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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional Development Cell

The latest (the 11th) workshop in the PDC series was held on 4 June 2010 at the Archaeology and Conservation Laboratories in the Anthropology Department, University of Auckland. The topic was Wet Organics.

Dilys Johns, who is the only wet wood conservator in New Zealand, headed our team of experts, which also included Liz Cotton and Rod Wallace. Dilys has built up a good knowledge of what to do and what not to do, having had to repair the handy-hints version of conservation that is still hiding in our museums. She had a series of ‘what not to do’ laid out in the Conservation Laboratory for us to look at (Figure 1). Special emphasis was given to conservation of wetland sites, the care of waterlogged taonga during recovery and laboratory analysis and treatment of waterlogged materials. Dilys also described best practice field guidelines, including excavation, the recording and documentation of wet organics onsite and current conservation methods employed in the wet organics laboratory.

Liz Cotton, Advisor, Protected Objects Act, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, gave an overview of the legislation and responsibilities for archaeologists under the Protected Objects Act, while Rod Wallace, Anthropology Department, University of Auckland, spoke about wood identification and set up some slides showing the difference between solid and rotten wood under polarised light.

As the majority of waterlogged wooden items that Dilys conserves come from Maori sites she had invited Te Marino Lenihan, of Ngai Tuahuriri Rūnanga Liaison at Pegasus Town, to present iwi perspectives on taonga. Unfortunately he could not come on the day, but four other Maori participants outlined their perspectives.

Frequently the vulnerable nature of waterlogged archaeological materials that can be found in wetland sites presents atypical conservation challenges. These at-risk artefacts or taonga require urgent treatment in order to prevent irreversible damage and/or complete destruction. Our participants were very impressed by how quickly wooden and other organic objects degrade if not

treated correctly, and appreciated the opportunity to learn the various situations faced by other professional in wet organics recovery.

The next workshop – the repeat of the very popular Remote Sensing is to be held on Friday 27th August – has already been held. This will be followed by Archaeology and Gardening on 19th November.

Professional Development Cell



Figure 1. Dilys Johns explaining to the PDC Wet Organics workshop what happens to wooden artefacts that have not been properly conserved.

Northland

Michael Taylor of Archaeology North Ltd has been involved with overseeing logging in the Tahoroa Domain Reserve. The reserve is situated adjacent to the Kai Iwi lakes and is a popular holiday spot. Pine trees had been planted in the reserve and have reached an age where they now present a safety hazard to campers using the reserve. The Kaipara District Council in association with Te Roroa and Te Kuihi are managing the project. As a result of the archaeological

assessment 32 new archaeological sites have been recorded around the Kai Iwi lakes. Michael is continuing with ongoing survey in the Waipoua forest.

Leigh Johnson and Elisabeth Callaghan have been involved with an archaeological survey at Takou Bay. There is a proposal to extend the current papa kāinga. Leigh and Elisabeth have recorded five new pre-contact sites but some sites previously recorded at Takou do not appear to exist. The new sites are associated with midden and obsidian flakes.

Leigh and Elisabeth have also been monitoring planting work associated with planting the hillside behind Pompallier Mission in Russell. Part of the hillside has terracing associated with a pā and the planting is to stabilise the hillside to protect the pā and the mission below. Also near Russell at Te Wahapu Peninsula, as a result of building a house, radiocarbon dates have been obtained that indicate settlement at Te Wahapu from the mid 16th to 17th centuries.

Leigh and Elisabeth have also been involved with an assessment for the planned road widening at Puketona. The road bisects stone fields associated with pre-contact gardening on the volcanic soils. The road itself was probably an earlier Māori trail and was re-engineered by the 58 Regiment as a military road after 1846. Although hostilities in the north had finished by 1846 it was considered prudent by Governor Gray to have a military road for the quick movement of troops. The last time the road was upgraded was in the 1940s and this was associated with Waitangi Day celebrations.

