



NEW ZEALAND  
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## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **Excavations at Hohi Mission, Bay of Islands**

In January-February 2013 Ian Smith lead a team from the University of Otago and Department of Conservation in a second season of excavations at the site of the Hohi (Oihi) mission station, Bay of Islands. This was New Zealand's first permanent European settlement, occupied from December 1814 until 1832. The 2012 excavations had disclosed the first mission school, and a Māori whare built towards the end of the missionary occupation.

The focus of the second season was on the houses built and used by the missionaries. Two of these were located in Area 3, one of which has been identified as the home of Thomas Kendall, and can be dated to 1816-24. This had a very large stone fireplace, and foundation trenches and postholes indicating dimensions of c. 9.2 x 5.5 m (30 x 18 ft). This house was demolished soon after Kendall's dismissal from the Church Missionary Society, and the archaeology shows clearly that the house was then deliberately buried with midden and clay fill and covered with pebble paving, effectively obliterating any sign of Kendall's former presence. The second house was built immediately adjacent to the first, and soon after, as it is visible in an 1827 painting of the settlement. Foundations of this structure were less completely discernible, but sufficient to show that it was of similar size. Nails were relatively scarce in the vicinity of the second house, indicating that it is likely to have been dismantled and removed when the mission was abandoned in 1832.

Excavations in Area 4 disclosed an extensive area of pebble paving that is likely to have been the backyard of another missionary house. This contained remnants of several structures, the function of which is not entirely clear. There are also indications that the way in which this area was used changed during the course of occupation, with some structural remains buried by later paving.

Artefacts recovered from the excavations extend the material inventory from the 2012 excavations, with a greater range and quantity of domestic ceramics and glass ware. Special finds include a 1797 penny, an 1806 halfpenny, and a teardrop-shaped cut glass pendant. Faunal remains, almost entirely absent from previous excavations were dominated by shellfish and pig bones.

A monograph reporting the results of the 2012 excavations (Smith et al. 2012) can be ordered from the Department of Anthropology & Archaeology,

University of Otago, P.O. Box 56 Dunedin, 9054, for \$25 + \$7 post & packaging (cheques should be made payable to the University of Otago).

Smith, I., Middleton, A., Garland, J. and Woods, N., 2012. *Archaeology of the Hoho Mission. Volume 1: The 2012 Excavations*. University of Otago Studies in Archaeology, No. 24. 90p.

*Ian Smith*

## **Waikato – Bay of Plenty**

In the Waikato, Brent Druskovich has completed monitoring of the Te Tohu Maumahara installation at Rangiriri pā in the Waikato. No archaeological features were uncovered during the earthworks. This site is now part of a driving tour of the Waikato War battle sites, launched by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust earlier this year. (See the February-March 2013 issue of *Mana* magazine “Digital light on dark days” for more on this project and the associated website – [www.thewaikatowar.co.nz](http://www.thewaikatowar.co.nz).)

Māori horticulture is a feature of three recent projects in the Waikato. Excavations on two sites lying in the path of the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway, the Thornton Road pā (S15/66) and the Swayne Road site (S15/324), were undertaken in November by a team from CFG Heritage and Opus International, led by Mat Campbell and Bea Hudson respectively.

The Thornton Road pā excavation was limited to the area outside the defensive ditch and surprisingly few features were uncovered – a few fire scoops, postholes and some small pits. Of potentially greater interest was a historic period ditch and bank fence that enclosed an area of at least 70 x 90 m, extending beyond the excavation area. At the Swayne Road site seven borrow pits were excavated in plan and half section, and extensive garden soils of sheet mulched sands and gravels were also found. Two main groups of fire scoops and several bell-shaped pits were uncovered, along with some possible planting hollows, though these were not in the usual pattern of staggered rows. Analysis will concentrate on charcoal and microfossil evidence of gardening and environmental change.

For those interested in ditch and bank fences, extensive fieldwork by the late Owen Wilkes on the Waikato west coast and a recent survey of records of earthwork fences in New Zealand by Lynda Walter and Karen Greig have been brought together in a publication by the Whakatane & District Historical Society - Wilkes et al., 2012. *Earthwork Fences in New Zealand*. Memoir 11. Whakatane & District Historical Society Inc. Copies are available from the Society.

Alexy Simmons has been involved in archaeological monitoring of earthworks for two house lots at Horotiu (S14/164). The work resulted in the

exposure of bowl-shaped planting holes (tupuke) adjacent to borrow pits. Microfossil analysis indicates that kūmara were being grown on the lower flood plain adjacent to the Waikato River. Other samples obtained from an upper terrace are being processed.

