



NEW ZEALAND
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NOTES AND NEWS

CONFERENCES

NZAA Conference 1993

The conference will be held in Kaikoura from 24 to 28 May 1993. Information on accommodation is given on a separate sheet included with this issue. You are advised to book several months in advance.

Conservation of Ancient Sites on the Silk Road, 1993

The Getty Conservation Institute, in cooperation with the State Bureau of Cultural Relics of the Peoples's Republic of China, will hold a conference at the World Heritage Site of the Mogao Grottoes at Duanhang, Gansu Province, China, on 'Conservation of Ancient Sites on the Silk Road' from 3 to 8 October 1993.

The conference is being organised to exchange ideas, experiences, methods, techniques, and research findings on the conservation and management of grotto sites – particularly Buddhist sites along the Silk Road. The carved rock grotto caves of India, China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia share important historical and cultural traditions.

The art history of the Mogao Grottoes encompasses 1,000 years of Chinese culture, technology and trade along the Silk Road. The information is embodied in the 45,000 m² of wall paintings and 2,000 sculptures in nearly 500 grottoes.

The themes of the conference are: Conservation Principles and Practices; Site Management; Environmental and Analytical Studies; and Geotechnical Aspects of Conservation of Sites. Participation is encouraged both from those professionals directly engaged in grotto site conservation and management, and those whose experience with other classes of cultural sites may bring new approaches and insights to the objectives of the conference.

Space is limited and those interested should respond promptly to: Neville Agnew, The Getty Conservation Institute, 4503 Glencoe Avenue, Marine del Rey, California 90292, USA.

SHA Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology 1993

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the 24th Annual Meeting of the Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology will be held in Kansas City from 6 to 10 January 1993. The Society and the Conference provide exhibit space for publications relevant to historical and underwater archaeology. Those with material for display or sale should contact: Dr William B. Lees, SHA '93 Bookroom, Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612-1291, USA.

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

A delightful weekend celebration was held recently in the historic township of Mangonui to mark the centennial of its old courthouse – the only classified historic building in Northland administered by DOC. The official party at the opening included members of parliament, the district's mayor, the deputy chairperson of the HPT, and two DOC archaeologists who made an unprecedented effort at elegance by wearing high-heeled shoes and consequently were crippled by the end of the first day. But full compensation was provided in the impressive powhiri given by Ngati Kahu, their very moving waiata, an excellent concert by local schoolchildren, an entertaining satire on early New Zealand justice held in the courthouse itself, and other events which culminated in energetic old-time dancing in the evening.

Events with a more archaeological flavour have also occurred in recent months. Excavation of a pool complex at Waitangi Hotel inadvertently disturbed subsurface evidence which was only recognised because DOC was holding a finance meeting at the hotel. The work was subsequently monitored by DOC archaeologists, who recorded an occupation layer containing midden, hangi and postholes. The site obviously extended well beyond the disturbed area and appeared to be a relatively large Maori settlement near the water's edge.

Steps are being taken towards the conservation of several important pa on land administered by the Conservancy. There have been positive responses from consultations with iwi regarding the Taumatawhana archaeological complex in the Far North, Rangikapiti pa at the entrance to Mangonui Harbour and Ruapekapeka pa, the site of the last battle in the Bay of Islands region. In the case of Ruapekapeka a committee has been set up consisting of descendants of those involved in the battle and a representative from DOC. Their objective is to formulate proposals for the conservation and interpretation of the site. This is a positive move after many years of inaction and occasional misunderstandings between various groups.

Nicholas Twohill has recently visited us and has bravely begun the daunting task of analysing material from an archaic site at Tauroa Point to the south of Ahipara. We thoroughly appreciate his efforts and could keep another six people occupied for several months. Recently received radiocarbon dates from the site indicate that it was occupied intermittently between the late 13th and the 17th centuries.

James Robinson has produced a report on a brief test excavation at Okiato, the first seat of government in New Zealand. There are no visible surface features on the site – consequently this grassed promontory, almost

surrounded by a housing subdivision, is of little current interest to visitors. The discovery of a trench, postholes and varied artefacts in the small excavation area suggest that further investigations would be justified to aid management and interpretation of the site.

