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Otago University Anthropology Society 2018 A Year in Review

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Introduction

It has been an active and enjoyable year for the Otago University Anthropology Society (AnthSoc). AnthSoc has hosted over a dozen events, including workshops, archival visits, seminar evenings, and social functions, in addition to participating in numerous field trips and excavations. The following aims to describe these events and some of the highlights of the year.

In November 2017 our annual AGM was held and the 2018 executive committee was elected. Any vacant positions were filled in at the beginning of the year and the 2018 executive team was as follows: Alana Kelly (President), Bree Wooller (Secretary), Jasmine Weston (Treasurer), Emma Morris (Archaeology Representative), Katie Coplestone and Jordan Webb (Social Anthropology Representatives), Jessica Schalburg (Biological Anthropology Representative), Claire Thorrold (Undergraduate Representative), Clare de Joux and Ursula Mahoney (Postgraduate Representatives), Charles Radclyffe and Braden McLean (Events Coordinators), and Marj Blair (Staff Representative).

In mid-February, AnthSoc held a stall at the Otago University Students Association (OUSA) annual Clubs Day (Figure 1). We displayed a range of interesting artefacts, and lollies, to entice new members. Following Clubs Day we hosted our annual Welcome Event at Innocent Bystanders in the Octagon, with an admirable bar tab to ensure the year was off to a good start.



Figure 1. Emma Morris (left) and Jasmine Weston at the OUSA Clubs Day.

Excavations and Field Trips

Students in the Otago University Anthropology Society have been involved in several local excavations and field trips this year. In April, a number of AnthSoc members worked alongside students and staff from the Biological Anthropology Research Group and Anatomy Department under the guidance of Professor Hallie Buckley and Dr Peter Petchey to excavate and record a number of burials from the Lawrence and cemeteries. Attending students were able to develop and practice a large range of skills and learn more about the history of the Lawrence Township and early Otago gold rushes. Students were amazed at the results of the excavation, which can be read about further in Petchey *et al* 2018.

In June, a team of ten students undertook maintenance work on the stone house at the historic Allan's Farmstead on the Otago Peninsula. Under the direction of Dr Peter Petchey, archaeologist Carl Murray, and stone mason Stuart Griffiths, the team cleared vegetation from around the site. The work revealed extensive stone ruins including a doorway, fireplace, window, and other features. The farmstead

is one of many similar sites in the historic Hereweka/Harbour Cone area (see Figures 2 and 3).



Figure 2. OUAS group at Rutherford's Farmstead on the Otago Peninsula.

In August, a group of student volunteers from AnthSoc assisted Matt Schmidt from Heritage New Zealand on an excavation at the Larnach Castle Fernery. The Fernery was built sometime between 1927 and 1940 by the Castle's previous owners and was of a similar structure to a glasshouse. It fell into a state of disrepair sometime in the mid-20th century, along with other parts of the castle, and few knew of its existence until recently. The structure originally had stone walls and a glass roof, however, there are no surviving plans of the Fernery, causing the need for further investigation via excavation. Students helped clear out the soil from the site to reveal the edges of the interior gardens, an Australian sandstone floor, and pipework for irrigation.



Figure 2. OUAS group with stonemason Stuart Griffiths at Allan's Farmstead.

In November, three members of AnthSoc assisted at an excavation and survey conducted on Shanahan's Cottage in Arrowtown, led by Ben Teele from Origin Consultants (Figure 4). This involved clearing the site and exposing the original foundations in order to establish the original footprint of the building. The site was then recorded, with particular attention being paid to the original construction methods of the building. Work will continue at the site to restore and stabilise the historic cottage.

The Otago University Anthropology Society would like to thank those in the Otago archaeological community who have provided us with these surveying and excavating opportunities.



Figure 4. Excavation at Shanahan's Cottage, Arrowtown.

Archival and Historical Visits

A number of students visited the Otago Pioneer Women's Memorial Building in April. The OPWMB is a historical art-deco structure and is an important part of feminist history in Dunedin. Established in 1942, the OPWMB served as a safe space for women, providing an area which could be used by women for educational, recreational, social, or otherwise community purposes. Most significantly it provided women with access to a bathroom. The building serves as a memorial to Dunedin's pioneering mothers and continues to have a range of facilities available for women and children. The former resident historian Rachael Francis kindly showed members around the building and shared interesting stories of the building's past.

