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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

Over recent months archaeological works have continued at a steady pace in Northland. Dianne Harlow, with assistance from Simon Bickler, has continued with works on Bream Tail Farm in Mangawhai with further investigations of midden sites in advance of housing lot development. This project has been ongoing for a number of years and once completed will provide a much better archaeological understanding of this area.

Don Prince has currently been investigating several sites within the Waitangi National Trust property in the Bay of Islands. These works have focused on the new museum and educational complex site which will be situated alongside the existing visitor facilities as well as works around the Bay of Islands Yacht Club. Northern Archaeological Research have also been kept busy undertaking several jobs in Russell and Waimate North for domestic development. Jono Carpenter and Russell Gibb of Geometria recently completed work in Kaeo for the re-piling of the Spickman House which dated to the mid-19th century. David Nevin has undertaken some monitoring works in Russell for a house development.

Works have also started in the Kerikeri Basin with the upgrade of the existing car park situated between the Kerikeri Mission Station and Kororipo Pā by the Department of Conservation under the supervision of Andrew Blanshard. Based on historic maps and drawings the works are located in the area of Parrot's house – Parrot was the ticket of leave convict who was employed to work on the construction of the Stone Store. Evidence of a buried topsoil – likely to be the original ground surface was found as well as several fragments of handmade red brick. In the coming months Andrew will also be undertaking archaeological works in relation to track construction and interpretation panels in advance of the 200th commemorations at Marsden Cross.

Brooke Jamieson

Auckland

CFG Heritage recently conducted fieldwork at the Roman Catholic cemetery on Hutton Street, Otahuhu. The unconsented dumping of approximately 900 m³ of contaminated fill resulted in several graves being damaged by machinery and others partly covered with fill and flooded. Remediation earthworks were monitored and a grave recording protocol was

developed to record the graves (grave type, headstone type, people, etc.) and damage to them, whether recent or as a result of general wear and tear. The remediation of the damaged graves is still ongoing, and will be reported on once completed.

CFG Heritage also conducted fieldwork in the Waimahia Inlet, South Auckland. Three small, disturbed middens were uncovered during the construction of an affordable housing development, which were mapped, sampled and analysed.

Mat Campbell

Waikato – Bay of Plenty – Gisborne

Warren Gumbley and Andrew Hoffmann have just completed a small investigation of a mid-to-late 19th century store site at Rangiriri. Earlier in the year they investigated a series of gardens and part of a pā affected by the cycleway to a new velodrome just west of Cambridge.

Alexy Simmons (Simmons & Associates Ltd) and Malcolm Hutchinson are involved in archaeological research in the northern and central Waikato for the Waikato District Council's Tuakau and Ngaruawahia Environs Structure Plan. Their historical data and aerial photograph review indicates potential for a large number of unrecorded pre-European and historic era archaeological sites in both areas. Indicative data gathered will be used to inform planning decisions and recommendations for heritage management in the district.

Andy Dodd and Matt Carter held a three day archaeological site recording workshop for divers which dove-tailed onto the end of a technical diving conference at Lake Taupo (TecfestNZ 2014). The archaeological training (AIMA/NAS) was based on a course developed by the Nautical Archaeological Society in the United Kingdom, and licensed to the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology for use in Australia and New Zealand. The course was attended by 13 participants from a wide variety of backgrounds which included commercial divers, dive instructors, dive shop owners, and technical divers experienced in the use of rebreathers and mixed gases. The AIMA/NAS course was well received and is likely to be run again in conjunction with TecfestNZ in the future. One of the keynote speakers at TecfestNZ was Matt Schmidt from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, who gave a talk on the 2013 archaeological survey of the Kaipipi shipyard, on Stewart Island.

Brigid Gallagher (MishMish Productions Ltd) and team have been busy in the western Bay of Plenty, at Bowentown, Katikati and Bethlehem. Work to prevent further erosion caused by water runoff at Bowentown's Anzac Bay has just finished. Good preservation of archaeology was discovered here, with Māori postholes and pit features of various forms preserved just under the loop road within the bay.

The original sand dune environment included Māori ovens/firescoops, a pit containing a hāngi stone cache tucked into the toe of a sand dune 1.7m below current ground surface, and then archaeology all the way up to 1928-30 with the remains of a cooking event with ABC beer bottles, fish bone and a fire. A large pit containing household rubbish from the settlement here was also found. The key find was a perfectly formed 2B adze, of what looks to be greywacke, still with the impressions of the lashings on the tang.

