



# About People

This Bulletin is dedicated to the memory of DAVID MCDONALD who assisted in its preparation, as he did with so many previous Bulletins.

*History is the essence of innumerable biographies* — Thomas Carlyle.

**B**IOGRAPHIES and autobiographies are easily tracked down through the Hocken Library computer catalogue, but many people in whom we are interested may have not been sufficiently famous—or infamous—to deserve a book to themselves. They may, however, have been mentioned in some other publication dealing with people, and this Bulletin notes many of these alternative biographical sources, such as the major biographical dictionaries and various other lists of people, though it by no means exhausts the Hocken Library's holdings. Researchers are reminded that if the Hocken computer fails to bring up the reference under author, check it out under title, or vice versa.

**Biographical Dictionaries.** All biographical dictionaries face the problem of selection. The *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* (6 vols, Christchurch, 1897–1908) had a simple solution in that those who wished to appear in its pages had to pay for the privilege, as well as provide information about themselves. In 1999 Paul Sorrell edited a Dunedin-published two volume *Cyclopedia of Otago and Southland* which was based on the same premise. Though this may mean that any critical information is usually suppressed, such volumes are of value in that the entries are wide ranging and often include information not available elsewhere.

People included in G.H.Scholefield's *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* (Wellington, 1940), were primarily those associated in some way with public life, the arts and sport. The two volumes are still of value as some of those included have been omitted from later biographical dictionaries. Otago entries are based on Scholefield's earlier series 'Makers of Otago', written under the pseudonym 'Condor' and published in the *Otago Daily Times* and *Otago Witness* in 1930.

The *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* (Wellington, vols 1–5, 1990–2000) broke new ground in that entrants are not necessarily famous or well-known, but include the infamous, and even previously unknown persons, and there was a greater attempt to evaluate their lives rather than just recite facts. A similar approach was adopted for *Southern People*, edited by Jane Thomson (Dunedin, 1998), which is confined to people of Otago and Southland. Both these publications were restricted to the deceased and can also be

frustrating for researchers interested in minor public figures, many of whom the editors decided to omit.

Alfred Cox, in the Preface to his *Men of Mark of New Zealand* (Christchurch, 1886), wrote that 'although New Zealand must be spoken of as in its immaturity the time has arrived when a brief book of biography of men who have already done good service in the public life may be made a matter of interest to a large number of people ...' Politicians, churchmen, scientists and professional men were included, both living and dead.

The first *Who's Who in New Zealand* was published in 1908, and several editions were published subsequently, providing a recital of biographical facts. Hocken holds the editions of 1908, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1964, 1968, 1971, 1978 and 1991. *Notable New Zealanders* (Auckland, 1979) gives brief biographical information (supplied by the person concerned) usually accompanied by a photograph. Personal details, membership of societies, decorations are given, but no appraisal of life and achievements.

New Zealanders are included in many overseas biographical publications. Philip Menzell's *Dictionary of Australasian Biography Comprising Notices of Eminent Colonists* (London, 1892) is wide-ranging, and includes both Europeans and Maoris, living and deceased. *Fred Johns's Annual: Mainly a Biographical Record of Australasia's Prominent People* (London, 1914); John B.Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry 1891–1895* (London, 1895); *Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage and Companionship* (London, 1913); *Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage* (Australasian ed., London, 1980), *Debrett's Handbook of Australia and New Zealand* (Sydney, 1982; London, c1984), *The Blue Book: Leaders of the English Speaking World* (1973–74, 1976) all contain New Zealand entries. Alistair Taylor *Honoured by the Queen: New Zealand Recipients of Honours, 1953–1993* (Auckland, 1994) provides brief biographical facts of greater or lesser value, some entries being of only one line.

Under the title 'Our Portrait Gallery' the *Otago Punch* (20 Sept. 1866–23 Feb. 1867) ran a series of illustrated biographical sketches of prominent Otago settlers of the time, and these are of significance in that they provide contemporary assessments of the subjects. Numerous Otago settlers of the first decade of organised settlement,

both living and deceased, were given very brief biographical entries, often accompanied by photographs, in the *Otago Daily Times & Witness Otago Settlement Jubilee Number* (1898). Also included were some 'prominent colonists of later years'.

