



NEW ZEALAND
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NOTES AND NEWS

CONFERENCES

NZAA Conference 1993

Next year's conference will be held at Kaikoura and is being organised by Canterbury Museum staff. It will probably be a five-day conference during May - further details will be provided in due course.

ASHA Conference 1992

The twelfth annual ASHA Conference will be held during 9-11 November 1992 in Sydney. The conference is titled 'Questions of Context: Documentary Sources and the Archaeology of Historical Australia', and will focus on the potential archaeology has to seek out biases and omissions in the historical record. Enquiries and offers of papers to: ASHA Conference Conveners, Box 220 Holme Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, or Fax +61 2 6924889.

AGMANZ Conference 1992

The Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand is holding a conference during 21-25 September at Southland Museum. For details contact Russell Beck c/o Southland Museum, PO Box 1012 Invercargill.

FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Several NZAA members around the country have kindly agreed to contribute information to Notes and News on a regular basis. Many of these are Department of Conservation staff and the areas referred to broadly follow conservancy boundaries. If anyone else has information they feel would be of interest to *A/INZ* readers, I would be glad to hear from them.

Northland

Winter months in the north have been largely deskbound apart from brief sorties between rainstorms to inspect site erosion and proposed developments, and to undertake a few monitoring exercises.

Monitoring of a cable trench at Te Waimate in the Bay of Islands produced some interesting results. Two sections of a ditch were revealed that could date to 1845 when the mission station was occupied by British troops. Although there are records of fortifications constructed at this time their exact location was previously unknown - missionary journals tended to dwell more on the

behaviour of the soldiers.

Plans are now under way for conservation of the old courthouse on Mangonui waterfront and celebrations to mark the building's centennial are to be held at Labour Weekend. These will include a mock court, a costume ball and boat trips across the harbour entrance to the old Butler homestead and museum. We can highly recommend accommodation at the hotel or the 'Old Oaks', both of which overlook the harbour and are part of the township's historic precinct. Other plans for the immediate future include steps to control erosion on pa sites administered by DOC in the Far North and the Bay of Islands.

Proposed developments in both of these areas and also at Pouto and Whangerei have been inspected recently for archaeological evidence. In several cases closer co-operation from council planners has been noticeable since the advent of the Resource Management Act. DOC staff are currently involved in a survey of Maori land adjacent to Taratara Mountain at the request of the trustees. This should prove complementary to work already undertaken on nearby areas of the DOC estate.

A final report on dune sites of the Far North is presently being produced by Adrienne Slocombe; reports on surveys in the southeastern Bay of Islands have been received from Wayne England and Stuart Bedford; and a preliminary report by Mike Elliot on the first stage of palynological studies related to early occupation in Northland indicates that his doctoral thesis should make a significant contribution to knowledge of Northland's prehistory. Indeed there is a growing awareness of the high potential of the region for multi-disciplinary studies related to early ecology and culture. Even a few of DOC's naturalists are showing interest.

But potentially the most valuable development in recent months has been the creation of a Kotahitanga for Tai Tokerau to comprise representatives from all iwi authorities. They will provide an interface for consultation between councils, government departments and tangata whenua on all aspects of resource management. Hopefully this will set a precedent for the rest of New Zealand.

Joan Maingay, DOC

Auckland

The DOC investigation of the North Head tunnels has yet to begin. We are still awaiting some files from the Defence Department. The first step in the investigation will involve gas analysis equipment designed for use on polluted sites to trace the source of the strange smells held by some to be decaying ammunition. Magnetometer, ground radar and seismic survey techniques will all be experimented with in the attempt to locate unrecorded tunnels and features. Dave Veart is in charge of the project, which has generated enormous interest on the North Shore, and has had his hands full with interviews, public meetings and the odd crank phone call.

