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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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THE AUPOURI FOREST COLLECTION

John Coster
Gabrielle Johnston

ABSTRACT

The New Zealand Forest Service holds a collection of 500 artefacts from Ninety Mile Beach. The collection is catalogued and available for study.

An extensive collection of prehistoric Maori artefacts is held by the New Zealand Forest Service at the Information Centre, Aupouri State Forest Headquarters. Aupouri Forest includes most of the 30 000 hectares of sand dunes which lie behind Ninety Mile Beach on the west coast of Northland. The Forest Headquarters lies 12km north of Kaitaia.

The Aupouri Forest Collection includes over a hundred stone adzes and chisels, many of archaic type (including two very fine "side-hafted" specimens as well as several "hogbacks"). Other artefacts include about 100 fragments from broken and reworked adzes at least 50 sandstone rasps, files and grindstones; numerous flakes and cores of stone, obsidian or chert; hammerstones and worked stone; stone sinkers; two stone lure shanks; about 20 wooden artefacts. In all, nearly 500 items are held.

With the exception of ninety items collected by F. Blucher from site N6/4 at Mt. Camel, the artefacts are derived almost entirely from the sand dunes of Ninety Mile Beach and are well provenanced. Most have been found by Forest Service employees over the last fifteen years and the collection has been built up at Aupouri Forest through the personal interest of the Officer-in-charge, Mr D.J.S. Ogle.

The collection was catalogued in late 1976, but no detailed study has been made of typology or materials. Descriptions and photographs of the artefacts are held at Aupouri State Forest (Private Bag, Awanui), at the Auckland Office of the New Zealand Forest Service, and in the Auckland Institute and Museum Library. The Forest Service will retain custody of the collection and is happy to make it available for study.