James Cowan wrote a series on 'Famous New Zealanders' published in the *NZ Railways Magazine*, 1933–1936. Amongst collections of biographies may be noted R.M.Burdon, *New Zealand Notables* (3 vols, Christchurch, 1941, 1945, 1950); Douglas Cresswell, *Early New Zealand Families* (2 vols, Christchurch, 1949 & 1956); A.H.Reed, *Heroes of Peace and War in Early New Zealand* (Wellington, 1959); Eugene Grayland *Famous New Zealanders and More Famous New Zealanders* (Christchurch, 1967 & 1972); the anonymous *Famous New Zealanders of the 19th Century* (Wellington, 1973); Mona Gordon, *Those Days Those Men* (Christchurch, 1975); Sue Miles, *50 Famous New Zealanders* (Auckland, 1985); and Jim Anderton's *Unsung Heroes: Portraits of Inspiring New Zealanders* (Auckland, 1999). These tend to provide popular rather than formal biographies, and sometimes concentrate on a particular facet of their lives. Such words as 'famous' or 'inspiring' are the authors' choices, and not every reader will agree with them. Maurice Shadbolt's *Love and Legend: Some 20th Century New Zealanders* (London, 1976) includes some lesser-known individuals (including Cyril Ellis, the hero of the Tangiwai disaster) and even Opo the dolphin. For many collections of biographies, the computer catalogue lists the individuals included.

There are a number of regional compilations of biographies of early settlers. George Griffiths edited three volumes of *The Advance Guard* (Dunedin, 1973–74), which contain major essays on 25 19th century Otago personalities who arrived in the south before May 1861. M.C.Thomas, *Yeomen of the South* (Invercargill, 1940) is useful for the Southland region. Similar titles include J.G.Woon, *Wanganui Old Settlers* (Wanganui, 1902); Florence Keene, *Milestone. Whangarei County's First 100 Years 1876–1976* (Whangarei, 1976), which devotes more than a third to brief biographical snippets not only on pioneers but also living residents; and R.A.A.Sherrin & J.H.Wallace, *Early History of New Zealand* (Auckland, 1890) which has 32 pages listing visitors, whalers, traders and residents 1642–1839, and early settlers 1840–1845 besides listing date of arrival, locality and, if known, the ship on which they arrived. A list of emigrants to Otago in 1847–1850, grouped by ship, is included in T.M.Hocken's *Contributions to the Early History of New Zealand* (London, 1898): age, occupation and subsequent marriage partner are given where known.

Names, etc., of *Alien Friends Who Have Been Naturalized in New Zealand* was published by the Dept. of Internal Affairs, Wellington, in 1918.

**Maoris.** Biographies of Maoris in the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* were translated into the Maori language and published separately as *Nga Tangata Taumata Rau* (1990–1998), while those from vols 1 & 2 of have been republished in English under the titles *The People of Many Peaks* (1991) and *The Turbulent Years* (1994).

James Cowan's *Maori Biographies. Sketches of Old New Zealand* (Auckland, 1901) was 'A descriptive Cata-

logue of Maori portraits painted by ... G.Lindauer'. Octavius Hadfield's *Maoris of By-Gone Days* (Gisborne/London, 1902) tells the lives of five Maoris personally known to the churchman. Of more recent vintage is Alan Duff's *Maori Heroes* (Auckland, 2000), which includes both living and deceased. Of southern interest is Peter Tremewan's *Selling Otago* (Dunedin, 1994) which includes biographies of the 25 Kai Tahu who sold land to the N.Z.Company in 1844, plus a census of Maoris in the Otago Block, February–March 1852.

**Politicians.** *NZ Parliamentary Record 1840–1949* and its *Supplement 1950–1969* (Wellington, 1950 & 1969) lists all MPs, but a drawback of the volumes is that members are not assigned to specific parties. The Hocken also holds two earlier editions, from 1913 and 1925.

William Gisborne's *New Zealand Rulers and Statesmen* (London, 1886; updated 1897), provided 'rough sketches of the personality of prominent New Zealand rulers and statesmen'. J.S.Everson, writing as 'Phiz', contributed brief character sketches of MPs to the *Christchurch Press* (16 July–17 Sept.1892) and these were reprinted as *Political Portraits* (Christchurch, 1892). A further series appeared in the *Press* 1 Aug.–22 Sept.1894. George W.Russell, MP for Riccarton, included a photograph with almost every brief biography of MPs in his *New Zealand Parliamentary Guide Book* (Christchurch, 1895).

Dr Hocken anonymously contributed brief illustrated biographies of 'Early Statesmen and Public Men of New Zealand' for the *Otago Witness Christmas Number* (19 Dec.1895: 9–13), and in the following year wrote on 'The Governors of New Zealand' for the same publication (17 Dec.1896). In his *Notable New Zealand Statesmen: Twelve Prime Ministers* (Wellington, 1946) G.H.Scholefield limits his field to those who held office in the 19th century.

