

Recent Books from New Zealand – July 2019

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Biography

A Communist in the Family: Searching for Rewi Alley / Elspeth Sandys
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2019
400p.
Includes Index; Bibliography
9781988531601
\$ 50.00 / PB
650gm.

This is my story of the man, Rewi Alley – family member, writer, humanitarian, activist and unwitting myth-maker. It is also the story of his relationship with a country, China, about which I now know enough to acknowledge how little I know. *A Communist in the Family: Searching for Rewi Alley* is a beautifully written multi-layered narrative centred on New Zealander Rewi Alley and his part in the momentous political events of mid-twentieth-century China. Part-biography, part-travel journal, part-literary commentary, *A Communist in the Family* brings together Alley's story and that of his author cousin, Elspeth Sandys. In 2017, Sandys travelled to China with other family members to mark the ninetieth anniversary of Rewi's arrival in Shanghai in 1927. One strand of this book follows that journey and charts Sandys' impressions of modern China. Another tells the story of Rewi's early life, in an insightful meditation on the complex and always elusive relationship between memory and writing. By placing the man, Rewi, and his work in the context of his time, Sandys is able to illuminate the life of this extraordinary New Zealander in a way that is both historically vivid and relevant to the world of today. Her focus on the role poetry played in his life – both his own and that of the Chinese poets he translated so prolifically – provides moving glimpses of the man behind the myth. Threaded through *A Communist in the Family* are Sandys' evolving insights into a nation that looms ever larger in the day-to-day realities of New Zealand and the world. The strange – and strangely intimate – link between the two countries Rewi

regarded as home is one in which he played, and continues to play, a crucial role.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629002>

A Conversation with My Country: Where we've come from. Where we can go / Alan Duff

Auckland: Random House (Penguin Random House New Zealand), 2019
256p.

9780143773269

\$ 45.00 / PB

348gm.

A fresh, personal account of New Zealand, now, from one of our hardest-hitting writers.

Following *Once Were Warriors*, Alan Duff wrote *Maori: The Crisis and the Challenge*. His controversial comments shook the country. A quarter of a century later, New Zealand and Maoridom are in a very different place. And so is Alan – he has published many more books, had two films made of his works, founded the Duffy Books in Homes literacy programme and endured 'some less inspiring moments, including bankruptcy'.

Returned from living in France, he views his country with fresh eyes, as it is now: homing in on the crises in parenting, our prisons, education and welfare systems, and a growing culture of entitlement that entraps Pakeha and Maori alike.

Never one to shy away from being a whetstone on which others can sharpen their own opinions, Alan tells it how he sees it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629003>

How to Escape from Prison: The Remarkable Story of How One Man Defied the Odds / Dr. Paul Wood

Auckland: HarperCollins Publishers, 2019

326p.

9781775541196

\$ 42.00 / PB

414gm.

At 18, Paul Wood thought he had lost everything. He had committed an act he knew would send him to prison for many years. To a young man like Paul, it might as well have been for the rest of his life.

Plunged into a nightmarish world of extreme violence, solitary confinement, gang allegiances, drugs, vindictive wardens and regular stabbings, Paul spent the next 11 years confined in some of New Zealand's toughest jails.

Based on an account of his experiences he wrote while still inside, *How to Escape from Prison* chronicles Paul's road to redemption and a new life as a doctor of psychology, helping others strive to fulfil their potential and develop the resilience to flourish, even in adversity. This is a gripping read about a man who sank to the depths of despair, before scaling the heights of true freedom.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629004>

Making History: A New Zealand History / Jock Phillips

Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2019

x, 374p.

Includes Index

9781869408992

\$ 55.00 / PB

702gm.

Book Details:

The story of one historian, and a country, awakening to New Zealand's past.

'Men no longer whisper "Revolution", they shout it; and they no longer carry banners, but throw bricks' – Letter home from Harvard, 1970.

Jock Phillips grew up in post-war Christchurch where history meant Ancient Greece and home was England. Over the last 50 years – through the Māori renaissance, the women's movement, the rediscovery of ANZAC and more – Phillips has lived through a revolution in New Zealanders' understanding of their identity. And from A Man's Country to Te Ara, in popular writing, exhibitions, television and the internet, he played a key role in instigating that revolution. Making History tells the story of how Jock Phillips and other New Zealanders discovered this country's past.

