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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Archaeological works have picked back up in Northland following the Christmas holiday period. Earthworks for the construction of the flood stop banks at Kaeo had already begun prior to Christmas, under the supervision of Richard Shakles, with works exposing features consisting of hāngi, pits and postholes. Evidence of 19th century farming and ploughing activities has also been uncovered. The results from the works will provide valuable archaeological information about the area surrounding Pohue Pā. Hans Bader and Melina Goddard have recently completed the archaeological monitoring of earthworks for a charter school in Whangaruru where evidence of Māori horticulture and gardening was found. Jonathan Carpenter is continuing his PhD research into the British fortifications at Ruapekapeka and has begun investigation of the defensive ditch. If you are interested and keen to offer your services of help, please let Jonathan know.

On 9 February 2014 Angela Middleton launched her new book *Kerikeri Mission and Kororipo Pā – An entwined history*, with over 65 people in attendance. The book details the relationship of the mission station and pā as well as the key historical figures and event that shaped our early history as a nation. As part of the book launch, Ian Smith also gave a public talk on the findings of the two archaeological field seasons that were carried out the site of the first Church Missionary Society (CMS) Mission Station at Hohi/Oihi. This talk detailed the archaeological information recovered with specific focus on the Mission School building and the formation and development of the areas of the house sites. Ian confirmed that the report and monograph on the Oihi/Hohi excavations will be ready later in 2014.

The NZHPT Northland office recently undertook their summer community outreach project (14-15 January 2014) by taking a number of school children fishing using an archaeological stone fish trap in the Kerikeri Inlet. The project's purpose was to engage with the public about archaeology and cultural heritage within the local area. The stone fish trap was set using (semi) traditional techniques and the children then collected the fish and flaked obsidian to gut them. The day ended with a cooked shared lunch of the fish caught. Approximately 100 people attended the event over the two days it was run, and based on the positive feedback, the event looks set to become an annual summer event.

Brooke Jamieson



Quinces Fish Trap (P05/1022), Quinces Landing, Kerikeri Inlet, Northland

Bay of Plenty

Since September 2013 Brigid Gallagher has had a team working on sites U14/915 and U14/ 918, part of a large scale development at Bethlehem, on the western fringes of the ever-expanding Tauranga City. Houhainga Pā, now a Tauranga City historic reserve, is adjacent. Excavations and recording have revealed an archaeological landscape demonstrating multiple period land use with prehistoric, proto-historic and historic settlement, gardening, cultivation and possible 19th century military installations. Excavated features include large pit clusters showing re-use, fire scoops and hāngi.

Further work on U14/918 continued with volunteers during February this year. These excavations were intended to determine the function of the site; establish its extent; reveal the internal arrangement and variety of features; demonstrate the ongoing use of the land through prehistory; and establish dates. Features recorded included rectangular pit alignments associated with gardening, with later use showing evidence of small fires, different posthole arrangements and modifications in the form of small rua, as well as faunal deposits with shell midden and large fish represented.

Lynda Walter has undertaken an assessment for a proposed subdivision on the Ohope Spit, near Whakatane. No sites were recorded but earthworks will be carried out under an archaeological authority as a precautionary measure. Lynda's routine work with forestry companies, to remove trees from

archaeological sites without impact continues. John Coster has been working with a hapu of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui to manage the deforestation and opening up of one of their ancestral pā.

Lynda has also undertaken an assessment of Tauranga City Council's reserve upgrade plans ahead of the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gate Pa on 29 April 2014. This event follows the dramatic commemoration of the battle of Rangiriri in November last year, and, with commemorations at Rangiaowhia and Ōrākau, brings to a close the little-recognised sesquicentennial of the Waikato Wars and the Tauranga Campaign.

