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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

run and are developing it for outdoor activities such as hiking, horse riding and mountain biking. Peter Bristow has been working on some proposed quarry sites in the Invercargill area for a number of developers.

Peter Petchey continues his work at Macraes Flat, and has recently undertaken a site survey of the area from Murphy's Flat to Stoneburn for Macraes Mining Co. Peter has also visited the Invincible Mine (Wakatipu), Canton Battery and Water Wheel (Waipori) and the Come-in-Time Battery (Bendigo) to prepare Conservation plans for DOC. Finally, he has recently been engaged to survey the early 20th century sluicing operations at Island Block.

Rick McGovern-Wilson has been engaged by ECNZ and Ngai Tahu to undertake preliminary test excavations at the important moa hunter sites of Beaumont and Millers Flat. These sites will be swamped by the dam which ECNZ is proposing to build at Tuapeka Mouth and further more extensive excavations will be probably be undertaken based on the results of these test excavations.

Rick McGovern-Wilson, SouthernArc

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Higham, T.F.G. 1994 "Radiocarbon dating New Zealand prehistory with moa eggshell: Some preliminary results". *Quaternary Geochronology (Quaternary Science Reviews)*, Vol. 13: 163-169.

Abstract:

This paper considers the reliability of radiocarbon dates of moa egg shell from archaeological sites in New Zealand. In the light of certain problems associated with alternative materials, it is suggested that eggshell is a reliable material which survives well in archaeological contexts, possesses a minimal inbuilt age and usually dates the event in question most accurately. Nine preliminary results are presented from 4 sites; Onenui (Hawke's Bay), Shag Mouth, Pleasant River (both North Otago) and Warrington (Dunedin). Radiocarbon dates of eggshell are compared with those of other materials in identical contexts and the differences are found to be statistically insignificant.