

Recent Books from New Zealand – July 2021

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Biography/Memoirs

Labour Saving : A Memoir / Michael Cullen
Auckland: Allen & Unwin, 2021
432p.
Includes Index
9781988547855
\$ 65.00 / HB
705gm.

A fascinating and in-depth insight into the extraordinary career of one of our most important politicians, who was instrumental in shaping the development of Aotearoa New Zealand.

In this clever, witty and detailed memoir, Hon Sir Michael Cullen describes his lengthy political career, including his major economic policies. Among the many highlights are the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, also known as the Cullen Fund; Kiwisaver; and the Working for Families package, which sought to reduce inequalities. He also had the unenviable task of steering the economy through the onset of the GFC, drawing on the surpluses created during his careful stewardship of fiscal policy from 1999. He was also a key negotiator in Treaty of Waitangi claims, a stage of his political life of which he is deeply proud. As one of Labour's most trusted and senior party members, he has had a box seat during the highs and lows of the party's fortunes. In *Labour Saving* Sir Michael

outlines his strong philosophy of egalitarianism and his social democratic approach to politics.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774201>

Reawakened : Traditional Navigators of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa
/ Jeff Evans (Foreword) Kalepa Baybayan

Auckland: Massey University Press, 2021

256p.

9780995131804

\$ 60.00 / PB

515gm.

The stories of ten master navigators intertwined with the rebirth of Pacific voyaging.

In this important book, ten navigators — the late Hec Busby, Piripi Evans and Jacko Thatcher from Aotearoa New Zealand; Peia Patai and Tua Pittman from the Cook Islands; and Kālepa Baybayan, Shorty Bertelmann, Nainoa Thompson, `Onohi Paishon and Bruce Blankenfeld from Hawai`i — share the challenges and triumphs of traditional wayfinding based on the deep knowledge of legendary navigator Mau Piailug. They also discuss the significance of receiving the title of Pwo (master navigator) from Piailug, and the responsibilities that come with that position. Their stories are intertwined with the renaissance of knowledge and traditions around open-ocean voyaging that are inspiring communities across the Pacific.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774202>

Knock Knock : Confessions of a Kiwi Interviewer / Trish Palmer

Auckland: Upstart Press Book, 2021

192p.

9781990003219

\$ 60.00 / PB

355gm.

Book Details:

Extraordinary stories from a lifetime spent conducting interviews. This is the world of the dreaded door-knock from the other side of the door. Trish Palmer has been working as an interviewer and area manager for market research companies for over 20 years, invited into the homes and private lives of an astonishing array of folk from every lifestyle imaginable. Her experiences on the job entail everything from bare bottoms to angry cats, the desperately struggling to the well-off, and everyone in between. There is comedy and sadness, surprises and the downright odd, from witches to boat-builders, dope growers and more. Poignant, hilarious, and always thought-provoking, this is a highly entertaining read.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774203>

Surviving Centrepont : My Years in New Zealand's Most Infamous Cult / Rachel C. King a.k.a. 'Ella'

Auckland: Penguin Random House New Zealand, 2021

240p.

9780143776697

\$ 45.00 / PB

320gm.

Shortly before I turned 13, my life changed forever when my family moved to the notorious Centrepont Community on Auckland's North Shore, then at its peak. Centrepont was founded by Bert Potter, its 'spiritual leader'. He called himself God. During my four years there I was pressured into inappropriate and often frightening situations by many of its adult members. Like so many others, I have lived with the trauma and shame of these memories, but I have survived. This is my story.

*** In this intimate and harrowing account, Rachel C. King tells her story of the years she spent in New Zealand's notorious commune, Centrepont, and life there under the rule of its cult leader and founder Bert Potter. Through the eyes of her young self, Rachel exposes the truth of life at Centrepont

— a hippie dream turned nightmare — with its bizarre rules, hierarchies and social controls. It was a place where children were given drugs, where free sexuality was mandated, including between adults and children, and where to resist was actively discouraged. She describes the fear and confusion of growing up in a corrupt world where wrong was right, and the grief of losing her childhood. She takes us inside the police case and court battle against one of her abusers, and the historic action that ultimately saw Potter and others charged with drug and child sex abuse crimes, and Centrepont shut down. *Surviving Centrepont* was first published under the pseudonym Ella James. Now, using her real name for the first time, Rachel shares her journey from physical hurt and emotional pain to the reality of survival and the healing power of telling the truth.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774204>

Prague in My Bones : A Memoir / Jindra Tichy
Christchurch: Quentin Wilson Publishing, 2021

328p.

