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Fieldwork and Other Activities

Otago & Southland

In Dunedin the Harbour City Heritage Festival was held over a week in October, and one of the events was a symposium: 'Building a City From the Sea.' Four of the eight presenters were archaeologists: Shar Briden, Matthew Schmidt, Andrea Farminer and Peter Petchey, and all described various archaeological features and sites around the Otago Harbour and Peninsula.

In late October Otago MA student Greg Hil and a team of six student volunteers carried out a three-day coastal site survey south of Taieri Mouth as part of Greg's thesis research. He is examining the condition and vulnerability of Otago's coastal archaeological sites through a combination of site visits, GPS data collection, and the use of historic aerials within GIS. The group recorded site data for over 30 sites during the survey.



Greg Hil (centre) and student volunteers during the Clutha Coast site survey.

At the Cromwell Cemetery Hallie Buckley, Rachel Scott and Peter Petchey excavated two burials that had been disturbed by tree felling and stump removal. The burials were exposed, other disturbed bones found, and the

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displaced bones were reburied in their appropriate locations. The local Presbyterian minister gave a short service before the excavation was refilled.

Matt Sole has carried out an assessment for Transpower for the clearing of wilding pines and broom along their Roxburgh to Islington A transmission line, which traverses an early set of gold workings near the Danseys Pass Hotel in the upper Kyeburn Diggings. Despite some damage from the line's initial construction significant archaeological values survive, including a miner's schist hut ruins. Mat has also carried out survey work for a proposed subdivision at Bannockburn, opposite the Hotel, Post Office and store. The subdivision design took early account of the archaeological and landscape values, hopefully producing a good outcome.



The area of the Bannockburn subdivision.

Canterbury & West Coast

In Christchurch Underground Overground Archaeology staff have been working on a variety of projects. Matt Hennessey has been looking into a 1880s farmstead in Halswell, Kirsa Webb and Lydia Mearns have been investigating an 1840s block house in Akaroa, and Shana Dooley is monitoring work at an 1880s pumphouse on Tuam Street. Jessie Garland has been working through the large domestic and retail artefact assemblage from

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the Christchurch Convention Centre site. Further north, Tristan Wadsworth, Teri Anderson, Hamish Williams and Kathy Davidson have all been working with the NCTIR team in Kaikoura over the past few months.

Left: Swaine, Boord & Co. Old Tom Cordial bottle, found under the floors of an 1860s vicarage in Christchurch (Maria Lillo Bernabeu).



Right: Lipscombe and Co., 1870s water filter, found at the Convention Centre site in Christchurch (Jessie Garland).



Wellington

Kevin Jones has been busy digging in the dunes near Lake Wiritoa (just south of Whanganui) where he found the bases of ovens, and south of the SH 1 bridge on the Manawatu River, where he found three rectangular storage pits with distinctive outward sloping sides. His other work has included spells of advice on the 1920s Pipitea wharf (Wellington) that is to be demolished, and regional council issues relating to the horticultural sites at the Pararaki. The latter still has most of the sites recorded by Helen Leach in the late 1960s, with the major change being the 1970s re-routing of the road on to a beach ridge. Low stocking rates has been the key to site survival over the 50 years since first recording.



Aerial photograph of the north-west side of the Pararaki River mouth, showing garden boundaries.

Waikato & Bay of Plenty

During Labour Weekend, Dave Wilton conducted a public field trip to Eureka, a mining settlement at the top of the Kuranui Valley, near Thames. A feature was a visit to the ruins of the cottage of Richard Ross, an early miner on the goldfield, and original part-owner of the Eureka claim after which the settlement was named. Another notable feature was the attendance of three generations of Richard Ross' descendants, including Dick Wilkins (great

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grandson) who also gave a very informative presentation at The Treasury, before the field component commenced. Fortunately, the weather held mostly fine, with only minor drizzle impacting on proceedings. Side visits were conducted to the Shotover and Caledonian mine sites, the first ‘Big Pump’ and several other early mining residential sites (claimed under the Goldfields Act). To date, none of the other residence sites, nor the school, have been investigated, but are likely to be a worthy summer project for Dave.



The field trip to the site of the Eureka settlement, led by Dave Wilton.

Peter Holmes reports that in the Bay of Plenty weather has been delaying earthworks for most projects. However some monitoring was possible on an Omokoroa residential development of former orchards. A few intact features were identified, these generally being thin truncated and fragmented midden and oven deposits.



Endpiece

Quarter of a century ago: the late Peter Bristow excavating a miner's hut site in the Old Man Range, Otago, in February 1993. See AINZ 38(1): 37-47.

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 or endnote, and do not link figures and text. Save all text files as 'normal.'