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Fieldwork and Other Activities

Otago & Southland

The University of Otago Anthropology Society recently held a field trip out onto Quarantine Island in the Otago Harbour where they assisted Shar Briden and local community members to carry out a number of small excavations (under Archaeological Authority 2017/449). These were required for drainage works, the improvement of pathways around the Married Quarters (I44/316) and the creation of a flat area in front of the lodge. The earthworks conducted in front of the lodge revealed a pre-European midden, together with some historical artefacts that await further analysis (*Alana Kelly, UOAS*).



The Otago University Anthropology Society on the wharf at Quarantine Island in the Otago Harbour (Jasmine Weston).

In the Wakatipu Ben Teele of Origin Consultants has recently recorded Dart View Farm, a small farm complex below Mt Alfred near the Routeburn. The site contained a cottage that had several phases of construction, several timber outbuildings, a stable, and a cottage that had been relocated to become a school house. Ben has also recorded the remains of a wing dam on the Shotover Delta built to protect the first Shotover Bridge, which was downstream of the current highway bridge. The bridge was continually

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damaged by flooding events, and the wing dam was built to try and prevent future damage, without much success.



The cottage at Dart View Farm (Ben Teele).



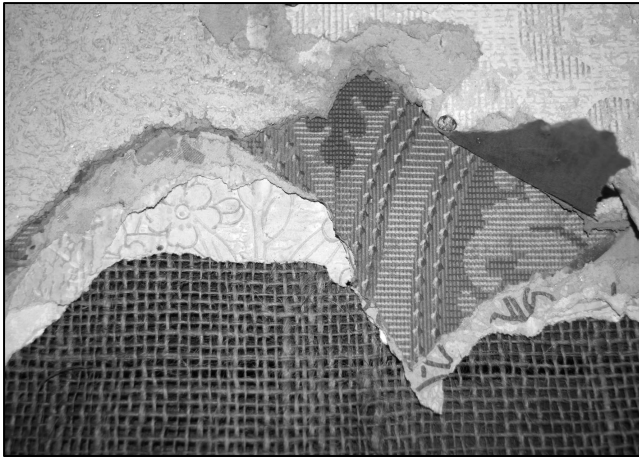
The wing dam that was built to protect the first Shotover Bridge (Ben Teele).

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Andrea Farminer from Origin Consultants in Dunedin, monitored and recorded the demolition of a small corner section building in Arthur Street last month. The timber and brick building, constructed circa 1875 as a corner shop/grocery, featured the classic corner door entry found on many dairies of the era and had made the most of a very tight section. Although heavily altered in the previous decade, the shop's plan and store rooms were interpretable and revealed some small 'treasures' - a chimney breast with at least six layers of wallpaper and scrim dating back to its construction.



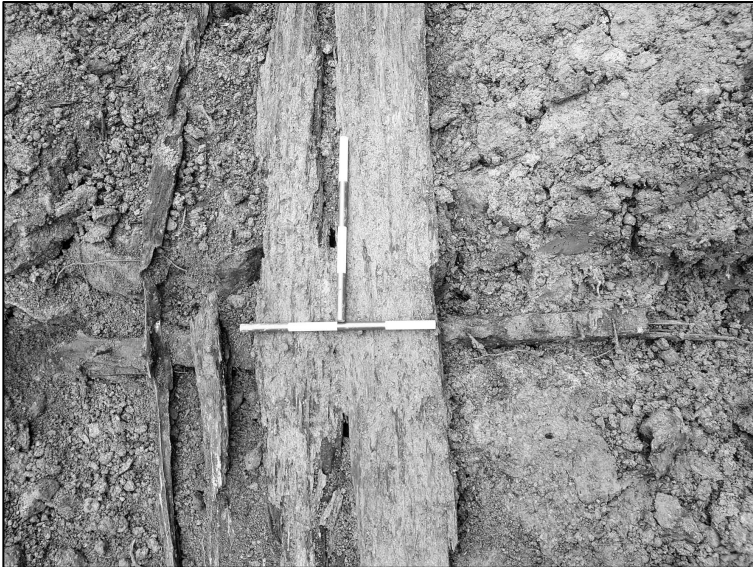
Demolition of the Arthur Street shop, showing the old chimney and fireplace (Andrea Farminer).



Layers of wallpaper found in the Arthur Street corner shop.

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At the start of May, Sam Kurmann and Emily Cunliffe of Opus have been working at the Ross Creek Reservoir in Dunedin that is being recommissioned by the Dunedin City Council. They have recorded a wooden feature set into fill that is believed to be the spillway that pre-dated a concrete spillway that was constructed in the early 20th century. Works are on-going and have so far uncovered a series of drains and sumps, a validation of the historic complaints about the leaky dam since its commission in 1867.



Timbers from the original spillway at the Ross Creek Reservoir in Dunedin (Sam Kurmann).

