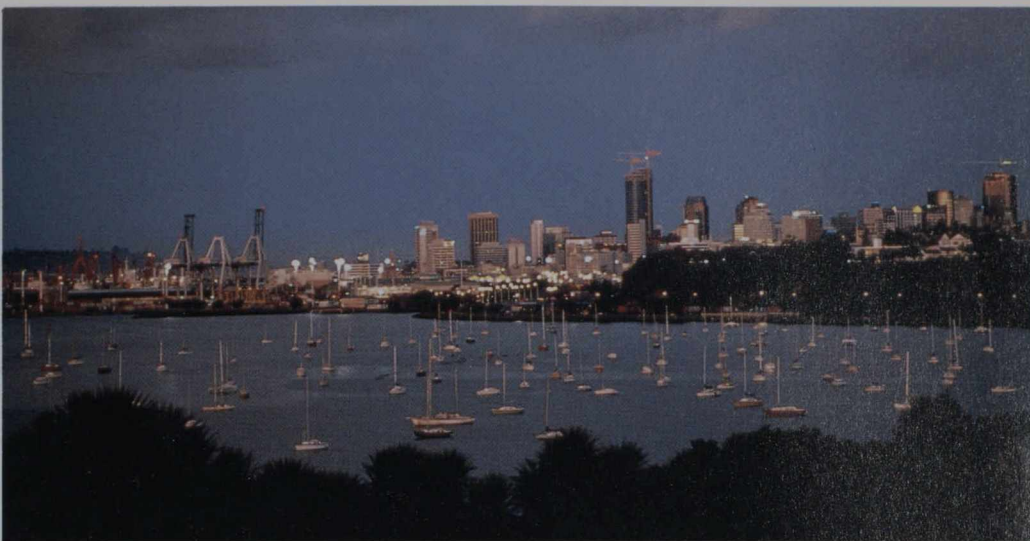


ing, cow hand-milking and demonstrations of the 19 breeds of sheep. Also near Rotorua is Rainbow Springs, a reserve for rainbow trout and other marine inhabitants.

The Kiwi House, where the nocturnal and elusive Kiwi bird can be observed, is another attraction of the area. The kiwi birds are odd looking flightless creatures with hairlike feathers and long bills. Native to New Zealand, the birds are a national symbol.

Wellington, the capital, feels like San Francisco with its Victorian style houses on steep hills, temperate weather, and harbour view. The Parliament complex is a domed structure known as the "Beehive". Nearby is an impressive array of Gothic churches, government buildings and museums.

A regular ferry service runs from Wellington across the Cook Strait to the small town of Picton; onwards one can take a leisurely ride on the train all the way to Christchurch "the most English city out-



Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, seems to have as many sailboats as buildings.

side of England." At the city's heart stands Christchurch Cathedral, surrounded by Cathedral Square and built by the early settlers known as Canterbury Pilgrims. The Canterbury Museum has a fascinating collection of historically significant items along with the Hall of Antarctic Studies illustrating the country's association with exploration.

Hagley Park, 450 acres in size, is a good place for casual strolling, reading or just daydreaming and its scenery is a perfect reflection of outstanding English parks

in London. South of Christchurch rise the Port Hills. Summit Road Drive, along the hill's crest, provides a splendid view of the Canterbury Plains with the Alps to the west and Lyttelton Harbour on the other side.

Finally, there is the Willowbank Wildlife Reserve which I would highly recommend for its interesting and unusual animals and birds, all in natural settings.

New Zealand is a whole lot more; it is simply a wonderful nation one wishes never to leave. ♦

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