Don Prince has completed a post-harvest assessment of the Te Mingi Forest, Parengarenga Harbour. Three of the five sites recorded within the forest were relocated and no new sites were recorded. The condition of the three sites is largely the same as originally recorded.

Simon Best has been monitoring trenching associated with the sewerage upgrade along York Street in Russell. He reports that it appears to be fill although he has come across some odd pieces of early ceramic dating from the 1840s. There will be further monitoring work associated with the sewerage upgrade.

Andrew Blanshard and Melina Goddard from the Department of Conservation (DOC) have been monitoring the Paihia School track upgrade. The track comes close to the Pukehuia pā and Andrew and Melina have been guiding the route of the track to avoid it impacting on any archaeological features.

Caroline Philips has reported that artefacts and midden recovered as part an excavation at Urquharts Bay have been returned back to the Ngātiwai Trust Board. There were 72 obsidian flakes, pieces and cores that came from

three different sources. 17% came from Mayor Island, 39% from Huruiki (near Mokau) and 44% Te Ahumata (Great Barrier).

Bill Edwards

University of Auckland Archaeological Society

In the second half of this year, the University of Auckland Archaeological Society has had two club nights, the first of which was the annual Quiz Night. This year three teams competed for the ‘Golden Trowel’, but in the end Non Human Primates took out the trophy and many of the prizes. The second event, held in August, was a talk by Rebecca Phillipps, a current PhD student from the university. Rebecca talked on “‘Civilising Climate’: Environment and agricultural systems in the Neolithic/Predynastic Egypt”. This event was held as a joint event with the Auckland University Egyptological Association (AUEA) which resulted in a great time for everyone there.

ARCHSOC is currently working with other organisations and disciplines in the university to relaunch the University of Auckland Field Club, and its publication *Tane*. We are planning a few trips this year with the club, including to the offshore islands of Great Barrier, most notably Kaikoura Island and Rakitu (Arid) Island. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about these trips or the Field Club can email aklarchsoc@gmail.com.

Josh Emmitt

Central North Island

It has been a quiet winter in the central North Island. John Coster is still working on the NZAA Upgrade Project in Otorohanga district. He has also been involved with management of Tikorangi pā at Te Auhi (Welcome Bay) and assessments of a number of farm and forestry blocks around the Bay of Plenty.

John’s term as an NZAA nominee on the East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservation Board has come to an end and there is now no archaeological representation on any of these boards, which advise the Department of Conservation on land management policy and strategy. Under the present government, DOC’s involvement with recreational and commercial opportunities on conservation land is increasing markedly.

Kevin Jones has completed a heritage assessment of Te Tapiri pā on conservation land in the western Urewera and has also carried out aerial photography on sites from Hinuera to Morrinsville as part of a wider survey extending north to Auckland.

Opus International Consultants Ltd archaeologists Chris Mallows and Nick Cable are continuing a number of projects around the Bay of Plenty and Waikato. They have recently been joined by Sian Keith.

The Whakatane and District Historical Society has reprinted eight titles in its monograph series and has issued a new volume – “Omaio Memoir”, covering recent archaeological investigations at Omaio in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The available titles are listed below.

The Society has also reprinted the first 10 volumes of its journal of Bay of Plenty History, “Historical Review” (starting in 1952). These are available in hardcopy and on disk.

For copies, contact Meri Low, 07-544-4048 or meri.low@xtra.co.nz.

