



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### PDC

A workshop on buildings archaeology has been requested regularly since the PDC started, and we were really pleased to be able to present Introduction to Buildings Archaeology as our 17th workshop, the day before the New Zealand Archaeological Association conference at Oamaru. This workshop addressed the basic approaches in the recording of structures. We emphasised the fact that archaeology involves above ground (as well as) below ground evidence and explained how an archaeological approach is different to that of a heritage architect. Our speakers included Nicola Jackson, Bev Parslow and Wesley Maguire (all from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust), with thoughts from Martin Jones transmitted through Caroline Phillips.

This aspect of archaeology has grown in importance of late, especially since the Wellington Bypass in 2006 involved the investigation of a number of urban dwellings. The archaeological recording of buildings varies considerably throughout the country, and currently the New Zealand Historic Places Trust's 'Guidelines for the investigation and recording of buildings and standing structures' is being updated. In addition, the Historic Places Bill is now in select committee stage and buildings are specifically included in the definition of an archaeological site for the first time, which made this workshop even more timely. The workshop discussed the legislation and how buildings fitted into the whole package of heritage, the changes to the NZHPT guidelines and the practical applications of them, the provision for buildings archaeology in a Resource Management Act context and how this links with the Historic Places Act. Our speakers also discussed differences in the approach of architects and archaeologists and presented good examples of buildings recording.

As this is a large topic, we intend to hold a follow-up workshop, with examples of urban buildings, rural homesteads, hotels, industrial buildings and garden structures, as well as regional styles. It will include presentation of results, including reconstructions and 3D modelling, in-depth recording techniques, and the use of dendrochronology. This will be run over two days.

A huge vote of thanks must be given to staff of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for this workshop and to all those who attended (many of whom are very experienced in their own right), who shared information about the work they had been involved in. Also thanks to Meri Low for administration.

A further workshop is planned for 2012, and our email list has already been informed. Being an Expert Witness is a repeat of a popular workshop held last year, planned for Wellington in August. More workshops will be run next year. If you are not on our list and you want to hear more about the workshop series please drop Meri Low a line at [meri.low@xtra.co.nz](mailto:meri.low@xtra.co.nz).

*Professional Development Cell*

## **Northland**

Jono Carpenter has been doing the assessment for the Ruakaka South sewerage scheme which involves the installation of 600 residential grinder pumps, a similar number of directional drilling entry points and 30 km of reticulation along the escarpment above the Ruakaka River and some of the dune lands between it and the coast. This is a complicated, extensive and last minute assessment in an intensively occupied archaeological landscape now covered in 60 years of medium density residential development.

Jono has also carried out DOC heritage assessments for Taumarumaru, Tapeka, Akeake, Bream Head, Mimiwhangata, Taumatawhana, Motuarohia and Tauroa Point actively managed historic places, as well as numerous assessments for subdivisions and residential developments in Whangarei and the Bay of Islands. He continues to be involved with the Helena Bay Farm overseas investor redevelopment, including managing the discovery of four water-logged ko during a tidy up of a stream mouth.

Northern Archaeological Research report that they have been involved with the monitoring work associated with the installation of a sewerage main to the former curator's at the Kerikeri Mission Station. The work involves not only trenching but also the installation of a large sewerage pump. The disused septic tank (with some minor modifications) has been used to house the pump, so there is no need for further excavation of the site. They also report that have been busy with forestry assessments in the Pouto Peninsula and writing reports.

Clough and Associates are in the process of doing an archaeological assessment for a small subdivision in the Waipu area. The proposed building platform is close to an archaeological site and at the time of writing Rod Clough was driving north to look at the proposal.

Caroline Philips has recently been involved with an archaeological assessment for the building of a small detached toilet block and services for the Williams Memorial Church of St Paul in Paihia. The Church is registered as a Category 1 building (3824) with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and it is the fourth church on the site. The cemetery has a large number of unmarked graves.