Other recent work has included inspections of proposed road realignments in the Brynderwyns for Works Consultancy and a variety of small surveys associated with development proposals in the Whangerei and Far North districts. Subdivision of coastal land in particular is continuing at a somewhat alarming pace as farmers find that they cannot meet increases in rate demands.

Finally, the foundation of a kotahitanga in Northland is already bearing fruit from consultations between Ngati Wai, Whangerei District Council and DOC. Group site inspections of both Crown and private land and subsequent discussions are leading to a greater understanding of the perspectives of these different organisations.

Joan Maingay, DOC

Auckland

Events at North Head are proceeding at a steady pace. Gas chromatography tests to identify the smells emanating from some of the tunnels have been completed and the results are awaited. Testing was undertaken in response to public concern that decaying ammunition might still be stored in forgotten tunnels. Gasses were detected, but when the testholes were drilled the tunnel walls were found to be waterproofed with coal tar, which contains some of the volatile hydrocarbons present in ammunition. The consultants are currently trying to establish whether the smells derive from the coal tar or another source.

Concrete samples have also been taken for diffractational analysis to determine the age of some of the structures.

The Conservancy has published an interim research report by Jeremy Treadwell entitled 'North Head Investigation, 1992'. This collates the results of archival research into the official records relating to the various structures and provides a chronology of events.

Brenda Sewell has recently returned from two weeks on Great Barrier Island, where she has been compiling an inventory of sites of historic interest (post 1800). These include houses, camps, shelters, bridges, tracks, tramlines, mines, wharves, shipbuilding yards, shipwrecks, gardens, graves, wells, kauri dams and related logging sites.

The SH1 realignment between Albany and Puhoi is still very much under discussion, with three new route options proposed for the Orewa-Puhoi section. Sarah Macready and Leigh Johnson surveyed these in late October. The new routes are to the east of previous proposals, crossing the Waiwera River close to the oxidation ponds and wildlife reserve, and the area proved to be relatively rich in archaeological sites. Eleven new sites were recorded (R10/741-751), including an open settlement on a hill in the estuary (R10/741).

Robert Brassey and Leigh Johnson have been involved in a three week survey of the DOC estate in the Auckland North area, as part of ongoing

archaeological inventory of the DOC estate.

Robert Brassey has also been working on a conservation plan for Mansion House Valley, Kawau. The project involves historic research into the European occupation of the valley during the 1840s-1850s mining venture, and it is hoped that a resistivity survey of the valley will be carried out by Auckland University students in the near future.

A number of surveys relating to development proposals have been carried out. These include two surveys by Russell Foster: a proposed golf course and polo resort/hotel (336 luxury bedrooms!) at Beachlands, and a residential site at Kellyville, where a ridge pa was recorded.

Sarah Macready, DOC

Bay of Plenty

Over the last two months a project has been completed within the Bay of Plenty Conservancy to produce an assessment of the historic resource management requirements for all the known historic places on protected lands in the area.

Approximately 800 land blocks are administered by either the Department of Conservation or local authorities within the Bay of Plenty. The total number of recorded archaeological sites on public land is 552 (approximately 7% of the total resource). The results of the assessment will be used to develop priorities for historic site recording and conservation projects within the Conservancy.

A report on shipwrecks within the Bay of Plenty between 1840 and 1900 has been completed. The report will be used to assist DOC staff in Tauranga and Whakatane in dealing with coastal planning and harbour development issues.

The protective fence barriers at the Kaingaroa and Lake Tarawera Rock Art sites have been altered and upgraded as part of ongoing conservation projects at these sites.

An inventory project within the northern Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park recently commenced and will continue through to mid December with the aim of recording gold mining and logging sites and of producing management recommendations for the conservation and public interpretation of suitable sites.

Lynda Bowers, DOC

East Coast/Hawkes Bay

Pam Bain has been involved in various activities, including ongoing input into a range of statutory planning issues. DOC East Coast has presented a proposal to DOSLI for the pa site Hungahungatoroa, in what was State Forest land, to become Crown property. This site is on the edge of Pukeamaru Reserve and was the site of the last Hauhau battle on the East Coast in 1865.

