



# NB

dunedin public libraries' magazine • september – october 2017 • issue 46

TE KORE BY JAMES BELLANEY (article page 10)

FREE

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# DUNEDIN UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE ROBERT BURNS POETRY COMPETITION

1 SEPT – 30 NOV 2017

WRITE A POEM IN ENGLISH OR  
SCOTS, INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OR  
WORKS OF ROBERT BURNS.

#### CATEGORIES:

- Published Poet
- Unpublished Poet
- Young Poet

#### ENTRY FORMS & INFORMATION

##### PICK UP

Dunedin Public Libraries

##### DOWNLOAD

[www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events)

##### REQUEST

(03) 474 3690 or [library@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:library@dcc.govt.nz)

##### PRIZE-GIVING

Thursday 25 January 2018  
5pm | 4th Floor | City Library

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY: Dunedin Burns' Club, University of Otago, Otago District Council, Dunedin Public Libraries Association (Friends of Dunedin Public Libraries), Dunedin - Edinburgh Sister City Society and Otago Scottish Heritage Council



## CARNIVAL OF COSTUME

Other than on your ultimate fantasy dinner guest list, where could you expect to see Princess Leia dancing with morris men, or steampunk pirates battling it out with an Arthurian knight?

When in your wildest dreams would you be witness to a conversation between Queen Elizabeth I and Iron Man, or hear a rockabilly band jamming with a Renaissance quartet?

All things are possible at the 2017 Carnival of Costume!

*Visitors are welcome to dress up and be part of the spectacle*

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:** Dunedin Gasworks Museum and the Dunedin Medieval and Renaissance Society

**VISIT:** Carnival of Costume Facebook page:  
[fb.me/dunedinlibraryevents](https://fb.me/dunedinlibraryevents) for updates

28 – 29 October | 11am – 4pm

NB

september – october 2017 / issue 46

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Designer Casey Thomas

Distribution 1,300 copies per issue

Online [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz)

Readers 3,000 approximately

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Advertising (03) 474 3419

Dunedin Public Libraries is  
a department of the Dunedin  
City Council.

Reviewers' opinions expressed  
within this publication are their  
own and not necessarily those of  
Dunedin Public Libraries.

ISSN 1174-1074 (Print)

ISSN 1174-1198 (Online)

## Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

"Are libraries still a thing in New Zealand?" I was recently asked this question by a UK resident concerned about closures of libraries there and the impact that had on children in particular. I told her that, yes, New Zealand public libraries are busy and lively places and that every library member in Dunedin, including babies and young children, can have up to thirty items out at a time. She was amazed and impressed.

Dunedin Public Libraries have always been committed to providing an excellent collection and service to the children of Dunedin; our library led the way in this country by offering the first free lending library to children in 1910. The children's library collection and service went on to become a benchmark, under the inspiring leadership of Dorothy Neal White, author of **About Books for Children** and **Books before Five**. Our children's book collections today are built upon the wonderful collections established by her. She was passionate about getting children hooked on reading.

The strength of our collections, as well as the **Children's Literature Research** collection (which focuses on the history of children's literature, illustration, storytelling, author biographies and lists of best books) inspired me to begin the quarterly meeting, **Continued Sense of Wonder**. This brings together local adults with either a professional interest in or a personal passion for children's and young adult books. I recently wrote about this group for **The Sapling**, an online magazine dedicated to promoting discussion about children's literature. You can read the article at: [www.thesapling.co.nz/single-post/2017/07/26/A-continued-sense-of-wonder](http://www.thesapling.co.nz/single-post/2017/07/26/A-continued-sense-of-wonder)

JACKIE MCMILLAN, COLLECTION SPECIALIST

# WHAT'S ON

## KNITWIT TUESDAY

Experienced or beginner knitters of all ages are invited to join our weekly knitting group. Bring your own wool and knitting needles, and maybe a pattern or two to swap with fellow knitters.

**SUITABLE** for all ages, no unaccompanied children under 15

**Every Tuesday evening (excluding public holidays), 6pm – 8pm, City Library**

## COMPETITIONS

### JEALOUS SABOTEURS: TEEN WRITING COMPETITION

Create a piece of writing inspired by Francis Upritchard's exhibition, *Jealous Saboteurs* at Dunedin Public Art Gallery. The exhibition runs until 26 November 2017. Visit the exhibition and pick up an entry form from the Art Gallery or any Dunedin Public Library for more details or enter online via our competition entry page [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/our-competitions](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/our-competitions)

Entry is restricted to high school students in years 9 to 13, and there are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd-place

winners. The competition will be judged by Dunedin writer, David Eggleton and Kings High School Librarian, Bridget Schaumann.

**ENTRIES CLOSE:** 28 October 5pm

**WINNERS NOTIFIED:** 15 November

**PRIZE-GIVING:** Sunday 3 December, 12 noon, Dunedin Public Art Gallery

In association with the Francis Upritchard exhibition *Jealous Saboteurs*, and in collaboration with Dunedin Public Libraries and Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature. Check the Dunedin Public Art Gallery events page for further upcoming details of the exhibition. Any queries, contact Lynda Cullen 4743249. This touring exhibition, *Francis Upritchard: Jealous Saboteurs* is a joint partnership with Monash University Museum of Art and City Gallery, Wellington.

### DUNEDIN UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE ROBERT BURNS POETRY COMPETITION 2017

Write a poem in English or Scots, inspired by the life or works of Robert Burns.

Three categories of entry, with cash

prizes, medals, certificates and an invitation to the 2018 Dunedin Burns Club Supper on 25th January:

**PUBLISHED POET:** adult poets who have had poems published for payment

**UNPUBLISHED POET:** adult poets who have not had poems published for payment

**YOUTH POET:** young poets aged under 18

Prizes generously sponsored by Otago Scottish Heritage Council (Published Poet – \$1000), Dunedin Public Libraries Association (Unpublished Poet – \$500), Edinburgh-Dunedin Sister City Association (Youth Poet – \$500).

