



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Fieldwork and Other Activities**

### **Otago & Southland**

On the Otago Peninsula, monitoring work continues at Papanui Inlet at the eroding occupation site where an intact waka was found in October 2014. More timbers were exposed in early June, and these were recovered on a cold and blustery Saturday. Timbers continue to be exposed by the rapidly eroding shoreline, and planning is underway for a small excavation in the spring. A drone survey of the site is also planned.



*Jitlada Innanchai, Jill Hamel, Shar Briden and Rachel Wesley at Papanui Inlet on the Otago Peninsula.*

Further south Hans Dieter Bader carried out a Fluxgate Gradiometer survey of the historic St. John's Cemetery near Milton where Hallie Buckley and Peter Petchey are planning a research project into the lives of early farmers in the area. Very few burials were interred there after 1900, and the cemetery has been derelict for many years. Only seven headstones remain, and Han's survey should help pinpoint the 'lost' graves.



*Hans Dieter Bader at the St. John's Cemetery near Milton, Otago.*

## **Canterbury & West Coast**

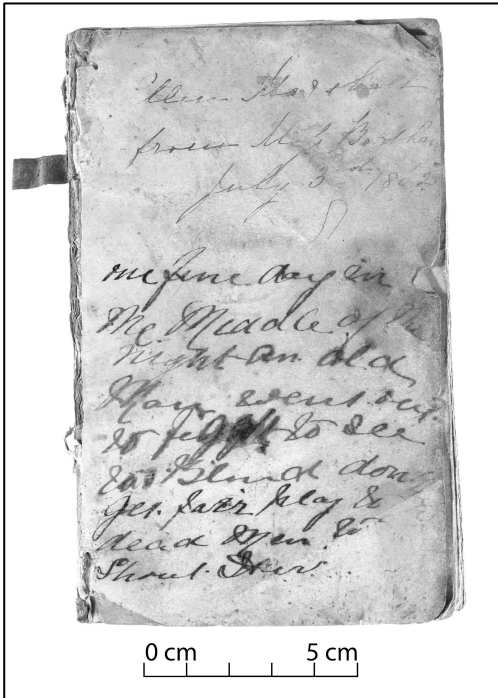
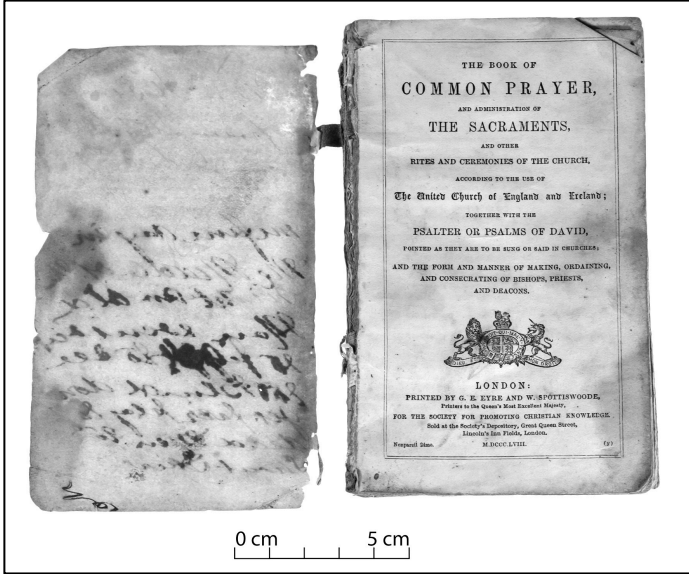
The post-earthquake work continues apace in Canterbury, along with the usual development-based work in the wider region. Underground Overground Archaeology continues to excavate and monitor sites in the city and process

the very large artefact assemblages that have been recovered. Jessie Garland presented some of this material in her paper at the NZAA Conference, and some items are illustrated here.



