

WORD CHRISTCHURCH FESTIVAL '26

AT VENUES ACROSS
ŌTAUTAHĪ CHRISTCHURCH

*Making
Waves*



1-6 SEPT
2026

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WORD
CHRISTCHURCH
FESTIVAL & EVENTS



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ARE YOU A WORD LOVER?

WORD Christchurch Trust is a small charitable organisation with big ambitions for Ōtautahi. Join us as a Champion of WORD on our website: wordchristchurch.co.nz/supporters. Interested in supporting WORD in other ways? Please get in touch, we'd love a conversation steph@wordchristchurch.co.nz.

WELCOME TO WORD 2026

Nau mai, haere mai ki KUPU Ōtautahi!

Welcome to WORD Christchurch 2026, where over six days we celebrate the energising power of books, storytelling, ideas and the amazing people behind them.

It is an honour to present this year's programme to you. If you are a long-time WORD fan, nau mai hoki mai, welcome back. And if you're new to the world of WORD, nau mai, haere mai, welcome!

This programme is jam-packed with the people, books and big ideas that are making waves right now. You'll find politics with **Grant Robertson** and **Tāme Iti**, and **Phil Goff** and **Chris Finlayson** who join us for a special live edition of their podcast *Cross Party Lines*. There's outstanding investigative journalism, true crime, local history, powerful memoirs with **Elizabeth Knox** and **Noelle McCarthy**, and fantastic fiction with **Charlotte Grimshaw** and beloved writer **Olivia Laing**. We'll have poetry powerhouses, and riveting storytelling sessions including our ever-popular *Risky Women* and *I Wish I Wrote That*. We'll look at reporting from the frontlines with foreign correspondents **Charlotte Glennie** and **Barbara Dreaver**, and be moved by stories of resilience from **Sally Wenley** and **Dr Lucy Hone**. We collaborate with our Ngāi Tahu friends for several special events.

Heavyweight prizewinners join us. You can see 2022 Booker Prize-winner **Shehan Karunatilaka** across a variety of events, and we welcome **Ingrid Horrocks**, Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction at the 2026 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. We're also thrilled to introduce you to fresh new talent who are making waves. Don't miss criminal defence lawyer **Asher Emanuel** or the next generation of voices coming through the *Ōtautahi Youth Poetry Slam*.

While books are our heartbeat, WORD goes beyond the page. We have cocktails and tarot, a quiz, a very special kai event, performances, book launches and masterclasses where you can learn from the best. We offer inspiring sessions for young bookworms. Over 20% of the programme is free to all and 6% has Pay What You Wish pricing.

Thank you to the writers, thinkers, performers and artists who share their brilliant mahi with us. We are grateful for our sponsors, champions and partners, and our hardworking volunteers and festival bookseller UBS Canterbury. And thanks to you, our wonderful audience. This festival is for you and we look forward to warmly welcoming you!

Ngā manaakitanga,
Kiran Dass
Programme Director

A GUIDE TO THIS PROGRAMME

Events are listed chronologically in this booklet, with workshops and a day-by-day schedule towards the back.

We've used the following colours as a key to different types of events:

- Non-fiction ● Fiction ● Kai
- Kōrero/conversation ● Performance
- Community ● Film ● Schools
- Workshops (●) Livestreams

Keen To See It All? Buy a Multipass!

We know it's hard to choose just one event to go to. Buy 3 tickets or more and get **10% off with the code WORD10**, or **buy 5 tickets or more and get 20% off with the code WORD20**.

Livestreams

We are streaming several of our events in The Piano with all at-home tickets just \$10 (plus booking fee). Look for the livestream symbol next to events throughout the programme. If you miss the live event, these will all be available on-demand until Sunday 4 October.

Keep in touch

Stay in the know by subscribing to the WORD Christchurch e-newsletter on our website. For all photo credits and for more information about each session and the artists involved please see our website.

THE WORD CHCH 2026 TEAM

Steph Walker
Executive Director

Kiran Dass
Programme Director

Cat Angus
Production Manager

Bleurette Hille
Marketing & Events Coordinator

Gina Johns
Artist Liaison

Talia-Rae Tupu
Schools & Volunteers Coordinator

M Grace-Stent
Ticketing Coordinator

Penny Hartill
Publicist

Janine Clarkson
Accounts Support

Special thanks to all our amazing volunteers and crew that help make the magic happen.

The WORD Christchurch Trust

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Marianne Hargreaves

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BOOKS COME ALIVE!

COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST, 11AM -1PM
TE ARA ĀTEA, ROLLESTON, FREE

Join **Giselle Clarkson**, author of *Omnibird: An Avian Investigator's Handbook* and **Sacha Cotter** and **Josh Morgan** for a special storytime full of fun and colour as they share their books, *A Guide to Rocks*, *Dazzlehands* and *The Bomb* with us on the first day of Aotearoa NZ Children's Book Week.

With support from Selwyn Libraries and the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults

READING RAVE

COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST, 10.30AM -1.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, FREE

Did you know reading is a superpower? It can take you on wild adventures, even to a party at Tūranga! Join our MCs **Sacha Cotter** and **Josh Morgan** (*A Guide to Rocks*, *Dazzlehands*) at our Reading Rave to celebrate Aotearoa NZ Children's Book Week, along with the amazing writers **Sarina Dickson** (*Mumapalooza*, *Dadapalooza*), **Belinda O'Keefe** (*Tales Through the Cat Door*) and **Melanie Koster** (*The Dragon at the Zoo*). Hear stories out loud, take part in crafty activities, and have plenty of dance breaks. Prizes for the best dressed!

With support from ReadNZ



FUEGO VOLUME 4 LAUNCH

COMMUNITY

**FRIDAY 28 AUGUST, 5.30PM ONWARDS
SMALL THEATRE, RANGIORA TOWN HALL, FREE
BOOKINGS ENCOURAGED ONLINE**

Waimakariri Libraries invite you to celebrate National Poetry Day with the launch of *Fuego*, the World Congress of Poets Literary Journal. Enjoy rangatahi voices, live readings from local poets and stunning artwork by Waimakariri artists, alongside leading voices from Aotearoa and across the globe.



Ā MUA

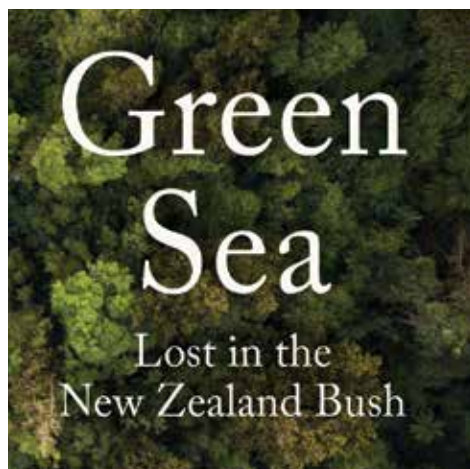
PERFORMANCE

**TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 7PM
THE PIANO, \$59 / \$50**

Multi-instrumentalist **Riki Gooch** (Ngāti Wai, Patuharakeke, Ngaati Maahanga) and award-winning writer **Tina Makereti** (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Rangatahi-Matakore, Pākehā) weave together sound and story, taonga pūoro and strings, in this special performance. Taking Māori futurism, whakapapa and taiao (the natural world) as its starting points, *Ā Mua* spirals and forms connections across time.

