



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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LETTERS TO THE EDITORLittle Papanui

Dear Sir,

I would like to offer you this print (see Plates) because of its possible archaeological interest to members of the Association.

I took the photo on 120 size film at New Year 1929 when I camped for a few days with Dr H D Skinner, Mrs Skinner and Mr David Teviotdale at Little Papanui Beach near Cape Saunders on Otago Peninsula.

It shows Mr Teviotdale working on the face in a sand trench at the southern end of the beach. Dr Skinner told me that, as far as he knew, it was the first photograph of a stratified archaeological excavated face that had been taken in New Zealand.

I was a member of his Anthropology class in 1928 when commencing my Senior Scholarship thesis work for the Degree of DDS (NZ). I recently found the negative.

R M S Taylor
School of Medicine
University of Auckland

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Imported boulders on Sounds pa

Dear Sir,

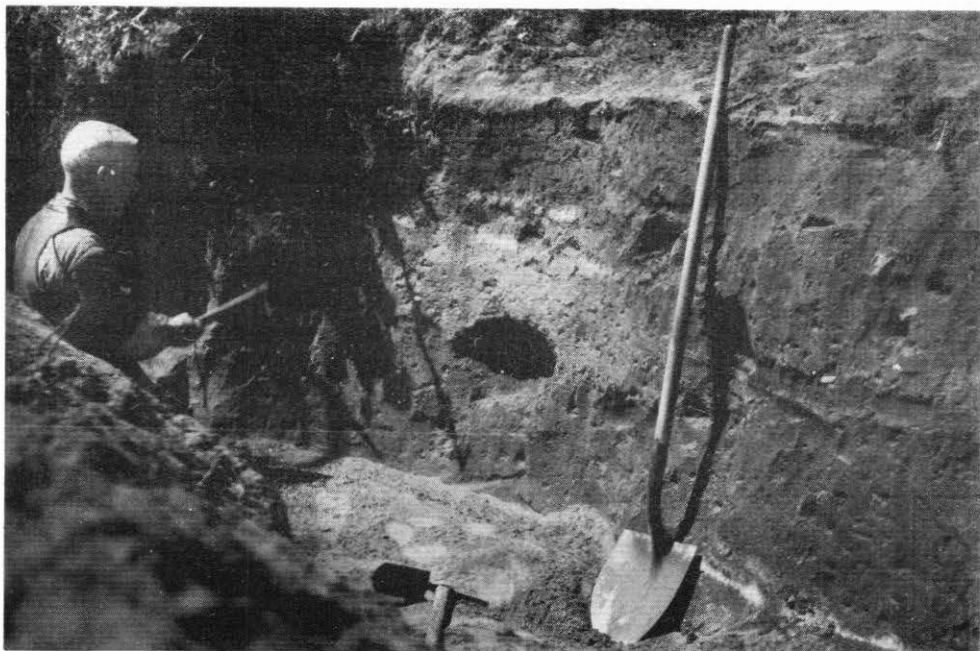
For a number of years I have been intrigued by the presence of large "foreign" stones around the shore line which forms the base of a small defensive pa (S10/8) in Port Hardy, D'Urville Island. The stones (see Plate) are the distinctive green of Stephens Sandstone and had been transported by water for a distance of at least 5 km. A few are also to be seen on the terraces of the pa itself. Recently I checked the Hapuka Rocks pa (S5/5) on the east coast of D'Urville and found a similar situation. Large flattish water-rolled boulders of sandstone on the terraces and in the water at the base of the pa which is similar in size to the Port Hardy pa. These had also been transported some distance by sea. My son Geoffrey, who as D.S.I.R. botanist has been engaged on botanical surveys of outlying islands, reports the presence of like stones on similar pa in the Croisilles and the outer Pelorous Sounds. The

Croisilles pa (S15/40) has an associated story of attackers approaching beneath an upturned canoe to ward off stones thrown down on them.

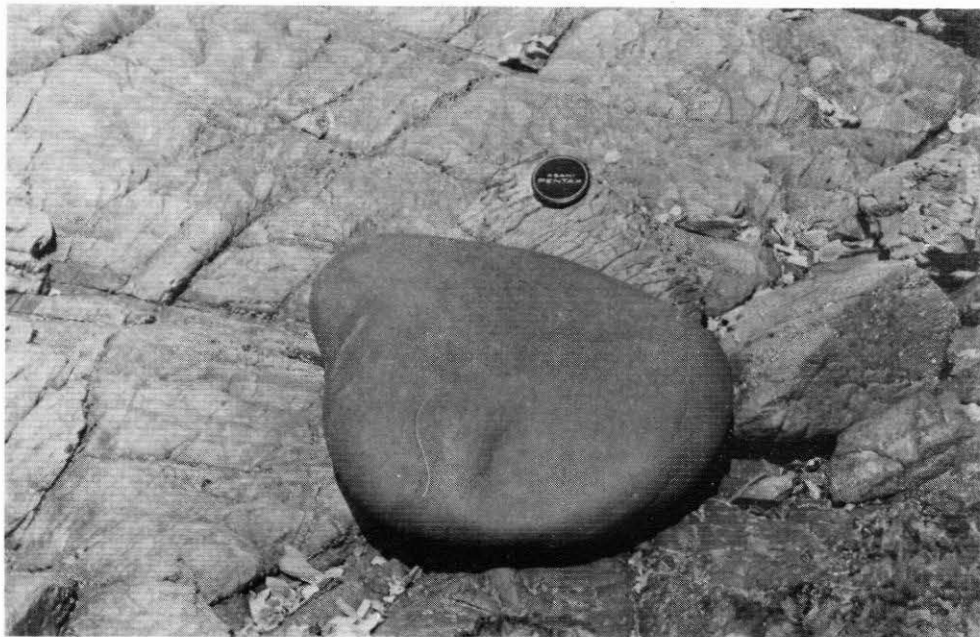
This all seems to lead to the conclusion that the stones were gathered onto the terraces for use as defensive missiles. However all these pa have ample supplies of stones suitable for this purpose on the beach close at hand. It seems more likely that these hard, smooth, flattish boulders were selected and transported for more mundane uses such as anvils for pounding fern root. Perhaps some were thrown down in the heat of battle. Most would have been rolled over recently so that few are now in position. Fern root was probably an important stored food when these pa were under seige.

Jack Walls
Onekaka

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LITTLE PAPANUI. David Teviotdale at stratified face, 1929.



IMPORTED BOULDER. Stephens Sandstone boulder at S10/8, Port Hardy.