

## Recent Books from New Zealand – April 2019

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### Biography

Living Among the Northland Maori : Diary of Father Antoine Garine,  
1844-1846 / (Translated & Edited by ) Peter Tremewan & Giselle  
Larcombe  
Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 2019  
600p. ; 190x258mm.  
Includes Index ; Bibliography  
9781988503028  
\$ 125.00 / HB  
2000gm.

A French Marist priest, Father Antoine Garin was sent to run the remote Mangakahia mission station on the banks of the Wairoa River. Living Among the Northland Māori is Garin's diary recording his experiences from 1844 to 1846 as he gets to know the Māori in the region. The diary provides vivid accounts of contemporary events, as Garin came dangerously close to the action of the Northern War, and wrote of such prominent figures as Hōne Heke and Kawiti as they opposed the new colonial authorities. Above all, the diary is an intimate record of life in a Māori community in which Garin describes the close relationships he formed with his new neighbours – from his young followers and local families to the chiefs who offered him protection while he lived among them. This is the first full English translation of Garin's surviving Mangakāhia journals and letters. Frank, open-minded and often humorous, Garin's diary is a major contribution to the early history of European settlement in Aotearoa and a compelling insight into Māori customs, values and beliefs of the time.

**534357**

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Keepers of History: New Zealand Centenarians Tell Their Stories / Renee Hollis

Dunedin: Exisle Publishing Pty Ltd., 2019

viii, 280p.

Includes Index

9781775593805

\$ 55.00 / HB

In 2017, Renee Hollis interviewed 120 people over the age of 100, living in every region of New Zealand. Along the way, she had the privilege of interviewing 23 World War II veterans. Her goal in compiling the book was to preserve New Zealand history by sharing the stories and memories of our eldest citizens. She wants all people to value the elderly and to read and appreciate their stories and contribution to our society. Most importantly, she wants to ensure that that they are not forgotten and do not become invisible in our communities, but instead are honoured and celebrated. In this collection of interviews, we meet opera singers and farmers, a politician and a racing car driver, a nun and a freedom fighter with Gandhi, and even a member of Hip Operation - the oldest hip-hop group in the world! They have witnessed momentous global events and technological innovations that have changed our world. From the everyday to the extraordinary, these are the stories of people who have lived through history and whose message of resilience and making the best of things has so much to offer the generations that have followed them.

**534358**

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Annette King: The Authorised Biography / John Harvey & Brent Edwards  
(Foreword) Jacinda Arden  
Auckland: Upstart Press Book, 2019  
272p  
9781988516370  
\$ 55.00 / PB  
584gm.

Annette King is New Zealand's longest-serving women MP - 1984-2017 less three years in the wilderness from 1990-1993. In her 30 years in Parliament, she spent 15 in government (10 as a cabinet minister) and 15 in opposition. She is a former deputy leader of the Labour Party, and held a number of senior cabinet portfolios. This book will take a dual approach to her life and political career. Annette's career embraces a tumultuous time in New Zealand politics and Labour politics . . . Rogernomics and Lange's independent foreign policy; the 1990s and advent of MMP; the refinement of Rogernomics under Ruth Richardson etc; the rise and nearly fall of Helen Clark; the Clark government (where Annette served as Health, Food Safety, Police, Transport, Justice and Racing Minister); the subsequent 9 years of difficult and troubled opposition for Labour; and eventually the rise of Jacinda Ardern. Annette played pivotal roles in all these eras, often as the peacemaker or as Auntie Annette. She became a mentor for many of the prominent members of the Ardern government and, of course, played a lead role in the 2017 election campaign and subsequent negotiations. The book will give rein to Annette's voice, but also feature other prominent figures including Jacinda. The book will open with the 2017 campaign.

**534359**

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The Wind at My Back: A Memoir of Cancer, Love and Endurance / Josh Komen  
New Zealand: Mary Egan Publishing, 2019  
184p.  
9780473464295  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
426gm.

'I was a lost little boy, trapped in a world where I didn't belong, one that would tear me apart and build me back into someone new . . .' Twenty-three-year-old Josh Komen is on track to represent New Zealand in running at the next Commonwealth Games when he is diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. In a single moment, the course of his life has changed irrevocably. What follows are years of excruciating pain, brutal treatments both in New Zealand and Australia, and shocking side-effects that send a young man to the brink of despair and back innumerable times. Ultimately, it is the enduring love of his close-knit family and friends, the incredible medical professionals who treat him, his spiritual beliefs, and his passion for nature that carry Josh through the hardest of challenges. The life lessons Josh gathers along the way are an inspiration for us all. This is an incredible story of courage, love and endurance.

