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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

The recent winter months have been somewhat quiet in terms of archaeological works occurring in Northland. Matthew Carter has begun his PhD research into early shipbuilding sites in Horeke, Hokianga and has been scoping out potential sites for further investigation over the upcoming summer months. Jono Carpenter has continued his investigation works at Estuary Drive, Mangawhai with early results indicating a significant Māori settlement within the area; works are ongoing. Michael Taylor is continuing to work with Te Roroa in regards to the felling and removal of trees from Waipoua Forest and more harvesting works are proposed for the upcoming months for Leigh Johnson and Don Prince. I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to those who attended this year's NZAA conference in Waitangi, it was great to see everyone and I hope everyone had an enjoyable time.

Brooke Jamieson

Smiths Canal

On the way back from the NZAA conference in June, I went via the West Coast and investigated a log-hauling canal named Smiths Canal; adjacent to Smiths Canal Road. Built prior to 1900 (exact year not determined) it is situated approximately 8 km east of Ruawai on State Highway 12, and was used to transport kauri logs from the Rehia Valley to Awaroa Creek, thence via Kaipara Harbour to Matakohe. Smiths Canal (now recorded as P08/376) is thought to be only the third industrial canal to be recorded on ArchSite (*pers comm.* N. Ritchie), the other two being at Kopuku mine, near Maramarua, and Booms Flat, Kauaeranga Valley. Smiths Canal is still substantially intact, with approximately 1m of water flowing down it when visited on 21 June, whereas the other two are largely destroyed. Inputs from Gretel Boswijk, Dave Nevin and Neville Ritchie are much appreciated.

David Wilton



Smiths Canal (June 2015, David Wilton)

Auckland

Auckland Council's Cultural Heritage Implementation (CHI) Team have been working very hard in the last quarter of the year with their high volume, rapid turn-over implementation workload. The team are continuing to provide advice into the Resource Consent process, attending pre-application meetings, providing technical advice, approving various heritage-related documentation submitted as part of consent conditions, attending Environment Court hearings and assisting with compliance requests. The team are also providing advice for Initial Activity Proposals (for the Auckland Council Events Team, Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) and Screen Auckland), and providing technical advice to Council's Parks, Sport and Recreation Department, through the provision of high-level project advice or through the surveying of parks and reserves for historic heritage items such as Alison Park, Oneroa, Waiheke Island). Team members have also recently completed visits to all Council-controlled cemeteries within the Auckland Council geographical

area and are either updating or creating new records on the Cultural Heritage Inventory. A review had highlighted that a number of important historic cemeteries, such as Hillsborough, had not been previously recorded on the inventory.

Recent staff changes in the CHI Team have seen Keita Kohere take up the role of Māori Heritage Programme Lead outside of the team, but remaining within the wider Heritage Unit, and Rebecca Ramsay taking up the fixed-term position of Specialist: Archaeology until the end of June 2016.

In conjunction with SPAR, CFG recently prepared a set of guidelines on public interaction with the 52 cemeteries managed by Auckland Council, both historic and active cemeteries, outlining what members of the public can do in cemeteries and where they need to seek expert guidance.

Monitoring of sea wall improvements at Howick Beach and Mellons Bay showed that archaeological sites on these busy foreshores were very disturbed, with disturbed midden containing plastic mixed throughout. The Blues High Performance Centre at Alexandra Park wasn't much different, with the surface being cut down and disturbed – some historic material out of context, including, unsurprisingly, a number of horseshoes, was all that was recovered. The race track is paved with crushed beach shell, which makes things a bit confusing. Stage II, the Greenlane West Development, begins soon and we are hopeful of finding evidence of the 19th century spectator stand.

Finally, CFG take great pleasure in welcoming Danielle Trilford to the team as an archaeologist. Danielle has recently finished her MA at Otago before moving to Auckland.

Clough and Associates have recently been recording midden deposits and firescoops alongside the SH16 motorway works, and in the dunes of Okahukura, Kaipara. Other works have included monitoring the excavation of the basement and foundations for an apartment tower in the CBD which revealed a well and the brick foundations of 19th century residential and commercial buildings. The Loombs Hotel in Panmure has been lifted and shifted prior to renovations. The hotel is situated on land that was previously the site of a Fencible cottage, with additional excavation to take place.

Works undertaken at the rear of Alfred Nathan House, situated within the Albert Barracks, have been monitored, as have renovation works at the Ponsonby Baptist Church. Monitoring of excavations undertaken by Watercare is also ongoing.

Matthew Campbell, Chris Mallows, Glen Farley

Central North Island

Brent Druskovich has been working on NZTA's Hamilton Bypass.

In Katikati, Brigid Gallagher and Eleanor Sturrock (Mishmish Heritage) have been involved with the management of a Western Bay of Plenty District Council reserve in Park Road. Upgrading of an access road exposed well-preserved archaeological features, including probable house sites. These matched with Ngaiterangi traditions of an unfortified pā at the mouth of the Uretara Stream and have resulted in abandonment of the road upgrade and recognition by the Council of the reserve's historic significance. Future management will focus on establishing an appropriate sense of place.