Pick up an entry form with full details from your local Dunedin Public Library or visit [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/our-competitions/robert-burns-poetry-competition](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/our-competitions/robert-burns-poetry-competition)

## FESTIVALS

### 16TH LATIN AMERICA & SPAIN FILM FESTIVAL

The only Film Festival in New Zealand dedicated to contemporary cinematographic productions from Latin

America and Spain. Eleven films subtitled in English. FREE admission.

**VISIT:** [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events) for full details of the Festival

**28 September – 12 October**  
4th Floor, City Library

## CARNIVAL OF COSTUME

When in your wildest dreams would you be witness to a conversation between Queen Elizabeth I and Iron Man, or hear a rockabilly band jamming with a Renaissance quartet?

All things are possible at the 2017 Carnival of Costume!

Proudly supported by Dunedin Gasworks Museum and the Dunedin Medieval and Renaissance Society

Check the Carnival of Costume Facebook page: [fb.me/dunedinlibraryevents](https://fb.me/dunedinlibraryevents) for updates

**28 – 29 October, 11am – 4pm, City Library**

## REED GALLERY EXHIBITION: PLAIN TO ORNATE

The Reed Gallery exhibition *Plain to Ornate: Bookbindings from the Reed Collection* contains a myriad of bookbindings ranging from humble to deluxe, from plain to ornate.

**Runs until Sunday 8 October**  
3rd Floor, City Library

## DR YORAM'S BRAIN HEALTH SERIES

Continuing this series of talks about brain health, Yoram Barak, recently-appointed Associate Professor of Psychogeriatrics at the Dunedin School of Medicine, shares his knowledge of Alzheimer's disease and prevention.

Find out what you can do to improve and maintain your brain health in this fascinating series of talks.

**Fortnightly on Thursday's 6pm – 7pm**  
4th Floor, City Library

**PART 3:** The Social Brain, the impact of loneliness on brain health:  
Thursday 7 September

**PART 4:** Brain Engagement, the benefits of music and meditation:  
Thursday 21 September

**PART 5:** Finale, real world brain maintenance: Thursday 5 October

## FOR THE KIDS

### ONCE UPON A SUNDAY

#### DADDY COOL

Bring your dad along for a special Father's Day storytime with Kaitrin McMullan, and tell us why your daddy's cool.

**Sunday 3 September, 2pm, Children's Storypit, Ground Floor, City Library**

#### ANIMAL TAILS

St Francis of Assisi loved all animals. Come along for a special storytime with NZ sign language, and celebrate our furry, feathered and scaly friends.

Make a cute animal tail to take home and wear.

For children of all ages.

**Sunday 1 October, 2pm, Children's Storypit, Ground Floor, City Library**

## KIA ORA: RAINBOW ROSALIND

Children's entertainer, Rainbow Rosalind, will have you up and dancing, singing and learning new things. Enjoy singing along to some fun songs and stay on to get your face painted afterwards!

**SUITABLE** for children aged 0–7

**Tuesday 5 September**  
11am  
Mosgiel Library





# HOT TOPIC: BIOGRAPHICAL FICTION

Reading novels based on the life of an historical person gives the reader the best of both worlds — a glimpse into a past world based on facts, and a narrative in which the writer conjures up the person's life based on their own interpretation of the life in question. This genre differs from historical fiction in that the main character has actually lived as opposed to being fabricated.

Some examples from our collection are:

**Circling the Sun.** Paula McLain  
Beryl Markham was an aviator, horse trainer and adventurer in the glamorous and decadent world of British expats living in Kenya in the 1920s. Her relationship with Denys Finch Hatton and Out of Africa's Karen Blixen, changed the course of her life.

**Dunstan: One Man Will Change the Fate of England.** Conn Iggulden  
England in 937 is a nation divided. Dunstan of Glastonbury, raised and taught

by monks, becomes so well known for his love of learning that he is summoned to the court of King Athelstan, taking Holy Orders and influencing several Kings of England and the fate of an entire nation.

**The Joyce Girl.** Annabel Abbs  
Lucia Joyce, talented daughter of Irish writer James Joyce, is making a name for herself in late 1920s Paris. Lucia falls for fellow ex-pat Samuel Beckett, but her love is unrequited. Emotionally fragile, Lucia visits psychiatrist Carl Jung, and is destined to live in her father's shadow.

**The Larnachs.** Owen Marshall  
In this story of the relationship between Conny, William Larnach's third wife, and Larnach's son, Dougie, the socially-restrictive world of late nineteenth century Dunedin and Wellington comes to life, in a period when Larnach's Castle hosted glamorous balls and festivities.

**Loving Frank.** Nancy Horan  
Mamah Borthwick Cheney falls in love with Frank Lloyd Wright when she and her husband employ the renowned architect to design their new home. Both Cheney and Wright leave their respective families to be together, which causes scandal in

early twentieth century Chicago society.

**The Other Einstein.** Marie Benedict  
Mitza Maric is a brilliant student studying physics at an elite Zurich University. When she meets young Albert Einstein, it is a meeting of the mind and of the heart. They marry and work together, but is there room for more than one genius in a marriage?

## SEE ALSO

**Anne Boleyn: A King's Obsession.**  
Alison Weir

**The Lacuna.** Barbara Kingsolver

**Lovelock.** James McNeish

**The Mercury Visions of Louis Daguerre.**  
Dominic Smith

**Mozart's Sister: A Novel.** Rita Charbonnier

**Sisi: Empress on Her Own.** Allison Pataki

**The White Garden: A Novel of Virginia Woolf.** Stephanie Barron

The winner of the 2017 Grace of Snowdrops poetry competition: Heather Bauchop's "promise"

# Promise

by Heather Bauchop

The plum tree's branches are heavy  
with feathered fruit waiting for winter nectar,  
a bellbird trills to a saturated sky  
threatening to blossom with snow,  
and see, through the crying windows,  
milk-white with petal-tips dipped in Spring,  
here is a promise, a nod to the timid sun.



# HARBOUR CITY DUNEDIN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 13 – MONDAY 23 OCTOBER  
(includes Labour weekend)

Immerse yourself in the history of New Zealand's most important early 'harbour city'. The ten-day programme of events celebrates our Otago Harbour heritage and also offers a vision for the future.

