

in education, its provision of social services and its participation in moral campaigning. Allan Davidson sensitively assesses Harper's career as Primate, while Marie Peters's important concluding reflections contextualize the findings and their implications in discussing Harper's legacy and the creation of a colonial church.

This book will clearly become essential reading for those whose particular interests intersect with its major themes. But it deserves a much broader readership. Overall, it effectively situates Harper and his diocese. Changes in the character of Anglicanism are tested locally, and we see Anglicans coming to terms with colonial life and the changes imposed by new conditions. Thematic organization in addressing a relatively short period does lead to some minor repetition. While this helpfully reinforces certain themes, it contributes to a less desirable tendency for knowing allusions to episodes in advance of directly discussing them. As the editors recognize, relations with other denominations are only marginally addressed and might usefully be picked up in future. There is also obviously much more to explore in terms of the social history and influence of Anglicanism in the region than a volume of this nature can tackle. One stated aim of the book is to remedy the 'slight attention' given to religion in local histories of the region. This goal is achieved implicitly rather than through direct engagement, which is admirably temperate though slightly disappointing. Even the bait of the so-called 'myth' of Anglican Christchurch is merely noted, with none of the contributors rising to take it. With the possible exception of Blain's chapter, which examines some notable controversies, the result is thoughtful and steady rather than lively or provocative history. Not a bad thing, indeed there may even be something appropriately indicative in that.

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*How to do Local History.* By Gavin McLean. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2007. 96 pp. NZ price: \$24.95. ISBN 978-1-877372-41-2.

GAVIN McLEAN PRODUCED HIS SMALL CLASSIC *Local History: A Short Guide to Researching, Writing and Publishing a Local History* in 1992. His new guide will be another classic but it is a very different book, despite a similar size and format to its predecessor.

I have been a full-time professional historian since the mid-1980s and 1992 does not seem very long ago. But I was startled in comparing these two volumes to realize how much has changed in the environment of New Zealand historiography, research practice, writing and publication in those 15 years. Developments one had taken in the stride of daily work looked much more imposing when set out in print. The differences are so far-reaching that this is an entirely new and fresh approach to a familiar topic. As McLean himself says in his introduction, the older book 'is now an artefact from that strange pre-digital age when researchers thumbed through grubby, dog-eared card catalogues, and authors proof-read long galleys of type.' (This is a bit unfair to the older volume — if you have it, it is still worth keeping.)

The older version is rooted in a traditional print culture; the new one lives in the electronic age, the age of Google and on-line access to library catalogues, digitized newspapers and web publication. McLean has also modernized the intellectual framework, particularly in the opening chapter 'Ideas and questions'. The equivalent chapter in the 1992 book introduces the basics of historical thinking, the differences between history and antiquarianism, the need to be aware of bias, the need to establish context and so forth. This is still useful for the novice and is a reason to keep the older version. The

new guide introduces the more subtle ideas that have entered our vocabulary, such as the concept of plural and reconstructed pasts, and asserts strongly the value of local (even neighbourhood), sectional and regional histories in their own right and not merely as scaled down local examples of the national history that used to dominate our mental landscape. Local history is in no way a secondary endeavour. It also touches on newer areas of historical interest: the natural and built environment including definitions of community; culture and recreation; and demography and ethnicity. The local historian now has a much more varied toolkit of ideas with which to tackle his or her project. In the present fast-changing environment a book like this could be updated every ten or 15 years and be significantly new each time.

The three remaining chapters are, as in the 1992 book, 'Research', 'Writing' and 'Publishing.' The one on 'Writing' has changed the least, mainly becoming a little more pared-down and more tightly organized. I personally feel that greater consideration could be given to the uses of the computer. McLean values it for writing and editing the text, i.e. word processing, and draws attention to the possibility of doing one's own layout, for those who feel the confidence to tackle it. However, he does not discuss the uses one can make of spreadsheets and databases for analyzing statistics, constructing graphs and diagrams and general information management. In fairness, most historians are reluctant to venture into these waters, but as a profession we are overdue to master these everyday skills.

The 'Research' chapter is a little smaller than in 1992, but covers much more ground, because in addition to the familiar and some new written sources, it deals with the electronic ones that had scarcely come over the horizon in 1992. It gives a brief directory to the major websites and on-line resources likely to interest the local historian. In the present version considerably more attention is given to the techniques of oral history, which has emerged as a specialty in its own right. Overall, I felt this chapter was a little condensed, but this is a quibble compared with the usefulness of what is provided in a small compass.

Perhaps the most radical changes have occurred in the area of publishing. This chapter contains a good beginner's guide to website publication, which was not even in sight 15 years ago but which is now a practicable and economical alternative to print for some local history purposes. The sections on print publishing have altered out of all recognition as New Zealand printers and publishers have become capable of the sort of work that used always to be sent off-shore. The new version is indispensable here as the old is now obsolete.

The final part is two new short appendices, addressed to clients, one on how to commission history and the other on sources of funding. These distil the experience the history trade has had with commissioned history since the 1990s.

*How to do Local History* displays McLean's characteristic felicity with both words and graphic images. The style is lively and the material deftly organized and user-friendly. Visually it is similar to the 1992 book, but subtly updated, and with quite different illustrations. It does not attempt to tackle specialized subjects such as Maori history, women's history or labour history, all of which may have a local dimension, but it would be a useful starting point for any of these areas. It will be a useful reference even to the experienced practitioner, whether amateur or professional.

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