



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Fieldwork and Other Activities**

### **Otago & Southland**

The University of Otago Anthropology Society spend a day in August at Larnach's Farmstead on the Otago Peninsula assisting the Herewaka Harbour Cone Trust by carrying out some essential excavation work around the old cow byre building. The students removed the turf from the old drains around the outside walls, and dug out the accumulated sheep droppings from within the building that dated to its use as a covered sheepyards. This will considerably reduce the moisture around the base of the walls.



*Members of the University of Otago Anthropology Society inside Larnach's cow byre on the Otago Peninsula.*

Peter Petchey recently recorded a small South Dunedin cottage that was built in about 1892, and found the original part of it was constructed using recycled pit-sawn timbers from a much earlier building. When the cottage was demolished and the site was excavated a carved Oamaru limestone pillar from a different earlier building was found incorporated into the cottage foundations. As the original owner of the house was a carpenter, it seems

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likely that he was reusing material salvaged on other jobs to build his own house. Recycling is nothing new.



*Left: A carved limestone pillar incorporated into cottage foundations.*

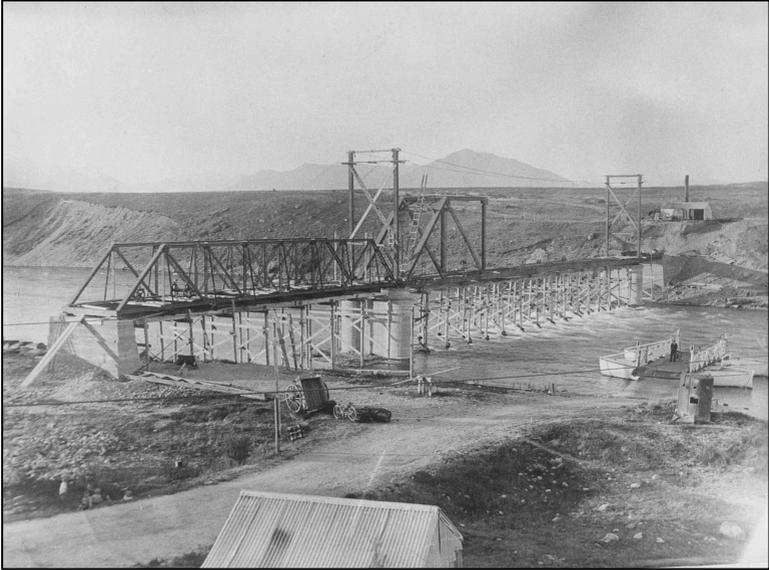
*Right: The carved pillar after it was cleaned.*

Recently Matt Sole has been involved with the Luggate and Wanaka community who have engaged him and landscape architect Anne Steven in a joint landscape and archaeological survey for a community enhancement project that has grown out of the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for the Luggate Red Bridge. Matt's survey work has revealed the significant remnants of the 1882-1915 Luggate



Ferry/Punt involving Cable 'T' anchor pits with cable remnants, the original ferry access, the marshalling landing area and the past residential site of the ferryman's adjacent occupation. Matt's survey work also covered a locally significant set of ground sluicing tailings over stepped river terraces and flats, that had been supplied by water races from opposite directions.

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*The Luggate Bridge during construction in 1915 (with permission, Hocken Collections, P1969-004/2-044b).*



*Looking across the Clutha River towards south bank herringbone tailings, with the Red Bridge to the right (Matt Sole).*

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In March Matt monitored excavations by the Central Otago District Council at the historic Nevis Cemetery to check for unrecorded grave cuts, to allow new burials and ash interments to be made. The work has cleared the way for the cemetery to remain open.



*Excavation work at the Nevis Cemetery to check for burial plots (Matt Sole).*

Matt has also monitored similar work at the Alexandra and Blacks Cemeteries. Of interest is the rediscovery of the original Blacks Cemetery near Ophir (formerly known as Blacks). The cemetery was moved due to the high water table and river incursions, with the interments allegedly exhumed and reburied at the new current Blacks Cemetery in Omakau.

## **Canterbury & West Coast**

The 7.8 Kaikōura Earthquake and its aftershocks caused significant damage along the Kaikōura Coast and top half of the South Island. Massive slips severed State Highway One and the Main North Line and cut off Kaikōura from the rest of the country by land for more than two weeks. The government alliance charged with recovery, NCTIR (North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery), has pulled together a team of archaeologists from across the country to deal with clearing and reinstating the road and rail. We have been working tirelessly with the designers, engineers, contractors, ecologists, landscape architects, planners, abseilers, helicopter pilots and comms teams to keep on top of any works that may impact on archaeology and ensure that archaeology that is uncovered is

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investigated and recorded. The team is still growing as more and more works come online and we hope to keep the archaeology community up to date on our findings over the coming months.