Sarah Macready, Brenda Sewell, Russell Foster and Cathy Barr completed the field survey of the alternative routes for State Highway 1 between Albany

and Puhoi. The only recorded site in the vicinity was the pa in the Alice Eaves Bush Scenic Reserve (R10/20), which should not be affected. Few new sites were recorded, the main area of interest being a concentration of midden sites on the peninsula between the two arms of the Orewa River (recorded as R10/730-736). The preliminary report is included in the 'SHI Realignment: Albany to Hatfields Beach. Draft Environmental Impact Assessment', July 1992.

Sarah Macready and Brenda Sewell also did a brief survey of the Pokeno bypass and Mangatawhiri Bridge realignment routes. The Queen's Redoubt is once more at risk, though some slight rerouting is being considered to avoid it. The site of a Maori flourmill (later a European flaxmill) was located southeast of the Redoubt (S12/214) with the help of Wynne Spring-Rice, who visited the site in the 1970s with Maurice Lennard, when some of the structure was still visible (Lennard, *The Road to War*, 1986: 22). This will be affected by the bypass.

While in the Pokeno-Mercer area we took the opportunity to visit some of the redoubt sites, and were horrified to discover that Buckingham Redoubt (recorded in Lennard 1986) has been completely destroyed by NZ Railways within the last year, during what appears to be a tidying-up operation. Unfortunately it seems that the redoubt was never recorded as an archaeological site.

Dave Veart and Leigh Johnson carried out a brief survey on Waiheke Island in response to proposals for a subdivision near Church Bay and a residence on Hakaimango Point.

Brenda Sewell (on behalf of the Historic Places Trust) and Amanda Young (University of Auckland), with student volunteers, excavated part of a settlement site at the mouth of the Wairoa River near Clevedon during August. The settlement was adjacent to a pa site and separated from it by a ditch, part of which was excavated. The ditch proved to be much more substantial than expected, exceeding 1.7 m in depth.

Sarah Macready, DOC

Waikato/Coromandel

Barbara Proctor is presently undertaking an archaeological site survey in the Te Hoe area, as part of her course work for the University of Auckland Anthropology Department. Taniwha pa, one of the notable sites in the immediate area, was excavated by Law and Green (1972).

Warren Gumbley, having finished his time on the Te Awamutu Redoubt project, is currently undertaking some voluntary site recording on one of the headlands on the southeastern side of Kawhia Harbour.

Neville Ritchie has commenced a DOC project to produce an 'Archaeological Research and Management Strategy for the Waikato Conservancy' (i.e. the Waikato-Coromandel area). A spin-off from this work is the production of a substantial bibliography of archaeological, historical, and related literature pertaining to the area within the Conservancy. Once completed, copies of the bibliography will be available at cost from the compiler.

Neville Ritchie, DOC

Bay of Plenty

During the last few months there has been an increase in the number of enquiries from surveyors and landowners in the Tauranga area regarding archaeological site protection. Some of these enquiries are resulting in the lodging of applications to modify to the NZ Historic Places Trust. The increase is the result of greater awareness of heritage issues among surveyors and District Council staff. It is also caused by the increasing number of farms which are being subdivided to create rural residential lots.

There are also two major traffic bypass routes being planned in the Tauranga area, at Te Puke and Bethlehem. Both routes will necessitate archaeological investigations and monitoring.

The public interpretation project within the Waorongomai Valley at Te Aroha is making good progress. A booklet on the history of the goldfield has recently been revised and reprinted by the Department of Conservation and a series of 15 interpretation panels will be erected in the Valley within the next month.

The Bay of Plenty District Committee of the NZ Historic Places Trust is arranging for a blessing and unveiling of interpretation panels at the Lake Tarawera Rock Art site on Saturday 19 September.

The Committee recently made a contribution of \$1,000 towards the archaeological project on Matakana Island. Further fieldwork on the island is planned by the University of Auckland to take place during August.