No.	Title	Author	Content	Price
2	Motiti Island, Bay of Plenty	A. H. Matheson		60.00
5	The Galatea Story	Alex A. Coates		50.00
8	Karangahake	N. S. Climie & G. Staples	The Years of the Gold 1875-1935	40.00
10	For Glory and A Farm	Frank Glen	Australia's Involvement in the NZ Wars, 1860-66	50.00
14	James Francis Falloon – A Man of Two Cultures	W. T. Parham	A Man of Two Cultures	40.00
16	Road To War	Maurice Lennard	The Great South Road 1862-1864	70.00
19	The Opouriao – Taneatua Settlement of 1896	Alison B. Heath		60.00
20	The Rangitaiki 1890-1990	Walter H. Gibbons	Settlement and Drainage on the Rangitaiki	70.00
-	Omaio Memoir	Richard Walter & Chris Jacomb	Archaeological Investigations At Omaio Eastern BOP	18.00 plus P&P

Kevin Jones has been working on assessments near Titirangi Hill (Gisborne) and on the Mahia Peninsula.

John Coster

Whanganui/Manawatu

Michael Taylor and Annetta Sutton of Archaeology North have been commissioned to undertake a desk-based review to capture information on previously unrecorded archaeological sites in the Whanganui district coastal zone. The project is being funded by Whanganui District Council and undertaken with local iwi to build on the NZAA upgrade project and the regional scoping report prepared for Council in 2001.

Archaeology North have also been monitoring works on the cenotaph in Queens Park, previously the site of the Rutland stockade. Other monitoring by Archaeology North includes the waste water separation pipelines in Whanganui, mainly at Castlecliff and Putiki in the vicinity of the Imlay family crypt and Putiki pā, and works affecting a 19th century site on the Whanganui waterfront.

Ivan Bruce has been monitoring river flood protection works for Horizons Regional Council along the Whanganui River at Balgownie near the 19th century railway alignment, and Kevin Jones has carried out various assessments in the region.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) have been working with Archaeology North, Te Kāhui o Rauru and the landowner to place heritage covenants on two pit/terrace sites on Rapanui Road, near Kai Iwi, and have been working with Rangitane Tanenuiarangi o Manawatu to protect archaeological and cultural values associated with Te Motu o Poutoa pā in Anzac Park, Palmerston North, which has been proposed for wāhi tapu listing and may be affected by proposals for flood protection works and subdivision of the adjoining property.

Andy Dodd

Taranaki

A proposal to subdivide a farm block south of Oakura has resulted in the documentation of a previously unrecorded pā at the base of the Kaitake ranges by Ivan Bruce. The pā had been fenced off and protected within a bush remnant by the previous owner, and negotiations are now underway around its continued protection and long-term management.

Ivan has also completed the final report on the investigation at the new Port Taranaki offices at Ngamotu. The investigation yielded a 16th century date,

considerably earlier than the known protohistoric occupation associated with Otaka pā, which occupied the site of the present day cool store buildings on the adjoining section to the west. Also nearing completion is the report on the investigation at the new historic reserve for St George's redoubt, at Tataraimaka. The investigation focused on the area to be modified by the perimeter fence and signage for the reserve and was carried out in December last year.

Ivan has also been monitoring works on the Waiwhakaiho section of the coastal walkway in New Plymouth, linking New Plymouth with Bell Block. Works are nearing completion, and have been successful in largely avoiding archaeological features, including those associated with Rewa Rewa pā on the southern side of the walkway and other archaeological features within the coastal dune area.

Archaeology North and Ivan Bruce have recently completed an investigation of a pit and terrace site affected by a realignment of SH3 near Manutahi.

Russell Gibb and Dan McCurdy of Geometria have been carrying out assessment work for the New Plymouth District Council to provide more detail around archaeological and wāhi tapu sites in the district plan, including more detailed assessment and survey of archaeologically sensitive areas. Geometria have also now largely finalised the report on the archaeological investigation at the Shell Todd Pohokura site.

Hans Bader of Archaeological Solutions has completed an investigation of a terrace site and subsequent monitoring works associated with the Shell Todd McKee LPG production station near Waitara. Other recent assessment work for Shell Todd has included a geophysical survey to assist with the appropriate placement of shore transit signs marking an offshore pipeline to avoid archaeological features, including an area gazetted as an urupā near Motunui.

