



NEW ZEALAND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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**NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



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depressions in the middle of each. Another of these curious structures was evident near the pits on the ridge. Rabbit holes in these structures gave no sign of any haangi stones, midden or other evidence as to what these structures might have been.

In comparison with the other "drainage" systems in the same area, the "drains" at Tupou Bay were remarkable for their clearly defined nature, the variety of structures that they consisted of, and the extent to which they occurred on hill-slopes as well as on flatter areas.

D. Yen (pers. comm.) has pointed out that these "drains" as they have been described, need not necessarily have been for actual drainage purposes, but could have served a variety of functions, including drainage, irrigation, or boundary markers, among other things. It would appear that no interpretation as to the function of these structures is warranted until a further and more detailed investigation is made.

Reference:

Golson, J. and Green R.C. A Handbook to Field Recording in New Zealand. New Zealand Archaeological Assn. Handbook No. 1, 1958, p. 67.

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REPORT ON WHIRITOA BEACH SITE, COROMANDEL PENINSULA

J. M. Foreman & R. G. W. Jolly

Whiritoa Beach is on the eastern Coromandel coast, seven miles from Waihi. The beach is one mile long with a lagoon at each end. Along the main dune of the beach there are numerous middens with chert and other flakes exposed by the wind. The southern end which was the subject of investigation by Green (1959: 21) and was allotted the site number N53/1, has been entirely altered by sand quarrying.

At the northern end of the beach is the site investigated by Crosby (1963: 46) N53/4, and the present site lies some 20 yards south-east of this. On 28.12.64 two nine foot squares were marked out and excavation of one was commenced. A 2 ft overburden of sand and lupin was removed and this was designated layer 1. Layer 2, 3½ inches deep, comprised dark brown sand, compacted shell and charcoal with occasional pieces of obsidian and other stone flakes, numerous broken oven stones and two well-defined fire-places. Layer 3 of light brown sand was 6 ins. deep over most of the square but deepened to 12 ins in the south-eastern corner. Within this layer were found the following bones:-

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 3 pieces of polynesian dog | 2 pieces of Pachyornis mappini            |
| 6 " " fur seal             | 1 piece of Dinornis naovaezealandiae Owen |
| 1 piece of kaka            | 1 " " porcupine fish                      |

As well as the bones there was evidence of a working floor, namely:-

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 adzes - Duff type 4A and 3B      | 2 sandstone files             |
| 4 broken adze rough-outs           | 3 obsidian blades             |
| 4 abraders, 1 piece of worked bone | 1 broken quartzite drillpoint |

At the bottom of layer 3 is a probable soil horizon as suggested by Mr D. Kear of the Soil Bureau, D.S.I.R., and into this horizon of the consolidated original dune were found two postholes, some shallow pits and some kokowai.

From subsequent excavations of two further squares were recovered:-

|                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 pieces of polynesian dog | 4 pieces of Pachyornis mappini       |
| 8 pieces of fur seal       | 1 piece of Euryapteryx exilis Hutton |
| 1 piece of mollyhawk       | 1 " " Dinornis struthoides Owen      |
| 1 " " kaka                 |                                      |

In addition to the working floor material similar to that listed in Sq. 1, were:-

|                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 adzes - Duff types 1, 3B, & 6 | 43 chert flakes      |
| 2 argillite flakes              | 8 pumice rubbers     |
| 5 moa bone tabs                 | 102 pieces of bone   |
| 1 quartzite core                | 1 small ball of clay |

Shell Sample taken from Square 1 - Layer 2

|              |                 |                |        |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| Amphidesma   | subtriangulatum | 75 gms         | 19.89% |
| "            | australe        | 18 gms         | 4.77%  |
| "            | frags.          | 62 gms         | 16.44% |
| Dosinia      | prob D. anus.   | 5 gms          | 1.32%  |
| Strutholaria | papulosa        | 146 gms        | 38.72% |
| Chione       | stutchburyi     | 68 gms         | 18.03% |
| Neothais     | scalaris        | 3 gms          | 0.79%  |
|              |                 | <u>377 gms</u> |        |

Shell Sample taken from Square 1 - Layer 3

|              |                 |         |        |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| Amphidesma   | australe        | 268 gms | 41.94% |
| "            | subtriangulatum | 83 gms  | 12.09% |
| Dosinia sp.  | prob. D. anus   | 7 gms   | 1.09%  |
| Chione       | stutchburyi     | 35 gms  | 5.47%  |
| Neothais     | scarlaris       | 30 gms  | 4.69%  |
|              | cats eye        | 75 gms  | 11.73% |
| Strutholaria | papulosa        | 127 gms | 19.87% |

