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Fieldwork and Other Activities

Otago & Southland

On the Otago Peninsula Rachel Wesley, Shar Briden and other locals have continued monitoring the eroding site at Papanui Inlet where a waka was found earlier. The warmer summer conditions enabled the inspection (with the aid of snorkelling gear) of the inlet channel that runs parallel to site complex along the foreshore, and eroded taoka have been retrieved, along with kōiwi tāngata. To the local rūnaka, the retrieval of the kōiwi that are eroding out is of the utmost importance. They have been lucky to have Ōtākou kaumatua Edward Ellison assisting on site, with his knowledge and passion for the history and traditions of the area.



Edward Ellison, Brian Allingham, Daniel Tipa, Phil Latham, checking out a peaty clump containing wooden material at Papanui Inlet (Rachel Wesley).

Due to the rapid erosion at the site peaty ‘clumps’ of wooden material are being exposed over an increasingly wide area. Some of these clumps contain beautifully worked sections of wood along with large numbers of chips left

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over from woodworking. Over the last nine years, wooden material has been salvaged from a roughly 200m stretch of the inlet. Shar and Rachel are intending to excavate a section of the most at risk area within the site complex later in the year.

Matt Sole has been continuing with survey work in Central Otago. Early in the New Year low water flows allowed him to carry out a survey along the Shotover River between Skippers Creek and Sawyers Creek for a suction dredging proposal. He found some artefact scatters, including a power cable from a small hydro-power plant that was located just upstream of Sawyers Creek, and he relocated a rock shelter (site E41/81) below Aspinall's sluicings near Skippers.



Tunnel rock shelter site E41/81 near Skippers (Matt Sole).

Matt has also carried out a post-construction inspection for the final report on Soho Properties Ltd track development over Advance Peak and down the Richburn on Coronet Station pastoral lease and DOC Macetown Historic Reserve. The land in this area is very unstable and slip-prone, and the remaining sections of the old dray road will need to be monitored. The old Sunrise Mine Office building that for many years stood beside the Richburn has now totally collapsed.

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Andrea Farminer of Origin Consultants has recently recorded a group of late 19th century barns at the former Rosebank Farm, Mosgiel in advance of their demolition for a housing project. Although of typical 1890s construction and form, the foundation removal monitoring revealed three of the barns had well-laid brick floors below later concrete slab floors, with typical gully drains running along the longitudinal axis of each barn and evidence of stall divisions and other features.



*Top: the old barns at Rosebank Farm, Mosgiel.
Bottom: Brick floor after barn demolition (both Andrea Farminer).*

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Peter Petchey and Hallie Buckley, with the assistance of anatomy and archaeology students and the local community, completed a three week excavation at the historic St. John's cemetery near Milton in South Otago. The preliminary report is included in this issue of AINZ. During the excavation the diggers took the opportunity to visit the 151st Tokomairiro A&P show, a continuing local tradition that the people buried in the cemetery would almost certainly have attended.



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Continuing a local tradition: Anna Willis, Teina Tutaki, Greg Hil and Baylee Smith at the 151st Tokomairiro A&P show.

A medal from the 1868 show, awarded to James Drinnan for his Ayrshire Cow (Dudley Finch). See the endpiece for the reverse side.

Canterbury & West Coast

In Christchurch work continues on a variety of projects. Francesca Bradley and Peter Mitchell of Underground Overground Archaeology recorded the old Bin Inn building in Spreydon, which when the modern cladding was



stripped revealed the façade of the 1881 Spreydon Baptist Church, with later signwriting for the discount grocers that occupied the building from 1948.

Left: The Bin Inn building prior to the start of work.

