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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Dianne Harlow has completed the first stage of works for the Marsden Cross Trust Board project at Oihi, Pureura Peninsula. The works relate to the building of a Heritage Centre adjacent to Rangihoua Pa and the Oihi Mission Station. Test trenching and monitoring revealed a layer of white china clay capping the area of the Heritage Centre – thus explaining why no visible archaeological gardening features have ever been seen on this slope as the area made the soils too wet to cultivate. Bill Edwards and Brooke Jamieson have just completed a series of five public talks on archaeology on Northland as part of the NZHPT Archaeology Outreach programme. The talks called “Digging the Dirt” were held in Kerikeri, Whangarei, Kaihoke, Mangonui and Rawene. The talks were well attended, with between 15 to 20 people attending each and the general outcome being that a lot of people are interested in the archaeology of their local area. Jono Carpenter is continuing with the Ruakaka South Sewerage Scheme upgrade, and Leigh Johnson and Elisabeth Callaghan have been involved with on-going works for the sea wall repairs at Horeke in the Hokianga.

Brooke Jamieson

Waikato

A lot has been going on at Horotiu, on the Waikato River just north of Hamilton. Caroline Phillips, assisted by Lynette Williams, is assessing and monitoring part of the route of the Te Awa River Ride project – a cycleway and walkway along the west bank of the Waikato River. Routes were chosen to avoid impact on several known pa, cultivations and traditional sites but a few previously unknown borrow pits (tapahi) and a midden site have been uncovered near Horotiu. Part of the midden was excavated and found to comprise a series of umu filled with pipi, cockle, fresh-water mussel and hinau kernels. The shell, charcoal and microfossil material will provide information about the local environment, as well as a date for the site.

Alexy Simmons has submitted her final report on archaeological monitoring carried out on Horotiu Bridge Road in November 2012. Earthworks at a Maori gardening site, S14/164, revealed a small cluster of bowl shaped hollows, the base of tupuke, similar to other features found in the general area.

They probably represent the remains of a much larger garden. Kumara starch was identified in samples from the matrix of two of the hollows.

Also at Horotiu, Andrew Hoffman has reported on another gardening site, S14/221, excavated last year. Eighteen features including two borrow pits were identified and six soil profiles recorded in detail. Evidence was found of two distinct soil modification methods, one of which involved the addition of sand and gravel. Radiocarbon dates indicate that the forest was cleared in the early 17th century, and a garden established soon afterwards.

Andrew has also submitted his final report on monitoring works undertaken in Athenree Gorge. Five small, previously unrecorded, shell middens were exposed during forestry works and recorded as site T13/904. Microfossil results suggest forest clearance, with kumara either cultivated or processed at the sites. Radiocarbon dates indicate that short term camps were established in the area, most likely in the 16th Century.

Hans-Dieter Bader has been carrying out geomagnetic survey to try and locate features of the pa defended at the battle of Orakau, near Kihikihi. With the help of archaeologists Warren Gumbley and Malcolm Hutchinson, and Cathleen Hauman and Makere Rika-Heke from NZHPT, as well as a large number of volunteers from the local iwi, Hans cleared back the sides of the road corridor in March and excavated two small test trenches in May. The test trenches revealed features which likely relate to the defences of the pa, helping to clarify its true extent.

In Putaruru Alexy Simmons monitored the demolition of the railway station during March and April. Demolition work exposed new information about the station including evidence for the use of pre-fabricated building modules and re-piling of the floor. Newer parts of the building were lined with asbestos.

Cathleen Hauman and John Coster

Bay of Plenty

At Pyes Pa, Tauranga, archaeological features including middens, hearths and a possible pit were exposed at a proposed subdivision. Ken Phillips has recorded these and is monitoring continuing work at the site.

Sian Keith has submitted a final report on work carried out on Ohope Road, Whakatane. Five features were revealed during the works including four midden deposits and a storage pit. These are likely associated with nearby Otumanu Pa (W15/28) and radiocarbon dates indicate that the features, and the occupation of the immediate area, date to the mid-16th Century.

Koiwi were uncovered during construction of a new car park at Whakatane Hospital, as well as two fire scoops and fire cracked rocks. Work

was stopped by NZHPT and the site recorded by Mat Campbell. The koiwi, belonging to a pre-European Maori female possibly in her 40s, were reburied. CFG Heritage will monitor further works.

Cathryn Barr has submitted her final report on investigations carried out at the Gisborne Courthouse extension. Two small post holes and a pit relating to the Heipipi settlement were encountered, and it is likely that this occupation extended under the footpath and road toward the Turanganui River. Post holes relating to the 1876 post office were also identified, as well as a number of features relating to the 1880s Government Building, including ceramic field tiles. Concrete footings, and other evidence relating to the 1915 government buildings, were uncovered in an area where burials were identified and reported on in the local newspaper at the time of construction. The burials are thought to date from the first half of the 19th century. Further burials were uncovered during the excavation.

