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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Antarctica

Dan McCurdy and Russell Gibb from Geometria have recently returned from a second season in Antarctica where they undertook further laser scan and high-definition metrology recording on Scott and Shackleton's huts, as well as Wilson's igloo at Cape Crozier - the setting for the book *The Worst Journey In the World*.

Northland

In January part of a midden site (Q07/751) was investigated by CFG Heritage at a property at 4 Ocean Beach Road, Urquharts Bay, Whangārei Heads. Investigations revealed two small areas of intact midden deposits, but also extensive historic disturbance with a house having been on the property since the 1920s. Artefacts included a stone fishing net weight and small flakes of chert and obsidian. The only features recorded were a single oven and several associated postholes. Our thanks to Kane Ditchfield and Cameron McCaffrey who volunteered their assistance.

CFG Heritage also carried out mitigation mapping on two sites at Taupō Bay that had been damaged during the harvesting of pine trees. A pā (P04/640) and an area of stone mounds probably linked to prehistoric gardening or field clearance (P04/641) were mapped and photographed in detail.

Simon Best reports on an excavation of two pits at the Pahi Peninsula, North Kaipara. The two pits were half sectioned. An obsidian flake tool, and classic terminology might describe it as a burin or graver. There are usewear flaking scars on the tool and x-ray fluorescent analysis shows clearly that the obsidian originated from Mayor Island. Three bulk samples from the pits included midden that has the normal suspects: cockle, pipi and mud snail but also scallop (*Pecten novaezelandiae*) and the Bluff oyster (*Ostrea chilensis*). The microfossil analysis of soil indicates a high concentration of microscopic charcoal. The samples are dominated by pollen of tānekaha trees and spores of bracken. Spores of hornworts also feature – these small plants colonise freshly exposed soils and are associated with burning of forests. A radiocarbon date of Pit 1 at 95.45% probability is 1479-1681 AD and Pit 2 at 95.4% probability is 1529-1836 AD. There is evidence that this site may be associated with the

original clearance and occupation of the Pahi Peninsula but this will be confirmed with further excavations.

An archaeological investigation has been carried out at Oihi Bay/Marsden Cross in February 2012 as a joint project between the University of Otago and the Department of Conservation (DOC). Ian Smith and Angela Middleton (University of Otago) and Andrew Blanshard (DOC) have been coordinating and supervising the investigation which has included graduate students, DOC and New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) staff and the local community.

Oihi was the first permanent European settlement in New Zealand, established in December 1814. It remained in use for just under 18 years, and this short life span adds to its significance as a benchmark for early Pākehā material culture. Two areas of the site were excavated. Area 1 disclosed a lower layer with pre-European Māori occupation buried by more than 400 mm of clay fill, creating a large terrace on which one of the mission buildings was constructed. This proved to be the mission school, indicated by an extraordinarily high number of slate pencils, along with children's toys. Two phases of building construction were found at the school, with the second building much smaller than the first. In Area 2 the lowest occupation derived from the missionary period, but did not reveal any structural remains. This was buried by a deep layer of clay fill from construction of a much larger terrace, perhaps in preparation for a larger missionary house. However, no such building appears to have been constructed; instead, there was a small structure with a traditional Māori stone-lined hearth. Whether this was used during or after the missionaries abandoned the site is not clear, although artefacts associated with this whare appear to be very similar to those of the mission era.

The excavation attracted considerable attention from the local community, descendants of the missionary families and local iwi, and was widely followed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/oihimissionstation) and via DOC's website (www.doc.govt.nz/marsdencrossdig). Plans are currently being made for a second season of excavation in December 2012. Angela Middleton will be using material from this excavation as part of a project about daily life on the Bay of Islands mission stations from about 1814 to 1845. This project will also investigate on the changing relationship between iwi and missionaries during this time.

