



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Fieldwork and Other Activities**

### **Otago & Southland**

In Dunedin the Otago University Anthropology Society has carried out more work at Larnach's farmstead on the Otago Peninsula for the Hereweke Harbour Cone Trust, completing the clearing of the interior of the byre and erecting gates to prevent stock entering the building (see the paper by Alana Kelly in the December 2017 issue of AINZ).



*OAS members at work in Larnach's cow byre. From left: Greg Hil, Alana Kelly, Alix Muir, Jasmine Weston, Nick Sutton, Rob Henderson, Tristan Russell.*

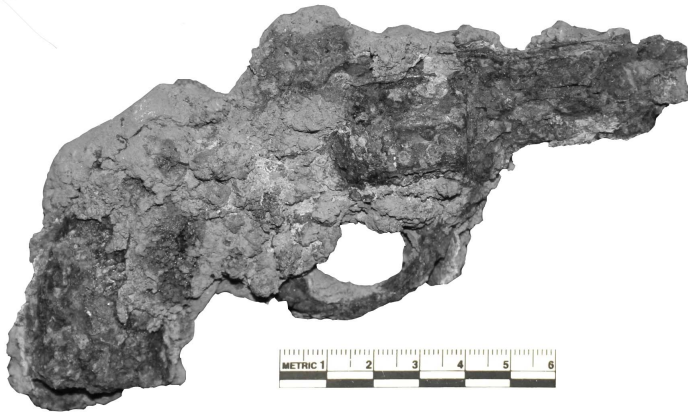
In December the *Otago Daily Times* (21 December 2017) reported that excavations under the John Colours Ltd. building in Crawford Street, Dunedin, had uncovered the old inverted arch foundations. The building was erected in 1882 to a design by R.A. Lawson, who also designed the First Church and Larnach Castle, as well as the ill-fated Seacliff Lunatic Asylum. Inverted arches were used to spread the load from columns, an important consideration in areas of reclaimed land where the underlying ground is of variable consistency (as in much of low-lying Dunedin).



*Matt Schmidt of HNZ and R.A. Lawson's inverted arch foundations under the John Colours building in Crawford Street, Dunedin (Otago Daily Times).*

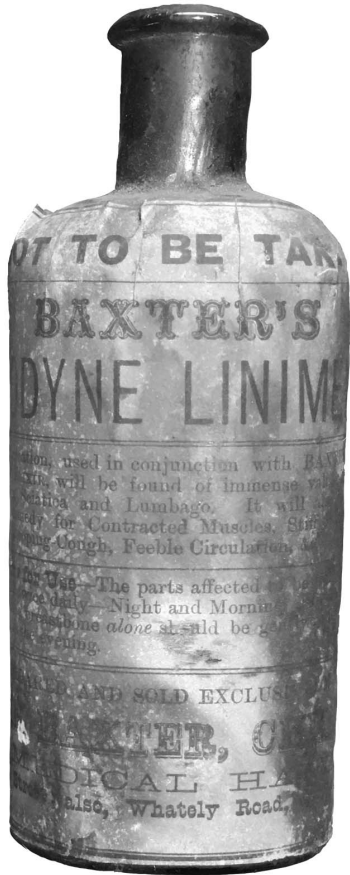
## **Canterbury & West Coast**

In Christchurch Jeremy Habberfield-Short (Strata Heritage) continues to work on earthquake sites, with Maeve Platts carrying out artefact analyses. A complete (albeit corroded) revolver was found at 172 Peterborough Street, a property that was purchased by Samuel Bath (Draper) in 1878 and then passed through several owners until 1909 when the ancestors of Thomas Architects bought the property and built the present dwelling. The Arms Act 1860 required people and firearms dealers to obtain licenses and register firearms, but the legislation was largely ignored and unenforced until 1908.



*Pistol from Peterborough Street, Christchurch (Maeve Platts).*

An interesting assemblage came from 18 Beveridge Street, where a cache of artefacts was found in a wall. These included a BAXTER'S ANODYNE LINIMENT pharmaceutical bottle with a complete label.



