



NEW ZEALAND  
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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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A Further Report on the OHAWE SITE.

by A.G.Buist

Two weekends have recently been spent in excavating a further three squares inland from the original oven (see J.P.S. June 1960). The 4-8ins. ash-charcoal occupation layer which surrounded this oven has been found to extend at least 24ft. inland and to contain many whole, and fragmented, bird bones (including moa), egg shell, heat-fractured stone and obsidian.

The excavations were made on an 8ft. grid, it being found practical to excavate only one square a day. Inevitably, near the end of the day, some find was made in the corner of the square or quadrant that had been the object of the dig, necessitating an extension of the grid the next day. After the first day a portion of a small stone-lined oven containing an Aptornis otidiformis tibio-metatarsal and fibula was found in the corner. The other interesting feature of this oven was that it was sealed by the main occupation layer. The second day's dig, which was directed at revealing the oven in its entirety, entailed first shifting a vast quantity of overburden sand dune. On this day two 4-8ft. quadrants were excavated but, as light was failing and sections were being drawn, a large Dinornis femur was found in the corner. This necessitated a further shifting of much sand early the next morning. A further 4-8ft. was laid out, later extended to 4-12 ft.

This quadrant contained the richest deposit of bone so far found on the site. There were some thirty large moa bones, complete femurs and broken tibia as well as a great quantity of smaller bird bone, obsidian, charcoal, chert and heat-fractured stone. This bone-rich midden must be similar to the midden from which Walter Mantell obtained his bones, catalogued by Lydekker, in 1847.

From the concentration of bone it is obvious that we are approaching a further area of oven complexes in the same occupation layer as the original one, but at least 24ft. away from it. Further excavation in the area, however, is precluded by the presence of a drift-wood garden fence of immense proportions and an elucidation of the remainder of the midden will have to await the inevitable erosion of the fence.

To date the only cultural material found in association has been obsidian - a great quantity of both purple and dark green - chert, and one broken moa-bone needle. No other worked bone has been found apart from a small ring cut from a round bird bone.

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Preliminary report on excavations at the TE RANGATAPU SITE (Waingororo River).

by Mrs. T. Canavan

Ohawe beach, five miles from Hawera, is situated in the South Taranaki Bight and is that area in which the Rev. R. Taylor (1843), W. B. D. Mantell (1847) and Sir. George Grey (1866) collected moa bones. There are two big pa sites here, Ohavetokotoko and Te Rangatapu. The former is on top of the cliffs a quarter of a mile east of Te Rangatapu and is separated from it by an ancient river basin. The Te Rangatapu pa is on the east side of the Waingororo River