

Tiwai Peninsula

preliminary cultural significance report

Photo credit: New Zealand's Aluminium Smelter (NZAS)



Murihiku
Regeneration

January 2021

Appendix I – Newspaper Clippings

A

Adze Factory' At Tiwai Point

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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 to have been a Maori "adze factory" at which adzes found all over Southland were produced. The origin of these adzes, used by the Moa hunters, had long puzzled Maori historians.

Mr Mackenzie said the area had long been known as an ancient Maori site, but it was not until recently that, because of the possibility of the aluminium smelter being built there, it was decided to

examine the site while this was still possible.

About 250 artifacts were found on the point yesterday.

Some 50 adze "blanks" (the roughly formed adze), 100 broken "blanks," many stone flakes from which the "blanks" were made and five hammer stones—used to chip and rough out the "blanks"—were found.

Corresponded

The type of metamorphic rock used at the "adze factory" was found by Mr Beck to correspond with adzes found all over the province.

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 bulldozed across the peninsula by contractors, a human jaw-bone and part of a limb were unearthed.

Mr Mackenzie said the place was definitely a moa hunters' site, and had been used in comparatively recent times.

"The trip was very profitable, and has tied up a lot of loose ends," Mr Mackenzie said.

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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 sought by Dr Charles Higham, of the University of Otago, who yesterday went to Tiwai, where a further substantial number of Maori stone tools were recovered.

With him on the site, which is liable to be plotted out at the outset of any work for an aluminium smelter, were the Southland Museum director, Mr Arthur Mackenzie, and the assistant director, Mr Russell Beck.

The men yesterday added about 100 artifacts to the 350 or so collected a week ago—again mainly adzes at various stages of creation and hammerstones, tools that were used in fashioning the adzes.

Delicate Work

The bulk of available surface material exposed by wind and sea had now been collected, and extremely delicate work must now be undertaken to see what lay under the sand and gravel, said Mr Mackenzie.

Dr Higham, he said, hoped

to return with a team from the university.

Mr Mackenzie appealed to the public not to fossick in the locality, which showed great promise of revealing more of Maori pre-history if left to organized scientific study.

The artifacts found indicate that the site was worked by nomadic peoples possibly more than 1000 years ago until large-scale adze-making stopped about 200 years ago.

Finished on Site

Adzes were both roughed-out and finished on the site, which appears to cover about 200 square yards, based on an argillite reef almost in a direct line with those at Greenhills, Oraki and Te Anau.

It is from the spot that much of the rock necessary for Awarua Bay causeways, part of the planned land access to the smelter site, would probably be taken. And the planned road along the Tiwai to the smelter site would also cross the "adze factory" remains.

Moa Bones Being Studied

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A musterer who stumbled on a cave in the high country near Queenstown last year may have uncovered an important moa bone find. Mr Stuart Park, assistant anthropologist at the Otago Museum, said last night that the bones could be of a rare species, and at the highest altitude of any find in New Zealand.

The musterer, Mr Peter Davenport, found the cave while mustering in April, 1967, on the 108,000-acre Branches Station, beyond Skippers.

Mr Park and a student assistant, Mr G. Ward, have just returned to Dunedin with the bones from the cave.

They were from about seven moas, Mr Park said, and early indications were that they were of the medium size variety—between 6ft and 8ft high.

Moa bones had been found in other spots in the area—at Moonlight and Coronet Peak—but they could not be as high as this find, which was about 3500ft above sea level.

Mr Park had not heard of a find at such an altitude before.

Evaluation

"At present I don't know what species they were. And until I know this, it is hard to evaluate the significance of find," he said.

"If it happened that the bones were from a fairly rare species, then the find could be fairly important."

It appeared the seven moas were either trapped in the cave or went there to die. There were no signs that they were taken there by man.

Some of the bones were well on the way to being fossilized, while others were quite fresh looking, Mr Park said. So it seemed they came from different periods.

Find in 1950

"The last dated moa find in New Zealand was 1950, so it will be before that," he said.

