



# The Bulletin Kaikōura earthquake update

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## New NCTIR Project Director

Recently we bid farewell to Acting Project Director Tony Dickens, and welcomed aboard new Project Director, Tony Gallagher.

Tony Gallagher comes to the project from his role as a General Manager at Fulton Hogan, complete with more than two decades of experience working across infrastructure services and civil construction.

'This project is a true privilege,' says Tony G. 'People will be talking about the NCTIR project in Kaikōura for the next 100 years. It's such a significant event and project, making a hugely positive difference in people's lives. How often do you come across an opportunity to be a part of something like that?'

Tony is a Christchurch local, but will be spending his time in Kaikōura where he can be more effectively involved with the team. His family will largely stay in Christchurch but, he says, 'they're keen to get up here for the weekends!'

We acknowledge the great job Tony Dickens has done during his stewardship of NCTIR and wish him all the best for the future. 'I appreciated the wonderful way I was welcomed into the team,' says Tony D. 'Stepping in as a stranger, the cooperation and goodwill of everyone here really smoothed the way for me.'



Tony Dickens hands over the reins to Tony Gallagher

In June NCTIR will be starting a large programme of work on the Inland Road (Route 70) between Waiau and Kaikōura.

This work will make the temporary emergency repairs, which allowed us to reopen the route soon after the November 2016 earthquake, permanent. It will take about 12 months to complete.

Work will include:

- Construction of a new bridge over the Wandle River to replace the temporary Bailey bridge
- Major structural repairs on six other bridges
- Minor repairs made to many culverts and other bridges
- Retaining walls at six slip locations
- A road realignment at Lulus Hairpin bend

## PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENING

Please come and join us to find out more at one of our public information meetings:

- **Monday 17 June**, 7pm, Waiau Community Hall
- **Tuesday 18 June**, 7pm Lynton Downs School

Or you can email [info@nctir.com](mailto:info@nctir.com) or call **0800 628 4737** and we will provide more information.



## Ground breaking archaeology

The archaeology work being done by NCTIR is the first regional scale heritage-oriented project New Zealand has ever had. Prior to NCTIR works beginning, 195 archaeological sites were identified by NCTIR's archaeology team. 'The archaeology team has focused on protection, conservation and management of NCTIR related impacts since the start,' says archaeological director Jeremy Habberfield-Short, 'leading to the discovery of 20 additional sites during NCTIR works across the programme.'

Archaeologists and other field specialists are rare commodities, so collaboration with up to five organisations has been necessary to create the team. Fifteen members of the archaeology team have been working together for the duration of the project, ranging from archaeologists, to forensic anthropologists, with 10 other crew members joining them at different stages.

So far the archaeology team has screened 1,004 NCTIR projects as a way of managing construction effects on historic and cultural heritage and identified 398 high-risk projects that require archaeological management.

Archaeologist Dan Witter says, 'There's never been anything quite this size, or quite this large in area, with such a lot of excavations, recovering such an enormous amount of material. This is a first for the country.'

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is proud to have been a part in supporting the reconstruction of the Kaikōura transport corridor from its beginning steps.

NCTIR has run a very collaborative and collegial process which is a testament to the alliance but also to KiwiRail and NZ Transport Agency. The relationships with all parties have been a critical factor in the success of the project to date. We expect that the work that has been done will stand as an enduring legacy for everyone involved and is providing a much enhanced critical transport corridor.



### Definitions

**Tikanga** correct procedures, custom

**Whanaungatanga** relationship, kinship

**Tipuna** ancestors

**Kaitiaki** guardian

**Tapu** sacred

**Manaakitanga** kindness, showing respect

**Whakanoa** a formal blessing process to remove tapu

**Kōiwi** human remains

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## Whanaungatanga

Before beginning archaeological work on a new area, everyone working in a culturally sensitive area participates in a formal blessing process. 'You can't just start digging,' says cultural monitor Darran Kerei-Keepa. 'There are processes, and it is essential that we follow tikanga protocols all the way through. This is our Health and Safety from a Māori perspective.'

One of NCTIR's lead field archaeologists is Deb Foster. Deb's 12 years of work as an archaeologist with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura affirms the necessity of a trusted relationship between rūnanga and those excavating in order to adhere to the manaakitanga of a specific area. 'I joined this project because I was familiar with the people and places and could not pass up the opportunity to learn more,' says Deb. 'It has been a real privilege to work collaboratively with the rūnanga, the archaeology team and NCTIR contractors to achieve the best possible outcome for the cultural remains affected by the earthquake.'



## Mapping out history

'I've found a lot of interesting things, but graphs are the most riveting part of my work,' says archaeologist Dan Witter. Dan brought more than 40 years of archaeology experience when he joined the NCTIR archaeology team this year as a technical stone tool specialist. 'Once items are recorded, we can start to make graphs which deal with human processes. The individual items are so interesting in relation to their larger picture, and the graphs help us to see this.'

