

## Recent Books from New Zealand – Dec 2023

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### *Biography/Memoirs*

A Gent In Overseasia / Tony Simpson  
Wellington, New Zealand: Blythwood Press, 2023  
184p.  
9780473694005  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
370gm.

In 1973 then 28 year old writer Tony Simpson journeyed overseas for the first time. Rather unusually his destination was Stockholm followed by several weeks as a guest of the Russian Cultural Workers' Union. There he found himself at lunch with a member of the then Politburo and a Colonel in the KGB. He also caught the travel bug for which there is no known cure. As he says himself: "The more I saw of the world the more of it I wanted to see. Over the intervening fifty years he has found his way to many strange places and had strange experiences there. The result is his latest book, A Gent in Overseasia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859831>

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Life Done Differently: One Woman's Journey on the Road Less Travelled / Lisa Jansen  
New Zealand: High Tide Ltd, 2023  
282p.  
9780473682651  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
380gm.

What do you do when everyone around you is embracing parenthood or focused on their careers, and you're not sure either path is right for you?

Lisa Jansen decided to find out.

At 33, Lisa had everything she ever wanted; A successful career in marketing, amazing friends, and the great outdoors of New Zealand as her playground. She was happy. Until one day, doubts started creeping in, and Lisa found herself at a crossroads.

Unsure about whether she wants to embrace a career-focused life or follow in her friends' footsteps and start a family, she began to wonder what else there is.

Desperate to find answers, Lisa decided radical change was needed. She quit her job, bought a campervan and set out to explore beautiful New Zealand. On her five-year journey, she met incredible people, explored breathtaking scenery, conquered obstacles, challenged society's norms, navigated a global pandemic - and discovered what life has to offer when you don't want to follow the traditional path.

In Life Done Differently, Lisa shares her epic journey.

Fans of Eat Pray Love and Cheryl Strayed's Wild will love this adventurous, thought-provoking and inspiring memoir.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859832>

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Every Effing Inch: Fear and Loathing on Aotearoa New Zealand's Long Trail – The 3012km Te Araroa / Tim Pankhurst  
New Zealand: Panky Press, 2023  
402p.  
9780473685089  
\$ 49.99 / PB  
250gm.

When an elderly trio decided to tackle Aotearoa New Zealand's Te Araroa Trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff, they were asked if they were going to do EFI. What's that? they asked. Every F...ing Inch, was the response. Many Te Araroa walkers skip road sections or gnarly mountains or inconvenient rivers or estuaries but Tim Pankhurst, his wife Sue and former Wellington mayor Dame Kerry Prendergast decided that if they were going to take up the challenge, they needed to be true to the entire Trail. Over 141 days across two summers, Tim and the two dames (one upper case) did cover every inch but not without injuries, fears of drowning and falls and endurance tested to the limit. Every Effing Inch, written by former newspaper editor Tim Pankhurst (The Dominion Post, The Press, The Evening Post, Waikato Times), is an entertaining journey through our cities, towns, rivers, mountains and back country and its characters and history. It is summed up as an epic read of an epic deed.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859833>

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Excommunicated: A Multigenerational Story of Leaving the Exclusive Brethren / Craig Hoyle  
Auckland, New Zealand: HarperCollins Publishers, 2023  
336p. ; 24cm.  
9781775542018  
\$ 45.00 / PB  
440gm.

A heart-wrenching multigenerational family memoir by an excommunicated member of the Exclusive Brethren

After coming out as gay, Craig Hoyle was excommunicated from the New Zealand Exclusive Brethren and forced to say goodbye to his family forever. The conservative sect was everything he'd ever known - a childhood where television, pop music, sports and even pets were against the rules.

Joining public society - the 'worldlies' - for the first time, Craig sets out to meet his grandfather who was excommunicated in the 1980s and, using his diaries and letters, uncovers two centuries and seven generations of the family's tangled and often cruel relationship with the Brethren. Weaving their past with Craig's own upbringing in this secretive and oppressive religious group, Excommunicated charts the evolution of the Exclusive Brethren in New Zealand and the heartwrenching stories of a family torn apart.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859834>

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### *History*

Titus Angus White & the Maori Captives on Waitemata Harbour 1863/4 / Barbara Francis  
New Zealand: Atuanui Press Ltd, 2023  
248p.  
9781991159144  
\$ 55.00 / PB  
415gm.

In November 1863 at the battle of Rangiriri over 180 Maori defenders were taken prisoner, marched up the Great South Road to Otahuhu, from where they were transferred onto the Waitemata Harbour. There they were held captive on the prison ship Marion for nearly eight months, supervised by their bilingual Pakeha Superintendent Titus Angus White, who was also sent to retrieve them after their subsequent escape from Kawau Island. This book is the story of Titus Angus White and the men he ended up supervising as they were imprisoned only 600 metres off the Port of Auckland. It is also the wider story of the invasion of the Waikato and the circumstances that led to the establishment of New Zealand's largest ever floating prison.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859835>

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A New History: The University of Canterbury 1873-2023 / John Wilson  
Christchurch, New Zealand: Canterbury University Press, 2023  
viii, 514p. ; 26cm.  
9781988503400  
\$ 90.00 / HB  
1950gm.