Choose from a varied programme of events, including family activities, on both sides of the harbour as well as in the central city. There are special events, talks, exhibitions, trails, tours, historic films from the 1930s and an opportunity to share your harbour photos.

Kick off with a novel Festival opening at Taiaroa Head Royal Albatross Centre on Friday 13 October at 4pm (ticket event, plus transport options). Check out buildings not normally open to the public during the Vogel Street Party on Saturday 14 October. Sunday 15 October

features Otago Peninsula's living heritage: Glenfalloch Gala Day, Portobello Heritage Trail Launch, historic films, tours, exhibitions and much more.

Dunedin City Library hosts a panel discussion on the Future of the Otago Harbour on Monday 16 October as well as presentations by Margaret and Sophie Barker on 50 years at Larnach Castle and the Otago Peninsula Trust on Tuesday 17 October. Toitū Otago Settlers Museum will host David Murray's Lawson Lecture on early Dunedin's Architects on Wednesday 18 October and readings and performances of shipboard diaries on Thursday 19 October, followed by the symposium "Building a City from the Sea" on Friday 20 October.

Book a Dunedin Railways return train trip through the tunnel to Port on Saturday 21 October, including a special excursion to the Lady Thorn Rhododendron Dell Garden Fete. Visit Port Otago's facilities, including the working tugboat, visit the special exhibitions in the Maritime Museum and enjoy a variety of activities at the Library and Town Hall. Other attractions in the Port include historic films, a Victorian fashion show, performances, talks, swing dancing, and guided tours. And don't miss the opportunity to visit Quarantine Island on Sunday 22 October.

Monday 23 October concludes with a guided walk along part of the Dunedin's original shoreline, and Josephine's Birthday Party at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum.

[www.heritagefestival.org.nz](http://www.heritagefestival.org.nz)

The Southern Heritage Trust, which is organising the Festival on behalf of the city, expresses its thanks to sponsors and partners and the many people and organisations that are supporting the Festival.

ANN BARSBY, SOUTHERN HERITAGE TRUST

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENTS AT DUNEDIN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### HOME, HISTORY, PORT CHALMERS

Local residents are invited to consult DCC archivist Alison Breese on the history of your house using land ownership records dating back to the 1860s.

11.30am – 12.15pm  
Port Chalmers Library | FREE

### POETRY AT PORT

Local poets celebrate the people and place of Port Chalmers.

3pm – 3.45pm  
Rolfe Room, Port Chalmers Library | FREE

### FAVOURITE SCOTTISH POETRY

Readings from Robert Burns and others. Discover hidden gems of Scottish verse.

2pm – 3pm and 4pm – 5pm  
Rolfe Room, Port Chalmers Library | FREE

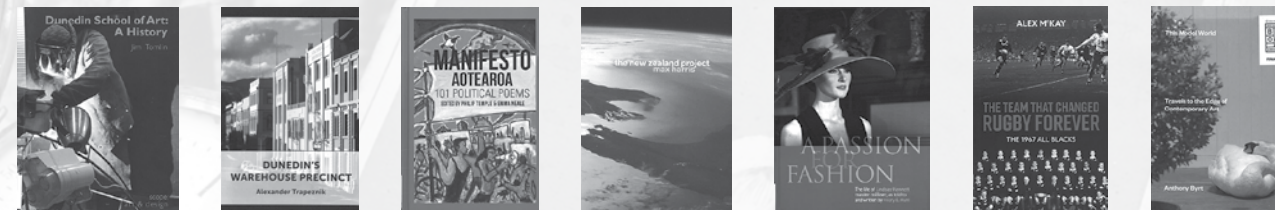
### REIMAGING OTAGO HARBOUR: TODAY'S VALUES, TOMORROW'S USES

SPEAKER: Neville Peat  
Monday 16 October | 6pm  
4th Floor | City Library | FREE

### GOLDEN PENINSULA GUARDIANS TALK

SPEAKER: Margaret Barker, Sophie Barker  
Tuesday 17 October | 5.30pm  
4th Floor | City Library | FREE

# McNAB new zealand reference collection



**Dunedin School of Art: A History.** Jim Tomlin  
Former Head of the School from 1976 till 2000, Tomlin is well-placed to write its history. This is a special edition of the Otago Polytechnic's art and design journal *Scope*, published to mark the Polytechnic's 50th anniversary and the 146th anniversary of the School of Art.

**Dunedin's Warehouse Precinct.** Alexander Trapeznik  
This is a fascinating-looking history of Dunedin's 'warehouse precinct' written by University of Otago history lecturer Alexander Trapeznik. There are excellent photographs of the many buildings that form such a strong link to Dunedin's thriving industrial and commercial past.

**Manifesto Aotearoa: 101 Political Poems.** Eds., Philip Temple and Emma Neale  
This collection brings together a diverse range of poets from around the country focussing on all things political.

**The New Zealand Project.** Max Harris  
Harris argues for a so-called 'values' approach to politics which he believes has been displaced by a technocratic

approach that took over from the mid-Eighties. He lays out an idealistic vision for a new way of doing politics he thinks will be up to the many challenges we face.

**A Passion for Fashion: The Life of Lindsay Kennett Master Milliner.** Hilary E. Hunt  
A passion for fashion is a memoir of the long and successful career of Lindsay Kennett who went to art school here in Dunedin and eventually retired here. There are superb photographs of Kennett's collection of 100 hats illustrating millinery fashions from 1900 to 1990 alongside examples of his sketches and watercolours.

**The Team that Changed Rugby Forever: The 1967 All Blacks.** Alex McKay  
The '67 team went unbeaten through their northern hemisphere tour. Current All Blacks coach Steve Hansen rates them as one of the best teams in history. McKay tells the story of the tour and in doing so gives us a fascinating glimpse of the life and attitudes of the times.

**This Model World: Travels to the Edge of Contemporary Art.** Anthony Byrt  
Award-winning art critic Byrt gives us his own personal account of the New Zealand contemporary art world, as he has experienced it since returning from Berlin in 2011. He takes in the work of Yvonne Todd, Shane Cotton, Billy Apple, Judy Millar, Peter Robinson and Simon Denny, and talks about the increasingly global context that contemporary New Zealand artists are operating within.



