



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Northland

Archaeological works and heritage focused events have been proceeding at a steady pace in Northland over the summer months. Dianne Harlow has continued her work within the Bream Tail Farms development and has been monitoring works for individual housing development. Works within the subdivision will be on going for a number of years.

Andrew Blanshard (Department of Conservation) has been busy with the commemorations of the first mission station at Hoihi/Rangihou mission station, the opening of the visitors centre and the commemorations in December 2014. A special mention should also be made to Ian Smith, Angela Middleton and their team who investigated the site and have greatly contributed to our understanding of mission archaeology in New Zealand. Rangihoua pā and the first mission station are well worth a visit: the site has detailed interpretation of the events that took place and the key people involved in this important bicultural site.

Andrew, assisted by Wesley Maguire, has also completed the majority of the monitoring works required for the upgrade of the Kerikeri Basin Heritage Precinct. The works uncovered drainage features associated with the Stone Store and continuations of features originally uncovered by Simon Best.

Leigh Johnson and Elisabeth Callaghan have continued with their forestry work within the Northland region, as well as monitoring the earthworks needed for the upgrade works at Clendon cottage, next to Pompallier in Russell. This work will enable better use and visitor experience at the property.

Jono Carpenter has been kept busy on projects within the wider Whangarei area with monitoring out at Pataua and along the coast. Dave Nevin has been involved with monitoring a new house within the Kerikeri Inlet as well as some smaller projects within the wider Bay of Islands area.

As this year marked the 175th signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, with commemorations occurring not only at Waitangi but also at Mangungu, the site of the Wesleyan mission station in the Hokianga. The Mangungu signing is important as it was the location of the largest signing of Māori, who put their name on the treaty document on 12 February 1840. Two events to commemo-

rate this occurred; the first on 4 February, with the current Governor General in attendance – the first time a governor general has attended since William Hobson was there in 1840. The new Minister for Culture and Heritage, Maggie Barry, also attended the event, which included a waka salute. A second event was also held on 12 February to mark the important day. Both events were well attended by guests and the local community alike.

*Brooke Jamieson*

## **Auckland**

Sarah Phear reports that Glen Farley of Clough & Associates exposed a small (8 x 6 m) midden deposit in January during development works near Auckland Airport. The disturbed shell material was found to be covering a small pit, two postholes and three fire scoop bases. The midden was predominantly cockle with some gastropod and scallop fragments with charcoal. The pit (0.50 x 0.45 x 0.45 m) was backfilled with clean whole cockle and scallop shells. Samples from the site are currently being processed and the site has been recorded as R11/2978.

*Matthew Campbell*

## **Central North Island**

It has been a long hot summer in the Central North Island and rain at the end of February was welcome.

CFG Heritage have been monitoring and excavating the railway bridge replacement project at Taupiri. Three midden layers were found separated by floodwash, including fire scoops, a pit that was difficult to define in the soft soils, and several taonga including adzes. Marine shell and small quantities of fish were presumably bought up the Waikato by canoe. Koiwi were also found but these are pre-European in origin and have no direct connection to the historic period Taupiri urupa. The koiwi were reburied on the urupa.

Simmonds and Associates Ltd (SAL) have completed the final report for the Walk of Fame at Selwyn Park (Otawhao mission station) in Te Awamutu. Earthworks at the park exposed several pre-1900 pits with a substantial quantity of foodways artefacts and remains retained for analysis. Mark Horrocks reported on the pollen, phytoliths and starch; SAL investigated the botanical content of flotation samples; and Sheryl McPherson of Faunal Solutions carried out faunal analysis. Information derived from the two pits indicates that one was probably associated with the military occupation of the Otawhao mission station during the Waikato Wars. Foodstuff remains were analysed using the foodways research framework developed by Alexy Simmons in 2013.