*Slip 6 at Ohau Point, north of Kaikōura (NCTIR).*



*Excavating a burnt feature at the top of Slip 8 north of Kaikōura (NCTIR).*

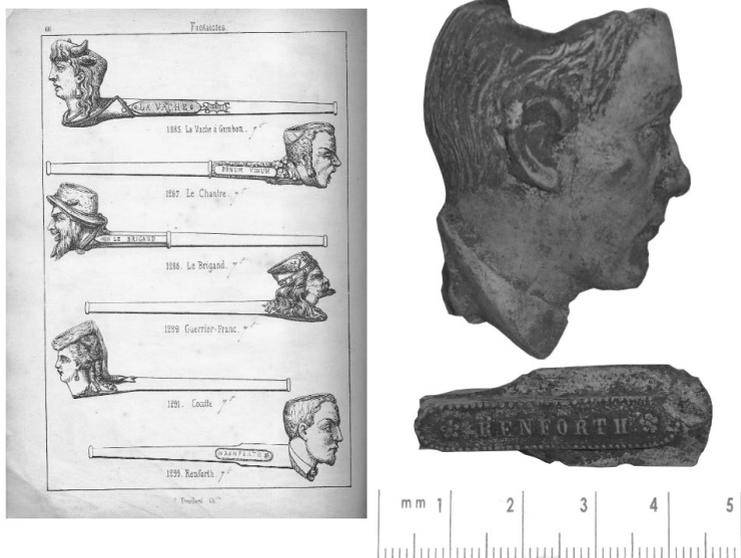
## **Wellington**

An investigation of Denton Park in Central Wellington was carried out from 26-30 June by Andy Dodd (Subsurface Ltd) assisted by Kate Lilley, Vanessa Tanner (WCC) and Gemma Wright (Taranaki Whanui). The excavation focused on a section of the original 1840 shoreline, which was also within the area occupied by the 1845 Te Aro redoubt. Among the finds were decorated clay pipe bowl and stem fragments depicting Tyneside oarsman James Renforth (1842-1871) which were produced and sold by French pipe manufacturer Gambier between 1868 and 1879. The work was part of Wellington City Council's Lombard Street upgrade project.



*Excavations at Denton Park Wellington in progress (Andy Dodd)*

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*Pipe fragments from Denton Park with detail from 1879 Gambier catalogue on left (Andy Dodd)*

From the 'what the heck is that doing there' files: Mary O'Keeffe reports a cannonball from Transmission Gully, exposed in a stream gully by a mechanical excavator operator. David Rudd advises it is a 10 inch, solid shot (cannonball). David notes that 10 inch smoothbore muzzle-loading guns were used as deck guns on some mid 19th century warships. The cannonball was



found within about 2km of the location of the 1846 skirmish at Battle Hill, but much smaller ordinance was used in this confrontation.

### *The cannon ball.*

While Kevin Jones is based in Wellington, he has recently been straying much further afield. He has been involved with a heritage assessment for the Arrowtown Chinese Settlement, further work on the gas pipeline diversion and other preliminary work around

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the new Manawatu Bridge, flood plain assessment work on the Pinehaven Stream (Upper Hutt) and an archaeological assessment on the Waikanae Golf Course.



*The Arrowtown Chinese Camp (Kevin Jones)*

## **Waikato & Bay of Plenty**

John Coster and Caroline Phillips conducted a small investigation of pa U13/49: one of six pa overlooking the Waiau River at Athenree. This revealed that the pa was first defended by a single ditch. At this time it encompassed some 3,400 m<sup>2</sup>. Later, an L-shaped double ditch and bank was constructed, which enclosed a smaller area of about 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The area to the south, which had been within the earlier pa was then gardened.



*Pa site U13/49 beside the Waiau River. No surface evidence remained of the defences prior to the investigations: white lines indicate the alignments of the ditches (Caroline Phillips).*

## **Auckland & Northland**

Bev Parslow reports that Heritage New Zealand is continuing work at the Melanesian Mission. The old concrete slab floor (*ca* 1928) in the toilet block was removed in June 2017, and an additional 35 cm was excavated for the new flooring. Monitoring of the work found a shallow area of mixed fill that contained dispersed artefactual material along the southern side of the building, while a dense area of redeposited artefacts (a rubbish pit) was found in the southwestern corner. This area is directly behind the Melanesian Mission kitchen and likely represents a rubbish scatter/pit relating to the later 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the property. Analysis of artefactual material is ongoing.