During the past months Alexy has also carried out built heritage assessments of the Putaruru railway station, the (former) Cambridge Farmers' Clubhouse (CFC), and Fernside (Edwards) House at Ohaupo. She has also been involved in hearings associated with the CFC and archaeological rules in the proposed Waipa District Plan and has carried out assessment work at Raglan for Waikato District Council. Alexy's ongoing work on Transpower C-line from Wairakei to Whakamaru continues, as well as work on her PhD thesis, "Soldiers' Foodways". A related paper, "Investigating Soldiers' Foodways", was presented at the Society for Historic Archaeology conference in Leicester, England, in January this year.

Other work by Simmons & Associates includes ongoing flotation sampling and analysis work on the Te Awamutu Walk of Fame in Selwyn Park. Corey Simmons-Ritchie is currently processing and cataloguing artefacts from two disposal pits. Faunal analysis of remains was carried out by Sheryl McPherson (Faunal Solutions) and soil samples have been analysed by Hill Laboratories. One sample was recently submitted to Mark Horrocks for microfossil analysis. The intent is to obtain as much information as possible from the deposits associated with the Otawhao mission station and the military headquarters at Te Awamutu.

In the Bay of Plenty, a new historic reserve was opened to the public late last year. On the 7 December, Otumoetai pā in Tauranga was opened with morning ceremonies led by Ngāi Tamarawaho kaumātua Peri Kohu and Tauranga mayor Stuart Crosby. Development of the reserve followed the purchase of a 2 hectare remnant of the pā from the late Tauranga historian Alister Matheson, whose family home was on the site. The reserve reflects both the Matheson family's long association with the land and the significance of the pā, one of the principal settlements of Tauranga in the early period of European arrivals. Investigation, stabilisation and interpretation of the site has been a cooperative venture between the city council, Ngāi Tamarawaho, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Public Trust, representing Mr Matheson's Fairview Trust. Monitoring of the effects of visitors will be ongoing.

Elsewhere in the western Bay, Brigid Gallagher was involved in the exhumation of kōiwi exposed near Bowentown after heavy rain, while Mat Campbell and Peter Holmes have been monitoring Dovedale Ltd's housing development on Ohauiti Road, Tauranga, recording fire scoops and middens on sites U14/3332 and U14/3412.

Further east, Rachel Darmody and Cathleen Hauman visited the Onekawa-Te Mawhai Regional Park in Ohiwa in January following a current authority application. The park, opened in 2010 and managed by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with input from Lynda Walter, is looking great, and visitor numbers have increased considerably in recent months.

Andrew Hoffman has completed excavations of a bell pit and terrace site in Oponae Forest, south of Opotiki. Lynda Walter is still involved with ongoing forestry work, as is John Coster who has been continuing monitoring and assessments in Māori-owned forests east of Opotiki. These areas were planted in pines 30 years ago at the height of the 1980s afforestation bonanza, causing significant damage to archaeological sites. Trees are now being removed from affected sites and they will not be replanted.

*John Coster & Cathleen Hauman*

## **Taranaki**

An archaeological investigation of concentrations of storage pits has been completed at the coastal end of the Links subdivision east of New Plymouth. Three clusters of very large storage pits, 39 in all, were excavated under the direction of local archaeologist Ivan Bruce. The excavation team included Barry Baccquie, Joss Piper-Jarret, Bernie Larson and Kate Lilley. Artefactual material indicates the pits are prehistoric. The overall direction of the archaeological excavations of the Links subdivision is from Rod Clough. Ivan Bruce has also completed the investigation report for the excavation of Pukehe Pā and the Grey Institution in Moturoa.

Andy Dodd has completed an archaeological scoping study for the Taranaki Regional Council as part of an information gathering process for their review of the coastal plan. Thirty sites, including petroglyphs, tauranga waka, shipwrecks, wharves, training walls and pillboxes, were shortlisted from an overall list that identified 183 potential archaeological sites located partially or entirely within the coastal marine area. Andy has also carried out an archaeological assessment of proposed remedial work on the 1885 training walls at the Waitara river mouth for the New Plymouth District Council.

*Andy Dodd*

## **Wellington**

Kevin Jones has been investigating the site of the new Z petrol station on Vivian Street. This revealed the c. 1875 brick-lined course of the Waimapihi Stream. The brick lining had been dug down about 2 m from an old clay soil and then levelled over so that the concrete bottom was 3.5 m plus below the modern level. A shell midden and kahikatea roots turned up in the clay soil.

The course of the stream will be marked on the forecourt and there will be a sculpture to the ancestress Mapihi. Also under way is work relating to new pile foundations for Shed 6 (which have necessitated the removal of the Plimmers Ark museum space) and the foundations of Whitcoulls on the strandline in Lambton Quay.