Below: the 1881 Spreydon Baptist Church façade revealed once the modern cladding was removed (both images, Peter Mitchell)



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In Lyttleton Luke Tremlett of Underground Overground has found further evidence of the pre-contact settlement of Ohinehou. The site at Norwich Quay was discovered in 2011-2012 when ovens and middens were found, and is the first physical evidence of pre-contact Māori occupation reported in the vicinity of Lyttelton township. Oral histories suggest Lyttelton Harbour was renowned for its seasonal shark fishing, and archaeological investigations have begun to confirm this. The latest work was associated with a port-wide 11kV upgrade in late 2016, and two pre-contact archaeological features were found: a cultural layer under Norwich Quay, and a probable earth oven immediately north of the 1859 Erskine Bay sea wall. Both deposits were sampled, but were mostly left in situ. C14 dates from the previous works suggest the site was occupied in 1465-1660 AD. The pending analysis aims to test whether these and previous finds are related.



Luke Tremlett and Angel Trendafilov recording the cultural layer found under Norwich Quay (Luke Tremlett).

Also in Lyttleton, the fill surrounding the 1849 sea wall contained a trading token from the firm of Jones and Williamson, grocers, wholesalers and provision merchants based in Dunedin. Jones and Williamson were in business together from c. 1858 until 1865, after which point Williamson appears to have continued the business without Jones. Tokens like these were widely used in New Zealand during the 19th century, due to a lack of small coins in circulation.

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Left: Jones & Williamson trading token found in Lyttleton.

Below: an 1860s chamber pot, with 'Cattle Scene' decoration, from excavations in Christchurch (both images, Jessie Garland).



The team at Opus continue their involvement with ongoing residential earthquake repair work. T.J. O'Connell was recently involved in the discovery of an extensive 19th century black beer bottle rubbish dump beneath a demolished 20th century dwelling in Sydenham. Patrick Harsveldt has been busy with a number of 19th century standing building records in and around the city. Some of the team, Nick Mainwaring, Sam Kurmann and Cathleen Hauman travelled north to assist on a pre-European site near Tauranga (a site directed by Opus Hamilton). Elsa Koenig has been occupied the Kaiapoi Marine Precinct and the North Arterial roading project.

Wellington

In Wellington work on the Transmission Gully road construction is progressing. Mary O'Keefe has supplied a picture of one of the brick fuel tanks built near the marine camps at Paekakariki during WWII. They were constructed by the Public Works Department as hidden storage tanks, and this example is being conserved as part of the road project.



The WWII brick fuel tank near Paekakariki (Mary O'Keefe).

Central North Island

Ivan Bruce and members of the Puketapu Hapu have completed an excavation of the Hawetaone papakainga (Q19/440), near Bell Block, New Plymouth. The site was initially set aside as a reserve for Rawiri Waiaua in 1854, but was occupied by rival factions of the Puketapu Feud 1854-1858. The archaeological investigation identified an area of the Hawetaone papakainga, in which food storage pits, fragments of 19th Century artefacts and cooking areas were recovered. The arrangement of the storage pits was systematic and ordered, indicative of a highly organised settlement. The archaeological evidence indicates that all pit features were in use at the same time and deliberately back filled soon after abandonment, most likely as the inhabitants moved within fortified locations as result of the onset of the Puketapu Feud.



Storage pits at Hawetaone papakainga near New Plymouth (Ivan Bruce).

Waikato & Bay of Plenty

Caroline Phillips and team have undertaken a project in the Bay of Plenty at a small site near Otamarakau. It contained an Archaic adze, possibly 1000 flakes of obsidian from several sources, two gunfighter trenches, plus 62 hangi/firescoops, 48 mainly small pits, 44 postholes and two cooking areas. This small site clearly has more than one occupation. It seems likely that there was a late Archaic settlement, which included storage, cooking and



obsidian working, followed much later by rifle pits relating to the 1864 battle at Otamarakau, with a brief phase of cooking immediately afterwards. The report of the first project the team examined (at 640 Maniatutu Road) has been completed and is in the Heritage NZ digital archive.

Three views of the late Archaic adze found in a posthole at the Otamarakau excavation, site VI5/1415 (Caroline Phillips).

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Rebecca Phillipps reports that a team of archaeologists braved wild winds and a hail storm to continue excavations out on Great Mercury Island / Ahuahu in November as part of a long-term project between the University of Auckland, Auckland Museum, Ngati Hei, and landowners. We were briefly joined by a film crew shooting for *Coast New Zealand*. The November field season saw excavations continue in an artefact rich area in Coralie Bay on the eastern side of the island. After two successful field schools, the site continues to surprise, with an anomalous selection of artefacts uncovered including large flakes of obsidian and mammalian faunal material.



