

## Recent Books from New Zealand – June 2019

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### Biography

The Braided River: Migration and the Personal Essay / Diane Comer (Ed)  
Paula Wagemaker  
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2019  
292p.  
Includes Index ; Bibliography  
9781988531533  
\$ 50.00 / PB  
522gm.

The Braided River explores contemporary migration to New Zealand through an examination of 200 personal essays written by 37 migrants from 20 different countries, spanning all ages and life stages. The first book to examine migration through the lens of the personal essay, The Braided River presents migration as a lifelong experience that affects everything from language, home, work, family and friendship to finances, citizenship and social benefits. Like migrants themselves, The Braided River crosses boundaries, working at the intersections of literature, history, philosophy and sociology to discuss questions of identity and belonging. Throughout, Diane Comer, both migrant and essayist herself, demonstrates the versatility of the personal essay as a means to analyse and understand migration, an issue with increasing relevance worldwide.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617480>

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Dead People I Have Known / Shayne Carter  
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019  
408p.  
Includes Index  
9781776562213  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
626gm.

*When we crashed over the line two and a half minutes later, there was a short, disbelieving silence and I could feel my knee trembling behind its sarcastic 'Disco' patch. A song I'd written had just been played to the finish, and what's more, it hadn't sounded weak, or delusional—it had, in fact, kicked.*

*I backed down from the mic. Here was a new world of sound. Its sky was borderless, and its horizon curled off a previously flat earth. I'd been given a virtual super power and a flame to shoot from my fingers.*

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*In Dead People I Have Known*, the legendary New Zealand musician Shayne Carter tells the story of a life in music, taking us deep behind the scenes and songs of his riotous teenage bands Bored Games and the Doublehappys and his best-known bands Straitjacket Fits and Dimmer. He traces an intimate history of the Dunedin Sound—that distinctive jangly indie sound that emerged in the seventies, heavily influenced by punk—and the record label Flying Nun.

As well as the pop culture of the seventies, eighties and nineties, Carter writes candidly of the bleak and violent aspects of Dunedin, the city where he grew up and would later return. His childhood was shaped by violence and addiction, as well as love and music. Alongside the fellow musicians, friends and family who appear so vividly here, this book is peopled by neighbours, kids at school, people on the street, and the other passing characters who have stayed on in his memory.

We also learn of the other major force in Carter's life: sport. Harness racing, wrestling, basketball and football have provided him with a similar solace, even escape, as music.

*Dead People I Have Known* is a frank, moving, often incredibly funny autobiography; the story of making a life as a musician over the last forty years in New Zealand, and a work of art in its own right.

'Sometimes profound. Sometimes utterly hilarious. I couldn't put this book down. A triumph.'—Jon Toogood

'Life life life. Music music music. Girls girls girls. Brilliant – funny, painful, reflective and raw.' —Emily Perkins.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617481>

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Ngoingoi Pēwhairangi : A Remarkable Life / Tania M. Ka'ai  
Wellington: Huai Publishers, 2019  
xxxvi, 280p.  
Includes Index ; Bibliography  
9781775503484  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
478gm.

Ngoingoi Pēwhairangi was a highly respected leader from Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare at Tokomaru Bay who was passionate about the revitalisation and flourishing of the Māori world. She actively introduced initiatives in education, language and the arts and was a Māori leader of note, receiving a QSM for her services to Māori. She is also widely remembered for her beautiful song compositions, which are performed today. This biography describes her considerable achievements across many areas, her work for others, her humility and perseverance, and it brings her to life through stories from her peers, former students and family.

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The Political Years / Marilyn Waring  
Wellington: Bridget Williams Books Ltd, 2019  
376p.  
Includes Bibliography  
9781988545936  
\$ 65.00 / PB  
676gm.