*Presented with and commissioned by Chamber Music
New Zealand Puoro Taiwhanga Aotearoa*





BOOK LAUNCH: GREEN SEA BY JOHN SUMMERS

COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 5.30PM ONWARDS
SCORPIO BOOKS, FREE

Come to Scorpio Books for the launch of *Green Sea*, a gripping exploration of what it means to be lost in the New Zealand bush, by the award-winning writer **John Summers**. Blending reportage, story and reflection, Summers traces survival, fear, and the fragile threads that keep us going when we feel alone. Please RSVP on the Scorpio Books website.



ALL THINGS ROMANTASY

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM - 7.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, FREE

Romantasy is everywhere right now and it's so much more than a handful of bestselling titles. Join us to explore this fusion of romance and fantasy! Hear from writers and fans **AJ Lancaster**, **HG Parry**, **Stacey Broadbent** and **Darriane Schramm** in conversation with **Lizzie Tollemache**. Bring your burning questions and best costumes for an engaging, all-things-romantasy discussion.

In partnership with Christchurch City Libraries



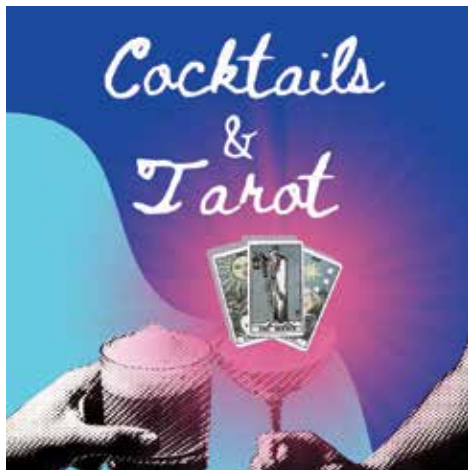
ŌTAUTAHU YOUTH POETRY SLAM

PERFORMANCE

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 7PM – 9.30PM
THE PIANO, \$15 / \$10

Celebrate our rangatahi, and what they have to say and the stories they want to share. The top five schools from across the city battle it out in the Grand Final after coming through the heats in August. Expect the voices of youth to speak their truth proudly and loudly – no topic is too big for these brave poets!

Supported by The Piano's Next Generation Fund



COCKTAILS & TAROT

COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 7PM ONWARDS
THE LAST WORD, PAY WHAT YOU WISH

We're taking WORD to The Last Word! Head along to our favourite whisky and cocktail lounge for an intimate evening of tarot and book chat with our favourite book witch **Claire Mabey**. Enjoy an exclusive one-night-only chance to sip a specially curated WORD "making waves" cocktail. Limited spaces.





EMERGENCE BOOK LAUNCH

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 5.30PM - 7.30PM
THE CHAMBER, THE PIANO, FREE

Come to the launch of *Emergence: New Writing from the University of Canterbury Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha*. This lively collection showcases emerging writers from UC's writing programmes, whose work journeys through suspense, speculation, romance, tragedy, realism and more.

Shehan Karunatilaka will launch the book.



LOST THE PLOT! THE WORD QUIZ NIGHT

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 6PM - 8PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$15 PER PERSON

Have you got what it takes to be the WORD Lost the Plot champion of 2026? Join your effervescent host **Claudia Jardine** for a fun quiz like no other. Gather your team together for an evening of joyous competition and WORDy antics. Who doesn't love a quiz? Book tickets for your team of 4 to 6 people or come alone on the night – the choice is yours.



ART & DESIRE IN ITALY: OLIVIA LAING (UK) VIA VIDEO LINK

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 6PM - 7PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

Celebrated writer and critic **Olivia Laing's** *The Silver Book* is a queer love story and noirish thriller set in stylish 1970s Italy, which intertwines political intrigue with the making of classic cinema. Laing's previous non-fiction bestsellers include *The Lonely City* and *The Garden Against Time*. In this special digital event, they speak to **Kiran Dass** live from their home in Suffolk, UK.



ŌTAUTAHĪ POETRY SLAM FINAL

PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 7PM - 9.30PM
SPACE ACADEMY, \$10

The Ōtautahi Poetry Slam returns to WORD Christchurch! Poets will be throwing down like their lives depend on it, raising the bar a little more over three intense rounds. Did they nail it? YOU be the judge – the audience rules at the Poetry Slam. Live at Christchurch's underground literary heart Space Academy.





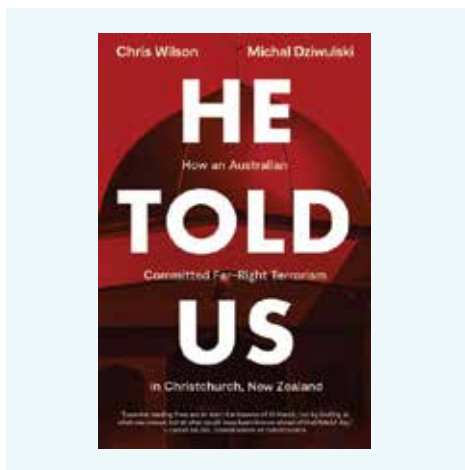
LETTERS OUT LOUD

PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 8PM – 9.15PM
THE PIANO, \$45 / \$37

Papers past, read by some of our favourite voices in the festival including **Elisabeth Easter** and **Ariana Tikao** (Kāi Tahu). From heartfelt tearjerkers to laugh-out-loud funny, these letters from the archives bring history to life through the private correspondence of remarkable historical figures and everyday heroes alike. A special night of storytelling via scrawled messages and typewriter ink. Hosted by **Jo Randerson**.

Presented with Friends of the Turnbull Library, with assistance from the MacMillan Brown Library



HE TOLD US

NON-FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 10AM – 11AM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

He Told Us shows how a far-right terrorist escaped detection ahead of Christchurch's 2019 attack. Terrorism researchers **Chris Wilson** and **Michal Dziwulski** uncovered crucial information that official agencies missed. The book demands we learn from the attack to help prevent future atrocities. They're joined by **Sara Qasem** who lost her father on 15 March and describes the book as "a necessary and unflinching account." In conversation with **Lianne Dalziel**.



SHORT STORIES: THE ART OF THE GLIMPSE

FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.30AM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

The writer William Trevor said the short story form is defined by “the art of the glimpse.” It should be an explosion of truth. Its strength lies in what it leaves out just as much as what it puts in, if not more. Short story writers **Ingrid Horrocks**, the 2026 Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction winner, **Shariff Burke** and **Laura Borrowdale** join **Kate De Goldi** for a conversation about the craft of the short story and their latest collections.



THE CRASH: SALLY WENLEY ((▷))

NON-FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 12PM – 1PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

In 1987, **Sally Wenley** was a driven, fun-loving and at times naughty high school sports prefect. After a fatal bus trip she became a paraplegic, her sporting dreams in tatters. Decades later, Sally looks squarely at the accident and her risk-taking younger self who used alcohol and arrogance to mask physical pain and trauma. Now an award-winning radio reporter, Sally chats with **Charlotte Glennie** about her revealing and at times hilarious memoir.





