



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND



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## **Fieldwork and Other Activities**

Events held around the country as part of Archaeology Week are described above. But other archaeological activities continued as well...

### **Otago & Southland**

In April Peter Petchey and Hallie Buckley directed excavations at the 'old' (1861 to 1866) and 'new' (1867 onwards) cemeteries in Lawrence (see paper in this issue of AINZ). Students from the Anatomy Department and the University of Otago Anthropology Society participated in the dig, which investigated 11 burials.

Matt Schmidt of Heritage New Zealand visited Campbell Island in March in order to assess the management of archaeological sites there, and also helped install a new cross on the grave of Paul Duris, a technician who died of typhoid during the French 1875 Transit of Venus Expedition.

Julia Lewis of New Zealand Heritage Properties has been monitoring kerb renewals around Dunedin and recently recorded a line of 170 in situ bluestone setts along one side of Drummond Street in the central city.



*Bluestone setts in Drummond Street, Dunedin (Julia Lewis).*

## **Canterbury & West Coast**

In Christchurch Opus archaeologist T.J. O'Connell and Conservation Architect Chessa Stevens have been undertaking high level recording and archaeological monitoring of works to the Rakaia Gorge No.1 Bridge on State Highway 77, Mid-Canterbury. The Rakaia Gorge No.1 Bridge is an internationally unique structure built between 1880 and 1882. The NZ Transport Agency is replacing the deck and doing seismic strengthening of the structure. Nick Mainwaring has been working at the Ravenswood subdivision near Woodend, continuing to record and investigate an extensive archaeological landscape associated with the palaeochannels of an historic river system. Elsa Koenig has been working at Orton Bradley Park, in Charteris Bay. She has been monitoring and recording repair works to an 1840s stone cottage. The cottage was built by Samuel Manson, who settled in the area in 1845. It was originally built as a shepherding hut, and converted into a dairy in 1858.



*The Rakaia Gorge No. 1 Bridge (T.J. O'Connell).*

Matt Hennessey and Peter Mitchell of Underground Overground Archaeology recorded the flour mill on Southbrook Road, Rangiora. The mill was built in 1891 by Mr Maddison, although the building had replaced an earlier mill building built by John Grimwood in 1864. While the building had been heavily modified (including the addition of two floors) much of the original fabric remained, and the original form of the building could be

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identified. Unfortunately, no 19th century milling machinery remained. The building is to be demolished in the coming weeks.

*The Rangiora flour mill  
(Matt Hennessey).*

Angel Trendafilov has been undertaking monitoring on North Avon Road in Christchurch, and recorded over 100 metres of tram tracks installed around 1885-1887. In addition to the tramway material, several rubbish pits have also been recorded at the site, including some interesting imported artefacts from France and Trinidad.



*Tram tracks found just under the surface of North Avon Road  
(Angel Trendafilov).*

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Kirsa Webb has undertaken a survey of the former Lyell township in the Buller Gorge, and Jessie Garland and Tristan Wadsworth undertook a site survey of the south shore of Catlins Lake, funded by a Walton Fund grant from the NZAA.

### **Wellington**

In April Mike Johnston and Nicole Miller led members of the Underwater Club in a shore dive to map and record underwater features around the *HMNZS Cook* naval base at Shelly Bay including an anchor, pulley wheel and a mooring block.

Andy Dodd has been monitoring Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) trenching at Glenburn on the Wairarapa Coast, east of Carterton. The trenching was carried out to investigate a series of four uplifted marine terraces. The trenches were positioned to avoid stone rows associated with Maori horticulture (T27/25). Archaeological deposits encountered in the trenches included four oven features located on the terrace below the garden features.



*Oven feature encountered while advancing GNS trench at Glenburn  
(Andy Dodd, Subsurface Ltd).*

Andy Dodd and Kate Lilley have been monitoring earthworks at the site of the 1886 Petone Oddfellows Hall. Although the building had been fitted out with a concrete floor for use as a panel beaters, original timber pile foundations were found to be preserved beneath this. The development area bounded by Jackson Street, Victoria Street, Campbell Avenue and Petone

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Avenue also includes the site of the Petone Workingmen's Club (1926-2018) which was formerly the site of William Comber's residence (1886-1926).

Victoria Grouden has been working on a number of new assessments, including a cottage relocation for an historic property in Whiteman's Valley Road, Upper Hutt that was first developed for sawmilling during the late 1850s and was then farmed by the Downing family from the 1880s to the 1980s. Other assessments include properties with planned domestic renovations and rebuilds in Roxburgh Street, Mt Victoria and Glenbervie Terrace, Thorndon, as well as seismic strengthening on McGavin House in Willis Street, Te Aro. She has also been monitoring the demolition of the former Island Bay Hotel in Trent Street, water main renewal in Holloway Road, Aro Valley and an historic church renovation in Nelson Street, Petone.