Around Tauranga, Mishmish have excavated garden soils and a terrace feature on the site of Tauranga's proposed Eastern Reservoir on the Papamoa Hills. Peter Holmes (CFG) has been monitoring ultrafast broadband installation, now drawing to a close – a small midden, U14/3445, was exposed during trenching in Welcome Bay. John Coster has undertaken assessment and monitoring of housing proposals in Tauranga and continues with forestry work at Hawaii, east of Opotiki. Further east still, at Potikirua, Kevin Jones has recorded a garden soil as part of an exploratory authority in that area.

Heritage New Zealand's new manager for the Lower Northern region, Ben Pick (no relation to Doug), has settled into the Tauranga office.

The Normanby Overbridge Realignment, South Taranaki, has started with Archaeology North Ltd, Wanganui, doing the archaeology.

John Coster, Andy Dodd

Wellington

Victoria Grouden has completed a number of excavation reports for the central Wellington area, including a site in Tasman Street, the Wellington Cenotaph and the Wellington Central Fire Station. She has recently monitored the demolition and clearance of a small bakehouse in Aro Street and is nearing completion of a monitoring report for a site in Boulcott Street, Wellington Central.

Site work has recently started at Whitireia Park, Porirua, where the Greater Wellington Regional Council is undertaking an upgrade of the Onepoto Track. The park is located on the Whitireia Peninsula and includes a number of well-documented terrace, midden and oven sites. NZAA site records date back to the late 1950s, with subsequent surveys carried out by Bruce McFadgen and Tony Walton in the 1970s, 1980s and 2000s. Recent research also identified the probable location of a house built on the peninsula during the mid 1840s, for William Servantes. Servantes was a military interpreter associated with the 99th and 6th Regiments, and he married a granddaughter of Te Rangihaeata. The

park comprises one of the few largely unmodified archaeological landscapes in the Wellington region.

Kevin Jones has been monitoring the construction of massive ground beams for the earthquake reinforcing of St Mary of the Angels on Boulcott Street. He has also monitored the removal of forest for a subdivision proposal at Waikanae.

Andy Dodd of Subsurface Ltd has been monitoring the construction of a commuter cycleway through Queen Elizabeth Park between Paekakariki and Raumati South, on the Kāpiti Coast. The six-kilometre long cycleway traverses through the park combining new and existing tracks, mostly keeping inland of the eastern edge of the Waitarere dunes. The earthworks have been divided into six stages, with the first (northern) stage, now largely complete. A number of small tuatua midden features have been discovered to date through a combination of earthworks and manual probing. So far, it has been possible to cover and preserve one midden beneath an earthworks batter, and exclude other sites in areas marked out for screen planting. The Queen Elizabeth Park is the location of at least three 'pā', two urupā, numerous shell middens and burials. It was also the location of two US Marine camps (camps Russell and Paekakariki) during WWIL.

Mary O'Keeffe continues to monitor earthworks for construction of the MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway (M2PP) on the Kāpiti Coast.

Mary O'Keeffe

West Coast

New Zealand Heritage Properties undertook a survey at the Scandinavian Hill mining complex on the West Coast. Initial survey encountered evidence for the earliest mining in the area, which began in the middle of the 1860s.

Katharine Watson

Canterbury

In South Canterbury, Kevin Jones has completed a report on a KiwiRail bridge re-construction south of St Andrews.

Michael Trotter and Jeanette McIsaac had a break from monitoring ubiquitous midden and fire remains when two human burials were unearthed in a front garden at Omihi, south of Kaikoura. The investigation of the burials provided a great opportunity to involve members of the Kaikoura rūnanga, three of whom participated in the excavation. Unfortunately the condition of the remains was not good due to damage from gardening operations and the dampness of the ground which had caused severe deterioration to the deeper portions of the burials. The burials were reinterred on the site. Omihi is where

remains of up to 36 burials were bulldozed out in somewhat controversial circumstances in 1977, not far from where these two burials were found.

Stories abound of the depredations of Te Rauparaha, but it is not often that we get to see any direct evidence of his victims. Recently a human cranium was found by chance in the steep forested hills near Omihi and handed in to the Kaikoura police, who later passed it on to the rūnanga for reburial. Through the courtesy of both parties Michael is making a study of it, and preliminary results point to the victim having been violently dispatched by hatchet about the time that Te Rauparaha plundered the Omihi village in 1830. There is a first-hand account by Ema Turumeka, an escapee from the attack, of groups from the war party searching for other escapees in the bush, and it is possible that this cranium is from one who was not as fortunate as Ema.

New Zealand Heritage Properties has undertaken field work in Timaru in relation to redevelopment at the Elloughton Grange along Pages Road. Site work is still on-going but initial subsurface works have found nothing of significance. A potentially pre-1900 building on the property was also recorded prior to its demolition. Unfortunately nothing in the structure or associated features gave further evidence of its age.

Buildings archaeology was also undertaken by New Zealand Heritage Properties in Islington earlier this year. The house was one of the original houses built in the suburb for the workers of the Christchurch Meat Company in the early 1890s. The house appears to be one of a few set designs that was used by the company when they subdivided the suburb to house their workers for the adjacent freezing works.