Bill Edwards

Coromandel Peninsula

Clough & Associates, with assistance from Ngāti Hei representatives, undertook the excavation of early Maori settlement site T11/1030 at Hahei,

Coromandel Peninsula in early February. The site was found to be a remnant section of what was potentially a larger settlement that may have extended over much of the dune system. The site likely forms part of the same site that was investigated by Edson and Brown (1976) and Harsant (1984). Excavations revealed pits, postholes, fire scoops and hearths cut into the old dune surface beneath a mixed mid-dark grey charcoal stained layer that contained numerous stone, obsidian and shell artefacts. Few artefacts were recovered relating to the earliest period of activity. Results of analysis and the final report for the excavations are pending.

Mat Campbell

Central North Island

In the Waikato this summer, Phil Moore and Warren Gumbley have been assessing a new roading project at Tamahere (Hamilton) and CFG Heritage have completed excavations of sites S14/158 and S14/198 as part of the Taupiri Link component of the Waikato Expressway (cfgheritage.com/2011_44taupirilink.pdf).

Mat Campbell reports that S14/158 consisted of around 150 sand-filled hollows of a type often interpreted as truncated remains of puke, or kūmara growing mounds. However, this site was on a damp lower terrace of the Komokorau Stream and microfossil analysis found taro starch as well as kūmara starch, which indicates that these hollows represent more than just kūmara growing.

At S14/198, most of the sand-filled hollows, if they existed, had been ploughed out, though the plough zone topsoil contained artificially added sand. Two sets of borrow pits were excavated, as well as 63 sand-filled hollows that had been obscured by ploughing. Excavation of hollows at both sites revealed the marks of digging tools in their bases. The sites date to the 16th or 17th century. Charcoal from S14/198 was primarily from forest species, suggesting that the gardens may have been cut into virgin forest.

Changes in Opus International Consultants' archaeological team in Hamilton include Chris Mallows moving to a heritage position with Auckland Council at the start of March (Chris has been with Opus for nearly seven years) and Nick Cable going to Christchurch (still with Opus). Opus archaeologists have been working on the Hauraki rail trail, recording bridges and monitoring earthworks between Te Aroha and Thames for the Hauraki District Council.

In the western Bay of Plenty Chris Mallows, before leaving for Auckland, was monitoring a small infrastructure project at Tanners Point for the Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

A Waihi correspondent reports concerns that gold mining activity is putting historic remains on nearby Union Hill at risk (archaeological sites T13/303, 822, 823). Although equipment has recently been installed to monitor the effects of vibrations from underground mining operations on the Category 1 cyanide tanks and one of the 10 ore-roasting kilns, other fragile remains on the hill, including the outstanding concrete and masonry foundations of the battery site, are already close to collapse. Public access to the battery has also been upgraded, apparently without consideration of visitor impact on the historic remains, or of a 2009 conservation plan.

Mining of the Martha Hill over the last 25 years by the Waihi Gold Mining Company and Newmont Waihi Gold Limited has already destroyed or relocated some of the more significant early mining-related structures in Waihi. Newmont's account of activities at Union Hill can be found at <http://www.marthamine.co.nz/assets/updates/2012/newmont-update-2012-01-26.pdf>.

Still in the western Bay, Mat Campbell and CFG Heritage have completed excavations at site U14/2351, Mataraua Pā, near Tauriko, on the outskirts of ever-expanding Tauranga. The northern end of the site was excavated in 2007 (cfgheritage.com/2008_32taurikomataraua.pdf) when numerous kūmara pits, representing at least three phases of activity, were found. The site had been contoured for kiwifruit, probably in the 1970s or 80s, and the central part of the site had been destroyed.

More recently, as development proceeded to the south, several truncated pits were found about 200 m from the features previously excavated. At least two phases of activity were represented and there were two sub-phases in the largest pit, which had a new floor relaid over the original floor. Unfortunately this end of the site was so heavily truncated that no ovens or middens remained.

