



NEW ZEALAND  
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Radiocarbon Dates for the Wairarapa - IV

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Fieldwork in the Palliser Bay area has now been completed. The Otago University research programme has been broadened to include the work of five M.A. students, in addition to the work of Foss and Helen Leach. Last summer (1971-72), excavations were carried out in the Moikau Valley, Whangamoana, by Nigel Prickett; and on Black Rocks Peninsula, near Cape Palliser, by Atholl Anderson.

Radiocarbon dates have been received from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences for both excavations.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Run no:</u>	<u>Age</u>
<u>Series A</u>		
Site N165/9 W1 Layer 2 Squares D6 and E6 Charcoal sample from timber laid immediately beside post butts H and AE	R4235/1	1181 A.D. $\pm$ 54
Site N165/9 W1 Layer 2 Square I11 Charcoal sample from timber laid immediately beside post butt AC	R4235/2	1179 A.D. $\pm$ 54
<u>Series B</u>		
Site N168-9/77 B.R.3 Layer 2 Square 3 Charcoal sample from patch of burnt brushwood at base of layer	R4235/3	1147 A.D. $\pm$ 54
Site N168-9/77 B.R.4 Layer 1 Square 1 Charcoal sample from patch of burnt brushwood in middle of layer	R4235/4	1269 A.D. $\pm$ 54
Site N168-9/77 B.R.4 Layer 4 Square 1 Charcoal sample from patch of burnt brushwood at base of layer	R4235/5	1276 A.D. $\pm$ 54
Site N168-9/77 B.R.2 Layer 1 Square 2 Charcoal sample from patch of burnt brushwood near top of layer	R4235/6	<200 B.P.

Series A These samples are from a house site in the Moikau Valley. The house was outlined by regularly placed burnt slab post butts and was 4.5 x 7 metres in size. Associated surface features include several stone-lined hearths, raised rim pits, stone walls and mounds, and single boulder alignments. The twelfth century date and the similarity of Moikau Valley evidence to that of the Palliser Bay coastal platform to the south, enable us to add this evidence to the body of material we already have from the earliest period of occupation of the area.

Series B These samples date three small middens. B.R.3 is a relatively unconcentrated and charcoal-rich site containing rocky shore shellfish, fish, bird and mammal bone. B.R.4 is a dense shell midden with less bone than the former. B.R.2 is a small dense shell midden, and the closest to the present coast of the three. The radiocarbon dates will allow comparisons of subsistence economies over a long time scale to be made between these sites and others of similar age in the Palliser Bay area.

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