

PREFACE

The first of these national conferences on Labour, Employment and Work was held in May 1984, the second in 1985, the third in 1987 and the fourth in October 1990.² Their explicit aim throughout the decade has been to bring researchers together from throughout New Zealand to meet and share information and research initiatives. These conferences and accompanying workshops continue to be run every 18 months or so as a joint initiative of the Department of Geography and Industrial Relations Centre, Victoria University of Wellington. Responsibility for the conference and proceedings is taken alternately. The organisation of this conference, workshop, editing and publication of the proceedings has been the responsibility of the Department of Geography.

These proceedings of the Fifth Conference on Labour, Employment and Work held in November 1992 include all but one of the 21 papers that were delivered, together with an edited transcript of the workshop on the recent Review of Labour Statistics.¹ Having listened to the presentations and edited each of the papers I have a distinct feeling that these proceedings do more than simply report what went on during those two days in November 1992. What appears between these covers also reflects what went on after the conference as participants considered comments they received and on other papers delivered. This is particularly true of those who took the time to offer suggestions on the key research questions they felt we should now be asking of labour, employment and work in New Zealand. These are reported at the end of the majority of the papers. It is my wish that a number of these ideas be taken up both by young graduate students wanting to work on this foremost of New Zealand's social problems as well as by established researchers looking for new directions.

I would like to thank each of the presenters, those who willingly served as chairpersons of the sessions and to the staff and graduate students of the Department of Geography who assisted in various ways. A number of government departments offered generous support for this conference by granting their staff time to attend and contribute (see list of participants on page 170). The Department of Statistics in particular has made a valuable contribution not just to this but to the previous four conferences in this series. Although it is of course an integral function of the University to make its facilities and service staff available for such conferences this is not taken for granted and as organiser I appreciate the assistance I have been given from Victoria University of Wellington.

Finally I would like to thank those individuals who have been active supporters of these conferences and workshops since they began in 1984. We all look forward to the sixth conference which will be run sometime in 1995 by the Industrial Relations Centre.

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¹ The only paper which was not presented for inclusion in these proceedings was that delivered by Rebecca Hamid "The limits of change: why is equal employment opportunities relevant in a deregulated labour market?".

² Proceedings have only been published from the first of these; Brosnan, P.A. and P.S. Morrison (eds) 1984 *Labour and Employment Research in New Zealand*. Bibliography and Proceedings of a Workshop held at Victoria University in May 14-15, 1984. Published jointly by the Geography Department and Industrial Relations Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, 183 pages. This bibliography was subsequently updated with financial support from subsequent conferences and appeared as Brosnan, P.A. 1991 *New Zealand Labour and Employment Research 1859-1990. A bibliography of research and research materials* The New Zealand Institute of Industrial Relations, Wellington