Hans-Dieter Bader has been involved with an archaeological assessment at Houhora. The Houhora Heads camping ground had proposed to excavate a swimming pool. The site of the pool was on the recently demolished Smith cottage, which dated from around 1900. The cottage had been built over and encapsulated a pre-historic midden. The swimming pool has now been moved to an area which appears not to impact upon intact archaeology.

*Bill Edwards*

## **Bay of Plenty**

Site U14/3404 was found at Wintrebre Lane, Tauriko, Western Bay of Plenty, during topsoil stripping and investigated by a team from CFG Heritage from 4-9 July 2012. A group of storage pits was excavated on the central part of the hill. Most pits were excavated in half section - for instance, for the largest pit, which measured approximately 8.2 x 2.6 m on the surface, only a 3.5 m section at the north end was excavated. Despite the relatively small area excavated 22 internal features were exposed, including three rows of square postholes. There were at least two phases of pit construction – one pit cuts through at least two earlier pits and the later pits had layers of charcoal-rich fills indicating repeated burning of the landscape after the site was abandoned. The earlier pits all contained much cleaner soil and were filled successively as new pits were constructed.

Further back along the top of the hill just to the west was a discrete group of earth ovens, with two very large ovens and several smaller ones. Another small midden site, U14/3405, was also investigated on adjacent hill. The midden here as quite sparse, consisting of mainly cockle and pipi.

With the aid of a small Skinner Fund grant, Kevin Jones has been flying the Waikato west coast again. He has photographed sites on the coastal strip and rivers and lakes from Pariokena (Whitecliffs) north to Kawhia Harbour. Places covered include Paparoa Point, Albatross Point, Anaomaki Point, Tokatapu Point, Kawhia township, Maketu Marae, Totara Point, Taharoa township, Taharoa dredge, Taharoa Lookout, Lake Rototapu, Harihari Beach, Tauhua Stream, Marokopa River, Kiritehere Beach, Tirua Point, Te Ranga (pa), Taungaruroa Point, Awakino River, Mokau River, Totara Stream, Te Kawau, Tongaporotu, Katikatiaka, Pukearuhe, Okoki, Patea Dam and Rapanui Road (the last near Wanganui). Contact Kevin if you want the precise GPS track.

In the western Bay of Plenty, MishMish Productions Ltd (Brigid Gallagher and Raysan al-Kubaisi) have been moving back into archaeology with a range of small scale archaeological assessments and archaeological work, mainly in the Waihi Beach, Bowentown and Katikati areas. Monitoring of a swimming pool development in the Athenree area resulted in the discovery of

an extensive midden showing at least seven phases of deliberate deposition. They have also recently completed excavations at U14/3144, on The Strand in Tauranga, where redevelopment is occurring on the sites of some pre-1900 buildings.

Brigid's role in archaeological conservation continues with analysis of metalwork from Caroline Phillips's Grantham Street (Hamilton) excavation. Some of the pieces will be x-rayed to elucidate more information than is evident on the surface. Other archaeological objects from archaeological sites and museums nationally have been in conservation treatment, including a hīnaki which was the centre piece of an 'Eels' exhibition at Te Awamutu Museum.

MishMish now offers a service to supply silica gel and acid free tissue to archaeologists who are working on site and need to halt further corrosion and deterioration of excavated metal finds. Advice and treatment is also available for conservation issues relating to archaeological objects, sites and monuments.

Spreading the word about archaeological and heritage issues, Brigid has a regular slot (the first Thursday of every month) on Kathryn Ryan's 'Nine to Noon' show on Radio New Zealand. As well as her blog 'Digging the Dirt' on the Sciblogs website, she also gives public interest talks to various service groups on archaeology, heritage and the people who work in these fields.

Still in Tauranga, Ken Phillips recently completed excavations on the police station site adjoining the Monmouth Redoubt. Apparently little was found, apart from some pre-European pits, but there were a suspicious number of bottles scattered around the site.

In the east, Kevin Jones has also been chasing a mole plough on the Mahia Peninsula.

