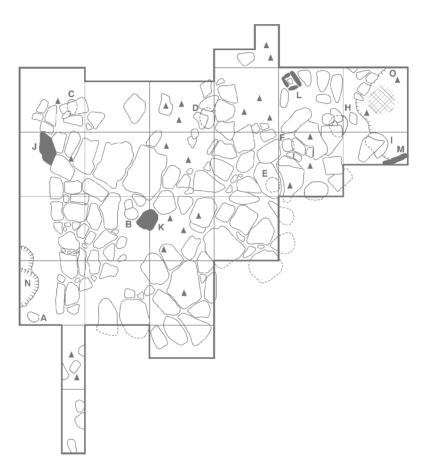
# The Prehistoric Archaeology of Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific



Edited by

## Atholl Anderson and Peter White



## **Contents**

Volume abstract	v
Acknowledgments	vi
Approaching the prehistory of Norfolk Island Atholl Anderson and Peter White	1
Archaeological fieldwork on Norfolk Island	11
The radiocarbon chronology of the Norfolk Island archaeological sites	33
Domestic and religious structures in the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island	43
Stone artefacts from the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island	53
Shell and bone artefacts from the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island	67
Mammalian and reptilian fauna from Emily and Cemetery Bays, Norfolk Island	75
Genetic variation in archaeological Rattus exulans remains from the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island	81
Avifauna from the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island: a preliminary account	85
Fishbone from the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island	101
Molluscs and echinoderms from the Emily Bay settlement site, Norfolk Island  Colin R. Campbell and Lyn Schmidt	109
Land snails from Norfolk Island sites	115
Polynesian plant introductions in the Southwest Pacific: initial pollen evidence from Norfolk Island	123
Prehistoric settlement on Norfolk Island and its Oceanic context	135

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#### **EDITED BY**

ATHOLL ANDERSON<sup>1</sup> AND PETER WHITE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Archaeology & Natural History, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia aja@coombs.anu.edu.au

> <sup>2</sup> Archaeology, University of Sydney, Sydney NSW 2006, Australia Peter.White@antiquity.usyd.edu.au

VOLUME ABSTRACT. This *Supplement* documents the discovery, excavation and analysis of material of the Polynesian occupation of Norfolk Island about 600 years ago.

The main excavation, in the dunes of Emily Bay, revealed a probable house, with some posts in place, and an adjacent paved area, which we interpret as a possible *marae*. Some obsidian, mostly sourced to Raoul Island, was associated with the paving. Stone artefacts, including adzes, were made of local basalt. Shell and bone tools were also found. Both stone and shell tools retained residues and usewear. The nature and morphology of the artefacts suggest New Zealand or the Kermadec Islands as the most likely source of the settlement.

Faunal remains included a limited range of mammals and reptiles, along with fish, birds and shellfish. Some specialization in collection is evident in each of the three latter classes of remains. *Rattus exulans* is the only animal which was clearly introduced, and there is also pollen evidence for plant introductions.

Detailed analysis of the radiocarbon data establishes that the settlement was occupied between early thirteenth and early fifteenth centuries A.D., although the duration of occupation many have been considerably shorter. Reasons for abandonment of the island are discussed; extreme isolation may have been important.

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ATHOLL ANDERSON AND PETER WHITE VOLUME EDITORS