9780995143814

\$ 55.00 / PB

645gm.

One of the most influential Czechs living abroad, New Zealand author Jindra Tichy's fascinating memoir is one of exile and survival, of distance and painful longing. It depicts in a moving way the pain and confusion of banishment from home, family and friends into an exile removed from everything familiar.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774205>

Duty of Care : One Family's Fight for Justice / Deborah Wylie
(Ed) Mary McCallum

Christchurch: Wylie Publications, 2021

100p.

9780473570101
\$ 30.00 / PB
120gm.

This is the story of a New Zealander living in Australia, who died in 2004, and whose body was left in the Glebe Morgue in Sydney for eight months unclaimed before being buried in a mass grave for five years. His next of kin was not informed of his death. Neither were New Zealand representatives in Australia. The family suffered five years of torment while they lobbied to bring Paul Tait home. With the Australian Government ducking responsibility, Paul's sister Deborah Wylie went looking for someone in the New Zealand Government who'd be outraged by the disposal of a deceased New Zealander abroad in contravention of international law. But she found no one brave enough to take on the Australians except for one opposition member of parliament. Wylie wrote *Duty of Care* to tell the story of what her family endured, and to support her demand for an apology from the Australian Government and an acknowledgement from the New Zealand Government of the part they played in the debacle.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774206>

Ecology/Environment

Tree Sense : Ways of Thinking About Trees / Susette Goldsmith

Auckland: Massey University Press, 2021

255p.

9780995140745

\$ 45.00 / PB

365gm.

Book Details:

At a moment when the planet is so clearly in peril, the trees stand as both guardians and messengers. They have words for us - if only we would listen. As climate change imposes significant challenges on the natural world we are being

encouraged to plant trees. At the same time, urban intensification and expansion threatens our existing arboreal resources and leads to disputes among communities, councils and developers over the fate of mature trees. To find our way through this confusion, we need to build our respect for trees and to recognise their essential role in our environment, our heritage, our well-being and our future. We need to build a robust 'tree sense'. This collection of essays, art and poetry by artists, activists, ecologists and advocates discusses the many ways in which humans need trees, and how our future is laced into their roots and their branches.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774207>

History

Historic Homesteads of Hawke's Bay / Angus Gordon

Auckland: Mary Egan Publishing, 2021

204p.

9780473559236

\$ 75.00 / HB

900gm.

These gracious homes - dotted across the sun-drenched uplands of Hawke's Bay - rose unashamedly from the golden fleeces on the sheep's backs, to become monuments to our settler heritage. Set in spacious grounds and framed by enormous exotic trees, such as oaks, gums or Norfolk pines, they stand as testament to the dreams of our ancestors who came to this fresh canvas of a country, which already had its own rich Maori culture, with a determination to put their own individualistic mark on the landscape. The Province of Hawke's Bay played its part in the New Zealand pastoral revolution that placed our country firmly at the forefront of the world agricultural scene. Today, New Zealand still pioneers the development of technologies in the farming sector. Strong crossbred wool, a natural durable fibre, started that process. This neglected product has, it seems, lost its golden touch - yet

these grand homes, mostly in very good repair, remain as symbols of the wool boom which helped to shape our colonial past and to prepare us for our place in the new order.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774208>

The Hundred Years' War : All Blacks Vs Springbok / Jamie Wall
Auckland: Allen & Unwin, 2021

334p.

9781988547541

\$ 65.00 / PB

430gm.

The Hundred Year War is the story of the intense competition between the All Blacks and Springboks over the past 100 years, the games they've played and the battles that have raged from parliaments to the streets. It's an examination of two cultures brought together by rugby, torn apart by racism, then brought back together to forge a new era of rivalry. There are heroes and villains on both sides, on and off the field. For every tale of battling the Boks on the highveld or in the mud of a New Zealand winter, there's one of political intrigue, injustice and cowardice. For every try, a clash with police. For every win or loss, a mind changed irreversibly on the game they grew up with. The test matches played between the two sides defined both the Springboks and All Blacks. They have a saying in South Africa, 'you're not a real Springbok until you've played the All Blacks' - perhaps the greatest sign of respect any opposition side has ever paid the most successful team in the world. This is a history of the most brutal and relentless rugby ever played, and the century of bitter struggles that have come with it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774209>

An Historical Overview of Lambton Harbour / D J Pyle
Wellington: Sever Books, 2021

1v.

