



Reading your way to financial security

TWENTY GOOD SUMMERS

By Martin Hawes
Allen & Unwin \$35

Reviewed by Shelley Hanna

Martin Hawes has written 20 books on personal finance and is a well-known name in New Zealand financial planning. *Twenty Good Summers* is a revised and updated version of a book he wrote in 2006.

The book is aimed at people contemplating retirement, particularly those who are finding it difficult to decide just when to retire and how to go about it.

People in this situation will find parts of this book helpful.

There is particularly good advice for wealthy business owners, setting out different ways that they can step away from their business and get the best value out of it to fund their retirement.

There is useful information on diversification, income and growth investments and how the family home can fit into a retirement plan.

One shortcoming is that there is only a brief mention of NZ Superannuation, with no discussion of current rates.

Considering that most New Zealanders over 65 rely on NZ Super for their day-to-day living expenses and, indeed, plan their retirement around it, this seems to be a glaring omission.

Perhaps he has done this to reach overseas readers but it does make it less relevant to local readers.

There are some overlaps and repetition which could be improved with sharp editing, although at 174 pages it is already short enough for the \$35 price tag.

Hawes has made a substantial contribution to the financial education of New Zealanders during the years but in my view this book does not have the wide appeal of some of his earlier work.

MONEY MATTERS

By Amanda Morrall
Penguin \$30

Reviewed by Shelley Hanna

Forget “the seven secrets to financial success”.

Amanda Morrall has lifted the lid on the mysteries of achieving financial success to show how anyone with honesty and determination can get ahead in life.

Rather than pushing budgeting and money management into the “too hard” basket, readers are encouraged to identify what they want out of life, and how to achieve it.

Along the way Morrall discusses the importance of happiness, honesty and goal setting.

I must confess to a preference for books written by journalists.

Anyone who has had to write day in and day out for their daily bread is able to string words together in a way that makes reading their books an effortless pleasure. And when it comes to dry topics such as personal finance, so much the better.

Amanda Morrall is an Auckland-based journalist whose articles I read from time to time at www.interest.co.nz.

She has an impressive resume having spent 15 years working as a reporter in Canada, as well as for *The Press* in Christchurch and the *Sunday News*.

Morrall has included the personal stories of people she has had contact with over the years and these bring her book to life.

How to avoid debt, tips on saving, KiwiSaver, home ownership, money and relationships; it's all there.

She has also supplied a useful bibliography and index.

It all makes for a clear and useful book which every New Zealander should read, ideally before the age of 30 so that all the wisdom within its pages can be put to greatest use.