John Baxter was a chemist in Christchurch well known for his own creations, eponymously named Baxter's Lung Preserver, Baxter's Anti-Neuralgic 'magic pills', Baxter's Compound Quinine Pills, and curealls for indigestion and remedies for liver complaints in general. One of Baxter's less well-known products, the liniment was advertised in 1885 and again in 1893 (*Lyttelton Times* 22/12/1885; *Press* 07/07/1893). The cache also included a poster depicting the 'Phrenological Head of Charles Peace, The Burglar'. Peace was a Sheffield-born criminal executed in 1879 for two murders. He fled to London from Sheffield after he shot the husband of a couple that he had befriended, and continued to burgle houses while living under a pseudonym before he was arrested in 1878. Contemporary and later newspapers described him as the "cleverest burglar that ever lived", a figure so famous that "even Dick Turpin could not hold a candle to him"

(*Alexandra Herald and Central Otago Gazette* 4/12/1929). He became the subject of waxworks, of crime fiction, a stage play (which outraged society by depicting his hanging on stage, carried out by an actual retired executioner) and increasingly outrageous and dramatised depictions and characterisations in popular culture.



*'Phrenological Head of Charles Peace, The Burglar'  
(Jessie Garland).*

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Underground Overground Archaeology continues to be busy, and Kirsra Webb undertook a field survey of the Prince of Wales water race near Ross on the West Coast, while Chelsea Dickson has been monitoring work at the site of a 19th century church in Tai Tapu. Maria Lillo Bernabeu has been working through assemblages from Spreydon Lodge and Victoria Square, with over a hundred shoes recovered from the latter project. Kathy Davidson and Chelsea Dickson also ran an archaeology display stand at the opening of Rauora Park, in Christchurch's East Frame. Among the finds displayed were arc lamp carbon rods associated with an early 20th century cinema and branded ceramics from the Christchurch Club.



*Carbon rods, found in a rubbish pit out the back of His Majesty's Theatre on Manchester Street. His Majesty's Theatre was an early 20th century cinema located in what was originally the Canterbury Industrial Hall, built in 1900 (Jessie Garland).*



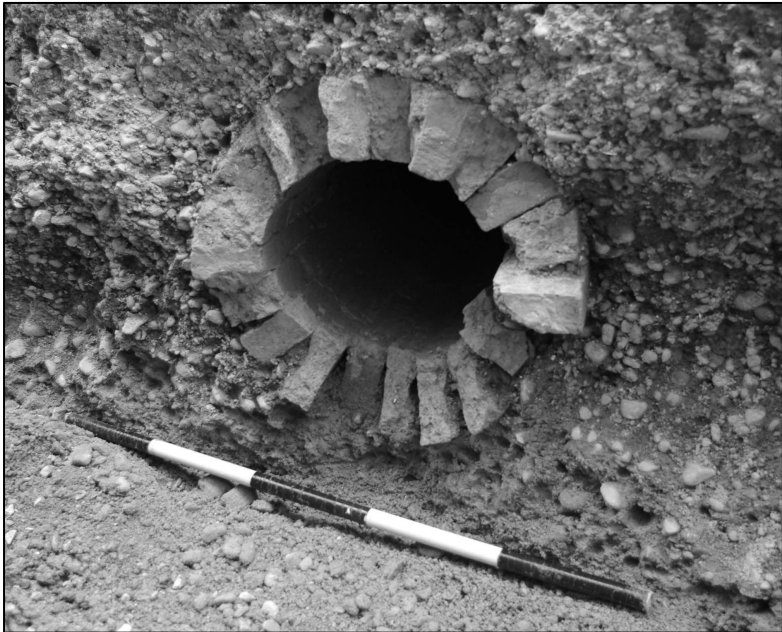
*Swiss Cottage patterned bowl, made by J & W Pratt, c. 1847, found at the Convention Centre site in central Christchurch (Jessie Garland).*



*Matthew Hennessey and Angel Trendafilov excavating the foundations of a fireplace at a hotel site in Rangiora (Hamish Williams).*

## **Wellington**

In Wellington Andy Dodd and Kate Lilly continue to monitor earthworks associated with the Wellington City Council's Lombard/Bond Street upgrade (refer *Archaeology in New Zealand* 60(3), Notes and News, p.73). Trenches for storm water and services beneath Bond Street have so far unearthed several features dating from the 1840s including brick culverts, the foundations of the Bethune and Hunter building (exchange), and a timber post from the 1845 Te Aro redoubt. The features have been identified and dated on the basis of survey plans which were compiled following the October 1848 earthquakes. Bond Street was the original shoreline in the 1840s, and the beach horizon has been encountered intermittently along Bond Street between Victoria and Cornhill Streets.



