



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Fieldwork and Other Activities**

### **Otago & Southland**

In the south the NZAA Council held the September meeting at the historic Dunedin Gasworks Museum, in the recently-restored Fitting Shop. This museum is based in the Victorian and Edwardian buildings of the old Dunedin City Gasworks that closed in 1987.



*The September NZAA Council meeting in the Fitting Shop at the Dunedin Gasworks Museum.*

In Central Otago Matt Sole has been working on a number of site surveys. An inspection of Skippers Creek from the Bullendale ford downstream to the Shotover River for a small suction dredge operation found sections of stone wing dams and an associated camp site, and the piers of a suspension bridge that once led to the Nugget gold workings. Matt has also inspected the old ferry reserves at Luggate which revealed remains of 'T' anchor pits either side of the Clutha River and the relatively intact remains of the true left bank access track and marshalling area. The ferry was relocated in 1882 from Clyde by the Vincent County and decommissioned on the opening of the Luggate Red Bridge in 1915.

*Nationwide*



*Old water pipes that were used as piers for a footbridge across Skippers Creek to provide access to the Nugget workings (Matt Sole).*

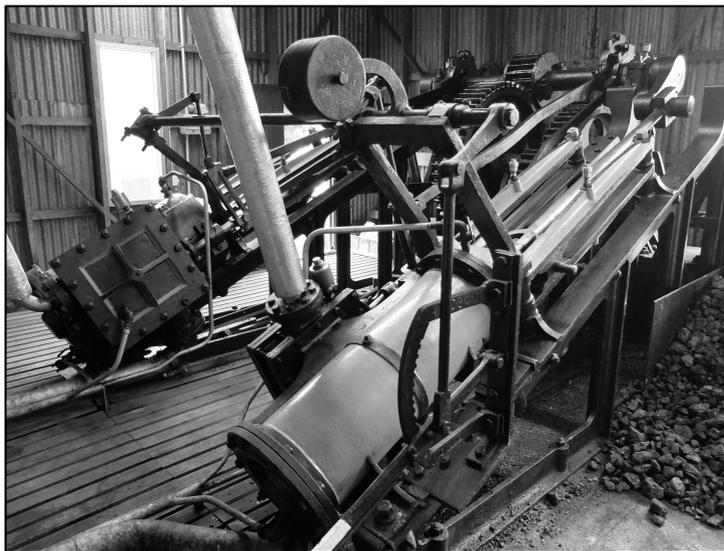
Andrea Farminer and Robin Miller of Origin Consultants have started work on the conservation plan and condition assessment of the former Lawrence Courthouse. The impressive and rather experimental stone, brick and concrete building was constructed in about 1875 to a neo-classical design by architect David Ross, but is now in poor condition. The Lawrence Heritage Trust plan to renovate the building for community uses.



*The Lawrence Courthouse (Andrew Farminer).*

## *Nationwide*

Peter Petchey and Jitlada Innanchai visited the *TSS Earnslaw* slipway on Lake Wakatipu, where the steam engine from the 1868 paddle steamer *Antrim* is still used to power the winding gear. The engine was in steam to test the equipment after part of the slipway was rebuilt in 2015, and a conservation plan for the slipway and winding house is underway.



*The 1868 Kincaid & McQueen steam engine from the PS Antrim, still used to haul the TSS Earnslaw onto the slipway beside Lake Wakatipu.*

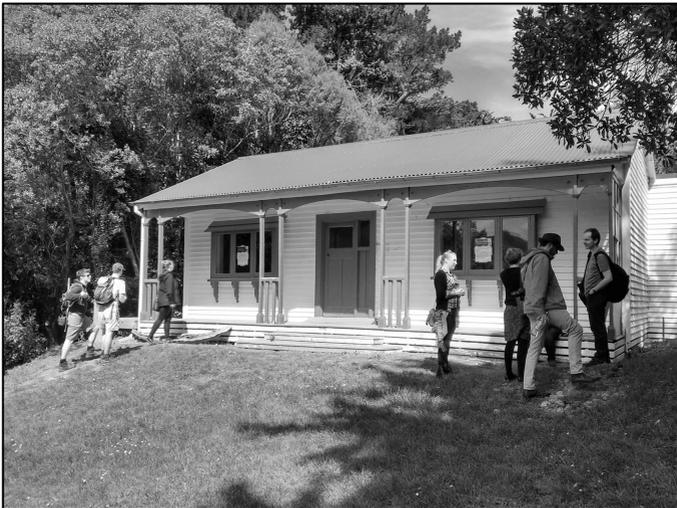
## **Canterbury & West Coast**

The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) annual conference was held in New Zealand this year, at the Chateau on the Park in Christchurch. Major themes included the archaeology of Christchurch, the archaeology of the modern city, the archaeology of public houses, inns and hotels. The post-conference field trip visited Quail Island in Lyttelton Harbour, the site of a ship's graveyard and quarantine station (see the cover of this issue of AINZ).