Canterbury & West Coast

In Canterbury and Christchurch work is continuing on the earthquake rebuild. Michael Trotter and assistant Jeanette McIsaac continue to work in North Canterbury, mainly on routine roadworks, sewer systems and infrastructure replacements after earthquake damage. A brick culvert was recently uncovered in Church Street, Rangiora, during upgrade work on the stormwater system. It is believed to have been constructed in 1887 at a cost of £34/10s, and has now been recorded as site M35/1847.



An 1887 brick culvert in Rangiora (Michael Trotter).

The Underground Overground team continue to be busy in Christchurch. Angel Trendafilov has been monitoring and excavating the site of the new Convention Centre in Christchurch, with Hamish Williams, Teri Anderson, Tristan Wadsworth and Kirsa Webb also on site. So far 16 rubbish pits, three wells, and a brick floor constructed using Jackson and Bishop floor tiles from the early 1860s have been uncovered. Several assemblages of artefacts have been excavated from the rubbish pits and wells, many of which appear to date to the 1840s-1860s period. Notable finds include several elaborate clay smoking pipes, fine glassware decorated with gilt leaf and banding, a snuff jar and a probable imitation Mason's jug from the 1820s-1830s period.

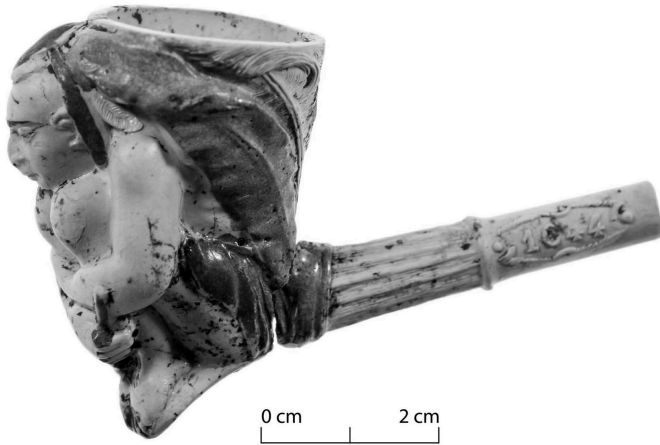
At the northern end of the South Island Kevin Jones has completed a heritage assessment of the Abel Tasman memorial, Golden Bay, and in the North Island he has been working on a new track for Mokotahi Hill at Mahia Beach and also on the gas pipeline diversion for the new Manawatu River SH 1 bridge.

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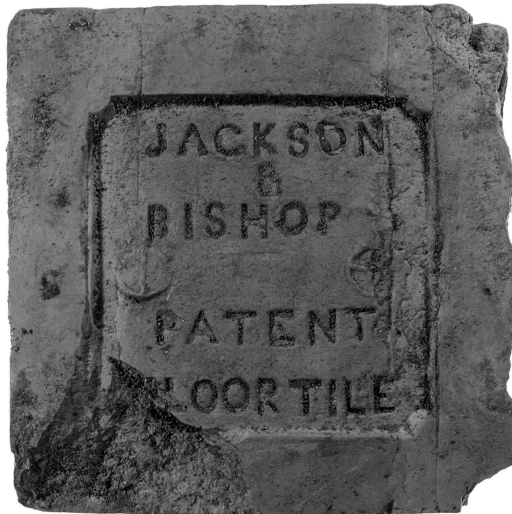


*Top: Tristan Wadsworth and Angel Trendafilov at the Convention Centre site.
Bottom: a well and rubbish pit, both with artesian pipes.*

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A figure pipe with a native American design, probably of French manufacture, found in Christchurch (Jessie Garland).



A floor tile manufactured by Jackson & Bishop between 1860 and 1863. Jackson & Bishop's 'Canterbury Pottery' was located on the corner of Ferry Road and Barbados Street in Christchurch (Jessie Garland & Matt Hennessey).

Wellington

In Wellington Mary O'Keeffe continues to wade through the clay and mud that is Transmission Gully. Mary recently held an archaeology event for a group of gifted children in Wellington: pictures and a discussion followed by an 'excavation' on the beach at Island Bay, with analysis and discussion of the finds from each square aided by jaffas and jet planes. Mary and Hans Bader undertook a geophysical survey of an urupa at Waikanae for the iwi as part of the mitigation package for the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway project. The work was to determine the location of the unmarked graves in the urupa to assist the iwi with its continued use.

Victoria Grouden has been monitoring renovation work on an historic cottage located on Main Street in Greytown, Wairarapa. She has also completed an annual inspection and update for remedial work carried out in relation to the historic Rimutaka Railway, located in in the Pakuratahi Forest, Upper Hutt. She is near completion of an illustrated list of Wellington ceramic patterns (named and un-named) with details including; manufacturer, date, archaeological site location, and archaeological site number. If anyone is interested in having a copy for reference purposes, they can contact her at victoria@capitalheritage.co.nz.

Waikato & Bay of Plenty

In the Bay of Plenty Peter Holmes of CFG Heritage has been monitoring several large residential developments over the summer that will displace some old established orchards in Omokoroa. Despite intensive ploughing in the early 1900s and later orchard contouring and development a number of prehistoric remnant features have been identified as well as a historic plough c1900. How well these data may represent early occupation of the site may be an interesting question to consider and to compare with data from surrounding residential developments.