*One of two brick culverts under Bond Street, Wellington (Andy Dodd).*





*The shoreline horizon appears as a band of shell above rounded beach gravels (Andy Dodd).*



*Timber post from the 1845 Te Aro redoubt, with the base at 2 metres below present ground level (Andy Dodd)*

Kevin Jones has been involved with authority matters relating to the SH1 Manawatu River bridges and with electricity transmission lines northwest of Otatarā Pa Historic Reserve and west of Lake Papaitonga. The latter saw Kevin with a sense of déjà vu when he reviewed transmission towers in the area where LiDAR work by Bickler and (another) Jones had identified a large number of storage pits in a

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recent AINZ. The pits also show clearly in the aerial photograph underlying Google Maps. Work has commenced on the demolition behind the protected facades at Stewart Dawsons Corner, Lambton Quay. This is at Clay Point where NZ Company officers resided in 1840-41 and were flying the flag of the United Tribes, an official flag at that time. Kevin and botanist Philip Simpson also presented on the values of the Abel Tasman Memorial at the Tasman 375 events in Golden Bay in December 2017. This event was notable for the attendance at Onetahua Marae of some Tumatakokiri descendants, the iwi in Golden Bay in 1642, and the Netherlands ambassador and local government officials.



*Dutch government officials and other official party members before entry on to the Onetahua Marae, Golden Bay (Kevin Jones).*

Victoria Grouden has been working on several assessments including the former Erskine College (Sacred Heart Convent) and the former Island Bay Hotel, both located in Island Bay. She has also recently carried out monitoring work at the Quinn's Post/Highland Hotel site in Upper Hutt and on a domestic house site in Pirie Street, Mt Victoria. She is currently compiling the annual report for GWRC relating to remedial work carried out on the heritage assets on the Rimutaka Rail Trail in Pakuratahi Forest, Upper Hutt.



*One of the restored culverts on the Rimutaka Rail Trail (Victoria Grouden).*

## **Auckland & Northland**

Jono Carpenter spent the lead up to Christmas confirming that the 6 x 2m rectangular pit he uncovered in 2015 at the site of the British camp of attack at Ruapekapeka was the lost communal grave of the dozen British soldiers who died in the taking of the pa. A small crew comprising Andrew Blanshard, Clayton Blackwood and Kipa Munro from DOC, James Robinson from HNZ, osteoarchaeologist Shirley Wallace, and Allan Halliday from the Ruapekapeka Trust excavated the eastern end of the feature revealing the very poorly preserved remains of two individuals, one with pipe bowl, cluster of percussion caps on the right-hand waist, and a lead shot sitting just below the ribs. With the arm of a third man visible in the adjacent unexcavated section and sufficient room in the unexcavated pit for ten more bodies, it was clearly the British grave. The remains were left in-situ along with the artefacts except for a small sample of percussion caps. Attempts had been made to relocate the grave from the 1870s onwards by which time only its general location was known, and by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century even that knowledge had been lost. As the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle approaches in 2021, DOC, the Ruapekapeka Trust and other stakeholders will work to establish a fitting memorial at the site.

Geometria has had a busy start to the summer in Northland with excavations ongoing at the Jessie Trust subdivision at Moir's Point in Mangawha, another subdivision at Whananaki South, the Mapua avocado orchard development at Pukenui in the Far North, and the NZTA Northland single-lane bridges

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replacement programme where earthworks have commenced at Matakoho and exploratory investigation is being planned for Kaeo.



*From left, C. Blackwood, J. Carpenter, J. Robinson, A. Blanshard and K. Munro excavating the British communal grave at Ruapekapeka (S. Anderson/DOC).*



*Percussion caps and pipe bowl found with skeletal remains (Jono Carpenter).*



### *Endpiece*

*The Golden Progress Mine (site H41/221) in Central Otago. The mine worked from 1868 to 1891 and 1928 until 1936. The surviving infrastructure dates to the second period of operation. Only two wooden poppet heads survive in New Zealand; the other is at Big River near Reefton.*

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## **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.'