The bones were found in three heaps.

The musterer was the only person who knew of the location of the cave, about 12 miles from the station homestead, until Mr Park and his assistant were taken there last week.

The men got into the cave through what was once the roof, but which had caved in.

When Mr Davenport found the cave last year he brought with him a moa bone with the claws still attached.

Mr Park attributed the delay by the Otago Museum in investigating the find to a "breakdown in communications."

He said that in a month he should determine the species of moa and, therefore, the importance of the find.

The cave where the bones were found is 36ft long and 4ft in width and height, but it has been larger. Part of the front has caved in and there could be more bones under the rubble.

It is sited in a tussocky hill face 1500ft above the Shotover river, 12 miles from the homestead, 23 miles north from Skippers, and about 40 miles from Queenstown.

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 operation."

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 was found this month to have been a Maori adze "factory" that possibly dates from earliest times.

"The more we see of the site, the more significant it becomes," Mr Mackenzie said yesterday.

Storm Bonus

When Mr Mackenzie 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 April storms.

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, he said, would be based at Bluff, where the Southland Harbour Board was assisting with accommodation.

Daily transport across the harbour to the peninsula could become a difficulty, and he would be glad to hear

Excavation to Start For Adzes

Preparation for excavation at Tiwai Point, 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 adze-making, an Otago Museum ethnologist, Mr Stuart Park, said in Bluff last night.

A group of Otago University students are working at the site this week, following up the discovery of many adzes and artifacts on the site.

Mr Park said it was not known how the Maori made an adze, apart from the general principles. He hoped to find clues which would reveal the angle of each cut and the method.

It was understood adze-making was a complex process, he said.

Lot of Work

A lot of work would be necessary before any breakthrough was reached, and this might 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 of the story, Mr Park said.

The director of the Southland Museum, Mr A. J. Mackenzie, said last night his staff had collected 550 artifacts from the site, and these were now at the museum.

Further Find

Assistants, Messrs R. J. Beck and M. Forest made a further discovery during a visit to Bluff yesterday, when they proved a theory that a seam of the rock, argillite, which the Maoris favoured for adze-making, ran through

Tikore Island, just off the point.

On the island, they found about 30 adze blanks, indicating a "factory" had also been set up there.

"This is further proof that the Bluff area was probably the biggest adze-making area in New Zealand," Mr Mackenzie said.

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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 Otago University students under Otago museum ethnologist, Mr Stuart Park, have been carried out at the point this week.

So far, they have found that the site is not only extensive, and contains clues to adze-making from local green and fine black argillite, but there was a great deal of other activity making tools from other materials.

The site also contains moa bones, post-holes indicating dwellings and ovens.

These all add up to the existence of moa hunters in this area.

The site covers 10 to 15 acres and is undisturbed either by fossicking or ploughing—"which is quite rare in New Zealand," Mr Park said.

Rescue operations have so far produced more than 500 semi-finished adzes from the site along the sea shore.

Flake material of porcelinite and quartzite was also found—both from sources as yet undiscovered—and this indicated a good deal of

other stone tools were made.

Obsidium from Mayor Island, in the Bay of Plenty, and tools made from a beautiful form of rock crystal were also found.

"This rock crystal-making is one about which we know very little in New Zealand, although we do know there was similar activity at Waiau bar, a famous archaeological site in Marlborough," Mr Park said.

"People definitely lived in the area, as we found scoop halves and ovens," he said.

These people were undoubtedly moa-hunters, as moa bones from as yet unidentified species were found. There was also substantial evidence of other foods eaten on this site.

"We found quite a few bones and some varieties of shell fish which have not been identified as yet because we don't have a bone specialist here," Mr Park said.

"However there is a snag to this. While we have this tremendous site, we have to terminate it this weekend because most of the volun-

teer labour comes from students.

"What we would like to do with this site is to come back in summer for a month or two. This could tell us a tremendous amount about the moa hunter in Southland," Mr Park said.

"If we can get the information, this will be an extremely important site, comparable to Waiau bar," he said.