SAL has also been monitoring work at the Ohaupo School in Waipa district, in which evidence of the early school building, destroyed by fire, was found. Work is still ongoing on the site, but the majority of the earthworks have been completed. The monitoring resulted in the recording and recovery of what may be one of the largest collections recovered from a school site in New Zealand. Burnt foundation piles, an abundance of slate pencils, slate tablet fragments, ceramic ink wells and burnt glass have all been recovered. The artefacts are being catalogued and photographed by Daniel Tanaka.

In Coromandel township, SAL have carried out a survey of the Tiki Road subdivision, while the final report for the Wairakei to Whakamaru C-Line for Transpower NZ Ltd has now been completed. The project began in 2009 and earthworks were finished in mid-Sept 2014.

In Tauranga, Peter Holmes, for CFG Heritage, has been monitoring the laying of ultra-fast broadband and power cabling around several historic and pā sites in Tauranga, so far without incident. Brigid Gallagher has excavated sites in Wharf Street, Welcome Bay, and at Fergusson Park, while Ken Phillips has been monitoring work on the Matapihi water main. John Coster has assessed the archaeology of a number of potential subdivision sites, as Tauranga's building boom gains pace.

Further east, John has been thrashing about in pine forests east of Opotiki and Lynda Walter has been doing the same around Gisborne. Kevin Jones headed off to Potikirua, near East Cape, to assess an impressive array of coastal sites first recorded by Anne Leahy and Wendy Walsh in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

*John Coster & Cathleen Hauman*

## **Taranaki**

The Normanby Overbridge Realignment, South Taranaki, has started with Archaeology North Ltd, Whanganui, doing the archaeology under an NZHPT authority. Geometria has recently opened a regional office in New Plymouth, with Dan McCurdy moving from Auckland. We are continuing to work with iwi preparing the wāhi tapu and archaeological sites update for district plan change, which should be going out for public consultation in early 2015. Dan is enjoying the much shorter commute to work than his Auckland colleagues.

*Andy Dodd*

## **Wellington**

Andy Dodd has been undertaking site visits for freshwater historic heritage as part of the Greater Wellington Regional Council's review of their

regional plan. The archaeological assessments are building on heritage identified in archaeological scoping studies and built heritage assessments, and also include sites put forward by local iwi and hapū. The terms of reference for the plan review limit the proposed sites to those with in situ remains in the beds of freshwater bodies and waterways.

Elsewhere Andy has been involved in the archaeological survey and assessment of a new cycleway through the Queen Elizabeth Park between Paekakariki and Raumati. The proposed inland route skirts around recorded midden sites and the former locations of the World War II US Marine camps at MacKays Crossing and Paekakariki, but it is expected that unrecorded sites will be encountered. Andy has also completed the last of the archaeological monitoring and reporting on the subdivision of the Hutt Club site in Woburn, Lower Hutt, which contained the stone hearth and foundations of the 1850s Tredenham homestead, demolished in 2012.

Mary O’Keeffe continues monitoring work for the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway on the Kapiti Coast. Recent sites of interest include further very large middens, occasionally containing fishbone, and large ovens. One midden contained a tuatara mandible, spotted by Yolanda Vogel.

Mary has also excavated an oven with several areas of midden. Located south of the Pauatahanui inlet, found as preliminary work for the construction of the Transmission Gully highway.

*Mary O’Keeffe*

## **Canterbury**

The team at Opus has been joined by Helen Alderson. She has jumped right into residential foundation removal and rebuild earthworks, work that has kept the whole Opus team on their toes. Sam Kurmann has also recently returned after her adventures overseas. Sam has taken on a number of projects already including some emergency work for NZTA on the West Coast and assisting Elsa Koenig out on the Christchurch Northern Arterial project. Megan Lawrence and Elsa have also been working out at the airport, keeping an eye out for ovens and midden along an old river channel, as similar features have previously been identified in close proximity to the area. TJ O’Connell and Elsa are still working in the Avon River, recovering all manner of glass, ceramic, metal and brick artefacts. Patrick Harsveldt has also been working at Lyttelton New School, formerly the Lyttelton Main School, and has uncovered the foundations of the original school building.

