

Book Review

**The California, New Zealand and Australia Mail Line of Steam Packets
1870-181 by Captain T.G.S. Ward
Published by the Postal History Soc. of NZ.
PHSNZ Handbook No.51
ISBN0-908 588-61-5**

Everyone interested in the early Postal History of NZ and Australia should have this publication in his or her Library.

This is the first part of the story of the Overseas Mail Route **via San Francisco**, and covers the first 13 voyages of the service from Australia and New Zealand and also the extra 5 voyages June 1871 – Oct 1871 when the service **by-passed New Zealand** and instead went via Fiji.

Captain Ward is to be congratulated on the depth of his research and readers will find details of the ships used on the run, both from Sydney to Honolulu and the American ships, which carried the mail between Honolulu and San Francisco. There is also a more than adequate Bibliography and References.

I for one am looking forward to the remaining parts of this series when I am sure the other Carriers will be covered.

Collectors of “**Disaster Mail**” will be interested in Appendix A where there is a list of Mishaps, not shipwrecks but a number of “incidents” which caused the mail to be delayed and in one case destroyed!

I note that Captain Ward has requested details of any omissions, corrections and additions, I sincerely hope he gets some responses, especially any new and additional information, like the date of arrival of the Australian mail to London in September 1871.

Gerald J Elliott
RDP