*John Coster*

## **Wellington**

Kevin Jones has been mucking around the undersides of Shed 5 on Queens Wharf, the Morgan Building (an early Fletcher Construction building, 1922) and the Karori tunnel. The last threw up some "SYKES PATENT" ceramic conduits (for three-phase power) like small organ pipes, probably for the first Karori trams (1902).

Andy Dodd (Subsurface Ltd) has been working with Chris Wild (Wild North) and Elise Smith (Envision) to create an archaeological predictive model for the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC). The model will incorporate New Zealand Archaeological Association data, historic references and environmental variables as well as information supplied by Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa representatives. The intention is to create a GIS

layer that can assist KCDC in processing consents and identifying archaeologically sensitive areas in the district plan.

Andy Dodd is also carrying out assessments of archaeological heritage within the Wellington Coastal Marine Area for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). This work builds on the results of an earlier desk-based scoping study commissioned by GWRC which identified 218 shipwrecks, and over 180 locations for coastal infrastructure in the Wellington Coastal Marine Area. This work is being commissioned by GWRC as part of their review of the Wellington Coastal Plan.

Andy has also carried out an archaeological survey of Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve near Paekakariki for the Department of Conservation (DOC). The reserve contains the remnants of Camp Mackay, one of three bases at Paekakariki for US Marines during World War II, and the location of Māori cultivations associated with the 19th century coastal settlements at Wainui and Whareroa. The survey has included geophysical survey by Hans Bader (Archaeological Solutions) around areas of known Māori settlement within the reserve. Andy is also currently working for DOC on heritage assessments for the Te Kahu-o-te-Rangi whaling station and whaling try pots at Long Point Kapiti Island.

Mary O’Keeffe continues work on two Wellington Roads of National Significance – the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway and the Tunnels Duplication project. She is helping the Paraparaumu Playcentre with the archaeological aspects of the demolition of their 1890 premises and earthworks under the site, and helping the Friends of the Mount Street Cemetery with placement of a new path through the historic cemetery and maintenance of the graves (both of these project are being done by Mary on a voluntary basis).

*Mary O’Keeffe*

## **Canterbury**

In February, Kevin Jones took oblique aerials of the following: Gunyah, Highbank power station, the Rangitata Diversion Race and intake, Staveley-Mt Somers lime quarry, Staveley World War II ammunition stores, Ashburton River siphon and flood spillways, the Ashburton road and rail bridge, an Ashburton church, the Ashburton railway station, the World War II fuel pit at Bankside, the Longbeach homestead, cookshop and flour mill and the Homebush woolshed, piggery and stables and water tower, etc.

Jackie Breen has been investigating a 1915 lodge in (known as Sefton Lodge) in Mt Cook village. Anecdotes suggested that parts of the first Hermitage were used to construct Sealy Cottage (also known as Sefton Lodge) in 1915, after the second Hermitage was completed. Jackie’s job was to determine if this was

in fact the case. Based on two days investigating and recording the building, it was obvious that significant proportion of the sub-floor framing, internal wall framing, floorboards and sarking showed distinct evidence of re-use, and had features that were indicative of 19th century construction methods. Research indicated that the first Hermitage was dismantled at the same time the cottage was being constructed. This evidence leads to the conclusion that elements of the first Hermitage were indeed recycled to become part of the Sealy Cottage.

Michael Trotter and Jeanette McIsaac have been monitoring the installation of a new sewer main at Sumner, the existing one having been damaged beyond repair in the Canterbury earthquakes. There was no sign of the expected Māori sites that had been recorded along the route in the 1960s, but evidence was found of a tram line from Christchurch that had been built in 1888.

Another earthquake-related project they are currently working on is a large new subdivision at Silverstream near Kaiapoi which has been fast-tracked to provide new housing. Here the archaeological remains relate to stopbanks, hedge formations and farmsteads of the latter half of the 19th century, though a household rubbish dump dating into the early 20th century has also proved interesting.