Elsewhere in the Bay of Plenty, John Coster is still involved with forestry jobs, which have also dominated the last three months for InSitu Heritage. Lynda Walter notes that the majority of blocks now being harvested had at least partial archaeological surveys completed at establishment and many sites were reserved from planting. Nevertheless, there were still a remarkably high number of sites planted up, particularly in smaller privately owned or woodlot forests. It is heartening, however, that many of the harvesting contractors show a high level of care and skill in their approach to the removal of trees from archaeological sites, and in most cases this is achieved with little or no ground disturbance.

Apart from the forestry work, InSitu has been assisting the Bay of Plenty Regional Council with the historic heritage provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan during its current revision process. Lynda has also provided advice for

on-going work at the Papamoa Hills Regional Park, with a new track network, tree planting programme and revision of the internal farm fencing.

Lynda also recently monitored walking track repairs by the Tauranga City Council at Mauao Historic Reserve (Mt Maunganui) that, somewhat ironically, did not affect any archaeological features. There has been considerable public pressure to get the walking tracks open and safe for public use as most of the slip damage occurred in early 2011 and sections of very popular tracks have been closed since that time. As noted in the December 2011 issue of *Archaeology in New Zealand*, no action has so far been taken to assess the effect of slip damage that impinges on archaeological features, particularly on the southwest slopes of Mauao.

Peter Holmes, now based in Tauranga, is expecting to begin monitoring work soon on a small development at Mt Maunganui and is close to completing a report on recent excavations at Waimarama, south of Cape Kidnappers.

John Coster

Hawkes Bay

Kevin Jones reports that test pitting in Mahia township has revealed a range of new sites which have been incorporated into a management plan.

Taranaki

Monitoring of the restoration of the White Hart building in New Plymouth by Ivan Bruce has been on-going since last year. To date archaeological features found include a well and a cobbled courtyard. The courtyard was cobbled with local beach stone in the style attributed to the Devon settlers when excavated elsewhere in the district, and may date to the original structure (built in 1844). The cobbles have been carefully built over and remain substantially unaffected. A glass floor has been designed to display the floor to the public. Excavation on the adjacent section has resulted in the recording of two further wells, dug by settler William Henwood during the 1840s. The upper levels of one well have been excavated and an assemblage of late 19th century bottle glass, ceramic and domestic midden was recovered.

Hans Bader of Archaeology Solutions Ltd, has been working with mana whenua to investigate and preserve a number of Māori garden beds several kilometres inland of Waitara. Overall, 30-40 individual beds could be distinguished as well as ancillary features like pathways, borrow pits and a marker stone possibly associated with the god Rongo. An area with a few large pits overlooking a Waitara river flat with extensive garden remains was possibly used to prepare crops for winter storage elsewhere. At least one of the pits was half cut into the slope and half built up with an earth wall. One of

the garden beds on the river flats showed artificial compressed floors for the individual planting mounds with imported sand and charcoal mixed into the garden soil above it.

This project, and others carried out by Archaeology Solutions Ltd in North Taranaki over the past two years, have resulted in a number of newly recorded sites in areas well within the 19th century bush line where little has previously been recorded. A few of the mounds damaged by modern farming show layers of imported stones and gravel. Results from investigations of hāngī indicate many visits to the area, suggesting large scale, intensive Māori horticulture within this valley. This might be a response to either fighting on the coast, or a strategy to utilise clearings in the bush that were well protected from cold winds by the hilly landscape. Oral traditions place Wiremu Kingi in the general area of the gardens which may suggest a Māori supply base for fighting during the first Taranaki Land War.

Russell Gibb and Dan McCurdy of Geometria Ltd have recently completed another two week block of surveys as part of the New Plymouth District Council archaeological and wāhi tapu site review. Recent fieldwork has been in conjunction with Ngāti Mutunga. A number of new sites have been recorded, as well as several sites not previously relocated positively identified.

