

Dept of Conservation
REGIONAL LIBRARY
Christchurch

DEPT. OF CONSERVATION
LANDS & SURVEY
HEAD OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
A 113 7981

Working Papers in Chatham Islands Archaeology 17

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTONGA LAND BLOCK, SOUTHWEST
COAST, CHATHAM ISLAND

Alison Begg

Dunedin

© 1977

Anthropology Department, University of Otago,
Dunedin, New Zealand

WLS 113 7981

WORKING PAPERS IN CHATHAM ISLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

N.Z. DEPT. OF LANDS & SURVEY

HEAD OFFICE

31st JULY 1830

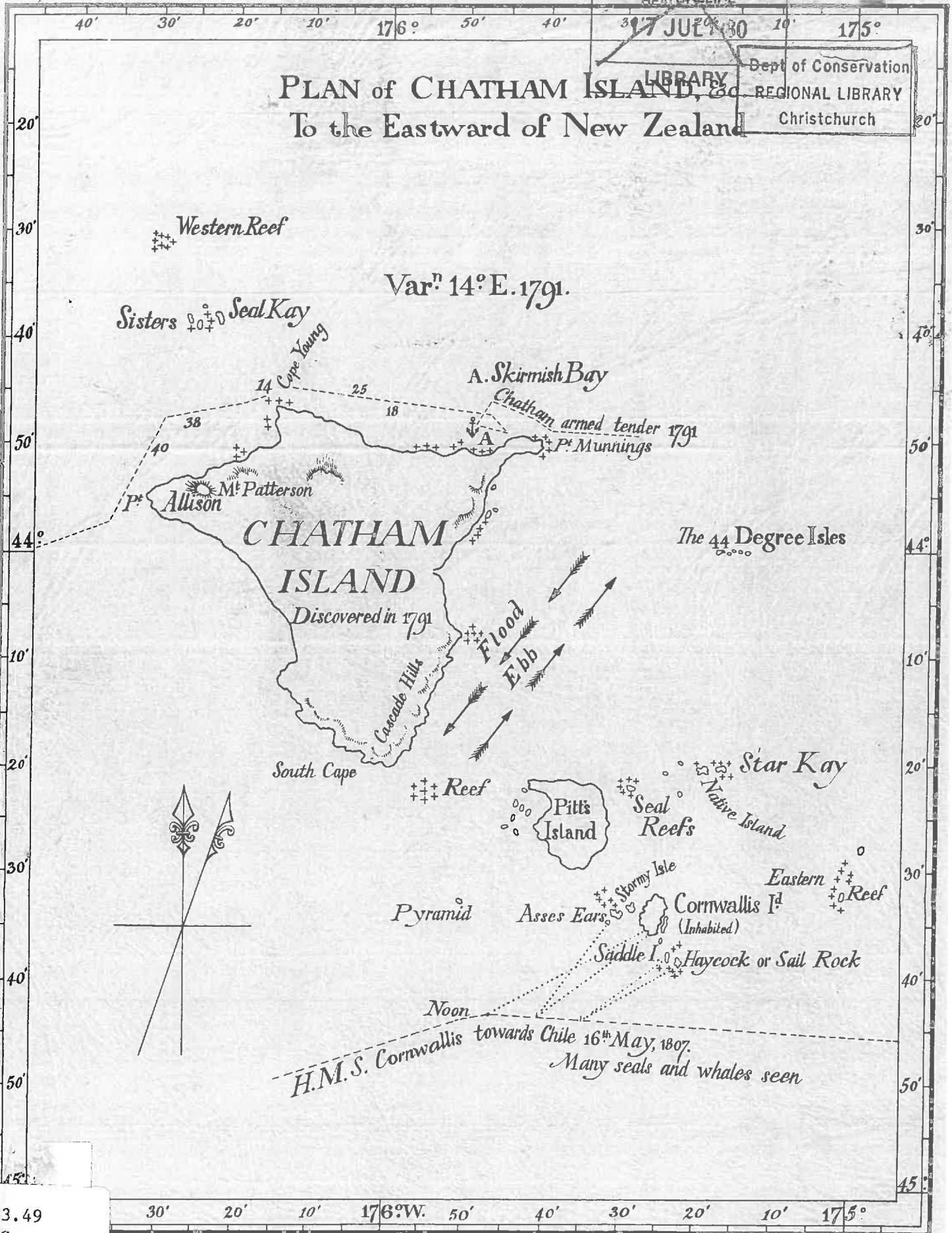
LIBRARY

Dept of Conservation

REGIONAL LIBRARY

Christchurch

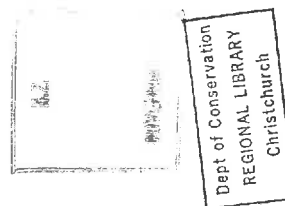
PLAN of CHATHAM ISLAND, &c To the Eastward of New Zealand



993.49
BEG

Earlier papers in the series are:

1. Smith, I.W.G. and P. Wernham.
"Survey of Archaeological Sites: Te Awapatiki to Hapupu, Hanson Bay, Chatham Islands". 1976.
2. Weiss, Dr B. (Translated K.J. Dennison).
"More than Fifty Years on Chatham Island". 1976.
3. Park, G.S.
"The Dendroglyphs and Petroglyphs of the Chatham Island". 1976.
4. Houghton, P.
"The Human Skeletal Material from Waihora (CH283)". 1976.
5. Sutton, D.G.
"An Alternative Research Strategy for the Study of Prehistoric Human Skeletal Remains". 1977.
6. Hamel, G.
"Vegetation and Archaeology on Chatham Island". 1977.
7. Smith, I.W.G.
"Prehistoric Fur Seal Exploitation on the Southwest Coast of Chatham Island". 1977.
8. Nugent, T.D.
"Prehistoric Shellfish Gathering at Waihora, Southwest Coast, Chatham Island". 1977.
9. Walters, M.
"An Examination of the Literary Evidence for the Existence of Discrete Groups of Moriori in the Chatham Islands in the 19th Century". 1977.
10. Sutton, D.G.
"The Archaeology of the Little Sister, Chatham Islands". 1977.
11. Sutton, D.G.
"Archaeological Research in the Chatham Islands 1973-1976: a review". 1977.



8525

993.49

BEG

OCT 90

FOREWORD

12. D.G. Sutton and Y.M. Marshall.
"Archaeological Bird Bone Assemblages from Chatham Island: an interpretation". 1977.
13. Campbell, J.
"Historic Shipwrecks at the Chatham Islands". 1977.
14. Dennison, John.
"Early German Missionaries in the Chatham Islands". 1977.
15. Wallace, Rod.
"The Land and Freshwater Mollusca of the Chatham Islands". 1977.
16. Cave, Jenny.
"Experimental Analysis of Bird Bone Artefacts From the Waihora Site, Chatham Island". 1977.

This paper describes aspects of the post-1835 settlement and development of the Otonga Land Block. The study was initiated because of the need for a dated view of the vegetation on the Southwest Coast, and of the Waihora area in particular, as it appeared in the early historic period. This information could then be related to Hamel's (Working Paper 6, 1977) tentative ecological reconstruction of 'original' vegetation and Dodson's (in preparation) palynology of local peat deposits. These three pieces of research form the basis of the reconstruction of vegetation history for the Waihora area which will be presented in the editor's doctoral dissertation (in preparation).

A second purpose of the study was to clarify the chronology and causes of the dramatic habitat change which has occurred recently on the Southwest coast. A recent interpretation of the bird bone assemblages from two archaeological sites in this area (Sutton and Marshall, Working Paper 12, 1977) resulted in the identification of over 40 species of which approximately 40% are now either extinct or rare and endangered. The Southwest coast has therefore undergone a rapid process of habitat change in recent centuries which has been paralleled by a large set of bird extinctions and range reductions. The causes of this process may be found or reflected in the results of a study of the available historic records.

Information on European land clearance is very

important if we are to understand the pre-European distribution of various vegetation types and the extent of Moriori disturbance of that pattern.

The story of the development of the Otonga Land Block is intrinsically valuable for the light it sheds on the lives of the remarkable people who farmed the area and the very effective techniques they applied. It is no surprise that the Southwest coast, while certainly the bleakest and most exposed area of farm land in the Chathams, is amongst the most productive in the islands.