Ngoingoi Pēwhairangi was a highly respected leader from Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare at Tokomaru Bay who was passionate about the revitalisation and flourishing of the Māori world. She actively introduced initiatives in education, language and the arts and was a Māori leader of note, receiving a QSM for her services to Māori. She is also widely remembered for her beautiful song compositions, which are performed today. This biography describes her considerable achievements across many areas, her work for others, her humility and perseverance, and it brings her to life through stories from her peers, former students and family.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617483>

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Zigzags and Leapfrogs: A Memoir / Maris O'Rourke  
Mangawhai: David Ling Publishing Limited, 2019  
202p.  
9781927305515  
\$ 45.00 / PB  
514gm.

Born on a small island in Scotland to a local girl and an Australian serviceman, raised in a working class, dysfunctional, often violent, itinerant household around the UK and Europe, O'Rourke rose to become the Secretary for Education for New Zealand, the Director of Education at the World Bank, an International Education Consultant and an author of six books. It is a story of constant perseverance, reinvention and transformation as O'Rourke makes difficult choices and juggles her professional and personal responsibilities, especially mothering. The book outlines possibilities and ways of women living outside the conventions of what is usually expected by society, without stepping aside from acceptance, love and success. As a memoir it is composed of vignettes of her life, short stories, photographs, newspaper cuttings, interviews, graphic novel excerpts and poems which, together, create a fascinating interlay. The narrative takes the reader from the birth of her first grandchild, back into the past (beginning with her search for her whakapapa) and delving deeper into her early years through to her formative years. She then traverses the important influences, relationships, hard lessons learned and joyful experiences in her professional, physical, personal and political life - before returning full circle to the present, where the lessons she has learned are laid bare. Zigzags and Leapfrogs is a memoir of an unlikely life that embraces themes of persistence, luck, bravery, ambition, roaming, joy, disappointment and success.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617484>

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Shirley Smith: An Examined Life / Sarah Gaitanos

Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019

464p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9781776562176

\$ 65.00 / PB

756gm.

Shirley Smith was one of the most remarkable New Zealanders of the 20th century; a woman whose lifelong commitment to social justice, legal reform, gender equality and community service left a profound legacy. She was born in Wellington in 1916. While her childhood was clouded by loss – her mother died when she was three months old and her beloved father, lawyer and later Supreme Court Judge David Smith, served overseas during the war – she had a privileged upbringing. She studied classics at Oxford University, where she threw herself into social, cultural and political activities. Despite contracting TB and spending months in a Swiss clinic, she graduated with a good Second and an intellectual and moral education that would guide her through the rest of her life.

She returned to New Zealand when war broke out, and taught classics at Victoria and Auckland University Colleges, before marrying eminent economist and public servant Dr W.B. Sutch in 1944, and giving birth to a daughter in 1945. She kept her surname – unusual at the time – and poured her energy into issues of human rights and social causes. She qualified as a lawyer at the age of 40, and in her career of 40 years broke down many barriers, her relationship with the Mongrel Mob epitomising her role as a champion of the marginalised and vulnerable.

In 1974, Bill Sutch was arrested and charged with espionage. After a sensational trial he was acquitted by a jury, but the question of his guilt has never been settled in the court of public opinion. Shirley had reached her own political turning point in 1956, with Khrushchev's revelations about Stalin and the Hungarian crisis, but she remained loyal to her husband, and the ongoing controversy weighed on her later years.

*Shirley Smith: An Examined Life* tells the story of a remarkably warm and generous woman, one with a rare gift for frankness, an implacable sense of principle, and a personality of complexity and formidable energy. Her life was shaped by some of the most turbulent currents of the 20th century, and she in turn helped shape her country for the better.

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Every Morning So Far, I'm Alive : A Memoir / Wendy Parkins (Ed) Caren Wilton  
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2019  
216p.  
9781988531618  
\$ 50.00 / PB  
332gm.