These commemorations overlap, somewhat ironically, with a year of celebrations in Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Ohaupo, Pirongia and Kihikihi to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Waipa District. Relevant websites, with programmes of events, are:

http://tauranga.kete.net.nz/battle_of_gate_pa_1864/topics/show/1514-calendar-of-events-battle-of-gate-pa-150th-commemoration-2014
https://www.facebook.com/GatePa2014Commemoration?ref=stream&hc_location=timeline
<http://www.waipal50th.org.nz/calendar.html>

John Coster

Wellington

Kevin Jones has been busy with excavation of the former Settlement restaurant site, Willis Street, Wellington, another site on the Wellington pre-1855 strand line in lower Willis Street; demolition of the Masonic Lodge, Feilding; assessment for a new Lake Waikaremoana Visitor Centre and (with Naomi Woods) the Victoria Avenue site, Whanganui. Radiocarbon dates have been received for the Mahia Beach area showing that the whaling station area at Taylors Bay has settlement dating back to the 17th century, and, in the main town, a 15th or 16th century age was provided for a tuatua deposit in an area of colluvial or lagoon-bed silty clays over storm beach sands. Kevin is also working on St Mary's Chapel, now part of Sacred Heart Primary in Thorndon.

Victoria Groudon is currently working on two adjacent sites at the town end of Oriental Parade (Bats Theatre/Wellington Central Fire Station). This has provided an interesting opportunity to compare relative stratigraphy and material remains on two sites with quite different occupation histories. She has also been assisting with the NZAA site record file audit, revisiting some old friends in the Bay of Plenty area and going through a very nostalgic whos-who of archaeologists and sites dating back to the late 1950s.

Mary O'Keefe continues monitoring work for the New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) MacKays to Peka Peka expressway (M2PP). As part of the work for Transmission Gully she and Kevin Jones revisited the Māori

pits located on the ridge above Paekakariki, north of Wellington (the pits are in no danger from roading work, but are part of a large parcel of land acquired by NZTA.)

Vanessa Tanner has joined the Wellington City Council heritage team.
Mary O’Keeffe

Canterbury

Witter Archaeology is mostly in write-up mode. The results of the lithic analysis for a site at Waikuku have produced some interesting patterning on a living floor. The materials are argillite, obsidian, flint, silcrete, and greywacke, as well as a broken up slate ulu. There is a little non-industrial moa bone, and Dan suspects it will date to the late Archaic. The technologies for conserving imported materials, such as the bipolar technique on obsidian cores, may indicate limitations on exchange or long distance travel at this time.

Opus archaeologists have been busy over the summer season, gearing up for the next phase of river works for the Avon River Precinct project. Residential demolition work continues at pace although they are beginning to move into rebuild work now – most of this work has produced the usual fare of historic material, although as they move out towards the coast, more evidence of prehistoric activity is expected. They seem to have hit a run of brick-lined wells, although most have been empty. Patrick Harsveldt has also recorded a number of standing buildings in Christchurch and Canterbury.

Wesley Maguire and Matt Hennessey recorded the Lyttelton Police Station prior to and during its demolition in January. This was a two-storied concrete building, built in 1882 and still in use as a police station until the time of the earthquake. While the basic layout of the building was original, there had been a number of minor 20th century modifications, in response to rebranding by New Zealand Police and the use of the building in Peter Jackson’s film *The Frighteners*. No remains of the earlier building on the site were found during the foundation removal.

A team of archaeologists from Underground Overground Archaeology, led by Kirsa Webb, excavated under the 1862 Shands building in December. Few artefacts were found under the building although evidence of landscape modification – in the form of filling in what may have been an old stream channel – was found.

Hamish Williams, Kimberley Bone and Julia Hughes have been excavating at the site of the new Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct. Part of this site was once home to Anderson’s Foundry, a major player in the 19th century Christchurch industrial scene. Excavations so far have revealed some evidence of industrial processes – in the form of slag – but mostly standard 19th century artefacts have been found. Work at this site will continue for some months, due to the ground stabilisation works taking place.

Teri Anderson is busy at Southshore, monitoring the installation of a low pressure sewer scheme, which is turning up evidence of what may be a cultural layer in places. Meanwhile, Luke Tremlett has continued to monitor the demolition of several buildings at the Ashburton Hospital. One of the buildings was constructed in the 1880s and the other two were built in the first decades of the 20th century. Jessie Garland has curated a small exhibition of artefacts that is now open in the South Christchurch Library.

Katharine Watson