At Katikati, in March, continuing previous monitoring and recording from 2013, Brigid uncovered further cultivation and storage features as well as kōiwi. Examination by Beatrice Hudson established that these were secondary burials with differential treatment given to the long bones and skulls. Reburial took place according to tikanga and protocols guided by the local hapu. Three small whare were also found, each exhibiting a slightly different form, and the last one was backfilled in the historic period.

Investigations for the Bethlehem Country Club (U14/918) continued in February, with Brigid introducing student volunteers from Auckland and Otago Universities to the archaeology of the Bay of Plenty. This is an extensive multi-phase and multiple use area with evidence of food storage and occupation, dominated by scores of pits of every shape and size. On the wider property, intensive occupation was identified near the ditch of Houhainga pā and two whare were discovered beneath the level of kiwifruit plantation roots, and shown to have been backfilled in the historic period. Experimental plaster casts of all postholes of one whare yielded interesting results. Further investigations will be undertaken later this year.

Brigid also presented a detailed account of previous excavations at the Grumpy Mole hotel site on Tauranga's Strand to a meeting of the Tauranga Historical Society in April. A detailed European rebuilding sequence was uncovered above indications of Māori occupation.

Ken Phillips (Archaeology BOP) has submitted an interim report on work undertaken as part of the Pilot Bay boardwalk project at Mount Maunganui. A large amount of lithic and bone artefacts was recovered throughout the investigations, as well as a multiple burial. Preliminary results suggest that the lowest layer relates to the early period site recorded on Pilot Bay, one of the few in the Western Bay.

Mat Campbell (CFG Heritage) has submitted the final report on investigations at Whakatane Hospital, including Beatrice Hudson's osteological report on kōiwi. Features included pits, postholes, borrow bits and fire scoops. Obsidian flakes were also recovered across the site.

Peter Holmes has been working on a subdivision at Welcome Bay, where initial topsoil removal was clear of any cultural deposits but deep service trenches exposed a group of five buried middens and a two-chambered rua at depths of over a metre. Archaeological monitoring of fibre optic cable

installation across Tauranga will be ongoing for the next three months. CFG Heritage also completed a small excavation at U14/3243, in the Oropi Meadows subdivision near Tauranga in April 2014. A number of pits were recorded on the crest of a hill – although several experienced archaeologists had visited the site and concluded that they were pits, they turned out to be tree throw or perhaps cattle wallows. Five pits were found nearby, not visible on the surface, as well as midden, fire scoops, postholes and several flakes and cores of obsidian.

John Coster has monitored extensions to a pit site, U14/3371, at Omokoroa. With Hirere Ngamoki, he also oversaw investigation of archaeological features on site X15/301, including a pit full of very large angular oven stones, uncovered in Whanau a Apanui forests at Hawai in the eastern Bay of Plenty. John's main preoccupation over the summer has been working with Rongowhakāta iwi to clarify options for the return of their whare runanga, Te Hau ki Turanga, currently held at Te Papa Tongarewa. This included analysis, with Kevin Jones and Lyn Williams, of evidence for the extent and location of historic Orakaiaapu pā (Y14/348), at Manutuke, south of Gisborne.

The highlight of the last couple of months for Lynda Walter (InSitu Heritage Ltd) was having a small role in the preparations for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the battle of Gate Pā (Pukehinahina) in Tauranga. Installation of eight carved pouwhenua and the replacement of the flagpole at the memorial in the Gate Pā Historic Reserve required a prior archaeological investigation, which Lynda, Karen Greig and Charles Parkinson undertook in early April.

No archaeological features were found in the area where the pouwhenua were erected adjacent to Cameron Road, confirming that the area had been previously modified when the road was widened in 1977. Excavation of the area where the new flagpole was to be erected exposed at least one trench floor, and the excavation was still in fill material when the required depth for the flagpole of 1.8m was reached. The scope of the investigation was very small, limited to the area directly affected by the flagpole installation. An excavation report is currently in preparation.

This preparatory work culminated in an outstanding day of commemoration on 29th April, attended by the Governor General, the Māori King, hundreds of Māori warriors from the Bay of Plenty and Waikato, and several thousand onlookers. For those of us there it was a privilege to be present.

Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the subsequent battle at Te Ranga will take place on 21st June. In Situ Heritage Ltd recently prepared an archaeological assessment for Te Runanga o Ngai Tamarawaho ahead of planned upgrade work at the Te Ranga Historic Reserve, including vegetation management and fencing.

Other recent work for In Situ has included the preparation of an archaeological assessment for the proposed Matata waste water scheme, and forestry assessments for PF Olsen Ltd. In February, Lynda monitored the first stage of development for the Tangihanga Dam near Gisborne, where she found features suggesting a number of small fires and rake out.