*Nationwide*



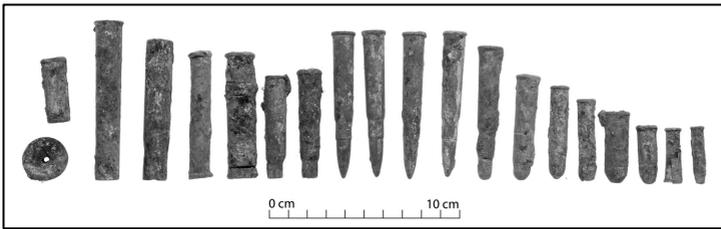
*Victoria Ross, an Otago graduate now at La Trobe, discussing the Shellal Mosaic at the ASHA conference. This mosaic was excavated by ANZAC troops in 1917, and is an example of archaeology on the battlefield as opposed to battlefield archaeology.*



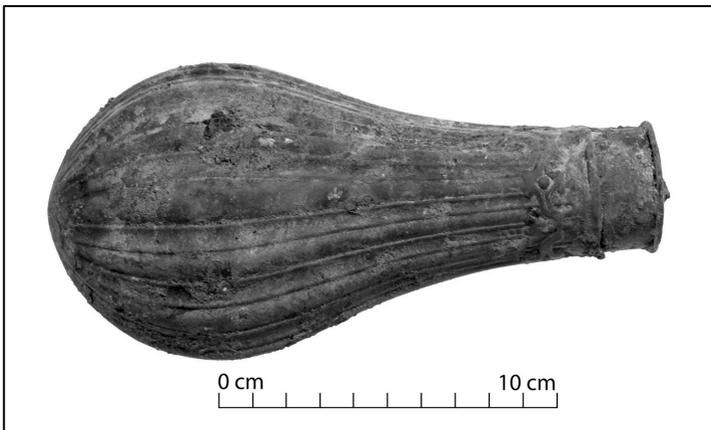
*The Department of Conservation Heritage Centre on Quail Island during the ASHA conference fieldtrip (Annthalina Gibson).*

## *Nationwide*

Christchurch and Canterbury archaeologists continue to be busy with the ongoing post-earthquake work, along with the usual development-based work in the wider region. Underground Overground Archaeology staff were involved with the Beca Heritage Week during the second week of October. During a day long event at the Arts Centre they ran ‘Let's Dig,’ a combined archaeological display and excavation pit into which were laid out structural features (such as a well and drainage), along with shells, bones and artefacts for children to excavate. The display was themed around the inside and outside of a house and also featured an ‘underfloor’ deposit, displaying the artefacts recovered during a 19th century house demolition in Christchurch, as well as a faux privy in which other artefacts were visible. Jessie Garland and Katharine Watson have also given several public talks, including a presentation on several guns found recently during the ‘Hidden Histories’ event at Canterbury Museum, and a talk on whisky-associated material at Whisky Galore (the whisky shop).

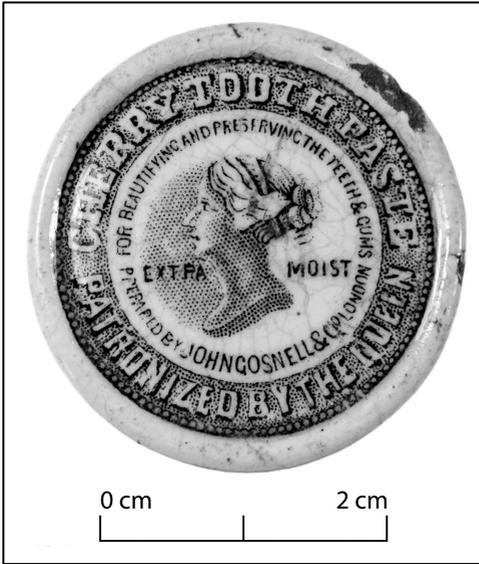


*Bullets (above) and a powder flask (below) from the site of Tindall's sporting specialists on Cashel Street, Christchurch (Jessie Garland).*



In October excavations by Underground Overground archaeologists on Cashel Street on a site that had been Tisdall's sporting goods store in the

1920s and 1930s found a variety of rifle and shotgun barrels, several different calibres of ammunition, a powder flask and a range of tools and other firearm parts. The assemblage also included a large amount of burnt paper, some of which dated the deposit to the 1920s.