# DESERT ISLAND BOOKS

Our castaways this issue are three more members of the Collection Development Team. Between them they look after the DVDs, music CDs, fiction and literature collections for the Dunedin Public Libraries network. Looking after such diverse areas of the collections we thought it would be interesting to see which books have inspired them.

As usual each castaway was given a virtual copy of the SAS Survival guide and asked to choose just five books to keep them company.

Here are their choices:

## GLENDAL COLLECTION SPECIALIST

**A Short History of Nearly Everything.**  
Bill Bryson

I have started it many times but not had time to complete it. Presumably there would be plenty of time on a desert island. I did manage to finish his book *One Summer: America 1927* and loved it. It took me a year (obviously not a library copy...).

**Cocktails Step-by-Step: The Perfect Guide to Cocktail Making.** Fiona Biggs, ed.  
A must for any long desert island stay – especially if there are coconuts lying about.

**Jane Austen – The Complete Works.**  
Her books are totally re-readable, and it would be a good reminder of civilised society, sort of...

**Three Men in a Boat.** Jerome K. Jerome  
Because it is very funny and if there is no rescue boat then at least I could read about one.

Depending on how long my stay on the island would prove to be, then **Clarissa** by Samuel Richardson, clocking in at 1533 pages should keep me going! (I have read it once, and can recommend it for its wit and virtue!)

## ROBYN COLLECTION SPECIALIST

When I'm not catching fish with my bare hands, or clambering up the single coconut tree, I'll be working on my knowledge of physics with **The Martian** by Andy Weir

Sipping on my freshly-opened coconut, I'd add some glamour to the surroundings by reaching for any one of the **Rowland Sinclair** series by Sulari Gentill. The most handsome and wealthy amateur detective in the whole of 1930's Sydney who, together with his colourfully bohemian friends, are always stumbling headlong into yet another adventure.

**Secret River.** Kate Grenville  
This is a wonderful saga following the story of one man's experiences in the penal colony of New South Wales, and

how he overcame the odds, to not only survive but prosper in a very harsh and brutal environment. The imagery of the Parramatta River is vivid and hauntingly beautiful

Paddling in the warm waters surrounding my desert island I'd recite paragraphs from **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen just for the sheer enjoyment.

Finally, given I'm neither a mad dog nor an Englishman I'd shelter from the midday sun under the singular coconut palm and abandon myself to **Wild Places** by Robert Macfarlane – an elegantly crafted book celebrating the spirit of wild spaces in Britain and Ireland. This is nature writing at its finest.

## JILL COLLECTION SPECIALIST

**Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty.**  
Andrew Bolton

This book was published to coincide with the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is one of my most prized possessions. I know the beautiful images of McQueen's incredible work will inspire me. I may even develop my own line of designer desert wear.

**Me Talk Pretty One Day.** David Sedaris  
David's writing never fails to make me laugh. Hearing that distinctive voice in my head as I read will stop me feeling lonely.

**Boy.** Roald Dahl  
When I was 11, I had a particularly scary teacher who I was completely intimidated by. However, he did introduce us to some great books. This story of Roald Dahl's childhood is still one of my favourites.

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.**  
Douglas Adams

Another book that will help to lift my spirits. It might be comforting to have a copy with "Don't Panic" written on the front too.

**The Complete Works of Shakespeare**  
This would be a great opportunity to read all of the things I feel I should read. Plus I could act out the plays when I get bored.



# KIA ORA TE REO MĀORI

## Māori Language Week

11 – 17 SEPTEMBER

Art Statement for Te Kore  
painting outside Dunedin  
City Library

By James Ballaney

Dunedin-based artist James Ballaney is of Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Porou descent.

The work consists of six huge panels, kinetic and in over height format which allows the viewer to be submerged in the work whilst being able use their peripheral. The viewer can scan the painting at multiple angles while moving around the painting allowing the viewer to submerge themselves in the art. The viewer becomes part of the landscape. “*To paint a small picture is to see yourself outside the experience, however you paint the larger picture, you are in it*” (Mark Rothko).

Gestural colours in expressionist manner flow through this scape painting. The painting is a massive explosion of destruction and creation, influenced from Māori cosmology, human condition and the Otago landscape. The possibilities of creation from the lava-ish explosions happening around the painting while the oceanic forms roll in and smashes in the foreground giving rise to creation and erosion of land.

In this massive expanse, I want the viewer to feel something. The area of this painting is a landscape of the soul, inspired by the Otago landscape as I spent a lot of time surfing in the Catlin’s – home to some heavy surf breaks and heavier weather, storms come one minute followed by calm blues skies echoed by a blistering sun along rocky coastlines creating idyllic surf conditions. It is not foreign that art is created from the

environment that one lives in. So, to give this painting a home next to the Dunedin City Library seem fitting, as books become ways of opening new experiences, so too is this painting.

The work is titled ‘TE KORE’ translated from Māori means, ‘the void, the potential of being’. I use this cosmological name as a metaphor for the ‘being present’ when nothing exists. If you think along the lines of mindfulness and being present, the true self ‘Is’ when the mind is still, henceforth, from nothing comes everything, from destruction comes creation, from emptiness possibilities arise. Though this painting may not seem to be a void with its expressionistic manner, it holds both the idea of destruction and creation, thus it is caught in the middle, being the void. The perspective is on the viewer if one is willing. “*To me art is and adventure into an unknown world, which can be explored only by those willing to take the risks.*” (Mark Rothko)

### TE WEHENGĀ O RANGI RĀUA KO PAPA *The Separation of Earth and Sky*

*I te tīmatanga e piri tahi ana a Ranginui rāua ko Papatūānuku, ā, pōkia ai e rāua ā rāua tamariki i te pōuri i waenganui i a rāua. Ka whakatau ngā tamariki me wehe ō rātou mātua e tiaho ai te mārama ki te ao. I muri i te wehenga ka tū ngā tamariki hei atua mō ngā wāhi katoa o te ao tūroa. Hei tauira, ko Tāne te atua o te ngahere, ko Tangaroa te atua o te moana.*

In the beginning Ranginui (the sky) and Papatūānuku (the earth) were joined.



