



NEW ZEALAND  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Northland

There has been a recent reshuffle of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) staff in the Northland office with Stuart Park retiring as Area Manger and Bill Edwards moving into Stuart's old office as the new Area Manager. Bill's role as Regional Archaeologist has now been filled by Brooke Jamieson, who moved up from the Lower Northern Office in October.

The Ruakaka Sewerage Scheme project is continuing with a second authority having recently been granted for Zone 6 of the works. Given the large scale of this project it is hoped that once all works have been completed we will have a much better understanding of this intensive prehistoric archaeological landscape. These works are currently being undertaken by Jono Carpenter.

Mark McCoy and Thegn Ladefoged's have some interesting results from their excavation of a midden (P05/986) at Patunui Bay in the Te Puna Inlet. An AMS radiocarbon date on wood charcoal from an Area B deposit dates the midden to the late Archaic period at 1400-1500 AD (beta 321109, 440 +/- 30; 1436 (76.5%) 1510calAD: 1575 (18.9%) 1622 cal AD). The midden was dominated by cockle and pipi and, interestingly, contained no evidence of moa. This is unusual as moa was found within the midden deposits at Wairoa Bay (P05/853). Two sources of obsidian were observed in the deposit, Kaeo and Mayor Island.

Track upgrades on Urupukapuka are currently being undertaken by Andrew Blanshard (Department of Conservation) with further works being undertaken over the coming summer months.

Northern Archaeological Research has completed works on the café conversion of the former curator's cottage, known as the Honey House, within the Kerikeri basin to the rear of Kemp House. The works revealed that the area has undergone significant modification and disturbance from works undertaken in the 1970s, but one small rubbish pit dating from the late 19th/early 20th century survived.

*Brooke Jamieson*

## Waikato – Bay of Plenty

As part of the Waikato Wars Interpretation Signage Project, Brent Druskovich has been working with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Ngā Muka iwi collective on placement of new interpretive signage at Rangiriri pā (S13/50), Te Wheoro's redoubt (S13/3), Alexandra redoubt (S15/28) and Whangamarino redoubt (S12/22). The fence lines at Rangiriri pā are to be redesigned so that visitors can more easily walk around the site without damaging features.

Stage One was unveiled at Rangiriri pā on Tuesday 20 November 2012 to commemorate those who fought at the 1863 battle of Rangiriri. This beautifully carved memorial is known as the Tohu Maumahara (Symbol of Remembrance).

Stage Two will be launched in January 2013 and incorporates site signage on NZHPT managed sites, a downloadable audio driving tour, brochures, a new website and an education package.

Brent also monitored earthworks for new fences and drains at the Old Taupo Courthouse, adjacent to the Tapaeharuru Armed Constabulary Redoubt (U18/2) in Taupo. A small amount of artefactual material was found.

In the Bay of Plenty, earthworks and subdivisions are hotting up for the summer. Monitoring work has included Lynda Walter on forestry activity, Peter Holmes and John Coster on subdivisions around Katikati and Brigid Gallagher on a Western Bay of Plenty District Council walkway which impacts on a number of middens at Katikati.

Lynda also had a minor brush with historic archaeology on a property behind the historic Brain Watkins House Museum on Cameron Road in Tauranga. Demolition of an existing house and cutting down of the section to form a basement and retaining wall for the new building revealed the western edge of the outbuildings associated with the Brain Watkins home, which were demolished in about 1980. The remainder of the outbuilding foundations are under the Tauranga Historical Society's meeting room on the property and are likely to be intact, as the outbuildings appear to have been demolished to ground level and then covered with fill.

A number of NZHPT authorities have recently been issued in the Tauranga area for roading and other work by the district council, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and Opus International Consultants, among others. Several artefacts, including a large adze, have been recovered from the new Tauranga Eastern Link roading project and are on display at the NZTA's Information Centre in Tara Road, Papamoa.

NZHPT's new Assistant Archaeologist in Tauranga is Cathleen Hau-man. Cathleen will also be contributing to 'Recent fieldwork' in future issues of AINZ.

*John Coster*

## **Wellington**

Kevin Jones has been working under the Interisland Wharf, on the former Il Casino (restaurant) buildings on Tory Street and the Z Energy site on Vivian Street. The former involved the photographic record of the inside of the brick façade immediately after the demolition of the body of the buildings (façade supported by a steel gantry in the street). Kevin has also presented a paper on the vernacular (sod huts, enclosures, races) and engineered structures of the upper Shotover, at a conference in Cromwell to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Otago. Kevin stepped down as chair of ICOMOS New Zealand at the recent AGM, and having launched the new ICOMOS Charter 2010, including the version in Māori.

Mary O'Keefe is preparing for the Board of Enquiry hearing on the proposed MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway. She has also undertaken a surface clearance of the floor of Wellington City Council's Halfway House in Glenside while the floors were up, an assessment of Shed 6 and the underlying wharf for seismic strengthening on Queens Wharf, and an assessment of the Whitcoulls site on Lambton Quay prior to the building undergoing seismic strengthening. This building and site is notable for a continuous association with publishing and bookselling from 1840 until Whitcoulls moved out in 2012.