*Coast New Zealand film crew at the excavation on Great Mercury Island
(Rebecca Phillipps).*

John Coster has been working over the last few months on a variety of forestry and development projects in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. They include Fort Clarke (site V16/265) near Kawerau, which was one of four fortified depots set up in the Rangitaiki river valley in 1869 by Colonel George Whitmore, commander of the newly-formed Armed Constabulary. The forts were intended to provide bases supporting Armed Constabulary and “Native Contingent” forays into the Urewera in pursuit of Te Kooti and his supporters between 1869 and 1872. Fort Clarke was constructed by Maori forces and is unusual in resembling a ridge pā rather than a conventional redoubt with corner bastions. It was partially excavated by Wynne Spring-

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Rice in 1982/83 and will shortly have pines removed from it for the second time. At Athenree, John has been involved with a proposal for housing near an almost completely ploughed-out pa, U13/49, one of five in the immediate area affected by housing and other development over the last 35 years.



Pa site U13/49, with a fragment of lateral bank arrowed (John Coster).

In Thames Dave Wilton is continuing with the investigation of the 1872 Burke St wharf and 1920s harbour project. The latest (and hopefully final) phase is to attempt to determine if the seaward wall of the harbour enclosure was actually built, and if so, trying to locate it. Historical information is vague about the situation, as project funding ran out about the time that work on the seaward wall would have been commenced. The wall would have been below the spring low tide mark, hence difficult to locate using normal terrestrial techniques. It is intended that findings will be presented in conjunction with a field trip during the upcoming Archaeology Week in early April.



View of Burke St wharf area, with estimated location of seaward harbour wall (Dave Wilton).

Auckland & Northland

Heritage New Zealand has carried out two excavations in the north this summer. In mid-December Bev Parslow directed archaeological investigations at the Melanesian Mission at Kohimarama, Auckland (site R11/1706, and Listed as Cat. 1 historic place). The Mission operated from 1859 to 1866, and the buildings were later leased by the Government from 1874-1882 to house a Naval Training School for young boys, and then gazetted as an industrial school from 1882 until the late 1890s. The Melanesian Mission Trust later leased the site to the Walsh Brothers flying school (1915 to 1924) as part of their operational base.

Along with the Mission Building, the Heritage New Zealand property houses a portion of the wider extent of the curtilage associated with the Mission, the majority of which is located within the neighbouring Selwyn Reserve (Mission School Chapel, eastern dormitory, Rev Patterson's and superintendent's house). The archaeological excavation is part of a wider project to structurally strengthen the extant 1859 Mission building and rejuvenate the property, which will include the construction of a new restaurant pavilion. Geomagnetic and test pit exploratory investigation of the proposed restaurant site in May 2015 identified surviving subsurface foundations, and the December excavation investigated this area.



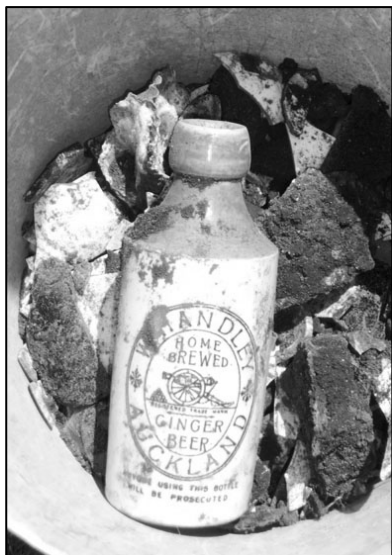
The excavation at the Melanesian Mission, showing the masonry foundations.