In this memoir, Phillips turns his deep historical skills on himself. How did the son of Anglophile parents, educated among the sons of Canterbury sheep farmers at Christ's College, work out that the history of this country might have real value? From Harvard, Black Power and sexual politics in America, to challenging male culture in New Zealand in A Man's Country, to engaging with Māori in Te Papa and Te Ara, Phillips revolted against his background and became a pioneering public historian, using new ways to communicate history to a broad audience.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629005>

All the Juicy Pastures: Greville Texidor and New Zealand / Margot Schwass
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019

296p.

Includes Index; Select Bibliography

9781776562251

\$ 50.00 / PB

474gm.

Greville Texidor – one-time Bloomsbury insider, globetrotting chorus-line dancer, former heroin addict, anarchist militia-woman and recent inmate of Holloway Prison – became a writer only after arriving in New Zealand as a refugee in 1940. First in remote Paparoa, and then on Auckland's North Shore as a central member of Frank Sargeson's circle of writers and intellectuals, she recalled many of the events of her life in the novella *These Dark Glasses* and a dazzling series of stories.

After Texidor left New Zealand for Australia and Spain in 1948 she continued to write but finished little. She died by her own hand in 1964. Her published and some unpublished fiction was collected in 1987 in *In Fifteen Minutes You Can Say a Lot*.

All the Juicy Pastures tells the story of Greville Texidor's extraordinary life in full for the first time, and puts her small but essential body of work in vivid context. Illustrated with many never-before-seen photographs, it restores an essential New Zealand writer to new generations of readers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629006>

Plant Paradigm : How a meat-eating fourth-generation farmer was tipped into the joys of being a vegan / James Wilson

New Zealand: James Wilson, 2019

122p.

9780473461751

\$ 25.00 / PB

178gm.

James Wilson was a farmer for 40 years before he became a vegan, a change that he believes saved his life. He'd spent a lifetime farming, growing, harvesting and eating meat and milk products, but eight years ago a health scare persuaded him to make the dramatic decision to change his lifestyle. James and his wife Barbie immediately adopted a whole-food plant-based (WFPB) diet and lifestyle - a vegan approach. And they've never looked back. Veganism, he insists, ensures a longer and healthier life. It also severely reduces our individual environmental footprint and avoids the often-appalling cruelty that livestock farming causes to animals. "Of course, there is a fourth reason" says James Wilson, "not quite so scientifically upheld, but one that works for me. And that is simply that there is joy in being vegan". Plant Paradigm forcibly puts the case for veganism, including some practical suggestions for how to cook vegan at home.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629007>

Ecology/Environment

A Careful Revolution: Towards a Low Emissions Future / David Hall

Wellington: Bridget Williams Books, 2019

BWB Texts Series

232p.

9781988545684

\$ 22.00 / PB

172gm.

‘I am 29 years old. I was born just before the Kyoto Protocol was signed, and since then global mean temperatures have risen by an estimated 0.2°C per decade . . . in my lifetime I am likely to experience a world that is 2°C warmer, perhaps as much as 4°C, and has more droughts, fires and floods.’

Sylvia Nissen

Climate crisis is upon us. By choice or necessity, New Zealand will transition to a low-emissions future. But can this revolution be careful? Can it be attentive to the disruptions it inevitably creates? Or will carefulness simply delay and dilute the changes that future people require of us? This timely collection brings together eleven authors to explore the politics and practicalities of the low-emissions transition, touching on issues of justice, tikanga, trade-offs, finance, futurism, adaptation, and more.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629008>

The Kiwi: Endangered New Zealand Icon / Matt Elliott

Auckland: Imagination Press Limited, 2019

144p.

Includes Bibliography

9780995110458

\$ 50.00 / PB

498gm.

It can't fly; has nostrils at the end of its long beak; cat-like whiskers; the body temperature of a mammal; sharp claws and strong legs to defend itself; lays an egg six times larger than that of a chicken; is ground-dwelling; lives in a burrow; can swim; and is nocturnal. The kiwi is one of the avian world's most unusual creatures.

Most New Zealanders have never seen a kiwi in the wild. Yet, this endangered bird is a nation icon, proudly displayed emblem and the nickname by which New Zealanders are known around the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629009>

History

The Road to Turanga: Leo Fowler's Gisborne Year / Gerald Barnett
Gisborne: Tairawhiti Museum, 2019

viii, 146p.

Includes Index

9780473468149

\$ 70.00 / PB

358gm.