SHORTLAND POUNAMU

NON-FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM - 1.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, PAY WHAT YOU WISH

Taonga are potent connectors travelling across space, time, and generations. Imbued with the whakapapa of our tīpuna, they connect our past, present and future. Join Ngāi Tahu Archive panellists and historians **Atholl Anderson** (Ngāi Tahu), **Helen Brown** (Ngāi Tahu), **Takerei Norton** (Ngāi Tahu), and **Michael Stevens** (Ngāi Tahu), as they share the story of the Shortland Pounamu and its namesake, friend of Ngāi Tahu, Edward Shortland.

Brought to you by the Ngāi Tahu Research Centre



THE BLACK MONK: CHARLOTTE GRIMSHAW

FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 2PM - 3PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

Charlotte Grimshaw, one of our most celebrated writers returns with a part psychological thriller, part family saga, *The Black Monk*, her first novel since her sensational memoir *The Mirror Book*. Children's book writer Alice is confronted by her brother's spiral into addiction and the memories evoked by their shared past. Charlotte joins **Elisabeth Easther** to discuss her daring new novel, which explores shame, addiction, truth and the stories we tell to survive.



THE FIORDLAND DEER RECOVERY

NON-FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 2.30PM - 3.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

This story of helicopter deer recovery in Fiordland is told through the lives of three brothers, Gary, Mark and Kim Hollows. A story of adventure, luck and colourful characters, *The Hollows Boys* is about the true cost of the industry, the legacy of the loss of a brother, a friend, a son or a father – all set within the magnificent Fiordland National Park. Writer **Peta Carey** joins **Saige England** in conversation.



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ((•))

NON-FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 4PM - 6PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

World-leading Pacific correspondent, **Barbara Dreaver** (*Be Brave*) has covered coups, criminal activity and natural disasters across the Pacific for over 30 years. TVNZ's first Asia correspondent **Charlotte Glennie** (*Every Second Counts*) has also worked for the BBC and ABC, covering the aftermath of the 2004 Asian tsunami and the impacts of the Afghanistan war. They join **Lauren Quaintance** to talk about their powerful memoirs.

Brought to you by The Press



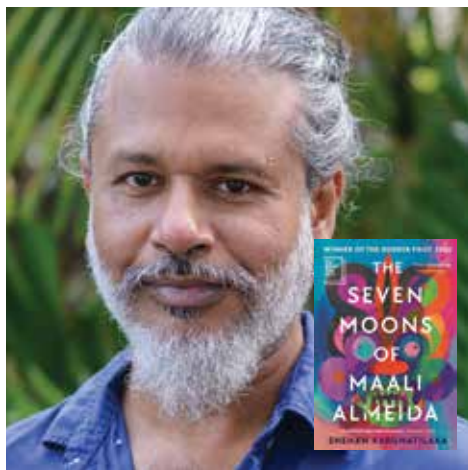


MORTIFIED: PAX ASSADI

NON-FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 4.30PM - 5.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

The hilarious **Pax Assadi** has herded ducks in West Auckland, experienced catastrophic culture shock in Pakistan, and been catfished, conned, heartbroken and humbled. The award-winning comedian, TV writer and *Taskmaster NZ* competitor joins **pip adam** to discuss his joyfully chaotic and painfully honest memoir and what we gain by embracing our shameful moments.



BOOKER PRIZE WINNER SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA

FICTION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 6PM - 7PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

The judges for the 2022 Booker Prize praised **Shehan Karunatilaka's** winning novel *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* for the ambition of its scope and its hilarious audacity. Set amid Sri Lanka's civil war, the darkly comic ghost story explores violence, corruption, love and memory with wit, political insight and unforgettable imagination. A new resident in Ōtautahi Christchurch, Shehan joins **Brannavan Gnanalingam** in conversation.

*Brought to you by Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha
University of Canterbury*



CABINET OF CURIOSITIES: TINY LECTURES ON THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM - 7.45PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$35

Snap up your tickets to this riotous session of tiny lectures. Five writers share their weird and wonderful deep obsessions! What previously hidden truths will we discover about **Bryce Galloway**, **Jo Randerson**, **John Summers**, **Molly Crighton** and **Erik Kennedy**? Anything goes, and all will only be revealed on the night. Hosted by **Erin Harrington**.

Brought to you by Empire9



RISKY WOMEN ((v))

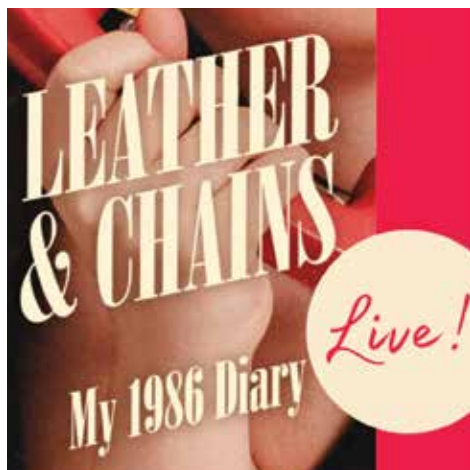
KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 8PM - 9.30PM
THE PIANO, \$45 / \$37

Our much-loved storytelling session is back and promises to be as revealing and inspiring as ever. Brilliant wāhine talk about when they took a risk – in love, life or career – and what happened next. Hear real and raw stories from journalist **Sally Wenley**, Pacific correspondent **Barbara Dreaver**, award-winning writer **Elizabeth Knox** and actor and writer **Elisabeth Easther**. Hosted by **Stacey Morrison** (Ngāi Tahu, Te Arawa).

Brought to you by Craigs Investment Partners.





LEATHER & CHAINS: LIVE!

PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 8.30PM – 9.30PM
LITTLE ANDROMEDA, \$30 / \$20

In *Leather & Chains: My 1986 Diary*, poet **Kate Camp** interrogates her teenage accounts of sex, drugs, and risk-taking. See it unfold live on stage, and play a round of 1986 bingo.

“If you ever get to see Kate Camp read from her 14yo diary do it, F*ing do it.”**

– Melody Thomas.



READING FOR PLEASURE BOOK SALON

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 10AM – 11AM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

Three fabulous writers and book lovers **Charlotte Grimshaw**, **Claire Mabey** and **Shariff Burke** sit down for a chat with Te Awhi Rito Reading Ambassador **Kate De Goldi**, each sharing three books that have inspired them and helped spark their latest work. You're guaranteed to walk away with a reading list of future favourites.



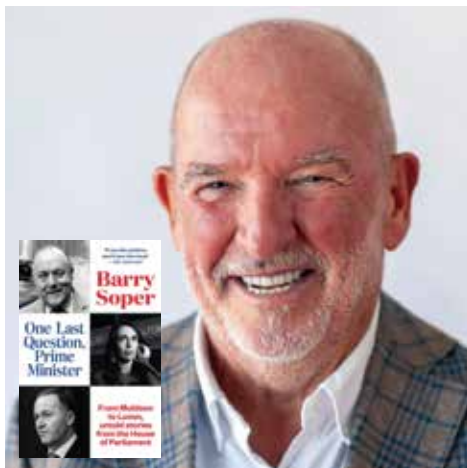
SMALL PRESS, BIG IMPACT

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.30AM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ,
\$26 / \$20

Going up against the big guns in the book world, it's small independent presses who do the hard yards finding and publishing diverse talent. Taking risks can pay off, with new writers going on to win awards.

Damien Levi (Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi) (Āporo Press), **Laura Borrowdale** (ngā pukapuka pekapeka) and **Murdoch Stephens** (Lawrence & Gibson, which celebrates its 21st this year) come together with **Brannavan Gnanalingam** to discuss.



