the area between the camp which were hidden from public view, and were not referenced in any of the early survey plans or newspaper descriptions.

Jill Hamel reports that she has been providing advice on the widening of a road shown on the pre-Dunedin surveys of the Taieri Plain in 1846 by Charles Kettle. Was the road bed itself an archaeological site? According to local opponents of the road widening it should be considered a heritage item, even though it is now a busy tarsealed road with massive drainage ditches either side. Since it is only a side road off State Highway 1, Jill was surprised to find that by combining local histories, a map dated to 1900, early survey plans and basic data on the road substrate from test pits it was possible to show that the road was formed well before 1900, and probably in the 1860s. And there was a layer 550 mm down of distinctive, poorly crushed 'cobbles', which indicated a very early formation indeed. It helped that the engineer who described the material had a degree in anthropology as well as engineering and understood why Jill questioned the term "cobbles", which he had used in the geological sense of rounded rock larger than gravel.

Angela Middleton recently monitored the demise of a rather nice stone and brick culvert, constructed as part of a railway cutting in Dipton in

about 1875. The culvert consisted of a central arch nearly 10 m long, made from three courses of brick supported on a stone base (the bricks were marked “Buxton”, if anyone can supply any information). The two faces of the culvert were of dressed stone, quarried from a nearby source. After consultation with the project engineer and the site manager, a decision was made to retain a large proportion of the structure in situ, although unfortunately the brick arch had to be destroyed in order to fill and compact the culvert. The wing walls remain intact, and although the western walls are partially buried by fill the eastern wing walls are visible. Traffic on State Highway 6 will no longer have to slow down for a sharp hairpin bend just south of Dipton; instead cars can carry on at speed as the corner now curves gently along the line of the former railway cutting. Just to the east of the road before the corner, most of the culvert structure can still be found beneath the fill on the road berm, one of many railway relicts in Southland.

Tiffany James-Lee