Lynda Bowers, DOC

East Coast/Hawkes Bay

Discussions with Gisborne District Council have been taking place to encourage greater recognition of historic resources in the statutory planning process. The response was good and agreement was reached that resource consent applications which entail land disturbance will come to DOC for assessment of the impact on archaeological sites. On DOC's recommendation, Gisborne District Council will then include an archaeological survey as a requirement of the resource consent.

We hope to negotiate something similar with other councils.

Pam Bain, DOC

Wanganui

Roger Fyfe, who contributed a great deal to Taranaki archaeology, has shifted to the Canterbury Museum. Roger came to the Taranaki Museum in 1979 at the time of the 'Think Big' industrial development in the Waitara area and was deeply involved in the archaeological exploration of the proposed industrial sites in the early 1980s.

He will be succeeded by Kelvin Day, who was also involved in the site surveys of the Gas sites. Kelvin later did a detailed survey of the Waitotara River sites, recording many spectacular pa at the upper reaches of the valley.

The past year has been marked by the recording of prehistoric and historic

sites around the Waitara area. Hip Fenton, who has local hapu connections, has used early survey maps to locate several kainga of the 1850s Puketapu Feud era, and also worked steadily up the Waitara Valley locating many previously unrecorded sites.

We have also been involved in reporting on sites for the District Council under the Resource Management Act. One recent request also involved DOC archaeologists from Wellington, the proposed development being close to a recorded Maori historic site. The processes of the RMA ensure that there is more input into proposed development than in the past. Unfortunately the despoliation of two prehistoric pa in South Taranaki was not prevented and had to be reported to the NZ Historic Places Trust. Whilst local bodies are now aware of their responsibilities, many private owners ignore the provisions of the Historic Places Act. The appointment of a Wanganui DOC regional archaeologist is long overdue.

Alastair Buist

Nelson/Marlborough

Sadly, Nevil Matthews, longtime member of the Association and filekeeper for Marlborough, died recently. Although Nevil was not as active in NZAA affairs in recent years, he played a leading role in organising the memorable 1974 conference in Blenheim and had an unparalleled knowledge of Marlborough history and archaeological sites which will be sorely missed. (See Obituary, below.)

Megan Huffadine has resigned as Nelson filekeeper to give more time to her other commitments as mother, artist and polytech tutor. The new filekeeper is Steve Bagley and the file is now held at the DOC Conservancy office in Nelson.

DOC have recently completed conservation of the Belgrove Railway Windmill (NZ Historic Places Trust A classification) and an 1864 Ransomes and Sims stationary steam engine used to power a mining company sawmill at Mammoth Flat near Murchison. Steve Bagley carried out a small archaeological excavation around the base of the engine prior to the erection of a shelter.

Steve also surveyed an area proposed for subdivision at Little Kaiteiteri. One previously recorded area of midden with ovenstones will be partly disturbed by roading and an application for an Authority to Modify has been made by the developers.

Martin Hall, architect with Synaxon, has received an excavation permit to define the old kitchen foundations at Altmarlock homestead in the Awatere Valley and will carry out the work in early September.

Steve Bagley, DOC

West Coast

Ray Hooker went on an interesting fieldtrip recently, flying 60 km up the Arawhata River in South Westland to Arawhata Bill's (William O'Leary) rock shelter in the 10 Hour Gorge. The shelter was a neat, dry area 11 by 4 m in

size with terraced benches formed by a huge schist boulder perched on the side of the gorge. This was probably the prospector/explorer's base camp, as the 10 Hour Gorge prevented him taking packhorses any further. The overhanging roof is almost horizontal. It was difficult to find, being some 200 m up the gorge and 20 m above the river, just above flood level and screened by scrub.

Otherwise, Ray had been kept busy processing a number of Authority applications. A contract for the Macraes Globe Hill archaeology project may soon be forthcoming.

The Historic Places Bill has been before the Select Committee for an officials briefing, but there is no news yet regarding hearings.