John Coster has been surveying another forestry block in the eastern Bay of Plenty at Hawaii, an archaeological landscape of major significance, with 12 pā and numerous other sites in less than 2 square kilometres. Previous surveys of the area were undertaken by Ken Moore, Anne Leahy and Wendy Walsh, Des Kahotea, and Kevin Jones, between 1971 and 1982. The land is owned by Te Whānau ā Apanui.



Pā site X15/4 at Hawai in the Bay of Plenty (John Coster).

Dave Wilton reports from Thames that the investigation of the 1872 Burke St wharf and 1920s harbour project (noted in the two previous editions of AINZ) has been completed. The final phase was an attempt to determine if the seaward wall of the harbour enclosure was actually built, and if so, trying to locate it. Attempts were made to detect the seaward wall using a drone (during the ‘super moon’ of November 2016) and by small boat, equipped with commercial sonar (‘fish finder’) equipment. Unfortunately the latter was non-recording (just showing a sonar image and the depth of the bottom, immediately below the boat), but the lateral walls were clearly visible at high tide, with about 3 metres of water under the keel. No signs of the seaward wall were observed, and it is therefore tentatively concluded that it was never built. (If anyone can assist with more sophisticated under-water detection techniques, the study can be re-opened). The investigation and results have been recorded on ArchSite as an update to T12/1030.



The Thames Harbour area showing the GPS track of the sonar search path. WP 130 was the estimated end of the southern lateral wall; detected by sonar, marked by dropping a weighted buoy and then recorded as a GPS waypoint. The outer end of the northern lateral is a major navigation beacon, for which a waypoint was easily recorded. The lateral walls were clearly visible on the sonar plot, but there was no sign of the seaward wall.

Auckland & Northland

Robert Brassey reports that a WWII crash site investigation may be undertaken soon. The site where a USAAF flying fortress bomber crashed and exploded with 11 fatalities in 1942 has been identified during Auckland Council research into crash locations associated with the Whenuapai air base. Archival sources indicate that buried remains of the aircraft and potentially human remains may be present. Due to the outcome of the Unitary Plan hearings process the Council has little or no ability to impose conditions on unscheduled heritage. However Simon Bickler and Simon Best have kindly offered to undertake a pro bono investigation of the site prior to development, with the property owner providing machinery. Depending on the outcome of geophysics and test excavations, Auckland Council heritage unit staff may assist with recovery of the remains.

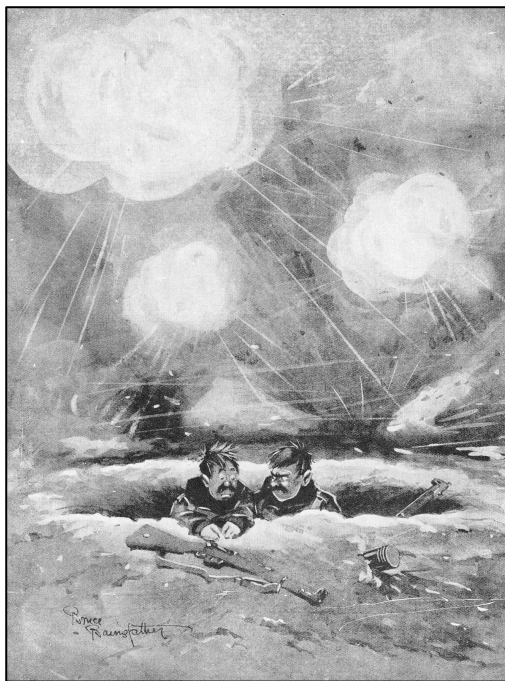
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*The site of the B17 Flying Fortress crash at Whenuapai in 1942
(Archives New Zealand).*

New Zealand Overseas Projects

There has been recent media coverage of the LiDARRAS project that has been recording First World War underground tunnels at Arras in France that were dug by the New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company (NZETC). Dr. Pascal Sirguy of the Otago University School of Surveying led the project which involved the 3D scanning of the maze of tunnels located 15 metres beneath the modern town of Arras. Some examples of their work can be seen at: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/lidarras/news/otago625240.html>



The NZETC worked during 1916 and 1917 to connect a series of abandoned underground chalk quarries, and created a network of tunnels that included its own light rail system, kitchens, toilets, running water and electric lights. The complex could provide accommodation for up to 24,000 soldiers safety out of reach of any bombardment above. Part of the system has been opened as a museum, Carriere Wellington.

“Well, if you knows of a better ‘ole, go to it”
(Bairnsfather 1916).

In March Peter Petchey and Jitlada Innanchai assisted with excavation and survey work carried out by Berenice Bellina of the *Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique (Paris)* in the Thai-Malay Peninsula. The project is examining evidence for late prehistoric and early historic trans-peninsula trade routes. The excavations found evidence of Neolithic occupation around the shores of the Wang Duan inlet on the eastern (Gulf of Thailand) side of the Peninsula. A reconnaissance survey was carried out in Burma (Myanmar) in the Thanintharyi District on the western side of the Peninsula.