



*"I cannot adequately  
describe the beauty of  
the little nooks in the  
coast . . ."*

Frederick Carrington, pioneer surveyor, 1841.

## *catching up with popular expectations*

*For a classic example of the way in which arbitrary lines have been drawn between protected and unprotected areas, one need look no further than Abel Tasman National Park. There, where the sea is such an all-pervasive influence, the Park's protective boundaries go no further than the high-water mark, although islands, rocks and reefs are also included. In the recently-released book *A Park for all seasons: The Story of Abel Tasman National Park*,\* author Andy Dennis makes a plea for inclusion of the sea within the National Park; this edited chapter is the final one in the book.*

**T**his story of Abel Tasman National Park began with the Maori inhabitants of this coast looking towards the sea, and it ends, at least for the moment, with eyes turned that way again.

In other parts of New Zealand it is mountains, glaciers, forests, rivers and lakes which evoke the sense of awe and inspiration that leads to the creation of national parks. In Abel Tasman National Park it is predominantly the sea, or at least the meeting of land and sea. It is the sea

which builds our beaches and shapes our rocky coast. The sea brings nutrients to our estuaries, governs our climate, toys with our moods, grants or denies us passage (whether we travel by boat or on foot), and above all provides us with a constant yet ever-changing playground. The sea brought generations of Maori inhabitants to these bays and inlets, and for decades was the only means of access for the Europeans who succeeded them such as Tasman and D'Urville.

\* (available from the Society's mail order service for \$14.95. This article reproduced with the kind permission of the publishers, the Lands and Survey Department.)