

Harvey C Perkins and Grant Cushman, eds, *Leisure, Recreation and Tourism*. Longman Paul, Auckland, 1993. pp. xii + 252.

From 1975 to 1985 I taught at the School of Physical Education, Otago University. I remember then, noting, with a degree of envy and respect, the steady development of recreation as an academic discipline at Lincoln University. It seemed as if we at Otago tended to stay within the traditional confines of physical education despite a structural reorganisation that seemed to allow for the growth and development of pure and applied work in recreation. In any case, Lincoln University deserves a big pat on the back for doing much, much more than creating their own 'academic territory'. They have established a Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the 1993 volume on *Leisure, Recreation and Tourism* is a fine exemplar of the scope and scholarship of that Department. This is not to say that editors Perkins and Cushman

restrict themselves to their Lincoln roots. Other universities represented are Canterbury, Massey and Victoria. The absence of any Otago contributor is puzzling in the light of significant contributions made by that university over the years. True, the *Leisure, Recreation and Tourism* collection of essays does mention *the Hillary Commission - Life in New Zealand Survey* on pp. 38, 76 and 95 but the fact that the administration of the survey was carried out by Otago's School of Physical Education seems to be lost in the shuffle. No doubt, when, hopefully, a second edition is published the editors will draw on the expertise of Otago scholars, such as sociologists John Loy and Steven Jackson.

Perkins and Cushman are to be warmly congratulated on the breadth and richness of their sixteen contributions. In their introduction they make the case that 'an expanded interest in the broad field of leisure, recreation and tourism within Aotearoa/New Zealand' was the reason for producing this collection of original essays. It is significant that this volume is not a hodge-podge of re-hashed conference papers or journal articles. Clearly the various pieces were crafted specifically for this volume and the result is focused writing full of articulate insights born out of the multidisciplinary involvement of the authors. For example, the authors are not confined to the college campus. There is a piece by Michael Volkerling (Executive Director of the Board of Trustees of the National Art Gallery and Museum) and Marivee McMath co-authors an excellent chapter as an 'independent researcher and writer'. The chapters set out to examine 'Leisure Participation in New Zealand', 'History of Leisure, Recreation and Tourism in New Zealand', 'Leisure, Economics and Culture', 'Outdoor Recreation and the Environment', 'Landscapes of Leisure', 'Human Geography, Recreation and Leisure', 'The Sociology of Sport', 'Recreation, Tourism and Leisure through the Lens', 'Tourism: A Social Scientific Perspective', and 'An Introduction to Policy Analysis of Tourism Development'. The canvas then is an immense one but Perkins and Cushman are to be commended because they achieve their difficult goal of integrating chapters 'without dictating

to authors their choice of concepts, approaches or treatment'. The volume, nevertheless, suffers from some organisational shortcomings. For example, with Watson's chapter on 'The History of Leisure, Recreation and Tourism in New Zealand', so much material is covered that the two paragraph sub-sections ('Families on the Frontier', 'Regional Differences', 'Tourism ...', 'Empire and Order', 'Rugby', etc.) creates a sense of superficial fragmentation rather than in-depth cohesion. This framework is repeated with many of the chapters until one longs for a long elegant *New Yorker* style essay with space and time to create a full narrative rather than a collection of episodic themes and 'sound bites'.

I enjoyed the fact that my 'From Fair Sex to Feminism' chapter was listed as a source about Victorian women in New Zealand. However, I find it peculiar that other pieces were ignored. I mention this because in the introduction the point is made that *Leisure, Recreation and Tourism* 'is intended to be a source of ideas, data, references and research pointers for students'. Thus I would hope that in subsequent editions authors might consider looking at 'An Historical Examination of Recreation and Sport in Otago Province', *South African Journal for Research* (1984), 'A Study of the Interpenetration of Rugby and New Zealand Society', *Journal of Popular Culture* (1985), 'Leisure Pursuits on the Otago (New Zealand) Bound Emigrant Ships 1847-1869', *International Journal of the Society for Nautical Research* (1986), 'A National Ethos in Three Dimensions: Rugby in Contemporary New Zealand Fiction', *Journal of Sport Literature* (1986), 'Rugby in Contemporary New Zealand', *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* (1988), etc.

Once again in terms of the research core of *Leisure, Recreation and Tourism* I remain unconvinced that exhaustive literature reviews were carried out by all contributors. To take Cameron's chapter on 'The Sociology of Sport'. She correctly highlights the sorry state of hegemony in sport and does a fine job of analysing the institutionalisation of power relationships. The male domination of administration, so obvious at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, deservedly comes under her piercing

scrutiny. However, I am perplexed by the absence of any sources from what was the *New Zealand Journal of Health Physical Education and Recreation*, not one fragment from *the Listener*, and not a mention of the *Sociology of Sport Journal*.

Longman Paul of New Zealand deserves full marks for a superbly produced paper-back. The print, the lay-out and the design are first class. The book cover illustration by Rikus Van der Meer from Groningen is spectacular. The index of subjects/authors is uniformly excellent.

Perkins and Cushman with this volume underscore the exciting potential for New Zealand scholarship in the fields of leisure, recreation and tourism. With subsequent editions there will, no doubt, be a fine tuning of some sections, revisions of other material and the deletion of some chapters. *Leisure, Recreation and Tourism* deserves a wide readership and generous praise for writing that, in the main, is innovative and insightful.

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