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FIELDWORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Northland

The last few months have been relatively quiet in terms of archaeological works. Most work has related to existing projects and authorities. Don Prince has continued with ongoing works within the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. He has been monitoring the area of the proposed new museum and general upgrade works to the area in front of the Treaty House and Whare Rūnanga. As yet nothing of significance has been found. Don is also undertaking some monitoring works within the Whangarei Heads area as part of private development involving some midden sites.

Hans Bader recently undertook monitoring works for a small boat shed extension in Russell. The site is located near Pomare's pā and near where Thomas Kendall was supposedly living when he left the Rangihoua mission with his Māori lover. The site was found to be heavily modified by previous building activity and no intact archaeology remained. Hans has also been monitoring the installation of the new fencing at Mangungu mission station in the Hokianga that has the potential to affect both Māori and Wesleyan mission features.

Andrew Blanshard has also been working on CMS mission sites. The final works in preparation for the interpretation panels at Rangihoua mission/Marsden Cross are to be completed at the end of November in time for the 200th commemoration celebrations in December 2014. To date the works have avoided all archaeological features but are likely to affect a small portion of the actual mission settlement site for the last interpretation panels. Andrew has also been undertaking archaeological monitoring in the Kerikeri basin as part of the upgrade of the road, wharf area and car park. These works had the potential to affect archaeological deposits relating to the Kerikeri mission station. Despite years of modification during the 20th century, evidence of a stone drain relating to the construction of the stone store was found, still doing its job after nearly 180 years. During the next few months more archaeological works are expected to come on line to coincide with Northland's summer.

Brooke Jamieson

Auckland

Over the last couple of months Clough & Associates have had a team working at Fairway Bay, Gulf Harbour excavating a midden site. This follows on from earlier excavations of portions of the same site which uncovered a fish and shellfish processing area. Multiple hearths and lines of postholes were uncovered, interpreted as fish drying racks. Stone adzes and obsidian artefacts were also recovered.

Glen Farley and a team are currently working in Coromandel township working on the site of the old Star and Garter Hotel, which originally burnt down in 1895, was rebuilt, and finally demolished in the early 1970s. The current area of works is on a neighbouring allotment where a shop burnt down in the same fire, and a well, and rubbish pits have been identified.

An ongoing subdivision project opposite Sandspit in Matakana has exposed large midden deposits and settlement remains, koiwi and possibly evidence of shark processing. A 19th century house and remains of a rubbish deposit associated with the house have also been recorded.

Sarah Phear

Central North Island

In the Waikato, Warren Gumbley and Malcolm Hutchinson surveyed the Rangitahi Peninsula near Raglan in November, recording 24 new archaeological sites, including Rangitahi pā (R14/424), 18 middens, three pit/terrace sites (R14/434, 439, 443), an historic house ruin (R14/427) and a stone arrangement in the Oporotū Estuary (R14/436).

Malcolm Hutchinson surveyed two properties near Pureora in August for LandCorp and recorded the kāinga Ngā Herenga (T17/122). Malcolm continues to compile site records for 189 Māori horticulture sites recorded during research by W. Gumbley Ltd. into prehistoric horticulture in the Waipa district. The work was part-funded by the (then) New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Warren and Malcolm have undertaken monitoring work on the Waikato Expressway around Rangiriri and Warren has completed the report on excavations at the Cabana Lodge section of the Whangamata Archaic site (T12/3).

From Tauranga, Peter Holmes reports for CFG Heritage that monitoring of UFF (Ultra Fast Fibre) cable trenching for Transfield has been going on at Mt Maunganui during August and September. Over 200 cabling trenches were monitored at Pilot Bay (U14/363, Waikoriri) and Mt Drury (U14/429, Hopukioire) with around 40 midden samples collected. Finds included several obsidian flakes, two grindstones and in situ hāngī stones as well as remnants of an historic footpath composed of compacted clay and crushed shell ag-

gregate. Three new sites were recorded near Pilot Bay, and a further three in the Tauranga area, as a result of the trenching. Sixteen trenches excavated within the 200 m buffer zone around Gate pā (U14/192) did not impinge on archaeological features.

In Tauranga, the 134 year old former residence of Benjamin Corlett, designer of Rotorua's spectacular bathhouse (now the Rotorua Museum), was demolished in September. Brigid Gallagher and Raysan Al-kubaisi (Mishmish Productions) excavated the site and recorded a range of 19th century military and civilian artefacts as well as details of the house itself.

Elsewhere in the Bay of Plenty, John Coster and Opus International Consultants Ltd. have been (separately) monitoring pine harvesting near Paengaroa, between Maketu and the Rotorua lakes. The area was intensively settled in pre-colonial times and several excavations have been undertaken on a number of properties there in the last few years. Large rectangular storage pits predominate.

On the east coast, SPAR's Richard Walter has monitored the digging of two septic tanks in the central part of Mahia Beach township.

John Coster and Cathleen Hauman

Taranaki

Following years of storm damage many of the large standing rewarewa and kohekohe trees on Te Koro Pā Historic Reserve have died. The Department of Conservation has recently undertaken the felling of a number of the dead or dying trees. This removal of these trees has been the result of considerable effort on the part of Kevin Jones and Paul Mahoney, as well as a number of Department of Conservation field staff in identifying trees that threaten both public safety and the unique archaeological features of Te Koro Pā, notably the stone revetments along the terrace scarps. Ivan Bruce was contracted to supervise the removal of a number of these trees which were felled in sections by professional arborists. The tree removal involved reducing the trees from the top down in small sections, which were then carefully lowered to the ground using rope and pulleys. Once down, the trees were cut into rings, stacked alongside pathways and will be allowed to rot away. The process proved to be cost effective and highly successful. In all cases very large trees, usually growing on the edges of platforms, were able to be completely removed without any damage to the fragile terraces or collapsing the numerous rua on the platform. The tree removal has had the added benefit of improving the public visibility of the archaeological features. All work was undertaken under authority from Heritage New Zealand and Department of

Conservation will now look to continue the selective felling of dying trees on Koru pā on an annual basis.

