

which encouraged the Prime Minister to dig up a septic tank and open a dishwasher during its wash cycle to see how they worked.

Holyoake's childhood receives even less attention: a little from Comber, and half a paragraph in Tom Brooking's essay on 'The Farmer Politician in New Zealand', which also describes Holyoake's effectiveness as a Minister of Agriculture.³ Economic circumstances forced him to leave school at 12, which partly explains why we have next to nothing here about his view of himself: the self-taught Holyoake apparently never kept a diary. With respect to his psychological make-up, there is not even speculation: he had, after all, 'built a casing around himself' (p.18).

That Holyoake was essentially unknowable may be why most of the contributors have been economical with their energies: only a handful have done any primary research, and that while undertaking other projects. One of these, Roberto Rabel, sums up Holyoake as a 'dovish hawk' whose reluctance to commit New Zealand troops to South Vietnam seems to have resulted as much from parsimony as from perceptions of domestic political advantage and external security needs. John Martin and Pat Walsh contribute pieces on the state services and industrial relations respectively from which Holyoake is largely absent, while Antony Wood's lengthy survey of 'The Holyoake Years' is disappointingly superficial.

Some aspects of the book's production are also frustrating. The publisher has provided a cramped and unattractive typeface. There are editorial deficiencies: many of the pieces read as they were spoken; the same Holyoakean aphorisms appear majestically over and over again; there is no index; each author's referencing style has been retained. Worse still, Gustafson's two essays, like his history of the National Party, have no references.⁴ Perhaps he will one day remedy this by producing a 'political biography' of Keith Holyoake. Meanwhile, the veils have been lifted only a little.

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3 Derived from the only biography of Holyoake, Ross Doughty's hagiographic *The Holyoake Years*, Feilding, 1977.

4 Barry Gustafson, *The First 50 Years*, Auckland, 1986.

Nelson: A Regional History. By Jim McAloon. Cape Catley, Picton, 1997. 261 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 0-908561-56-3.

EVER SINCE the publication of Ruth Allan's history of the early settlement of Nelson in 1965, Nelsonians have been waiting for a more comprehensive account of Nelson to the present day. Now, thanks to the Nelson City Council's determination to mark the sesquicentennial in 1992 with such a history, Jim McAloon has achieved this objective.

He has surveyed the history of human occupation of the province from the twelfth century to the 1990s. His emphasis is largely economic, each period into which the book is divided giving a detailed picture of the agriculture and industry upon which the prosperity of the settlement has been built. However, the cultural and recreational activities of the people have not been neglected, and the leading characters in the story have been brought vividly to life.

In his foreword, the mayor, Philip Woollaston, makes a particularly pertinent comment:

McAloon's 'more objective view of some significant figures and formative events of early Nelson . . . may not be to the liking of some readers — we tend to become comfortable with historical interpretations learnt at our parents' knees'. This is especially so in isolated Nelson, where the local legends lovingly recounted over generations have tended to become the accepted lore. It was, therefore, a wise decision to have the history written by an outside academic. The council can be congratulated on its choice of an historian.

McAloon begins with a chapter on the tangata whenua and their first contact with Europeans. Relations between Maori and Pakeha are addressed throughout the book. Tensions remained during most of the period — from the panic caused in the infant settlement after the confrontation at the Wairau in 1843, through bitterness over the Maori land reserves and church land at Whakarewa, which was not resolved until the 1990s.

Begun with confidence as an early Wakefield experiment, Nelson was hampered from the start by lack of available land for settlement and had to struggle through the 1840s, only to see itself rapidly outdistanced in the 1850s and 1860s by Otago and Canterbury. From the perspective of 150 years one of Nelson's special contributions to New Zealand's history was its brave pursuit of democracy. In 1856 the electors chose a working class Superintendent, John Perry Robinson, who was intent on preventing the accumulation of large land holdings by a few and who championed the small farmer. The book pays a handsome and long overdue tribute to this remarkable pioneer, whose 'misfortune was to be ahead of his time' (p.68). His popularity with the small farmers and artisans of Nelson saw him re-elected twice, serving the province for nine years until his untimely death by drowning. Yet, as the author points out (p.117), when the jubilee was celebrated in 1892 and 'Nelson's statesmen' were eulogized, Robinson was not mentioned. A century after his death, when the handsome Provincial Council building, which he had had built in 1859, was demolished, the court house which replaced it was named for his bitter political opponent, Sir David Monro.