Every morning, so far, I'm alive is about what it's like to live in a world where shaking a stranger's hand, catching a taxi or touching a door handle are fraught with fear and dread. This memoir charts the author's breakdown after migrating from New Zealand to England: what begins as homesickness and career burn-out develops into depression, contamination phobia and OCD. Increasingly alienated from all the things that previously gave her life meaning and purpose – family, work, nature, literature – the author is forced to confront a question once posed by the young Virginia Woolf: 'How is one to live in such a world?' In this fiercely honest memoir Wendy Parkins, a former English professor, explores what it means to belong and feel at home, and how we are shaped by our first environments, both familial and physical. Describing the gradual process of recovery – as well as its reversals – it shows that returning to health can be about rediscovering how we came to be who we are, without becoming trapped by our narratives of origin. Like coming home, recovery is never quite what we expect it to be, however much we long for it. Beautifully written, intensely moving and threaded with self-deprecating humour, Every morning, so far, I'm alive is about claiming the right to tell our own story and learning to embrace the risks that the messy unpredictability of life always entails.

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West Island : Five Twentieth-Century New Zealanders in Australia /  
Stephanie Johnson (Ed) Jane Parkin  
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2019  
288p. ; 150x230mm.  
9781988531571  
\$ 55.00 / PB  
622gm.

Five notable twentieth-century New Zealanders who made their lives in Australia are the subject of this fascinating biographical investigation by award-winning author Stephanie Johnson. Roland Wakelin, Dulcie Deamer, Jean Devanny, Douglas Stewart and Eric Baume had little in common in personality, proclivities and politics. Yet they all experienced fame and/or notoriety in the 'West Island' while being largely forgotten in their country of origin. They also occasionally crossed paths in the course of eventful lives. The works of painter Roland Wakelin place him as a founder of Australia's Modern Movement, while his modest and affable personality was the opposite of the stereotypical artist. Dulcie Deamer was a writer and libertine known for her leopard skin attire and associations with the larger-than-life characters of the Sydney bohemian set – including the 'Witch of Kings Cross', fellow New Zealander Rosaleen Norton. The forthright feminism and creative integrity of novelist Jean Devanny led to bitter battles with the same communist movement she devoted decades of her life to. Douglas Stewart was one of the most famous 'Australian' writers of his period. He was a long-term gatekeeper for Australian letters as the literary editor of the Bulletin, and then editor for publishers Angus and Robertson. Born into an unusual and unorthodox Jewish family, Eric Baume gained prominence in Australia as an early prototype of the modern-day 'shock jock' and at one stage one of the country's highest-earning media personalities and bestselling authors. A lifelong gambling addict, he died in debt. Stephanie Johnson restores these striking New Zealanders to our national narrative, engaging their life stories to illuminate the curious lacuna that exists at the heart of the complex relationship between the two nations. As a writer with strong connections to both countries, Johnson draws on her own experiences of life on both sides of 'the ditch' in her reflections on the trans-Tasman diaspora and the subtle differences and cultural divide that set apart the two countries.

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Finding Frances Hodgkins / Mary Kisler  
Auckland: Massey University Press, 2019  
432p.  
9780995102972  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
716gm.

When Frances Hodgkins, our most celebrated artist, first left New Zealand in 1901, location became a key factor in her determination to succeed as an artist.

In this engaging book, curator Mary Kisler follows in Hodgkins' footsteps through England, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Wales to discover the locations in which Hodgkins constantly pushed her exploration of modernism. Warm, insightful, fresh, expert and richly illustrated, this handsome book sheds new light on Hodgkins' life, art and social milieu.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617488>

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From Cairo to Cassino : A Memoir of Paddy Costello / Dan Davin (Ed)  
Robert McLean  
Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2019  
96p.  
9780473474485  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
172gm.

Dan Davin's memoir of his friend, the controversial Paddy Costello, *From Cairo to Cassino* recounts the early days of their friendship as they talked, tiddled and fought their way through North Africa and Italy 1942-1944.

