

## Recent Books from New Zealand – Feb 2021

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### **Anthropology/Archaeology**

Prehistoric Man in Palliser Bay / (Eds) B. Foss Leach & Helen M. Leach

Wellington: Te Papa Press (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa), 1979 (Reprinted 2020)

vi, 274p.

9780995138414

National Museum of New Zealand Bulletin Number 21.

\$ 65.00 / PB

760gm.

Prehistoric Man in Palliser Bay presents, in 14 papers by 9 authors, the results of a pioneering, multifaceted, archaeological research programme carried out between 1969 and 1972 in the south-eastern coastal part of the North Island of New Zealand. The volume reviews archaeological evidence from the time of first settlement from Polynesia through to the 19th century. More than 25 excavations were carried out, focussing on midden sites, house areas, kumara storage pits and prehistoric gardens. Laboratory analysis of middens revealed details of the history of fishing, birding and sea mammal hunting. Artefacts of stone, bone and shell are described in the volume, and analysis of land snails provides evidence for environmental change during the period of occupation. Analysis of human bone samples provided detailed

medical histories of the people who lived in the region. Two concluding chapters consider the significance of the evidence for early horticulture in Palliser Bay and the nature of prehistoric communities in the area.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749551>

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## **Biography**

Nga Kete Matauranga : Maori Scholars at the Research Interface / (Eds) Jacinta Ruru & Linda Waimarie Nikora  
Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2021

303p.

9781988592558

\$ 80.00 / PB

1350gm.

In this beautiful and transformative book, 24 Maori academics share their personal journeys, revealing what being Maori has meant for them in their work. Their perspectives provide insight for all New Zealanders into how matauranga is positively influencing the Western-dominated disciplines of knowledge in the research sector. It is a shameful fact, says co-editor Jacinta Ruru in her introduction to Nga Kete Matauranga, that in 2020, only about 5 percent of academic staff at universities in Aotearoa New Zealand are Maori. Tertiary institutions have for the most part been hostile places for Indigenous students and staff, and this book is an important call for action. 'It is well past time that our country seriously commits to decolonising the tertiary workforce, curriculum and research agenda,' writes Professor Ruru.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749552>

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## **History**

Marks of Identity : New Zealand Logos 1960-80 / Hamish Thompson (Eds) Simon Minto & Naomi O'Connor

New Zealand: Hamish Thompson, 2020

126p.

9780473544270

\$ 25.00 / PB

142gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749553>

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## **Literature**

Sister to Sister : History Repeats / Olivia Hayfield

Auckland: Hachette New Zealand, 2021

448p.

9781869714390

\$ 40.00 / PB

550gm.

The battle lines are drawn... Following the scandalous revelations about his love life, disgraced media mogul Harry Rose is searching for redemption. His daughters - bright, winsome Eliza and dark, difficult Maria - have taken over the helm at Rose Corp. But while Eliza's on study leave at Oxford, Maria embarks on a drive to rid the British media giant of sleaze. His legacy under threat, Harry wants Maria out and Eliza in. But hanging between Harry and Eliza is the unresolved death of Eliza's mother, Ana. Eliza has a vision for Rose Corp. Along with her wildly gifted friends Will Bardington and Kit Marley, enfants terribles of the arts world, she plans a new golden age of British TV drama. But Maria is standing in her way. And then there's the distraction of her childhood playmate, the twinkly-eyed metrosexual Rob Studley, and a new threat, from Eliza's thorn-in-the-side Scottish cousin, the charismatic Mackenzie James. Guided by Harry, Eliza navigates life as Rose Corp's new queen. But after

a stellar start, things take a dark turn, and ultimately Eliza will have to make a choice: career, or love? It shouldn't be this hard. Loosely based on the reigns of Tudor queens Mary and Elizabeth, *Sister to Sister* is the sequel to *Olivia Hayfield's Wife After Wife*.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749554>

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*Threads* : A Novel / Lindsay Gault

New Zealand: Lindsay Gault, 2019

394p.

9780473497538

\$ 35.00 / PB

572gm.

The story of Maddie Jacobs. As a teenager she was gifted a passion for dirt bike racing. A mentor's gift she never forgot. Rising to international fame in a sport she excelled at, discovering people places and lands that shaped her being. One moment in the international spotlight the next, political instability in the Kenyan desert plunged her into a life and death struggle. A struggle that becomes the catalyst for merging intersecting global threads. Also an opportunity for Maddie to reshape her life and return the pivotal generosity that had shaped her career.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749555>

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*Tranquility and Ruin* / Danyl Mclauchlan

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021

200p.

9781776564118

\$ 35.00 / PB

270gm.

