# dze Factory' At Tiwai Point

A problem which has puzzled Maori historians for many years was solved yesterday when Mr A. J. Mackenzie, curator of the Southland Museum, went with Mr R. Beck to Tiwai Point in Bluff harbour, site of the proposed Comalco aluminium smelter.

The point, is now known examine the site while this to have been a Maori "adze was still possible.

About 250 artifacts were factory" at which adzes found on the point yesterfound all over Southland were produced. The origin of these adzes, used by the Mon hunters, had long puzzled Maori historians.

day.

Some 50 adze "blanks" (the roughly formed adze), 100 broken "blanks," many stone flakes from which the Mr Mackenzie said the area "blanks" were made and five

had long been known as an hammer stones—used to chip ancient Maori site, but it was and rough out the "blanks" not until recently that, be- were found. cause of the possibility of the aluminium smelter being built there, it was decided to rock used at the "adze factory" was found by Mr aluminium smelter being Beck to correspond with

adzes found all over the Pieces of decayed moa bone and several middens containing evidence of cooked fish and seal were found. In a place where a swath had been buildozed across the peninsula by contractors, a human law-bone and part o Mr Mackenzie said the place was definitely a moa hunters' site, and had been used in comparatively recent "The trip was very profit able, and has tied up a lot of loose ends," Mr Mackenzie

25/27 May 1968

#### 11 May 1968

### 6 The Southland Times, Saturday, May 11, 1968. 'Rescue Attempt' Planned At Tiwai Adze Site

An urgent attempt is being made to mount an archaeological rescue operation on the Tiwai Point adze-making site-among the biggest

discoveries of the type in the South Island. The "rescue" bid is being to return with a team from sought by Dr Charles the university.

Mr Mackenzie appealed to Higham, of the University of the public not to fossick in Otago, who yesterday went the locality, which showed to Tiwai, where a further great promise of revealing more of Maori pre-history if substantial number of Maori left to organized scientific stone tools were recovered.

With him on the site.

Which is liable to be plotted cate that the site was worked out at the outset of any work for an aluminium smelter, were the Southland Museum until large-scale adze-making director, Mr Arthur Mac-stopped about 200 years

kenzie, and the assistant ago. director, Mr Russell Beck. The men yesterday added Finished on Site about 100 artifacts to the Adzes were both roughed 350 or so collected a week out and fnished on the site, ago-again mainly adzes at which appears to cover about various stages of creation and 200 square yards, based on hammerstones, tools that an argillite reef almost in a It is from the spot that The bulk of available sur- much of the rock necessary

Delicate Work face material exposed by for Awarua Bay causeways, wind and sea had now been part of the planned land cate work must now be would probably be taken. undertaken to see what lay And the planned road along under the sand and gravel, the Tiwal to the smelter site said Mr Mackenzie. Dr Higham, he said, hoped factory" remains.

# Tiwai 'Rescue' Ends Today

The week-long archaeological "rescue operation" by the site proposed for an aluminium smelter on Tiwai Point finishes today with the archaeological group impressed and hoping to do follow-up work.

A range of items is being lotago students have taken to the times the site was used by the Maori. 

Stuart Park, Otago, Museum assistant anthropologist, who has led the operation in which up to 12 University of obtain fairly reliable guides with the site was used by the Maori. 

Li appears to have been a significant adde factory and could have been first used by the Maori 1000 years ago. 

Mr Park said yesterday that artifacts taken to Dur

edin for intensive study would eventually be re-turned to the Southland Maori Finds at Tiwai

paring a preliminary report. and copies would go to the museum here and Comalco Tiwal dovetailed with work done last year at Riverton and Thaka, said Mr Park. He hoped further fieldwork haps in August. note in addition to Tiwai.

Museum, which initiated the He praised co-operation received from representatives of the Southland Museum and other bodies, especially the Southland Harbour Board and Comalco engineering Results of carbon dating tests were unlikely to be known for several months.

