

THE REV DR ALLAN DAVIDSON, ONZM

Church Historian



Retired in June 2009 after 27 years' lecturing at St John's Theological College in Auckland was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to history in the 2010 New Year's Honours.

He is one of the foremost church historians in the country and has made a unique contribution to the telling of the Anglican story in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. This is remarkable in that he is not only an academic but is an ordained Presbyterian minister. He has authored 20 books and booklets and written 72 academic papers, the best known being *Christianity in Aotearoa: A History of Church and Society in New Zealand* now in its 3rd edition.

Allan was born and raised in Hokitika. gained an MA in History, then trained as a Presbyterian minister at Knox College in Dunedin and did further study in Chicago and Aberdeen. He spent over three years as a Presbyterian minister in Christchurch, and during this time he was also asked to help out back at Knox, as a relieving teacher of church history.

In 1976 he was recruited to lecture in church history at Rarongo Theological College in Rabaul, in Papua New Guinea which included students from various denominational backgrounds and other Pacific Islands over the five years he was there.

From 2004 until 2007 he was Director of Postgraduate Studies at the School of Theology at Auckland University. He continues to supervise post-graduate students and is editing a history of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.

At his farewell from St John's, Bishop Coles commended Allan for the way he had consistently displayed "the fruits of the spirit – humility, sincerity and gentleness" in his teaching and care for his students.

Challenging but enriching: that's probably something that many of Allan's former students would say of their old teacher.

[Source: <http://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/News/Common-Life/Allan>]
