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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

CFG Heritage Ltd recently completed a small scale rescue excavation of a damaged midden (O04/1022) at Taipa for the Far North District Council. This midden is about 500 m upstream from the beach by the State Highway 10 bridge over the Taipa river. This was a 'typical' pipi/cockle midden and returned a date of cal. AD 1440-1660 at 95% confidence interval. Little investigation has taken place in Taipa before now, and this is the first date we are aware of from the area.

Rock revetment works at One Tree Point, Whangārei, are being monitored by Dianne Harlow. Middens are located along the top of the cliffs and it was anticipated that a number would need to be removed as part of works to stabilise the cliff. Fortunately the methodology has changed and most of the deposits will be saved. One date has already been gained and a further is pending. The date for Q07/322, deposit #10, is AD 1450-1660 (probability 95.4%). Currently this is the second earliest date from excavated sites in the One Tree Point area but almost identical with Q07/1121 at AD 1440-1650 (2 sigma), the closest site to the cliff edge from the nearby Phillips and Harlow La Pointe excavations undertaken in 1999.

A kōiwi was discovered when a resident at Matauri was digging a rua to store his kūmara. He came across bones and, on reflection, thought that they could be kōiwi. New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) was contacted and the bones were identified as human. Photographs were sent to Judith Littleton of the University of Auckland for further identification that confirmed they were from a Māori male of slight build, probably in his early 20s. The police were contacted and at a later date the kōiwi was removed for reburial in the urupā.

Bill Edwards

Auckland

In March, a small scale archaeological investigation was undertaken at the site of Browne's spar and timber station (1832-36) in the Mahurangi Harbour. The investigation is part of a collaborative project involving the Auckland Regional Council (ARC), NZHPT, the University of Auckland School of Environment, and Ngāti Paoa, and is being managed by Hans Bader and Janice

Adamson of ASL. The project was conceived in response to the threat to parts of the site from coastal processes. The excavation undertaken in March focused on beachfront occupation at the site of the village associated with the station. Tree ring samples were also taken from relict foreshore structures for analysis and potentially establishing the sequence of development at the station.

The Auckland Archaeological Society had its annual general meeting on 24 March, where the following positions were filled: President: Arden Cruickshank; Vice President: Natasha Phillips, Kane Ditchfield; Secretary: Josh Emmitt; Treasurer: Blair McPhee.

The first speaker of the year was Dr Marianne Turner of the University of Auckland Anthropology Department, who spoke on the ability to identify and understand lithic material in its raw and modified form in the New Zealand context. This was demonstrated by Dr Turner with a variety of lithic material common to sites throughout New Zealand.

The third meeting this year was held on 19 May. Dr Jeremy Armstrong of the University of Auckland Classics and Ancient History Department gave a presentation discussing early Roman archaeology, briefly detailing its history, touching on various areas of contention and making a few suggestions for future study in this important field.

The excavations at Taputiketike pā, Waiuku, that began in February with the University of Auckland field school in conjunction with ARC (Vanessa Tanner) and Ngāti te Ata are ongoing and open. If anyone wants to come and visit the site they should contact me Marianne Turner, University of Auckland.

Mat Campbell

Central North Island

Archaeological activity seems to be increasing in the central North Island. The NZHPT has issued over 20 authorities in the Bay of Plenty this year, and about half that number in the Waikato (leaving aside multiple applications related to electricity transmission lines).

In the Waikato, CFG Heritage Ltd has been working on the controversial Transpower transmission line through the Waikato, avoiding heritage sites wherever possible. Warren Gumbley, who is keeping a low profile while he finishes reports, has recently been involved with investigations of the Commissariat Redoubt site at Rangiriri, as a result of roading projects in the area. Alexy Simmons's main focus has been writing her PhD thesis on foodways during the Waikato campaign of the New Zealand Wars, but she has also been involved with Waipa District Council who are enthusiastically updating records of built

heritage as part of the district plan review. Des Kahotea has recently completed a review of the impact of wind farm proposals on the Waikato west coast.

Archaeologists with Opus International Consultants Ltd have been active in the Waikato and Coromandel, as well as at several sites in the Bay of Plenty, from the Western Bay through to Whakatane. Work has included monitoring of sewer and storm water pipelines between Tauranga and Otumoetai, excavations at Mangatawa and road upgrading at Papamoa. Myfanwy Eaves has left Opus and is now working for Wellington City Council.