Clyde Carr's *Politicalities* (Wellington, 1936) was 'not intended to be complete presentations of character; they are sketches only' of most of the electorate MPs. Barry Gustafson gives brief biographies of 'People Prominent in the Foundation of the NZLP 1900–1919' in his *Labour's Path to Political Independence* (Auckland, 1980), and of National Members of Parliament, 1936–86, and party officials in *The First 50 Years. A History of the New Zealand National Party* (Auckland, 1986). Booklets of brief biographies with portraits have been issued for most new Parliaments over the past quarter-century.

**Occupations.** F.W.Furkert's *Early New Zealand Engineers* (Wellington, 1953) contains biographies of engineers, whether they were of major or minor importance, born not later than 1865. It should be noted that the term 'engineer' is interpreted widely, so that surveyors, architects, etc who did some engineering work in New Zealand are included.

R.V.Fulton's *Medical Practice in Otago and Southland in the Early Days*, (Dunedin, 1922; facsimile ed.1983) is a mine of information about the life and times of the south's early doctors. William Henry Skinner wrote on *Pioneer Medical Men of Taranaki 1834–1880* (New Plymouth, 1955), a volume which varies in fullness of detail about individual doctors. Don Jamieson and Jocelyn Poland have compiled a most useful *Index to Obituaries & Death Notices in the NZ Medical Journal 1886–Feb.1981* (micro-

fiche, Wellington, 1985).

In *Pulpit Pictures* (Dunedin, 1876) Thomas Bracken, writing as 'Didymus', gives sketches of a number of clergymen. Brief biographies of 14 Canterbury lawyers—all 'memorable personalities' and often as well known outside the province as within—are to be found in Glyn Strange's entertaining *Brief Encounters* (Christchurch, 1997).

John King, *Famous New Zealand Aviators* (Wellington, 1998) includes such well-known characters as Popeye Lucas and almost unknowns such as Pam Collings.

Not strictly a biographical publication, but nevertheless significant in that it broke new ground (and is fun to browse through) is George Griffiths' *Southern Writers in Disguise* (Dunedin, 1998). It lists pseudonyms adopted by southern newspaper and literary figures and adds in other aspects of their lives, not all literary.

**Local History.** *The Book of the Pioneers, Otama Knapdale Chatton*, (Gore, 1936) edited by Elizabeth M Wilson & Robert N Fraser, contains many biographies and photographs of early settlers in the district. Joan MacIntosh in *A History of Fortrose* (Invercargill, 1975: 312–394) provides over 130 'family histories' of local settlers, of varying length and based on information provided by residents of the district. Ruth Wilkinson edited *First Families of Cambridge 1864–1899* (Cambridge, 1972) which includes many of the families who settled in the district in the 19th century.

Readers should be aware that where biographical information is provided by family members and not critically assessed by the book's editor errors may occur. Madge Malcolm based the informal biographies in her *Tales of Yesteryear* (Russell, 1994), which concentrates on the people of eastern Northland north of about Whangarei, on taped interviews, and failed to correct one man's statement that his 'father was shepherd and general rouseabout for John Larnoch [*sic*] while he was building his castle'.

Many local histories include lists of people for one reason or another, particularly the names of mayors, councillors, etc. J.O.P. Watt, *Centenary of Invercargill Municipality 1871–1971* (Invercargill, 1971) provides 'Thumbnail Sketches' of the city's mayors, town clerks and engineers. K.C. McDonald lists Dunedin's mayors and councillors in *City of Dunedin: A Century of Enterprise* (Dunedin, 1965). W.P. Morrell, *The Dunedin Club 1858–1975* (Dunedin, 1976) includes lists of members in 1863 and in 1975, along with Presidents from 1874. Business histories usually include lists of senior executives. Similarly most books celebrating histories of schools, churches, sports bodies etc include relevant lists. G.C. Denne & A.A. Rawlings' *Ravensbourne School Jubilee 1877–1977 Commemorative Booklet* (Dunedin, 1978) gives headmasters, chairmen and secretaries of the school committee, and also the school duxes. There is also *Ravensbourne School: Dunedin ... An Alphabetical Listing of Admission, Progress, Withdrawal Registers 1876–1920* (Dunedin, 1997). Some histories include extensive lists of pupils. Peter Chandler lists pupils attending the small, isolated Rees Valley school during its existence from 1888 to 1938 in *Land of the Mountain and the Flood* (Queenstown, 1996). The complete roll of a small Northland school from