9780473575304

\$ 35.00 / PB
110gm.

Half zine, half book, half pamphlet, *An Historical Overview of Lambton Harbour* is a light but rigorous exploration of the history of the Wellington Harbour from pre-colonial times to nowadays. Described by the author as a "fact sheet for the newcomer" D J Pyle's austere writing sternly drives the conversation towards the darker, bloodier sides of our collective history with an exclusive focus on the events that happened on Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Packed with archival images, this book is a modest invitation for historical curiosity and refrains, always, from providing a definitive answer.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774210>

Literature

The Remarkable Miss Digby / Patricia Donovan

Auckland: Mary Egan Publishing, 2021

264p.

9780473546717

\$ 35.00 / PB

510gm.

In 1853, only a lunatic would consider crossing the Syrian desert to see the Roman ruins at Palmyra. Most travellers from Europe rash enough to venture into the desert are never seen again, and a woman considering such a journey, without her husband, is preposterous. When Jane Digby, the Lady Ellenborough, granddaughter of the Earl of Leicester, informs the British Consul in Damascus that this is what she intends to do, he quickly learns she's a woman who brooks no argument. In Syria, Jane hopes at last to settle, only to discover a world of recklessness and integrity, of cruelty and desire, where her own passion is stirred more than she ever dared hope for. *The Remarkable Miss Digby* is a hauntingly beautiful story of a

woman determined to escape the confines of her class and gender, living during a time of religious and cultural upheaval which uncannily mirrors our own. Jane Digby's scandalous life has been well chronicled. She spent her last decades in Syria and in this enthralling book, author Patricia Donovan, drawing on her own experience in the Syrian desert, imagines Jane's life in that wild land.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774211>

The Only Living Lady Parachutist / Catherine Clarke (Ed)

Lesley Marshall

New Zealand: Idle Fancy Press, 2021

288p.

9780473571474

\$ 45.00 / PB

425gm.

The balloon — now fully inflated — was restive and impatient, straining at the circle of men and boys holding it. Lillian's scanty costume attracted even more admiring glances. All eyes stared at her in a blur of dread and desire as she positioned herself on the trapeze. 'Ready ... I mean right,' she said with a catch in her voice. The professor gave the command and the men holding the balloon released their grip and stepped back. Testing her courage after her brother's death, daredevil Lillian and her sister Ruby risk their lives for fame and fortune by parachuting from hot air smoke balloons throughout Australia and New Zealand. Feisty Lillian struggles to choose between love and her perilous career but in the competitive 1890s era of ballooning, is she brave enough to confront the truth about her past? Determined to take control of the balloon circuit and provide for her children, Lillian travels to New Zealand only to clash with charlatans, showmen, and disgruntled crowds when her exhibitions fall short of their expectations. A cascade of betrayals and reconciliations culminate in one last-ditch ascent from which there is no turning back.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774212>

Folded : A Hunter Grant Series Novel / Tina Clough

Hunter Grant Novel Series No.3

Napier: Lightpool Publishing, 2021

276p.

9780473562472

\$ 40.00 / PB

450gm.

Notes asking for help folded into tiny origami shapes and found outside a city apartment building, a physics textbook with tiny writing between the lines and a woman who abruptly resigns and disappears. Are the notes asking for help real or is it a game? Hunter Grant, ex-army and with a pragmatic view of justice, reluctantly agrees to help find the missing woman.

A high-powered lawyer arrives from the US, and shortly after his meeting with Hunter and Dao a “cease and desist” letter arrives from the Cayman Islands. Inspector Bakker - a woman, who in Hunter’s words “looks as if she would be useful in a brawl, provided she was on your side” - takes instant exception to his involvement and threatens to arrest him for interfering in an investigation.

Dao sets out alone on a dangerous mission, driven by a compulsive need to find out what has happened to the girl who wrote the notes, and Hunter looks death in the face when he decides to risk everything to put an end to the Darknet forces that threaten their lives.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774213>

The Covered Wife / Lisa Emanuel (Eds) Lucy Bell & Kate O'Donnell

Sydney: Pantera Press, 2021

408p.

9780648748915

\$ 45.00 / PB
510gm.