Gerald Barnett's new book about legendary broadcaster Leo Fowler brings Gisborne's 20th-century cultural history to life.

"The Road to Turanga is both a 'partial life' of the bicultural pioneer Leo Fowler (1902-1976) and a fascinating account of Gisborne in the twentieth century. Historian, writer, and broadcaster by profession, Fowler established Maori broadcasting of the NZBC in the mid-1960s, giving it the kaupapa that has seen it flourish. That achievement was the culmination of a career full of incident and colour.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629010>

Huia Come Home / J. Ruka

New Zealand: Oati, 2017

182p.

Includes Bibliography

9781877487996

\$ 30.00 / PB

286gm.

Huia e huia, tangata kotahi! Huia, your destiny is to bring everyone together!
- Maori proverb

Once the sacred guardian of New Zealand's native forests, the huia was a symbol of the land's unique beauty and spirituality. The rare bird's tragic extinction in the early 1900s represents a shot to the heart of Aotearoa and is a potent metaphor for a country's conflicted history. Using the story of the untimely extinction of the huia, Jay Ruka offers a fresh perspective on the narrative of Aotearoa; a tale of two cultures, warring worldviews, and the things we lost in translation. Revisiting the early missionaries, the transformative message of the gospel and the cultural missteps of the Treaty of Waitangi, Huia Come Home invites us to reconnect with the unique story offered by the indigenous Maori lens. In relearning the history that lies in the soil of Aotearoa, we might just find a shared hope for the future and a recovery of national treasures once thought to be extinct.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629011>

Literature

Moonlight Sonata / Eileen Merriman

Auckland: Black Swan (Penguin Random House New Zealand), 2019

288p.

9780143773450

\$ 45.00 / PB

384gm.

'Some secrets should never be told.'

It's the annual New Year family get-together. Molly is dreading having to spend time with her mother, but she is pleased her son will see his cousins and is looking forward to catching up with her brothers . . . Joe in particular.

Under the summer sun, family tensions intensify, relationships become heightened and Molly and Joe will not be the only ones with secrets that must be kept hidden.

'No one must ever know.'

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629012>

Meltwater / Suzanne Ashmore
New Zealand: Mary Egan Publishing, 2019
288p.
9780473472313
\$ 40.00 / PB
432gm.

'Meltwater' is a homage to the power of storytelling. Of a woman's unique journey to find her 'self'. A journey made difficult by the fact that Elizabeth has thirteen different 'selves,' all part of her, all created to bury shocking memories of abuse. Related with evocative immediacy, narrator Beatrice, uncovers stories from Elizabeth's early life, traversing moody, physical and emotional landscapes. Vivid and visual vignettes are set against the brooding backdrop of the Southern Alps, the brittle cold of the Central Plateau and the volatile, volcanic slopes of Mt Taranaki, to where Elizabeth finally escapes, hoping for a new start. But once there, disquieting incidents shatter her mind, forcing interim asylum care. A place of silence, sorrow and loss. Even so, after leaving hospital and ultimately achieving the stability she desires, unsettling shadows still infiltrate the present. With therapist guidance, Elizabeth must choose, leave her story suspended in a glacial state, or make the torturous journey with her alters to the tower of forgotten memories. She has no choice; with that first step, her story, frozen in time has begun to melt. There is no turning back. Yet, an ultimate mystery persists and Elizabeth is haunted by this unknowing. Will the final story free her? Poignant, cruel, chilling, yet life affirming, written with lyrical, edgy grace.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629015>

Melt / Jeff Murray
New Zealand: Mary Egan Publishing, 2019
290p.
9780473470531
\$ 40.00 / PB
360gm.

This novel is an urgent, crushing observation of adaptation and exclusion amidst preparation to settle Antarctica as climate destruction starts to bite. New Zealand in 2048, gateway to the melting continent, is thrust into the centre of the climate crises. Vai Shuster, the Advocate of a tiny, broken island, must find a place for her community in a world that's not sure it needs the poor.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629016>

In Fifteen Minutes You Can Say a Lot: Selected Fiction / Greville Texidor
(Ed & Intro) Kendrick Smithyman
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019
304p.
9781776562268
The VUP Classics Collection
\$ 40.00 / PB
330gm.