1889 to June 1988 is printed in Diana Menefy's *Hukerenui ... In the Beginning* (Whangarei, 1988). Registers of students held by the Hocken include *Roll of the Graduates of the University of Otago (to May 1988)* (Dunedin, 1989); T.D. Pearce & R.V. Fulton, *Otago High School Old Boys' Register*, (Dunedin, 1907); A.R. Dunlop & A.E. Dakin, *Southland Boys' High School Old Boys Register*, (Invercargill, 1958); James Hight & A.M.F. Candy, *A Short History of the Canterbury College ... with a Register of Graduates and Associates of the College* (Auckland, 1927); *School List of Christ's College: 1850–1955*, (Christchurch, 1997); H.A.H. Insull's *Marlborough College Register* (Blenheim, 1950); *School List, Nga Tawa, Marton: 1891 to 1977* (Marton, 1977); and *Craighead Diocesan School: School List, 1911–1986* (Timaru, 1988). *Prize List etc 1892, St Patrick's College, Wellington* (Wellington, 1892) also includes a list of pupils.

**Artists.** The most comprehensive collection of biographical information about New Zealand artists is to be found in Una Platts' *Nineteenth Century New Zealand Artists* (Christchurch, 1980). John Oakley, *Paintings of Canterbury 1840–1890* (Wellington, 1969) has brief biographies of painters featured in the book, as does Roger Collins in his *Pictures of Southern New Zealand* (Dunedin, 1979). Collins also provides valuable references as to sources of data for his biographies.

**Military.** *The New Zealand Army List. Colonial Forces* (Wellington, 1864) includes volunteer units and commissioned officers. Dr Hocken wrote in his own name as Surgeon of the Dunedin Volunteer Naval Brigade, giving 9 March 1865 as the date of his commission. He is still listed as naval surgeon in the *NZ Volunteer Army List* (Dunedin, 1879). Also held is *The Army List of the NZ Military Forces* (Wellington, 1938).

T.W. Gudgeon's *Defenders of New Zealand* (Auckland, 1887) includes stories of individual Europeans and Maori who fought for the Crown, plus lists of those who received the New Zealand Medal, and colonial soldiers killed in action 1860–70. Men who served in colonial units who received, were denied, or failed to complete their claim forms for the New Zealand Medal are listed in Richard Stowers, *The New Zealand Medal to Colonials* (Hamilton, 1998), with brief data about their units, military service, etc. Citations of those awarded the Victoria Cross or the New Zealand Cross during the New Zealand Wars are provided in Tim Ryan and Bill Parham, *The Colonial New Zealand Wars* (Wellington, 1986).

The Earl of Ranfurly, compiled the *Roll of Honour, 1840 to 1902; Defenders of the Empire Resident in New Zealand* (Wellington, 1902) in which there is a list (admittedly incomplete) of NZ residents awarded medals (not necessarily in New Zealand), what the medals were, and their regiment or force; plus a list of all who were serving, or had served, in the Boer War to that date. J. Bryant Haigh & A.J. Polaschek's *New Zealand and the Distinguished Service Order* (Christchurch, 1993) gives medal citations and brief details of military service of NZ winners of the DSO.

Two volumes of *For Your Tomorrow* by Errol W. Martyn (Christchurch, 1998 & 1999) lists those serving with the

RNZAF or Allied Air Forces who died from 1915 to 1998, giving the circumstances of their fatality, age, and flying hours.

A list of Taranaki European settlers whose homes were burned by Maoris from 17 March 1860 to 31 March 1861 is to be found in W.I.Grayling, *The War in Taranaki During the Years 1860–61* (New Plymouth, 1862).

**Sports.** Not surprisingly, there are many books which give biographical details about New Zealand sportspeople. J.Chadwick's illustrated *Men of Mark in the World of Sport in New Zealand* (Auckland, 1906) is perhaps the earliest, but what makes it of interest is that it is not about rugby players or athletes but rather almost solely about those interested in horse racing and the hunt, and concentrates on their horsey activities.

Greg Ryan, *Forerunners of the All Blacks* (Christchurch, 1993) with brief biographies of the 29 players & officials of the 1888–89 NZ Native Football Team which toured Britain; Arthur H.Carman's *Maori Rugby 1884–1979* (Wellington, 1980) containing over 100 biographies of Maori players; Keith Quinn's *A Century of Rugby Greats* (Auckland, 1999); Paul Verdon's *Born to Lead* (Auckland, 2000) on All Black captains; and Verdon's book on All Black coaches, *The Power Behind the All Blacks* (Auckland, 1999) all tend to concentrate on aspects of sporting life rather than any attempt at complete biographies.