ONE LAST QUESTION, PRIME MINISTER

NON-FICTION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.30AM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

Journalist **Barry Soper** has spent nearly five decades questioning New Zealand's prime ministers. From the imposing characters of Rob Muldoon and David Lange, to the golden age of Helen Clark and John Key, and the post-Covid era of Jacinda Ardern and the 'Chrises'. Barry's insight and nose for a story are second to none. He joins **Philip Matthews** for a frank conversation about his career.





ZINEFEST

COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 5 AND SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 11AM - 4PM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ,
FREE

Come along to the fest within a fest! Zinefest is a whānau friendly day celebrating zine culture, small press and self-publishing in Ōtautahi and across Aotearoa. Pick up some local zines, stickers and lovingly handcrafted ephemera in the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū foyer over the WORD weekend.



MANA: TĀME ITI ((•))

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 12PM - 1PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

Iconic Māori activist, artist and performer **Tāme Iti** (Ngāi Tūhoe) sits down with **Delaney Davidson** to share tales from his extraordinary life of resistance, resilience and rangatiratanga. After being silenced from speaking te reo Māori as a child, Tāme went on to champion its revitalisation. He shares how he discovered the power of protest and what it means to live with mana in a world that often tries to strip it away.



STAKES: NOELLE MCCARTHY

NON-FICTION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM - 1.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

Growing up in Catholic Ireland, **Noelle McCarthy** was captivated by the fantasy of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, a risk-free alternative to the fraught realities of desire. Twenty years later, in her memoir *Stakes*, Noelle returns to *Dracula*, reckoning with her own history and a changing world: generation-spanning shame and trauma given voice by the #MeToo movement and the horrors emerging from Irish soil. She joins **Claire Mabey** in conversation.



WORKING CLASS HEROES

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM - 1.30PM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ,
\$26 / \$20

Dominic Hoey (*1985*) and **pip adam** (*Kluge*) discuss and celebrate the importance of seeing working class characters and stories on the page. In conversation with **Juanita Hepi** (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi) they talk about how work, class and real life collide in literature.





WILD TIMES: FOOD FARM X GATHERINGS LUNCH

KAI

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM - 2.30PM
GATHERINGS, 2 PAPANUI ROAD, \$135 PP

While spring emerges and uncertain weather increases, we're grounding ourselves in seasonal produce as The Food Farm comes to the city. Working with long-time friend **Alex Davies**, chef at Gatherings, **Angela Clifford** and **Nick Gill** will serve dishes using wild foods, herbs and vegetables to suit the season and share stories from their book *The Food Farm*. Together, they'll weave through the menu some of the more unusual ingredients The Food Farm grows and preserves. A unique, intimate and very special meal full of stories. Limited Places.



ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN: GRANT ROBERTSON

NON-FICTION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 2PM - 3PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

In his optimistic memoir *Anything Could Happen*, former deputy prime minister **Grant Robertson** reflects on the major events in his life, including his highly successful career as a Labour politician and finance minister in the Ardern government during one of our most tumultuous times. He shares some of these stories with **Philip Matthews**.

This event will be NZSL Interpreted

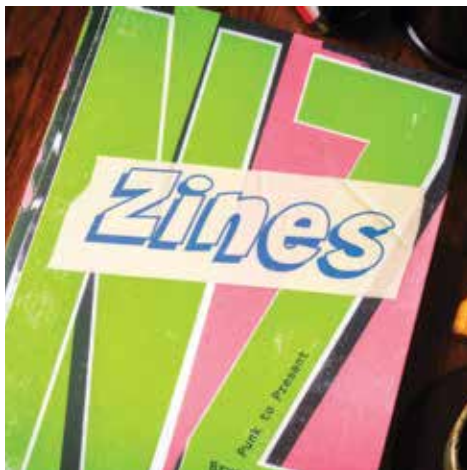


RANGATAHI BOOGIE

COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 2PM - 3PM
BY THE EDMONDS BAND ROTUNDA

Tamariki mā! Hey kids! It's time for familiar tunes, brand new songs and fun stories with **Cubbin Theatre!** Grab your parents, siblings and mates, and head to the Edmonds Band Rotunda by the Ōtākaro Avon River on Saturday afternoon. The Christchurch City Libraries mobile van will be parked up, so you can load up on books and explore the tech while you're there!



ZINES NZ: BRYCE GALLOWAY

NON-FICTION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 2.30PM - 3.30PM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ,
FREE

Lo-fi, hand-built and produced in small editions by devoted zinesters, zines are an ever-evolving and enduring publishing phenomenon – just check out Zinefest! In his beautifully illustrated book *Zines NZ*, **Bryce Galloway** celebrates the Aotearoa zine story, from our first punk rock music zine in 1980 to today. He sits down with **Brannavan Gnanalingam** to discuss the resourceful form.





A LIFE IN FORENSICS

NON-FICTION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 2.30PM - 3.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

Two of Aotearoa New Zealand's most accomplished forensic investigators come together for a fascinating glimpse into working on crime scenes and disaster zones including the Christchurch earthquakes. The writer of *The Dead Speak*, **Thomas Coyle** has worked as a forensic scientist for New Scotland Yard and the New Zealand Police. Writer of *The Blood Says Otherwise*, **Ruben Miller** is a senior forensic homicide scientist who has worked on high-profile and challenging investigations. They join **Lianne Dalziel** in conversation.



WRITING FROM FAMILY: ELIZABETH KNOX & CHARLOTTE GRIMSHAW (C)

NON-FICTION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 4PM - 5PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

Award-winning novelists **Elizabeth Knox** and **Charlotte Grimshaw** have each written searing memoirs. In *Night, Ma*, Elizabeth details a string of shocking calamities with frankness and humor. In *The Mirror Book*, Charlotte looks beyond the public face of her family life to the messy reality. They chat with fellow memoirist **Noelle McCarthy**.



THE NEW MASCULINITY

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 4.30PM - 5.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

What does it mean to be a modern man? Four writers chat about tackling masculinity: **Breton Dukes** (*Party Boy*) on facing past ghosts at 50, **Lawrence Patchett** (*Have This Heart*) on the craving for real connection, **John Summers** (*Green Sea*) on the humiliating isolation of getting lost in the Kiwi bush, and Filipino-Kiwi **Joseph Trinidad** (*Lucky Creatures*) on his journey of coming out. In conversation with **Damien Levi** (Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi).



HOME AGAIN: JON TOOGOOD

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 6PM - 7PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

With over 35 years in the music industry, Shihad's **Jon Toogood** is a legend of local hard rock. Named after the iconic single 'Home Again', Jon's memoir covers a lot of ground – some of which he'll discuss with the Booker prize-winning music-lover **Shehan Karunatilaka**, with a few songs played along the way.





THE POETRY POWERHOUSE

PERFORMANCE

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM - 7.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

Gather your crew and soak up the energy of this spirited live poetry showcase. A powerhouse lineup of poets **Nam Le** (Australia), **Kate Camp**, **Ariana Tikao** (Kāi Tahu), **Sara Qasem**, **Joanna Preston**, **Rebecca Hawkes** and **Erik Kennedy** take the stage to bring their words to life and celebrate the power of poetry.