Some of the work done at could be undertaken, per-There were leads to sites of potential archaeological

#### 16 May 1968

#### Rescue Bid At Tiwai Next Week

A small beach likely to vanish at the start of any aluminium smelter construction work on Tiwai Point will be the scene next week of an urgent archaeological "rescue At the instigation of the Southland Museum director, Mr Arthur Mackenzie, the operation has been arranged by Dr Charles Higham, of the University of Otago, and will be led by Mr Stuart Park, ethnologist of the Otago Museum. It is hoped to have 10 to 15 students working for a week to 10 days on the site, which earliest times

was found this month to have been a Maori adze "factory" that possibly dates from "The more we see of the site, the more significant it becomes," Mr Mackenzie said yesterday. Storm Bonus When Mr Mackenize first saw the locality five years ago there was no indication there of its archaeological value. He now suspects that the hundreds of artifacts recovered this month were exposed by the violent wind and sea action during the and sea action during the The coming expedition was a further example of the good co-operation between the Otago and Southland institutions, Mr Mackenzie said. All members of the group e said, would be based a farbour Board was assisting

Daily transport across the

Preparation for excavation at Tiwai Point. Stuart Park, said in Bluff last night.

at the site this week, fol-lowing up the discovery of many adzes and artifacts on cating a "factory" had also the site.

Mr Park said it was not known how the Maori made an adze, apart from the line New Zealand." Mr Mac-

It was understood adze-

Lot of Work necessary before any breakmight take months of study at the museum's laboratory. From what he had seen so far, he was certain the site was one at which adzes were made. What he hoped to find was a quantity of rock flakes. This would tell most The director of the South-land Museum, Mr A. J. Mackenzie, said last night his

facts from the site, and these were now at the museum. Further Find Assistants, Messrs R. J. Beck and M. Forest made a a seam of the rock, argillite, which the Maoris favoured

#### 25 May 1968

# Remains Believed To Be Of Early Southland Personality

Finding out about old local identities is fun. There are usually plenty of people around perhaps knew the person inquired about. But when a person has been dead for more than 100 years, and even then lived a remote, isolated life, the

person has been dead job becomes one for a professional.

For the director of the Southland Museum, Markenzile, the discovery at Tiwai Point yes-serday gives him enough circumstantial evidence to identify one of Southland's first personalities.

Moring out the identify from a few clues was something like that of a detective in a popular mystery story—complete with several very red herrings.

The mystery began on May 3 when, with Mr Stuart.

Perk, of the Ocago Museum, Mr Mackenzie, was examining Tiwai Point as a possible as a recent cut by a buildozer across a sand dune, and Mr Mackenzie suggested they walk along the path of the cut.

He discovered a lower with severe walking along the beach when they noticed a recent cut by a buildozer across a sand dune, and Mr Mackenzie suggested they walk along the path of the cut.

He discovered a lower mystery began on the ocean side of Tiwa a possible as recovering the possible of the post of the post were walking along the beach when they noticed in the first post of the post of the post were walking along the beach when they noticed in the profused a recent cut by a buildozer across a sand dune, and Mr Mackenzie suggested they walk along the path of the cut.

He discovered a lower mystery was buried on Tiwai and provided a program of the post of the po

according to an early Stirling's grave' — in the authority, W. H. S. Roberts, exact spot where the bones "A canoe made of a single were found!"

The truth, the reason for ling was buried after all in an enclosed grave—European custom.

**July 1968** 

Comalco Gives

\$250 For

Tiwai 'Dig'

Comalco has given \$250 towards the Tiwai Point

archaeological appeal

launched recently by the

The sum, described yesterday by the chairman of the

Southland Museum Trust

Board, Mr G. F. Blick, as "a

magnificent gesture," almost

guarantees the success of the

The fund now stands at \$462. The objective was a

The money will go towards

extended specialist archaeo-

logical work on part of Tiwai

Point, the aliminium smelter

It was found in May that the area is rich in significant

Maori artifacts and remains

of Maori activity dating from

Southland Museum.

minimum of \$500.

site, in August.

earliest times.