Ray Hooker, DOC

Canterbury

A site survey of Waimakariri District Council land which includes the well-known Hohouponamu site – near Kaiapohia pa – was carried out by Roger Fyfe and myself, prior to tree planting. Several small middens were found, which will be monitored during any future disturbance.

A photogrammetric survey of the Panau site complex was carried out with a local firm – with the aim of producing a plan showing the location of the extensive garden lines and other features in relation to the pa and beach-front occupation. Although we waited a month for a cloudless morning, after the control points were fixed, an excellent result was obtained from the aerial photography, showing that the garden lines are much more extensive than was previously thought.

Chris Jacomb, Canterbury Museum

Otago

Archaeology continues in the deep south, despite one of the coldest winters for many years. Jill Hamel has excavated a contact period midden at Pukekura pa on Taiaroa Head which was threatened by extensions to the Albatross Colony Visitors Centre. Analysis of this material will provide interesting comparisons with the Classic Maori deposits at the same site excavated by Jill and Helen Leach in 1972. Jill has also recently completed a report for the Department of Conservation on 'Historic and Archaeological Values of the Golden Point Mine at Macraes Flat.

Atholl Anderson and a group of four students recently braved subzero temperatures to survey the banks of the Clutha River between Beaumont and Tuapeka Mouth. This area would be affected by one of the hydro dam proposals currently under consideration by Electricorp. The sites located all relate to European mining activity.

Ian Smith, University of Otago

OBITUARY: NEVIL MATTHEWS, MARLBOROUGH FILEKEEPER

It was a very hot day more than 20 years ago. Nevil had invited us up to examine some of the archaeological sites he had been locating in Marlborough. In the middle of the afternoon he finally suggested that if we climbed up a steep bluff we might be able to 'get a good look at the area generally'.

The way up was via the course of a dry waterfall – a difficult scramble made harder by the heat, our surplus clothing and packs, and our usual contingent of dogs, which had to be carried most of the way. When eventually we hauled ourselves over the top and collapsed, gasping and speechless, we were greeted by a spectacular view – of which the largest part was quite featureless.

But Nevil was undaunted. Gazing admiringly down the unlikely route up which we had come, a positively beatific smile spread over his face.

'Some people', he announced with complete satisfaction, 'Some people, you know, go *all* their lives and *never ever* do a dumb thing like this!'

The years have passed, but I have always remembered that day. For me it summarises all that was the best of my friend Nevil Matthews. Always full of optimism and always getting a full measure of enjoyment out of just 'doing things', no matter what the end result. Nevil really lived his life and whatever he did, he brought to it an infectious enthusiasm that made working with him always something of an adventure.

Most NZAA members will be aware that Nevil was Marlborough filekeeper for many years until his death. They may not, however, be aware just how much he contributed to New Zealand archaeology in other respects. Not only was he actively involved in site recording and participated in site surveys himself, but he greatly facilitated the extensive work done by Michael Trotter in the Marlborough Sounds during the 1970s – actually initiating the whole thing by liaising with the Maritime Park Board; supplying back-up services for fieldwork; organising flights for aerial photography; arranging boat transport and accommodation; and, along with his wife Pru, being at all times a generous and hospitable host. And he was without peer as a source of information on sites in the Marlborough region.

He also organised the local end of a very successful NZAA conference held at Blenheim in 1974, and through both NZAA and the NZ Historic Places Trust fought strenuously to ensure site protection.

News of his illness came as a shock. Only at the end of last year he and Pru were assisting me with my research into moa nesting in the Lake Grassmere area and arranging to go and look at localities where he had located eggshell – as well as visit some new archaeological sites on the Wairau lagoons, and some historic lime kilns at Taylor Pass.

Nevil's death is a great sadness to his friends in Canterbury – to all of us who so greatly enjoyed doing so many 'dumb things' with him over so many years.

Visits to Marlborough will never be the same again.

Beverley McCulloch