The Dunedin Public Library Association hosts a range of speakers during Spring.

All are welcome to attend on a Wednesday at 12 noon in the Dunningham Suite, 4th Floor, City Library. Come earlier to enjoy tea/coffee and chat.

**COST: \$2**

### SPRING SERIES SPEAKERS

- 6 September** Norman Ledgerwood: *Some Treasures of the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum*
- 13 September** Sophie Carty: *Books on Prescription*
- 20 September** Ross Grimmett: *The Hocken WWI Transcription Project – War Diaries*
- 27 September** Stephen Moodie: *The Camino de Santiago – Travel in Spain*





# TRAVELLING BY THE BOOK

## PERU — A LAND OF CONTRASTS

BY ANNE-MAREE WIGLEY

First stop, Lima: A cosmopolitan city with 10 million inhabitants, dwelling on the shores of the Pacific Ocean and enjoying subtropical temperatures. Here, multiple lanes of bumper-to-bumper traffic grind through dusty slums and affluent suburbs alike — all driving on the wrong side of the road for a newly arrived, jet-lagged New Zealander, and occasionally on the wrong side of the road for Limans as well (eye shutting stuff). It is a pleasure to rest beneath the trees of Parque Kennedy, and take a siesta alongside the many cats that call this park home; enjoy ceviche and a Pisco Sour at a local restaurant; then retire to the luxury of a soft bed, in an air-conditioned hotel room, that comes complete with a fully functional bathroom. You just have to remember not to flush the loo paper (it goes into the provided bin).

On to the Huacachina Oasis, where the green waters of the lagoon, ringed by palm trees, are set in the desert. Temperatures are in the early 30s, the sand burns under your feet, and having a beer at the pool bar while still sitting in the water seems the perfect thing to do. Dune buggies run across the high, rolling sand dunes surrounding the village. I hang on for dear life as we crest a dune and soar across the sand, while my son takes yet another selfie and is having the time of his life.

Onwards and upwards, several long bus trips take us south. The most luxurious buses have reclining seats, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, individual entertainment consoles, complimentary meals and hostesses. Others have seats whose only position is upright; the air conditioning is a window (if you can open

it); entertainment is a Vin Diesel movie in Spanish, playing from a screen at the front of the bus; you buy your food from street vendors who hop on and off the bus; and your fellow passengers include live chickens.

The towns of Arequipa and Cusco fascinate with their narrow, cobblestoned streets; highly ornate municipal buildings; monumental churches full of gold and silverwork, magnificent paintings and statues dressed in sumptuous velvets and lace; and bustling Plaza de Armas, enjoyable despite the harassment from the shoe shiners, umbrellas, sweets and artwork sellers (“It’s almost free, lady”), restaurant touts, and so forth. The tranquil cloisters of the Convent of Santa Catalina in Arequipa, where the ghosts of nuns from across the centuries still seem to walk along the terracotta streets of this enclosed ‘town within a town’, charm me. Learning that the hair cut from the heads of young girls entering as novices now adorns the heads of the statues in the various chapels seems to be the ultimate in re-cycling.

A floating island on Lake Titicaca is home to six families, where children and their parents sleep wall to wall in reed huts, and share communal facilities. Despite being surrounded by water, some of the children don’t appear to have been touched by it for several days. However, they sing sweetly, their repertoire including Frère Jacques, the only tune I recognised.

Amantani, an island, also on Lake Titicaca, has a population of 5000. There are no roads and only a few horses. The air is thin, and it is hard work walking. We stay overnight in a mud brick room, with a tarpaulin ceiling and an iron roof, attached to the home of a local family. The kitchen has a gas bottle cooker, and the “bathroom” is outside the house

compound, and very basic. Notwithstanding the primitiveness, we are well looked after. It is here that we climb to our highest point in Peru — the summit of Pachatata, at 4,118m (13,510ft). You are up so high, and the view is so expansive, that you feel you could just stretch up and touch the clouds.

The Sacred Valley, descended into via a narrow road of hairpin turns, with its salt and silver mines, terraced fields, and Incan archaeological sites — many with wonderful tongue rolling names like Pisac, Ollantaytambo and Chinchero — oozes history. Zipping around the Peruvian highlands on the back of a quadbike to see some of these sites was a surreal experience. I’m sure my son drove through every mud puddle he saw! We both looked like mudlarks by the end of that tour.

And finally to Machu Pichu, mystical home of the Incas, set high in the Andes, surrounded by mist-shrouded mountains, exuding solitude and serenity, even with the experience being shared by hundreds of others. It was a fitting final destination for our Peruvian adventure.

### TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP:

**Peru.** Carolyn McCarthy (Lonely Planet)

**Peru.** Maryanne Blacker (Eyewitness Travel)

### FICTION

**The Book of Human Skin.** Michelle Lovric (Convent of Santa Catalina, Arequipa)

**The Discreet Hero.** Mario Vargas Llosa (modern Lima)

**The Gold Eaters.** Ronald Wright (Incan history)



# INSPIRING BOOKS ON PLANTS

Spring is here, and plants are transforming and renewing. Your library has so many books about plants – in art, science, sustainability, health and even philosophy. The beauty of plants is highlighted in the many gorgeous books on botanical illustration. Our very own Audrey Eagle has produced some fabulous books on New Zealand native plants. Other gems in our collections include:

*The Art of Botanical Painting* by Margaret Stevens; *Plant: Exploring the Botanical World* by Victoria Clarke; *Botanical Prints* by Eve Robson; and *New Zealand Botanical Paintings* by Norman Harvey. *Pollen: The Hidden Sexuality of Flowers* by Rob Kessler is an example of the combination of science and art in a stunning book.

**If you are interested in the history of plant discoveries:**

*Seeds of Adventure: In Search of Plants* by Peter Cox; *The Pressed Plant: The Art of Botanical Specimens, Nature Prints and Sun Prints* by Andrea DiNoto; and *Botanical Riches: Stories of Botanical*

*Exploration* by Richard Aitken. Did you know that Beatrix Potter was a mycologist who made detailed drawings of fungi? See some of her illustrations in *Wayside and Woodland Fungi*.