Ken Phillips has been excavating at Lake Tarawera, and at a subdivision at Ohiwa Cove. Ken will also be monitoring construction of the proposed Western Bay bypass from Papamoa to Te Puke.

InSitu Heritage Ltd fieldwork in the Bay of Plenty over the last three months has mainly related to several small projects for Environment Bay of Plenty. These include a flight of 'floating steps' installed at Pukemanuka, a small headland pā in an esplanade reserve at Te Puna on the Tauranga harbour. Floating steps are a simple and practical structure, and are ideally suited to dealing with the issue of foot traffic on pā. They can be laid over existing informal tracks and their installation requires virtually no ground disturbance. When properly installed, the steps settle onto the track surface over time and provide a tough and stable surface for visitors to walk on while protecting archaeological features from further erosion. If any one is interested in details of their construction and installation, contact Lynda Walter.

Lynda Walter and Pam Bain have completed fieldwork on Environment Bay of Plenty's Onekawa property at Ohiwa. The land, formerly owned by the Gawn family, is adjacent to Onekawa pā and was purchased by the regional council as a reserve. It contains nine recorded archaeological sites, five of which are pā. Onekawa pā itself is still in private ownership. InSitu Heritage Ltd has been engaged to assess the condition of the archaeological sites and to provide recommendations for their conservation and management.

Lynda and representatives from the Tuhoe Putaiao Trust have been carrying out field visits and the supervision of harvesting operations by PF Olsen Ltd that affect archaeological sites in Tuhoe Forest at Ruatoki. The work has involved recording new sites in the forest and ensuring compliance with the conditions of archaeological authorities.

The expansion of *Pinus radiata* plantings in the Bay of Plenty in the early 1980s, many of them in archaeologically rich areas, has resulted in an increase in forest harvesting over the last few years. Ray Hooker, Andrew Hoffman and John Coster have been engaged in monitoring forestry projects throughout the Bay. John has been working on a number of forestry and farm blocks as far

east as Houpoto, but concentrated around Welcome Bay and Papamoa, where development pressure continues inexorably.

The epic 1984 NZHPT survey of Tauranga County (as it was then), masterminded by Bruce McFadgen, provided a crucial benchmark for recording and protection of archaeological sites in the Western Bay. John's recent fieldwork around Welcome Bay and Papamoa indicates that intensive re-survey in any area can roughly double the number of sites recorded during the 1984 survey, but this does not diminish the usefulness of the NZHPT's pioneering work.

At Pukehinahina (Gate pā), shortly after ANZAC Day, a dawn service was held to unveil a new pathway and set of on-site interpretive panels telling the story of the battle on 29 April 1864. Following the service, historians Des Tata (Ngāi Tamarawaho) and Lieutenant Colonel Cliff Simons (New Zealand Army) presented perspectives on the social conditions surrounding the battle and its aftermath.

John Coster

Wellington

Kiri Petersen of Opus Wellington has been flitting about the country helping with Opus excavations at Torpedo Bay and the Gisborne courthouse, carrying out an initial survey for the Christchurch Northern Arterial, and is about to start monitoring for the Christchurch Southern Motorway. She will be undertaking some section 18 work in Paekakariki soon, and is also writing up a monitoring report on the Rimutaka incline.

Kevin Jones has been assisting Philip ('Cabbage Tree') Simpson with liaison with Ngāti Whare and together they have visited a number of tōtara sanctuaries in the Hirinaki. Stripped bark trees in the valley are still to be seen in good condition and one even has the adze marks on the wood from where the bark was stripped. Philip holds the Michael King Fellowship and will be writing a book on podocarps and particularly on tōtara.

Kevin and Christine Barnett have been busy on a hill named Golgotha on the Juken New Zealand forest outside Masterton. The hill was so named by the Beetham family of Brancepeth fame because of the presence of human bone there. The hill is under the kaitiakitanga care of Rangitāne ki Wairarapa and has been logged with minimal damage.

Kevin has also presented a paper on "Heritage and government in the South Island high country" at the Australia ICOMOS conference in Broken Hill. A post-conference highlight was a visit to the Mungo woolshed and the 'Walls of China' in Mungo National Park World Heritage Area.