Further north, Michael has been getting new information on Māori sites at Oaro, Goose Bay, Whakauae (moa-hunting), and Waipapa, along the Kaikoura coast, while in Kaikoura itself work has been continuing on several properties in the Avoca Street area. Adjacent to the historic Fyffe House in Kaikoura, an 1885 store shed site has been investigated in the course of upgrading drainage around a modern garage that had been built over it 100 years later.

Nick Cable has been working away on the shops along New Regent Street in Christchurch's CBD for the past few weeks. This was formerly the location of a large boot factory as well as a skating rink. No ice skates (or roller skates) as yet. Other than this, Nick has been busy with the earthquake residential work.

Ian Hill (assisted by Julia Hughes, Kirsia Webb and Matt Hennessey) has recently recorded the demolition of the mid-late 1850s Cracroft House in Cashmere, Christchurch. This house was built for John Cracroft Wilson, a Canterbury runholder and politician. The ground floor of the house was of mud-brick construction (which had been plastered over) while the external walls of the first floor were clad in weatherboard and the timber framework was infilled with mud. Amongst other things, demolition revealed some of the 19th century wallpapers used in the building, the remains of the servants' bell system and a hitherto unknown lean-to in mudbrick.

Demolition and earthquake archaeological is proceeding across the city and further afield, with the deconstruction of Our City (the former Municipal

Chambers, built in 1885-1886) all but complete, while the deconstruction of the Canterbury Provincial Council Chambers continues. Other buildings of particular interest to have come up for demolition recently are an early concrete house near Rangiora and the 1870s former Normal School, also known as Cranmer Courts. The latter is a bluestone Gothic revival building that was much modified in the 1980s, to save it from demolition at that time.

*Katharine Watson*

## **West Coast**

Les Wright has looked at the Homer quartz mine and battery sites south of Waiuta, finding remnants of many features shown in 1930s photographs. He explored an old sawmill tram and log snigging lines at Waiuta where he also had a quick look inside the tunnel from which the rich Hurleys leader was mined in the early days and on the way out found a house site that had been exposed by DOC's recent gorse spraying programme.

On the Buller coal plateau Les followed a coal haulage system 'up the Taipo' to an area of shallow coal workings on a plateau overlooking Denniston, where he had last been about 20 years ago. Les was glad to find a horseshoe pitch outside a tunnel, with rusty shoes still lying around the steel stake as if the game was to be resumed during the next smoko. Off the old electric loco line at Stockton Les inspected a branch that had been built but never used, featuring a rock causeway across a dam. He also looked at the remains of a conventional roperoad in the DOC triangle (a small patch of conservation land within the Solid Energy lease at Stockton).

Les has looked over the 19th century Reefton power scheme with the engineers who are planning the restoration of the water race and power house. The most interesting aspect was the prospect of being able to bring in a team to excavate the likely site of the original 1888 power house once a deteriorating concrete floor laid over it in the 1930s has been removed.

Opus have been excavating at OceanaGold's Reefton Gold Operations at Globe Hill. A team of five archaeologists spent two weeks investigating a small c. 1880s stamper battery (L30/159). The timber foundation of the battery was found to be well preserved below the ground, although the superstructure was no longer present.

There was a light gauge tramway associated with the battery site. The tramway led from a small cut terrace, interpreted as a shed and loading area, to the battery (L30/165). The tramline terminated above the battery site, below which were strewn numerous large timbers, indicating a large collapsed structure. The structure was likely to have carried the tram over the battery site where

presumably a chute was in place to transfer ore into the stamper. A second tramline and loading bay were also recorded at the stamper site.

The terrace and shed (L30/165) were located below a small cut terrace containing the remains of a bi-cable aerial ropeway. It is currently thought that the aerial ropeway brought ore from the adits located further up the hill.

The stamper was likely to have been powered by water. A large dam structure is located adjacent to the site, capturing the flow of Oriental Creek. The method of transferring the water to the stamper battery is not currently understood.

*Katharine Watson*