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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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RADIOCARBON DATES FOR WAIRAU BAR
AND WAKANUI, SOUTH ISLAND

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The following radiocarbon dates have recently been obtained for the Wairau Bar site in Marlborough, and Wakanui in South Canterbury.

In line with earlier publication, the present dates have been calculated using the "old" half life; bone collagen with respect to the New Zealand bone standard and shell with respect to the New Zealand shell standard (Rafter, *et al.*, 1972).

The Wairau Bar dates were obtained specially for the New Zealand Archaeological Association Conference held in Blenheim on 1-3 June 1974. Processing was done by the Institute of Nuclear Sciences through the courtesy of the Director, Dr T. A. Rafter, to whom we record our appreciation.

WAIRAU BAR S29/7, Marlborough Moa-hunter site (described by Duff, 1956). Previous radiocarbon dates, obtained from charcoal, were NZ50 850 \pm 50 and Y204 935 \pm 110. All samples (including NZ50 and Y204) relate to the main period of prehistoric occupation, although stratigraphic correlation has not been demonstrated. Collected during Canterbury Museum investigations in 1959 and 1964.

NZ 1838 Moa bone collagen (<i>Euryapteryx</i>)	590 \pm 60 B.P.
NZ 1837 Shell aragonite (<i>Paphies australis</i>)	680 \pm 50 B.P.
NZ 1835 Human bone collagen (Burial 42)	780 \pm 80 B.P.

WAKANUI S103/1, South Canterbury Moa-hunter site. Collected 4-5 March 1971. (Salvage excavations were later carried out here by Canterbury Museum Archaeological Society). Besides the normal collagen date, experimental analyses were made of burnt moa bone which was hand sorted from a sample obtained from an "oven".

NZ 1768 Moa bone collagen (<i>Euryapteryx</i>)	421 \pm 55 B.P.
NZ 1766 Collagen from black charred moa bone	672 \pm 56 B.P.
NZ 1767 Collagen from white burnt moa bone	596 \pm 59 B.P.

REFERENCES

- DUFF, R. S. 1956 The Moa-hunter Period of Maori Culture. *Canterbury Museum Bulletin*, 1. Government Printer, Wellington.
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