

Marcus Lush on *After Andrew*

I just want to talk to you quickly about a book that I got over the weekend that was extremely good. In fact I was surprised at how good it was.

I read most New Zealand books, non-fiction, that come out. I don't know why – it's something ... I like to know not what's going on but what went on in the past ... and any local histories, local stories, family histories, I normally find parts of them are fascinating – most of them are normally appallingly written, and incredibly hard to get through.

But not this one and I'll tell you quickly about it – cos I think the guy's having a bit of trouble with distribution - but it was so incredibly good I feel inspired to tell you about it. I did read it in one sitting.

It's called ... I better get the title of it cos that's going to be important for you cos you must go to your book shops and ask for it. It's called *Two Kiwis cross Australia* and it's by a writer called Bill Lennox. I think this is probably his first book.

***After Andrew - Two Kiwis cross Australia*, by Bill Lennox.** I'm not even sure of the publisher – I will try to get some details on my website or on the Radio Live website as well.

His grandfather was a minister, in 1893, that ... rode a horse from Adelaide to Darwin, to set up a mission to help the Aborigines – and he biked back on a single speed bike about a year or two later. And this guy, the minister – well he's not even a minister, he just had a calling – and he's quite hopeless. And it's almost like a *Being There* type Chauncey Gardener thing.

But the diary is unbelievable – he's attacked by Aborigines, by sharks, by crocodiles, by alligators – it just goes on and on and on.

And this guy Bill, decides to go and trace ... and go to the places that his grandfather had written about in his sort of unintelligible diary.

And it's one of the greatest reads I've ever read - as far as someone studying their ancestors, as far as the Australian history, the railways, the Aboriginal communities. It's unbelievably good.

I'm slightly worried about the guy because I haven't seen the book in many book shops and I think it's a self-published deal.

But it's one of the most ... it's incredibly well written. It's very funny, it's very perceptive.

The guy's name is Bill Lennox - and it's called *After Andrew - Two Kiwis cross Australia*. I'll put the connections up if I can. I think he's got a website as well you can buy it from too.