Andy Dodd

Wellington

Mary O’Keeffe continues working on construction of the MacKays to Peka Peka expressway on the Kapiti Coast. A range of sites and geomorphological data is being revealed during construction works, adding significant data to the state of knowledge of the Kapiti Coast. Mary is also working on Transmission Gully roading project, construction of which will commence in early 2015.

Mary O’Keeffe

Canterbury

Strata Heritage has been involved with the earthquake demolition, monitoring and recording of a c.1860s cottage in Worcester Street, Christchurch. The story of the cottage is one of stratified façadism - sometimes with whatever materials were available. The cottage was originally an 8 x 8 m, four room, shingle roofed cottage with rough sawn weatherboards. The cottage was erected on bearers resting on bluestone block foundations. In the 1910-1930s an arts and craft style two-storied annex was added over the cottage street facade, enveloping the front two rooms of the cottage, and additions were made across the rear of the building around the same time. The original tongue and groove rimu or kahikatea floors in the rear rooms of the cottage were replaced with cedar or Douglas fir and the floorboards were recycled as flooring in the two-storied arts and craft annex. A hipped roof was installed covering the rear additions and enclosing the shingle roof of the cottage. The arts and crafts additions saw complete remodelling of the interior décor including removal of original sash windows and bay windows, removal of original newspaper and wallpaper linings and the installation of scrim, wallpaper, door architraves and skirting boards. The front annex was clad in dressed weatherboards and shingles with a dressed sandstone façade on the lower storey. Post World War II, the scrim dating from the 1920s (and up to 4 layers of wallpaper) were covered with pinex in parts of the house. Another addition, c.1950, was made to the rear and the entire exterior was covered with roughcast stucco. Sometime between the 1950s and 1970s all the interior walls were clad in hardboard. Little of the original décor of the cottage remains, just the fragments of newspaper covered with watercolour floral print wallpaper at the margins of the doorways where conditions suited preservation. One lateral element of a double hung bay was found enclosed in sarking. Once the layers

of the 20th century décor were removed back to the sarking boards it was possible to interpret the original cottage features. Locations of sash windows and doorways that had been boarded-up or replaced with casements were revealed. Even the original fireplace foundations had been extended, repaired and infilled prior to the installation of a coal range with wet back. Bricks from the former have the initials “W N” impressed in the frogs, indicating that they were made by William Neighbours, who was in production from 1861-1882 (Matt Hennessey, pers. comm.).

Strata Heritage and has also been working collaboratively with Teri Anderson of Overground Underground Archaeology on 19th century bridge and road infrastructure elements in Akaroa as part of the Akaroa Reticulation Upgrade Project.

The team at Underground Overground Archaeology remain busy with earthquake work. Archaeological discoveries in Christchurch of late include two 19th century wells, one with artefacts, the other without, and both within the footprint of substantial late 20th century buildings. The former was recorded by Kimberley Bone and the latter by Peter Mitchell. Significant archaeological deposits have been found in close proximity to another late 20th century building, where Kirsa Webb, Kimberley Bone, Georgia Kerby, Peter Mitchell, Matt Carter and Megan Hickey have been excavating and recording the collapsed floor of an early 1860s building. This building was home to a variety of businesses during the 19th century, and stood until at least 1904. The remains exposed thus far consist of timber floorboards (tentatively identified as kauri), bearers and stone piles, as well as a barrel found buried under the floor and numerous bottle fragments (but few other artefacts).

Elsewhere in the city, Kirsa Webb, Luke Tremlett and Matt Carter have been recording the 19th century components of the Christchurch Club – while part of the complex (which was designed by Benjamin Mountfort) has been retained, another part has been demolished. While little below ground archaeological material has been found, the buildings archaeology has been interesting, particularly the array of ventilation found in the billiards and smoking rooms.

Hamish Williams and Teri Anderson have been involved with SCIRT projects, although the rate of discoveries has slowed now that the SCIRT projects in the central city are winding up. Drainage-related archaeological features continue to be a major theme on SCIRT projects. Work recording 19th century stone retaining walls in Lyttelton is also continuing.

Julia Hughes, in conjunction with Kirsa Webb and Peter Mitchell, has carried out a couple of excavations on sites in and near the city, as well as monitoring earthworks at the Arts Centre, while Matt Hennessey and Megan

Hickey have been busy monitoring residential red zone demolitions throughout the city and in Brooklands and Kaiapoi. Peter Mitchell has recovered several pre-1900 dwellings, most of which were fairly typical Victorian houses, albeit much modified.

Jessie Garland, Chelsea Dickson and Gwendolyn Jackson continue to be fully occupied with artefact analysis. Of particular note, Jessie has commenced the analysis of the artefacts from the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct, a site that yielded 110 boxes of artefacts.

Katharine Watson

Otago

In October a team comprising DOC staff, archaeologists, conservators and Otakou rūnanga members, led by Shar Briden, excavated a 6.17 m long waka that was exposed by erosion in the Papanui Inlet, Otago Peninsula. The waka appears to have been made from a single trunk of tōtara and adze marks are visible on it. Plaited fibre was found lying in the hull and the caulking has been identified as tōtara bark, although this is subject to confirmation. The waka is now being conserved in a specially constructed tank in Dunedin.

Emma Brooks



Papanui Inlet waka. Dilys Johns (Conservator, Auckland University) in foreground, Jim Fyfe (DOC Ranger Services Biodiversity) in background. Photograph: Shar Briden.