Andy Dodd has been working on completing the archaeological site assessments for the Greater Wellington Regional Council's coastal plan review. In total, 50 sites within the coastal marine area were shortlisted for assessment. These included shipwrecks, wharves and jetties, anchorages, shore whaling stations and coastal defence features. The fieldwork involved a mixture of diving and shore-based site visits. Locations of previously recorded shipwrecks have been revised in ArchSite, and several new sites have been recorded.

Kathryn Hurren reports that the reports for the NZAA Site Recording Scheme Upgrade Project for Masterton and Carterton districts are now complete. The fieldwork was undertaken from 2009 until 2011 and involved NZHPT, iwi and DOC and the help of the Masterton and Carterton district councils. In the Masterton district 24 sites needed to be visited, 20 of which were relocated and four new sites were recorded. In the Carterton district only two sites needed to be visited. In Masterton the majority of sites visited consisted of middens, followed by terraces/pits and pā. In Carterton stone heaps/mounds were visited.

Mary O'Keeffe gave evidence at a Board of Enquiry for the proposed MacKays to Peka Peka expressway. She is also working on a proposed wind farm at Waverley, near Wanganui, and the proposed tunnel duplication through Mt Victoria in Wellington.

*Mary O'Keeffe*

## **Nelson**

Amanda Young is busy with an escalating number of proposed historic house demolitions in central Nelson. These include an 1857 cottage connected with the Catholic church and the entirely reasonable demolition of the fire ravaged 1870s/1902 Globe Hotel. Some of the demolitions, but not all, are connected with earthquake risk. Amanda is working closely with a heritage-friendly demolition company (yes, there is such a thing!), trying to convince prospective clients to renovate or sell rather than demolish. To date, this has been unsuccessful but we live in hope.

Earthquake risk has closed the Nelson Provincial Museum Isel Park Research Centre and museum storage facility. It is closed indefinitely, meaning that there is no access to most of the primary sources needed for historic

research and no ability to deposit material culture. Temporary solutions are being negotiated but a permanent solution is a long time away.

Amanda is also working on a number of forestry jobs, including mapping an 1880s pack track leading to the Champion Copper mine; relocating extensive gold mining sites at Glengyle, Marlborough; relocating a number of sites Aidan Challis recorded in the 1970s in the Motueka hills; and monitoring of harvesting in the Wakamarina and Northbank.

*Amanda Young*

## **West Coast**

Les Wright and Tom Barker (new archaeologist for VCS Environmental, Greymouth) inspected alluvial gold workings near Dunganville, inland from Greymouth. Most appeared to have been originally worked by tunnelling, then sluiced during the late 19th and early to mid-20th century. A head race running around the top edge, sluiced away at intervals and diverted in places to maintain the water supply, gave some clues to the working sequence. In the largest claim a tunnel appeared to have been 'daylighted' for about 50 m to serve as a tail race, but the lower tunnel section had been retained for a stoning tramway (with some timber rails still preserved under water) with the lower end of the tail race driven out parallel. It is hoped that this complex will be excluded from a current re-mining proposal.

Jim Staton (DOC) and Les visited Cannel Creek, north of Greymouth, where walking opportunities and an eventual 'underground experience' are proposed in coal mining and haulage tunnels dating from the first half of the 20th century. The main features are portals, bridge remnants and a probable clipping shed site where the original 3 km roperoad from the Strongman mine emerged from underground, crossed the creek and continued to Rapahoe via the former James State Colliery haulage way. Around about are numerous open stone and coal drives, complete with the customary coal tub remnants and decaying timbers. Another point of interest is an area where miners from South-East Asia were taught mining techniques under the Colombo Plan during the 1950s. An advantage is that there are still oral sources to incorporate in a heritage assessment for the James-Strongman complex.

Emma Clifford and Katharine Watson have investigated the extensive remains of a hydraulic sluicing operation in Hatters Creek at Gillams Gully (inland from Hokitika). This site consists chiefly of large mounds of tailings and evidence of the use of Hatters Creek as a tail race, in the form of hand-stacked tailings against the banks of the creek. Fortunately, it is unlikely that these areas will be affected by the current mining proposal.

*Katharine Watson*

## Canterbury

Much of Michael Trotter's time recently has been spent in compiling an archaeological assessment for the areas of horizontal infrastructure that have been damaged by the Canterbury earthquakes in and around the North Canterbury town of Kaiapoi. This has resulted in a global authority being obtained to cover all infrastructure remediation planned for the next few years.

A very different type of investigation (assisted by Jeanette McIsaac) has been the Kaituna quarry, which operated as an adjunct to the Little River Branch Railway from the latter part of the 19th century to the mid-20th century, and which was the site of relief work for the unemployed in the 1880s and 1930s. Besides the remnants of the actual quarrying operations, archaeological evidence relates mainly to railway sidings for the transport of the quarried rock, and accommodation and other facilities for the workers. Three explosives magazines are still extant. A prominent feature on the site is the 3 m diameter concrete base for a World War II radar dish, and there is evidence of an associated radio aerial and a hut nearby. A T-shaped tunnel blasted into the remaining rock outcrop appears to be the result of an army training exercise.