The excavations found masonry foundation walls of what is thought to be the western extent of the quadrangular Mission dormitory building used to house the young Melanesian students and then the students at the government technical institute. There was

some shallow disturbance, but deeper features included post holes, an

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extensive beach shell filled drainage trench around the building and a rubbish pit containing 19th century artefacts. A small assemblage of possibly earlier 19th century artefacts (buttons, toothbrush, medicine spoon) was found in the fill above and within the foundations. The assemblage is yet to be analysed. Monitoring of earthworks for services will continue throughout the project which is proposed to be completed by mid 2017. The project was directed by Bev Parslow with the assistance of Greg Walter, Caroline Phillips, Mana Leanu, and a number of consultants, including Mat Felgate, Ian Lawlor, students and Council staff who volunteered their time. Hans Bader did the total station recording.



A Handley ginger beer bottle and other finds during the excavation (Bev Parslow).



The last day of the Melanesian Mission excavation, with volunteers recording the site and tidying up (Bev Parslow).

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James Robinson of Heritage New Zealand recently directed the re-excavation of the early Mangahawea Bay site (Q05/682) on Moturua Island in the Bay of Islands, Northland. It was first recorded by Phil Moore as a midden in 1978, and was identified as potentially dating to the early period of Polynesian settlement of New Zealand. In 1981 the site was investigated by archaeologists from Auckland University and the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park, but for various reasons the excavation was never written up. In 2016 the lead archaeologist from the 1981 excavation passed away and some of her notes and all of the bags of excavated material were deposited with Andrew Blanshard at DOC in Kerikeri. Following discussion between DOC (as the island's land manager), Heritage New Zealand, the University of Otago and tangata whenua, a partnership project was developed to re-excavate and write up properly what appears to be an important early site.



A two week excavation was carried out in January 2017, under the tikanga of Ngati Kuta and Patu Keha. The excavation team consisted of local tangata whenua led by Matu Clendon, staff and student volunteers from the University of Otago, DOC staff and local volunteers, and included Simon Best, John Coster, Dave Veart and Mike Taylor, some of whom took part in the 1981 dig.

John Coster, Mike Taylor and Dave Veart were part of the 1981 excavation team.

One key objective of the excavation was the successful relocation of the original 1981 excavation units by John Coster and Simon Best. A unit that was not completely excavated in 1981 was finished, and in addition a new 2 x 3m area found postholes and a large stone lined hangi in the lower cultural horizon. To compliment these area excavations, the stream bank that was first drawn in 1981 was redrawn for comparison. By the end of the excavation a

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better understanding of the site's geomorphological and cultural deposition processes was achieved.



Mike Taylor and John Coster with local volunteer Jack Kemp examine the reopened 1981 excavation unit.

The faunal material included species that occur early in New Zealand's pre-history, including *Cellana denticulata* (a kind of limpet), moa and seal. Artefacts included worked bone thought to be moa and seal, as well as worked shell such as paua and some as yet unidentified shell. The fact that many of these species disappeared early in the archaeological record, and the distinctive type and style of the artefacts encountered such as one-piece fish hooks, is consistent with the lower cultural horizon being established early on in the human settlement of New Zealand. The detailed analysis of excavated material will take place at the University of Otago under the direction of Richard Walter. A goal of this analysis will be to obtain calibrated carbon dates for the various occupation layers found in this site.

In summary this excavation uncovered unusually well preserved material culture and structural features consistent with this being a site of early occupation in the Bay of Islands. It appears to reflect adaptation by Pacific colonists to the colder climate of New Zealand. Exactly how early in this process is yet to be determined.



The 2017 Mangahawea Bay excavation team.

Angela Scott of DOC reports that an archaeological inspection was recently carried out on Motokorea (Brown's Island) following the blaze that burnt more than 13 hectares of the island. The fire began on the southern end of the island, and was deliberately lit by a woman who became stranded there for 3 days. It burnt through the kikuku grass which covers the island and exposed significant pre-1900 features including several middens, open settlement sites and gardening areas, and defensive pa— including the volcanic cone pa at the centre of the island. Pa features including the defensive ditches and tihi (platforms) at the summit of the cone were well defined. Several significant historic trees relating to the early farming of the island were also burnt and cut down. The island has been managed for the last 30 years by the Department of Conservation on behalf of Auckland Council who will be resuming management of the island in the near future.