**The mystique and wonder of plants is celebrated in some interesting titles:**

*The Cabaret of Plants: Botany and the Imagination* by Richard Mabey; *Flora Mirabilis: How Plants Have Shaped World Knowledge, Health, Wealth and Beauty* by Catherine Howell; *Fortress Plant: How To Survive When Everything Wants To Eat You*; *Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants* by Jane Goodall; *Plant Love: The Scandalous Truth about the Sex Life of Plants* by Michael Allaby; *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben.

When your thoughts turn to gardening, check out some library books for inspiration.

*100 Best Native Plants for New Zealand Gardens* by Fiona Eadie; *Dandelion and Quince: Exploring the Wide World of*

*Unusual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs* by Michelle McKenzie; *The Bee-Friendly Garden: Design an Abundant Flower-Filled Yard that Nurtures Bees and Supports Biodiversity* by Kate Frey.

SHIRLEY JONES

# NON-FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

**An Auctioneer's Lot: Triumphs and Disasters at Christie's.** Charles Hindlip

Lord Hindlip was an auctioneer at Christie's for 40 years. He auctioned Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' (which eventually went for 22 million pounds), 80 of Diana's dresses for charity, plus lots more fascinating items. His stories are really funny and insightful.

**Captain Fantastic: Elton John's Stellar Trip Through the '70s.** Tom Doyle

The 1970s saw Reg Dwight transform into Elton Hercules John, a flamboyant persona he adopted to hide his extreme shyness. During this decade he created some of his best music with his lyricist Bernie Taupin.

**The Home that was our Country: A Memoir of Syria.** Alia Malek

In 2011 Syrian American journalist Alia Malek returned to Damascus, at the beginning of the Arab Spring uprising. Her's is a story about her people, rather than the conflict, where she focuses on her grandmother's apartment and the neighbourhood that surrounds it.

**The House of Owls.** Tony Angell

This beautiful book is written by a North American naturalist and wildlife illustrator who has documented his observations of an owl nesting box in his garden.

**Jack White: How He Built an Empire from the Blues.** Nick Hasted

John Anthony Gillis, aka Jack White, was an outsider growing up in Mexicantown, Detroit, who became captivated by the blues. This book follows the first 40 years of his life, including the years with The White Stripes and his marriage to drummer Meg White, his bands and collaborations since their break up, and the launching of his independent record label.

**Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism.** Ron Suskind

A beautifully-written, inspiring story of a family using the dialogue of animated Disney movies to cope with autism. Owen is obsessed with early animated movies and his perseverance and personal development is heroic.

**Now: The Physics of Time.** Richard Muller  
A respected quantum physicist gives us the background to the concept of time. Very readable and absolutely fascinating.

**Patterns in Nature: Why the Natural World Looks the Way It Does.** Philip Ball  
Stunning micro and macro photographs enhance the information about patterns and symmetry. You will be amazed and delighted.

**Warehouse Home: Industrial Inspiration for Twenty-First-Century Living.**

Sophie Bush


Sophie Bush shares her knowledge and passion about converting industrial warehouses into beautiful contemporary homes, featuring places from New York, Melbourne, London and Hong Kong.

**Water in Plain Sight: Hope for a Thirsty World.** Judith Schwartz

An optimistic look at water accessibility – we have the knowledge and tools to make the world a better place for humans, animals and plants.







# A HEART IN THE HIGHLANDS: ROBERT BURNS

Dunedin Burns Club and Dunedin Public Libraries are embarking on their 14th year of successful collaboration with a revamped Robert Burns poetry competition.

For the first time the competition will offer significant cash prizes for all three categories of entry, while continuing to capitalise on the notable support of Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature, the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Otago, and the Otago Daily Times.

Dunedin's City of Literature status last year facilitated links for the competition with both Edinburgh Libraries and the Scottish Poetry Society, which found considerable interest in Dunedin's competition, and led to international media coverage for its Donald Trump-themed published prize-winner. Our prize-giving ceremony, on Robert Burns'

birthday, featured some bonnie readings via video link with some of the Scottish-based poets who were placed in the competition, while our Dunedin poets held their own alongside the best of them! 'Kay Mercer's special prize-giving really connected our wonderful local poets with their Scottish counterparts,' commented Nicky Page, Director City of Literature. 'First prize winners were offered a complimentary ticket that night to the legendary Toitū Burns Dinner, where guests were also treated to a performance by the winners of Toitū's fantastic Robbie Rocks music competition. It all makes for a great annual celebration!'

With the generous sponsorship of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council, the Dunedin Public Library Association (Friends of the Library), and the Edinburgh-Dunedin Sister City Society, cash prizes will this year be awarded to first place winners in the published poet, unpublished poet, and young poet categories respectively. This sets the competition on a par with major international poetry competitions, and will give the newly-named Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition the ability to appeal to residents of other Cities of Literature around the globe. Robert Burns' far-reaching popularity has endured for more than 250 years, and it will be interesting

to see, as entries roll in, how his poetry continues to influence modern poets worldwide.

The competition invites entrants to write a poem inspired by the life and works of Robert Burns, the oft-named Bard of Ayrshire, who was born on the 25th January 1759. Dunedin's fondness for the Bard is evident in the statue that takes pride of place in the centre of the city, and which is affectionately adorned from time to time with a statue-sized hand-knitted scarf. The 'Edinburgh of the South' has taken Burns to their hearts as one of their own, and we are not alone. According to the Robert Burns World Federation, there are over 250 affiliated Burns Clubs worldwide, and hundreds more unaffiliated and sub-associations dedicated to keeping the memory of Scotland's national poet alive and thriving.

As Burns' poetry, lifestyle and social conscience continue to forge connections with hearts and minds centuries apart, we shall continue to celebrate and draw inspiration from his works, *while the sands of life shall run*.

#### KAY MERCER, EVENTS COORDINATOR

The Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry competition opens on 1st September. Pick up an entry form at any Dunedin Public Library or enter online at [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/our-competitions](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/our-competitions)

## WHAT'S NEW... TEEN SPACE

#### Cuckoo. Keren David

Jake, the star of a long running soap opera, is getting worried that he may longer be needed for the show. He decides to make his real life public by writing it down in a blog, screenplay style, with spaces for comments from his audience. His real life turns out to have its own soap opera qualities. Will Jake ever be allowed to return to the screen and continue living the life of stardom he has grown used to?