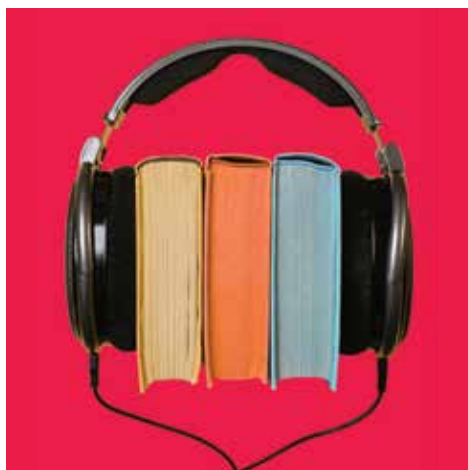


SECRET ART POWERS WITH JO RANDESON

PERFORMANCE

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 6.30PM - 7.30PM
LITTLE ANDROMEDA, \$30 / \$20

What secret powers do artists use daily? How might they help us navigate these complex, changing times? Join celebrated writer and artist **Jo Randerson** for this special, interactive, visionary event where they will reveal how to apply and infuse Secret Art Powers into your daily life and encourage radical social change in our communities today. Expect a laugh-out-loud time with one of our greatest creative minds.

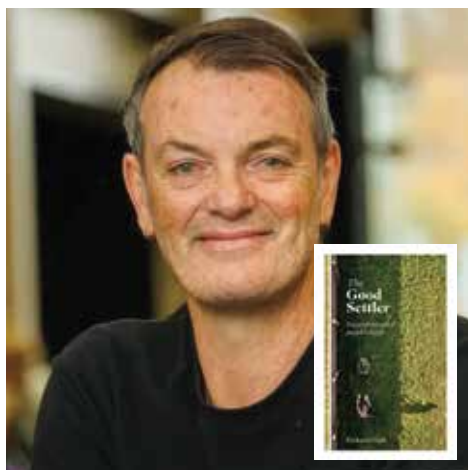


I WISH I WROTE THAT

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 8PM - 9PM
THE PIANO, \$45 / \$37

Writers share a favourite song or book that they adore. Join **Grant Robertson**, **Shehan Karunatilaka**, **pip adam**, **Jon Toogood**, and **Elizabeth Knox** as they each present a love letter to a work that has had an indelible impact on their lives. Be introduced to new musical and literary gems and gain new ways of looking at old favourites. Hosted by **Lizzie Tollemache**.



THE GOOD SETTLER: RICHARD SHAW (C)

NON-FICTION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 10AM - 11AM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

One of our most popular 2024 guests returns to WORD! Politics professor and writer **Richard Shaw's** new book *The Good Settler* is the third in a trilogy by one of our most incisive writers on decolonisation. His books explore the complicated realities of Pākehā with long settler histories in Aotearoa New Zealand. He joins **Helen Brown** (Ngāi Tahu) in conversation.





HOW WILL I EVER GET THROUGH THIS? LUCY HONE

NON-FICTION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.30AM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

Psychologist and resilience expert **Dr Lucy Hone** offers us compassionate, practical guidance for navigating grief and loss. Drawing on personal experience and cutting-edge research, she explores how we endure heartbreak, rebuild meaning and find strength through life's most difficult moments. You'll leave feeling more resilient and better equipped to face the future. In conversation with **Sarah van der Kley**.

Brought to you by Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury



ADVENTUROUS WOMEN: GOLDFIELDS AND MOUNTAINS

NON-FICTION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.30AM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ, \$26 / \$20

Two timely books reclaim the stories of pioneering women in Aotearoa history. **Julia Bradshaw's** *Digging Deep* uncovers the forgotten women – adventurers, entrepreneurs and survivors – in the harsh nineteenth century goldfields of Aotearoa. In *Great Hearts: First Ladies of Aoraki Mount Cook*, **Hazel Phillips** writes women mountaineers from the 1870s back into our history. They join **Saige England** in conversation.



ŌTAUTAHĪ & ŌTĀKARO WALKING TOUR

COMMUNITY

**SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 11AM - 12.30PM,
FROM TĀKARO-A-POI/MARGARET MAHY PLAYGROUND,
\$35 / \$30**

Nau mai, tauti mai! Join **Joseph Hullen** (Ngāi Tūāhuriri/Ngāti Hinematua) for a fascinating walking tour of the central city. Learn about some of the Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tūāhuriri identity and historical narratives woven into the Ōtautahi Christchurch streetscape following the 2011 Christchurch and Canterbury earthquakes.

Brought to you by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu



CROSS PARTY LINES: LIVE

NON-FICTION

**SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 12PM - 1PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20**

Hosted by **Phil Goff** and **Chris Finlayson**, *Cross Party Lines* is this election year's hottest ticket. With two leading voices from opposite sides of the political aisle, it offers an insiders' guide to the big issues, and explains our place on the complex geopolitical stage. Don't miss this special live edition of the podcast that challenges the status quo.

Brought to you by Publica





CURIOUS ARTEFACTS OF ŌTAUTAHĪ

NON-FICTION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM – 1.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, PAY WHAT YOU WISH

Every city has secrets buried beneath it, just waiting to be discovered. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to discover Ōtautahi Christchurch's buried secrets, as archaeologists **Katharine Watson** and **Jessie Garland** from the Christchurch Archaeology Project share and discuss some of the weird and wonderful artefacts they've found, and the fascinating stories behind them. Short talks about weird artefacts. Come curious.



NEW AOTEAROA GOTHIC

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 12.30PM – 1.30PM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O
WAIWHETŪ, \$26 / \$20

Aotearoa has a long-held gothic tradition in our literature, art, film and music. There's a fresh take rising, from the rural gothic of **Laura Vincent's** *Hood's Landing*, the gothic grandeur of Dunedin's St Paul's Cathedral in **Molly Crichton's** *The Body and the Blood*, to the gothic underbelly of domestic life in **Laura Borrowdale's** *Dead Ends*. They sit down with *Dracula* obsessive **Noelle McCarthy** (*Stakes*) to discuss.



PĀTAHI: RE-STORYING THE LIFE OF A WĀHINE MATĀTOA

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 2PM - 3PM
THE PIANO, PAY WHAT YOU WISH

Join wāhine Kāi Tahu **Angela Wanhalla**, **Helen Brown** and **Cindy Diver** in conversation as they discuss their own connection with the compelling life story of their tipuna Pātahi, a legendary South Island storyteller, adventurer, gold prospector and pounamu fossicker. From archival record to thesis, biography, and a recent stage-play at the Court Theatre, and digital animation, hear how the re-storying of Pātahi has illuminated the life of this nineteenth century wāhine matātoa.

Brought to you by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu



GHOSTS IN THE MACHINES: TECHNOLOGY & AI IN FICTION

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 2.30PM - 3.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

In a future shaped by “intelligent machines”, what can remain uniquely human? Told in the style of a stand-up comedy special, **pip adam’s** new novel *Kluge* is a workplace satire about artificial intelligence and the value of a body. In his novel *Nova*, **Tim Corballis** explores the relationship between humans and machines in a self-contained world launched into deep time. They join **Nic Low** (Ngāi Tahu) in conversation.