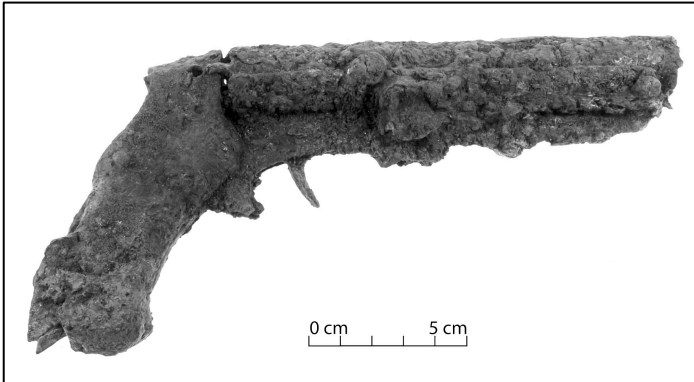
*A skull figure tobacco pipe from the Christchurch Justice & Emergency Services Precinct (Jessie Garland).*

Katharine Watson presented her research on Linwood House in Christchurch at the conference, and Megan Hickey discussed the ongoing work on Lyttleton's volcanic stone walls.



An 1858 copy of the Book of Common Prayer found in the wall of St. Cuthbert's Church in Governor's Bay (Jessie Garland). The poem scrawled on the flyleaf is a modified version of the nonsense poem 'One fine day in the middle of the night.' This was a popular nineteenth century rhyme (a 'ballad of impossibilities') with many recorded variations.

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*A pistol (possibly a flare pistol) found in Christchurch (Jessie Garland).*

At Woodend north of Christchurch Kevin Jones has been working on a subdivision, turning up early sod building foundations and recording an early corrugated iron barn and other farm buildings. Preliminary monitoring of a subdivision in duneland at Waikanae confirmed the existence of one storage pit and four other ‘puzzling pits’ which are probably artificial but to which no particular function can be attributed.



*Stripping the iron off an early barn at Woodend (Kevin Jones).*

## **Wellington**

In Wellington Mary O'Keefe has been monitoring demolition of historic buildings in Newtown, an early modest status suburb. Removal of interior modern wall coverings in the former parlour of one cottage revealed 1875 coloured fashion magazine pages pasted directly onto the sarking. Mary is also continuing to work on faunal analysis of material from the MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway with Yolanda Vogel (including a great deal of coffee, bounty bars and Singalong Monday).



*Fashion illustrations from 1875 pasted on the sarking of a Newtown cottage (Mary O'Keefe).*

Victoria Grouden has been working to complete a number of monitoring and building archaeology reports for sites located in Stafford Street, Mt Victoria, Ebor Street, Te Aro and for Whitireia Park, Porirua. She has recently completed a general annual monitoring report for ongoing work on the Rimutaka Rail Trail in Pakuratahi Forest, which documented conservation work carried out on the Mangaroa Tunnel and refurbishment of several smaller culverts and other railway related structures. Other ongoing projects include water main and sewer renewals in the central city and suburbs as well as private developments in Aurora Terrace, Ghuznee Street, Taranaki Street and Aro Street.

*The Mangaroa Tunnel after repairs (Victoria Grouden).*



## **Waikato & Bay of Plenty**

Alexy Simmons and Danny Tanaka have been working on a number of assessments and

projects around the Waikato, including the Horotiu Water Tower site, Selwyn Park in Te Awamutu, and an update of site file information for the new Waikato District Plan (with the assistance of Malcolm Hutchinson). Near Cambridge Alexy and Danny have been working on the Arnold Farm, which was purchased in 2013 by Te Awa Lifecare Village. A Memorandum of Agreement was made with the Ngati Haua Iwi and Ngati Koroki Kahukura Trusts. The ca. 1870 Arnold Cottage has been retained, and during earthworks under the house a medium sized basalt 2-B adze was found.



*Foundation earthworks underway on the Arnold Cottage near Cambridge (Alexy Simmons).*



*The basalt adze found underneath the Arnold Cottage (Alexy Simmons).*

At the NZAA conference Warren Gumbley presented the results of some of his work on the Waikato Expressway project, including the research he is undertaking along with Alan Hogg, Gretel Boswijk and Tom Roa into precise dating of the well-preserved palisade posts at Otaahu Pa, Taupiri. The site is shown in the frontispiece of this issue of AINZ.

