Zealand ran the experiment Kingston might later claim vindication. As well as being a likeable character, Kingston had no reason to be other than gracious. In his conclusion Gardner discusses Reeves's philosophy, which fitted what other scholars like Marian Sawer have described as social liberalism.

While not strictly relevant to a review, I will not refrain from noting that Jim Gardner will celebrate his 95th birthday this year. Any scholar should feel pleased about having written this book; it is an additional distinction that it comes at this point in so long and fruitful a career.

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Natives and Exotics: World War II and Environment in the Southern Pacific. By Judith A. Bennett. University of Hawai'i Press, Honolulu, 2009. NZ price: $63.99. 439pp. ISBN 978-0-8248-3350-3.

JUDY BENNETT HAS PUBLISHED EARLIER HISTORICAL STUDIES on the *Wealth of the Solomons* (1987) and on their contested forest resource (*Pacific Forest,* 2000). She commenced work on *Natives and Exotics* with the aim of finding 'what impact this sudden foreigners' war [World War II in the Southern Pacific] had on the environment and its native inhabitants and how thousands of military personnel reacted to them' (pp.xix–xx). For her, environmental history, 'despite its concern with the environment as an actor, still keeps focused on human beings' (p.xxi). Her approach has resulted in a rich tapestry that, by containing as much social as environmental history, gains increased appeal and significance. Appropriately, the poster reproduced on the book's cover conveys both mateship among Australian soldiers in 1945 and their immersion within the jungle.

Professor Bennett's current research into the lives of children of Pacific indigenous women and American servicemen (whose very existence is a further consequence of the war) must surely emphasize the social more than the environmental, but in *Natives and Exotics* these strands receive equal treatment. Chapter 3, on 'Diseased environments', discusses the impact of malaria and DDT, and is standard fare for an environmental historian. It covers similar ground to the author's article in *Natural Enemy, Natural Ally* (2004), the first collection of research specifically on the environmental history of warfare. Bennett has now extended far beyond this, however, as instanced by Chapter 12, on 'Remembering place', which categorizes the souvenirs which soldiers brought back from the Pacific — trophies such as Japanese swords; grass skirts and other indigenous artefacts; and 'trench art' such as brooches made from the perspex of aircraft windows. She identifies these as 'icons of survival and triumph in the strange military landscape and alien environment . . . . [and] talismans that betokened a return to normal life' (p.266).

While the Americans came and went in the South Pacific, showing greater territorial interest in islands further north, post-war Australians continued to view New Guinea as both an area for development and a defence barrier. The attitudes and actions of these Allies are frequently contrasted. There is also a binary examination of differing circumstance in the western and eastern South Pacific, where 'the geography of conflict was to mirror the invaders' racial geography' (p.28). Melanesia was the theatre of war, while Polynesia, where many troops were stationed but few battles fought, was home to a people they found more 'socially agreeable' than the Melanesians.

An obvious comparison is between the opposing sides in the military conflict. Bennett has done her best to explore the Japanese, rather than just the Allied, interaction with the Pacific environment and people, but in this case her findings are thinner. We do learn that Japanese soldiers were expected to practise self-sufficiency — and compelled to, once the

destruction of supply lines by mid-1943 ensured their isolation. Around Rabaul each soldier cultivated a large vegetable patch. As a source of food, the Japanese also introduced a giant African snail into New Guinea with an enormous and environmentally disastrous capacity both for consumption and reproduction.

During the war, when bans counted for nought, the Allies, the Japanese and indigenous people all fished with the aid of explosives. As they said in the Solomons, 'Spear too slow. Catch four, maybe five, fish. Hand grenade much quicker. Catch 100' (p.231). *Natives and Exotics* is replete with similar examples of how an emphasis on immediate need rather than ecological consequence resulted in the squandering not only of marine resources, but also of soil, timber trees, coconut palms and a great deal more. In addition, much of the military hardware brought into the Pacific was later abandoned and wasted.

Bennett dwells on the long-term effects of war, both upon the indigenous environment and peoples, and on the soldiers and their nations. In the Solomons in 1944, when they greatly outnumbered the locals and had 'dollar bills literally rotting in their pockets, servicemen paid high prices for limited goods and services' (p.150). This leads to reflection on the changes that a fleeting display of American generosity and wealth must have brought to the self-perceptions and aspirations of Pacific people. For Australians, according to the author, their soldiers' operations in New Guinea, 'especially the now almost mythical deeds on the Kokoda Track, are part of their definition of their own identity and manhood' (p.285).

The chief protagonists in this study are Japanese, Australian and American, while the indigenous people appear as the sufferers (and occasional beneficiaries) of their presence and rivalry. New Zealanders, however, also receive frequent mention. In *The New Oxford History of New Zealand* (2009), Damon Salesa asserts the importance of the Pacific to New Zealand's history, and his argument could be reinforced by Bennett's references.

My brother, like Judy Bennett, taught in New Guinea. He died when I was reading her book, deepening my response to later chapters on the significance of mementoes and places of memory, much as the stories and photographs of her relatives, who served in the Australian Imperial Forces during the war, helped to inspire and inform her research. Her uncles feature both in the preface and in the book's dedication. I mention this to indicate that we have here not just a work of impeccable scholarship, to which the 90 pages of notes bear witness, but the study of a subject with which the author has clearly had a long emotional engagement, written in a way that can, in turn, engage the reader. The book ends, tangentially but movingly, with a call for unity in combating global warming for, 'Just as the Pacific war proved, we are capable of working together and of sacrificing narrow personal and national interests if the external threat is potentially fatal' (p.305).

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The Ivory Tower and Beyond: Participant Historians of the Pacific. By Doug Munro. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2009. xix + 328pp. UK price: £44.99. ISBN 978-1-4438-0534-6.

IN HIS PROLOGUE, Doug Munro quotes Neil Jumonville's observation: 'History is, really, the least grateful of the disciplines . . . it is difficult for a historian to be remembered for his history'. Munro strives to prevent five historians of the Pacific from fading from memory and argues that they played significant roles not only in writing history but also in making it — hence their description as 'participant historians'.

Munro writes of the training, intellectual milieu, personality and works of J.C. Beaglehole, J.W. Davidson, Richard Gilson, Harry Maude and Brij Lal — all but the first linked with Pacific history at the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National