D.G. Sutton

Hon. Editor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fighting against time as I was, I am extremely grateful to all those who helped me gather information, or directed me to the most fruitful sources of information. I must thank especially Mr Kenneth Gwynne, Wellington, Mr David Holmes, Chatham Islands, Mr E. Regnault, Christchurch, and Mr R. Richards, Wellington.

Alison Begg

May, 1977.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Foreword	i
Acknowledgements	iii
List of Figures	iv
Introduction	1
Before Maori Cultivations	1
The Maori Cultivations	3
Stock on Otonga	7
The Clearing of the Land	11
The Era of Greatest Change, 1915-1936	15
Postscript	18
Hamel's Postscript	21
Appendix One: botanical names in the text ..	23
Notes	24
Bibliography	26

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure One: Maori Cultivation Sites.
 Figure Two: Otonga: Native Land Court Settlements.
 Figure Three: Otonga Coast, 1898.
 Figure Four: Kaiara, Otonga No. 1^C₂.
 Figure Five: Te Awarakau.
 Figure Six: Te Ngaio, 1898.
 Figure Seven: Te Ngaio, late 1930's.
 Figure Eight: Te Ngaio, 1950.

INTRODUCTION

Basically this paper tries to cover the course of land development and forest clearance in the Otonga district of the Chatham Islands. The coverage of the block is uneven, focussing more on some parts than on others, as a result of the special interests of the archaeological team, the number of informants, and the time spent in fieldwork.

BEFORE THE MAORI CULTIVATIONS

Historical records of the era before the Maori invasion on the Chathams are hard to come by, and the dearth becomes a famine as far as the Otonga Block is concerned. As far as we know, no European explorer ever made a landfall on its inhospitable coast, and no Moriori of the stature of Hirawanu Tapu (1824-1901) survived to tell us anything of the Moriori way of life in Otonga.

Neither has much material evidence survived in the memories of the people who knew Otonga in the past. The choice sites were extensively fossicked over fifty years ago. Apparently there were *kopi* dendroglyphs in Wreck Bush (see Figure 1), but these have long since been felled or destroyed. Even the numerous neatly-packed mounds of paua shells remembered by Mr E. Regnault in the same area have been levelled by human and/or natural forces.

In 1862 the Moriori Council put the pre-Maori population of Otonga at 172.¹ By the time of the Native

THE MAORI CULTIVATIONS

The Maori occupation of the Otonga land Block was initially characterized by the bush garden. This was, at first, a result of the Maori invasion, it being a traditional means of claiming invaded territory. It was the first thing done by the men of Wharepa's canoe when they landed in Otonga.

The story of the Maori invasion of Otonga can largely be gleaned from the Minute Books of the New Zealand Native Land Courts. Told in brief,² it is as follows:

When the Maoris embarked on the "Lord Rodney", they had the foresight to load seven canoes as well. After spending some weeks at Whangaroa planting the all-important potatoes and building a pa, the Maoris spread out through the island. Wiremu Wharepa and some companions (a descendant of an occupant said ten) set off in his father's canoe to take possession of the south coast.

They swept down to Te Ngaio before stopping: there Te Haukoti went to take possession of the land at Ohinemamao, while Wharepa and the rest stayed to cultivate Te Ngaio. By the time Ihakara came back, Wharepa's canoe had gone to the Tuku, and so the three who were left went overland to Waihora and cultivated there. Te Kati Matene (one of Ihakara's band) eventually went after Wharepa, who had gone to take possession of Te Awatapu, and later Otawahao. On the return trip northwards, Wharepa went to Pirinoa (on the Waitangi side of Ohinemamao), Matakatau, Waikaripi and Ngapakoko.

The boundary between the Otonga land claimed by

Land Court proceedings in 1870, however, the Otonga Moriori population had dwindled to the names of a dozen or so grantees found on the land awards of that year (NZNLIC). We know very little about them or their mode of life.

At one point in the proceedings Toenge te Poki gave evidence about them:

"Hori Rangī and Aura Hau are the two principal men of the Moriori who live on this block. I cannot say how many Morioris live there... about ten are the number who permanently live there. Others come and go, and we do not object to them" (NZNLIC).

These transients may have come for more than one reason, but they certainly came to Otonga to kill some species of petrel on the southwest cliffs. Percy Smith, while surveying near the Horns, "came upon a party of Morioris collecting a species of bird called hakoakoa which they find in holes in the cliffs" (Smith, 23/4/1868).

As for the rest of their occupation at this time, they were presumably free to live and work as they wished. Yet although the Maoris became Christians in 1842, thereupon supposedly giving up their Moriori slaves, and although they were legally required to do so in 1858, Resident Commissioner Thomas thought he noticed that the Maoris made them "feel the pressure of their thumbs" (Thomas, 2/9/1864). It could well be that press-ganged Morioris played quite a part in the clearing of bush and the subsequent cultivation of the Maori bush gardens.

Wharepa (Ngāti-matunga) and the land to the north and east claimed by Ngāti-tama, was originally a line extending from Matakatau across the Pipitarawai range to the coastal cliffs. This was later extended to Waikaripi, and inland to Hanauru. Finally, during Ngāti-tama's flight from Waitangi, Wharepa's people took possession of the land up to the present northern Otonga boundary. About 1869 the eastern boundary was finally settled by Ihakara and Naera Pomare (Ngāti-tama), who agreed that the boundary should be at Te Awatapu, and who buried either some lead or some bullets to mark the spot.

The Land Court of 1870 was held with a view to establishing the Maori owners of the Otonga Block; that of 1893 tried to divide the land fairly amongst these owners. Consequently the Court heard a lot of evidence about the invasion and the subsequent cultivations, but as most was at least second-hand, and given with an eye to the most advantageous settlement, all the claims and counter-claims of cultivations cannot be taken at face value.

There were certainly, however, a number of cultivations at Otawhao, it being "a general resort no nga tangata katoa (to) cultivate potatoes for sale to the vessels that visited Waitangi" (Shand, NZNLC). The names which seem to be particularly connected to it are those of Te Kati, Paratene, Te Matahi, and Toenga te Poki. It is difficult to gauge the extent of the cultivations there, because the claims vary so considerably. Suffice to say that the N.Z. Survey Department's maps of 1899 still show a good

