

EXCLUSIVE

Following the stepping stones

Ancient New Zealanders left global wisdom

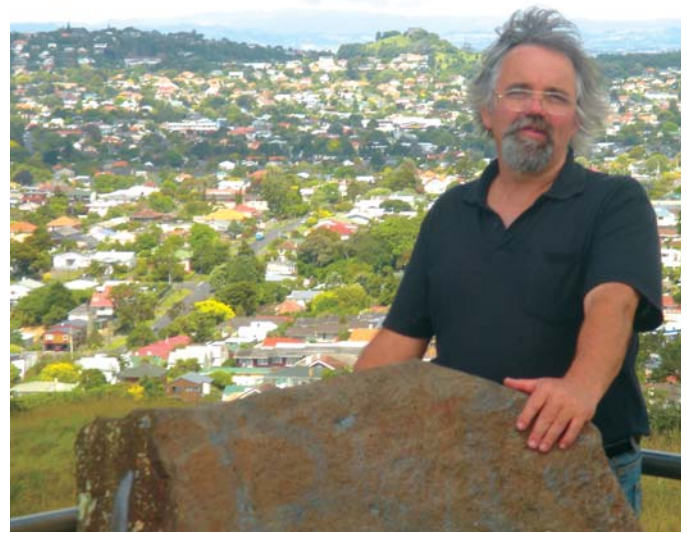
Part Two

Before we go into the physical evidence on the existence of pre-Maori peoples, let us take a quick look at what we know:

We know that there was at least one race of people in New Zealand before the arrival of the Maori because of what they left behind. The antiquity of the Bombay and Silverdale standing stones and their ancient incised markings can be dated as pre the Taupo eruption in 186AD, which covered the stones in tephra ash – over 1000 years before the arrival of Maori. The intricate, hand carved bas relief incising and the bullauns (hand hewn ‘wells’ in the stones) are identical to those found all over Europe. The cultural origin of these many types of Proto-Celtic, purpose-built structures can be traced back to even more remote sites like those found in Egypt and Babylon. Here is what painstaking field research by surveyor and antiquarian Martin Doutré, assisted by evidence from archaeologists, historians and anthropologists has revealed:

Martin: “A long time ago there was a very enlightened civilisation that occupied the entire Auckland Isthmus, outer gulf islands and surrounding ranges. They were avid astronomers and surveyors who worked in both stone and wood. Over a period of a few thousand years they prepared the 36+ volcanic cones of Auckland to act as astronomical and surveying observatories. Around most of the hills they dug sighting pits and trenches for the purpose of establishing clear directional alignments onto the other hills or to distant mountain targets of the region. These shallow excavations were later called ‘kumara pits’ or ‘defensive trenches’ by historians, who erroneously attributed them to Maori. In order to prove the true purpose of these features, I and others have carried out careful and precise surveys of sighting pits, using a handheld GPS unit or Google Earth for coordinate fixes, in conjunction with computer programs like AutoCAD for analysing angle results. After that, it is only the tedious activity of “joining the dots” to test the angle codes or surveying attributes contained in the alignments hill to hill.

“Military experts, analysing the defensive capabilities of the Auckland hillside and hilltop excavations, have quashed the theory that these could have served the purpose of Maori defences. The many small, disconnected, elliptical terraces on the sides of One Tree Hill, Mangere Mountain, etc., were built to act as shadow clefts and provide seasonal information by the shadow signal that they cast with the rising or setting sun. They enabled farmers in the valley fields to know when it was time to plant or harvest particular crops by the shadow signals seen on their local hillsides. The people also set up individual solar observatories, marked by an obelisk or rock cairns for getting a fix on where the sun rose or



Martin with the ancient stone on Mt Albert, Mt Wellington in the background

set on the horizon at the time of the equinoxes or solstices. These ancient New Zealanders had a very functional lunisolar calendar system, which told them when to plant or when to harvest. They used the Sumerian-Babylonian 360-degree angle system and encoded profound aspects of ancient cyclic or navigational science into the landscape by use of marked distances and angles running from a hubstone to outer marker stones. The smaller or more localized standing stone circle systems acted as schools where tutorials were taught to students of the astronomical and navigational arts. The hard-won scientific information encoded into them, and passed down religiously generation by generation, could be extracted at any time by use of a measuring rod or rope and a simple surveying tool, a theodolite, which gave accurate degree angle readings around from north.”

Throughout the 200-year long colonial history of New Zealand hikers, hunters and surveyors alike have encountered and been bewildered by the presence of what appeared to be purpose placed marker stones atop high hills or mountains across the length and breadth of New Zealand. One Aucklander remembers reading commentary in a diary of his great-great grandfather, who was a New Zealand government surveyor in the nineteenth century. He had written words to the effect that wherever he went to set up trigs or complete surveys, he could see the handiwork of much earlier surveyors who had preceded him.

“For anyone conversant with millenniums old, standard surveying methodologies, the ancient marker systems of New Zealand are easily detected. These structures include: substantial tor mounds,