



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

4. An unusually large amount of Taupo type obsidian has been found compared with other sites in the Northern half of the South Island, the ratio of Taupo type to Mayor Island type being 3:1.
5. Greenstone adzes seem to be fashioned almost entirely by sawing rather than by flaking.

Finally, the Author would like to thank all those who made the excavations at South Bay possible, from land owners to the actual diggers, and hope that they gained as much pleasure from the experience as the Author.

---

#### A STONE MAORI WHARF IN THE NELSON DISTRICT

---

C.D. Northcroft and B.J. Bennett

Last Easter when the Authors were site surveying in the Nelson district a stone Maori wharf was found which caused considerable interest. The site which was found on the south-west corner of Pepin Island, (S.14, 776424 grid ref.) was pointed out to us by Mr. C.J. Stuart who owns the Island together with his son-in-law, Mr. Tindall.

The wharf or landing place is composed of pieces of rock placed close together to form a structure approximately two feet high by seven feet in width and today about twenty feet long. When it was built it would have been twice as long but much damage has been done by people looking "for Maori things". The remains of the destroyed end of the wharf or landing place can still be seen though most of the height of the structure has been considerably altered.

Mr. Stuart told us that when he was a boy, forty years ago, the site was in almost perfect condition and his Grandfather apparently saw Maoris unloading firewood from their canoes at this spot.

The wharf lies on estuarine mud about thirty yards from the present day main channel and is unlike most European wharves in that it lies lengthwise along the shoreline.

The Authors would be interested to hear of any other such structures, for as far as we know this is the only one known still to be found. Another structure of this type known was a stone embankment at Auckland Point Nelson which has long been destroyed.