A rectangular brick drain feature approximately 1.5 m long by 1m wide and 1m deep was identified during excavations for the stabilisation of the southern stone wall foundations. The upper courses of the feature had been disturbed by previous service trenches. A few late 19<sup>th</sup> century artefacts were identified in the upper fill deposits, including a rifle cartridge. Brick samples taken from the disturbed areas were a mix of handmade (frog marked) and wire cut bricks. The hangers for the Walsh Brothers Flying school (est. 1915) were the only identified structures located immediately behind the wall, with

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the area visible as a fenced paddock in historic images from 1860 to 1915. Archaeological monitoring of trenching for the installation of services is ongoing and expected to be completed in late August.



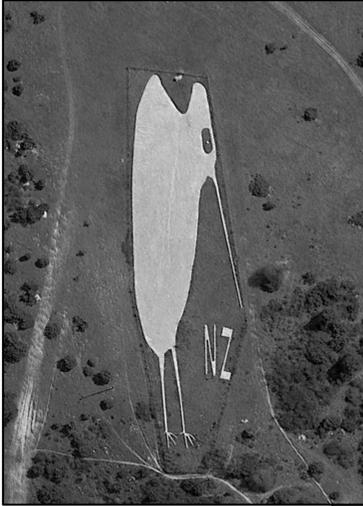
*The Melanesian Mission (Bev Parslow).*



*Handmade (with frog) and wire cut bricks, ceramics and bone from drain feature behind the southern wall of the Melanesian Mission (Bev Parslow).*

## New Zealand Overseas Projects

In England the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, acting on advice from Historic England, has recently Listed two historic sites of particular importance to New Zealanders. South along the chalk from the famous Uffington White Horse at Bulford, Wiltshire, there is another distinctive animal hill figure, known as the Bulford Kiwi. It was cut in 1919 by New Zealand troops to commemorate their occupation at Sling Camp as they waited to return home after the First World War. It was designed by Sergeant

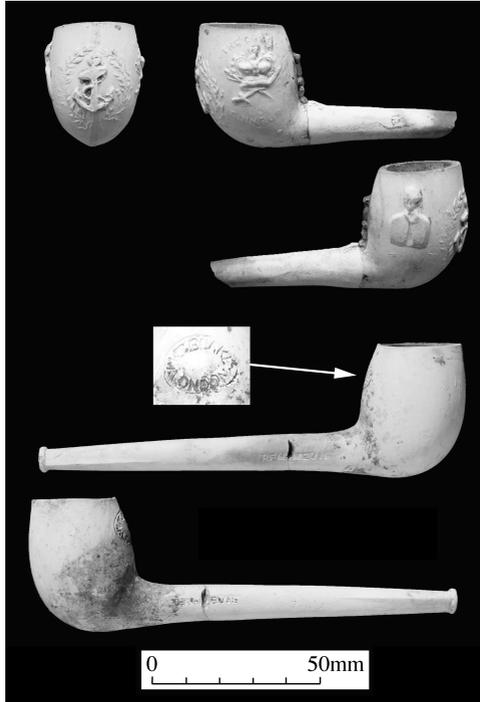


Major Percy Blenkarne, a drawing instructor who checked out the bird in the Natural History Museum, London, and created by Captain Clark, an engineer. It is, in the words of Morris Marples in *White Horses and other Hill Figures* (1949), 'most carefully contrived to counteract the effects of perspective, which are considerable owing to the shallowness of the slope. The ground plan of the figure (left) is very different from its outline as seen from level ground.'

(Google Earth images)

In Staffordshire the Terrain Model of Messines, in Cannock Chase, has also been Listed. This was an accurate scale model of the battlefield created by the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, celebrating the victory with a training field for new recruits at Brocton Camp. It was made by German Prisoners of War using soil, concrete, bricks and pebbles to represent the town, farms and landscape as they were on the night before the battle. After years of neglect, it was recently rediscovered, excavated and recorded by archaeologists. (<https://www.sal.org.uk/salon/>).





### *Endpiece*

*Clay pipes from excavations at 5 Willis Street, Dunedin (site I44/672)*

*Top: 'Duke of Edinburgh'*

*Bottom: 'Ben Nevis' by W.T. Blake, London*

## **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.

*Archaeology in New Zealand* is prepared on a Mac using Microsoft word software. Papers should be emailed to the editor as an attachment. Please keep all formatting simple, as the paper will have to be completely reset for *AINZ*. Please do not use footnotes.