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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The article, Excavation of a 'Raised Rim Pit'..., in the December 1991 issue of *Archaeology in New Zealand* immediately caught my attention. I thought it would probably be about an excavation of an umu ti used by Maori for cooking cabbage trees. However, the possibility of the raised rim pit being an umu ti wasn't even mentioned. In the North Island mind-set it could only have been a storage pit. Raised-rim pits are not anomalies in the South Island, hundreds of them being umu ti. And umu ti do look like kumara storage pits, but further investigation (see *NZAA Newsletter* 30 (3): 144-157) should reveal what they are.

In this instance the raised rim pit appears to be of natural origin. Nevertheless, this type of feature should be considered as a possible umu ti. Umu ti exist in both the North and South Islands, although little has been said or written about them in the North Island. It is time to consider all the possibilities for pits as archaeological features!

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