If the smelter work started before this, the best that could be done would be for one or two trained men from the Otago or Southland museums to walk along with bulldozers, picking up any artifacts unearthed, Mr Park said.

"But we couldn't get anything like the information we could from the site this way," he emphasized.

The site would also provide information in the food of the Southland Maori at that time, and why they did not have kumeras.

"We are very excited about what we have found and are keen to come back," Mr Park said.

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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 taken from the area by Mr Stuart Park, Otago Museum assistant anthropologist, who has led the operation in which up to 12 University of

Otago students have taken part.

Carbon dating by the Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Wellington, is intended to obtain fairly reliable guides

to the times the site was used by the Maori.

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

Mr Park said yesterday that artifacts taken to Dunedin for intensive study would eventually be returned to the Southland Museum, which initiated the operation.

He praised co-operation received from representatives of the Southland Museum and other bodies, especially the Southland Harbour Board and Comalco engineering consultants.

Report

Results of carbon dating tests were unlikely to be known for several months, he said. He would be preparing a preliminary report, and copies would go to the museum here and Comalco consultants.

Some of the work done at Tiwai dovetailed with work done last year at Riverton and Tihaka, said Mr Park. He hoped further fieldwork could be undertaken, perhaps in August.

There were leads to sites of potential archaeological note in addition to Tiwai.

Maori Finds at Tiwai



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 on the site returned to Dunedin. However, it is hoped

Remains Believed To Be Of Early Southland Personality

Finding out about old local identities is fun. There are usually plenty of people around willing to lend a hand, and many who 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 job becomes one for a professional.

For the director of the Southland Museum, Mr Arthur Mackenzie, the discovery at Tiwai Point yesterday gives him enough circumstantial evidence to identify one of Southland's first personalities.

Mr Mackenzie's task in working out the identity 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 Park, of the Otago Museum, Mr Mackenzie was examining Tiwai Point as a possible site for excavations for Maori artifacts.

They were walking along the beach when they noticed a recent cut by a bulldozer across a sand dune, and Mr Mackenzie suggested they walk along the path of the cut.

He discovered a lower human jaw bone, part of a leg bone and two ribs, which he took back to Invercargill.

Two days later more bones from the area were handed in to him, this time some vertebrae, another piece of leg bone and pieces of skull.

At this stage it was thought the bones could have been of a woman or a Maori.

Tiwai, the old Maori name for the peninsula, means, according to an early authority, W. H. S. Roberts, "A canoe made of a single

log . . . a dugout."

Roberts made one significant point in noting that a bay close to the point was referred to by the Maoris as "mou-tapu," or sacred.

It is still thought in many circles, and among some locals (although it has never been proved conclusively), that there is a Maori chief-tain buried on Tiwai. A bay on the ocean side of Tiwai is reputed to be "tapu."

Another clue came forward, but was swiftly dismissed as a red herring.

It had been suggested that Alex Dunlop, the father of a prominent Southland settler, was buried on Tiwai, and the bones found could belong to him. However, descendants produced a photo of the grave with a rail surround — which appears to be still fairly intact — on another part of the peninsula.

Then, discussing the problem with Dr John Hall-Jones one night, Mr Mackenzie learned that Dr Hall-Jones had an early map of the peninsula drawn by a surveyor, Alexander Garvey, who was a grandson of, and worked with, the illustrious Turnbull Thomson.

Dr Hall-Jones's map has two points marked which are of special interest: "The house" and "Captain William Stirling's grave" — in the exact spot where the bones were found!

From the book, "Historical Southland," by Mr F. Hall-Jones, a few facts about Captain Stirling came to light.

He was a whaler, and for a long time managed a whaling station for the famous Johnny Jones. He died of consumption in 1851. No early records can throw light on where he lived exactly, or where he was buried.

Stirling Point, at Bluff, is named after him.

Burial on the top of a sand and gravel dune is a typical Maori fashion, and for a time this confused Mr Mackenzie.

