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Fieldwork and Other Activities

Otago & Southland

In Otago Peter Mitchell (The Archaeology Collective) has been monitoring stage two of water mains renewal in South Hill, Oamaru. Thus far a 150 by 150mm timber box drain located at 1.2m under fill below the intersection of Test and Upper Ure Streets has been the only archaeology encountered.

Peter Petchey and Jitlada Innanchai carried out a small excavation at Cambrians in Central Otago, and exposed the stone foundations of a goldfields-era mudbrick cottage. The owners, Hallie Buckley and David Smith, have already restored the corrugated iron front section of the cottage, but little of the mudbrick rear section still stood.



The stone foundations for the rear part of an old mudbrick cottage at Cambrians in Central Otago.

In August Matt Schmidt (Heritage NZ) and volunteers from the Otago University Anthropology Society continued the excavation of the old fernery at Larnach Castle on the Otago Peninsula. This was probably built in the late 1920s by the Purdie family, but had fallen into decay by the mid twentieth century. The excavation uncovered the stone walls, a central stone structure with a small pond, and an encircling path made from a sandy lime mortar.

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The entrance to the fernery at Larnach castle (Matt Schmidt).



The fernery at Larnach Castle after excavation (Matt Schmidt).

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In November members of the Otago University Anthropology Society assisted at an excavation and survey conducted on Shanahan's Cottage in Arrowtown, led by Ben Teele from Origin Consultants. See the report on OUAS activities in this issue of *AINZ*.

Canterbury & West Coast

In November NZAA and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga jointly hosted a seminar in Christchurch. Frank van der Hiejden (Senior Archaeologist, Canterbury/West Coast) spoke about the Maclean's Mansion Environment Court decision, why Heritage New Zealand declined the authority application and the implications of the decision. The event was well attended by local archaeologists and NZAA members and provided a useful test case for how similar events can be held around the country. Keep an eye out for announcements about upcoming seminars near you, and get in touch with an NZAA Council member if you have suggestions for topics or would like to help organise an event.



Frank van der Hiejden speaking about the Maclean's Mansion Environment Court decision at the recent seminar in Christchurch (Katharine Watson).

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In Canterbury Clara Watson reports that work continues at the Redcliffs Flat and has revealed a dense cooking area with multiple intercutting ovens. Angel Trendafilov and Maria Lillo Benabeu excavated a site of nineteenth century occupation in Akaroa, recovering a large amount of material that had been deposited in an old creek bed. While analysis is yet to take place, it is likely that this material came from multiple properties along the street. Clara Watson has been analysing a large artefact assemblage, containing over 130 complete bottles, from an inner city site. The artefacts came from an old gully that ran through the CBD, sections of which have been excavated previously.



Perfume bottle and china figurine found in Akaroa (Clara Watson).

Maria Lillo Bernabeu, along with Kat Watson from the Christchurch Archaeology Project, ran an exhibition for Beca Heritage Week, examining nineteenth century Christchurch women who ‘broke the rules’ by not conforming to the ideals of society. Images from the exhibition can be viewed on instagram [@womenbreakingtherules](https://www.instagram.com/womenbreakingtherules)



'Breaking the Rules' exhibition in Christchurch.

Wellington & Lower North Island

Kevin Jones notes that monitoring is tailing off at the Oturoa Road borrow area for the Manawatu bridges. Further news from Kevin is in the overseas section below.

Victoria Grouden has been working on several recent assessments, including an interesting area in Bond Street, central Wellington that was part of the early 1850s, commercial development in the central city and home to Edwin Crease's 'Canton Tea Mart' for a number of decades. Other assessments include St Oran's College, High Street, Lower Hutt, which was part of 'White Villa Farm' from the late 1850s. Site work continues at the former Erskine College, Island Bay. Seismic strengthening work will commence shortly at St John's in the City Church, Willis Street.



St. John's in the City Church (Victoria Grouden).

Andy Dodd of Subsurface Ltd has monitored earthworks for property development affecting part of the Waiwhero garden system (S28/95) near Cape Palliser (authority 2018-182). The section was heavily modified by works for a fish factory in 1977, but below surface archaeological remains of a stone alignment were able to be documented and sampled. Other monitoring work carried out by Andy Dodd and Kate Lilley includes the Te Ara Piko walkway works along the north side of the Pauatahanui inlet (authority 2018-550), and tree felling works along the 1885 military road behind Shelly Bay, Miramar Peninsula (authority 2018-411). Both projects are now nearing completion. Assessment work carried out by Subsurface has included a survey and assessment of Tapu te Ranga Island off Wellington's south coast. Tapu te Ranga was the island fortress of Ngati Ira that was captured by combined Ngati Toa and Ngati Mutunga forces in 1827. While much of the island is covered in low lying karo, stone alignments on the north side of the island were observed that are consistent with the historic descriptions of a 'stone walled pa.' The survey was carried out for the purpose of obtaining an archaeological authority for vegetation management and erection of pou whenua in a joint project between Wellington City Council and Ngati Toa. Working with Eleanor Sturrock (Heritage NZ), Andy

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also carried out an inspection of the wreckage of what is believed to be a lighter or small barge at Ongare Point, Tauranga Harbour (U13/1624). The inspection was commissioned by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Other recent archaeological assessments undertaken by Subsurface Ltd include those for Nott House at Glenside (R27/491), Pain & Kershaw's general store at Martinborough (S27/56), and the Days Bay wharf (R27/497).