#### 28 May 1968

# Help Needed to Save Artifacts

What may well turn out to be one of the biggest archaeological finds in New Zealand, the Maori site at Tiwai Point, near Bluff, may be lest for all time because few people appear to be

interested in doing anything about it. Road building contractors of praise for the team of working on an access road Otago University students to the site of the proposed who spent the last week of Comalco aluminium smelter, their holiday working at the sites.

Roman statues to dig up and Chance like this would mean none of these. We have Maori a national effort, sites. realizing the historical importance of the site, have even offered to divert the road so as not to disturb what has lain untouched for surface."

Sites.

"And as far as everyone seems to be concerned, this is just another Maori site," is just another Maori site," what has lain untouched for surface."

Some 600 artifacts had seems to be concerned, this is just another Maori site," is just another Maori site, but there's no one available to do it," Mr Macwhat has lain untouched for surface."

But few people seem interested in taking a little time and effort to excavate what remains of the ancient Maori

what has lain untouched for said.

"Tiwal Point has never even seen a ploughshare. Its inaccessibility has kept it untouched for centuries."

"In years to come, people inaccessibility has kept it untouched for centuries."

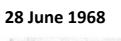
"It was point has never even seen a ploughshare. Its inaccessibility has kept it untouched for centuries."

"It was point has never even seen a ploughshare. Its inaccessibility has kept it untouched for centuries."

"It was point has never even seen a ploughshare. Its inaccessibility has kept it untouched for centuries."

"It was point has never even seen a ploughshare inaccessibility has kept it untouched for centuries."

work will be done at Tiwai on the university director of the Southland Museum, was last night, full of the term, but a lot of work will be done at Tiwai on the more than the term, but a lot of work will be done at Tiwai on the term, but a lot o



#### Tiwai Point Appeal 6 Fundat \$161

The Southland Museum

appeal for funds to help the proposed extensive Tiwai Pont archaeological "rescue operation" in August is off The Southland County Council, at its meeting yes-terday, approvad a grant of \$100 towards the operation, which will be spearheaded by archaeological authorities With previous donations

from Dunedin. and promises, the Southland Museum fund now stands at \$161. The appeal, for \$500, was launched on Thursday. "It's a great start," the museum trust board chair-man, Mr G. F. Blick, said yesterday. The Southland County Council's grant is in addition to its usual annual grant to the trust board, which was confirmed yesterday at \$1746.

#### 21 May 1968

### **Excavation to Start** For Adzes

the site of a Maori adze "factory," was almost completed, and a start would be made today or tomorrow on an investigation which it was hoped would reveal the procedure in adzemaking, an Otago Museum ethnologist, Mr

A group of Otago Uni- Tikore Island, just off the general principles. He hoped to find clues which would kenzie said.

reveal the angle of each cut and the method. making was a complex pro-cess, he said.

A lot of work would be ough was reached, and this of the story, Mr. Park said. staff had collected 550 arti-

further discovery during a visit to Bluff yesterday, when they proved a theory that for adze-making, ran through

23 May 1968

## SMELTER WORK COULD RUIN ADZE SITE

An important New Zealand archeological site could be lost if Comalco takes up its option on Manapouri power and begins building an aluminium smelter at Tiwai Point before next summer. Excavations by a group of other stone tools were made, teer labour comes

Otago University students Obsidium from Mayor students, under Otago museum eth- Island, in the Bay of Plenty, "What we would like to nologist, Mr Stuart Park, and tools made from a beau-have been carried out at the point this week.

do with this site is to come back in summer for a month or two. This could tell us a So far, they have found "This rock crystal-making tremendous amount about the that the site is not only ex- is one about which we know mos hunter in Southland. tensive, and contains clues to very little in New Zealand, Mr Park said. adze-making from local although we do know there green and fine black argillite, was similar activity at Waiau tion, this will be an extremely ut there was a great deal of bar, a famous archaeological important site, comparable to other activity making tools site in Marlborough," Mr Waiau bar," he said. from other materials. Park said. "People definitely lived in before this, the best that