*Mary O'Keefe*

## **West Coast**

Les Wright has been compiling the annual inventory of rusty relics and broken bottles from the Globe pit, near Reefton. Among the notable items are a pair of pulley wheels from the B shaft head frame – very mangled and broken, but the rims that held the 85 mm braided flat winding rope are unmistakable. Also a shaft cage, again rather the worse for its burial and extraction, but complete with toothed brake cams identical to one found in the B shaft mullock heap during the early stages of mining several years ago. Also of more than average interest was a mine trolley with a swivelling claw top, probably for carrying long objects such as drill steel through the winding mine passages. It is likely that all these items were on the surface when the last Progress mine closed in 1921, but fell into the crater formed when the shaft collapsed decades later. No intact shaft timbers have been met to date, indicating that Oceana are still working down through the collapse zone.

Jim Staton and Les spent a few hours at the Prohibition ball mill, Waiuta, working out places where the Department of Conservation can install facilities required for an environmental clean-up. New Zealand's most modern ore treatment plant during its time (1938-51), the mill now has the distinction of being the country's most contaminated industrial site. The proposed facilities will not intrude on any mill or house sites, but badly rusted scraps of roofing and other sundry iron will be used in the neutralising process, along with unwanted waste from the equally historic Blackball coal mine – a smart piece of chemistry.

Katharine Watson and Kurt Bennett recently inspected short sections of both the Kanieri and Kumara trams, near Hokitika. The former began life as a passenger tram in the gold rush era but was converted and extended for timber milling in the 20th century. The section inspected is the Hokitika end of the tram and will be re-used a part of the Westland Wilderness Trail cycleway. While the formation of the Kanieri tram is reasonably obvious in this area (and complete with sleepers in places), the same cannot be said for the section of the Kumara tram that was surveyed (to the west of Kumara). This section is also going to be used as part of the cycleway.

Katharine Watson and Jackie Breen recorded Locke Stream Hut, previously known as No. 4 Hut. The exact date this hut was built is not confirmed, but was in the late 1930s or early 1940s, at a time when the Government was seeking to encourage New Zealanders into the outdoors for recreational activity.

*Katharine Watson*

## **Canterbury**

Nick Cable is still busy on New Regent Street, where the concrete foundations of the skating rink appear to be largely intact under the floor of the modern shops, and is able to confirm that they did actually find a roller skate at the site (Figure 1), as well as a warratah that for all intents and purposes appears to have been used as a circus tent peg.

Patrick Harsveldt has joined the Opus team in Christchurch, which is timely since things are picking up with the residential work on the east side and the rebuild work in town.

Kirsa Webb, Luke Tremlett, Julia Hughes and Matt Hennessey are continuing to record and monitor the demolition of earthquake-damaged buildings and removal of foundations in Christchurch, Kaiapoi, Akaroa and Ashburton. Sites of particular interest recorded in the past three months include the discovery of one very large 1860s rubbish pit under the foundations of the Theatre Royal (immediately to the west of New Regent Street), a beautiful stone arch over a culvert on a drain under the road between Hagley Park and

the Christchurch Hospital, recording an 1890s England brothers house, a brick 1870s gentleman's home in the countryside and a small wooden 1870s house in Akaroa. Jessie Garland has been busy processing artefacts from these sites.

Reports produced as a result of earthquake archaeological authorities are being added to CEISMIC's QuakeStudies website, where pdf copies of the reports are freely available to download: <https://quakestudies.canterbury.ac.nz/>.

*Katharine Watson*



*Figure 1. A roller skate recovered from New Regent Street, Christchurch. Photo: N. Cable, Opus International Consultants.*

### **Otago/Southland**

Over the last two months Jill Hamel has been called out to record three sites of massive, hand-trimmed basalt cobbles, probably laid in the 19th century under city pavements now being trenched to lay broadband cables. In Dunedin these cobbles are in the order of 250 x 140 mm across the top and 200 mm deep, and imply a street where heavy dray traffic was expected. Jill has not previously been asked to inspect such sites, and is politely assuming that it is the sheer scale of the broadband work that is throwing them up. For those

archaeologists involved with our older city streets, the on-going excavating of trenches for broadband is effectively providing large samples of the old street foundations. It could be worthwhile making delicate enquiries in other urban areas as to what Chorus is finding.

Chris Jacomb (SPAR) undertook one week of fieldwork in Southland for the Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project (SCHIP), with the assistance of partner representatives Dean Whaanga (Te Ao Marama), Rachael Egerton (DOC) and Rebecca Heenan (Environment Southland). All were grateful for the assistance provided by some of the newly trained voluntary Kaitiaki monitors who are working with the project partners to monitor sites being affected by coastal erosion, an initiative led by Dean Whaanga and Matthew Schmidt (NZHPT). A number of sites with high archaeological values that are under extreme pressure from erosion were investigated by visual survey, test pitting and augering, and samples were collected for dating to ascertain future actions such as management, monitoring or research. The work marks the commencement of the 2012-13 summer fieldwork for the SCHIP project, with regular site monitoring work and other investigations to follow over the coming months. Sites that had previously been investigated through excavation were found to have suffered further extensive erosion, almost to the point of complete loss in some instances. The SCHIP partners were recently successful in gaining additional funding from Environment Southland and support in kind from Department of Conservation and New Zealand Historic Places Trust to implement a proposal by partner representative Matthew Schmidt to survey the Norwegian whalers' base at Kaipipi on Stewart Island. The survey work, which should proceed in March 2013, will enable this nationally significant site to be proposed for gazettal as an archaeological site, giving it much needed legal protection.

*Emma Brooks*