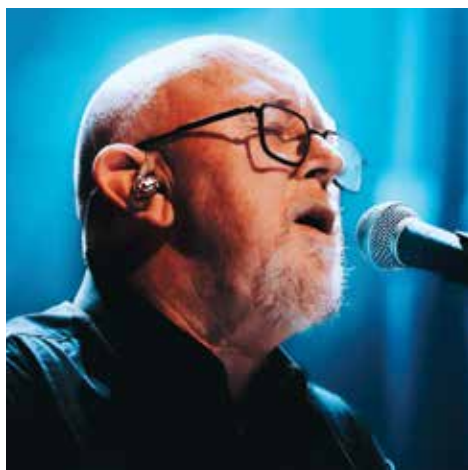
THE JULIE KING MEMORIAL LECTURE: BETWEEN DREAMS

NON-FICTION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 2.30PM - 3.30PM
CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETŪ,
FREE

Grace Gassin, Curator Asian New Zealand Histories at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, observes in the book *Between Dreams*: “Dreaming is an active state. It is a time when we engage with our past and play with ... our potential futures.” For this talk, she explores featured pieces from Te Papa’s collection, illuminating what each reveals about Aotearoa’s Asian communities and their relationship with history in the present.

Presented by Friends of Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū courtesy of the Estate of Julie King



SONGWRITER SPEAKS: DAVE DOBBYN

KŌRERO/CONVERSATION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 4PM - 5PM
THE PIANO, \$26 / \$20

Dave Dobbyn has written the soundtrack to Kiwi lives. *Beside You, Be Mine Tonight, Language, Outlook for Thursday, It Dawned On Me, Slice of Heaven, Welcome Home ...* the list goes on. He’s a true ‘songwriter’s songwriter’, and in this special conversation Dave will be sharing tales of his career, as well as the stories behind some of his favourite work, and the inspiration of Aotearoa – the people and the place.

Brought to you by APRA AMCOS Aotearoa



INTO THE VALLEY: CRIME & PUNISHMENT

NON-FICTION

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 4.30PM - 5.30PM
TAUTORU / TSB SPACE, TŪRANGA, \$26 / \$20

Criminal defence lawyer **Asher Emanuel's** *The Valley* has made waves as an extraordinary once-in-a-generation work of investigative journalism. Scrupulously pulling together two years of field research and hundreds of hours of interviews, *The Valley* follows three Hutt Valley men through courtrooms, prison, hospital, rehab, boarding houses and welfare offices. A sensational insight into the Aotearoa criminal justice system. In conversation with **Rebecca Macfie**.



SONIC TONIC: WORDS & SOUND

PERFORMANCE

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 7PM - 9.30PM
SPACE ACADEMY, \$15

Celebrate the last day of the festival at a party where spoken word and improvised sound come together. Writers **Ariana Tikao** (Kāi Tahu), **Joseph Trinidad**, **Shariff Burke**, **Erik Kennedy**, **Dominic Hoey**, **Juanita Hepi** (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi) and **Molly Crighton** will read against a majestic aural backdrop from musicians **Rory Dalley**, **Reuben Derrick**, and **Peter Wright**.





CAN I LIVE?

FILM

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, FILM 6PM, PANEL 7PM – 8PM
THE PIANO, PAY WHAT YOU WISH

Conceived, written and performed by
Fehinti Balogun.

Can we save the planet without addressing social inequality? In this screening, **Fehinti Balogun** (*Down Cemetery Road*) tells the story of how, as a young Black British man, his path has been forever changed by what he's learnt about our planet. Using hip-hop and spoken word, *Can I Live?* is an energising and uplifting new digital performance and a call-to-arms to anyone curious about what we can do to help. Followed by a special post-film panel with

Tāme Iti (Ngāi Tūhoe), **MahMah Timotei** and **Paora Tapsell** (Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Raukawa), and one of the film's creators appearing via video link to chat about our local realities.

A Complicité production in association with the Barbican, London, supported by Doc Society and Oxford Playhouse. Supported by Arts Council England and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Supported by the British Council New Zealand and the Pacific

KATE GORDON-SMITH ON INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING

WORKSHOP

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 5.30PM – 7PM
KAIAPOI LIBRARY AND SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
11AM – 12.30PM, RANGIORA LIBRARY, FREE

Join local **Kate Gordon-Smith** to hear about her journey as an independently published author – what she did and why – followed by an optional opportunity for attendees to share their own projects with plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Brought to you by Waimakariri Libraries

WRITING FOR LIVE BODIES: A WORKSHOP FOR PLAYWRIGHTS

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 10AM – 4PM
THE COURT THEATRE, \$80

This workshop with acclaimed writer **Victor Rodger** is for both beginners and a refresher for experienced playwrights. This workshop will look at how to conceive and create a text that conveys a compelling story and how to think for live theatre and be subversive. It also covers how to begin and how to finish and how to make that journey. There will be tips and exercises on finding your way into the work, finding your voice, finding character, story and action, and finding the process to edit the text.

Brought to you by Playmarket



LAWRENCE PATCHETT: EDITING YOUR OWN WORK, EDITING OTHERS' WORK

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM – 12.30PM
AUAHA HIHI, TŪRANGA, \$55 / \$45

How can you edit your own writing after spending so many hours crafting it? What can help you deal with the saggy bits of the story, or those darling phrases that are clogging up the text? Editor and writer **Lawrence Patchett** shares some techniques in a workshop designed to give you more confidence to edit and improve your own and others' work. Bring a pencil for an exercise or two.

JOHN SUMMERS: THE CRAFT OF NON-FICTION

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 1PM – 2.30PM
AUAHA HIHI, TŪRANGA, \$55 / \$45

What does it take to write compelling non-fiction? **John Summers**, one of New Zealand's best long-form non-fiction writers, will share what he has learned across his career, from writing award-winning essays to his new book *Green Sea*. In this masterclass, expect practical insights into research, structure and storytelling, and opportunities to put these ideas into action on the page.

In partnership with Toi Ōtautahi

INGRID HORROCKS: THE RIGHT MOMENT: DISCOVERING STORIES THROUGH IMAGE AND SCENE

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 3.30PM - 5.30PM
AUAHA HIHI, TURANGA, \$55 / \$45

Ingrid Horrocks won the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction at the 2026 Ockham New Zealand Book awards for her short story collection *All Her Lives*. Short stories are often built around one key image or scene. Sometimes this image or scene can contain the suggestion of a whole life. This session with Ingrid will explore how writers find such suggestive moments and the work involved in making them into a story.

BRETON DUKES: WRITING FACT INTO FICTION

WORKSHOP

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM - 12.10PM
AUAHA HIHI, TURANGA, \$55 / \$45

Learn how to transform real experience into compelling fiction, using **Breton Dukes'** short story 'Bokarina' as a case study. Breton will take you through the process of writing 'Bokarina', revealing how he navigated crucial decisions: what to keep, what to discard, what to heighten, and where truth ends and fiction begins. Bring a story idea based on real events and make some transformations of your own.

JOANNA PRESTON: THE END OF THE LINE: AN INTRODUCTION

WORKSHOP

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 1PM - 3PM
AUAHA HIHI, TURANGA, \$55 / \$45

Join Canterbury's own Line Break Queen, **Joanna Preston** for a workshop that demystifies the most under-appreciated tool in the poet's toolbox: the line break. Pacing, emphasis, drama, surprise ... learn why poets break lines, and how, why and where to employ it in your own poems.