*A sample size 'extra moist' toothpaste pot lid found by Peter Mitchell at a site on Armagh Street, Christchurch (Jessie Garland). Yes, the scale is correct.*

The Christchurch-based OPUS archaeologists have also been busy with ongoing residential earthquake repair work, including a formal excavation at a residential site in Redcliffs. Cathleen Hauman and Nick Mainwaring have been monitoring flooding remediation work near the Flockton Basin. Patrick Harsveldt has been occupied with artefact analysis on the Lyttelton New School site and the Western Belfast Bypass roading project. T.J. O'Connell and Nick Mainwaring have been travelling to Ashburton to monitor roadworks and construction of a new supermarket. The team is also working in Greymouth on the new hospital site. The OPUS team also won a Silver Award for the earthquake repair work at the 2016 ACENZ awards.

*Nationwide*



*OPUS archaeologists working on the excavation of a pre-European Maori settlement in Redcliffs, Christchurch (Southern Response).*



*The excavation of a 19th century residential property on Worcester Street, Christchurch (Jeremy Habberfield-Short).*



*A Russian Bears Grease pot lid from the Worcester Street site in Christchurch (Jeremy Habberfield-Short).*

Jeremy Habberfield-Short has monitored several post-15th century midden sites in Redcliffs, recorded scoria ring foundations and underfloor deposits of an 1880's residence in Dublin Street Lyttelton, and excavated a 19th century residential property on Worcester Street. He has also carried out a survey and assessment on the north bank of the Wairau near the contact period settlement of Te Kowhai pa.

## **Wellington**

North of Wellington Mary O'Keeffe continues to carry out monitoring of earthworks for construction of the Transmission Gully expressway. Victoria Grouden has been working on a number of central Wellington assessments for properties located in Pirie Street, Molesworth Street, Taranaki Street and Aurora Terrace. She has also been working to catalogue an assemblage collected by Mary O'Keeffe earlier in the year in Normanby Street, Newtown. This includes a rare array of artefacts composed of perishable materials such as paper, cardboard, food stuffs and dress fabric dating to the late 1870s-early 1880s.

## **Central North Island**

Kevin Jones has been working on a Transpower assignment next to the Tongariro World Heritage area where there was a pre-European site with stone working, several 19th century settlements and probably also a WW II conscientious objectors' camp. Kapiti District Council currently has commissioners hearing issues concerning wahi tapu zones and other proposed plan changes and Kevin has given evidence at one of these hearings. Work is also cranking up on NZTA's Manawatu and Whirokino bridges.



*The Transpower corridor running just outside the Tongariro World Heritage area (Kevin Jones).*

## **Waikato & Bay of Plenty**

Alexy Simmons of Simmons & Assoc. Ltd. is currently involved in preparing management plans for Potuwaha Pa (in the Wally Pollock Reserve) near Matangi and Arikirua Pa adjacent to the Te Awa cycleway in Te Awa Lifecare Village, near Cambridge. Both plans are being written in conjunction with the land managers, Iwi representatives, and Dr Rachel Darmody of Heritage New Zealand.



*A site visit to Potuwaha Pa (S15/197) in October 2016 during mapping of the site by a Waikato District Council survey team. Pictured are Ngati Haua representatives and the Waikato District Reserves officer (Alexy Simmons).*

John Coster has recently undertaken a re-survey of an exotic forest block on the Aotea Harbour, Waikato, and nine new sites were added to the previously-recorded nineteen sites. New sites include taro on the reputed site of the first gardens established after the arrival of Tainui waka at Kawhia.



*Terracing under pine trees on pa R15/111 (John Coster).*

## *Nationwide*

Peter Holmes reports that springtime monitoring of subdivisions and other developments is underway in Tauranga, with just a few isolated middens turning up.

Dave Wilton has been busy in and around Thames, where he has been investigating the Burke St Wharf and the harbour. The original wharf was built in 1876 and used until about 1900, when goldfield production waned and the structure was damaged by storms. In the 1920s a plan was mooted to develop a new wharf and deep-water harbour to transport produce from the recently-drained Hauraki Plains, but the scheme effectively bankrupted the town. Dave has identified original (1870s) timber piles amongst the 1920s concrete piles and is currently seeking to confirm whether outer harbour wall, which would be below low tide level, was ever built.