Subdivision and development of sections near Waitara have resulted in damage to Matarikoriko pā, the site of a significant engagement in the first phase of the Taranaki Land Wars. Even with the site listed in the district plan, the owner was apparently unaware of the site, its history, or its legal protection. Ivan Bruce has completed a site damage report for NZHPT and artefacts have been lodged with Puke Ariki Museum in New Plymouth. A geomagnetic survey by Hans Bader has also allowed for the damage to be seen in the context of the gun fighter trench system of this pā without any further intrusive modification. Ivan has also completed a management plan for Te Ruaki pā near Ohangai, South Taranaki, following damage by heavy cattle grazing in June 2010. The site is now fenced and will continue to be grazed, subject to conditions, to manage weed and grass cover. Te Ruaki is located on one of the Crafar farms recently under consideration by the Overseas Investment Office.

Lastly, a heritage advocacy group, Heritage Taranaki Incorporated, has been formed to take the place of the soon to be dissolved regional branch of the NZHPT. The committee comprises a mix of interested public, archaeologists, historians, as well as museum, district council, and DOC staff. Ivan Bruce has prepared a submission for the New Plymouth District Council Heritage Strategy

Discussion Document on behalf of the group, and further submissions will be made as matters pertinent to the heritage of the region arise.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Andy Dodd has been monitoring earthworks for the construction of *The Hobbit* film set at Miramar Peninsula. The site of the Point Halswell battery workers' camp and subsequent prison has been considerably modified by construction of earlier sets for the *Lord of the Rings*, *Kingdom Come* and *King Kong*, but a feature containing a number of clay pipes, bottles and ceramic items has been encountered during works to date.

Kevin Jones has been under Queens Wharf, lying on his back on the floor of a punt recording the underside of the wharf and the replacement of c. 1885 totara piles.

Victoria Grouden has been working on some small excavations in Pipitea Street Oriental Parade, Oriental Bay and Taranaki Street. She has also carried out several assessments for water main renewal projects in Strathmore, Morningson and Crofton Downs. On-going monitoring of planting and vegetation control continues at Tarakena Bay, location of several notable historic South Coast pā sites.

Myfanwy Eaves reports that she has been involved with the demolition of the old fish and chip shop at Hataitai, behind which lurked the 1914 brick oven, semi-collapsed but still recordable. Myfanwy is currently compiling bits of this record to tell the story of the Hataitai bakery, 1911- ?? . It is possible that the Hataitai bakery replaced the 1907 relief kitchen one.

Mary O'Keeffe continues working on Wellington region roading projects, including the hearing for Transmission gully. She has also done a volunteer investigation of the Mount Street Cemetery in Wellington for the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery, and is undertaking a volunteer dig of a 19th century dairy farm cottage in her local suburb, for the local community.

Mary O'Keeffe

Nelson

A holiday maker and his family uncovered part of an unusual waka from eroding sand dunes on conservation land near the mouth of the Anaweka River, north of Kahurangi Point on Nelson's northwest coast. It is now being conserved in Takaka under the close direction of Dilys Johns, supported by local iwi group Manawhenua Ki Mohua and DOC. The 7 m long waka component is a side strake from a large craft which appears to have had multiple strakes. It has been adzed with great precision to a compound curved shape and to leave

internal structural features, including ribs and a longitudinal stringer. It is also unusual because the only decoration is a simple relief carving of a turtle on the outside surface. Initial timber analysis indicates that it is New Zealand Matai. Although the context of the find has largely gone, it was embedded in a swamp soil which is presumed to have originally formed in the swale of a now eroded outer dune.

The find location is rapidly eroding and further archaeological investigation is being carried out in early March by Steve Bagley to determine if there is any chance that anything else of the waka has survived in situ.

Deb Foster has completed the report of monitoring of the Bells Island-Monaco sewer pipe installation. Two new sites were reported, an occupation site containing evidence of pre- and post-European settlement, and an artefact find spot (two cores, one chert, one argillite) on Monaco Peninsula, consistent with Knapp's 1920s report of 'Māori camps' in the vicinity.