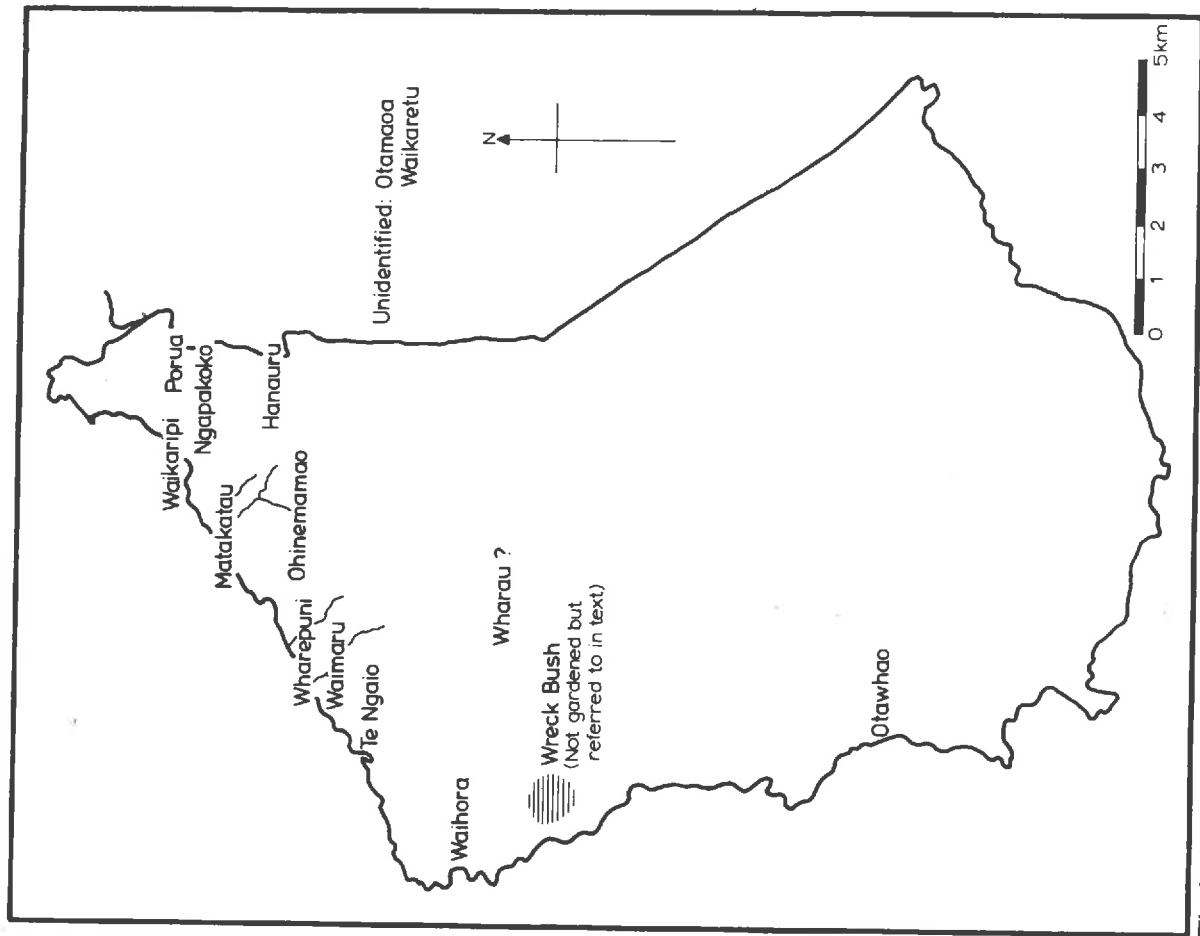


Fig1: MAORI CULTIVATION SITES

amount of coastal bush, and do not indicate any big clearings in that area.

There were also important cultivations at Ohinemamao, where Ihakara, Tamauera, Hukarere, and at some time, Totara and Paratene all lived. At some other time the two last-named settled and cultivated at Matakatau - perhaps during the time that Wharepa was also cultivating there. Wharepa and his two brothers Toenga and Paina later lived and cultivated at Waikaripi and Ngapakoko.

Other cultivations, which were either not so large or not so permanent, were:

- Te Ngaio Te Kati Matene
- Whareu Te Kati Matene
- Waihora Te Kati Matene
- Waimaru Kahupapa
- Pourua Wharepa and Toenga
- Te Hanauru Wharepa and Toenga
- Wharepuni, Otamaoa) Not connected with any names
- Waikaretu, Ota.)

As mentioned previously, these cultivations were probably started with a view to claiming the land, but with such a demand from the New Zealand market in the 1840's the commercial use of these gardens was quickly established. The period of greatest cultivation was the 1850's, when gold-struck Melbourne took all that the Chathams could produce.³

The cultivations took the form of bush gardens, as the best soil was the broadleaf bush soil. Areas of bush were felled, and the crop (mainly potatoes and wheat) grown amid the roots and stumps. Sheltered from the

8 Oct: ... thence down to the Coast at Kahokototara, then on again and entered the main bush, found it very thick, came out on to the Coast near where W (Wilson) and I turned back on 24th April ...

9 Oct: Kept along the Coast. The Bush exceedingly dense and difficult to penetrate reached Wilson's old Camp on the saddle at 1 o'clock where we lunched, thence along the track cut by Frank and Pitcairn in April ... arrived at our old camp at Miniapakara ... the Lillies are out in flower here now and are exceedingly pretty.

10 Oct: we thence followed along the Coast line the find the Bush very much more open than further inland where we cut our track. Came across several old Moriori camps, which they occupy when out here after Birds" (Smith, 8/10/1868 - 10/10/1868).

The only account of the country further north, apart from his description of the bush-lined coast from the sea, is of a trip from Waitangi to "near Otonga point" (Point Durham?).

"We had to cross a good deal of peaty country ... These peaty hills are generally covered with a slight vegetation of fern, wiwi and flax with occasional tarahina trees scattered about." (Smith 8/3/1868).

In summary then, Smith's visit of 1868 shows us a picture of coastal bush, mixed with clearings, behind which was peaty country covered with bracken, rushes and flax, typical of the present day uplands. If this area had ever been covered with *tarahināu* forest, it was burnt off by 1868. South of Otawhao he found heavy coastal bush right around to Te Awatapu.

STOCK ON OTONGA

Smith's visit coincided with the dying phases of the cultivation boom. By that time pigs, horses and cattle had been introduced to the Chathams and were running wild.

It may be that there were already sheep grazing on Otonga land. With the coming of the stock came the real changes in the Chatham Island vegetation.

Figs had been introduced by the sealers in the first decades of the nineteenth century, and had soon run wild. There were undoubtedly many in the sandy shore zones, because they were very fond of the Chatham Island lily. Otonga's broadleaf forest undergrowth doubtless provided very acceptable fodder, and at the turn of the century they were such a pest to Waitangi cultivators that high *ponga* and supplejack fences had to be erected between the cultivations and the Otonga/Kekerione clears in order to stop the night-time depredations of marauding pigs (Homes).

The undergrowth of the broadleaf forests was a lush assortment of ferns. Fallen and rotting logs were seed-beds and shelters for innumerable bush ferns. So dense was this undergrowth that Mr E. Regnault says that in his day,⁴ especially in the gullies of the southwest coast, it was hard to hold a course through it, and very easy to get lost. So thick was the undergrowth and swamp vegetation in Wreck Bush that it was said to be impossible for the cattle to penetrate between the fern clears and the coastal boulder beaches (Holmes).

By the time of Smith's visit sheep had already been on the Chathams for a couple of decades, but it seems that it took a while for the Maoris to become interested in them (Seed, quoted in Richards, p.61). Meanwhile Pakeha settlers became interested, and what was later called Otonga 1B was sold in 1873 to Robert Kerr, and the