A thorough recording process is a huge part of the team's work - everything that gets excavated gets recorded. 'We are bound by law to record features such as a hāngi, house structure, or tool making deposits, to industry standards,' says archaeological director Jeremy Habberfield-Short. 'And because heritage is subject to multiple values, managing it requires awareness and delicacy.'

One standard is the use of the single context recording system. This allows the archaeological team to document their finds consistently across the project, and all the information is fed back into a report that will be shared with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, Heritage New Zealand, the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail as a means of celebrating and understanding New Zealand's history.

'We are also recovering kōiwi and mitigating impacts on places by recovering as much information about those places and what happened there,' says Jeremy. 'It's vital that this information is disseminated to the appropriate parties, so that the knowledge can be retained and respected. Our approach is based on tikanga principles, and we operate within these protocols, especially when it comes to kōiwi as a way of honouring the tipuna and respecting iwi values.'



Jean Spinks, Teri Trickey, Victoria Ross and Dan Witter at work identifying bird bones, fish bones, and stone tools

## Returning from the past

Just south of the Clarence Bridge, the archaeology team has just completed two years' worth of work at Waipapa Bay. As each project is completed, a formal process of whakanoa must take place, and it was no different with Waipapa Bay. 'It's important that everyone who was involved is part of the reinterment and whakanoa. Otherwise they remain in a heightened state of tapu,' says cultural monitor Darran Kerei-Keepa. 'It is important for those participants involved to have closure through this process. Waipapa has been a huge undertaking. We have been there for over two years, and it is important to close it off correctly, and return from the past into the land of the living.'

But what happens if a crew member leaves the project prior to its completion? During the past two years at Waipapa Bay, three people left, and were each given a formal farewell and gift to honour their mahi at the Takahanga Marae. They were also brought back for the whakanoa and reinterment.

From the initial blessing, to the final whakanoa, the archaeology management process at NCTIR is enshrouded by tikanga Māori. 'It's about meeting and adhering to the kaitiaki principles,' says Jeremy. 'Everything we do is couched within a cultural framework. This is really exciting because it adds a whole new layer of context, significance, and meaning to the traditional role of an archaeologist. It's also an apt reminder that the places, objects and remains are from a time not too distant from the Ngāti Kurī and Ngāti Māmoe descendants living in Kaikōura today.'

## Layers of discovery

One discovery stands out as an example of continued occupation in certain areas along the coast. A rectangular stone-lined hearth was found, and when it was finally removed there was another hearth underneath it - and yet another occupation layer underneath that. Posthole patterns indicate it was inside a structure, possibly

a whare. The sequence has yet to be dated, but it is likely to span several periods of dwelling and abandonment, which reflects people moving across the landscape seasonally.



The hearth was uplifted and recreated for eventual display at Takahanga Marae

## Fibre optic repair underway

Did you know that one of the fibre optic cables between the North Island and Christchurch was damaged during the earthquake? This cable is critical for communications between the North and South Islands. While a temporary repair was done at the time to restore supply to affected locals, there are still exposed parts of the cable in a number of locations.

A consortium made up of the Transport Agency, Chorus, Spark and Vodafone was formed to provide a single solution to permanently repair the cable. The agreed solution is for a single shared 75km duct to be installed between Parikawa, north of Clarence, through to Oaro. This is designed to have regular access points for repairs and maintenance. A new fibre optic cable will then be installed in the duct.

A consortium contractor, Connect 8, will install the new fibre optic cable into the existing AquaLink duct network between Kaikōura and Oaro. NCTIR is designing and installing 27km of the new duct north of Kaikōura. Connect 8 will then install the fibre optic cable inside the duct to complete this project.

NCTIR has already started installing the duct while completing other work on stretches of SH1, and will be installing the remainder as work progresses. NCTIR will be using two different construction methods depending on the location and conditions. These are:

- Excavating a narrow 300mm trench, installing the duct and backfilling with layers of different materials, and completing the work by reinstating the road surface and road markings.
- Directional drilling where a 250mm pipeline is bored using specialised equipment. This method does not involve excavation or reinstatement and is not weather dependent.

The road will be reduced to one lane with 'Stop/Go' traffic management where this work is happening. This project is a great example of organisations making the most of our resources to complete extra work that benefits the country.



## Seal safety alert amendment

In our previous Bulletin we advised motorists to call DOC if a seal is seen on the road, but we would like to amend this to Downer's 24/7 line - 027 478 3458. This number is specific to the Kaikōura coastline between Clarence and Oaro - in all other locations, please contact DOC.

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### CONTACT US

Call our freephone: **0800 NCTIR EQ** (0800 628 4737) or email us: [info@nctir.com](mailto:info@nctir.com)

This Bulletin provides the latest information about the rebuild of road and rail networks damaged by the Kaikōura earthquake in November 2016. The Bulletin is produced by the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) - an alliance representing the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, on behalf of Government.