Monitoring of earthworks on a property in the back-beach area at Pohara revealed a small area of stone working, including quartz and argillite flakes, an in situ filing stone and a large piece of kōkōwai which appears to have been used in the manner of a crayon.

In late November last year road realignment earthworks along the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road uncovered the remains of what appeared to be kūmara pits that had been filled in. The work to that date had involved stripping the site of its bush cover as well as 300-400 mm of topsoil, which had already been disturbed by ploughing and cultivation. Luckily the works were being monitored by an iwi representative who spotted the strange dark outlines in the weathered granite. All work in the area was stopped pending an archaeological authority to investigate the site. The resulting excavation was undertaken in early February.

The site has proved to be a defended settlement, complete with four pit structures dug into the weathered granite substrate (with post holes), a double row of palisading (approximately 500 postholes remain), a 10 m long defensive ditch with causeway and massive post holes, probably representing the layout of fighting platforms and pātaka. The site is now recorded as N26/298.

A large area of the site was obliterated when the original road was pushed through in the 1930s, reducing its size from an estimated 600 0m² to less than 3000 m². There is no remaining evidence of midden, and no sign of stone working at the site. Several large imported cobbles litter the slope, possibly used as weaponry. Just two artefacts have been recovered – a well-used, broken argillite adze seemingly placed in a fire scoop, and the possible butt end of another adze recovered from surface spoil. There is little sign of cooking – just three scoops containing a mixture of quartz and greywacke ovenstones. There are significant

areas within the palisading that do not appear to have any structures on them, and only limited evidence of possible terracing suited to housing.

The site is located between two other pā known from traditional Māori and European accounts, Puketawai/Old Pah Hill (N26/104) to the south and Anawera/Anawhakau (N26/94) to the north in Tapu bay. Research to date has failed to locate any mention of this particular site.

The visible remains of the site such as the pits and defensive ditch were probably ploughed out before 1947 as they are not visible on aerial photos dating to that time. It is possible that the depressions were filled in during installation of power poles on the hilltop. The future of the site is presently under negotiation.

Reg Nichol and Gary Buchanan have carried out site surveys in a number of Crown Forest Rental Trust forests in the region. In the Marahau Forest they recorded several terrace sites and some probable quartz working. The use of this inferior material appears to reflect the impoverished mineralogy of the local Separation Point granite. On one approach to the forest, from its northern side, they also located a new pā site, N26/296.

Their survey in the Motueka North Bank forest also located terrace sites and, most notably, a large terrace pā (N27/205) overlooking the Motueka River. A previous survey in the Marahau Forest located pā site N26/207, which Aiden Challis later recognised as the only pā in the South Island out of site of the sea. N27/205 therefore represents a considerable advance in knowledge of site distribution, as the site is located 7 km up the Motueka River.

Their last survey was at Pakawau. In the pine forests they located several probable prehistoric terrace sites as well as some coal prospecting and one small-scale coal mining operation with a level tram running in a pair of impressive cuttings. It was entirely typical of Gary that, after full days working in the forest, he twice suggested that they should do some ‘recreational’ surveying north along the east coast. These trips produced better information about several existing sites, some new middens, a new early site with a large piece of a most impressive quadrangular adze in very dark grey argillite, and the remains of what appears to have been a small private coal loading operation with a coal bin right on the shore.

Amanda Young

Marlborough Sounds

Reg Nichol and Gary Buchanan have carried out further limited site survey around Umungata Bay, also called Davies Bay, at the head of Queen Charlotte Sound. Most importantly, they made detailed records of a ‘fence’ of little ?mānuka stakes exposed on the beach, very much like the site on Ara-

paoa Island recently reported in this column by Deb Foster. There was also an isolated pair of comparable posts about 100 m away down the coast. An intensive search of the area of the main fence located shell midden and argillite and basalt flakes, and some large post holes were also visible in section in the eroding face close by. However, the fence, now recorded as P27/426, remains very much a puzzle.