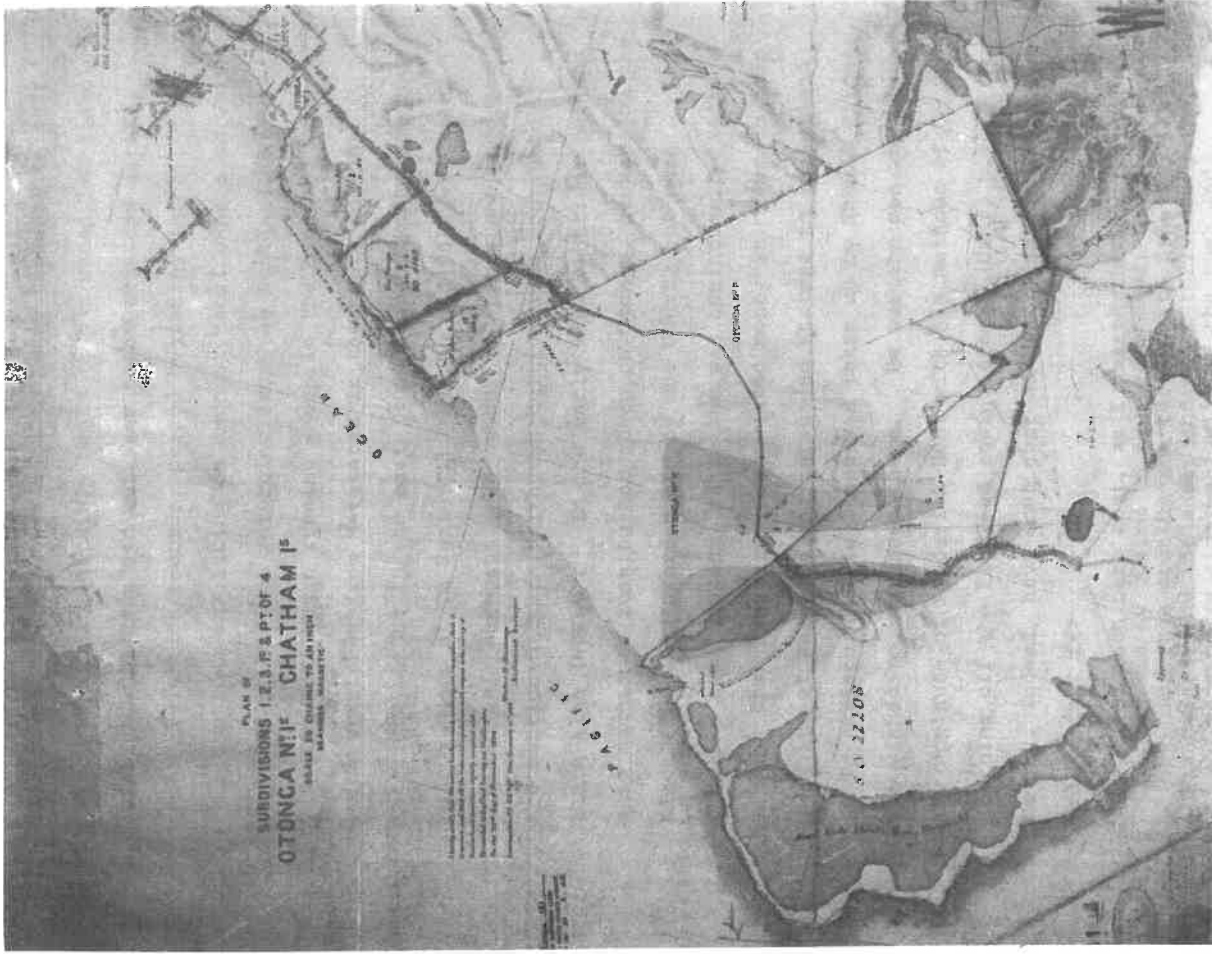


Figure 3 North Otonga Coast 1898

subsequent Otonga 1D was sold to Henry Regnault in 1876. These men almost certainly began to run sheep immediately, although woolsheds did not seem to be required until later (Valuation records, period beginning 1898).

The idea was taking on amongst Maori owners as well by the 1870's, and, on returning from the Auckland Islands, Paina te Poki began running sheep in the block of land which stretches from Matakatau in the south to the Kekerione border in the east. Subsequently Wharepa began to run sheep at Te Ngaio, and by the mid-80's was using Otawhao as a sheeprun. A number of fences and paddocks are mentioned there, although cultivations continued there also (NZNLC). In the early 1890's Huriana Meihana also mentioned running her sheep on Otonga, perhaps on the block (No. LE7) awarded her by the Court, but more probably near Otawhao, where she was hoping to be awarded land. When Toenga te Poki wanted money in order to join Te Whiti at Parihaka, he persuaded Wharepa to lease land at Te Awatapu. This lease was taken up by Thomas Ritchie, who wished to run sheep there. He was the man who earned the applause of Frederick Hunt with his methods of "burning off the flax and sowing grass" (Hunt, p.61). He may, indeed, have done just as Hunt himself did as well - that is:

"On each bare spot, as I passed through the Island it was my custom to sow grass seed; so that the clearings soon became turfed with fine English grass, and the sheep and grass thrived together ... Many of my pigs went wild in the bush and became excellent ploughmen, rooting up the fern in all directions" (Hunt, p.57-58).

Initially the sheep had to graze on the land as it was - bush and peat clears. But they soon made a niche

for themselves. Mr E. Regnault said that where there had still been bush on Te Awarakau the sheep and cattle had eaten along the creek margins, and this is the pattern which is reported all along the coast. The sheep and cattle grazed on the edge of the bush - along the creeks, the boulder beaches, the clears and the cliff tops (Holmes, Regnault). The cattle, in particular, used to eat the young leaves from the trees, having a special liking for *kawakawa*. This foraging let in the wind, which cleared a few yards each year, and often exotic grasses would grow on the cleared areas.

In 1892 Riakiau and Rihania Wharepa legally succeeded their father, Wiremu, and Riakiau, with her husband Harper Tairaroa, took over the Te Ngaio property. Wharepa had run sheep on this land - in the 1908 revision of the valuation records a twenty-year-old woolshed is reported - and presumably the Tairaroas continued to do so in the same way, i.e., without greatly disturbing the original vegetation. In 1908 there were virtually no fences and a mere twenty acres cleared and sown in exotic grasses.

Rihania Wharepa also ran sheep on No. 1E8, but improvements, clearings, fencing, etc, were non-existent. This is true also of Paina te Poki (No. 1E2 and perhaps No. 1E4, but the latter is peaty, back country⁵). As yet the sheep were not being farmed, and, judging by contemporary maps, had not yet made much impression.

These invaluable maps were made by the N.Z. Survey Department, which visited the Chatham Islands in 1898. They indicate the extent and nature of the flora covering at

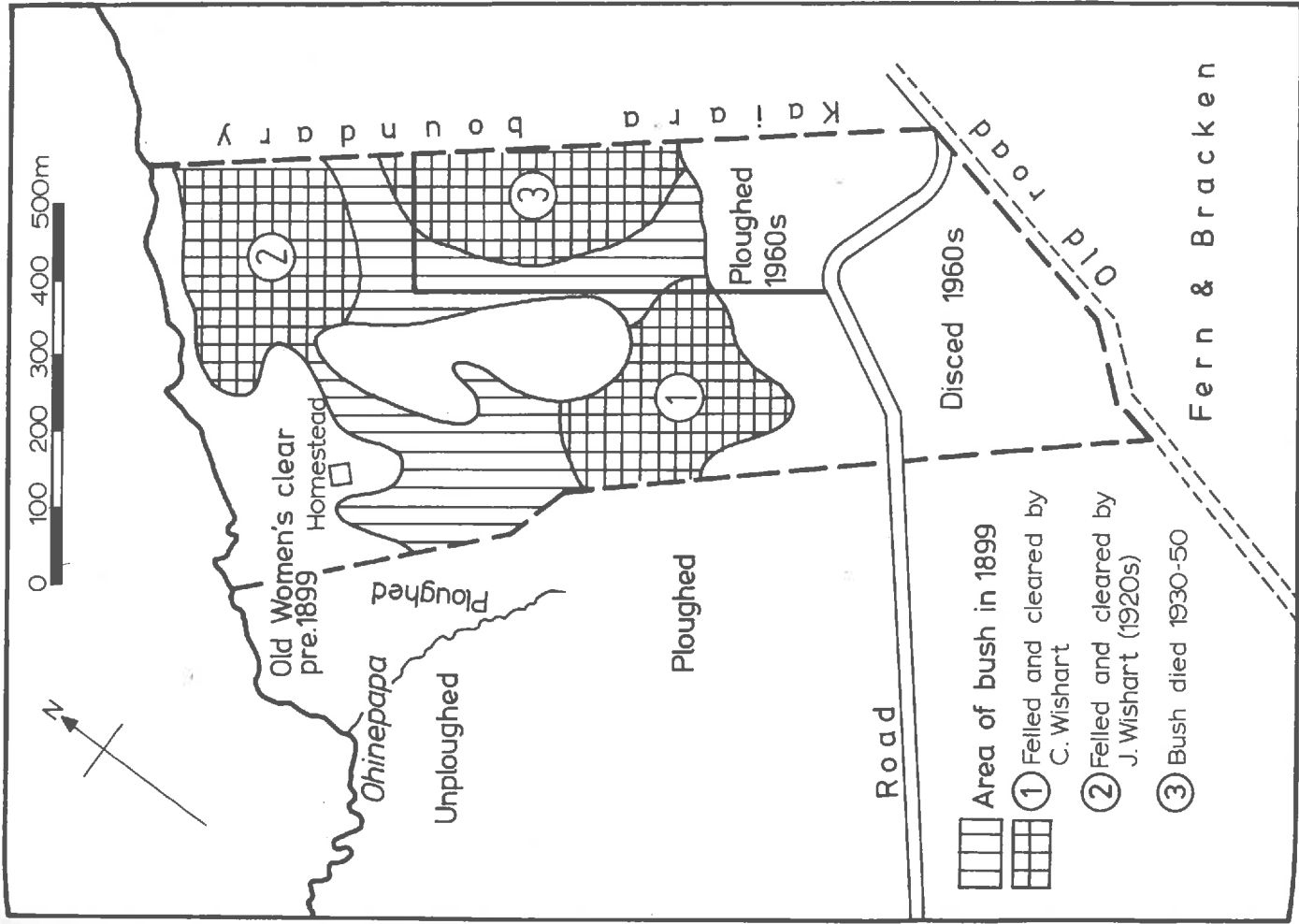


Fig 4: KAIARA Otonga No 1c2

that date. There is about 5-15 chains of clearing between high water mark and the bush along the extent of the Otonga coast, but whether this is yet in grass or not is not specified. Coastal bush is designated as "mixed bush, *akeake*, *kopi*, *matipo*, *hoho*, etc" and the area of fern and peat is also plotted (see Figure 3).

