

9th September, 1965.

Miss Alice Bermingham,  
Institute of Applied Science,  
304 Swanston Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.I. VII.

Dear Miss Bermingham,

Thank you for your interesting letter of the first. Numbers 2 and 5 were my mistake. I picked up the wrong piece of paper too late one night. You have the correct descriptions. Fortunately I have more of 15B and a bit more of 7B. The latter you can probably salvage something after dissolving the shell.

The bad dates from Isotopes are :

I-315 = 2B = 16.8% greater activity than modern.

I-318 = 5A = less than 100 years.

I-319 = 6B = " " " "

I-320 = 7B = " " " "

I-321 = 9A = 550 ± 175 years.

I suspect their equipment was out of order for a protracted period during sequence 318-321 and they didn't know it. Later I went back to sites 2 and 9 and picked out new samples 2B and 9B, each about two inches above the previous samples. The new ones I sent to Cochran without telling them anything. They reported 2B = GX0419 = 5275 ± 200 years BP and 9B = GX0420 = 2600 ± 120 years BP. Site 9 is a half mile south of lighthouse at West Point. Site 10 is a mile north of lighthouse. My 10A = I-322 = 2750 ± 150 years BP. My 10A and 9B are quite similar in age, location and situations. They give confidence to each other. Recently Rhys Jones has made substantial excavations at site 10.

Site 7 is two miles south of Arthur River. Fifty feet is from the surface to the base of a large midden. Scores of layers of shell, bone, stone and charcoal are interspersed with thin layers of sand. Depth is 15 to 20 feet depending on where you start counting. Sample taken from

Site 5 is one mile south of Woolnorth Point. The sea has cut deep into centre of midden covering several hundred square yards area. Bottom of midden on sand over rocky boulders about 25 feet above sea level. Midden four to six feet deep. Sample from bottom a foot inside face.

Site 6 is two miles south of Woolnorth Point. Low sandy peninsula over rocky base of few acres area. Top about 15 feet above sea. Midden on top of sand. Thickly covered by grass and low bushes. Sample 2 feet below surface near shell to sand interface.

Site 13 had several cuts made along west side to probe depth. 13B taken from south end 24" below surface. 13C taken from centre at 54" below surface. These are bottom levels.

I still have enough charcoal for one more test each sites 5 and 6, also more of 2H. Samples 7H, 13B, 13C are enclosed with this letter.

After you left the rain began in earnest so I didn't stay long at West Point. Summer is more suitable for this kind of sport.

Best regards,

Greta Lager.

GR:JES