

## **Kahurangi Calling**

**Gerard Hindmarsh**

**A review by Gary Willis**

I requested this book from Jane as soon as it was ordered as I was hoping that it would fill in some of the gaps in my knowledge of this National park since I am still considered a newcomer to the area despite my being a Nelson resident for 9 years now.

Gerard Hindmarsh has done some excellent research for this book and that comes through very clearly once you start to read the book. He details the early days before even the state forest park existed through to the creation of Kahurangi National Park in 1996. He talks of the men and women who lived, loved, farmed and otherwise worked in the area from Eel fishermen to Graziers right up to the present day with stories of caving on the Garibaldi ridge.

The story begins with the creation of the forest park and its management by the forest service right up until the change to a National Park. Hindmarsh discusses each group in depth including the Asbestos mine owners, foresters, cavers, farmers and including the latest group with aspirations on the park mountain bikers trying to regain access to the Heaphy track. What comes through clearly is that the author has a view biased only on his love of the area and provides an excellent history for this unique place on our doorstep. There is mention of little known huts, even less known areas and forgotten wildlife. Anyone with an interest in the National Park and its history and environment will go a long way to find a better book about the area.

Everything from the Wild West coast to the tranquil interior, the Cobb hydro project to Mt Arthur is included, well worth the time taken to read. I thoroughly recommend this book to everyone.

Gary Willis Saturday, 8 May 2010