

But closer inspection of the seemingly-impressive endnotes reveals, in places, an indiscriminating reliance on many older and resolutely outmoded published sources and a corresponding lack of awareness of some of the standard works. Extracting basic information on Fiji from the works of Kim Gravelle and Stanley Brown is not a very scholarly way to proceed.

Horne was not trained as a historian of the Pacific but neither has he acquired the necessary grounding in the literature nor a feel for the place, and that is where the book's problems lie. It cannot be relied upon as a reasonable depiction of processes and events, or as being in any way authoritative. Often enough Horne lacks a grasp of things that are both basic and fundamental. Take, for example, the somewhat misleading figures provided on page 33 for the numbers of Melanesians recruited for Queensland plantations. The key source is an article by Charles Price in a 1976 issue of the *Journal of Pacific History* that carefully enumerates and tabulates the islands of origin; and Horne also misses a comparable article, by Jeff Siegel, on the origins of indentured Melanesian and Gilbertese labourers to Fiji, in a 1985 issue of the same journal. There is, too, a noticeable fixation on racial types and origins that uncomfortably recalls the late 19th century diffusionist theorists. There is little point in piling example upon example: the general ineptness of it all is summed up by the mis-spelling of Cooktown in north Queensland as 'Cocktown' (p. 154).

In short, *The White Pacific* is a book of lost opportunity. It holds out a great deal of promise largely unfulfilled. If I were still teaching I wouldn't let my students near it, and this despite the lively and agreeable prose style.

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*A Life of J.C. Beaglehole, New Zealand Scholar*, Tim Beaglehole. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 2006. 252 x 153 mm. 550pp., illus., notes, bibl, index. ISBN-13: 978-0-86473-535-5; ISBN-10: 0-86473-535-9 (hbk). rrp NZ\$69.95.

JC Beaglehole is inseparably associated with James Cook, the most celebrated explorer in history, for having assembled, edited and explicated the journals of the three great voyages, replacing the somewhat bowdlerised versions of earlier times. Intellectual fashions change, and explorers have gone out

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of fashion as scholars' attentions have drifted away from the triumphs of Europeans towards their failings and other matters. Yet despite the changing fashions, interest in Cook remains high. The adulation for Cook's achievement in his own time was not misplaced and it deserves to stand as one of the landmarks in world history. His journals and the collections of artefacts are of permanent value because of the bench-mark data-base they provide for pre-contact societies not only in the Pacific islands, but also in eastern Australia and north-western North America.

The texts of those voyages are the gift to humanity of JC Beaglehole, and not just Cook's own manuscripts, but the extensive ethnographic portions of his most observant and articulate associates including Joseph Banks, Samwell, Wales, King, Monkhouse and a number of others. In the course of this work, Beaglehole edited and published in two volumes Banks's journal of the voyage of the *Endeavour*, as companion volumes to Cook's. Further, Beaglehole wrote a meticulous biography of Cook, superseding all others. Practical scholars will be particularly interested in the two long chapters called 'The Scholar at Work' detailing how Beaglehole actually went about his work on Cook, and especially in the demonstration of the role of teamwork in making great achievements.

This achievement was enough for a life-time's work, and Beaglehole spent twice as many years on Cook's voyages as did Cook himself. Nor was that all. He wrote other books; he engaged in public affairs, taking up unpopular, liberal national issues, and speaking out for civil liberties. He had an indispensable role in the production of the New Zealand centennial histories, historical atlas and Scholefield's dictionary of national biography, and the development of these projects into a permanent historical research and writing unit in the civil service was largely his doing, the foundation and pillar of what is now called public history. In this initiative, Beaglehole and his collaborators made New Zealand a world leader.

All these activities, and their contribution to New Zealand life and to wider scholarship, are worthy of record. Beaglehole's interests were broad, his energy considerable and his gift for developing the collaborative relationships on which all great achievements depend, exceptional. The biography is justified not only for Beaglehole's achievements but also because he is an exemplar of how a productive and apparently balanced life can be made. The biographer, Tim Beaglehole, has the advantage of being his subject's son and sometime colleague; if the relationship is a double-sided one its hazards are largely off-set by the author's training and experience as a historian, a calling that requires both empathetic engagement with the subject and critical detachment. The reader will discern both qualities in this



detailed, careful and eloquent book, which is commended to the attention of all those with an interest in James Cook's place in Pacific history and anthropology.

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