*Burke St wharf, showing the stumps of 1870s timber piles between 1920s concrete piles (Dave Wilton).*

Dave has also been investigating a miner's cottage in the Upper Kuranui Valley. The cottage was built in about 1870 by Richard Ross, the co-owner of the nearby Eureka Mine, and he lived in it until his death in 1935. His son Joe then occupied the cottage until his death in the 1970s, and the property is still owned by descendants, but the cottage is now derelict and the land reverting to bush. Dave recently visited the site and located the remains of the dwelling, after an extensive search. A more comprehensive survey of the site is planned.



*The remains of Ross cottage, Kuranui Valley (Dave Wilton).*

Warren Gumbley and Ben Thorne recently investigated a series of sites on the south side of Cambridge, including a horticultural site complex with an accompanying 1870s homestead built by the Tucker family. As fortune would have it the mound where the cottage was located had previously been used by Maori for a parallel set of activities. Ben and Warren then moved to the north side of Cambridge to a part of the large horticultural complex located there. This area was remarkably well preserved with almost no European cultivation evident, and they found a reasonably large kainga on the northern edge of area, approximately 2.5 km from the Waikato River and the nearest pa. Domestic sites like this are hard to identify in the Waikato because of the general absence of shell midden in the area so the identification of a kainga as well preserved as this was a great result, and complements two smaller similar sites found by Kirsty Potts (OPUS) in the same set of horticultural sites on the adjacent subdivision.

Warren and Ben then moved to Whangamata to complete investigations begun in 2007 on the Cabana site, part of the settlement period site at the mouth of the Whangamata Harbour on Coromandel Peninsula. In addition Marion Sutton has been continuing work on the Rangiriri and Huntly Sections of the Waikato Expressway and also on the safety upgrade project for SH2.

## *Nationwide*

Sian Keith has been working on an NZTA project at Hatupatu's Rock to remodel the visitor facilities, although to date no archaeological evidence has been identified. She has also been looking at a development near Queen's Redoubt south of the Bombay Hills where she has found a military-era rubbish pit and a hangi.



*A half-sectioned rubbish pit near Queen's Redoubt, containing several beer bottles with neatly sliced off closures (Sian Keith).*

## **Auckland & Northland**

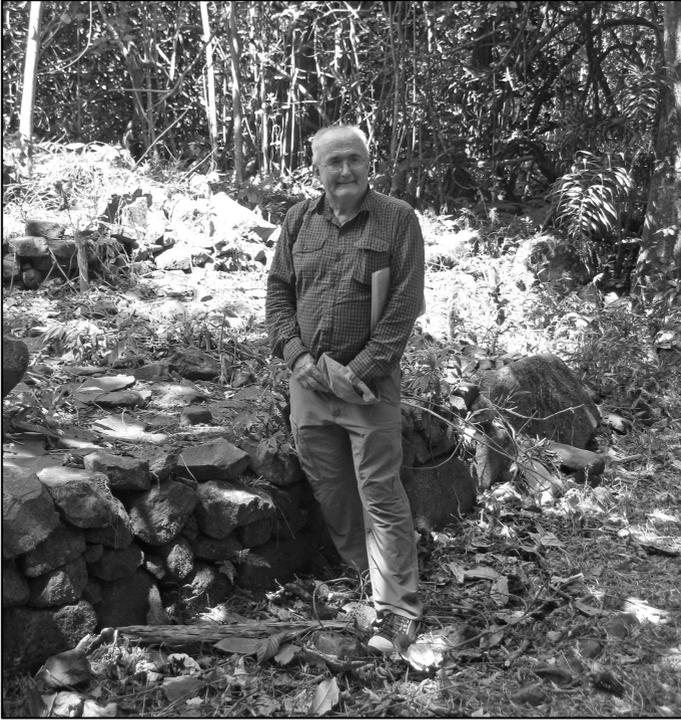
Robert Brassey and Joss Piper-Jarrett in the Auckland Council Heritage Unit are undertaking a selective review of archaeological sites scheduled in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan. They have completed visits to around 100 scheduled sites to date, mostly in the Rodney and North Shore districts. The image below shows Rob attempting to find rock shelter sites along the cliffs at Muriwai.



*Rob Brassey attempting to relocate rock shelters at Muriwai (Rob Brassey).*

## **New Zealand Overseas Projects**

Kevin Jones has been working in French Polynesia assisting with a World Heritage evaluation of Taputapuātea, Raiatea. This was an interesting and rewarding engagement with French national and local governmental processes and Maohi culture.



*Kevin Jones at a marae in the 'Opunohu valley, Mo'orea, French Polynesia.*