

REVIEW

Archibald Hugh Bogle - A Short Biography

By Don McKay FNZIS

Reviewed by Ross Miller FNZIS

When I joined the Institute in the mid 1960's you did not have to go far to come across the name, Archie Bogle. When I went before the Survey Board in 1968 Archie had retired only 2 years before from a 42 year stint on that body. It is astonishing to think that virtually every registered surveyor practising at that time would have come before Archie when seeking their registration. In the year I became registered he also retired after 29 years as editor of the New Zealand Surveyor. Even though it was at best only published 6 monthly I know from the experience of editing Survey Quarterly for a mere 3 years what a time consuming task it is to get the contributions and pull the publication together and that is in a period when communications were not as convenient as they are today. To do it for 29 years is dedication! And all this is not to mention his service on the Town Planning Board, as a Maori Land Court Adviser and Councillor and President of the Institute.

Yet for all this great service to our profession few today would be aware of this man. The only lasting record appears to be in the name of one of the Institutes awards. Don McKay has tried to put this to right in a recently completed short biography in which he traces Archie's career and achievements in the many positions he held.

The author himself describes this piece as an article rather than a book and being only 22 A4 pages I would agree with that. In addition there are another 14 pages of end notes, a glossary of survey terms, a bibliography and four appendices which quote from a number of Archie's writings.

The author clearly has a huge admiration for this man, who he describes as a "Surveyor Extraordinaire", and after reading the article it is hard not to also have an equal admiration for the man that had such a large influence over our profession for such a long period of time. Rather than writing of Archie's life in a chronological order the author discusses each aspect of his life and career from his early life onwards. The article is well written and obviously a lot of time and effort has gone into researching it. As the author says it is not a definitive biography, that has yet to come, but is an excellent record of his service to the institute and profession over a large number of years. I would recommend it as something that all those interested in the history of our profession and its people, should read.

Seeing, in virtually every survey we undertake we have to find the work of a previous surveyor to orient ourselves, most surveyors will have a sense of the history of what has gone on in the past. Over the years there have been a number of books written

about surveyor, many published by the Institute and Don McKay is to be congratulated on producing such a good addition to them. However this article will cause a few problems as to what should be done with it. It is too short to be made into a book, yet it is too long to fit into any of the Institute's periodical type publications. I would not like it to be just put away into some corner of the Institute website as I would suggest it would not get the exposure it and Archie Bogle deserves. A couple of suggestions – Towards the end of his life Archie wrote a book on his life as a surveyor, "Links in the Chain". This is a relatively short book of 82 pages in a rather large format but it is now out of print, perhaps a republication of that book including the McKay article would form a more complete record of this man's life. This is one option; the second would be to publish the article as a supplement to an Institute publication.