"Why should a man of Captain Stirling's position be buried in Maori fashion?" he asked.

But the coup-de-grace for the theory of the Maori chief-tain's body came when a member of the university party excavating at Tiwai Point announced that the skull bones found were definitely European.

So all the clues pointed to the remains being those of Captain William Stirling — except for the apparent mystery as to why he was buried in apparent Maori fashion.

Mr Mackenzie returned to the scene yesterday and discovered enough clues to convince him that Captain Stirling was buried after all in an enclosed grave — European custom.

He found remains of two corner posts made for a 6ft or 7ft grave. The posts are totara, 9ft or 10ft long, and have two mortice joints in each for fitting a complete square enclosure. The tops of the posts were roughly decorated with a hexagonal design.

Mr Mackenzie also found a thumbbone, a metal button, probably from a uniform, and a small piece of bone pipe.

He then walked to where the house was marked on the map, a few hundred yards further along. Here he found plenty of evidence of a dwelling place.

A small ditch had been dug around the house, and there was a garden at the back. About 100 yards towards Bluff was a very small, smooth beach which would have been ideal for grounding boats on the normally rocky coastline of the peninsula.

Mr Mackenzie thought that, as Captain Stirling knew he was going to die — consumption in those days was a slow, incurable disease — he requested that he be buried near his home, if this was, in fact, his home.

Although he admits that it is pure conjecture, Mr Mackenzie is doubtful if anyone will be able to get closer to the truth, the reason for Captain Stirling being buried in such a lonely, unconventional place.

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Bluff Excavations

ALTHOUGH THE FINDS at Tiwai 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 Comalco 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.



Big Archaeological Find May Be Lost

INVERCARGILL (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 working on an access road to the proposed Comalco aluminium smelter, realising the historical importance of the site, have even offered to divert the road so as not to disturb what has lain untouched for centuries.

But no one seems interested in taking a little time and effort to excavate 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 spent the last week of their holiday working at the site.

Some 600 artifacts had been uncovered so far, Mr Mackenzie said, "and we have hardly scratched the surface."

"But now the whole thing has just stopped. The boys want to come back at the end of term, but a lot of

"Other countries have Roman statues to dig up and Greek columns. We have none of these. We have Maori sites.

"And as far as everyone seems to be concerned, this is just another Maori site.

"Tiwai Point has never even seen a ploughshare. Its inaccessability has kept it untouched for centuries.

"My hands are tied and so are Otago's (the university team). And no one is lifting a finger.

"In any other country a chance like this would mean a national effort.

"Comalco, the Southland Harbour Board and the road contractors have offered to give us time to excavate the site—but there's no one to do it," Mr Mackenzie said.

"In years to come people will wonder why nothing was done about the Tiwai Point site—and by then no one will

ANTHROPOLOGY students from the University of Otago sift through the soil 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.

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 lost for all time because few people appear to be interested in doing anything about it.

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Tiwai Point Appeal ²⁸/₆ Fund at \$161

The Southland Museum appeal for funds to help the proposed extensive Tiwai Point archaeological "rescue operation" in August is off to a flying start.

The Southland County Council, at its meeting yesterday, approved a grant of \$100 towards the operation, which will be spearheaded by archaeological authorities from Dunedin.

With previous donations 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 chairman, 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.

Comalco Gives \$250 For Tiwai 'Dig'

Comalco has given \$250 towards the Tiwai Point archaeological appeal launched recently by the Southland Museum.

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 appeal.

The fund now stands at \$462. The objective was a minimum of \$500.

The money will go towards extended specialist archaeological work on part of Tiwai Point, the aluminium smelter site, in August.

It was found in May that the area is rich in significant Maori artifacts and remains of Maori activity dating from earliest times.

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Maori Site At Tiwai Point 600 Years Old

The guest speaker at last night's meeting of the Bluff Lions Club was Mr A. J. Mackenzie, director of the Southland Museum, who spoke on the discovery of Maori artifacts at Tiwai Point. He said the site was estimated between 600 and 700 years old.