Paddy Costello, along with John Mulgan, Geoffrey Cox, Ian Milner, James Bertram, and Dan Davin, was one of a cast of young scholars who made seemingly peripheral yet lasting contributions to the New Zealand post-war cultural landscape. But Costello, despite his great many gifts, never quite found his place in the world and he remains an elusive and contradictory figure, someone whose reputation rests on what he could have done rather than on what he did. Yet he continues to fascinate by his very elusiveness. Paddy Costello was also the best friend of Dan Davin: expatriate publisher, editor, novelist, short-story writer, poet, raconteur, and not least of all an indefatigably generous host and friend to many New Zealand writers in the UK. *From Cairo to Cassino* recounts the beginnings and the deepening of their friendship as they talked, tiddled and fought their way through North Africa and Italy. Spanning Davin's embarkation with 2 New Zealand Division at Alexandria, as it headed towards its mauling in Greece and on Crete, through to the day of the bombing of Monte Cassino, this book is many things: gentle and impassioned, candid and ironical, recondite and visceral. It is also often very funny. One of Davin's last significant works and perhaps the one in which he made his deepest personal investment, *From Cairo to Cassino* confirms that he was one of our finest memoirists, as he lovingly brings Costello back to life in all his sound and fury. A significant addition to New Zealand's literature of the Second World War, this is a special book that deserves to be read and reread.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617489>

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Partisan : The Incredible True Story of a New Zealand Soldier Behind  
Enemy Lines / James Caffin

Auckland: HarperCollins Publishers, 2019

xviii, 174p.

9781775541363

\$ 34.00 / HB

262gm.

Based largely information from his personal diaries, tells the story of New Zealand soldier John Denvir, who fought in the ranks of the Yugoslav Partisan forces during World War II.

The gripping story of a New Zealand soldier who escaped the clutches of a prisoner-of-war camp to join the Yugoslav freedom fighters during the Second World War. After a daring escape from a prisoner-of-war camp in occupied Yugoslavia, John Denvir reached the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, where he joined a partisan band as a machine-gunner.

Believed shot and killed by New Zealand forces and his family in New Zealand, from January 1942 until the end of 1943, Denvir led brave and heroic attacks on German and Italian soldiers from behind enemy lines. He was wounded four times, received the Soviet Medal for Valour and was eventually appointed brigade commander. When 'Corporal Frank' was demobilised he returned to New Zealand and became a taxi driver in the small South Island town of Temuka. Originally published in 1945 and out of print for many years, this is his remarkable true story.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617490>

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## **History**

The New Zealand Wars Nga Pakanga O Aotearoa / Vincent O'Malley (Ed)  
Nancy Swarbrick  
Wellington: Bridget Williams Books Ltd, 2019  
272p.  
9781988545998  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
736gm.

The New Zealand Wars were a series of conflicts that profoundly shaped the course and direction of our nation's history. Fought between the Crown and various groups of Māori between 1845 and 1872, the wars touched many aspects of life in nineteenth century New Zealand, even in those regions spared actual fighting. Physical remnants or reminders from these conflicts and their aftermath can be found all over the country, whether in central Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, or in more rural locations such as Te Pōrere or Te Awamutu. The wars are an integral part of the New Zealand story but we have not always cared to remember or acknowledge them. Today, however, interest in the wars is resurgent. Public figures are calling for the wars to be taught in all schools and a national day of commemoration was recently established.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617491>

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Whale Oil / Margie Thomson  
Nelson: Potton & Burton, 2019  
302p.  
9780947503819  
\$ 55.00 / PB  
390gm.

In May 2012 Auckland businessman Matt Blomfield found himself the target of a vicious online attack, the work of Whale Oil blogger Cameron Slater. The attack came out of the blue, destroying Blomfield's reputation and career, stealing his identity, turning him into a social outcast. Two years after the online attack began an armed gunman came to Blomfield's house and tried to kill him. He only survived because the intruder's shotgun misfired.

But Matt Blomfield decided to fight back. He spent seven years and many hundreds of thousands of dollars taking a defamation case against Slater, which he ultimately won, establishing that Slater's vendetta was based entirely on lies.