**534360**

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## Literature

Kaitiaki o te Po : Essays / John-Paul Powley

Wellington: Seraph Press, 2018

176p.

9780994134592

\$ 40.00 / PB

242gm.

It's funny how often I forget the power of stories

In these brilliant and wide-ranging essays John-Paul Powley harnesses the power of stories to tell us about ourselves and where we come from.

Acting as 'kaitiaki o te po,' a caretaker of history and memory, Powley combines memoir with history and cultural criticism to create essays that expand far beyond the simply personal.

Topics that he tackles with intelligence, deep thinking, and often wit, include the untimely death of a friend; a school field trip around India; how the murder of Karl Völkner by a small number of men meant land confiscation for an entire iwi; how our history plays out in our present, especially for Maori; growing up as a sensitive boy in a patriarchal society; his experiences of being a high-school Dean and trying help the 'difficult' kids; and why young men, such as Keats and grunge rockers, are perhaps not the best people to give you advice on how to live your life after all. But, just describing the topics of these essays cannot capture their depth and poetry – the myriad of connections that Powley makes between one thing and another creates richness and resonances.

Heart-breaking, hopeful and often blackly hilarious, Kaitiaki o te Po is a powerful debut of an arresting new voice.

**534361**

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Rufus Marigold / Ross Murray (Ed) Adrian Kinnaird (et al.)  
New Zealand: Earth's Ed Publishing, 2019  
1v  
9780473448035  
\$ 40.00 / PB

A graphic novel which examines the impact of Social Anxiety Disorder on an individual's life in a blackly humorous manner.

Rufus Marigold is a primate with a problem. He suffers acutely from anxiety and every social encounter is a harrowing ordeal. A budding artist, Rufus spends his days working in an office. As life become increasingly more of a struggle, Rufus yearns to be defined as something other than an a complete nervous wreck. This volume collects and significantly expands upon the original web comic, resulting in a darkly hilarious yet moving account of living with anxiety.

**534362**

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Lonely Asian Woman : A Novel / Sharon Lam  
New Zealand: Lawrence & Gibson Publishing Collective, 2019  
188p.  
9780473470326  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
270gm.

The novel is set in contemporary Wellington and follows Paula, a lazy young woman who is stuck in a rut. Deep in stagnation, the sight of a spam ad for lonely Asian women looking for fun becomes a moment of profound realisation that she, too, is but a lonely Asian woman looking for fun. Paula's new outlook leads her to shoplift a cheesecake-laden supermarket trolley. The trolley contains an unexpected attachment. Lonely Asian Woman is not the story of a young woman coming to her responsibilities in the world. Instead, Lam defies the expected and leads the reader and her characters against the grain of the titular lonely Asian woman.

**534363**

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Because a Woman's Heart is Like a Needle at the Bottom of the Ocean /  
Sugar Magnolia Wilson

Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2019

88p.

9781869408909

\$ 30.00 / PB

156gm.

A first collection from a significant new voice in New Zealand poetry. Through fun and gore, love and monsters, Sugar Magnolia Wilson's riveting first collection takes readers inside a world where past and present, fiction and fact, author and subject collide. Playful and yet not so sunny, these poems invite you in with extravagant and surprising imagery, only to reveal the uneasy, Frankenstein world within. 'Sugar Magnolia Wilson's work punches holes into a parallel universe which explains ourselves back to us. Because a Woman's Heart is Like a Needle at the Bottom of the Ocean uncovers deep secrets within the reader through Wilson's intelligence, craft and close observation of being. It's an exceptional and uplifting collection which is a joy to read.' - Pip Adam  
'These poems are clever, intriguing, resistant, arresting, strange, funny and pleasingly unusual. Humorously self-conscious and with a wonderful facility with imagery, the overwhelming evidence in this collection is that Wilson is a significant new writer with a distinctive voice of her own.' - Mark Williams

**534364**

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How To Take Off Your Clothes / Hadassah Grace

Auckland: DBB-Dead Bird Books, Publishers, 2019

52p.

9780473453176

\$ 30.00 / PB

88gm.

'How To Take Off Your Clothes' is a collection of poetry covering themes of love, sex and depression. Hadassah describes the collection as: Politically it's about leaning in to the negative stereotypes projected onto women, and exploring what it means to embrace and humanize them. Personally it's about me working through the loss of the life I thought I would have. Overall it's about how no matter what happens women always have shared experiences of moving through the world.