Mary O'Keefe engaged Hans-Dieter Bader of ASL to undertake a geophysical survey of an area of dunes and former swamp in the vicinity of the

Paraparaumu Airport. Tram tracks and a possible concrete station platform for the Thorndon tram were revealed in the Wellington railway yards.

Mary O'Keefe

Nelson – Golden Bay

Deb Foster reports that she has been monitoring excavations for a house at Dummy Bay, near Kaiteriteri. A nearby midden suggested occupation of the ridge top where the house is to be built. A row of postholes was found, possibly representing palisading, but no other definitive evidence of occupation was uncovered. There were areas of charcoal but these may have been associated with the nearby post-European dwelling. Deb has also been monitoring at Auckland Point School, the site of a kainga and early European trading activity. A gatepost and section of wall along the road front was moved to enlarge a gateway. The trench exposed an area of redeposited material that was probably used to backfill an old seawall. Artefacts included a range of stoneware and glass bottles dating from 1850-1900, old ceramics, a probable musket flint and a single pre-European artefact: an unusual triangular-section argillite toki, finely flaked but not polished, and probably discarded or lost. Deb has also carried out an assessment of a property at Tangmere Road, Takaka, and an assessment of a transmission line at Denniston.

A number of projects that Amanda has been working on for months and/or years are coming to the end of the monitoring phases. These include the Ruby Bay Bypass, the Newhaven subdivision at Marahau and the Dun Mountain Railway upgrade. Report writing is about to commence for all three. Monitoring of a new sewerage pipe across Bells and Rabbit islands is in full swing. This is being monitored by iwi monitors and Amanda with special attention paid to areas indicated by a matakite as being sensitive or with remains. The Nelson Inventory project is expected to finish in the next month or so.

Bruce McFadgen has been over updating the Maori site inventory in the Nelson Resource Management Plan. He has been working closing with iwi. The iwi monitors have all hugely enjoyed the experience of going out into the field with him, or so they endlessly report to Amanda.

Amanda has also completed a number of small assessments including the 19th century Smiths Grave in the Maitai, work at the Kaiteriteri campground, and a new house at Anawera Point above Tapu Bay. The house is on the last

vacant section within a pā site. There have been a number of previous proposals assessed by Charles Sedgewick which have come to nothing.

Amanda Young

Marlborough

Reg Nichol has been studying sites at Wairau Bar, especially the remains of Wynen's store, dated to the 1840s. Reg recently carried out a small site survey in a logging area at the junction of Mountain Camp Creek and the Wakamarina River. Most features found were localised sluicing sites but there was also one beautiful little stone-faced dam. For the time being, Reg and Garry Buchanan have ceased work on their Mahakipawa survey and have begun work in the Grove Arm of Queen Charlotte Sound. Reg has also started work recording historic sites around Linkwater, between the two areas.

Reg Nichol

Canterbury

Dan and Alison Witter and Bridget Mosely visited Mt Alford during Easter to look at a potential quarry site. Although the outcrop had flake-quality stone – welded tuff according to Dan – there was no evidence of any flaking.

Katharine Watson and Frank van der Heijden have recently undertaken excavation work at the Lyttelton Timeball Station, prior to the reconstruction of a collapsing stone wall. To date, excavation has revealed the some of the remains of the signalman's hut, the floor of a substantial chicken coop, a previously unknown terrace, a gate in the existing stone wall and the remains of a succession of garden paths. The garden paths in particular provide evidence of the ongoing modification of the Timeball gardens.

Frank, Katharine and Mary-Anne Baxter (Department of Conservation) have undertaken a survey of the Balmoral pastoral lease, which lies to the west of Lake Tekapo. A number of new archaeological sites were recorded during the survey, including the remains of the original road to Mt Cook station, two roadmans' huts (one of which is in a fantastic condition), the remains of original boundary fences, and a sod hut and horse paddock.

Katharine Watson

Otago

Shar Briden (Department of Conservation, Otago Conservancy) is still progressing with writing reports on the tenure review surveys of Beaumont and Obelisk stations. A second survey of Beaumont was completed in May. Significant features were surveyed on the proposed freehold land on the Clu-

den lease in April and the historic resources report on this property is nearing completion.

Tiffany James-Lee