Artefacts from the site included bone fish hooks, worked bone and stone flakes. Remaining artefacts are typical of late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings - ink pots, clay pipes, bottles and ceramics, all dating from the 1880s to the early 1900s. The exceptions are two cannon balls, which, although not located in a secure context, are assumed to have been moved to the site at some point during use of the site for the Government Buildings.

Elsewhere on the East Coast, Kevin Jones has been at Mahia Beach investigating a midden on the route of a main sewer pipeline.

Cathleen Hauman and John Coster

Taranaki

Kelvin Day has been formally appointed director of Puke Ariki Museum in New Plymouth. Kelvin joined the museum in the mid-1990s, and has been heritage collections manager since 2008. He has been acting director since the role was vacated in October last year, and was formally appointed in March. Congratulations Kelvin.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Andy Dodd monitored the recovery of an EOC 8 inch Armstrong BL disappearing gun from the slopes behind the Fort Gordon ridge on the Miramar Peninsula, Wellington. The 13 ton coastal defence gun was mounted in 1895 and decommissioned and discarded in 1924. It was recovered by NZ Defence Force engineers in March, and was lifted using 4 10 ton jacks before being lowered into a specially designed cradle and being winched up-

slope. A conservation specification for the gun barrel is being prepared by Brigid Gallagher and the work will be carried out by The Vintage Aviator Ltd. Among the artefacts recovered during the monitoring were several dozen case shot balls, electrical and mechanical primers and a key bearing the mark of the War Department. The heavily corroded left cheek of the hydro-pneumatic carriage was also discovered further downslope. Archaeological assistance was provided by NZHPT regional archaeologists David Rudd and Kathryn Hurren, DOC historic ranger Yolanda Vogel, and NZDF historian Matthew Buck.

Andy has also been monitoring subdivision and housing development works at Peka Peka on the Kapiti Coast, and has been working for the Porirua City Council preparing an archaeological assessment for the restoration of the NZHPT registered Gear Woolshed at Papakowai.

Kevin Jones has finished at the Z Station site on Vivian Street, this produced a date of about 400–600 BP for a midden on the stream bank, which has long since been channelled into a brick lined tunnel. The Karori tunnel (c. 1900) strengthening is also finished. Kevin has also completed district plan change surveys in the southern Christchurch area.

Mary O’Keeffe continues work on the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway – SPAR have commenced investigations in some parts of the expressway ahead of the construction programme. Mary has also been contributing to preparatory work for the Transmission Gully project. Mary undertook monitoring of work in the Mount Street Cemetery on a voluntary basis for the Friends Of Mount Street Cemetery.

Mary O’Keeffe

Otago and Southland

Shar Briden, Department of Conservation, has recently conducted a survey along the line of the Roaring Lion water race, Nokomai, for Welcome Rock Trails. The archaeological assessment is underway. The race crosses public conservation land at the Nevis Saddle passing through onto freehold land. Welcome Rock trails are proposing a mountain bike/walking trail along the race berm/lower wall.

Shar has also carried out surveys along sections of the Bucklerburn and Twelve Mile Creek beds in Otago where small suction dredging applications have been received. The surveys provide an inventory of features that may be affected by wet bed dredging and allows buffers to be recommended around significant features or sites excluding those areas from mining.

A new Norski toilet has been placed at Junction hut, Pomahaka. This work was monitored by Shar Briden. A report will be provided back on the HPT Authority 2011/285.

NZ Heritage has been working on the redevelopment of the BNZ Gore carpark where they have located the foundations of the original outhouses, only the second archaeological site to be recorded in Gore. They have just submitted the final report for the Glendermid Tannery site in Sawyers Bay for Port Otago's development of the site. All the original pre-1900 building foundations were still there along with some extensive drainage systems. The tanning pits etc., were also present but covered up. Most of the site is still in-situ due to contamination issues and the need to build the site up rather than excavate it. Other projects being undertaken by NZ Heritage include the demolition of a residential house in Leith St that was the home of the operator of Dunedin's earliest known trap-taxi service, and archaeological recording of the servant quarters of the Driver family (a prominent Dunedin family).

The Southland Coastal Heritage Inventory Project (SCHIP) partners and Subsurface Ltd completed a terrestrial and marine archaeological survey of the 1926-32 Norwegian Whalers' Base on Rakiura in March. The survey found that both remains of the base on the land and in the marine environment were highly intact and that the hulk of the 1853 American built whaler the *Othello* was in good condition with the copper sheathing on the hull still present. The survey also found evidence of 19th century occupation in the inlet and in the next inlet to the west of the site. The project also provided the opportunity for a presentation to the local community on the base and the SCHIP Project. Stewart Island community volunteers also helped with the clearance of vegetation on the site for the survey.

Emma Brooks