

tempered either by apprehension as to what might happen if the Americans really did leave the South Pacific, or perhaps by a judgement that they won't. For these people and, therefore, for the country as a whole, there is profound ambivalence about the foreign policy choices which should be made.

Thakur's study would have gained from a more extended exploration of these dimensions of the subject. Alongside his analysis of the arguments he would then have been able to place an evaluation of their political significance. The analysis nonetheless does stand as an excellent and lucid introduction to a debate in which clarity of thought and expression are all too often at a discount.

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Horowhenua County and its People: A Centennial History. By A. J. Dreaver. The Dunmore Press, for the Horowhenua County Council, 1984. 316 pp. NZ price: \$28.00.

THIS BOOK represents a most refreshing change from the normal format and style of local body centennial histories. The fact that it was commissioned to commemorate the centennial of a local authority — Horowhenua County Council — has not been allowed to cramp the author's approach to the subject, and all credit must be given to the Council for adopting so enlightened an attitude to the writing of its history. Fortunately, there does seem to be a growing recognition on the part of local authorities of the desirability of celebrating more than just the activities of councillors and officials. Hastings and Hamilton come to mind as other recent examples of this willingness to allow celebration of the centennial of a local authority to be used as an opportunity to write in-depth analyses of all facets of the evolution of a town or region. In this work, for instance, there is no assumption that everything began in 1885. There is abundant treatment of the district's pre-1885 history, Maori as well as European. The history of the County Council itself is well integrated into the narrative and flows smoothly out of the discussion of the phases of development in the district.

One drawback to local body histories is that they sometimes impose, on the area to be examined, boundaries which do not make a great deal of sense in any terms except those of local government administration. The Horowhenua region has never been particularly self-contained and sharply marked off from other regions, such as the neighbouring Manawatu. It featured in early New Zealand history as a region through which people wished to travel — on the coastal route between Wellington and Wanganui — and much of its own history was tied up with efforts to overcome the obstacles to such travel constituted by its swamps, rivers, and forests. The author handles this aspect of its character sensitively and skilfully, not trying to force onto the district more of a coherence and unity as a region than is justified by the evidence. Rather than adopting a narrative structure he devotes each chapter to a detailed examination of an aspect of the district's history — flax-milling, timber, the development of dairy farming, the construction of a hydroelectric dam at Mangahao, the

placing of returned servicemen on the land, and so on. Students of many different topics relating to the settlement of the land in New Zealand will find material and discussion of great value in this book.

Another attractive feature of *Horowhenua County* is what might be called its multi-media approach. The author imaginatively intersperses within the text and between chapters photographs, extracts from newspapers, poetry, plans, and maps. The photographic sections are particularly good, with useful captions. In the text, diaries and other records left by settlers are freely and sensitively used. All in all, this is a local history of superior quality, and it is to be hoped that it attracts a readership wider than that of people particularly interested in the Horowhenua district.

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Victoria's Furthest Daughters: A Bibliography of Published Sources for the Study of Women in New Zealand. By Patricia Sargison. Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust with the New Zealand Founders Society, Wellington, 1984. N.Z. price: \$10.00.

WITHOUT bibliographical guides the historian's task is far more daunting. A good bibliography can save the researcher valuable time and, if of the best, can bring to light new source material to stimulate research. Patricia Sargison's bibliography of published sources for the study of women in New Zealand, 1830-1914, should succeed on both counts. The author has limited her claims to comprehensiveness to sections 4,5, and 6 ('The Voyage Out', 'The New Land: Diaries, Journals, and Reminiscences of Pioneer Women', and 'Secondary Accounts of Pioneer Women'). The bibliography is, then, a beginning, and Patricia Sargison requests that any further items readers note should be brought to her attention for a possible supplement.

The bibliography is divided into 12 sections according to subject matter such as 'Emigrants' Handbooks' and 'Women and Employment' and each of these is further broken down by useful subheadings. Section 10, for example, on 'Women in Public Life' is subdivided under the headings of 'General', 'Temperance and Prohibition', 'Suffrage' and 'Women's Organisations'. Not surprisingly, it is this area which has received the most attention from academic historians. But as the listings on theses in progress suggest (the author might perhaps have checked these entries with the relevant university as some are out of date) important new work is being undertaken on less readily accessible materials such as Anna Gibbons's on 'The Voyage to New Zealand, 1840-1870' and Charlotte Macdonald's on 'The Migration of Women to New Zealand, 1853-1872'.

The female dependency suggested by the title *Victoria's Furthest Daughters* is belied by the vitality and indomitable spirit of many of the women mentioned in the volume. Women's activities as missionaries, novelists, alpinists and social reformers, to name a few, are suggestive of immense energy. The great personal courage of Ahumai Te Paerata during the battle of Orakau in 1864 receives individual recogni-