Gary Buchanan

It is with great regret that I must report the death of Gary Buchanan. Gary died at his family bach on Arapaoa Island on Boxing Day, a couple of weeks before his 57th birthday. Though Gary was not a member of the Association he made a great contribution to the protection of heritage. I therefore feel obliged to write a few words about the man, who was truly one of the sweetest and most genuine people I have ever had to pleasure to meet.

Gary was raised at Waikawa Bay, and seems to have spent most of the first 25 or so years of his life walking beaches and climbing ridges almost everywhere in the inner Marlborough Sounds. He also had a great facility at communicating with the people he met, and this allowed him to accumulate a huge store of information on archaeological sites in region. He then lived and worked in Wellington for more than 20 years. After his return he quickly became involved in most aspects of heritage and environmental protection, I suspect because of his often-expressed alarm at the ongoing degradation of the local landscape, and at his death he was an office holder in the Waikawa Marae committee and the group Guardians of the Sounds. He was also an active volunteer at Picton Museum.

I only got to know Gary all too recently, but I immediately discovered that he was an ideal partner in the field, always being willing to climb one more ridge or wade round one more headland. I think it was our discovery of the density of sites around the Mahakipawa Arm of the Pelorus Sound, where virtually no sites had previously been recorded, that really fired Gary's imagination, and it is to my shame that none of these sites has yet been entered in ArchSite. But Gary was not to be deterred, and he was firmly set on filling the many gaps in the distribution of recorded sites in the Sounds. Tragically, our plans were halted by Gary's most untimely death, which must be seen as a great loss for local heritage, not only because of the work he had intended to carry out, but also for his store of personal knowledge that had yet to be formally recorded.

Reg Nichol

Canterbury

A small lithic assemblage was recovered by excavation recently by Witter Archaeology while monitoring a septic tank installation at Rakaia Huts. This was on the old von Haast Rakaia River mouth site. The excavation was in a 2 x 5 m area near the terrace edge and 155 artefacts were recovered. Using attribute and microscopic usewear analyses it was possible to identify a variety of activities. The most surprising was finding burin-type usewear on two of the artefacts. These were not classic typological burins, nor did they show wear going up the sides as is usual for bone grooving. However, they did have heavy wear on the right-angled corner edge, and may have been engraving tools for bone or ivory. Also there was a small stone saw that was probably for bone working. Dan would be interested to know if there are any other artefacts thought to be burin-like identified in New Zealand.

Dan has just finished a draft report on a group of sites in the dunes north of Kaiapoi. Of the 33 sites, 11 were excavated and sampled. They consisted of middens, some with ovens, and ovens by themselves. The sites varied considerably and one had multiple shell lenses, fish, bird and rat bone as well as a possible habitation structure, suggesting a camp. The rest indicate day visits for communal meals in the dune landscape from villages elsewhere. The sites are interpreted as using the bulky bracken rhizomes and transporting shell fish as a supplement. This resource would have been available at any time of the year and provided a stop gap for food shortages. It was probably essential for village survival. With North Canterbury near the southern limit of kūmara gardening, crop failures could be expected on a regular basis. Pegasus Bay, however, has a prograding coastline, creating a dune field and providing lagoons and estuaries. There is nothing like this for over 100 km to the south and 200 km to the north, where the coastline is boulder beaches or rocky. This environmental reliability was perhaps critical for the special Māori cultural and social developments in North Canterbury.

