

portrait of this not altogether admirable man. The ghost of Felix von Luckner may squirm at some of the silences and evasions in his autobiography being revealed. Conversely, people would have nothing to fear from biography if they led more honorable lives.

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NOTES

- 1 Alec Nisbet, *Konrad Loenz* (New York and London, 1976), pp.98–99.
- 2 *Salient*, 30 March 1938.
- 3 See ACHK 16603 G48 33 S/3(1), Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

Logan Campbell's Auckland: Tales from the Early Years. By R.C.J. Stone. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2007. 245 pp. NZ price: \$45.00. ISBN 978-1-86940-393-5.

R.C.J. STONE'S DEFINITIVE *FROM TAMAKI-MAKAU-RAU TO AUCKLAND* (AUP, 2001) originally started from an intention to produce a history of post-1840 Auckland. In the past, few had dared to take on such a monumental task. John Barr, then Auckland City Librarian, wrote *The City of Auckland, New Zealand, 1840–1920* (Whitcombe & Tombs, 1922) and, more recently, Graeme Bush published *Decently and in Order; the Centennial History of the Auckland City Council* (Auckland City Council, 1971), while John Horsman wrote *The Coming of the Pakeha to Auckland Province* (Hicks Smith, 1971).

Stone soon realized he needed to research and contextualize the pre-1840 period before he could even start to survey Auckland's Pakeha history. We are all in his debt for that decision, but is his latest book the history that he had intended to write earlier? Certainly given the eight previous books Stone has written on Auckland people, schools, businesses and so forth, this latest does not really break new ground. But Stone has definitely ensured that his chosen topics in this book have now been even more comprehensively explored. Whether Auckland in the nineteenth century will ever be written to his or anyone's satisfaction is another matter. A definitive work is perhaps impossible.

Stone concluded *From Tamaki-makau-rau to Auckland* with discussions of the first land sales to Pakeha in Auckland in April 1841, the abortive Cornwallis settlement, sales of Tamaki land to Pakeha up to 1845 and the mutually beneficial economic relationship between Maori and Pakeha during the 1850s. The link to his current title is as the biographer of John Logan Campbell, the linchpin of nineteenth-century Pakeha Auckland.

Logan Campbell's Auckland is described as a collection of vignettes or portraits of Auckland to 1912, when Campbell died. It is certainly about much more than just Campbell. Topics include a summary of Campbell's contribution to Auckland, how Ngati Whatua became the Tangata Whenua of Auckland, the trees on One Tree Hill, dueling, Falwasser's intriguing 'mangle' press and other newspapers, the sad fate of Dudley Sinclair, the voyage of the *Jane Gifford*, the Auckland that greeted the early settlers, the Parkhurst Boys, the army and naval influence on Auckland society, the *Orpheus* disaster, James Dilworth and education, Anthony Trollope's visit to Auckland, the foundation of Auckland's first School of Art, rugby and Eden Park and Auckland versus Wellington rugby rivalry. Quite an impressive list. There are overlaps between some of the chapters, but they help to elucidate those topics and are not redundant.

Themes not covered include the reaction of local Maori to the 1860s Pakeha invasion of the Waikato. Maori settlements particularly on the North Shore and in Mangere emptied out almost overnight when a night curfew on waka and demands to hand in guns were promulgated in 1863. Orakei Maori on the other hand stayed put. There are also the

changing roles of women in nineteenth-century Auckland, both Maori and Pakeha, and the rise of the working classes. Originally forming branches of British trade unions, and then in 1876 forming the first Auckland Trades Council, by the early twentieth century the workers of Auckland were industrially and politically at the forefront of the New Zealand labour movement. Of course, there is room for these to be covered elsewhere.

Stone concludes with a brief overview of some twentieth- and twenty-first-century infrastructure issues still facing Auckland, which have antecedents in the nineteenth century. Access to drinking water, sewage disposal and transport links around an ever-expanding city are particular examples.

In Stone's view, Auckland was and is a city of immigrants whose cultural roots lie elsewhere, and is in great danger of becoming what he calls a 'community without memory'. It is his recovery of that memory of Auckland's continued rapid growth, its commercial and entrepreneurial nature, and its uniqueness in comparison with the rest of New Zealand that continues to motivate this pre-eminent historian of nineteenth-century Auckland. Stone painstakingly follows up on information and details, tries to use as wide a range of source material as possible, seeks others' opinions, is generous with his time and assistance, and continually tests accepted views against the realities of the facts presented. Where someone else has in Stone's opinion produced the definitive account, he acknowledges it, and guides the reader to it. His material is always approachable by a wide range of readers, and passes the ultimate test of a public-orientated historian in that his book chapters are readily able to be published as newspaper articles.

Philip Hart, when reviewing *From Tamaki-makau-rau to Auckland* in this journal in 2002, said Stone had 'succeeded superbly in an elegantly written and well-illustrated book'. There is nothing to disappoint in this book either.

DAVID VERRAN

Auckland City Libraries

The Plot to Subvert Wartime New Zealand. By Hugh Price. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 2006. 160 pp. NZ price: \$29.95. ISBN 0-86473-538-6.

THIS ENTERTAINING BOOK combines elements of both a History Channel documentary and an airport thriller. Indeed, this reviewer devoured most of it whilst marooned in a Wellington departure lounge. It is also testimony to the degree of human frailty that gripped otherwise sane individuals, not least Bob Semple and Peter Fraser, during the dark days of early 1942 when an Axis invasion of New Zealand was a very real prospect.

On 28 March 1942 Syd Ross, a petty criminal with a penchant for theft and dishonesty, was released from Waikeria Prison. He immediately took a train to Wellington and contacted Semple, the Minister of Public Works. After revealing his criminal credentials Ross told Semple that while waiting at the Te Awamutu railway station he had been approached by a man who asked whether he would be willing to help bring the war to a swift conclusion by joining a group of Nazi agents and sympathizers, based in the Bay of Plenty area, who intended a series of bombings and assassinations as precursor to a full German invasion. Suitably alarmed, Semple contacted the Prime Minister, Peter Fraser, who immediately informed Major Kenneth Folkes — recently arrived from England to head New Zealand's fledgling Security Intelligence Bureau (SIB).

Perhaps Semple and Fraser could be excused their gullibility on the grounds that recent arrests of Australia First fascists raised the possibility that the enemy was now very close to home. But the subsequent success of Ross's audacious con owed less to his subtle criminal nerve-tapping and much more to the machinations of Folkes — a man who would surely have been entirely comfortable among the deeply flawed cast of