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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Leigh Johnson and Elisabeth Callaghan have carried out an archaeological investigation of an area of Q07/1284, Mt Tikorangi, Portland, Whangārei. The interpretation of the results is that a small-to-medium population settled (perhaps on a seasonal basis) on the southern, eastern and western slopes of Tikorangi for a long period of time from the late 15th to the mid-18th century. The population focused on cultivating extensive garden systems on the northern side of Tikorangi. The inhabitants collected shellfish from the nearby estuary and the population settled on knolls and ridges which were not directly suitable for gardening, but could provide good storage for harvested crops.

Leigh and Elisabeth report finding the campsite associated with the wreck of the Naval Brig HMS Osprey in 1846. The Commander of the Osprey mistook the Herekino Harbour for the Hokianga and as a result the vessel struck the bar and was washed into the surf line. The vessel was a total wreck but there was no loss of life. The vessel was stripped of stores and fittings and then left to the elements. The campsite is in a deflated state and is protected from future forestry operations.

During monitoring work associated with an underground power cable at Motoroa Island, Leigh and Elisabeth report that a cultural horizon at the western end of the island on the beach flat was found. This could be an early settlement. Charcoal samples have been sent for dating and so we await the result.

Michael Taylor, with Laurie Joseph and Dawn Birch, has been monitoring forestry work in the Taharoa Domain. They have found evidence of a gum digging settlement that was in existence from the 1870s to the early 1950s. The archaeological evidence includes horse trails, drains, rubbish dumps and house sites.

Simon Best reports that the radiocarbon dates for a couple of pits on Pahi Peninsula are in, as is microfossil analysis of the pits' contents. The pits are from the 16-18th century, with taro in the base deposit or lower fill of each. An obsidian tool, probably from Mayor Island, was found in one, and a Bluff oyster (from Kaipara) was found in one of the midden layers.

Bill Edwards

ARCHSOC

The 2011 academic year was a successful year for ARCHSOC. Since May a variety of speakers gave interesting talks on numerous topics on archaeology in New Zealand, the Pacific and other areas of the world. These speakers included Dr Justin Shiner, Dr James Flexner, Dr Marianne Turner, Dr Rod Clough, Dr Simon Bickler and finally, Dr Colleen Batey. In May ARCHSOC ran the annual t-shirt design competition, which was won by Tim Mackrell. The design proved to be popular, with over 60 shirts sold. In June, ARCHSOC organised a barbecue to raise funds so a group of society members could attend the NZAA conference this year. A small contingent from the society managed to attend the conference. ARCHSOC will remain largely inactive over summer, although we hope to facilitate volunteer work for society members. The membership barbecue will probably be in March next year, so stay tuned.

Kane Ditchfield

Central North Island

Not much fieldwork going on, but it is rumoured that a lot of reports are being written up.

In the Waikato, Warren Gumbley and Andrew Hoffman investigated a series of pre-European Māori gardens just north of Hamilton in August-September. Brent Druskovich has been working with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust's Heritage Destinations staff at Rangiriri Pā, the site of the 1863 battle in the Waikato, and also at Opotaka, a kāinga site on the edge of Lake Rotoaira, near Turangi, which was investigated by Trevor Hosking in the 1960s. Brent's work has involved site assessments aimed at avoiding damage from new buildings, gateway structures, vegetation removal, fence replacement and vehicle access.

In Hauraki, it is understood that Opus archaeologists may have recently started monitoring works associated with extensions of the Hauraki Rail Trail.

Recent major slip damage impinging on archaeological features on Mauao (Mt Maunganui) at Tauranga appears not to have been addressed by the council, although damage to walking tracks has been repaired. Elsewhere in the Bay of Plenty, John Coster continues to undertake development-driven assessments on small blocks, and both he and Lynda Walter are still involved with the forestry companies.

In the east, Kevin Jones has prepared a management plan for the Mahia sewage scheme and has undertaken test pitting and other investigative work for the Mahia Titan subdivision.

John Coster

Wellington

Victoria Grouden has completed a number of reports for excavations carried out in Lower Hutt (Dupont Motels), Lower Cuba Street (Wellington City Council Golden Mile upgrade) and Oriental Parade (private dwelling). She is currently working on a report for the John Chambers Building seismic upgrade in Jervois Quay, another private dwelling on Oriental Parade and the Ronald MacDonald House rebuild in Newtown. She has several small monitoring projects about to start in the near future, in Pipitea Street, Tory Street and Taranaki Street.

Andy Dodd has completed a desk-based review of archaeological sites in freshwater bodies for the Greater Wellington Regional Council as part of their review of cultural heritage in the freshwater plan. Sites identified in the study were predominantly historic site types such as bridge footings, dams and early industry sites, but also included a number of documented Māori sites such as eel weirs and channels. Approximately 200 unrecorded sites have been identified, and 50 have been shortlisted for further investigation and assessment.

Kevin Jones has completed monitoring of the Raumati central business district stormwater project, where nothing was nothing found. He has also completed monitoring at the Royal Society site and at Westchester Drive. The last involved wide area stripping of top soil on the route of a new feeder road off State Highway 1 to search for a possible early grave. Nothing was found and as a result the likely true location of the grave can be fairly accurately pinpointed, just off the route of the new road.

Mary O'Keefe continues work on three roading projects: Transmission Gully, Wellington Tunnels duplication and the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway. She recently excavated a development site in Newtown, where a well and rubbish pit were revealed by site clearance. The well proved to be both shallow and empty (due to its lack of depth it possibly was built prior to the uplift of the 1855 earthquake). The rubbish pit contained some ceramics and leather shoes but the artefactual material was about 90% broken domestic bottle glass.