#### Dryland. Sara Jaffe

Julie spends a lot of time in the local bookshop poring over swimming magazines. She is looking for photos of her brother who, after becoming a swimming champion, moved to Germany and hasn't been seen since. When a new friend invites her to join the swimming team she does so reluctantly. However her life soon changes for the better and she finally feels one step closer to reuniting with her long lost brother.

#### Flesh and Blood. Simon Cheshire

On his way to his first day at a new school Sam comes upon a group of students looking at a corpse. From then on he notices that the people in his new neighbourhood are not quite normal: their facial expressions don't change and their house lights are never on at night. Can Sam stay safe and will he ever work out whether there really is something odd going on? This is a great read but not for the faint hearted.

#### Frost Blood. Elly Blake

Emily has a very special talent: the ability to create fire from the sparks that magically appear on the palms of her hands. Though forbidden to do so, Emily involuntarily uses her gift when she is in the clutches of the King's soldiers, enabling her escape. Her mother has been killed and she must now survive alone. This is an easily read tale of survival in a dystopian world. Absorbing and exciting.

#### Shade Me. Jennifer Brown

In the middle of struggling with her chemistry homework Nikki receives a disturbing phone call from an unknown number. When the hospital calls to ask her to identify the caller she becomes embroiled in an unwelcome mystery. Between this, dealing with an unhappy ex-boyfriend and coping with severe synesthesia (causing her to see numbers and emotions as colours) Nikki doesn't have much time for schoolwork.

#### The Yearbook Committee. Sarah Ayoub

When a group of reluctant students are forced together to work on the school yearbook their differences soon become obvious. Can they manage to become a cohesive team in order to produce a publication to be proud of? The telling of this story is shared by the five members of the group interspersed with quirky meeting minutes. An entertaining read.



This game is fun to play anywhere, any time with anyone willing, good with travelling companions on long car journeys or waiting in airports.

Last year, a jetlagged insomniac after four long hauls in five months, I invented it as a plea to Morpheus, like counting sheep, but that idea backfired – a narcotic it is not. This addictive game kept the two players in our household awake till late and caused sleep disruption in the early hours when one or other would wake with a word to add to the joust. It had to be banned to get a peaceful night's rest.

Maybe nature, maybe nurture, most likely a combination, whatever the reason some of us delight in playing with words from our earliest days in the same way that other children play with balls or dolls or Lego. I played with those too, but with less enthusiasm. Words are mind-expanding toys: you can bounce them around, dress them up, build worlds made of interlocking sentences and so much more. My brothers preferred Meccano. Our home in Cambridge was above a

word factory. Some kids live above their parents' bakery or grocery; we lived in a flat above my father's language school, our kitchen doubled as the staff canteen, and our young lives were enriched by words from all over the world. Words put food on the table. Words were not only Dad's livelihood but also his entertainment; a master punster and rhymester, he invented bilingual and trilingual jokes, often in verse. To his credit, as well as running a business, he wrote poems, novels, short stories, articles and, before illness struck, an excellent memoir. When he was literally lost for words I read his memoir aloud and he was happy to reacquaint himself with old friends and relatives and his own words, often in song form, flooded back.

When my daughter, born in New Zealand, was eighteen months old, she scooted around the kitchen on her wooden toddler trike with a toy gorilla, Toby, bigger than her stuffed behind her back like a friend on a motorbike. One day she zoomed past a box of apricots from Central Otago and cried out in delight, 'Lots and lots! Apricots!' She laughed open-mouthed at her first verse; the rhyme gene

was alive and kicking. Nature was greeted by nurture and together we enjoyed nursery rhymes, poems, songs, playing word games and homegrown bedtime stories. Both my kids are now Scrabble fans and read real books for fun, rare among twentysomethings.

Here's how the game works. Any number of players. Words must rhyme. A rhyme may be repeated if used in a new phrase. Players take turns to suggest words. A player

close range. This is allowed. Then I must think up an equivalent number of rhyming words, before he can have another turn. When the heat's on the game gets competitive. We both like to win. My companion loves to win. In his youth he ran races for a London Athletics club and got used to winning. Say no more. If only he'd say no more! He wakes up in the night shouting out a word. I wake up and shout out a word

excellent curry at Little India last night (I recommend Prawn Malabari and Khumb Mattar as great words for the game, also to eat, the latter's a delicious dish of mushrooms and green peas with garlic, cream and spices), we spent the evening, not watching Sky on the hotel TV, but reading – John Berger's *Confabulations* is hard to put down – then playing the entertaining, if sleep inhibiting, Rhyme Game. See below our results.

- Right on cue
- Interview
- Bad review
- Shiny shoe
- Chimney flue
- Lovely view
- Viral flu
- Twist and screw
- Och aye the noo
- Tickety-boo
- Diddly doo (song by ?)
- Vindaloo
- Spanking new
- Chapel pew
- Multi hue

# RHYME GAME

C R Lark © 19 June 2017

suggests the first word. The next player finds a rhyme. If the syllable count is the same all the better, but this isn't obligatory and no extra points are given. The first player finds another rhyme. The players continue to take turns to rhyme. The player who finds the last rhyming word(s) is the winner. A final count of the number of rhymes per player is the score.

Once the game warms up my companion has a habit of shouting out four or more rhyming words one after the other like a Kalashnikov at

to shut him up. We go back to sleep. In the morning we both wake up with rhymes in our heads and call them out at each other as fast as possible. We lose count of our rhymes and nobody wins. We laugh. This is a happy game.

**WARNING:** don't take it too seriously!

Here's an example. At the time of writing we're away in Timaru where my companion supervises distance Fine Arts students and, after an

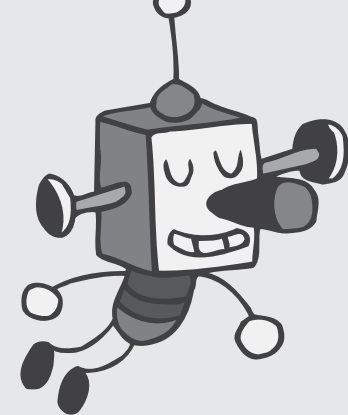
Feel free to add a word or two and win the game. I only wish I'd played this game with Dad in his last years, he'd have loved it and would have won every time. Despite dementia, he still spoke fluent French and German, recited poetry by Verlaine, Goethe and the best of the Brits and won at Scrabble. Words.