Arthur C.Swan's *They Played for New Zealand* (Wellington, 1947 & 1964) with a new edition by Arthur Carman (Tawa, 1981) lists individual All Blacks and the matches in which they played. Dorothy Simons, *New Zealand's Champion Sportswomen* (Auckland, 1982) includes participants in a wide range of sports, including athletics, swimming, bowls, and table tennis. Emphasis is again on sporting life. Mary Montier, *Racing Women of New Zealand* (Wellington, 1993) is about 10 women who were leading trainers or jockeys from the 1890s to the 1990s.

**Women.** Besides the books already listed with women as their subjects, the following should also be noted. *The Book of New Zealand Women* (Wellington, 1991), edited by C.Macdonald et al, contains short biographies of over 300 women. Miriam Macgregor's *Petticoat Pioneers. North Island Women of the Colonial Era* (2 vols, Wellington 1973 & 1975), Barbara Harper's *Petticoat Pioneers. South Island Women of the Colonial Era*, (Wellington, 1980), Jane Wordsworth's *Women of the North* (Auckland 1981); Christine Clement & Judith Johnston (eds), *Women of South Taranaki* (Hawera, 1993); and *Women of Northern Wairoa* (Orewa, 1985) provide biographies of well- and lesser-known women of the times.

Florence Keene's *Women: Today & Yesterday* (Whangarei, 1987) contains biographies of over 30 past and present women of Northland. Heather Heberley's *Riding with the Whales* (Whatamango Bay, 1999) deals with the lives of 'great [Marlborough] Sounds women'. Richard Greenaway, 'Unsung Heroines' (Christchurch, 1994) contains biographies of 11 Christchurch women, most of whom were little known in their time. Christine

Dann & Pip Lynch (eds) *Wilderness Women* (Auckland 1989) tells of nine women who have enjoyed the outdoors.

A number of less formal biographies, written largely by descendants, include *Pioneering Women of South Kaipara* (Helensville, 2000); and Mary E.V.Hawker, *Women of Westland 1860–1960* (Greymouth, 1959). Jane Wordsworth's *Leading Ladies* (Wellington, 1979) tells of 23 contemporary and historical 'outstanding women', such as Sybil Lupp, racing driver and mechanic. The book is, however, more concerned with achievements than biographical detail. Dunedin's Isabella Valpy is the first included in Barbara Sampson's *Women of Spirit: Life Stories of NZ Salvation Army Women* (Wellington, 1993). Emphasis is on their religious activities.

**Chinese.** Volume 3 of James Ng's *Windows on a Chinese Past* (Dunedin, 1999) contains well-researched and documented biographies of 19th and 20th century Chinese residents, while volume 4 (Dunedin, 1993) reproduces Rev.Alexander Don's list of the Chinese in New Zealand, 1896–1913, whom he met or knew. Noted are the places where Don originally recorded them, and their subsequent movements, including whether they returned to China, plus some other personal details.

**Miscellaneous.** Biographical data of sextons of the Bolton Street cemetery in Wellington may be found in Margaret H.Alington, *Unquiet Earth* (Wellington, 1978). The *Auckland-Waikato Historical Journal* No.68 (Oct–Nov, 1996) is devoted solely to 'St Stephen's Parnell. A Short History and List of Graves', which includes very brief biographical notes of many of those buried there.

Publications relating to local events may also provide biographical material, as in John McCraw's *Mine Fire. The 1906 Coal-mine Fire at Alexandra* (Dunedin, 1990). Lists of passengers and crew, both drowned and saved, are included in many books on shipwrecks, such as Steve Locker-Lampson & Ian Francis, *Eight Minutes Past Midnight* (Wellington, 1981) which tells of the 1894 sinking of the USS Company's *Wairarapa*, and Bruce E. Collins, *The Wreck of the Penguin* (Wellington, 2000).

Specialised publications which list people in a particular employment or pastimes include John Bowie, *Who's Who in New Zealand Law* (Wellington, 1994); *New Zealand Law Who's Who* (Wellington, 1995); N.F.Hoggard, *Who's Who in New Zealand Authorship* (Wellington, 1941); several editions of *Who's Who in New Zealand Libraries* (Wellington, 1958, 1962, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1980, & 1985); *Who's Who in New Zealand Numismatics* (Auckland, 1974) and *Who's Who in New Zealand Scouting* (Wellington, 1964).

For those interested in the more seamy side of life, Tony Williams's *The Bad, the Very Bad and the Ugly. Who's Who of NZ Crime* (Auckland, 1998) provides details of many people's criminal activities.

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