This book is a remarkable piece of investigative writing, a story of courage and tenacity, which reminds us how important it is to stand up to bullies, and to be reassured that in the end they do not always win.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617492>

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## **Economics**

Jobs, Robots and Us : Why the Future of Work in New Zealand Is in Our Hands / Kinley Salmon (Ed) Caren Wilton

Wellington: Bridget Williams Books Ltd, 2019

304p.

Includes Index

9781988545882

\$ 55.00 / PB

396gm.

Could millions of jobs soon be eliminated by artificial intelligence and robots? From driverless cars to digital assistants, it seems the world of work is on the cusp of a technological revolution that is generating hopes and fears alike. But are the robots really knocking at the door? And what does all this mean for New Zealanders?

In this far-sighted and lucid book, Kinley Salmon explores the future of work in New Zealand. He interrogates common predictions about a jobless future and explores what might happen to workers in New Zealand as automation becomes more widespread. This book also asks big questions about the power we have to shape technological progress and to influence how robots and artificial intelligence are adopted. It sketches out two bold alternative futures for New Zealand – and suggests what it might take, and what we might risk, to pursue each of them. It is time, Salmon argues, to start debating and choosing the future we want for New Zealand.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617493>

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The Billion Dollars Bonfires: How Allan Hubbard and the Government Destroyed South Canterbury Finance / Chris Lee

Paraparaumu Beach: PRLBooks, 2019

304p.

Includes Index

9780473474959

\$ 60.00 / PB

392gm.

The collapse of South Canterbury Finance (SCF) is one of the biggest New Zealand stories of the last decade. The sweep of events, from Timaru to the Beehive, include some of the most revealing moments on issues critical to this country - everything from poor governance and systemic issues in the finance sector, through to the structural risks this exposed and the costs it ultimately presented to all New Zealanders. There has not yet been a book that has attempted to tell this story, certainly not one from an 'insider' perspective. The Billion Dollar Bonfire by Chris Lee will be the first book to do both these things. Chris tells this fascinating story as both a long-standing New Zealand financial advisor and a protagonist in the narrative. As he writes in the opening chapter, he knew Alan Hubbard personally and, from the late 1990s, had clients invest with SCF. His main motivation for writing the book, made explicit throughout, is his overriding concern that this could all happen again without significant changes to our law and the culture of the capital markets industry. The book is underpinned by substantial research: thousands of documents - including new material from OIAs and other sources - and interviews, both public and anonymous, with many of the key figures.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617494>

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## **Literature**

Everything's Something in Place : Writings 1980-2015 / John Geraets  
Pokeno: Titus Books, 2019

328p.

9781877441615

\$ 65.00 / PB

792gm.

Everything's Something in Place publishes a selection from the lifetimes work of editor, critic and poet John Geraets. It includes influential essays first published in the NZ Listener, Landfall, Poetry NZ, the Journal of NZ Literature, as well as other journals and publications. It is, as Roger Horrocks says: rich, adventurous writing, with a vibrant sense of language and a wide reaching set of interests (from Zen Buddhism to biography, religion to Language Poetry, Derrida to the history of NZ lit). It includes essays on Allen and Wystan Curnow; Kendrick Smithyman; Braschs Landfall; meditation and writing; and more general essays on movements within local literature. It also includes generous selections from the writers published poetry books. In its entirety it is a fascinating and insightful addition to NZ literature and criticism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617495>

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Purakau : Maori Myths Retold By Maori Writers / (Ed) Witi Ihimaera & Whiti Hereaka  
Auckland: Penguin Random House, 2019  
400p.  
9780143772965  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
520gm.

Ancient Maori creation myths, portrayals of larger-than-life heroes and tales of engrossing magical beings have endured through the ages. Some hail back to Hawaiki, some are firmly grounded in New Zealand and its landscape. Through countless generations, the stories have been reshaped and passed on. This new collection presents a wide range of traditional myths that have been retold by some of our best Maori wordsmiths. The writers have added their own creativity, perspectives and sometimes wonderfully unexpected twists, bringing new life and energy to these rich, spellbinding and significant taonga. Take a fresh look at Papatuanuku, a wild ride with Maui, or have a creepy encounter with Ruruhi-Kerepo, for these and many more mythical figures await you.