Mary O'Keefe

Nelson-Golden Bay

We are very relieved that Steve Bagley has retained a job after the latest restructuring. His role has changed, however, and it is not yet certain how much assistance he will be able to give to the area offices. Luckily enough he has managed to fit in some recent field work, including a few days excavating at Tai Tapu battery in Golden Bay with Peter Petchey.

Deb Foster has continued to monitor the installation of the replacement sewer line across the Waimea Estuary and carried out an assessment ahead of a minor building development in Pohara, Golden Bay.

Amanda Young has carried out assessments of a proposed seawall at Pakawau, Golden Bay; the Tasman Loop Cycle Trial through Richmond and Appleby; and has monitored camp ground developments at Kaiteriteri and landscaping at the Old Motueka Wharf. She has also been working with Ian Bowman on joint projects at Hardy Street Girls' School, Nelson, and the Brook Hydro Dams. Amanda has also been doing lots of forestry work on the north bank of the Wairau River, looking at gold mining remains at Glengyle, Top Valley, Bartletts and Onamalutu valleys. Endless pine, blackberry, huge old gorse and extensive race/gully systems. Oh the joy of it. Other blocks have been surveyed in the Wakamarina including spectacular remains associated with the Golden Bar Mine (1880s to 1940s). Further work has been done on the Nelson railway through forest blocks south of Nelson. She was also privileged to step in for Steve Bagley and Kathryn Hurren and help iwi lift a kōiwi at Marahau.

We have recently lost Kathryn Hurren as our New Zealand Historic Places Trust Regional Archaeologist. Thanks Kathryn – you have been fabulous to work with (although I cannot understand how you are forsaking the beaches of Tasman for the coldness of the Chathams). And welcome to David Rudd who has taken over the role.

Amanda Young

Marlborough

Michael Trotter has completed monitoring the harvesting of mature blocks of coastal pine forest south of the Clarence River. Very little archaeological evidence was found, due mainly to the forestry debris being left in position. It did, however, provide an opportunity to update information about four adjacent sites, one of which, the large moa-hunter site at the Clarence River mouth (P30/4), has been largely destroyed by a new flood channel cutting right through it. Another (P30/15), which is a series of 10 or more garden walls, some of which were first recorded by Tony Walton in 1991, has been largely obscured by the subsequent planting of pine trees. Interestingly, Google Earth shows two more walls not previously recognised either on the ground or on earlier aerial photographs.

On 2-3 November, New Zealand Historic Places Trust archaeologist David Rudd, assisted by museum and heritage studies student Phillipa Hamilton, conducted a small excavation at the mud and stud cottage in Robin Hood Bay, Marlborough. This excavation was the first stage of an ongoing plan to conserve the historic cottage. Two large macrocarpas were threatening the cot-

tage, the roots of one having already grown under the bedroom and ripped up the floorboards. Trenches were hand-excavated between the structure and the macrocarpas, in order to sever any remaining roots growing under the cottage before the stump removal. The remains of a 1870s extension to the cottage were found in one of the trenches, and comprised a concrete foundation badly damaged by the growth and fall of the nearby tree. The stumps of the trees were removed using a 20 tonne digger, exposing artefacts in the resulting holes.

Reg Nichol

West Coast

Reg Nichol and Les Wright have been involved in a series of surveys in connection with a proposed extension to the opencast pit on Globe Hill. The area of the pit extension produced a track and tramway, living terraces and traces of timber extraction. Additional survey along Oriental Creek Road produced several deposits of domestic midden and yet further living terraces, including one major concentration with about 20 examples.

Jackie Breen carried out the final field work on the second half of the Paringa to Haast Cattle Track in early October as part of a heritage assessment. The track was built in 1883-84 as the main road south of Bruce Bay. It is very well constructed, being over 3 m wide, and it has hundreds of examples of stone drains, culverts and fords. Telegraph poles from the line that used to run through to Haast still line the track, and there are two roadmen's huts at either end, including one that is managed by the Department of Conservation.

Katharine Watson

Canterbury

Michael Trotter and Darran Kerei-Keepa recently excavated a human burial at South Bay, Kaikoura, which was particularly interesting on account of the burial goods with it. These comprised flakes of scarifying flint with a hammer-stone, a bone needle, a deliberately blunted nephrite chisel, and over 1100 units of *Dentalium nanum* shell which formed anklets around the lower legs (see the paper published in this volume of *Archaeology in New Zealand*) for more information.

With assistance from Jeanette McIsaac, Michael is currently monitoring the installation of a new sewer main along the main road at Redcliffs, Christchurch. Recent earthquakes have created numerous breaks in the existing pipeline and it requires complete replacement. The line passes through two major early sites – Redcliffs Flat (M36/24) and Monks Spur (M36/47 and M36/65). Besides investigating the human occupation, they are also collecting data on the environment both during prehistoric occupation and in pre-human

times. Other nearby sewers and water mains will also require replacement due to earthquake damage.

Kevin Jones has been down at Kaikoura working on a cable route at Hapuku School.

Work recording the demolition of pre-1900 buildings and monitoring the removal of the foundations on any site with pre-1900 occupation continues in Christchurch, with some 650 buildings now demolished since February. Andy Dodd, Emily Cunliffe, Katharine Watson, Matt Carter and Matt Hennessey are all involved in this work, while Julia Hughes and Luke Tremlett are recording the work required to stabilise the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings. Gwen Jackson has recently started work analysing the many artefacts that are being found.

Katharine Watson