NZHPT have been working with Ngati Ruanui and the receivers of the Crafer property to improve the management of Te Ruaki pā, near Hawera. Damage to the pā was sustained recently after stock broke through fences when wet weather had made the steeper sides of the pā susceptible to damage. It is hoped that a heritage covenant will ensure the long term protection of the site.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Amber Aranui, who is now with Te Papa, reports she will begin cataloguing and reporting on some of the archaeological material held at Te Papa. There are about 18 sites altogether that she will be looking at. It will be a slow

process since she only has one day a week to do this. But there will be some interesting information to come out of it.

Kevin Jones has been surveying the Baring Head lighthouse complex and monitoring the restoration of a 60 m long tōtara flume, one of the outlets of the Karori Reservoir dam (now part of the Zealandia complex).

Victoria Grouden has carried out a number of recent assessments in Mt Cook, Lower Hutt and central Wellington, including an interesting assessment of part of the Mount Cook school site. This area was occupied continuously for almost 100 years without major modification prior to demolition in the mid 20th century. The area appears to have a rich and scandalous history and a Section 15 excavation is planned for the near future. Victoria is also working on a number of small-scale monitoring excavations, in Drummond Street, Newtown; Abel Smith Street, Te Aro; and Wellington Girls' College, Thorndon.

Mary O'Keeffe has been working on Transmission Gully with Victoria Grouden, monitoring railways work in the Wellington area, and catching up on writing.

Mary O'Keeffe

Marlborough

In June Deb Foster carried out an assessment of a proposed sewage system upgrade for the two DOC houses on Maud Island. Modifications to the landscape around both houses means that the proposed works are unlikely to impact any archaeological sites.

Reg Nichol and Gary Buchanan have continued their survey of the Grove Arm. The most interesting result to date is the presence of what appear to be kūmara pits cut into the defences of one of the newly recorded pā sites.

Michael Trotter has been working with Merrill & Ring of Blenheim, assessing a pine forestry block south of the Clarence River. As is so often the case, a thick layer of pine needles obscures the surface, making it very difficult to locate archaeological evidence that is not in the form of distinct earthworks. There are, however, several sites in sand dunes on the outskirts of the plantations, and a similar distribution might be expected amongst the trees. Back in the 1970s Wayne Orchison recorded anecdotal information of sites in the area where the forest now grows, and some of this has been confirmed by a current local resident. Harvesting of part of the block is currently under way. Michael has noted that the adjacent moa-hunter site at the mouth of the Clarence River

(P30/4) has been badly damaged by flood erosion since he carried out a small investigation of it in 1974.

Reg Nichol

West Coast

Jackie Breen did some monitoring for the excavation for a trench over the Banbury Arches as part of the work for the underground mine experience at Denniston.

Katharine Watson and various DOC staff members have carried out an archaeological survey in the Lyell area. The focus of the survey was the remains of the Alpine mine, a quartz mine that operated continuously for some 50 years, albeit with the occasional name change. A number of adits were recorded during the survey and it is hoped to be able to determine which level of the mine these were associated with. As part of the survey, a baseline inspection of the county dray road from Lyell to the Eight Mile (an area above the Alpine mine) was carried out.

Katharine Watson

Canterbury

In the coastal town of Kaikoura most of the flat ground on the landward side of the beach-front Esplanade seems to contain evidence of prehistoric – and often historic – occupation, which is revealed mainly when digging trenches or preparing foundations. A recent posthole excavation brought up human bones, which when investigated by Michael Trotter proved to be the remains of four people that had been reburied there in the mid 20th century. The bones had Polynesian characteristics. Anecdotal information suggests that they were Māori burials found during the construction of a house, and they must have been moved aside and reburied for convenience.

Along the opposite side of the Esplanade, the installation of 1.7 km of new kerbing promised to be a good opportunity to locate and record archaeological evidence. But here it was surprisingly sterile apart from a small amount of cultural material at either end.