The site also contains moa bones, post-holes indicating the area, as we found scoop could be done would be for dwellings and ovens. halves and ovens," he said. These all add up to the ex- These people were un- the Otago or Southland stence of moa hunters in this doubtedly moa-hunters, as museums to walk along with area. moa bones from as yet un-The site covers 10 to 15 identified species were found. artifacts uncarthed, Mr Park acres and is undisturbed There was also substantial said.

either by fossicking or evidence of other foods , "But we couldn't get anyploughing—"which is quite eaten on this site. thing like the information we rare in New Zealand," Mr "We found quite a few could from the site this way." ark said.

Rescue operations have so shell fish which have not The site would also provide far produced more than 500 been identified as yet because information in the food of semi-finished adzes from the we don't have a bone special- the Southland Maori at that site along the sea shore.

Flake material of porcelinite and quartzite was also to this. While we have this time, and why they did not have kumeras.

'However there is a snag to this. While we have this 'We are very excited about found-both from sources as tremendous site, we have to what we have found and are yet undiscovered—and this terminate it this weekend keen to come back," Mr indicated a good deal of because most of the volun- Park said,

or two. This could tell us a

If the smelter work started

28 May 1968

#### Bluff Excavations

A LTHOUGH THE FINDS at Tiwal Point have not been of the kind that make an immediate impact on the public, the extensive deposit of early material is nevertheless of considerable potential value in broadening our knowledge of Maori life in the southern part of New Zealand. If, as has been suggested, the site could turn out to be as significant as the Wairau bar, the information it would provide would be of great interest.

At the moment, further scientific investigation has to be delayed. Mr Park, the Otago Museum's assistant anthropologist, had been helped by several university students who have had to return for the start of term. Although he himself could be available to continue work, the absence of the students means that no trained or semi-trained diggers are readily available. The Tiwai site is one which calls for a degree of experience, since little covering has to be removed to reach the layer of material, and most of that material has to be examined in situ for it to reveal its dating. Despite the present delay, it is hoped that further

work will be possible. Comalco representatives are sympathetic towards the archaeologists' aims and it is understood that, where possible, access roads and other work may be sited in such a way as to minimise interference with the extensive 10-15 acre site. At least a temporary diversion of the access road could provide enough time for more useful work to be done. There remains the possibility, however, that Comaleo cannot avoid some intrusion on the site and, if delay or diversion is not possible, some emergency action may be desirable to ensure that material is saved. If, for a variety of reasons, volunteers are unable to do this, skilled archaeologists may have to be called in from other centres, assuming the site is considered worth it. Since this sort of approach is in its infancy in New Zealand, Government financial assistance might be necessary.

The Government is slowly acknowledging the value of archaeology. Co-operation has existed on several power schemes, including the Waitaki, and the special Kapuni pipeline survey revealed an interesting pa site. This approach should be general, without causing any feeling that an official survey is going to introduce a sense of compulsion. If adequate notice is given and research teams are promptly put into the field with reasonable resources, most of the relevant material can be recovered without any inconvenience to anyone.

### 10 July 1968

BLUFF MAORI SITE

# Comalco Helps 'Rescue Dig

The Southland Museum Trust Board has received \$250 from Comalco towards the cost of a "rescue dig" at Tiwai Point, the site of the Bluff aluminium smelter.

The "rescue dig" will be fore the start of the smelter heavy storms and picked up made by the University of construction. more than 400 adze blanks Otago anthropology students

An appeal for funds to from the sea shore where in the August vacations be- cover the cost of the dig was the sea had eroded the sand launched two weeks ago by hills. a sub-committee of the Southland Museum Trust The University of Otago Board and has so far raised was advised of the finds and

\$400, including Comalco's an expedition was arranged. Mr Arthur McKenzie, director of the museum, said yesterday the committee hoped

to raise about \$500. "We really appreciate this," Mr McKenzie said of Comalco's donation.