THE CLEARING OF THE LAND:

In the early years of this century, Maori owners in the Otonga Block sold apace.⁶ By 1910 the whole of the Otonga Block had been bought by Pakeha farmers, the only exceptions being Otonga No. 1E11, No. 1E12, No. 1C2, No. 1E3, No. 1E, No. 2 and No.3.

With the buying of land by Pakeha sheepfarmers the wholesale clearance of the land began. At this time there were four main foci of activity in Otonga

- i. Charles Wishart at Kaiara
- ii. Te Awarakau
- iii. Ohinemamao
- iv. Blyth and Renwick at Tuku/Otawhao

(i) Kaiara: Charles Wishart bought Otonga No. 1C2 from Jane Brown (Heni te Rau) in 1902, after being employed by Chudleigh at Wharekauri for many years. He quickly built a house, put in some fencing, and, by 1908, out of an area of 200 acres, had 50 acres of grazing land, 30 of which had been cleared.

It was suggested to me by Charles Wishart's grandson, Mr R. Wishart, that the area marked in Figure 4 was the area felled and cleared by his grandfather.

(ii) Te Awarakau: After Heinrich Regnault died in the early 1890's, Te Awarakau was owned by his wife Dorothea, and managed by his son, Franz. It boasted the most complete array of farm buildings on the Otonga Block - a house, woolshed and cartshed. The *ponga* fern was used extensively on Otonga Block in the early days, both for buildings and for fencing, but nowhere more so than on Te Awarakau, where both the woolshed and the cartshed were made of *ponga* as were all the fence posts.

By 1908 about 120 acres had been cleared, and about 50 acres were sown with exotic grasses. Approximately 200 acres of swamp and bush remained. Some of this bush was around the coast, E. Regnault remembering it as mainly *matipo*, scrub *akeake* and flax, although there was one area of peaty ground covered with *tarahinaiu* trees. There was also a large area of bush further inland:- bush in the gullies around Te Whata Hill, and scrubby *kopi*, *karamu*, *matipo* and *ponga* on the ridges drained by Boundary Creek. Streams such as Boundary Creeek, which arose in the bush, were quite clear, and teemed with *Galaxia*.

Not much of the land near the coastline was ploughed, but about 500 yards southeast of the house one area of about 14 acres had become infested with *bidi-bidi*, and was ploughed. This incorporated the peaty area mentioned earlier, and also a midden, reckoned by Mr E. Regnault, who was actually doing the ploughing, as about 30 yards by 20 yards. Another area, on the inland side of the present road, was ploughed in Franz Regnault's time.

Beyond the old road, scrubby bush gave way to bracken although far back, where a tributary of the Nairn begins,

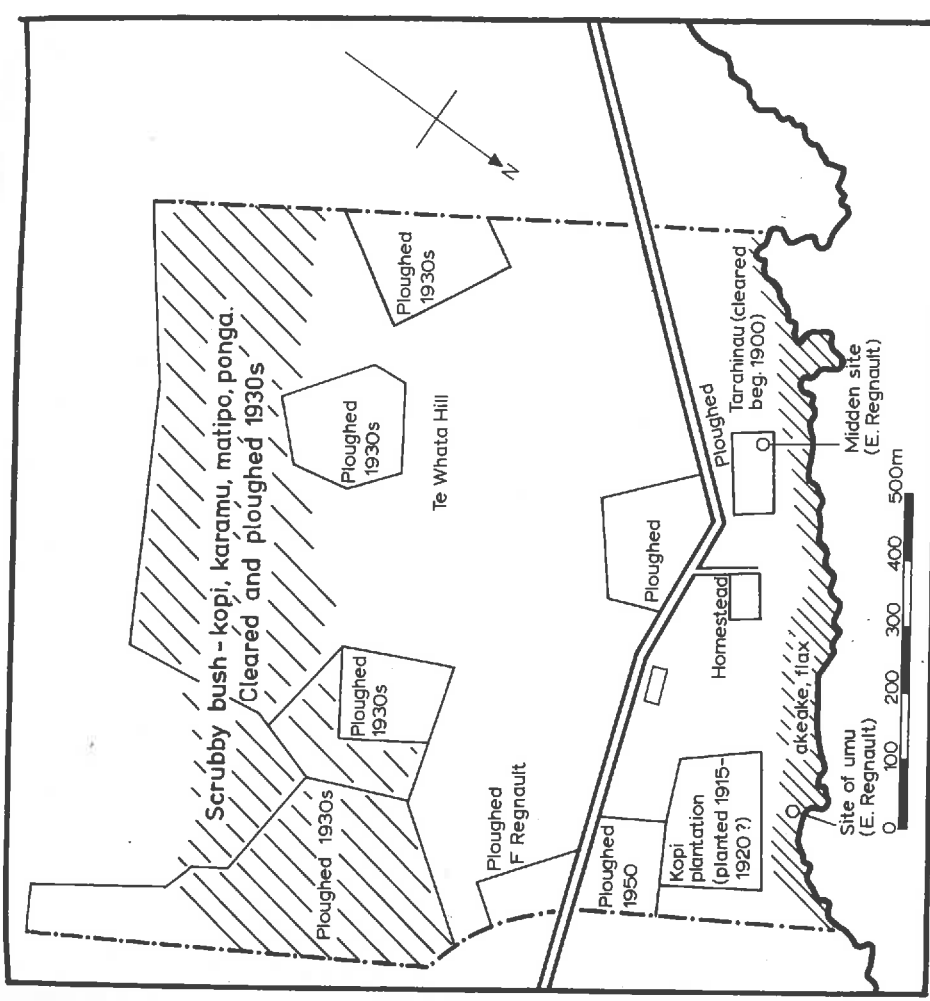


FIG 5 TE AWARAKAU

there is a hill which used to be covered with *kopi* bush
(Te Whata hill?)

(iii) Ohinemamao: Whereas, in the case of Kaiara and Te Awarakau, there are still descendants around who know the area, Ohinemamao has changed hands many times since the days of Robert Kerr. Originally from Waitangi West, he bought Ohinemamao in 1876. Although the land from Mataiwhiti Stream to the Ohinepapa Stream was disputed by a Maori owner, Animikera Te Haumarewa, in 1885 (letter to Native Minister, Burt Collection), the Court of 1893 awarded all the land from the present Kaiara boundary creek to the Te Awarakau boundary creek to Robert Kerr. He died in 1893 (Death register) and the land was sold to Florence de Mano.

In 1908 there was a house, a woolshed, a considerable amount of fencing, and out of 1466 acres, fully 300 were moderately good grasslands. This probably includes the land to the north of Ohinepapa, that being known from the earliest days as Old Woman's Clears, after an old Maori woman who felled the trees there (D. Holmes and R. Wishart). The area around the old Kerr homestead was also probably cleared early, as, among the wind-swept ruins still stand one or two gaunt conifers.

(iv) Otawahao/Tuku: Blyth bought Otonga No. 1E8 in the first years of this century, and the Moriori reserve at the Tuku a couple of years later. At first he certainly lived at the Tuku, having built a little house on the south side, near the burnt remains of old Riwai's house. He later built a second homestead, around which the land

was heavily stocked, according to Manuel Tuanui.