In North Canterbury, plans have been formulated to upgrade the appearance of the paramount Ngai Tahu site of Kaiapoi pā and its surroundings. In making an archaeological assessment of the site, Michael took the opportunity to briefly review the history of records, discoveries and investigations pertaining to the site, covering some 180 years.

Occupational material that is present in the ground over much of Birddings Flat is generally assumed to be of late prehistoric age associated with

the local Mata Hapuka pā. However, recent work on one site by Michael Trotter uncovered small flakes of orthoquartzite (generally associated with moa-hunter occupation). Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the site placed the occupation some time between 1300 and 1430 A.D.

Closer to home in the Kaiapoi-Rangiora area, historical research in areas scheduled for development has involved an 1879 concrete church, 19th century stop banks, hedges and a footbridge, plus a “missing” Anglican cemetery of the 1860s.

Witter Archaeology has been monitoring at Sovereign Palms, a subdivision in north Kaiapoi. One of the sites consisted of a small pit with cockles and a few marine mussels and mud oysters. There was also a lot of saw-cut bone, most of it probably pig. This seemed to be mainly the proximal femur and ilium of the innominate. There also were some saw-cut cow ribs and vertebrae. Fish bone was also found, probably from two or three species, one of which was blue moki. There was also a pre-1900 bottle of coffee and chicory extract from Glasgow and some blue and white china. This site was in the coastal dunes, about 500 m east of the old Māori settlement Te Rakawhataputa on the Cam River and about 1 km north of the early part of Kaiapoi, near the mouth of the Waimakariri River. Thus estuarine seafood was relatively nearby, but the nearest rocky shore would be Banks Peninsula, 25 km to the south. The pig bones may have been ham bones, in which case the butcher was selling ham by the slice. With the bones left over, they may have available at the butcher’s for little or no cost. The likely interpretation is that this is a pre-1900 Māori refuse deposit with the pig and other bones coming from boil-ups. The rocky shore seafood may have come from Lyttelton Harbour, as there is a traditional connection with the Te Rakawhataputa settlement. Lyttelton Harbour would have been accessible by from Kaiapoi by train after the Lyttelton rail tunnel opened in 1867. Analysis of this site is soon to begin.

Over the last six weeks Rosie Geary Nichol has undertaken archaeological monitoring at Grubb Cottage in Lyttelton. John Grubb, a Scottish shipwright, built the weatherboard worker’s cottage in 1851 and the Grubb family continued to occupy it until the 1960s. The cottage is now being renovated in order to open it to the public as an example of colonial life in Lyttelton.

Archaeological monitoring of the repiling and service work has uncovered various features and artefacts associated with the occupation of the cottage during the 19th and early 20th century. The foundations of the original fireplace were uncovered in association with a grease-trap drain. Artefacts from the 19th century recovered include a small porcelain bust from a toby jug and various alcohol bottles that had been cached under one corner of the cottage. A small rubbish dump on one side of the cottage consisted of approximately 30 glass

pill bottles from the early 20th century, some still with their original contents inside. Analysis of these and other artefacts will hopefully provide a better understanding of the lifestyle of the Grubb family during their occupation of the cottage. Some of these artefacts will also be displayed in the cottage when it is opened to the public.

Katharine Watson has recently carried out surveys of the Caberfiedh, Chetwynd and Invercroy pastoral leases. Caberfiedh and Invercroy were both cut out of the Hakataramea station in the early 20th centuries. The 1888 rabbit fence, built in an effort to halt the spread of rabbits, is largely intact on both properties. This fence originally stretched from the Mueller glacier to the Hakataramea valley. An old camp site – comprising the remains of two stone fireplaces – was found next to the fence on Caberfiedh. Historical research is yet to be carried out but the location and nature of artefacts associated with the camp suggest that it may have been used by those who built the fence.

Katharine Watson