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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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RADIOCARBON DATES FROM THE WAIHORA MOUND SITE,
SOUTH-WEST COAST, CHATHAM ISLANDS

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A series of seven radiocarbon dates is now available for the Waihora Mound Site (Anthropology Department Site No. CH283). These are as follows:

<u>Provenance</u>	<u>Run No.</u>	<u>Age A</u>	<u>Age B</u>
CH283/VII/1+2 'Stone Structure' (Anthropology Department Sample No. AC526)	R4969/1	380 ± 40	450 ± 30
CH283/VIII/6+7 L.3 (AC527)	R4969/2	370 ± 30	450 ± 30
CH283/IV/23 Lens D (AC521)	R5091/1	370 ± 50	450 ± 30
CH283/V/15 Lens B (AC522)	R5091/2	420 ± 60	460 ± 40
CH283/Vb/2+7 (AC523) L.1	R5091/3	390 ± 50	450 ± 30
CH283/V/6 Surface beneath L.3 (AC524)	R5091/4	410 ± 50	450 ± 30
CH283/VI/18+19 (AC525) L.1	R5091/5	330 ± 60	420 ± 60

All samples were of charcoal. The Age A column above lists ages in years B.P. based on the old half-life (5568 years). The Age B column is based on the 5730 ± 40 year half-life and the application of

a secular correction.

The Waihora Site consists of a thin cultural deposit, up to 40 cm deep, over the surface of an ancient sand dune. Our excavation, carried out from November 1975 - February 1976, involved eight 5 x 5 m areas and one 3 x 5 m area. These were spread out over the cultural surface. An obvious priority which follows this plan of excavation is that of establishing the chronological relationship between areas. Unfortunately, Areas I, II and III did not contain sufficient charcoal for dating. The dates available suggest that the cultural deposit at Waihora derives from a short period of occupation about the sixteenth century A.D. The detailed analysis of a wide variety of faunal and artefactual evidence from this and three other sites in the vicinity is proceeding.