Michael Trotter continues with assessments, briefing and monitoring, mainly in Kaikoura and Birdlings Flat, but also in central North Canterbury. In Kaikoura, Heritage New Zealand has carried out strengthening and repair

work to a retaining wall on the side of a loading ramp which gave access to the upper storey of an historic store shed in the Fyffes Precinct area. This provided an indication of the construction of the ramp which had been partly built of dry stacked limestone slabs and pieces. Information on a drainage ditch for the store shed was also obtained. Also in Kaikoura, a new underground power supply to the Takahanga marae cut through and along Takahanga pā's defensive wall and across part of the interior. It was monitored by Deb Foster, and besides the expected constructional stratigraphy in the defensive wall and a few small intrusions within the pā, there was a large pit immediately outside the wall, indicating not unexpected activity here.

Closer to home, Michael and Jeanette McIsaac monitored trenching to supply electricity to a new cell phone tower at Waikuku. This revealed a number of very small shell middens and fire areas, apparently of two different time periods – late moa hunter and early European settlement, though this is subject to analysis. There were very few bones, but these included fragments of moa, small bird and whale. Artefacts from the late occupation included pieces of iron wire and bottles. Michael and Jeanette have also been monitoring extensive clearing operations for sand and shingle mining at Woodend and Amberley. In the past, several burials have been uncovered during mining at Woodend – hence the need for careful monitoring – but to date the occupational evidence uncovered by the present work has been confined to shell middens and recent debris.

The close of 2014 saw Jeremy Habberfield-Short of Strata Heritage monitoring the foundation removal at two semi-detached Victorian domestic residences in Chester Street East, Christchurch. These dwellings were built in the 1890s and collapsed in the 2011 earthquakes. They formed a collection of four semi-detached houses built by the owner-occupier as rental properties, of which two remain. Monitoring the foundation removal revealed little information apart from the layout of the foundations and their construction. Very few artefacts were found in the surface sediments. Underlying the house was about 600 mm of infill clays and sands with no archaeology. Between 600 and 800 mm below the surface the first evidence of 19th century dumping activities was found in what would have been a natural drainage channel of the Avon, which meanders eastwards, immediately north of the site. As the excavation neared completion it showed the property dipped towards the street frontage by at least 1 m. Frederick Strouts's 1877 map shows that a large return bay building was present at the rear of the lot. By 1890, when the terrace houses were constructed, the landscape had been transformed from a colonial landscape in which early European migrants settled, occupied and interacted in a seamless way into a somewhat industrialised or commercialised

model where the settler landscape was terraformed to make way for residential estates.

In 2006 Jeremy Habberfield-Short, working then for Opus Consultants, posited that subsurface sediments (comprising water-rolled basalt pebbles and cobbles in a matrix of grey-green clay with weather shell fragments) underlying Rue Jolie in Akaroa may represent the historic road base. Recent projects in Akaroa (the replacement of the sewer and potable drinking water reticulation) have allowed that concept to be further expanded and tested. Jeremy, along with Teri Anderson and Kimberley Bone of Underground Overground Archaeology, monitored the final stages of the Water Reticulation Upgrade Project in 2014 and this year the start of the Sewer Upgrade. The same sediments discovered in 2006 have been widely recorded during this work, in Rue Jolie, Rue Belguerie, Rue Lavaud, Beach Road, and Woodills Road to date. It is not possible to directly link the sediments to road construction. However, ancillary evidence does exist for this – as seen in the *Akaroa Mail* (online in Papers Past) – which documents the Akaroa Borough Council calling for tenders for the surfacing of existing mud tracks with beach metals.

The team at Underground Overground Archaeology remain busy with earthquake-related work. Kurt Bennett has just commenced the monitoring earthworks in reclaimed land at Lyttelton Port, the first of a number of projects to take place as part of the port's rebuild. This reclamation took place in the 1860s, and buried a number of structures extant at the time, including jetties. Most of the current round of earthworks are related to pavement repairs and are thus relatively shallow.