Michael Trotter and Jeanette McIsaac have been monitoring the installation of a replacement sewer main along the Main Road in the Christchurch suburb of Redcliffs, made necessary by extensive earthquake damage. The sewer trenching encroached on two recorded archaeological sites – near Moncks Spur (M36/47) and near Moa Bone Point Cave (M36/24). At Moncks Spur, the occupational material uncovered was mostly shell midden, though there were also natural deposits of vegetation and shells at a lower level – these make an interesting contrast with the Māori deposit. In the vicinity of Redcliffs School (near Moa Bone Point Cave) there was a considerable range of material mainly relating to the manufacture and maintenance of basalt and argillite adze-heads, as well as more general occupational activities. Food remains here were mostly

moa and shellfish, though there was also evidence of some small birds and mammals having been eaten. Of special importance was the finding of a small broken baked clay ball of the sort found on several early South Island sites.

Nearby, Emily Cunliffe uncovered a midden layer in McCormacks Bay during work to replace earthquake-damaged services. The layer contained shell and charcoal and measured between 20 and 30mm deep. No artefacts were recovered.

Nick Cable has monitored the removal of the stone-walled basement of the 1863 Forbes building (demolished due to earthquake damage) in Lyttelton. Prior to reclamation works, this area would have been on the waterfront in Lyttelton. The original earth floor was left largely intact and is to be capped by asphalt. Glass and stoneware bottles were recovered from under the footings of the rear wall which is likely to have been rebuilt sometime between 1866 and 1884. The footings of the rear timber extension appear to not only mark the modern end of the building, but also one of the earlier reclamation phases, as there was red scoria on one side and marine clay on the other, as well as a possible wharf pile.

As part of the on-going demolitions in the Christchurch central business district, Matt Hennessey monitored the demolition of a building at 246 High Street. Built in the 1870s, plaster had been applied to the exterior of the building to give it the appearance of being a modern tilt slab construction. It was only after demolition began that the plaster fell off, revealing a stunning red brick and limestone facade. The building featured riveted I-beams in its construction, and unique skylights that allowed sunlight to enter the first floor rooms.

The Benjamin Mountfort-designed Canterbury Provincial Council buildings were until recently the only surviving purpose-built provincial government buildings in New Zealand. Recent seismic activity has significantly damaged the buildings that make up this complex and work is currently underway to stabilise the structures through deconstruction, a process made more difficult by the continuing aftershocks. Deconstruction of the Provincial Chambers entails a thorough recording of material removed from the site and detailed recording of the various features of the buildings. This process has so far yielded many interesting finds, including unique carved and painted limestone corbels, and original handmade furniture which in some cases is remarkably intact. Most importantly, the deconstruction of the buildings has provided useful information about the construction of the buildings and its establishment within the setting of New Zealand's history.

The recording work is being undertaken by Luke Tremlett, Julia Hughes and Kirsa Webb, along with a dedicated team from Simons Construction. The stone chamber, built in the mid-1860s, has suffered the most extensive damage

and is now all but cleared of rubble. Over 1500 pallets of material have been removed from this building.

Steve Bagley, Ian Hill, Mary-Anne Baxter, Mike Shepherd, Jeff Dalley and Katharine Watson recently carried out a survey of two 19th century homestead sites in the St James Conservation Area. The Stanley Vale run was taken up in the 1860s and existed as a separate entity until being incorporated into St James station in 1892. The features that remain at the homestead site include a number of ditch and bank fences, plough lines (which are becoming increasingly difficult to see now that the area is no longer grazed), wire fences, a sheep dip, the bulldozed homestead site, two other building sites and the post holes from the yards. There are also numerous exotic plants in the area (including a fantastic raspberry patch).

The Lake Guyon run was taken up by W. T. L. Travers in 1860 and incorporated into the St James station until 1873. Travers took a number of photographs of the homestead complex which, along with aerial photographs taken by Kevin Jones, proved invaluable during the survey. The complex at Lake Guyon is similar to that at Stanley Vale, and comprised the remains of the homestead (three collapsed stone chimneys) and associated buildings (including a pigsty, woolshed and huts), a boat landing, the yards, a more intact sheep dip than that at Stanley Vale, and various post holes and the remains of an orchard. The original track to the Lake Guyon station homestead was also recorded during the survey.