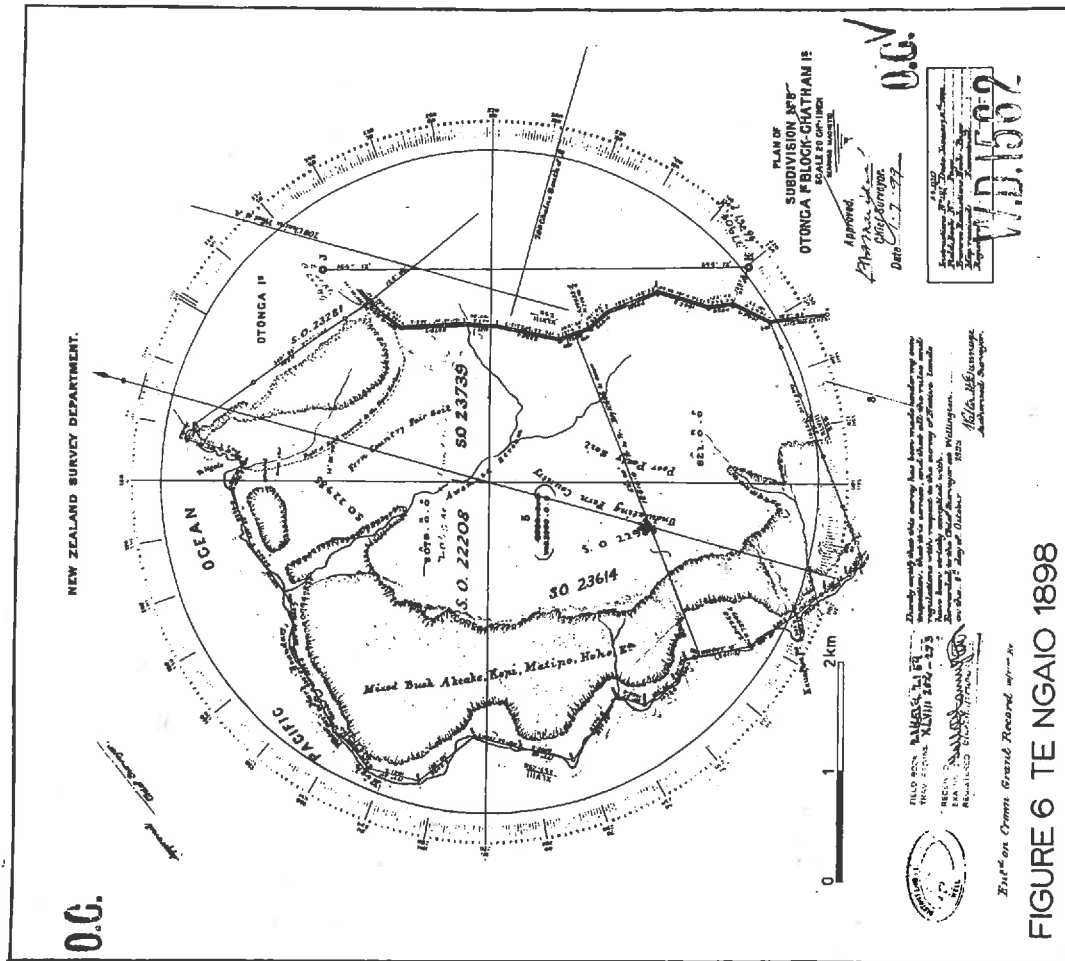
At Otawahao he kept sheep and cattle, cutting the *kopi* trees, which grew abundantly on his property, in order to feed the cattle in winter. He had to content with difficulties of transport to Waitangi, and so used to dry his hides before taking them on that long journey, wetting them again when he reached his destination.

In 1909 Thomas Renwick took over Otonga No. 1E9.

This was one of the areas described by Percy Smith as having such dense bush in 1868. Along the coast and up the gully of the Waip rua Stream there was a lot of *kopi* and *kawakawa*. 40-50 acres was felled by Renwick on the northern coastal side of his property.

Meanwhile the strangest story of the southwest coast is beginning. After the death of her husband, Riakiau Taiaroa employed John Seymour and Bob Auckland as managers of Te Ngaio sheeprun. Their successor was Joseph Santos, a negro from the Cape Verde Islands, who had arrived in the Chatham Islands in 1886 at the age of 19, who had married in 1889, widowed in 1892 (his bride had been 66 years old), and had finally undertaken the job of managing Te Ngaio in about 1903. When Riakiau did not have the money to pay him at the end of a year, she gave him a slice of land on the northern boundary of Te Ngaio to farm for his own profit for a year. He eventually bought the land down to the Kauaeroa boundary (D. Holmes).

Santos had about 600 acres of peat clears, and about 1400 acres of bush. He and his second wife and daughter lived in the homestead near Te Ngaio boat harbour. There were a couple of paddocks in that vicinity ploughed by him



(C. Preece), and he probably partially felled and cleared the Race course paddock at Point Durham, for I am told that he liked to gallop his horses there.

He is, however, remembered by the older Chatham Island inhabitants for other things. Santos came to the Chathams on a whaler, and when once a sperm whale was stranded on his shore-line he decided to cut it up and try it out. Although expenses were kept at a minimum, and the whale yielded a surprising amount of oil, Santos and his partner Regnault unfortunately only just broke even.

But most of all he will be remembered for his life insurance. His second wife, considerably younger than he, took out a policy on his life for £10,000 in about 1928. He died in 1930, leaving a rich wife. That began a new era for Te Ngaio.

Meanwhile the rest of Otonga was also poised for a new era. Frank Mitchell was not working with Franz Regnault on Te Awarakau, and Regnault had now acquired the land bounded on the one side by Matakatau, and on the other by Waikaripi (Otonga No. 1E2). Charles Wishart had acquired a large portion of the "Tobacco Country" (Otonga No. 1E4A), and the Kauaeroa property from W. McBratney, and Sidney Wishart had acquired the adjoining slice of land from Dave McBratney (originally part of Otonga No. 1E5). Finally, Edward Seymour had bought the Tuku and Otawahao.

THE ERA OF GREATEST CHANGE, 1915-1936.

The era of greatest change to the land in Otonga took

(which were considered to be the best first crops after ploughing). He may even have extended these ploughing operations to his other property (Otonga No. 1E2), there being a large chunk of land adjoining the Matakatau boundary which David Holmes thinks may have been ploughed. He certainly ploughed and sowed in swedes a portion of the Waikaripi (Otonga No. 2) block, then owned by his wife.

During this period Ohinemamao was bought by Seton Henderson, the man who had started the dairy factory at Te One in 1924. Henderson followed the example of his neighbour, Mitchell, and did a lot of ploughing. Mr D. Holmes thinks that much of the land between the road and the coast was ploughed. The Valuation Records show us that he increased his cleared acreage by 200 acres.

But the biggest changes in Otonga were to be seen on Te Ngaio. Santos had died in 1930, leaving his wife a rich woman. During the Depression labour was easy to find, and cheap to pay. Throughout that Depression decade she employed then men, first to fell, burn and stump the bush, and later to plough the land. Extensive drainage schemes were undertaken by the Black brothers at the same time. During the Depression Mrs Santos cleared 700 acres of bush.

One of the men who worked for Mrs Santos, Mr C. Preece, gave me a description of the kind of bush still on the land when he was employed in the late 1930's. Unfortunately all the best bush was felled before that, in the early thirties, although Mr Preece can remember felling a huge *matipo* in the Racecourse paddock. The swampland was the last to be cleared (Figure 7), and it was comprised of flax, *karamu*, small *akeake*, blackberry and swamp *matipo*

place between the years 1915 (when the 1898 Valuation Rolls were cancelled), and 1936 (when the 1915 Valuation Rolls were cancelled). The area of grassland increased dramatically, as did the chains of fencing, while the acreage of bush diminished proportionately.

Charles Wishart died in the 1920's, and his son, Jack, took over. In that decade he felled and burnt the bush in the coastal half of the Kaiara farm, but left the remaining bush up the northern boundary. By 1936 he had 350 acres of cleared land. On the Kauaeroa part of the property, some of the bush had already been felled or was dead. But some coastal *akeake* and *matipo* still remained, as well as some *tarahinau*. Trees of the kinds which are still to be found in the Awatotara Valley remained in the gullies (R. Wishart).

Down at Otawahao, Edward Seymour cut small areas of bush, perhaps 20 acres in all. This, added to the amount of bush felled by Renwick, and subsequent destruction by wind, added up to about 120 acres of bush gone from the Otawahao block.

It is more difficult to find out what was going on at Te Awarakau. Frank Mitchell first farmed with Franz Regnault, and then bought the farm from him. Between them they increased the acreage of clearing from 120 to 400. Pasturage increased sixfold.

Bosun Day has given me a map of Awarakau as he remembers it when he started work there in 1931 (see Figure 5). Frank Mitchell was very keen on ploughing, and, during the twenties and thirties he ploughed many acres of land, and then planted them in oats and turnips which

(C. Preece).