In Fifteen Minutes You Can Say a Lot begins with Texidor's most fully achieved piece of work, *These Dark Glasses*. Distinguished by sophisticated writing and acute psychological insight, it is set on the south coast of France during the Spanish Civil War. The stories which follow range from Spain and England to New Zealand, where she writes unsentimentally and unerringly of the environment of the time. *Goodbye Forever*, the unfinished novel which concludes the volume, is Texidor's most sustained piece of writing on New Zealand. The central character, Lili, is a Viennese refugee who arrives amongst the writers of Auckland's North Shore. She is exotic and alone, and her slow collapse is plotted with minute observation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629017>

Where We Land / Tim Jones (Eds) Marie Hodgkinson, Mary McCallum & Madison Hamill
Wellington: The Cuba Press, 2015
78p.
9781988595023
The Cuba Press Novella Series No. 01
\$ 28.00 / PB
76gm.

A New Zealand Navy frigate torpedoes a boat full of refugees fleeing a drowning country and Nasimul Rahman is one of the few survivors. First he has to reach the shore alive and then he has to avoid the trigger-happy Shore Patrol, on alert to stop climate change refugees entering the country. Donna is new to the Patrol. When word comes through that the Navy has sunk a ship full of infiltrators and survivors might be making their way ashore, it sounds like she might get to see some action.

A tale of desperation and betrayal on a shrinking shore in the not too distant future.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629018>

The Dangerous Country of Love and Marriage / Amy Leigh Wicks

Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2019

88p.

9781869408978

\$ 25.00 / PB

148gm.

A collection of sharp, sensory poems that build a narrative of love and marriage, migration and isolation. ‘. . . Tonight marks a thousand dry nights and I want to show you something. It’s a little cave hollowed out by my thirst, a place for you to live.’ In this powerful collection, Amy Leigh Wicks takes the reader on a literal journey from New York City to Wellington and Kaikoura, and on an emotional journey from youth into ‘the dangerous country of love and marriage’. Wicks produces sharp, sensory poems that circle around love and commitment, migration and isolation. With a powerful narrative and emotional arc, this collection introduces us to an important new voice in New Zealand poetry. ‘The dark ocean from the window is still, the waves are sparkling as in photographs and all I can think is how I want to cut through the sun setting on the purple horizon with a pair of big scissors.’

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629019>

Ransack / Essa May Ranapiri

Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019

96p.

9781776562374

\$ 30.00 / PB

162gm.

In ransack, Essa May Ranapiri addresses the difficulty of assembling and understanding a fractured, unwieldy self through an inherited language – a language whose assumptions and expectations ultimately make it inadequate for such a task. These poems seek richer, less hierarchical sets of words to describe ways of being. Punctuated by a sequence of letters to Virginia Woolf’s character Orlando, this immersive collection is about discovering, articulating, and defending – to oneself and to others – what it means to exist outside of the western gender binary, as takatāpui. It describes an artist in a state of becoming, moving from Te Kore through Te Pō and into the light.*** This is a significant body of work by a seriously talented writer. It’s moving, sometimes startling, and a pleasure to read. And, for many of us – but especially for those of us whose experience reflects ransack’s larger themes – it’s a book in which those of us who have rarely done so can also manage to see ourselves. —Stephanie Burt

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629020>

The Track / Paula Green
Wellington: Seraph Press, 2019
64p.
9780995108240
\$ 30.00 / PB
140gm.

In the spring of 2015 Paula Green walked Queen Charlotte Track, her poet's eye taking in the beauty of her surroundings and the history of the land. Early on the final day she slipped and injured herself, and had to walk out for nine hours on her broken foot – a journey made more dramatic by the ongoing storm.

To get through, and alleviate the pain, she composed poems in her head. The resulting poems are urgent, energetic, obsessive and compelling. Full of pain and joy, they take us on a journey through wild beauty, mind and memory, and a storm of words.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629021>

Lay Studies / Steven Toussaint
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019
110p.
9781776562404
\$ 30.00 / PB
142gm.

In Lay Studies, Steven Toussaint conducts an impressive range of lyric inventions, pitching his poems to that precarious interval between love and rage. Beneath their formal dexterity and variety, these études sustain a continuous meditation on the concords and dissonances of worshipful life in an age dominated by spectacle, violence, and environmental devastation. With great skill and compassion, he depicts scenes of domestic life in his adopted home of New Zealand, a transient year of religious and artistic soul-searching in the United Kingdom, and a growing sense of dislocation from his native United States in the Trump era. These are poems of profound contemplative inwardness, conjuring and conversing with a vast tradition of literature, scholarship, and art. Lay Studies is a powerful collection and a welcome music.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=629022>