**ENJOY!**

- Timaru
- Midnight blue
- Special brew
- Orthodox Jew
- Airline crew

- Igloo
- For the few
- Gunky goo
- Lasso
- Cry boo hoo
- Portaloo
- Super glue
- Silly moo
- She's gonna sue
- Mutton stew
- Lukewarm spew
- Impromptu
- London Zoo
- One to woo
- Kangaroo
- Cryptic clue
- Billiard cue
- Didgeridoo

Caroline Lark is well known in Dunedin, not just for her published work, but as the leader of popular workshops on the writing of poetry, plays, and fiction.



# KIDS' PICKS

## PICTURE BOOKS

### **I am Bear.**

Ben Bailey Smith and Sav Akyuz

This hilarious picture book will make you laugh out loud! Big and cheeky, naughty and very loveable Bear wears a purple suit with purple hair and gets up to lots of mischief. He steals honey from the bees, doughnuts from a police officer, performs magic tricks and annoys poor squirrel, amongst other things. The illustrations are bright and bold. The rhyming text is very funny and great for reading aloud.

### **The Seashore Book.**

Charlotte Zolotow and Wendell Minor

The Seashore Book has been redesigned for its twenty-fifth anniversary. It is stunning! A mother describes the colours, sounds and sights of a day at the seashore to her son. The beautifully simple prose brings the seashore vividly to life for the boy who has never before seen the sea. The illustrations are richly detailed and perfectly capture the story.

## FICTION 7-9

### **Helper and Helper.**

Joy Cowley and Gavin Bishop

*Helper and Helper* is the third book about the adventures of Snake and Lizard who live deep in the desert. While the two unlikely friends do have some things in common they are also very different. We learn that while Snake and Lizard often disagree they always manage to work things out and their friendship is enduring. This collection of animal stories is similar to Aesop's Fables but even funnier and more unexpected.

### **The Queen's Tale.** Kaye Umansky

This hilarious re-telling of the story of Snow White is told from the wicked step-mother's point of view. The Queen, who loves shopping and running up large bills for her husband the King, is sick of her step-daughter. The King, however, adores his beautiful daughter Snow White, who is so pretty and kind and loves little animals. The story continues with some wickedly funny twists and turns.

There is a "dyslexia-friendly" sticker on the cover of the book. It has a dyslexia-friendly layout and typeface and is printed on yellow tinted paper.

## FICTION 10+

### **Quicks and Pond.** Janet Taylor Lisle

Terri Carr and Jesse Kettle are on their summer holiday. The 12-year-old girls form an unlikely friendship when they meet on a dilapidated raft out on Quicksand Pond. The story that follows involves the lingering effects of a tragedy that occurred decades ago on the pond when two boys mysteriously disappeared. Around the same time there was a murder committed also near the pond. This story is somewhat dark but riveting and tackles discrimination and friendship. Janet Taylor Lisle is a Newbury Honour winner.

### **Addison Cooke and the Treasure of the Incas.** Jonathon W. Stokes

This is the first book in a new series featuring twelve-year-old Addison Cooke. Addison's aunt and uncle are both world-famous researchers, who travel all over the world searching for hidden treasure. When his uncle is kidnapped after finding an ancient Incan clue to a huge treasure trove, Addison and his friends become involved in a huge adventure that takes them to South America, where they try to outsmart the kidnappers and crack the code!



## SONGS AND FACEPAINTING WITH RAINBOW ROSALIND

Children's entertainer, Rainbow Rosalind, will have you up and dancing, singing and learning new things.

Rainbow Rosalind is a New Zealand children's singer/songwriter who performs at kindergartens, schools and children's events for kiwi kids all over New Zealand.

Enjoy some songs and stay on to get your face painted afterwards!

**SUITABLE:** 0 – 7 years

**FREE**

**Tuesday 5 September | 11am | Mosgiel Library**

Francis Upritchard **Jockey** 2012.  
Modelling material, foil, wire, paint.  
Collection of Auckland Art Gallery Toi o  
Tamaki, gift of the patrons of the Auckland  
Art Gallery, 2013. Courtesy Kate MacGarry,  
London. Photo: Jennifer French



## Jealous saboteurs Teen WRITING comp

**Entries close 28 October**  
*For information and entry forms:*

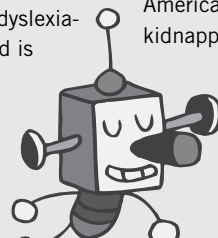
- [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz)
- [www.dunedin.art.museum](http://www.dunedin.art.museum)
- [www.cityofliterature.co.nz](http://www.cityofliterature.co.nz)

Entry is restricted to  
high school Year 9 to 13.  
One entry per person,  
maximum of 750 words.  
PLUS Prizes for the  
three winners.

**City  
Gallery  
Wellington**

**MUMA**  
Francis Upritchard: *Jealous Saboteurs* is an  
exhibition partnership between City Gallery  
Wellington and Monash University Museum  
of Art, Melbourne and supported by City  
Gallery Wellington Foundation.

Presented by Dunedin Public  
Art Gallery in association with  
the **Francis Upritchard: Jealous  
Saboteurs** exhibition, and in  
collaboration with Dunedin Public  
Libraries and Dunedin UNESCO  
City of Literature.







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CITY OF LITERATURE

**Thanks to:**

James Bellaney, Ann Barsby, Heather Bauchop, Jill Bowie, Maureen Brook, Wendy Chapman, Malcolm Deans, Shirley Jones  
Rachel Kean, Caroline Lark, Joan Ledgerwood, Shona Ledgerwood, Jackie McMillan, Colleen Marshall, Glenda Rogers  
Robyn Sperling, Casey Thomas, Anne-Maree Wigley and Robyn Williams



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