Up in Kaikoura, Michael has continued with routine assessments and monitoring, recording the occasional new site and obtaining more information on known Māori and early European sites.

Closer to home, three 1880s buildings made of solid unreinforced concrete – two lodges and a church – were badly damaged in the Canterbury earthquakes. Their investigation is providing a range of information on structure and internal ornamentation that would not have been available in other circumstances. An interesting change from the usual earthquake-damaged buildings is a railway bridge, built over a branch of the Waimakariri River in 1872, abandoned in 1958, and later converted for use, in situ, as a pedestrian bridge. Several sections that were twisted and lifted off their foundations by the earthquakes have been demolished, providing a great opportunity to study and record them.

And in Rangiora, two 19th century fire wells have been recorded, one lined with concrete, the other of dry bricks, both descending several metres beneath the present water table (which is probably much lower now than when they were dug). These used to provide water for dowsing fires, but an interesting puzzle is how they were constructed below water level.

Patrick Harsveldt and Nick Cable have been scattered across Christchurch over the past few months, as the residential work continues to pick up pace. It has been mostly demolition rubble and the odd small rubbish pit, although there are indications of prehistoric settlement in Southshore beginning to turn up. They got the chance to excavate an intact shell midden in Mount Pleasant,



located just above the coastal flat, which had evidence of a windbreak or drying rack around some oven scoops below it. They have been busy in Kaiapoi as well, working on the site of the library where they found a couple of large rubbish pits, a latrine and postholes, including some 350 Worcestershire sauce bottles from one of the pits and bits of an 1830s porcelain vase. They have also monitored some geotechnical work on the site of the Lyttelton gaol and found evidence of intact concrete walls – there may be an opportunity in the future to have a more thorough look at the site as well.

New Regent Street is also nearing completion – Nick and Patrick have worked their way along one side of the street and are in the process of following a trench along the other side. They now have the north wall of the building marked, giving them all sides of the building. They have had a few more finds from the trenches that are consistent with the other material recovered (just the one roller skate though).

In late December 2012, Luke Tremlett, Matt Hennessey and Kurt Bennett excavated the home of a rabbi who lived in Christchurch in the 19th century. This site was first investigated when the building on it was demolished following the Canterbury earthquakes. When the foundations were removed, a number of archaeological features were exposed and more features were found when the rebuild archaeological work took place, with a number of rubbish pits excavated. The rabbi lived at the site from 1885 until his death in the early years of the 20th century. It is not yet clear if the rubbish dates from his occupation of the site, or from an earlier period.

Julia Hughes recently uncovered a substantial rubbish dump under a house demolished in Kaiapoi. This is unusual because few artefacts are turning up when the foundations of earthquake-damaged houses are removed. The house was a 20th century house, but an initial inspection of the artefacts suggests that they date to the 1870s.

Charlotte Staniforth and Luke Tremlett have just begun recording what appears to be an 1870s house near the Avon River in Christchurch. This house is interesting because, stylistically, it precedes the villa that came to dominate Christchurch's domestic architecture in the 1880s and 1890s. In spite of a number of extensions, the house retains many of its original features, including particularly large sash windows, relatively ornate exterior decoration (including barge boards and finials on the gable ends and above the dormer windows) and a steep, narrow staircase.

*Katharine Watson*

## Otago

The 2013 Department of Anthropology & Archaeology field school excavation was carried out from 3-23 February at a workers' campsite (NZAA I43/153) on the Otago Central Railway near Pukerangi, Otago. The site is thought to have been the main basecamp of the contracting firm R. Meikle & Co. of Dunedin, and their workers, who constructed the railway bedding from Flat Stream to Sutton during 1884-1886.

The excavation was directed by Tim Thomas, with postgraduate demonstrators Emily Cunliffe, Peter Mitchell and Danielle Trilford supervising 13 students. Also attending was Oswald Alesasa, a Solomon Islands colleague currently working with Richard Walter on an archaeological programme in the Solomons and funded here by The Nature Conservancy.

Excavations targeted three collapsed chimneys and associated hut/tent floors, a large paved building platform, a stone-walled enclosure and a metal dump. The site was mapped and artefact locations plotted using a robotic total station, and spatial data managed using a GIS.

The artefact assemblage reflects the mixed domestic and work-oriented activities at the site. In particular, there are numerous implements related to the landscape modification necessary for producing the railway corridor through a dramatic landscape of schist tors and cliffs. Notably, most of the stone constructions at the site utilise elongate schist slabs that also feature in the railway bedding, and these exhibit tool scars. Students are currently processing the artefact assemblage in the department's archaeological laboratories.

*Emma Brooks*