VOICES FROM THE PAST: WRITING ABOUT ARTEFACTS

WORKSHOP

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 3.30PM - 5.30PM
AUAHA HIHI, TURANGA, \$35 / \$25

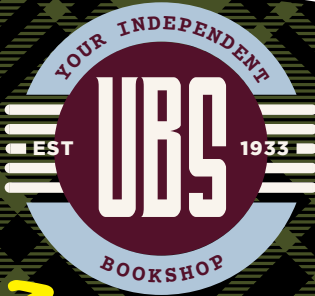
Get to know some of the fabulous artefacts discovered by the Christchurch Archaeology Project crew. Using the objects as writing prompts, learn about different ways to write your responses from the talented Write On tutors, and create new stories and poems. For anyone aged 11 and over.



Yes, you do need another book...

New Zealand titles, all the latest fiction, cookbooks, art, biography, history, children's books, beautiful gifts and stationery — we've got you covered instore + online.

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NZX Firm

SCHOOLS

HEY TEACHERS! BOOK YOUR STUDENTS INTO THESE SESSIONS. EMAIL SCHOOLS@WORDCHRISTCHURCH.CO.NZ

BOOKS ALIVE! FOR PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS

SCHOOLS

**THURSDAY 13 AUGUST AND FRIDAY 14 AUGUST,
10AM - 11.30AM DAILY, CHISNALLWOOD INTERMEDIATE
(THU) AND HILLMORTON HIGH SCHOOL (FRI),
FREE - REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL**

Kids, tell your teacher. Teachers, bring your class - we've got the best and brightest stars of the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults coming to Ōtautahi Christchurch! Award finalists **Giselle Clarkson** (*Omnibird*), **Heather Haylock** (*Koro Wētā, Granny McFlitter*) **Inangaro Vakaafi** (*Hunt for Niu Tupu*), **Sacha Cotter** (*A Guide to Rocks, Dazzlehands*) and **Toby Morris** (*Pūkeko Who-Keko?*) will get you inspired and excited about reading and writing.

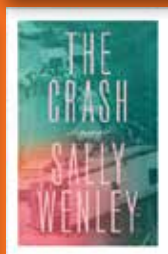
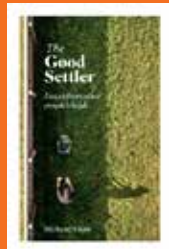
In partnership with the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults

INSPIRING MINDS: SECONDARY SCHOOLS DAY

**THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 10AM - 2PM,
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY TE WHARE WĀNANGA O
WAITAHA, FREE**

An amazing opportunity for students to listen to and meet exciting writers and do-ers who are movers and shakers in their fields. Our incredible line up includes writer **Claire Mabey**, illustrator **Hilary Jean Tapper**, journalist **Charlotte Glennie**, writer **Tania Roxborough**, New Zealand Rugby Sevens player and revitaliser of Sāmoan language **Jason Tiatia**, artist **Bryce Galloway**, comedian and writer **Pax Assadi** and writer and musician **Dominic Hoey**. Hosted by **Ekant Veer**.

With the support of Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury



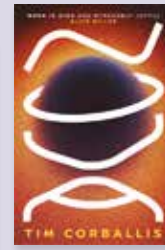
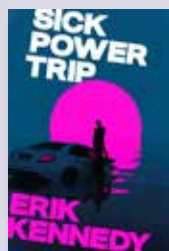
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WORD 2026.

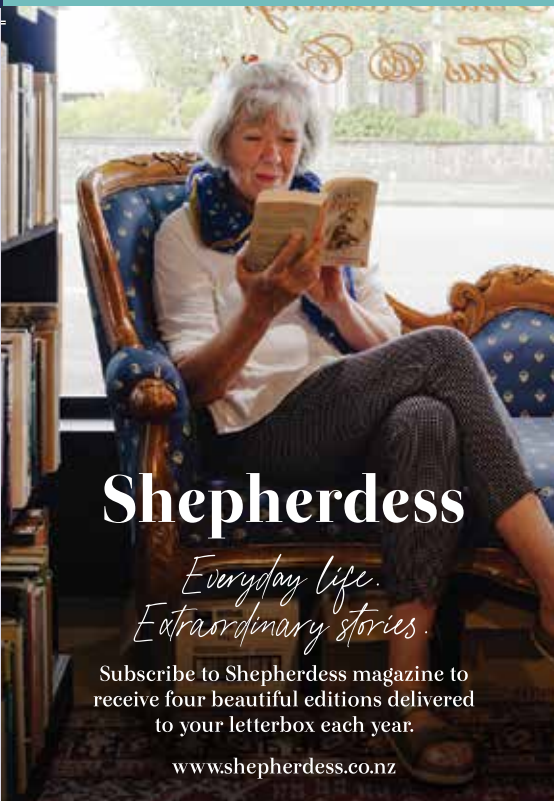
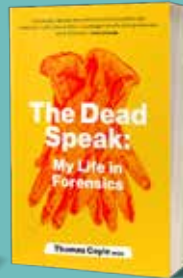
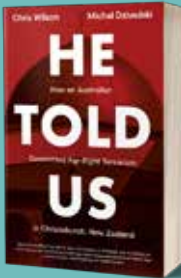
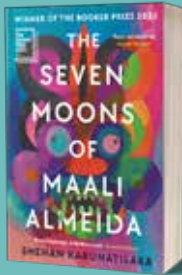
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these books.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY PRESS

Political journalist
Barry Soper on his career
spanning 50 years and
12 prime ministers, only
at WORD Christchurch.





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HOTELS & RESORTS

HOW TO BOOK AND KEY INFORMATION

Booking: Tickets to all WORD Christchurch Festival 2026 events are available via our website wordchristchurch.co.nz. We manage the ticketing for all events, excluding the Workshop for Playwrights, the Ōtautahi Poetry Slam and events at the Waimakariri Libraries.

All tickets purchased are subject to **Booking and Service fees**. Please see our website for further details.

Keen to see as much of WORD as possible? Buy 3 tickets or more and get 10% off with the code WORD10, or buy 5 tickets or more and get 20% off with the code WORD20

As part of our commitment to inclusion and accessibility, WORD has **Pay What You Wish pricing** for select events - you can choose to pay the amount you'd like. Please consider giving a donation to WORD at the ticket checkout.

Concession tickets are available for students with ID, Hāpai Card holders, Gold Card holders and Community Services Card holders. Service fees are the same for all tickets.

Accessibility: If you are a Hāpai Access Card holder with a +1 symbol we are pleased to provide your companion a free ticket for festival events.

Our website has more information on accessibility features of each venue. See wordchristchurch.co.nz/festival/accessibility/ or contact us.

If you require any assistance with **Seating Requirements** or need to make a wheelchair and/or companion booking please call the WORD Box Office directly on 020 410 29927 or email ticketing@wordchristchurch.co.nz. Calling hours are Monday to Friday, 9am - 5.30pm.

The *Anything Could Happen: Grant Robertson* event will be **NZSL interpreted**. Please note when booking if you require reserved seats near the interpreter.

Several of our **events in The Piano will be livestreamed** and available on-demand until Sunday 4 October. Look out for the (📺) symbol on events that have livestream tickets available.

Door Sales will be available at each venue for all sessions not already sold out from one hour before the start time.

Free events have limited capacity, we advise arriving early to secure your seat.