This liberal tradition, begun by Robinson, is reflected in more recent times at the national level by the fact that 'avowed conservatives have held the Nelson seat for only 17 years' (p.224). Harry Atmore, as an Independent, vigorously espoused Nelson causes throughout his long occupancy of the Nelson seat (1919–1946), and from 1957 to 1996 Labour members were returned for the city. From 1938 to 1990 Labour also held the rural seat of Buller/Tasman, one of the descendants of a labourer from the ship *Will Watch*, Sir Wallace Rowling, becoming Prime Minister in 1974.

Owing to Nelson's geographical isolation, transport has been a recurring problem and McAloon traces this theme from the on-again off-again frustration of railway building, through the opening of the route to the West Coast by Newmans coaches, to the Anchor ferry service, which for 70 years linked Nelson with Wellington until made obsolete by the growth of air traffic in the 1940s and 1950s.

As a sesquicentennial history the work had to move into the difficult area of contemporary life, and the concluding chapter covers the many changes of the last 30 years. During the 1960s and 1970s two of the traditional crops of the region, hops and tobacco, gave way to new ventures, from kiwi fruit to green tea, and the extension of the fishing zone to 200 miles promoted Nelson to the chief fishing port in New Zealand. New industries diversified manufacturing with the expansion of forestry, the building of the chip mill, the establishment of the car factory in place of the aborted cotton mill, and the growth of tourism in the 1970s. The last 30 years has seen a great flowering of crafts, especially pottery, weaving and jewellery, which have been of great economic importance to the region, but there has been a place for the arts in Nelson from the beginning: the Harmonic Society in the 1850s led to the establishment of the School of Music, now

more than a century old, and painters have flourished there, from Charles Heaphy and John Gully to Doris Lusk and Toss Woollaston.

The book has been attractively produced by Cape Catley with clear typeface and generous margins. The text is thoroughly sourced, Nelson having a rich file of newspapers covering the whole European period, which has provided much of the book's material. There is an extensive bibliography and an index. Finally, one of the outstanding features of the book is the abundance of splendid illustrations, most of which are drawn from the photographic collections in the Nelson Provincial Museum. These provide compelling glimpses of daily life and many older Nelsonians will delight in recognizing occasions and characters they remember.

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Doctoring Childbirth and Regulating Midwifery in New Zealand: A Foucauldian Perspective. By Elaine Papps and Mark Olssen. The Dunmore Press, Palmerston North, 1997. 215 pp. NZ price: \$34.95. ISBN 0-86469-284-6.

CHILDBIRTH HISTORICALLY has been contested terrain and continues to be so, as this latest study shows. Elaine Papps and Mark Olssen have a joint interest in midwifery education and a target audience for this book will be the new intakes of students to direct-entry midwifery courses, which are deliberately kept separate from nursing training and, by inference, a controlling medical model.

This study has much to recommend it to historians who may wish to praise and favour, or attempt to criticize, its Foucauldian interpretation of childbirth. However one views Foucault, the core concepts evoked by and invoked in his name are well applied in this general overview of the laws which regulate midwifery education and practice in New Zealand. Papps and Olssen trace the shift from the midwife to the doctor and medical control of birth, back to the midwife with the passing of the Nurses Amendment Act 1990, which restored the midwife's autonomy as a practitioner. Using Foucault's concept of disciplinary power through surveillance, they examine the development of a gendered, medical discourse about birth and the regulation of midwifery. They aim to provide a long-term view of the medicalization of birth as a backdrop to a New Zealand study of how midwives were edged out of and returned to birthing services between the Midwives Act of 1904 and the 1990 legislation. Their poststructuralist approach shares with the Australian work of Kerreen Reiger an emphasis on structures of gender, knowledge and power and on a scientific world-view of 'what Habermas calls technocratic rationality' (p.145).

Doctoring Childbirth and Regulating Midwifery's core thesis is that what was at issue in midwifery regulation was a 'struggle for the control of childbirth' (p.17). This thesis is not new. What is new in this country is the Foucauldian framework, combined with an emphasis on midwifery as opposed to obstetrics. Of particular value is the analysis of the relationship between midwifery and nursing and its part in midwifery regulation. Problematically for midwifery, it became caught up in the professionalization of nursing. Indeed, midwifery became subsumed into nursing in a process that the authors identify extended from the 1904 Act to the Nurses and Midwives Registration Act 1925 — which had the effect of recategorizing the majority of women previously classified as midwives