In August, students visited the W.D. Trotter Anatomy Museum and were given a tour of the collections by curator Chris Smith. This provided a great opportunity to see what our biological anthropologist friends get up to on the other side of

campus. In October, members of the Society were lucky enough to get a ‘back of house’ tour of the Otago Museum and its basement with Anne Harlow. This gave students an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes in the Otago Museum, as well as see some rare and special items that are not currently on display. For the last few years, ARANZ (Archives and Records Association of New Zealand) has facilitated Anthsoc visits to various local archives to learn more about the materials and resources they hold. We continued the tradition this year by visiting the Dunedin City Council archives in May, and the Presbyterian Research Centre at Knox College in October. We would like to thank archivists Chris Scott (DCC) and Rachel Hurd (Knox) for taking the time to show us around, as well as ARANZ for their continued involvement in, and support of, the Otago University Anthropology Society.

Seminars and Workshops

The Otago University Anthropology Society has hosted a number of seminars and workshops this year. In Semester One, Dan Windwood (former Heritage Policy Planner) from the Dunedin City Council, kindly presented to members about his role in heritage management and opportunities available opportunities to students interested in heritage management. Additionally, Dr Johnny Geber from the Biological Anthropology Research Group of the Anatomy Department gave a seminar on the different careers and research opportunities in biological anthropology.

In Semester Two, Dr Susan Wardell from the Anthropology and Archaeology Department delivered a seminar titled *Selfies at Auschwitz, Shoes at Parliament: Controversies in the Memorialization of Tragedy*. Dr Wardell’s seminar was deeply thought-provoking and provided an insightful investigation into sensitive anthropological topics. Additionally, Dr Naomi Woods led a series of workshops giving students an insight into the processes of the contracting world. We would like to thank those listed above for taking the time to present to our members.

Social Events

The Anthropology Society held two quiz nights this year; a cult movie-themed quiz to commemorate May the fourth (be with you!) and a “Netflix and chill” quiz in September. Both quiz nights went (mostly) without a hitch and were run largely on the generous sponsorships from local businesses. Profits went towards funding our other events throughout the year. An undergrad games night was organised in July. A bit of friendly competition, combined with an abundance of snacks, provided an enjoyable break from study. Additionally, we held a movie night in September, screening *The Anthropologist*, a 2015 American documentary.

In August, we held our biennial ball in conjunction with the Geography, Geology, and Marine Science societies. This year the ball was conveniently held inside a brewery, the recently established New New New Corporation. Prizes were awarded for best dressed, most dapper suit, cutest couple, and most likely to be kicked out. Highlights of the night include the amazing food provided by the Citizens Food Truck and the range of New New New craft beer included with the ticket.



Figure 5. Auckland and Otago students at Mapoutahi pā site on the Otago coast. In August, a contingent of Auckland University Archaeological Society members came to visit. Students from both the Otago and Auckland societies headed out on a field trip to Lawrence Township, visiting Gabriel’s Gully, as well as the historic Lawrence Cemetery, and the pub on the way home. The following day we headed north up the coast to Purakaunui, visiting the Mapoutahi pā site (Figure 5), as well as looking for the remains of the historic Weller Brothers whaling station (I44/216). We concluded the visit with a classic curry and BYO. Thank you to the members of both societies who helped make it an awesome trip, we hope this is the beginning of a lasting tradition.

Conclusions

Thank you to the 2018 AnthSoc Executive; the exceptional number of events organised this year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the team. Thank you to all the members of the society, and to those who have come along and participated in events throughout the year.

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce next years elected executive as follows: Claire Thorrold (President), Rebecca Benham (Secretary), Arthur Grainger (Treasurer), Sarah Dugdale (Events Coordinator), Laura Gunther (Social Anthropology Rep), Rebecca Turner (Biological Anthropology Rep), Madison Hickford (Archaeology Rep), Braden McLean (Undergraduate Rep) , Matt Swieton (Postgraduate Rep), and Jessie Hurford (Staff Rep).

References

Petchey, P., Buckley, H., Hil, G., Kelly, A., Kinaston, R., King, C., Scott, R. (2018) 'Life & Death on the Otago Frontier. Preliminary Report on the Lawrence Cemeteries. *Archaeology in New Zealand*, 61(2): 22-40.