With the considerable aid of Mr David Holmes, however, I have been able to glean some information as to the vegetation in the drier areas which had been felled before Mr Preece was employed. Mr Holmes mentions *kopé*, *matipo* and *akeake* as the most important trees, and also *karamu*, *mañae*, *hoño*, *kokotaka* and *supplejack*. *Kawakawa* and *matipo* often grew in the hollows. There must also have been some *ponga*, perhaps on the clears, because it was used in fencing, although not as extensively on Te Ngaio as *akeake* (D. Holmes). Mr J. Tuanui says that the coastal bush cleared on his half of the old Te Ngaio property was *tarahināu*.⁷ By the end of the 1930's the only remnant of Wreck Bush on Te Ngaio was a fringe of small *akeake* on the coast. Subsequent development of the property is shown in Figure 8.

Drainage ditches many feet deep were dug in wet land, and Mr Preece ploughed, with horse team and shares, a considerable area of land - right to the limit of the good land, and also on the newly felled and drained swamp land.

POSTSCRIPT

With the end of the thirties most of the vegetation changes on the Otonga Block had already been wrought. After that the changes were more subtle - at least to a layman.⁸ But there remain a few more points to be made.

Concerning the southern portion of Otonga:

1. Since the 70-odd acres of bush were felled by Renwick and Seymour in the first 30 years of this century, the dense bush described by Percy Smith in Otonga No. 1E9 has virtually disappeared, cleared by stock and wind.

2. Otonga No. 1E10 was bought by Mr D. Holmes in 1930. It was then all bush (416 acres). He felled, he reckons, about half. The rest of it was cleared by the combined action of wind and cattle).

Editor's note: Forest clearance in these areas is not quite complete. Hamel put quadrats in dense forest in the Waipurua and Kawhaki gullies.

3. Further round there is a block of land, now owned by Mrs Doreen Day, which has never been cleared. Any destruction of the bush has been wrought by natural agencies and stock. Much bush remains, the block being clear only in a small area at the inland boundary and grassed on the steep slopes along the cliff - where she grazes about 250 sheep. Mr D. Holmes informs me that the bush is mainly *matipo*, *ponga*, *karamu*, with (in the past, anyway) sparse groves of *kopé*.
4. The huge area of Otonga No. 1E13 and 14 is owned by Mr Robert Jacobs. Much of the inland area is covered in rush and *tarahināu* clears, with bush islands. The area of the block is 9,900 acres, and probably does not differ much from the turn of the century, when the valuer described it as "poor and swampy". There is, however, bush growing about 40 chains from the cliff edge, and it is along this good clay land that 400-500 sheep one grazed. Not much remains of the broadleaf bush which covered the slump land at Te Awatapu, but apparently only a few acres have been felled, and the rest has been done by the old combination of stock and wind (D. Holmes).

Concerning the northern portion of Otonga:

1. In the 1930's or 1940's Jack Wishart ploughed the Lizzie Scott Bay area of his Kauaeroa property. He was continually obstructed by large *tarahīnau* logs in the ground. The last remaining vegetation on Kauaeroa was in the gullies, and this disappeared in 1954 when the road was put through. After that the wind swept through it, leaving no trace of it today (R. Wishart).
 2. After the war Te Ngaio was taken on by two men, Doug LaNauze and Joe Tuanui, under the Rehabilitation Scheme. It was split up in 1952, and the last *akeake* was subsequently cleared from the coast by Doug LaNauze.
 3. In 1950 Mr Norman Thomas bought Te Awarakau; in 1950 Seton Henderson sold Ohinemamao to Mr Konga Tuanui.
 4. At Kaiara the remaining bush on the Matakatau boundary slowly died during the thirties, forties and fifties, and in the 1960's the paddocks on the Matakatau boundary were ploughed.
- On Matakatau itself, however, stands of what is described by residents as "the last true coastal bush", still survive - there is little else to remind us of Percy Smith's bush covered hills.