Hamish Williams remains busy with SCIRT projects about the central city, though the majority of horizontal infrastructure works within the four avenues are now largely complete. Recently on Manchester Street Hamish recorded an underground fire tank reservoir impacted by the installation of a new water mains pipeline. This particular tank was one of several built in 1885 to provide the fire brigade with a ready source of water (some 114,000 litres!) for fire-fighting purposes. Nearly 40 metres in length, its walls and arched roof had been formed of triple thickness W NEIGHBOURS machine pressed bricks. A rubbish infilled gully was another interesting feature truncated by trenching works for the new water mains.

Under the direction of Jeremy Habberfield-Short, this month the Underground Overground Archaeology SCIRT crew were involved with excavations outside Moncks Cave in Redcliffs, as part of City Care's 10611 project. This project involved the demolition of the existing pump station (located within the reserve close to the cave site), the construction of a new pump station (in Barnett Park), and open trenching across Cave Terrace and

through the Moncks Cave reserve for the installation of a new connecting water main.

Moncks Cave (M36/47) is one of the oldest and most important archaeological sites in New Zealand, and is a Heritage New Zealand-listed Category 1 Historic Place (List Number 9067). The site was discovered back in 1889 by workers quarrying away at the cliff face for road metal, the entrance having been sealed by a landslip that occurred prior to European settlement. Some of the well-preserved carved wooden taonga recovered from inside the cave at this time can be seen on display at Canterbury Museum.

Stratified cultural layer deposits up to 700 mm in thickness in front of the cave were excavated by hand, yielding evidence of past food gathering practices (mostly locally obtained shellfish pipi, mud snail and mussel), stone tools (including a basalt adze and obsidian flakes from at least two different North Island sources), as well as both worked and unworked moa bone. Pipi shells recovered from various depths within the cultural layer deposit were recovered for radiocarbon dating

Archaeological work for Enable's ultra-fast broadband roll-out in Christchurch got underway last month, and several archaeological features have been found already. Shana Dooley recorded a 19th century stone kerb in Stanmore Road, while Kirsia Webb has found evidence of the 19th century occupation of a property variously known as Barewood, Ringwood and Kent Lodge (this last was a school). In addition, a number of rubbish pits have been found. All the earthworks for this project take place in the road reserve.

Katharine Watson

Otago

Angela Middleton has been working on a city block at the rear of Dunedin's former chief General Post Office (GPO). The old GPO was long empty and semi-abandoned but is now being restored for use as office and hotel accommodation. A car park is to be built to the rear, on a site between Bond and Crawford streets which once formed the basement of a large bond store built on reclaimed land in 1865 and demolished in 1983. Monitoring of initial test pits for engineering purposes last year revealed part of a solid foundation, a brick arch wall filled and topped with bluestone. During further earthworks for foundation trenches in July 2015, a 10m profile section of the wall was exposed and recorded. The wall still partly remains in situ around the perimeter of the site as part of the foundations for the new carpark. Further research revealed the local controversy that took place before the demolition of the building, known as Edinburgh House, (and before that, the Universal Bond Store), in 1983, and the photographs and coloured scale drawings of the building that were unearthed in Heritage New Zealand's archives.

It has been a busy few months for Jackie Gillies +Associates and Andrea, Ben and Robin have been occupied both in Dunedin and the Queenstown area with various projects. Andrea has continued recording and sampling at the new Emerson's brewery site in Dunedin's historic reclamation zone and will continue to monitor the shallower groundworks in progress over the next few months. The project has produced an amazing quantity of cultural material and the task of cataloguing and analysing the material will begin in the next couple of months. Andrea has also been recording a number of late 19th century domestic-scale houses and cottages in the Arthur Street area as part of a small, piecemeal redevelopment programme that will see their demolition and replacement. Although very modest in origin and occupation story, the cottages have all had interesting, localised place-meanings, each revealing different aspects of domestic life in the late 19th century city. Finally, Andrea is completing the final report on the Cerebos Greggs Ltd site at 51 Forth Street, Dunedin, which she investigated last year, finding diverse remnants of the site's early history and development including evidence of reclamation, industrial use and residential occupation.

Ben has been monitoring a variety of building projects in the Wakatipu Basin, including the development work in progress at Rees' Kawarau Falls Homestead. One of the original surviving buildings from this period, a meat shed, will be relocated to a new Council reserve adjacent to the lake. The reserve will also contain the original dairy associated with the homestead which has been left in-situ. Interpretation panels will provide those walking the local trails with some information on this important site. In between monitoring, Ben is working on the final report on the excavations Jackie Gillies +Associates carried out in January at Eichardt's Hotel, Queenstown. These excavations revealed several features and a site history relating to the early establishment of Eichardt's Hotel in the 1870s. The artefactual assemblage has provided an interesting variety of information on the materials used and consumed in and around the hotel in the 19th century.

Robin and Jo have been working on several conservation plans in the Otago region including 40-42 Inniscort Street, Cromwell, the Kawarau Suspension Bridge in Queenstown, and Windsor Park, Oamaru

Emma Brooks