It had been established that the Maoris had been eating moas, and an oven 20 yards long had been found.

The site would be excavated by a scientific team next month, Mr Mackenzie said. Generous support had been given to enable this team to be kept in Bluff, and to cover transport costs to and from the site.

Mr Mackenzie emphasized that after examination by specialists at Otago Museum, any artifacts discovered would be returned to the Southland Museum.

BLUFF MAORI SITE

Comalco Helps 'Rescue Dig'

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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 made by the University of Otago anthropology students in the August vacations be-

fore the start of the smelter construction.

An appeal for funds to cover the cost of the dig was launched two weeks ago by a sub-committee of the Southland Museum Trust Board and has so far raised \$400, including Comalco's donation.

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 co-operation.

About the middle of May Mr McKenzie inspected the site at Tiwai Point after

heavy storms and picked up more than 400 adze blanks from the sea shore where the sea had eroded the sand hills.

The University of Otago was advised of the finds and an expedition was arranged.

DAMAGE BY VANDALS AT TIWAI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ^{22/8/68}

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 yesterday 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 12ft square and at one end dug a 4ft hole, disturbing and not recognizing a wealth of archaeological material.

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

"It was terribly dishearten-

ing," he said. "The importance of this work is in situ (original place). That can be done only by using scientific methods and having constant trained oversight of all that is done."

Adding insult to injury by the area where the first excavations were undertaken in May was a collection of beer bottles and the remains of crayfish and sandwiches.

Mr MacKenzie said there was tremendous promise of new knowledge from Tiwai if only the locality could be preserved for scientific study during the possibly short time before work began on smelter projects.

He said the group, led by Mr Stuart Park, Otago Museum assistant anthropologist, had retrieved further adze material, moa bone,

shell and carbon from the sand and pea gravel peninsula.

A significant find was made yesterday—an early stone minnow lure, apparently of a type that the Maori used for trawling.

Only one similar lure was at the Southland Museum, said Mr Mackenzie.

Excavations done in May had been extended and a further area uncovered, he said. In all, about 1800 square yards were being excavated in five-metre squares.

Mr Mackenzie joined the archaeologists again yesterday to spend most of eight hours on hands and knees, paring his square with brush and trowel—to find two flakes. They were identified and filed.

"Nothing has been seen of

greenstone and we don't expect to see any greenstone objects," he said. "Artifacts at Tiwai are mostly of local stone."

Even if a greenstone tiki, say, was found, as the public might wish, the prospective value of the other Tiwai material would be greater because it would almost certainly be older—extending into Maori pre-history, of which extremely little was known so far.

Mr Mackenzie said all members of the group were contributing toward the cost of the investigation. The fund, to which Southlanders and Comalco contributed more than \$600, was being conserved as much as possible because of the intention to do further work in November.

Tiwai 'Dig' Site ^{26/9} Damaged

(P.A.) DUNEDIN

Much valuable information was being lost at the Tiwai Point excavations at Bluff because of wanton destruction on parts of the site by "curio hunters" with long-handled shovels, the Otago Museum Trust Board was told yesterday.

In a report on the diggings, Mr G. S. Park said this was one of the most disturbing features.

After the second excavation, in August, only tentative conclusions could be drawn from the findings, Mr Park said.

A study of the material recovered would take some time and the results of geological and botanical studies made during the excavation were not yet known.

The excavation was assisted financially by an appeal by the Southland Museum 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.

TO RESUME TIWAI 'DIG' SOON

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Archaeological work is due to resume about the middle of next month near the aluminium smelter site on Tiwai Point, which was confirmed early this year as a significant Maori adze factory of pre-European times.

The third large expedition to the area this year will again be led by the Otago Museum's assistant anthropologist, Mr Stuart Park.

It will be financed mainly from the balance of funds from the August expedition, to which the smelter planning Australian company, Comalco, and Southlanders contributed more than \$600.

Hundreds of items associated with early Maori working of Tiwai's argillite reef were recovered in May and August.