View of volcanic cone - Motokorea Island (Browns Island) with Rebecca Ramsay from Auckland Council (figure left) (Angela Scott).

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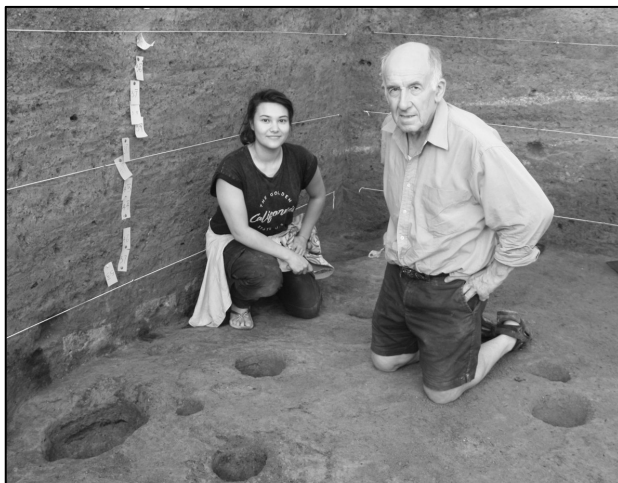
In September the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland hosted a weekend workshop on the 'Excavation of Human Remains: A Best Practice Approach,' held as part of the ANZFSS 23rd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences. The workshop was organised by Ashleigh Fox, Biological Anthropology's Technical Officer, and brought together excavation expertise from New Zealand bioarchaeologists and archaeologists - Judith Littleton, Beatrice Hudson, Rebecca Phillipps and Josh Emmitt from University of Auckland, and Angela Clark from University of Otago, together with experts from the NZ Police (Andrea Scott) and the ESR Forensic Service Centre (Rian Morgan-Smith). The goal was to provide a forum for the forensic science community to discuss and practice a range of methods used by archaeologists for locating and recording surface and subsurface remains. Nineteen people from across Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand attended, including police officers, forensic scientists, forensic pathologists and forensic odontologists. Despite the inclement weather, everyone got stuck in, getting wet and muddy while excavating mock scenarios at the university's Simulated Excavation Site (ASETS). A full report will be published in the June edition of AINZ.



Andrea Scott from NZ Police talks a group of participants through one of the excavation scenarios (Ashleigh Fox).

New Zealand Overseas Projects

In January-February Charles Higham and Hallie Buckley of Otago University continued their excavation at the Iron Age site of Non Ban Jak in NE Thailand. The investigation began in 2011 under a grant from the Australian Research Council to Dougald O'Reilly and Louise Shewan, continued into a fourth season supported by the University of Otago, funded by a Marsden Grant to Hallie and Charles, and is now in the sixth and final season.



Helen Heath and Charles Higham at Non Ban Jak in NE Thailand.

Non Ban Jak has involved two excavated areas, one on the eastern and one on the western mounds within the encircling moats. The site has provided compelling evidence for an agricultural revolution that involved the application of ploughing to cultivate rice in fields watered from the moats. For the first time, excavations have been extensive enough to identify the rooms of houses and town lanes, and to recover human burials placed within residences. The quality of bone preservation has permitted the detailed analysis of demography, and health. Infant burials constitute over 50% of the human bone sample, indicating a rising population. In addition to the domestic structures, kilns for firing pottery vessels have been uncovered, on occasion still containing the pots and in one instance, a socketed iron ploughshare. An international team of specialists will be involved in the analysis of all finds in preparing the final report.



Endpiece
The 1868 Tokomairiro Farmers Club medal awarded to James Drinnan for his Ayrshire Cow (see Recent Fieldwork above for the other side) (courtesy Dudley Finch).

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Manuscripts

Manuscripts may be submitted to the Editor at any time. Papers of less than c. 3000 words will be given preference. Electronic submission of papers is preferred. Typescripts should be double spaced on one side of A4 paper, and there may be a delay in publication as the paper will need to be transcribed. Abstracts will not be printed. Authors should retain a good copy of the paper in case of loss or damage in transit.

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