



NEW ZEALAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



This document is made available by The New Zealand Archaeological Association under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

consultations with the National Historic Places Trust, and the Ngati-Toa Domain Board, the Group were given a small grant and asked to clear the ruins so that they could be turfed and a commemorative plaque erected. There has been a lot of work involved in this project, and as yet it is only half completed, for we have had to move tons of the beach boulders that were part of the original construction. The local inhabitants think that we are building a motor camp (there is one planned for that area) but within a few weeks we should be able to confound them with a carefully cleared site.

A vast amount of recording remains to be done in the Wellington district, but a good start has been made this year. We are fortunate to have had during the year the expert advice available at the Dominion Museum, where the Conchology, Ichthyology, and Vertebrate Zoology Departments have been most helpful in identifying material collected during recording. We have also had much help from local landowners and enthusiasts, who have led us to sites, as well as contributing material to the Museum collections.

The maps that illustrate this article were drawn by Miss W. Mumford. The Photographs are by Mr. Frank O'Leary.

WORK IN THE WAIRARAPA. by K. Cairns.

"The History of the Wairarapa Maoris" is steadily being recorded. After gathering references for some years, the field checking of sites is progressing well, and during the year much of the coastline has been covered. Expeditions with local enthusiasts have been most successful, and their knowledge of important sites most useful.

Furthermore local collections have been examined and recorded, and every endeavour has been made to secure the exact locality of artefacts recorded. It is hoped ultimately to cover the area from Palliser Bay north to the Manawatu River, and although the programme is ambitious, progress to date is encouraging. A number of inland settlement areas have been

examined carefully this year, and their relation to other local sites plotted.

Among sites visited during the year was the large settlement area in the inland district, known as Rangitumau, about twenty minutes by car from Masterton. An area of approx. 40 acres, spreading over several adjoining hills is covered by pits of various sizes and shapes; and a further 100 acres shows scattered pits. The most interesting feature of this site is the presence of crescent shaped pits which have also been noted on other sites in the district. The site has no defensive features. Artefacts from the Wairarapa areas include a Type 4 adze, of the hogback variety, 14" long, and a stone sinker of white quartz with a notched periphery. Also found here was a whalebone adze 6" long. A moa bone was recovered from a cooking site, amongst burnt stone and charcoal, and was identified by J. Yaldwyn, of the Dominion Museum as probably Anomalopteryx sp.

Another site visited during the year was in the Lake Horowhenua area, where a midden compound composed entirely of freshwater mussels. Hyridella Menziesi measured 50' x 30' and varied in depth from the outer edge where it was 1" deep, to 18" in the centre. Careful examination yielded no other shell, or any bone. Other middens of this type are present in the district.

The Wairau Bar was also visited during the year, and surface sites visited in the company of Jim Eyles. Site records were made of two settlement areas in the Pelorous Sounds, close to the Government Walking Track, and they were closely examined and photographed. A clearly defined Maori Walking Track up to one of the areas shows well in one photograph.

An interesting excavation under the leadership of Dr. T. T. Barrow, of the Dominion Museum, was done in Palliser Bay, and the expedition recorded some unusual features.

MOA REMAINS FROM THE WELLINGTON DISTRICT by J. C. Yaldwyn.

This account is intended merely as a preliminary review of the sub-fossil and archaeological moa material from the Wellington district which I am at present studying at the Dominion Museum.