



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

gentle footprints

BOOTS 'N' ALL



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New Zealand – stepping gently and going forward

Barry Carbon was the Chief Executive of the Ministry for the Environment for just over four years. An ‘Aussie’, he became so passionate about New Zealand and New Zealanders that he took out New Zealand citizenship. He found it hard to leave.

This book is his parting gift to New Zealanders.

To quote Barry:

“New Zealand is as beautiful as beauty is in this world. The place, the people, the environment – the whole package.

Beautiful in nature, but also beautiful in management. People treading gently and leaving soft footprints on this paradise. People empowered as individuals but choosing to go forward with creative and co-operative game plans.”

He felt that he and the Ministry were in a privileged position to know about the New Zealand environment. He wanted us to share that knowledge in a way that would help other New Zealanders discuss, debate and engage in the wonderfully challenging issue that is the environment. He wanted to do it positively.


So we pulled together a whole lot of facts. Then we gave the pen to Barry to provide his view of our New Zealand. Dead straight. Boots ‘n’ All.

This book is not a state of the environment report. It is factual, but it is not comprehensive.

We at the Ministry want New Zealanders to know more about the wonderful place in which we live. We want this book to start conversations. We also want to see if information, in this form, is useful. So, we would greatly value your feedback.

As Barry would say – we know “stuff” and we want you to know it as well.

Happy reading



Sue Powell
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Ministry for the Environment



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