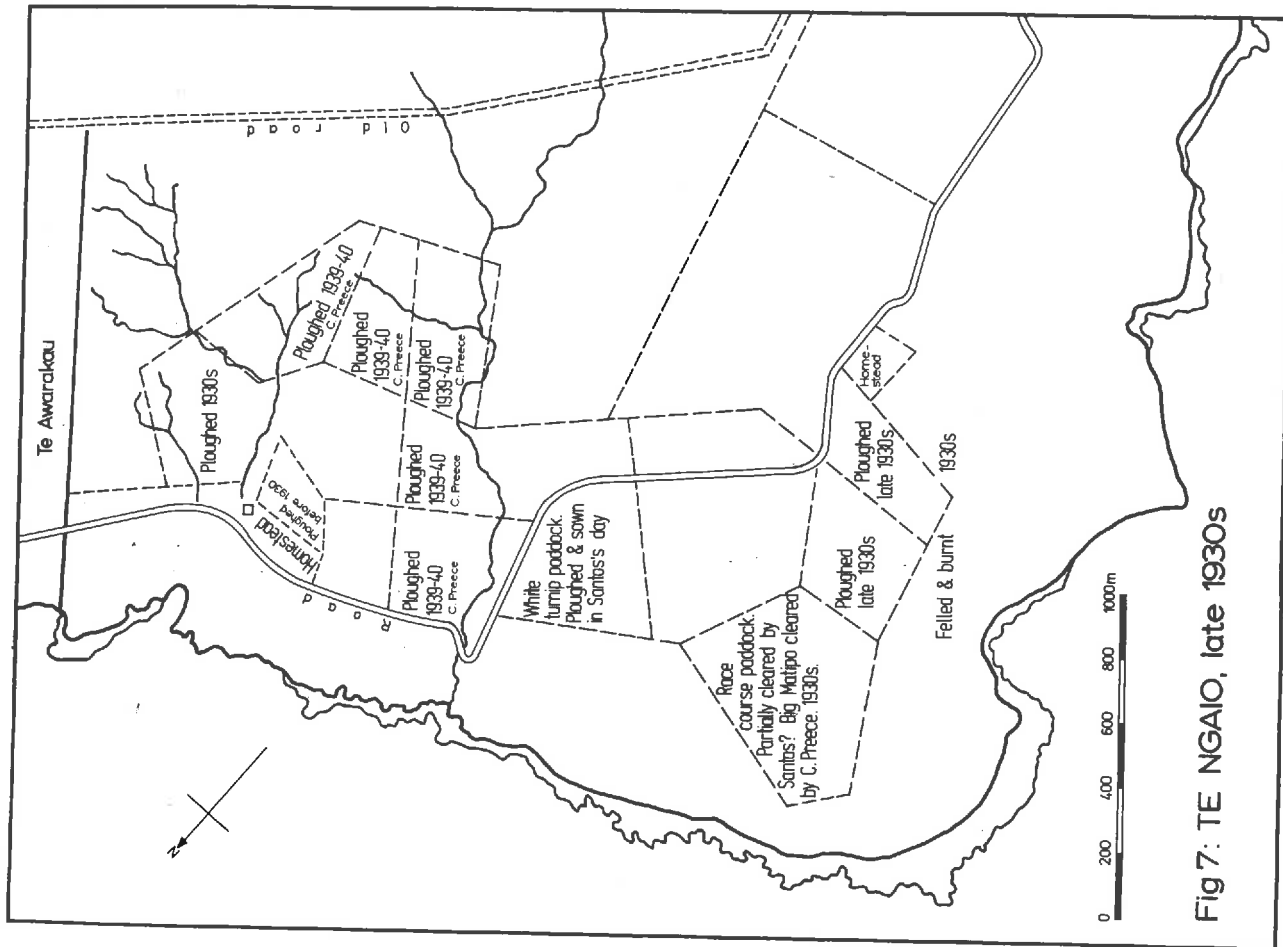


Fig 7: TE NGAIO, late 1930s

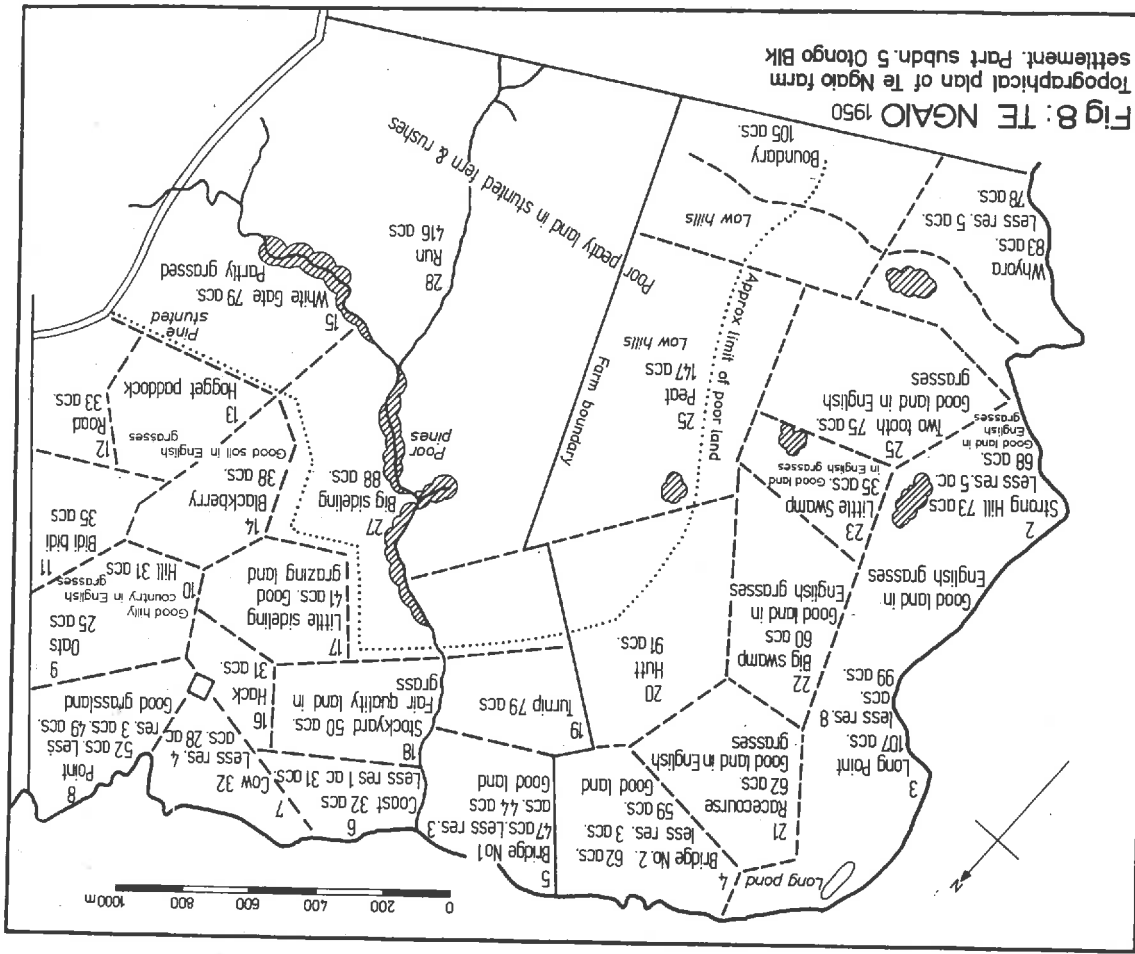
Post Script: Jill Hamel has commented -

This historic account adds useful information on the distribution of *kopī* which was not deduced from examining the modern vegetation. Only a single tree of *kopī* was seen south of Waitangi in the 1976 reconnaissance, yet *kopī* seeds are abundant in the archaeological sites around Waihora. The historic material makes it obvious that *kopī* did occur along the south west coast in areas now cleared of forest. From south to north it is mentioned as occurring in sparse groves immediately east of the Horns (p.19), in sufficient quantity to be worth cutting for cattle fodder on the Otawhao block (p.14), in the lower reaches of the Waipurua Stream (p.14) and as one of the tree most common trees in the coastal forest immediately north of Point Durham (p.18). Obviously it was particularly vulnerable to disturbance by stock and ensuing wind damage, and so is now absent from the relict forest.

Even though *kopī* must be added to the broadleaved forest of the southwest coast, it would seem that this type of forest did not form a wide belt in the vicinity of the Waihora sites and/or it was intermixed with clumps of *taraŋīnau*. This latter species is mentioned twice as present on this block of land, the Kauaeroa part of the Kaiara Farm (pp.15 and 18), and logs of *tārahīnau* were ploughed up from the swamps of this part of the coastal terrace (p.20). Thus the historic material supports the model advanced in Hamel (1976) of a mixed coastal forest on the southwest coast of many tree species

including tarahinau.

Hamel, J. 1976 Vegetation and Archaeology on Chatham Island. *Working Papers in Chatham Islands Archaeology* 6. Anthropology Department, University of Otago.



APPENDIX

Botanical Names of Plants Mentioned in the Text

Akeake	<i>Olearia traversii</i>
Bidi-bidi	<i>Acaena</i> spp.
Bracken or fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Ferns	<i>Asplenium</i> spp., <i>Blechnum</i> spp.
Flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
Hoho	<i>Pseudopanax chathamicum</i>
Hokotaka	? (brittle, gnarled, small yellow berries, small white flowers)
Karamu	<i>Coprosma chathamica</i>
Kawakawa	<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>
Kopi	<i>Corynocarpus laevigata</i>
Koromiko	<i>Hebe</i>
Mahoe	<i>Hymenanthera chathamica</i>
Matipo	<i>Myrsine chathamica</i>
Ponga	<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>
Rautini	<i>Senecio huntii</i>
Supplejack	<i>Rhipogonum scandens</i>
Tarahinau	<i>Dracophyllum arborium</i>
Tree fern	<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i> and <i>D. fibrosa</i>
Wiwi	<i>Juncus</i> spp.

- 1 The records of this Council can be found in the Grey Collection, No. 144, Auckland Public Library. They very probably yield information as to where these Morioris lived in pre-Land Settlement days.
- 2 For fuller accounts of the invasion of a) the Chatham Islands, see Richards, and b) Otonga, see NZNLC.
- 3 For details of the trade, see Richards 1962, p.58, and Appendices C1-3.
- 4 Born at Te Awarakau, 1893; finally left the Chathams in 1914.
- 5 The vast, peaty inland area of Otonga is popularly known as the "Tocacco Country", and there are tales that it derived its name from the few quids of tobacco which were paid for it. Mr E. Regnault has another, and more compelling version: "tobacco country" was the Maori pronunciation of "the back country".
- 6 Richards attributes this to the extension of Maori land rights given by the Maori Land Courts of 1900, 1901, 1906, 1907.
- 7 Richards deduces a *tārahīnau* clump on the Pt Durham coast, but reckons it to have been at about the present boundary between J. Tuanui's and D. LaNauzes's properties, not extending right along the Tuanui coast.

8 As a result of Department of Agriculture experiments at Te Ngalo, most farmers have changed from rye-grass to cocksfoot, browntop, poapotenthis or sweet vernel.

BIBLIOGRAPHYBooks and Manuscripts

- Burt Collection. Ms 434 (Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington).
- Chatham Islands County Council. Rate Book, 1/4/22 - 31/3/23
- Chatham Islands County Council. Registers of Births, Deaths, Marriages.
- Hunt, Frederick: *Twenty-five years' experience in New Zealand and the Chatham Islands* (Wellington, William Lyon, 1866).
- New Zealand Native Land Court. Minute Books (Micro Ms, Coll 6, Reel 18b, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington).
- New Zealand Valuation Department. District Valuation Rolls, 1898-1951 (National Archives, Wellington).
- Richards, Rhys. 1962. *An Historical Geography of the Chatham Islands*. M.A. Thesis, Geography Department, Canterbury University.
- Smith, Percy. Diary (Ms, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington).
- Thomas Diary. (Ms. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington).

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Day, Bosun, Waitangi, Chatham Islands.
- Holmes, D. Waitangi, Chatham Islands.
- Preece, C. Waitangi, Chatham Islands.
- Regnault, E. Summer, Christchurch.
- Tuanui, M. Awatotara, Chatham Islands.
- Tuanui, J. Te Ngaio, Chatham Islands.
- Wishart, R. Kaiara, Chatham Islands.

MAPS:

- New Zealand. Survey Department. Map, S.P. Smith and J. Robertson, 1868 and 1883.
- New Zealand. Survey Department. Maps of Chatham Islands survey, 1899.

Dept of Conservation
REGIONAL LIBRARY
Christchurch

Date Due

BCP Ltd
No 6

993.49
BEG

8533

Dept of Conservation
REGIONAL LIBRARY
Christchurch