Katharine Watson

West Coast

Les Wright's biggest job has been investigating the site of the Golden Fleece battery in conjunction with an assessment of the Blacks Point Historic Reserve. Built in 1900 and the smallest of three batteries completed by Consolidated Goldfields between 1898 (Progress) and 1908 (Snowy/Waiuta), it has been completely ignored during nearly 30 years of Murray Creek archaeology, despite being less than 500 m from a state highway via a road and popular walking track. Successive bushfires have almost destroyed the mortar box bedlogs, but there is an impressive set of concrete foundations that Jim Staton is matching to those at the Inglewood where a lot of Golden Fleece equipment seems to have gone.

Inspections of alluvial gold areas in the Grey valley have taken Les to an interesting prospecting and mining landscape at Deadman Creek and through probably the best water race tunnel he's ever seen, in the No Town Valley –

cut inside a papa cliff with regular ‘windows’ driven out to the face (for spoil disposal and light) at great heights above the creek.

Les had a comparatively disappointing day at Donoghues (near Ross) where he went to the 1870s Tail of the Filly deep sinking alluvial claim, armed with an old plan showing shaft, whim site, hut sites etc, only to find it had been largely destroyed by subsequent (and rather amorphous) sluicing.

Reg Nichol has carried out post-harvest assessments at four pine forests in the Grey Valley where the initial surveys were carried out by the late Ray Hooker. Nothing new was seen at Cronadun or Larry’s Creek, but at Red Jacks Reg was able to add some details to the record of features present, the most striking being a series of at least seven tailraces, which emerge several metres up a concave-curving vertical cliff face above the creek. Reg was also able to map additional features adjacent to the stone fireplace at a Chinese mining site at Slab Hut Creek. These include at least five shallow surface drains and two small and neatly rectangular pits, presumably long drops rather than prospecting. These suggest a particular interpretation of the site: Reg thinks that the fireplace (which at 2.55 m wide ‘inside leg’ seems very large for an ordinary domestic hut), was a group facility used by the members of a small and presumably short-lived Chinese community.

Matt Carter and Katharine Watson recently surveyed the Lyell cemetery site, which is part of the DOC reserve at Lyell. There are 15 graves at a rather picturesque site in the bush. Few of the graves have headstones, but most are enclosed within wrought iron fences. Holly had been planted next to the most remote grave within the cemetery.

Katharine Watson

Otago

The DOC Wanaka Area Office are in the process of having a conservation plan completed for Breast Creek Hut (ex-Lake Hawea station) by Jackie Gillies and Associates.

A new gold mining site (G39/9) has been recorded following a fire in the Matataiho Conservation Area at Lake Hawea. These sites are downstream of the 1880 gold rush to Long Gully (G39/3, G39/6-7). The rush was a short-lived one, lasting little more than a year. There was a settlement associated with the rush and this included a bakery, five stores, a hotel and a butchery. The population was down to two miners by the winter of 1881. Before the gold rush this stream was known as Panama Creek after an eccentric boundary rider who never rode without his sombrero.

The 2012 University of Otago archaeological field school was held at Macraes Flat in Eastern Otago. The project was a collaboration between

Opus International Consultants and Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (Anthropology and Archaeology Department, University of Otago). The students worked on two sites located within the proposed expansion of Oceana Gold's Macraes mine. Robinson's farmstead is a collection of sites, structures and material culture from an 1870s farm. The investigations focused around the reconstruction of a late 19th century pastoral landscape. Another team worked at the site of the earliest stamper battery in the Macraes district. The Duke of Edinburgh stamper was erected in 1866 and operated until 1874. In addition to defining the location and operation of the stamper, excavations focused on a set of stone and sod ruins in the same land block that date from the early gold-mining period.

Tiffany James-Lee