Wreck at Ongare Point (U13/1624) (Andy Dodd).

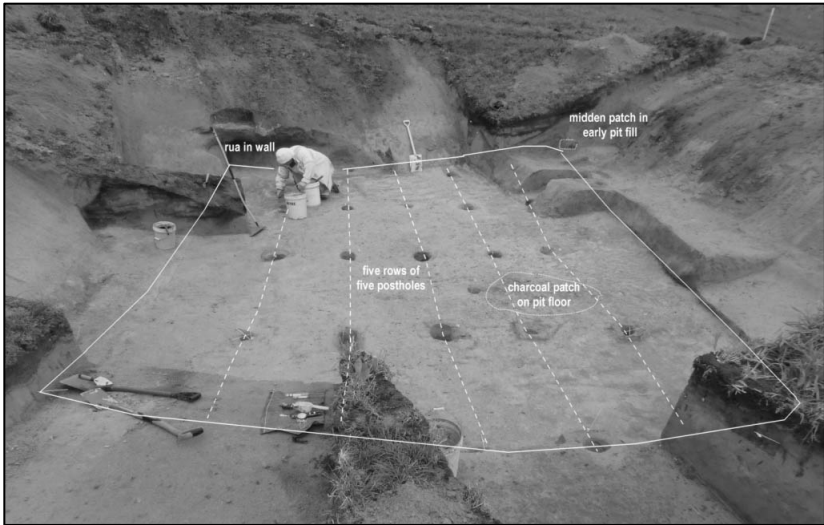
Waikato & Bay of Plenty

Warren Gumbley reports that Matt Gainsford and Mana Laumea have been investigating horticultural sites at Cambridge and are currently investigating parts of the Te Nihinihi Mission site at Raglan. The mission operated on the site from 1839.

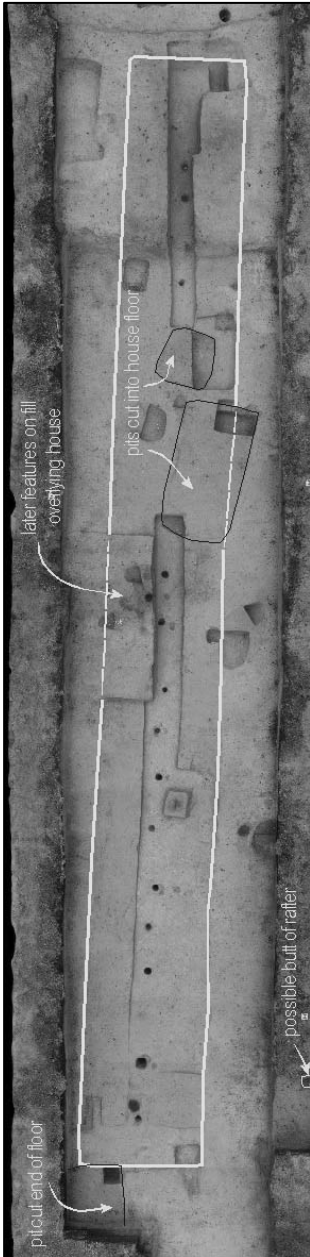
Caroline Phillips and her team, consisting of Ben Thorne (assistant director and total station recorder), Jennifer Lane (field recorder), Brent Druskovich, Craig Reidy, Rose Young, Alex Queenin and Helen Heath (field archaeologists), undertook an excavation on Allport Road, Paengaroa in the Bay of Plenty. They investigated 7 sites and found 43 storage pits, 10 bin pits, 12 hangi, 83 postholes, 3 gardens and several other features, including hangi and middens. Two of the gardens were extremely large being located on natural terraces, extending 5 ha and over 25 ha. One of the storage pits was

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very large, measuring 7.3 x 5.9 m, and possibly 1.5 m deep. Unfortunately the upper parts of the walls were damaged, but the floor was intact. A more unusual feature was a long house measuring 19.35 x 2.1 m and was dug approximately 0.4 m into the ground, with an A-frame roof that extended to the ground on either side.



Large pit at the Allport Road site, showing lines of postholes, patch of charcoal on the floor and midden in fill (Caroline Phillips).



Long house showing the central row of posts, possible butt of rafter and other later intercutting and overlying features, with white line indicating edge of house (dashed where it was unexcavated) (Caroline Phillips).

New Zealand Overseas Projects

Kevin Jones attended the ICOMOS Pasifika workshop and conference in Levuka and Suva, Fiji, and delivered a paper on World Heritage in the Pacific. Kevin visited Sigatoka River and Rewa delta sites and was delighted to visit the 'square ring ditch' fortification at Navuso near Nausori on the Rewa River that featured in his 1994 aerial photo book. The photo came from a 1944 survey carried out by NZ Aerial Mapping. It is Nanqali Traditional Village and is being developed as a tourist attraction.



***Above:** Naqali ring ditch fortification at Navuso, Rewa River, inner defensive line. **Below:** Tavuni hill fort, Sigatoka River, main line of defence.*