Also in Lyttelton, Peter Mitchell has been recording and monitoring the demolition of two 19<sup>th</sup> century retaining walls. Unusually, one of these is built of brick (most 19<sup>th</sup> century retaining walls in Lyttelton are red scoria, sourced from nearby quarries), and it will be interesting to see who made the bricks (if there are any maker's marks).

In the city, Francesca Bradley, Hamish Williams, Peter Mitchell and Matt Hennessey have recovered several pre-1900 buildings – two commercial buildings in the central and two residential buildings. One of the latter was one of the largest houses we've recorded to date, coming in at 32 rooms (a result of a 20th century subdivision into flats). Recording the house has revealed some interesting differences between this house and others recorded by UnderOverArch, in terms of form and layout, and also some of the materials used.

Teri Anderson has been monitoring SCIRT earthworks in the McCormacks Bay and Sumner area, and has recently recorded both a cultural layer and a midden in Sumner, in close proximity to a midden recorded in

1966. Meanwhile, Megan Hickey has been monitoring SCIRT earthworks in Southshore, with no discoveries to report there recently.

Elsewhere in the city, Julia Hughes has been monitoring earthworks at the Arts Centre, where the foundations of a demolished building have recently been found in the south quad.

*Katharine Watson*

## **West Coast**

In January, Katharine Watson carried out an archaeological survey of part of the old Redmans gold field, south of Ross. This area was the focus of a gold rush in the mid-late 1860s but most of the intensive workings of that era and subsequent decades were destroyed by 20<sup>th</sup> century mining. Just one area of intensive alluvial workings was found during the survey, and most of the rest of the sites that were recorded were small scale alluvial workings, demonstrating the lack of payable ground beyond the main focus of the rush – and also indicating how far up the neighbouring creeks miners tried the ground.

*Katharine Watson*

## **Otago**

Kevin Jones and Neville Ritchie have been involved with a field visit to the Glenorchy scheelite fields, including the Paradise and Lake Sylvan fields. This was for a heritage assessment of the field.

Jackie Gillies and Associates have recently completed the monitoring phase of work at the Cerebos Greggs factory redevelopment in Forth Street, Dunedin, which revealed further evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century life in the city, including domestic rubbish pits and cottage foundations, an assemblage of typical domestic ceramics, glass and bone, and a possible brick starch kiln that serviced the original 1880s W. Gregg's factory.

Andrea Farminer and Jackie Gillies are also in the final stages of completing the report on the extensive buildings archaeology and sub-surface archaeology investigation undertaken at the Speight's brewery in Rattray Street, Dunedin in 2013, that revealed considerable evidence for the earlier, 19<sup>th</sup> century phases of the brewery, along with several pre-brewery features possibly dating to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century period of the city's development.

Archaeological excavations at the site where the Eichardt's stables and associated outbuildings once stood on the lakeshore of Queenstown carried out by JGA have now finished. During excavations, remnants of the 1870 cobbled stable floor and dividers for the horse stalls were uncovered along the edge of the site. In addition, a line of barrel latrines was unearthed. Four barrels were buried along the back edge of a wall, and probably formed part of the



toilet block for the hotel during the later part of the 19th century. Artefactual material was recovered from multiple features across the site, generally in the form of bottles and ceramics that were likely used by the hotel and the nearby workers' quarters.

Dilys Johns of Auckland University provided feedback at a hui of ōtākou Rūnanga and community members (29 January 2015) on the results of radiocarbon dating fibre found both inside and outside the hull of the Papanui waka that was excavated in October last year. The dates suggest use of this fibre in the mid to late 17th century. The hull of the waka is undergoing conservation work on the Ōtākou marae under the supervision of Dilys and monitoring of erosion at Papanui is ongoing.

*Emma Brooks*