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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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RADIOCARBON DATES FROM THE CROSS CREEK SITE
(N40/260), SARAH'S GULLY, COROMANDEL PENINSULA

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The Cross Creek Site (N40/260) at Sarah's Gully is a beach-front living area, a portion of which was excavated in 1983 (Sewell 1984; see Scarlett, this issue Fig. 4). There were five discrete cultural layers separated by sterile windblown sand layers which extended over most of the site (see Fig. 1 for cross-section of part of the site showing desposition of layers).

Radiocarbon age estimates for three levels of occupation have been received from the Institute of Nuclear Science, D.S.I.R., Lower Hutt. Shell samples were submitted from Layers 3, 5 and 7. No sample was submitted from Layer 1 because of the possibility of shells being thrown on top of the exposed midden by storms etc. There was insufficient shell from Layer 9 for dating purposes. Identification of charcoal from a firescoop showed it to be pohutukawa, a very long-living species. On the advice of the New Zealand Archaeological Association Radiocarbon Committee this sample was not submitted as any age produced would be open to question. However the stratigraphy suggested that Layers 7 and 9 were very close in time and a date from Layer 9 would not be expected to be strikingly older than that from Layer 7.

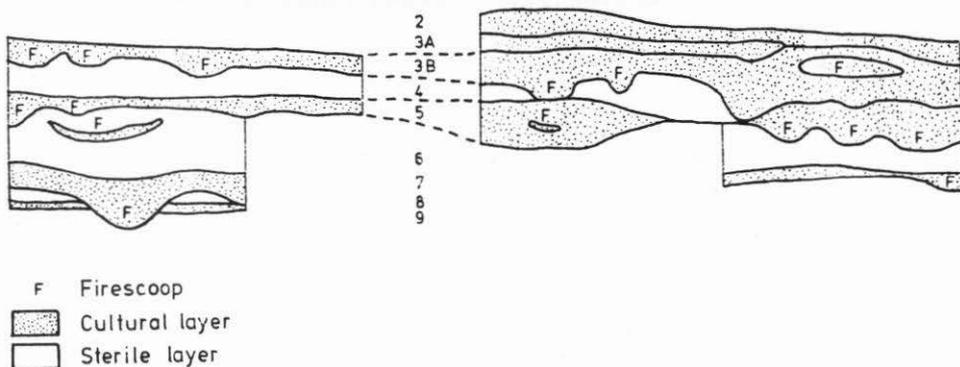


FIGURE 1. Cross Creek midden: Schematic section through areas E-G.

The samples provide estimates of dates of occupation from Layers 3, 5 and 7. All samples are of Paphies subtriangulata subtriangulata (tuatua) and come from the same area within the site.

N.Z. Number	Provenance	Old T $\frac{1}{2}$ (B.P.)	New T $\frac{1}{2}$ (B.P.)
6798	Layer 3	504±34	519±36
6825	Layer 5	544±54	560±55
6800	Layer 7	693±30	719±31

TABLE 1. Cross Creek radiocarbon dates.

The evidence suggests that this site was used for industrial purposes - primarily the making of fishhooks.

Reference

- Sewell, B. 1984 The Cross Creek site (N40/260) Coromandel Peninsula. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Auckland.