A century and a half now separate us from the founding of Canterbury College, the institution from which the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha evolved. In 'A New History: The University of Canterbury 1873–2023', historian John Wilson offers a fresh interpretation of an institution that has played a central role in shaping the development of research culture and university education in Aotearoa New Zealand and that has been at the forefront of the shift to a postcolonial university world. In examining the University's development, Wilson highlights how the institution evolved as part of the community it continues to serve, while offering city, province and Aotearoa as a whole leadership and, on occasion, challenging expectations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859836>

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### *Literature*

Aucklanders / Murray Edmond  
Auckland, New Zealand: Lasavia Publishing Ltd., 2023  
210p.  
9781991083036  
\$ 39.99 / PB  
290gm.

In the tradition of James Joyce's Dubliners, Murray Edmond brings us Aucklanders, short stories that celebrate lives lived in New Zealand's biggest city. Through different time-settings, and narrative styles, the tales are variously entertaining, funny, satirical, reflective and tragic. Sometimes they are a little gruesome or absurd. Yet these Aucklanders often feel oddly familiar. Among them we encounter a scared RSA waiter, a Zen sensei who keeps his followers guessing, a shy boy who breaks a neighbour's hothouse with his shanghai slingshot, a famous drunken artist with a tortured legacy, and a delivery driver with a side hustle. The stories variously evoke the hopeful exuberance of youth and love, the pain of heartbreak and loss, and the ambient excitement of a high school play about to begin.

Aucklanders is utterly human, showing the power of the city's hidden histories and suppressed alternatives in lives that glow and break with absurdity and longing [...] This is a wonderful book of human comedies that show how much hurt can hurtle through nervy humour. The language crackles with love and scorn, revelation and delusion and fate. Aucklanders is a tremendous collection of tales.

-Lisa Samuels

They, the stories and their characters, also tell tales, very good ones, but their remarkable character comes from a kind of social energy, a vivacity and diversity that has the cantankerous life-hum of the many-voiced, multi-cultured city they inhabit and celebrate.

- Ian Wedde

[Aucklanders] scrutinises the lives of city dwellers and reveals the guilt and conscience uneasily awake under the sheets.

- Brian Potiki

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859837>

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Huia Short Stories 15 / Various Authors

Wellington, New Zealand: Huia Publishers, 2023

viii, 216p.

9781775508212

\$ 25.00 / PB

350gm.

Here are the best short fiction stories, short non-fiction pieces and poetry from the Pikihuia Awards for Māori writers 2023 as judged by Emma Espiner, Carol Hirschfeld, Maiki Sherman, Mike Ross, Hēmi Kelly and Robert Sullivan. This competition, run by the Māori Literature Trust and Huia Publishers, is held every two years to promote Māori writers and their work. This year, the awards sought short non-fiction and poetry, along with short fiction, from writers in te reo Māori and English. The competition attracts entries each year from writers of all ages and those who are starting out to seasoned authors. This collection of finalists' work celebrates Māori writing, introduces new talent and gives an opportunity for Māori writers to shine.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859838>

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The Dead Are Always Laughing At Us / Dominic Hoey, Trudi Hewitt

Auckland, New Zealand: Dead Bird Books, Publishers, 2023

160p.

9781738618217

\$ 36.00 / PB

210gm.

The Dead Are Always Laughing At Us is a collaboration between Dominic Hoey and Designer Trudi Hewitt.

The poems were mostly written during lock-down as a way to try and stay sane while the world lost its collective mind.

"Accessibility has shaped the way I write and perform. I've always resisted the idea that poetry should be a puzzle you need a 50k education to unlock. Early on I knew I wanted this to be the kind of poetry collection anyone could pick up and be drawn into immediately. With that in mind it was really important to add a visual element to the text."

- Dominic

"I saw this project as an opportunity to experiment. To rethink the rules we set for consistency and to challenge typesetting conventions of literature and poetry. Ultimately I wanted to give each of Dominic's poems their own sense of identity by playing with pace, space, size and tension. An awesome collaboration with a very talented friend."

- Trudi

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859839>

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Rapture: An Anthology of Performance Poetry from Aotearoa New Zealand / (Eds) Carrie Rudzinski & Grace Iwashita-Taylor

Auckland, New Zealand: Auckland University Press, 2023

xii, 242p. ; 23cm.

9781869409807

\$ 69.99 / PB

595gm.

These poems roam the streets looking for a fight, question who we are and who we are growing into, examine the weaponisation and reclaiming of language. These poems take lovers to bed, scream into the depths of sadness and reclaim bodies. These poems decolonise and re-indigenise, swim in the moana, reshape the word 'home'. These poems belly laugh deep, sprawl out under a blanket of stars and point into the wonder, wax nostalgic for the friends we have and the friends we have lost. These poems are family – a brilliant representation of the diversity of voice, talent, experience and desires of real writers, real poets, real people of Aotearoa.

— from the Introduction

From the South Auckland Poets Collective to regional writers festivals, at poetry slams and open mic nights, in theatre works like Show Ponies and Wild Dogs Under My Skirt, performance poetry has taken off in Aotearoa.

In this anthology, ninety performance poets, rappers, spoken-word artists, slam poets, theatre makers, genre blenders and storytellers come together to celebrate the diverse voices and communities within Aotearoa – including Ben Brown and Mohamed Hassan, Grace Iwashita-Taylor and Tusiata Avia, Nathan Joe and Dominic Hoey, Freya Daly Sadgrove, David Eggleton and Selina Tusitala Marsh.

Rapture is a parallel narrative about contemporary poetry in Aotearoa – one that doesn't just sit on the page, but leaps from it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=859840>

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