A historic covenant under the Reserves Act of an area of land at Manutuke called Opou has been completed. This is an important site, although little is visible. It encompasses part of the pa Orakaiapu. Rongowhakaata tradition states that it was from Orakaiapu that Rongowhakaata marched to Gisborne to

try to capture Cook's *Endeavour* in 1769. This block was also one of the earliest pastoral farmlands, leased in 1832. The block also contained the pa Tapatahi.

Structural repairs to the historic Manganuku Bridge in Waioeka Gorge have now been completed.

And finally, Pam has been lecturing Museum Studies students on the 'Role of the Regional Archaeologist'.

Pam Bain, DOC

Wanganui

There has been little archaeological activity in Taranaki during the recent inclement weather. A mini-hui was held at Owhae Marae in Waitara between members of the HPT from Wellington and Te Roopu Te Atiawa Rohe Development Trust. Regional and District Council representatives also spoke. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the position of the Trust and the two Councils under the provisions of the Resource Management Act, relating particularly to the proposed quarrying near a local traditional Maori site and urupa. Te Atiawa took the opportunity to explain their present research into pa, traditional and wahi tapu sites in their iwi area. They employ two full-time researchers and have already accumulated a considerable amount of information. The NZAA has contributed to this by providing information on some 200 recorded sites in the area. This took them somewhat by surprise. The increasing awareness of and interest in historic and prehistoric sites is a welcome spin-off from the Waitangi Tribunal hearings.

The final outcome of the quarrying application was that the application was approved subject to supervision by local archaeologists during the removal of overburden. Should this reveal, in perhaps five years time when the disputed area is encroached on, any evidence of the now obliterated historic pa site, it will be necessary for the quarrying company to apply to the Trust for permission to continue.

Alastair Buist

Wellington

In late November the Wellington Archaeology Section of the Royal Society took a field trip out to Mana Island as the culminating meeting of the year. A number of early sites were visited, including early whaling stations, 1880s farm buildings and the site of Michelle Horwood's 1990 excavations of 15th and 19th century Maori occupations.

The final activity of the year for the Archaeology group will be the surveying of the St Albans church grounds and cemetery at Pauatahanui, which lies on top of Te Rangihaeata's pa Matai-Taua, constructed in 1846. The cemetery itself dates from 1857. It is hoped that this will prove to be a useful training exercise in EDM surveying equipment as well as providing a map of the oldest cemetery in the area.

Pat Stodart, Porirua Museum

West Coast

Rick McGovern-Wilson has carried out a site survey on the Macraes Mining Globe Hill project. He enjoyed perfect weather for the month he was on the Coast. Another survey for the Mt Davy coal project is in the offing. Most fieldwork over the past few months has been associated with mining – HPT authority, Resource Management Act and work programme vetting. The winter-spring weather has been marvellous (ask Rick or Bruce McFadgen) and according to Bob Lawn there's been plenty of whitebait around!

Ray Hooker, DOC

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Bain, P. 1992. Mohaka River Archaeological Survey. DOC Gisborne. 33 pp.

Report of a field survey of the Mohaka River from Kakariki to Te Hoe during September and November 1991. 35 sites were recorded with the three major areas of settlement all being associated with traditional river crossings.

Millar, D. 1992. Maori Artefacts from Waikawa, Hawkes Bay. Published by the author. 36 pp.

The 'Field Collection' of Maori artefacts from Waikawa (Portland Island) is described, illustrated and discussed.

Ritchie, N. and Gumbley, W. 1992. The 40th Regiment Redoubt Site, Te Awamutu, S15/173. Archaeological Investigations 1991. DOC, Hamilton. 296 pp.

This detailed report describes the results of a rescue excavation undertaken at the site of the new Police building at Te Awamutu. The redoubt was constructed in 1864 and was garrisoned by the Army from 1864 to 1867 and the Armed Constabulary from 1869 to 1876. The site was subsequently used by the Police and Justice Department through to the present day. A large assemblage of artefacts was recovered, with material belonging to three periods (roughly 1860s-1880s, 1880s-1910 and 1920s-1940s). Most of the artefacts associated with the redoubt occupation were found in the infilled ditch. Most of the later material was from trash pits.

Treadwell, J.L. 1992. North Head Investigation, 1992. Interim Research Report. DOC, Auckland Conservancy Historic Resource Series 5. 35 pp + 5 appendices.

