



20 June 2013

Archaeologists peel back layers of history on crèche site

An 1880s water well and coins from the reigns of five British kings and queens are some of the finds excavated at the Home of Compassion Crèche site near the Basin Reserve.

The Memorial Park Alliance archaeologists completed their work at the site earlier this week. The next steps are the re-siting and conservation of the historic 1914 crèche building further inside the National War Memorial Park and away from the earthworks for the new road.

The archaeologists led by Richard Shakles have recorded their finds which provide insights into how settlers lived in the 1800s. The small domestic water well will stay where it is, preserved as part of the park. Other finds from the site include remnants of foundations from an 1870s house and a trench of animal bones from a butcher's premises.

A replica of the domestic well is in the Information Centre and has been made with bricks from the large 19th Century military well that was removed from the underpass trench last month.



Richard Shakles and the well at the crèche



Remnants of 1870s house behind the crèche

On-going work

Steel sheet piles for the trench retaining wall near Mount Cook Police Barracks have struck resistance from a layer of weathered greywacke rock. These piles need to be hammered rather than vibrated into the ground. Where possible, the vibrating hammer (which is less noisy) will be used as the preferred tool. We are testing new systems on Friday 21 June to identify the most effective method to minimise hammer noise. Sheet piling activity is a time critical part of the construction plan hence the urgency in progressing the work.



A three-stage filtration box (left) is now on site to clean stormwater and will feed into the existing catchpit (also at left) to ensure the water running off site into the city's stormwater drains will not pollute the harbour.

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