John Coster and Cathleen Haumann with Andy Dodd

Taranaki

Dan McCurdy and Russell Gibb of Geometria Ltd have completed the fieldwork for the New Plymouth District Council wāhi tapu review. Geometria Ltd is presently consulting with iwi and landowners before records are finalised and submitted for the proposed plan change. New Plymouth District Council have also been carrying out repairs to the 1885 Waitara River half tide wall, and this work is being documented by Andy Dodd of Subsurface Ltd.

Ivan Bruce of Archaeological Resource Management Ltd has been monitoring the final stage (Ruatangata section) of the Links subdivision at Bell Block, which is now completed. This area was found to be a former lagoon/wetland and was drained by early farmers, who excavated a ditch, which was then capped with large flat beach stones. This is thought likely to have been an innovation prior to farmers in the area obtaining field tiles. Ivan Bruce and Kate Lilly have also completed the excavation of a series of late 19th century rubbish pits and a well, which were exposed during the construction of the Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth. Ivan has also completed the report on archaeological work at the site of the White Hart Hotel in New Plymouth (built in 1886 to replace the original 1844 building) and this has been submitted to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Digital Library.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Christine Barnett is currently working on a couple of historic sites in Greytown, both of which were built not long after the establishment of Greytown in 1854. Greytown is considered the first planned inland town in the North Island and is believed to have New Zealand's most complete main street of wooden Victorian buildings. The excavation at the Cobblestone Museum has revealed a number of artefacts associated with the original Cobb and Co. coaching stables and the former residence of the Hastwell/Tully family. The other site on the Main Street has housed a number of local authorities and boards. It has been utilised as a legal office since 1886. Excavations associated with an addition to the building have revealed a rubbish pit with a number of Hamilton torpedo bottle fragments used by the Fuller bottle company of Greytown.

Kevin Jones has finalised monitoring work at Victoria Avenue, Whanganui and under Sacred Heart School (undergoing strengthening) in Thorndon, Wellington. He is engaged on a heritage assessment of Ship Cove, Queen Charlotte Sound, for DOC and has also excavated a possible eel channel lying between dunes north of Waikanae.

Mary O’Keeffe continues work on archaeological monitoring for the construction of the MacKays to Peka Peka (M2PP) expressway on the Kapiti Coast. She also continues work on a voluntary basis with the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery in Wellington.

Mary O’Keeffe

Canterbury

Underground Overground Archaeology Ltd has continued to be busy with earthquake work. Kirsia Webb has been having fun playing with the new total station, successfully using it to record several buildings. Three of these were commercial buildings in the central city and there were a couple of worker’s cottages in the Avon Loop area. Only one of these buildings – a former piano factory – has been demolished. It was unfortunately too unsafe to enter prior to demolition and the building was subsequently demolished without an archaeologist on site. It was a four-storey brick building, and displayed the typical ornateness of Victorian buildings, in spite of its industrial function.

Peter Mitchell has recorded a small worker’s cottage in the Sydenham-Spreydon area. This cottage was built in the 1870s and added to in the 1880s (and again during the 20th century). The construction techniques used in the two 19th century phases were the same, although some of the timbers used differed, and the floorboards were orientated differently between the two phases. The match-lining was also different in the two phases, consistent with the fact that the match-lining of the first phase was designed to be exposed, while that of the second phase was not.

Hamish Williams has been busy monitoring earthworks in the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct, where the rate of finds has fortunately decreased. Hamish has also been working on a number of Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) projects, as have Teri Anderson, Helen McCreary and Peter Mitchell. SCIRT work in the central city has been progressing rapidly, which has resulted in a number of discoveries of late 19th/early 20th century tram tracks and the 19th century sewerage network. Teri has also been monitoring work at Southshore and Helen has been monitoring work at Redcliffs. There have been few finds in the latter area to date.

Julia Hughes, Helen McCreary and Matt Hennessey continue to monitor the removal of foundations in the residential red zone, with few finds in this

area. Matt Carter has been excavating large rubbish dumps full of black beer bottles in Lyttelton (there was reportedly a hotel site nearby), while Kimberley Bone has been monitoring earthworks on a subdivision north of Christchurch, and inland, on the banks of the Rakaia River. No archaeological finds have been made in either area to date. Chelsea Dickson and Jessie Garland continue to be busy with artefact analysis.

Works have resumed on the in-river component of the Avon River Precinct, with dredging and gravel washing which continue to uncover assorted historic artefacts finds ranging from a completely intact tobacco pipe to a post from the old flour mill beside the Hereford Street Bridge. Demolition works continue at pace around the city but we still managed the odd job out of town – at Queen Mary Hospital in Hanmer Springs, we found what appears to a burnt demolition layer associated with the Government Sanatorium near the Soldiers Block.

Katharine Watson