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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Radiocarbon Dates for the Wairarapa - I

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Prehistoric research in the lower Wairarapa - Palliser Bay is now in its third year. Fieldwork has been undertaken in a number of localities organised around several different research projects. Final reports on this work will be completed in late 1972, but as radiocarbon dates are of immediate interest to archaeologists throughout New Zealand, the following results from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences are listed here with brief comments. Further samples are being processed and the results will be the subject of future reports.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Run No:</u>	<u>Age</u>
<u>Series A</u>		
Site N168/22 M1/V/8/structure No:5 Charcoal from scoop hearth cut into the crust of layer 5	R2850/7	1168 A.D. ± 41
Site N168/22 M1/II/21/structure No:AE Charcoal from 'midden pit' cut into the crust of layer 5	R2850/1	1191 A.D. ± 41
Site N168/22 M1/V/18/structure No:17 Charcoal from small depression cut into the crust of layer 5	R2850/4	1270 A.D. ± 81
Site N168/22 M1/V/19 Charcoal from the body of Layer 4 black	R2850/6	1290 A.D. ± 40
Site N168/22 M1/III/9-10/structure No:AZ Charcoal from 'midden pit' cut into the crust of layer 5	R2850/3	1313 A.D. ± 40
Site N168/22 M1/II/17/structure No:gamma Charcoal from scoop hearth overlain by lens IIB	R2850/2	1470 A.D. ± 40
<u>Series B</u>		
Site N168/21 M1/I/2 Charcoal from body of layer 2	R2850/5	1404 A.D. ± 40

Series C

Site N168/20 M1/XX/6-7 Charcoal from body of layer 2B	R2850/10 1442 A.D. ± 79
Site N168/20 M1/XX/15 Charcoal from body of layer 3	R2850/8 1562 A.D. ± 79
Site N168/20 M1/XX/7-8 Charcoal from body of layer 2A	R2850/9 1608 A.D. ± 78

Series A: These samples are from a non-consolidated midden at the mouth (Washpool) of the Makotukutuku River, Palliser Bay. The C¹⁴ results securely date the bulk of the deposits to between about 1150 - 1350 A.D. This is in keeping with the archaic cultural material recovered. The determination for R2850/2 of 1470 A.D. ± 40 is anomalous, being 157 years later than the main cluster. In cases such as these some may invoke 'stratigraphical disturbance' or 'contamination' as reasons for the discrepancy. In this case however, no such argument can be advanced and the date is regarded as acceptable only at the outer end of its probability range; i.e. at 4 times its standard error.

Series B: This sample dates a small 'camp site' and midden to the seaward of the Washpool bridge. The age is of added importance in that it clearly indicates that aeolian dunes were forming both before and after human settlement in the area.

Series C: These samples are from a stone walled enclosure-garden area late in the Palliser Bay prehistoric sequence. The site is situated about 100 metres north-east of the Washpool bridge. The dates obtained are from small samples and are not regarded as being significantly different from each other.