

## REVIEWS

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*History and Natural History of the Boulder Bank, Nelson Haven, Nelson, New Zealand.* Edited by Dr Elsie Collyer. Published by the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, 1976. 39 pp, frontis., 5 figs. \$1.00 (from the Cawthron Institute or \$1.50 through booksellers).

Every visitor to Nelson, and especially those who fly in and out from the fine airport set so delightfully close to natural habitats of great interest, knows the Boulder Bank. Dr Collyer's introduction to this worthy little book reminds us of the importance of the bank even for the primary establishment of a harbour and the early development of the colonial period of Nelson's history. The idea of providing a compilation of what is known of the Boulder Bank came largely from Dr Graeme Ramsay, a long-standing member of the OSNZ and a stalwart of the Nelson Branch of the Royal NZ Forest and Bird Protection Society, but now moved, with his colleagues of the Entomology Division of DSIR, to Auckland. Dr Collyer has developed the work and has edited a series of contribution which not only do much to provide the base line study so greatly needed in to-day's world of ecologically vulnerable landscapes, but yields a useful handbook for visitors to the pleasant haven of Nelson.

It is, like other booklets which I enjoy noting, another one of those rather ephemeral publications which comes one's way only by chance — in this case Dr Collyer, herself, drew my attention to it: The table of contents reads:— "Te Tahuna a Tame: pre-European history" by Jack Walls, Nelson district site-recording file-keeper for the NZ Archaeological Association; "European history" by B. E. Dickinson, Secretary of the Nelson Historical Society; "The geology of the Boulder Bank and Nelson Haven" by M. R. Johnston, NZ Geological Survey, Nelson office; "Vegetation" by Mrs M. J. A. Simpson, Botany Division, DSIR; "Birds" by Frank Boyce, OSNZ Regional Representative and former Council Member; "Land invertebrates" by A. K. Walker, Entomology Division, DSIR; "Intertidal invertebrates and fishes" by Arthur W. Parrott, Curator of the Cawthron Museum and former Zoologist of the Canterbury Museum — the records provided by the Cawthron Museum Club show that the good work developed by Mr Parrott in the children's club of the Canterbury Museum over 30 years ago is still bearing abundant fruit; "Lizards" and "Mammals" by B. W. Thomas, Ecology Division, DSIR, Nelson. It concludes with a note on the "Impact of Man" especially drawing attention to the apparent consequences of large-scale removal of stones by the Nelson Harbour Board and the City Council before the storm of August 1972. The Bank is still threatened in very many ways. It is certainly this reviewer's pious hope that the information in this booklet will convince the local authorities that the Boulder Bank is a natural feature in need of urgent protection and will lead to a deeper appreciation of its significance as a site of great scientific importance.

E. W. D.