*The Downing Cottage in Whiteman's Valley Road (Victoria Grouden).*

Emily Howitt of Opus has been monitoring the Peka Peka to Otaki Expressway construction. So far several shell middens have been uncovered in the southern area where the new road passes through part of the Kapiti relict dune landscape. The middens comprise mainly of tuatua shell, and are very similar to those which were found by Mary O'Keeffe during the construction of the earlier expressway section from Mackays to Peka Peka. Evidence of a what is thought to be a post-contact kāinga have also been found, the location of which matches nicely with an 1880s railway plan which shows buildings in the area, and an 1880s survey plan which marks the site as 'Te Horo Pah'. This site comprises shell middens and fire scoops along with nineteenth century bottles, ceramics and clay pipes.



*One of the middens on the Peka Peka to Otaki Expressway, where the roadworks pass through the Kapiti relict dune landscape (Emily Howitt).*

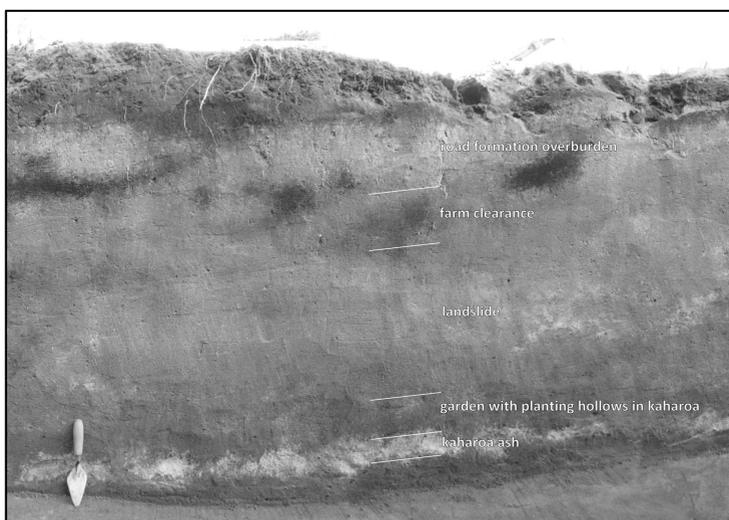
Kevin Jones has been busy with the sand borrow pit for the Manawatu Bridge(s) and is preparing a paper on Pacific World Heritage for the ICOMOS Pasifika conference, October 2018, Suva. Kevin has also been ‘doing the museums’ in Novgorod (Russia), Marseilles, Arles and Penang.



*Coastal battery on Fort Ratonneau, near Marseilles (Kevin Jones).*

## **Waikato & Bay of Plenty**

At Otamarakau in the Bay of Plenty Caroline Phillips has been investigating sites at Otamarakau affected by works on State Highway 2. Most of the trenches excavated in the valleys below the ridges with pit sites (V15/1409, 1440-1445) failed to find signs of gardening. One trench indicated the reason. It showed evidence of a Maori garden that appeared to be truncated and was overlaid by 650 mm mixed slope wash, prior to a layer of burning associated with the first farmers. It seemed likely that a weather event occurred shortly after the ground had been cleared by Maori for occupation, resulting in massive movement of the loose volcanic soils, which swept down the valleys, removing nearly all of the evidence of Maori gardening.



*Section through Otamarakau garden soils and the landslip that buried them  
(Caroline Phillips).*

Dave Wilton has continued, and probably now completed, an above-ground investigation of the Eureka mining settlement in the foothills east of Thames. Sites identified thus far include at least ten probable building terraces (two being residences belonging to the Ross and Lang families) and possibly the Eureka School. He has also identified two mine sites; the Golden Era and Moanataiari Shaft portals. Dace is also considering the possibility of a limited below-ground investigation (maybe during Heritage week or Archaeology

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Week next year) and advocating, with DoC and TCDC, a two- km signed and interpreted Heritage Walk, to include the Eureka settlement and mining features of the Kuranui and Moanataiari valleys.

### **Auckland & Northland**

Archaeologists from Clough & Associates have been busy working on the first stage of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance. Topographically the area is characterised by hills, spurs and small inlets, with the Pūhoi River the key link to the Waitemata Harbour at Waiwera. The area has a rich cultural history, with both Maori and European settlement remains and sites recorded in the project area, some of the latter being associated with the Bohemian settlement of Pūhoi.

Archaeological finds so far are both expected (midden, hangi/firescoops, postholes, bell rua, building remains) and unusual. The modified kauri found in the Okahu inlet which resembles an unfinished waka is located at the base of Te Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia. The Project Archaeologist Dr Sarah Phear is working closely with Dilys Johns (University of Auckland) and iwi Partners for the project Hōkai Nuku, to ensure the taonga is lifted carefully. Conservation options are still being explored.



*A midden found during roadworks in Pūhoi (Sarah Phear).*

## **New Zealand Overseas Projects**

A team from Otago University has been working with the New Zealand Defence force on *Te Auraki: The Return*, the project to repatriate the remains of Defence Force personnel and their dependants who died and were buried overseas between 1955 and 1971. Three disinterments in Fiji and American Samoa have been completed to date.



*Peter Petchey, Rebecca Kinaston, Rachel Scott, Lt-Col Charmaine Tate, Maj James Hannah and Mark Salter at the graveside of New Zealand sailor Russell Moore in American Samoa (Samoa News, 2 May 2018).*