

Australian Archaeology



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FIELDWORK IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

As part of a field survey of the Herbert/Burdekin district in North Queensland, four small excavations were undertaken during 1974. These were at the foot of the range to the west of Kennedy; near Jourama, about 15 kilometres south-west of Ingham; at the base of Herveys Range, 25 kilometres west of Townsville; and near Mount Roundback, approximately 20 kilometres north of Bowen.

Shell material, not yet analysed, was obtained from all sites, and bone was also found in all sites, although markedly less at Mount Roundback. Analysis of this material is in progress. Preliminary examination of the stone artifacts and waste material shows a predominance of quartz, particularly at Mount Roundback where the deposit consisted almost entirely of quartz, with only a few definite signs of utilization. The three sites to the north all produced a greater amount and more varied utilized material than Mount Roundback, particularly Herveys Range and Jourama. In no case however does the typical typology seem to apply: utilized pieces are quite irregular and there is very little evidence of secondary retouch.

At this stage available dates are:

Kennedy	(40-50 cms)	685 ± 105 BP	GX3666
Mount Roundback	(10-15 cms)	1130 ± 130 BP	GX3670
	(25-30 cms)	1650 ± 120 BP	GX3669
Jourama	(15-25 cms)	1450 ± 110 BP	GX3667/8

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