Promising

Mr Park, said from Dunedin yesterday that next month's work, which would be a natural continuation of August's, would be specially concerned with an area that looked even more promising than those already sifted.

Work would resume about November 16, and he hoped it would last for five weeks with about 10 men and women on the job each week.

He would be relying on University of Otago students, but hoped Southlanders would be available to swell numbers. There had been inquiries from potential assistants as far afield as Auckland.

Artifacts taken from Tiwai

been cleaned and labelled, said Mr Park. Much remained to be done before assessments could be made.

Mr Park said he still guessed that much of the material dated from 14th and 15th centuries — a guess based mainly on the shapes of some artifacts and the types of food identifiable.

Meanwhile, some pieces of obsidian, volcanic glass, found at Tiwai, had been sent to Auckland University for possible dating, a process that would take into account the amount of weathering since the pieces were cut.

Mr Park said he hoped to use the Tiwai work and studies as the basis of a M.A. thesis in anthropology.

WELLINGTON MAORIS CLAIM SMELTER SITE TAPU

Claims that the site of the proposed Comalco aluminium smelter at Tiwai Point is tapu and that building it would be a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi were made in a statement to The Southland Times last night by a sub-chief of the South Island Ngaitahu tribe. He said he planned to fight the construction of the smelter through New Zealand courts and even in the United Nations, if need be.

Mr Paranihi ("Alec") Rissetto, head of the 30-strong Rissetto branch of the Ngaitahus, said from Wellington that building a smelter on what was an ancient and sacred Maori burial site would be a slight to the Maori people.

"Furthermore," he said, "it would be a breach of section three of the Treaty of Waitangi, which safeguards the Maori peoples right to shellfish foods."

"Pollution from the smelter would affect sea eggs, mussels and pauas on the Southland coast," he said. "And eventually it would affect the Foveaux Strait oyster beds."

Mr Rissetto said he had sought legal advice with a view to suing the New Zealand Government and Comalco on behalf of his people.

The Rissettos take their name from a pakeha boat-builder who married into the

Ngaitahu tribe two generations ago.

Mr Rissetto, a 47-year-old assembler in a Wellington factory, owns land at Greenhills, near Bluff, and is also associated with the radical Maori Organization of Human Rights, which has about 60 members, and the Kotahitanga movement, which has more than 300 members.

The Maori Organization of Human Rights, said Mr Rissetto, was formed in January as a consequence of the legislation last year on Maori land and the Kotahitanga movement has been in existence for 150 years. Its aims are to protect Maori land ownership.

"We'll fight the smelter all the way," Mr Rissetto said last night. "And if we can't get anywhere in New Zealand courts we'll take it up with the United Nations. We have already made preliminary approaches to them on

the breaching of the Treaty of Waitangi."

Mr Robert Whaitiri, of Bluff, a prominent Southland Maori and a member of the Ngaitahu Tribal Trust Board, last night said that Southland Maoris were definitely not opposed to the siting of the smelter on the Tiwai Point site.

But Mr Rissetto claimed that South Island Maoris who were not fighting the building of the smelter on the site were weak.

"They are so used to the pakehas walking over them that they won't stand up for their rights," he said.

Tiwai Point had been regarded as tapu in recent years, he said.

"Only the scientists who dug for artifacts there were allowed to break it," he said.

Mr Rissetto claimed that the two Wellington newspapers, The Dominion and The Evening Post, had declined to publish his state-

ment on behalf of his people.

"And the Wellington newsroom of the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation was also given a statement, which it has ignored," he said.

"They won't let the voice be heard of a Maori standing up for the rights of his people."

Mr Rissetto said that if the Government was going to ignore the Treaty of Waitangi his people were prepared to test its validity in international courts of justice.

"Either the promises are kept or it is not worth the parchment it was inscribed on," he said.

"Some vigorous litigation is needed to clarify the treaty for all time."

Most of the Rissettos now lived in Auckland and none were resident in Southland, but Tiwai was still part of their heritage, he said.