

PREFACE

The eighth conference on Labour, Employment and Work took place in November 1998, fourteen years after the first conference was held in May 1984. The purpose of these conferences remains the communication among New Zealand scholars on what continues to be this country's most pressing social and economic issue - its ability to provide adequate paid work for those seeking employment. Promoting research into questions of labour, employment and work and disseminating these findings widely is one of the ways in which universities and the research community in general can make a contribution.

For scholars this series of national conferences offers a forum for the early airing of research ideas and findings. The papers included in this volume constitute work in progress. In several cases views will change as the research progresses. In others there will have already been progress between initial delivery at the conference and the written text. Authors have been asked to limit their contribution to 5000 words of text in order to focus attention on the most important issues. In several cases readers are referred to the authors' more extended reports published elsewhere. All except one of the papers delivered at the conference have been included in these proceedings.

The papers are grouped under eleven headings: overview, Maori and the labour market, structural change, earnings inequalities, health and labour supply, family and work, industrial relations, workplace, social exclusion regions and community, immigration and the labour market, and labour statistics.

This is the fifth set of proceedings published from the set of eight conferences held to date. All have been hosted by Victoria University of Wellington. The first conference was held in May 1984.¹ The second conference was held in 1985, the third in 1987 and the fourth in October 1990. The fifth was held in November 1992 from which the first set of proceedings was published.² The sixth conference was held in November 1994 in which 57 authors produced 44 papers leading to a proceedings of almost 400 pages.³ The seventh conference saw 51 authors produce 35 papers.⁴ This eighth conference held in November 1998 produced 32 papers from 45 authors.

We would like to thank each of the presenters at the November 1998 conference, those who willingly served as chairpersons of the sessions, as well as the Institute of Geography and the Industrial Relations Centre staff who were involved in planning the conference. Thanks also to those contributors who provided clean copy on readable disks, addressed editorial requests and above all delivered on time. I want to extend a very special thanks to Julian and Salli Rowe, School of Earth Sciences, who together formatted raw papers to the publication stage often under difficult circumstances.

In order to encourage networking, the full list of registered participants has been included at the end of these proceedings. Each of these participants receives a copy of this publication. We continue the practice begun in the 1996 proceedings of including author's photographs which we hope will continue to personalise the papers and foster the extension of this research community.

Although it is one of the purposes of the University to make its facilities and service staff available for such conferences this is not taken for granted and we greatly appreciate the assistance we have been given by many of the support staff of Victoria University of Wellington. We also appreciate the willingness of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr Roy Sharpe to officially open the 1998 conference.

Finally we would like to acknowledge those individuals who have been active in supporting these conferences and workshops over the past decade. At the same time we were delighted to welcome the participation of so many researchers new to the field. The value of having the two groups sharing ideas is considerable.

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Notes

1. See P.A. Brosnan and P.S. Morrison (eds) 1984 *Labour and Employment Research in New Zealand*. Bibliography and proceedings of a workshop held at Victoria University May 14-15, 1984. This volume was published jointly by the Geography Department and Industrial Relations Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, 183 pages. The 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. Published by the New Zealand Institute of Industrial Relations, Wellington.
2. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1993 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Fifth Conference, November 12 & 13th, 1992. Published by the Department of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 171 pages.
3. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1995 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Sixth Conference, November 24 & 25th, 1994. Published by the Department of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 390 pages.
4. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1997 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Sixth Conference, November 26 & 27th, 1996. Published by the Institute of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 292 pages.