**Ka mua, ka muri . . .**

Explore the past, from it shape the future . . .

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617496>

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No Sweat : The Euphemia Sage Chronicles – Book 2 / Rosy Fenwicke  
Wellington: Wonderful World Ltd, 2019  
306p.  
9780473463175  
\$ 39.50 / PB  
462gm.

She's never backed down from a challenge but being a middle-aged woman with superpowers is more difficult than Euphemia Sage anticipated. Tracked by a pesky journalist, opportunities for developing her powers are scarce. Her family and friends are mystified, and she can't explain. Book Two of the *Euphemia Sage Chronicles* follows the fast-paced twists and turns we have come to expect from our favourite post-menopausal super heroine to reach an action-packed and satisfying conclusion.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617497>

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Conventional Weapons / Tracey Slaughter  
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019  
96p.  
9781776562206  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
140gm.

*Conventional Weapons* is lyrical and dirty, sexy and dark – it is cul-de-sac life, viewed through a grimy ranch slider. These poems closely observe the beauty and depravity of human nature, revealing lives that are hard-bitten and sometimes tragic, but in Tracey Slaughter's hands they become radiant.

Praise for *deleted scenes for lovers*:

'The language sparked like a cut power line. I was shocked awake every time I picked this book up.' –Grant Smithies

'If Slaughter is writing from the black block in her chest, she is also speaking directly into yours.' –Charlotte Graham-McLay

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617498>

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How I Get Ready / Ashleigh Young  
Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2019  
96p.  
9781776562367  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
152gm.

In her new poetry collection *How I Get Ready*, Ashleigh Young fails to learn to drive, vanishes from the fossil record, and finally finishes writing a book.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617499>

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Just Looking / Peter Bland  
Wellington: The Cuba Press, 2019  
74p.  
9780995110793  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
118gm.

An avid collector of works of art, and long fascinated by how artists see the world, Peter Bland has drawn together poems for his 85th birthday that he's written over the years about paintings and the visual image. Never the name-dropper or cultural snob, Bland lines up art by a child alongside art by Brueghel or Gauguin, and then takes the reader into the story of the painter or the painting, both shining new light and deepening the mystery.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617500>

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Squirt : A Collection of Natural Human Desires / Kate Spencer  
New Zealand: Kate Spencer, 2019  
54p.  
9780473470319  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
106gm.

Kate made a discovery. She wrote a poem. She writes lots of poems about sex, sexuality, the body, and bodily functions. She's filthy, flirty, and funny; saucy, seductive, and sensual; raunchy, ridiculous, and ravishing. You won't believe what comes out of her lips.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617501>

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Life on Volcanoes : Contemporary Essays / Tulia Thompson (et al.) (Ed)  
Janet McAllister  
Auckland: Beatnik Publishing, 2019  
126p.  
9780994138392  
\$ 30.00 / HB

This showcase of five lively, smart, thoughtful writers promises to be a valuable and very readable contribution to New Zealand's cultural, social and political discourse - housed within a small, covetable, high quality hard-cover book complete with colour illustrations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617502>

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## **Politics**

New Forms of Political Organisation / (Ed) Campbell Jones & Shannon Walsh

Auckland: Economic and Social Research Aotearoa, 2018

94p.

9780473463731

\$ 25.00 / PB

152gm.

Could politics be anything other than the boring administration of the economy in the interests of the already privileged? This volume collects innovative thinking about new forms of politics, new forms of political organisation and new ways of thinking politics. Contributors propose radical social change including a new social contract between Māori and others, constitutional transformation by 2040, new ways of relating to the natural environment, new ways of understanding housing and land, new forms of society outside and beyond colonial capitalism. Some propose new political parties, while others look to the rise of the new forms of politics outside of parliament. This book is a call to arms and an invitation to new forms of politics and new ways of understanding politics. Far from utopian dreaming, it announces that new forms of political organisation were here all along but are today promising to break into the open.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=617503>

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