Book signings by our writers will be at their discretion and will take place immediately after each event. **Check out www.wordchristchurch.co.nz for more tips on how to have a great WORD festival time including parking and public transport options, food and drink options around our venues and more!**

The ticketing small print: Ticket prices are GST inclusive and subject to availability. Our events are General Admission and do not have allocated seating. Tickets are non-transferable between events. There are no refunds or exchanges on lost or stolen tickets. There are no exchanges or refunds on ticket price or service fees except as required by law. We reserve the right to not admit latecomers until a suitable point in the session.

WORD Christchurch reserves the right to change and update the schedule, speakers, or replace sessions. In the event of a cancellation the ticket price will be refunded. There will be no postponements. Transaction/service fees are non-refundable.

Privacy notice: WORD retains your contact details in order to keep you updated about our events. If you wish to unsubscribe please contact admin@wordchristchurch.co.nz. Our full Privacy Statement can be found on our website.

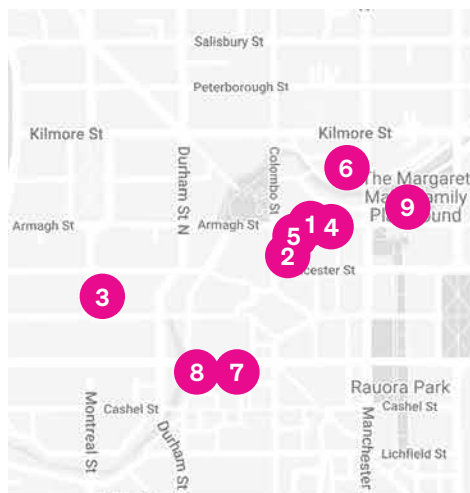
Filming, photography and sound recording all happen at WORD events for both publicity and our archives, and this often includes our audience. If you do not want to be filmed or photographed please let our ushers know. You are welcome to capture still shots of the festival for personal use but please, no flash photography.

Keep in touch: This programme is correct at the time of going to print, but changes can happen for reasons beyond our control. For the latest information please visit wordchristchurch.co.nz. Stay in the know by subscribing to the WORD Christchurch e-news on our website as well as our social media channels.

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[#wordchch](https://www.tiktok.com/@wordchch)



10 11 *Just outside of the map area shown

12 13 14 15 ** Outside of Christchurch City Central

EVENT LOCATIONS

1. **The Piano**, 156 Armagh Street
2. **Tūranga**, 60 Cathedral Square
3. **Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū**
Cnr Worcester Boulevard and Montreal Street
4. **The Last Word**, New Regent Street Precinct
5. **The Court Theatre**, 129 Gloucester Street
6. **Edmonds Band Rotunda**, 230 Cambridge Terrace
7. **Scorpio Books**, 120 Hereford Street
8. **Little Andromeda**, Level 1, 134 Oxford Terrace
9. **Margaret Mahy Family Playground**, Armagh Street
10. **Space Academy***, 371 Saint Asaph Street
11. **Gatherings***, 5/2 Papanui Road, Merivale
12. **Te Ara Ātea****, 56 Tennyson Street, Rolleston
13. **Kaiapoi Library****, 176 Williams Street, Kaiapoi
14. **Rangiora Library****, 141 Percival Street, Rangiora
15. **Rangiora Town Hall****, 303 High Street, Rangiora

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN OTAUTAHU

TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR NEXT PROJECT

WORD
CHRISTCHURCH
FESTIVAL & EVENTS

SCAPE
PUBLIC
ART

world
buskers
festival

The Piano

THE
COURT
THEATRE

PUBLICA

Saturday 15 August			Sunday 16 August		Friday 28 August			
11AM - 1PM		Books Come Alive! P:5	10.00AM - 1.00PM		Reading Rave P:5	5.30PM - 7.30PM	Fuego Volume 4 Launch P:6	
Tuesday 1 September			Wednesday 2 September					
5PM			5PM					
			Book Launch: Green Sea by John Summer P:7					
6PM			6PM					
7PM			7PM		All Things Romantasy P:7	Cocktails & Tarot P:8	Ōtautahi Youth Poetry Slam P:8	
8PM			8PM					
9PM			9PM					
Thursday 3 September								
5PM								
6PM			6PM					
7PM			7PM					
8PM			8PM					
9PM			9PM					
Friday 4 September								
10AM			10AM					
11AM			11AM					
12PM			12PM					
1PM			1PM					
2PM			2PM					
3PM			3PM					
4PM			4PM					
5PM			5PM					
6PM			6PM					
7PM			7PM					
8PM			8PM					
9PM			9PM					

- The Piano
- Margaret Mahy Family Playground
- Space Academy
- Scorpio Books
- Tūranga
- The Last Word
- Te Ara Ātea
- Rangiora Town Hall
- Little Andromeda
- Edmonds Band Rotunda
- Gatherings
- Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū
- Kaipoi Library and Rangiora Library
- The Court Theatre

Saturday 5 September

10AM	Reading For Pleasure Book Salon P.17	Workshop for Playwrights P.34				
11AM	Ōtautahi Zinefest P.19		One Last Question, Prime Minister P.18	Small Press, Big Impact P.18	Lawrence Pratchett: Editing your own work, editing others' work P.34	Kate Gordon Smith Independent Publishing workshop P.34
12PM			Mana: Tāme Iti P.19			
1PM			John Summers masterclass P.34	Stakes: Noelle McCarthy P.20	Wild Times: Food Farm x Gatherings Lunch P.21	Working Class Heroes P.20
2PM			A Life in Forensics P.23	Anything Could Happen: Grant Robertson P.21	Zines NZ: Bryce Galloway P.22	Rangatahi Boogie P.22
3PM			Ingrid Horrocks workshop P.35			
4PM				Writing From Family P.23	The New Masculinity P.24	
5PM						
6PM	Home Again: Jon Toogood P.24					
7PM		The Poetry Powerhouse P.25	Secret Art Powers with Jo Randerson P.25			
8PM					I Wish I Wrote That P.26	

Sunday 6 September

10AM	The Good Settler: Richard Shaw P.26					
11AM	Ōtautahi Zinefest P.19	Adventurous Women: Goldfields and Mountains P.27	Breton Dukes workshop P.35	How Will I Ever Get Through This? Lucy Hone P.27		
12PM					Ōtautahi & Ōtākaro Walking Tour P.28	Cross Party Lines: Live P.28
1PM		Curious Artefacts of Ōtautahi P.29	New Aotearoa Gothic P.29			
2PM				Joanna Preston workshop P.35	Pātahi: Re-storying the life of a wāhine matātoa P.30	Ghosts in the Machines P.30
3PM		The Julie King Memorial Lecture P.31				
4PM			Voices from the Past: Writing about Artefacts workshop P.35	Songwriter Speaks: Dave Dobbyn P.31	Into The Valley: Crime & Punishment P.32	
5PM						
6PM		Can I Live? P.33				
7PM				Sonic Tonic: Words & Sound P.32		

SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRING MINDS



The University of Canterbury (UC) is proud to celebrate 10 years of partnership with the WORD Christchurch Festival.

We love supporting the arts in Canterbury and hosting the festival's Inspiring Minds sessions, introducing hundreds of secondary school students to the power of words.

Enjoy the exciting 2026 WORD Christchurch Festival. We'll see you there.

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