

Fieldwork and Other Activities

Otago & Southland

In Otago a whitebaiter, Trevor Griffin, found a spear-like wooden weapon in the shallow water of the Taieri River in mid-August. It was taken to the Otago Museum for notification under the Protected Objects Act 1975. The weapon is approximately 2.23m long, and features a carved point at its proximal end, and a raised ridge midway along the shaft.



Above: Whitebaiter Trevor Griffin and Ōtākou kaumatua Paul Karaitiana admire the toro. Below: The point on the toro (Rachel Wesley).



Ethnohistorian Herries Beattie recorded accounts of weapons such as these being called *toro* by southern Māori. The location of the find was in close proximity to the scene where an ‘incident’ took place during the Kāi Māmoe/Kāi Tahu turmoil of the 18th century. The toro is being treated at the satellite wet organic conservation facility at Ōtākou Marae.

Nationwide

The *Otago Daily Times* in late August reported that several old mortar shells were found on the bank of the Leith Stream where it passes through Otago University. This was the site of J. & A.P. Scott, an engineering company that manufactured practice bombs for the military during the Second World War. Southern Pacific Archaeological Research has been monitoring the river bank works.

The Otago University Anthropology Society has been busy: In June society members assisted the Hereweke Harbour Cone Trust by clearing the undergrowth around the ruin of Allan's Farmstead on the Otago Peninsula. And in August the society hosted guests from the Auckland Archaeological Society, and visited a number of archaeological and historical sites (see the frontispiece).



Otago University Anthropology Society members at Allan's Farmstead ruin on the Otago Peninsula. See also the cover of this issue of AINZ.

Mat Sole has been carrying out a survey of a 37km length of the proposed cycle and walking trail along the shore of Lake Dunstan between Clyde and Cromwell. A desktop search of *Archsite* identified over 170 potential recorded sites in the area, but not all of these could be found as many have been inundated in Lake Dunstan, and the conversion from imperial to metric grid references meant that some location data was inconclusive. In addition to relocating 28 sites, Matt recorded 60 new features or components of new sites.

Canterbury & West Coast

In Canterbury Michael Trotter and Jeanette McIsaac have been largely involved in upgrading work on the Kaiapoi River bank (site M35/1958) and adjacent construction of a new tavern (site M35/1957) where European activity goes back to at least 1858. The photograph is of a five-gallon crock reconstructed from fragments found at the tavern site and it is embossed 'Birch & Co Kaiapoi N.Z.', an importing firm that had its own wharf on the riverfront during the 1860s and 1870s.



Dan and Alison Witter have been active in the Birdlings Flat and Kaitorete Spit area on various projects. This includes a survey for extensive farm works on a central section the Spit. An interesting find was a large tool with usewear which made on a greywacke cobble by detaching two large impact flakes (i.e. 'spalls or teshoa') which could be conjoined in the field (see photo). Not only had the tool been made there, it had also been used and discarded in the same place. At Birdlings Flat a radiocarbon date for occupation at Te Mata Hapuka Pa was obtained for 1660 to 1810 calAD (WK47343). That, along with marine and freshwater shellfish, and ocean fish such as barracouta is helping to put together a story for that locality.

Nationwide



Kaitorete Spit barrier ridge: (Top left) All flakes refitted and original cobble reconstructed on-site. (Top right) Gap made by point of impact. (Lower left) First flake removed. (Lower right) Second flake removed with finished point. Edge with usewear (Dan Witter).

Underground Overground Archaeology staff have been conducting an excavation at Rae Kura/ the Redcliffs Flat site, in preparation of the construction of a new school. Firstly, Underground Overground would like to acknowledge the mana whenua of this rohe - Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngāti Wheke, and Ngāi Tahu Whānui, who exercise the customary right and kawa of kaitiakitanga over this Wāhi Taonga. The archaeologists and cultural monitor Cherie Williams have uncovered evidence of cooking and tool manufacture areas near the entrance to Te Ana o Hineraki/Moa Bone Point Cave.

Clara Watson, also of Underground Overground, reports that works to reopen Sumner Road, between Lyttelton and Sumner, have revealed a culvert comprised of dry laid red scoria blocks beneath the modern roadway. Further research is required to determine the date of construction but the drain likely relates to the construction of the original Sumner Road, opened in 1857. Jamie Hearfield has recorded a number of buildings, including one that was originally a grocery store in Rangiora. The interior was completely modern, but when it was stripped back the original archway which lead to the rear of the premises was revealed. Kirsia Webb has monitored excavations at the Lyell historic reserve.