"The dig is a matter of urgency," he said. The smelter would occupy much of the excavation area. He said the board had informed Comalco of the

nature of the Maori site and

had asked for Comalco's cooperation. About the middle of May Mr McKenzie inspected the site at Tiwai Point after

**26 September 1968** 

#### 22 August 1968

# DAMAGE BY VANDALS AT TIWAI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE .22/8

The largest archaeological team Southland has ever attracted will this weekend complete an intensive three weeks near the aluminium smelter site on Bluff harbour's Tiwai Point. Ravages of vandals, weather and time have been overcome to an extent that confirms the ancient "adze

factory" as being among New Zealand's most important links with its Maori heritage.

The team of about 30 men and women, many of them University of Otago students, intends to have excavation resumed in November.

A plea was made vesterday for the area to be left as it is to avoid irreparable damage of a kind that confronted the group at the beginning of the month.

Vandals before then uncovered an area about 12th square and at one end dug a 4ft hole, disturbing and not recognizing a wealth of archaeological material.

The result was likened vestereday by the Southland Museum director, Mr Arthur MacKenzie, to a book for which only the cover remained intact.

"It was terribly dishearten-"

The team of about 30 men ing," he said. "The important links with its Maori heritage.

"It was terribly dishearten-"

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"It was terribly dishearten-"

The team of about 30 men and wing. That can be said and pea gravel pendand an factory" as being among New Zealand's most important links with its Maori heritage.

Site Damaged (P.A.) DUNEDIN Much valuable information was being lost at the Tiwai

Tiwai 'Dig

Point excavations at Bluff because of wanton destruction on parts of the site by curio hunters" with longhandled shovels, the Otago Museum Trust Board was In a report on the dig-gings, Mr G. S. Park said this was one of the most disturbing features.
After the second excavaion, in August, only tentative conclusions could be drawn from the findings, Mr A study of the material re-covered would take some ime and the results of geological and botanical studies made during the excavation were not yet known. The excavation was as-sisted financially by an ap-peal by the Southland Mus-eum Trust Board, which reached \$1000, including \$250 each from Comalco and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.
Mr Walden Fitzgerald said local Maoris did not support a claim by a Wellington group that the site was a sacred Maori area, which should not be disturbed.





Michael Forrest, a member of the party which helped to

take Maori objects from the archaeological site at

Tiwai Point on Friday, holds a flake awl, one of 60

objects discovered that day. The "rescue operation"

finished on Saturday, when the site was filled in and

the students and archaeologists who had been working

the site returned to Dunedin. However, it is hoped

28 May 1968

# Big Archaeological Find May Be Lost

INVERCARGILI, (PA).—What may well turn out to be one of the biggest archaeological finds in New Zealand, the Maori site at Tiwai Point, near Bluff, may be lost for all time because there appears to be little interest in doing anything about it.

Road building contractors; "Other countries have working on an access road Roman statues to dig up and to the proposed Comalco Greek columns. We have aluminium smelter, realising none of these. We have the historical importance of Maori sites. the site, have even offered "And as far as everyone to divert the road so as not seems to be concerned, this to disturb what has lain un- is just another Maori site. But no one seems interested in taking a little time and effort to excavate it untouched for centuries.

what remains of the ancient
Maori village.

Mr Arthur Mackenzie,
director of the Southland
Museum, was last night full
of praise for a team of Otago
University students who University students who spent the last week of their holiday working at the site. Some 600 artifacts had contractors have offered to been uncovered so far, Mr contractors have offered to Mackenzie said, "and we give us time to excavate the have hardly scratched the surface."

"But now the whole thing "In years to come people has just stopped. The boys will wonder why nothing was want to come back at the done about the Tiwai Point end of term, but a lot of site-and by then no one will

from the University of Olago sift through the so at a Maori adze site at Tiwai Point, Bluff, Excavations by the party have revealed that the site covers an estimated 10 to 15 acres. The site is located near the area where the aluminium smelter will be built if Comalco takes up its option to use Manapouri power.