Sarah is a smart, young lawyer living in Bondi when she falls head over heels. Daniel is handsome, passionate and is part of the kind of large, chaotically loving family Sarah longed for as an only child. When Daniel introduces her to a charismatic young couple, rabbi Menachem Lev and his wife, Chani, despite herself, Sarah is drawn in by the vibrant community at the beachside synagogue. By the time the couple move to the Jamison Valley, where Menachem and Chani have established a community of believers, Sarah can't imagine life without the joy, purpose and love she's discovered. Four years on, youthful passion has given way to something darker. The community will celebrate its first wedding, between the beautiful convert, Avital, and a much older divorcee, but no one seems to be able to give a clear explanation of where Rebecca, his wife, has gone. In the lead up to the wedding a series of terrifying truths emerges that rock Sarah's world and cause her to question everything - her faith, her marriage, and her future.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774214>

Loop Tracks / Sue Orr

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021
336p.

9781776564255

\$ 45.00 / PB

440gm.

It's 1978: the Auckland abortion clinic has been forced to close and sixteen-year-old Charlie has to fly to Sydney, but the plane is delayed on the tarmac. It's 2019: Charlie's tightly contained Wellington life with her grandson Tommy is interrupted by the unexpected intrusions of Tommy's first girlfriend, Jenna, and the father he has never known, Jim. The year turns, and everything changes again. Loop Tracks is a major New Zealand novel, written in real time against the progress of the Covid-19

pandemic and the New Zealand General Election and euthanasia referendum.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774215>

The Piano Girls / Elizabeth Smither (Ed) Jane Parkin
Christchurch: Quentin Wilson Publishing, 2021

248p.

9780995132986

\$ 45.00 / PB

385gm.

Three musical sisters honour their mother with a piano recital every year in her memory. They compete with one another, practising in secret to see who can be the best. In other stories, music, food, and restaurants are themes. A woman fends off a seducer by cooking up a storm; there is a cat called Min; an elderly woman is the pet of a group of young men; an agonising breakup takes place in a luxury hotel; and a young woman is obsessed with her breasts. These are funny, tender, sharply observed stories written in a style that is engaging, humorous, but always compassionate.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774216>

The Author's Cut : Short Stories / Owen Marshall
Auckland: Vintage (Penguin Random House New Zealand),
2021

304p.

9780143774839

\$ 45.00 / PB

380gm.

Chosen by the author, this latest selection of stories includes 'Coming Home in the Dark', the inspiration for a new feature film. Owen Marshall is regarded as one of our finest living writers. His stories capture the imagination of readers and refuse to let go. From dark to funny, acerbic to warm, they probe our national psyche with clear-eyed insight. This

selection from a long career includes stories chosen from thirteen previous volumes of short fiction. They range across New Zealand and venture overseas; they explore both cruelty and love; they look back to childhood and also capture the world we live in today. Full of unexpected turns, lyrical writing, wry observations and intriguing plots, the stories offer a provocative take on New Zealand.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774217>

Lit : Stories from Home / (Ed) Elizabeth Kirkby-Mcleod
Auckland: OneTree House Ltd, 2021

248p.

9781990035067

\$ 35.00 / PB

275gm.

Sixteen short stories from home-grown literary heroes, established contemporary authors, and award-winning emerging writers are brought together in this new collection. Exploring identity, activism awareness, coming-of-age, society, and family from the Aotearoa New Zealand perspective.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774218>

The Weather Girl / Lu Opie
Wellington: Fluffy Ducks, 2021

114p.

9780473576622

\$ 30.00 / PB

115gm.

On the brink of civil war and divided by the commercialisation of supernatural powers, rich struggles against poor in the midst of growing inequity. Tara, however, is happy enough just by getting from one day to the next. But, suddenly faced with the opportunity to make a change, she's forced to concede to the will of others' and in doing so becomes a powerful weapon.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774219>

Rangikura : Poems / Taxi Tibble

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021

96p.

9781776564248

\$ 25.00 / PB

160gm.

They saw things in me I wanted to see in myself that's why I let them see me that's why I let them see me on certain nights in certain lights when the planets lined up like a string of pearls in the sky and the moon was the correct hue. Rangikura is the fiery second collection by Tayi Tibble. These poems live in the space between the end of the world and a new day. They ask us to think about our relationship to desire and exploitation. They are both nostalgic for, and exhausted by, the pursuit of an endless summer.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774220>

Selected Poems : Harry Ricketts

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021

224p.

9781776564224

\$ 45.00 / HB

415gm.