Nationwide



An excavated oven at the Rae Kura/Redcliffs Flat site (Tristan Wadsworth).



A partially articulated sea mammal flipper at the Rae Kura/Redcliffs Flat site (Tristan Wadsworth).

Nationwide

The Rangiora grocery building after modern material had been stripped (Jamie Hearfield).



Wellington & Lower North Island

Kevin Jones has been busy, and reports that archaeological assessments in the Manawatu have probably doubled the numbers of eel channels recorded there. The latest is near Whirokino south of the Manawatu River. Kevin is also busy monitoring for the sand borrow for the Manawatu bridges. Several pits lined with vertical boards have been found within the dunelands. Sites S24/86 and 88 on Archsite are examples.

Victoria Grouden has been working on a number of recent assessments, including a development in Fitzherbert Street Petone, which is the site of the old 1888 Ulster Lodge Masonic Hall (demolished some years ago), an historic 1870s cottage, known as 'The Wigwam' located above Melling Station along Western Hutt Road, and an 1880s villa in Tasman Street, Mt. Cook. Site work nears completion at the former Quinn's Post Hotel site in Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt and is complete at the former Island Bay Hotel in Trent Street, Island Bay.

Nationwide



Pit lined with vertical wooden boards found by Kevin Jones in the sand borrow area for the Manawatu Bridges (Kevin Jones).



The 'Wigwam' on Western Hutt Road (Victoria Grouden).

Waikato & Bay of Plenty

Dave Wilton is investigating Cook's travels in the Firth of Thames/Waihou River area in November 1769, as input to local commemoration of the 250th anniversary next year. Input and advice from Caroline Phillips is proving to be of great assistance.

There are three main locations within the area of interest: where the *Endeavour* anchored for about three days in the Firth of Thames, the pa site visited by Cook and a party traveling in two small ship's boats up the Waihou, and the site of a large kahikatea, measured by Cook, close to the river bank. The latter is a site of at least national significance, as Cook's measurement of this tree, and report of vast timber resources in the area, was the catalyst for the prolific ships' spar and kauri timber trades which sprung up after his return to England.

The location of the anchorage has been identified to within about one nautical mile, with the assistance of modern geospatial technology and the data provided by Cook's journal and chart of the area. The pa site was identified as Oruarangi, to a high level of confidence, by previous archaeological work, particularly that of Best and Phillips.

The site of the measured kahikatea is proving more of a worthy challenge, as there is a conflict between data from Cook's chart and journal. Local historical sources are being investigated, including accounts that the tree was marked by the crew, and its eventual felling was recorded, circa 1900. One historical thread has led to a depression in the ground which is reputed to be the where the stump actually was. This will be investigated, as time and resources permit.

Auckland & Northland

Charlotte Judge of Clough & Associates reports that archaeological monitoring and investigation works at the former Downtown Shopping Centre site in Auckland's CBD have been recently completed. The property is located in what was formerly Horotiu Bay (Commercial Bay) which was reclaimed during the 1870s. The works uncovered archaeological remains including remnants of the Customs Street seawall, wooden piles and a stone abutment from the 1860s Queen Street wharf and deep brick, stone and concrete building foundations relating to the 1870s-1880s commercial development of the newly reclaimed land.



Brick arch foundations at the Downtown Shopping Centre site in Auckland (Charlotte Judge).

The *North-West News* reported that the 1865 wreck of the schooner *Daring* was exposed at Muriwai Beach in West Auckland. The beach is within the New Zealand Defence Force Kaipara Air Weapons Range, which did not stop fossickers removing some parts from the wreck.

New Zealand Overseas Projects

A team of archaeologists and bioarchaeologists, mostly 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. During July and August the project was based in Malaysia, where remains were disinterred from cemeteries at Terendak military camp, Taiping and Cheras Road in Kuala Lumpur, plus one individual from Singapore. The remains were returned to New Zealand on August 21st, and handed over to their respective families.



Members of the New Zealand disinterment team at Terendak Military Cemetery, Malaysia (Photo: Defence Public Affairs).