

ABORIGINAL WORKSHOPS ON THE COAST OF NEW
SOUTH WALES, AND THEIR CONTENTS.

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(Plates xlii.-xlv., and figs. 39-43).

I.—INTRODUCTION.

A preliminary account of this subject appeared in the Curator's Report for 1900.¹ The report reads as follows:—"A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr. T. Whitelegge in the early part of the year, along the local sea-board. A series of heavy gales displaced the sand hummocks at Bondi and Maroubra Bays, Dee Why Lagoon, etc., exposing what appeared to be an old land surface. On the latter Mr. Whitelegge found revealed, what we had never before imagined to exist, a series of aboriginal 'workshops' where for generations the blacks of the Port Jackson District must have manufactured chips, splinters and points for insertion along the distal margins of their spears and for other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi, as I saw it, in company with the discoverer, was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made, with core pieces, chippers and rubbers. The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystalline quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert and quartzite, to rocks of a metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the siliceous material was derived in a great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury Sandstone, but the others were probably obtained from distant sources. I regard this as one of the most important ethnological discoveries made in New South Wales for many years."

Mr. Walter Howchin² appears to have discovered a large number of small weapons and implements of various kinds on the South Australian sea-board, but there is no indication as to whether these stone implements were found scattered over the surface generally or derived from "workshops." The instruments are

¹ Etheridge—*Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iv., 4, 1900, pp. 148 and 165.

² Howchin—*Proc. Austr. Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, v., 1893, p. 522.