Harry Ricketts has written and edited more than thirty books, but it is his poetry that has been the most constant, and the most personal in tone. From his 1989 collection *Coming Here* - in which he wrote the first of his 'Secret Life' poems - to his 2018 collection *Winter Eyes*, which reviewer Tim Upperton called 'unsettling, moving, both estranging and empathetic', Ricketts has written of friendship, youth, romance, loss, and the small moments that carry a lifelong weight, or light, within us. His voice is recognisable for its humility, intelligence and warmth. In *Selected Poems*, its full range is represented for the first time.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774221>

In Bed With The Feminists / Liz Breslin (Ed) Emer Lyons
Auckland: Dead Bird Books, 2021

84p.

9781991150608

\$ 35.00 / PB

135gm.

In these poems, Liz Breslin traces her own truths through Siri, Cixous, supermarkets, spin cycles, pillow gaps facing away from the door and kissing with tongues at the traffic lights. Excavating feminism, mothering and queerness, she writhes into unexamined spaces, using form to play her way. She writes for the ear, for the page, for the body and mind. These are poems you'll want to get in and out of bed with.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774222>

Latitudes : New and Selected Poems, 1954-2020 / Owen Leeming (Ed & Intro) Robert McLean
Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2021

xviii, 126p.

9780473571849

\$ 40.00 / PB

250gm.

Owen Leeming's 1972 collection *Venus is Setting*, with its centrepiece 'The Priests of Serrabonne', was marked for praise by Kendrick Smithyman, Vincent O'Sullivan and James K. Baxter, but it would take the best part of five decades until his next collection was published. *Latitudes: New & Selected Poems* contains selections from *Venus is Setting* and 2019's *Through Your Eyes*, which comprised poems from the 1960s and 70s along with others written in more recent years. It also includes a section of hitherto uncollected earlier poems and another of new work offered for the first time. Leeming's early poems remain fresh and energetic, marked by their rare

reconciliation of the playful and the serious. The recent poems sparkle intensified brio and bumptiousness, by which readers are offered the world freshly rendered in words with an utterly uncommon intelligence and sensuousness. Charting a course from youthful disillusionment to celebratory old-age, Owen Leeming's *Latitudes: New & Selected Poems* will surprise, delight and challenge readers of poetry with its open-eyed love of life and language.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774223>

Meeting Rita / Jenny Powell

Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2021

80p.

9780473571863

\$ 35.00 / PB

150gm.

Jenny Powell's *MEETING RITA* is a collection of forty-seven poems inspired by New Zealand artist Rita Angus (1908-70). Rita has shifted in time to become the poet's friend. As Powell says: "Rita and I had much in common. We might have enjoyed each other's company." Within the poems they converse. There is a poetic response to Rita at a number of levels. Many of the poems reference specific paintings and actual episodes in Angus's life and in a series of imagined encounters poet and painter share experiences and have a dialogue about things that are of importance: clothes, love, place, painting, poetry, the meaning of life. At times the poems translate art and music into an over-arching layer of language, with responding patterns, rhythms and tones. Other poems seek to explore and express ideas and images that might lie beneath Rita's creativity, or the dual creativity of artist and poet. In this way, a fresh direction evolves. *MEETING RITA* offers a unique insight into the creative process and the spiritual, intellectual and emotional camaraderie that art offers both to the artist/writer and the viewer/reader.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774224>

Party Legend / Sam Duckor-Jones

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021

96p.

9781776564231

\$ 35.00 / PB

120gm.

Excuse the mess.

I wasn't expecting guests.

But that's another joke.

I expect you,

Always.

Sam Duckor Jones's first poetry collection was a tour of small towns, overgrown lawns, and giant clay men. In *Party Legend* he turns once again to questions of existence but at an even bigger scale. These are poems about creation, God, intimacy, the surreality of political rhetoric, misunderstandings at the supermarket – and they are fearless in form and address. Though *Party Legend* is often wildly funny, it is also, in its Duckor-Jonesian way, tender-hearted and consoling.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774225>

Time of the Archons : Poems / Alex Staines

Wellington: Third Eye Novelty Editions, 2021

48p.

9780473562939

\$ 35.00 / PB

70gm.

Thirty-six poems conceived as depictions of victory - part redemption and part revenge over an unseen foe. Composed using a modified cut-up technique, the poems combine

influences from Symbolism, Dark Romanticism, and
Surrealism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774226>