Caroline Phillips and a team of archaeologists have been working in the Bay of Plenty on a landscape at Maniatutu Road (sites V15/642-3, 1403-7). The property is on the high undulating plains, approximately half-way between the coastal swamps and the bush line. The plain was cleared by Maori from about 1500 and appears to have been revisited frequently to cultivate and live seasonally. Initial analysis of charcoal and pollen suggest that the high ground was under bracken, but the steep slopes remained in bush until farm clearance around 1880. Seven pit, terrace and hangi sites were wholly or partially excavated, and six garden sites were sampled. Initial observations suggest that only the highest part of the ridges was used for storage pits (presumably to aid drainage), hangi were often the on the eastern side so that the smoke blew away from the rest of the site, windbreak fences were constructed on the western sides of the sites, and gardens contained puke (garden hollows) and were formed on the harder Kaharoa Ash. Further analysis and dating will be undertaken.





*The archaeological team, including Rakeiao Skerrett (cultural monitor), excavating the floor of the multi-post row pit in V15/643 (Caroline Phillips).*



*Section through the garden plots (arrowed) and the garden soil (below dashed line), overlying the natural Kaharoa ash which forms the base of the plots (Caroline Phillips).*

## **Auckland & Northland**

In July excavations by Clough & Associates beneath the St. James Theatre in Queen Street, Auckland, made the national news. The theatre was built in 1928, and when the floors were lifted during restoration work cobbled floors and building foundations of earlier structures were found, together with a wide range of artefacts including a butcher's hook, bottles and ceramics.



*Glen Farley and Bernie Larsen working on a cobbled floor and stone foundations found beneath the St. James Theatre in Auckland (Carly Maillhot).*

## **New Zealand Overseas Projects**

Otago University archaeologists have been working on two separate projects in the Solomon Islands. Professor Richard Walter has been working with the Solomon Island National Museum and The Nature Conservancy to set up an archaeological conservation programme for the Arnavon Island national conservation area. His recent fieldwork with Phd student Charles Radclyffe has involved mapping shrines on Sikopo Island, and surveying and excavating late Lapita to post-Lapita ceramic sites in West Isabel.



*Richard Walter and Eddie Kopala (Isabel Provincial Government Cultural Officer) mapping shrines on Sikopo Island in the Arnavon Island Group, Solomon Islands (Richard Walter).*

Dr Tim Thomas and Jessie Hurford of Otago University recently spent 3 weeks on the island of Simbo in the Solomon Islands. Their project focused on a collection of 200 historical photographs taken in 1908 by early ethnographer A.M. Hocart, depicting the people, customs and ritual sites of the island. Tim and Jessie were able to identify descendants of the people in

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the photographs, relocate landscape scenes and shrines, and map important heritage sites. This was the first time that the photographs had been seen on Simbo, and they generated an enormous amount of community interest and discussions about the value of the past. There are plans to publish a book on the photograph collection informed by the fieldwork.



*Tim Thomas and Jessie Hurfurd discussing Hocart's 1908 photographs with locals on Simbo in the Solomon Islands (Tim Thomas).*

In South East Asia work continues outside the excavation season (which is usually December to February) on analysis. Stacey Ward from the Anatomy Department at Otago University has been in Thailand studying the Iron Age human remains excavated by Charles Higham from Non Ban Jak. In Laos Sian Halcrow from the same department has been involved in the Plain of Jars Archaeological Project, an Australian National University and Monash project directed by Otago graduates Dougald O'Reilly and Kate Domett, and funded by the Australian Research Council.

Some of Sian Halcrow's team (Dr Charlotte King, Anne-Marie Sohler and Gail Elliott) have been undertaking data collection from skeletal samples from the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile funded under her Marsden grant. This project is characterising diet and health during the transition to agriculture.

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*Sian Halcrow and Gina Palefsky excavating an infant jar burial that had been lifted whole in Laos.*



*Anne-Marie Sohler and Gail Elliot of Otago University at the Black Mummy statue at the mouth of the Camarones Valley, Northern Chile, the area where the oldest (ca7000BP) artificial mummified burial in the world was found.*