**534365**

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Keeping a Grip: New Poems / Kevin Ireland

Petone: Steele Roberts Aotearoa, 2018

80p.

9780947493806

\$ 29.95 / PB

168gm.

This is Kevin Ireland's 25th collection of poems.

No poems today No poems today no sign of the muse there are pencils  
galore but no words to use.

So it's brew up the teapot munch honey on toast no one can reproach her  
she's only a ghost.

Yet I love her brief visits the silk of her touch though she doesn't stay long  
and never says much.

She reminds me of you not just her sly look she guided the hand that  
started this book.

**534366**

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Then the Wind Came / Iona Winter

Petone: Steele Roberts Aotearoa, 2018

80p.

9780947493851

\$ 30.00 / PB

136gm.

These stories and poems bring a wonderful new realism to the page. The  
writing is strong and clear, infused with human feeling and shot through  
with a palpable sense of an expanded natural world. — Sue Wootton

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... a startling collection of stories and poems by an original new voice ...  
complex, traumatic, and ultimately celebratory. This book confirms Iona  
Winter as a profound writer who is a welcome, necessary voice in the  
literature of Aotearoa, New Zealand. — Siobhan Harvey.

**534367**

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More of Us / (Ed) Adrienne Jansen with Clare Arnot, Danushka Devinda & Wesley Hollis

New Zealand: Landing Press, 2019

92p.

9780473463496

\$ 29.95 / PB

140gm.

Families, language, fear, loss, food and the victories that can come slowly. These are at the heart of this collection of poems by people who have come to New Zealand as migrants or refugees. "More Of Us" provides a glimpse into the experiences of this diverse group of people, which includes those who made New Zealand their home decades ago, and newcomers still finding their feet. And here they all are, speaking in their own distinctive voices.

**534368**

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Other / Ruth Hanover

Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2019

48p.

9780473471347

\$ 25.00 / PB

86gm

This chapbook of seventeen profoundly empathetic poems by Christchurch poet Ruth Hanover is a timely meditation on displacement, and survival dedicated to seekers of asylum and those who reach towards them.

A mother and child inhabit the psychological space between the mainland and Nauru. A young man enters his own culture through the close reading of another. The Levant is apparent in Paris, generations late. A re-formed underground functions where passports cannot, and the trains leave, from Austerlitz. These poems follow refugees, seekers of asylum, and the response to them—dismissive, violent, or expressed in the smallest act of magnanimity. The power to choose and the practice of choice runs throughout. It remains to be seen if we might yet follow Aristotle and 'cultivate humanity' or get to the end, witness to a state of disgrace.

**534369**

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How We Talk to Each Other: Poems / Victoria Broome

Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2019

32p.

9780473471354

\$ 25.99 / PB

76gm.

**Book Details:**

In Victoria Broome's long-awaited first collection of poems, against the darkly-lit gloss of past and present Christchurch, Mum and Dad whirl in a dance at The Latimer. Myra and Cissy pose in Cathedral Square, Myra in a white hat, gloves and pearls, and Cissy: 'All I needed was one good frock.' A little girl goes fishing with a knitting needle and a length of wool and a little boy makes aviaries out of tea chests for his canaries. There are lines here that wring the heart with hurt and loss. And lines that reassert hope and the prospect of healing. A lovely opening psalm locates us inside life: 'Eyes that will find you / a throat that will let you sing / ears that listen for the sound of mercy.' And as for death, here we go, 'Back in time, forward in time / until you are tucked up again and uterine'.

**534370**

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Under Glass / Gregory Kan  
Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2019  
76p.  
9781869408916  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
116gm.

A colossal jungle. Two suns. The sea on fire. If the mind were a place, what might it look like? Under Glass is an ambitious new collection by one of the most exciting young poets writing today.

'The things that are really big and really close are too big and too close to be seen.'

Gregory Kan's second book is a dialogue between a series of prose poems, following a protagonist through a mysterious and threatening landscape, and a series of verse poems, driven by the speaker's compulsive hunger to make sense of things. Kan's explorations of the outer and inner landscapes frequently cross paths but leave the reader in doubt – this is a collection full of maps and trapdoors, labyrinths and fragmented traces. Under Glass opens up new ways of telling stories – while questioning the value of storytelling itself. Beautifully crystalline and emotionally powerful, this poetry collection takes readers on a journey that is frightening yet tender, imperfect but triumphant.

**534371**

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Nights As Day / Nikki-Lee Birdsey  
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019  
122p.  
Includes Selected Bibliography  
9781776562190  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
152gm.