A report commissioned and supervised by DOC Auckland. This report is the first stage in the ongoing efforts by DOC to investigate the old Fort at

North Head, on Auckland's North Shore. Over the years there have been suggestions that there are hidden tunnels and underground structures on North Head, and that these may contain old ammunition. The investigation is being carried out for reasons of public safety. The first stage, reported here, comprised a search of all the available documentary records. It is a working document presented as a referenced chronology with little analysis.

HECTOR MEMORIAL MEDAL

Warmest congratulations to Professor Roger Green, who has been awarded the 1992 Hector Memorial Medal and prize by the Royal Society of New Zealand for his contribution to the advancement of human sciences in New Zealand.

The Hector Memorial Fund was established in 1910 to commemorate the work of Sir James Hector, who played such a notable role in the early years of the Society. It is the Society's most prestigious prize and has been awarded annually since 1915, in rotation, for plant sciences, chemical sciences, human sciences, solid earth sciences, mathematical physical and engineering sciences, and animal sciences. Previous medallists in human sciences have included S. Percy Smith (1920), H.D. Skinner (1926), Te Rangi Hiroa (1932), H.W. Williams (1938), J.C. Anderson (1944), E. Beaglehole (1950), R.S. Duff (1956), R. Piddington (1962), and G.E. Archey (1968). The last three medals for human sciences have gone to people working in the medical field.

Janet Davidson

CORRIGENDUM

Deepest apologies to Professor Gordon G. Goles, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Oregon, for the mis-spelling of his surname as Coles in the September 1992 issue (Stonework features at Karioi, West Coast, South Island, *A/NZ* 35 (3): 177-179).

NZHPT GRANTS

At a recent meeting, the Historic Places Trust approved the following grants: Mangahoutoa Trust – Archaeological site survey, Otangaroa, Northland (\$5,500); Nicholas Twohill – Archaeological site survey, Whangapoua Coromandel (\$4,000); Peter Petchley – Survey of waterwheels in historic sites, Otago (\$4,000); Dinah Higham – Excavation of hotel sites on old coach routes, Otago (\$4,000); Matthew Campbell – Excavation of Waikouaiti whaling station sites, Otago (\$1,950); Peter Bristow – Excavation of a dugout site, Old Man Range, Otago (\$1,000).

All grants are subject to approvals being obtained under Section 44, where appropriate, and subject to reports being made to the Trust by September 1993.

Grant applications are considered in association with the following policies:

- (i) Grants of up to \$5,000 for site recording projects.
- (ii) Assistance of up to \$5,000 for the scientific archaeological investigation of sites where such investigation will benefit the hapu by providing information relating to the settlement of their area; or where such investigations will provide the Trust with details of an archaeological site type, regional variation or other information.

Applications will be considered in October each year and information should be with the Trust by September. Projects endorsed by the NZAA filekeeper may be given preference.

Anne Geelen, NZHPT

NZAA COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the NZAA Council was held in Auckland on 19 September 1992. Quite a lot of routine business was handled at this meeting. Of broader interest to members is the change of 'Newsletter' editor. Sarah Macready resigned due to work pressure and our new editor is Joan Lawrence (effective 1993). Thanks were expressed to Sarah for her outstanding effort and a warm welcome to Joan, whom we all hope will have a long and rewarding editorship.

The Marlborough file has been shifted to the custody of Canterbury Museum for the time being, following the death of Nevil Matthews.

The code of ethics/iwi consultation issue received considerable debate and some progress was made. Pam Bain and Stuart Bedford would be interested in any additional comments from members.

The Royal Society is currently under review and a new bill, based on a review committee's findings, will no doubt appear in due course. The suggested title is 'Society of Science and Technology'.

Work is progressing on the NZAA-DOC-HPT agreement with regard to the Central File. There is currently a project underway to examine the conservation requirements of the paper file. It is something of a shock to realise some of the records are nearly 40 years old.

The concerns over the revegetation of Motutapu have been heard and a review panel has been set up. The Historic Places Bill has emerged and one hearing of the select committee was held in mid October. Jim McKinlay is back from a trip overseas to represent us.

The next Council meeting is in mid February.

Have a good Christmas break, and if you're excavating may the gods smile on the weather.

Ray Hooker