In her first book, Nikki-Lee Birdsey takes readers from a remote sheep station in the South Island to the neon signs of Queens; from a hotel in Piha to a Walt Whitman Rest Area in New Jersey; from intimately known cities to remembered landscapes. Night as Day describes a New Zealand that is overlapped by the United States and the challenges and almost-joys of navigating between these places, identities and homecomings. Balancing artistic experimentation with frank expression, these poems are mesmerising in their intelligence and beauty.

**534372**

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Laboratory Hill / David Beach,  
Wellington: David Beach, 2019  
64p.  
9780473469771  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
79gm.

What might a person give, or do, to live forever? Or to improve the experience of living forever? David Beach's sixth book of sonnets, and his first book-length narrative sequence, takes for its territory the ultimate have and have-nots scenario. Somewhere between a Giotto fresco and a Star Trek episode, the sequence offers a darkly persuasive vision of humanity at the Greatly Enhanced Lifespan stage.

**534373**

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Waiting for Birds / Rob King  
Wellington: Submarine (Makaro Press), 2019  
82p.  
9780995119109  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
146gm.

Waiting For Birds is a collection that traverses nearly half a century and three countries, and for poet Rob King it is one of his last chance at seeing his work in print. For the past four years Rob has been adjusting to life with Alzheimer's, with much of what he knew lost to him, including the ability to write the poetry he loves. The work old and new he's collected here allows him to find and share some of his memories again.

With a compassionate and humorous eye, Rob King takes himself and the reader from a childhood in Yorkshire - listening to the radiogram, making jam, or watching a neighbour fishing for hens, through the challenges of working with the homeless in Scotland, and worm-watching with one of his sons, to the new life he found in New Zealand, observing people at Ngaio train station, cycling the streets and just ...waiting for birds.

**534374**

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Upbeat: Selected early poems 1969-1987 / Margaret Webb  
Wellington: Headworx Publishers, 2019

88p.

9780473469177

\$ 29.95 / PB

76gm.

Upbeat, a selection from the early poetry of Margaret Webb, is a period gem. The title conjures literary and music associations i.e. the howl of the Beat Generation and the jazz, folk and rock music of the 1960s/1970s. Margaret dedicates this volume to her generation, and it is a record of her youth and beginnings as a poet: self-taught and free-wheeling. It covers her life from age 13 (1969) to age 31 (1987). Her authentic experience in these years included coffee bars, a variety of work experience, study, cafes, hitchhiking, communes, protests, a yoga ashram, love relationships and the music scene.

This is the second book of Margaret's poetry. The first, Flight Paths by Margaret Jeune (her later name), contains much of her poetry written after Upbeat.

**534375**

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## **Sociology**

The Health of the People / David Skegg (Ed) Johanna Knox  
Wellington: Bridget Williams Books Limited, 2019

144p.

9781988545585

\$ 22.00 / PB

112gm.

'My hope and expectation that the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry would waken us from our national slumber has not been realised.'

In August 2016, 40 per cent of the residents of Havelock North were struck down by a serious bacterial infection. Eminent medical researcher David Skegg argues that the outbreak highlights weaknesses in our country's health infrastructure – weaknesses already evident in problems ranging from child nutrition to cancer. New Zealand, Skegg explains, must invest more in public health and find the political will needed to oppose the forces that damage health. Personal health care is important, but we neglect public health at our peril.

**534376**

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Ambition: What New Zealanders Think and Why it Matters / Julie Fry & Hayden Glass (Ed) Caren Wilton  
Motueka: Project Ambition NZ Ltd., 2019  
166p.  
9780473458157  
\$ 39.95 / PB  
212gm

Many commentators say New Zealanders lack ambition, and that aspects of the New Zealand character or our comfortable lives limit our achievements. We are said to be too keen on time off, too concerned about everyone fitting in, suspicious of people who try too hard, enthusiastic about humility, afraid of risk and failure, and relatively unmotivated everywhere but on the sports field.

And yet Kiwis achieve at the very highest levels, both at home and overseas. This book looks at what ambition means to New Zealanders. It reviews what has been said about us over the years, and compares these comments with the results of a national survey of nearly 1,300 people conducted in mid-2018. Along the way it explains the connections between ambition and economic performance, and the science of ambition and achievement.

The book is part of a broader project, AmbitionNZ. The authors have filmed interviews with more than 150 people from all walks of life, from farmers and teachers to entrepreneurs and former Prime Ministers. A selection of these interviews will be shared on the ambition.nz website when the book is released.

**534377**

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