Danyl McLauchlan wanted to get closer to the hidden truth of things. But it was starting to look like the hidden truth of things was that nothing was real, everything was suffering, and he didn't really exist. In these essays Danyl explores ideas

and paths that he hopes will make him freer and happier – or, at least, less trapped, less medicated and less depressed. He stays at a monastery and meditates for eight hours a day. He spends time with members of a new global movement who try to figure out how to do the most possible good in the world. He reads forbiddingly complex papers on neuroscience and continental philosophy and shovels clay with a Buddhist monk until his hands bleed. He tries to catch a bus. Tranquillity and Ruin is a light-hearted contemplation of madness, uncertainty and doom. It's about how, despite everything we think we know about who we are, we can still be surprised by ourselves.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749556>

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The Disinvent Movement / Susanna Gendall  
Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021  
144p.  
9781776564101  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
188gm.

'Every week we would disinvent something. This week it would be plastic. Next week it would be the aeroplane. I stood outside the supermarket and handed out flyers, which people kindly refused as they left carrying large packs of bottled water.' The short history of the Disinvent Movement is told by its creator as she looks back on her life in New Zealand, France, Switzerland and other countries. Intertwined with the movement are her efforts to find a way 'inside' – an entry point to the system in which so many others seem to be living happily. But once you're in, what if you want to escape? How do you disinvent the all-encompassing structure of a violent marriage? The Disinvent Movement is a brilliantly original and poignant first novel, both elliptical and direct, about how we dismantle and remake our stories – and re-cast the people who occupy the most important roles in our lives – in hopes of finding sanctuary. 'Like Olivia Laing or Renata Adler, Susanna Gendall strips back the everyday to get at life's extraordinary

odness; this novel conjures a strange magic, pierced with little darts of hope.' —Emily Perkins

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749557>

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Glass Houses and Other Stories / Karen Phillips (Eds) Paul Stewart & Mary McCallum

Wellington: Cuba Press, 2020

180p.

9781988595160

\$ 30.00 / PB

206gm.

A crash site memorial for a daughter is disturbed by road workers, a son goes missing after an earthquake, a husband struggles with his wife going into dementia care, grandparents meet-up with a grandchild they lost contact with when his parents divorced, a late-in-life relationship is broken apart when his health declines, a couple who lease out their basement flat discover a former tenant has been linked to a murder ...

Each of Karen Phillips' stories is like the glass houses in the title story – small pieces, some opaque and some translucent, that offer glimpses of ordinary families whose lives are coming apart, sometimes in ways imperceptible to the outside eye. Memories of a kinder past are one way to pull things back together and simple humanity is another, but sometimes the answer is where you least expect it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749558>

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The Liminal Space / Jacquie McRae

Wellington: Huaia Publishers, 2020

224p.

9781775506188

\$ 30.00 / PB

242gm.

In a small village, there are whispers in the market square that William is not who he says he is. They say he skinny-dips and talks to trees. He was once a doctor, but now he only prescribes books - for Emily, Marco and James, whose lives have become entangled with his. Emily is in a troubled relationship and has spent most of her life sheltering in the library. James is coming undone as he struggles to live up to his father's expectations. While Marco, who measures his self-worth by the size of his bank account, has returned to the village with nothing. They have all been thrown into a liminal space and can no longer stay as they are. This is a tale about the power of stories - especially the ones we tell ourselves.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749559>

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Near Distance : Poems / John Allison

Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2020

44p.

9780473547073

\$ 30.00 / PB

96gm.

*In the near distance is everything  
that calls us to the world and to ourselves*

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*"The unexamined life is not worth living. --Plato.*

These poems, written during this past year, are circumstantial evidence in that examination. They might be seen as efforts towards coherence; or as efforts towards existing in the incoherence.

Or as poems." --John Allison

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What reviewers said of *A Place to Return To* (Cold Hub Press, 2019) :

*a set of new and unpublished poems powerful in their perception, insight and imagination --Siobhan Harvey, NZ Herald*

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*a very satisfying collection for both its lyricism and its intellectual heft*

--Nicholas Reid, *The Listener*.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749560>

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The Mermaid's Purse / Fleur Adcock

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021

80p. ; 210x138mm.

9781776564149

\$ 30.00 / PB

114gm.

Fleur Adcock began writing the poems in this book when she was 82. The two chief settings are New Zealand, with its multi-coloured seas, and Britain, seen in various decades. There are foreign travels, flirtations, family memories, deaths and conversations with the dead. Katherine Mansfield, incognito, dodges an academic conference; there's a lesson in water divining as well as a rather unusual Christmas party. We meet several varieties of small mammal, numerous birds, doomed or otherwise, and some sheep. The book ends with a sequence in memory of her friend, the poet Roy Fisher.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749561>

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Toku Papa / Ruby Solly

Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington Press, 2021

80p.

9781776564125

\$ 32.00 / PB

152gm.

*When you first told me that you gave me the name of our  
tupuna so that I would be strong enough to hold our family  
inside my ribcage, I believed you. Here you are. Here is how I  
saw you, trapped in your own amber. Now it's time for you to  
believe me.*

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*Tōku Pāpā* is a book that serves as a map of survival for Māori growing up outside of their papakāika. These poems look at how we take the knowledge we are given by our ancestors and hide it beneath our tongues for safekeeping. They show us how we live with our tūpuna, without ever fully understanding them. This book encompasses a journey spanning generations, teaching us how to keep the home fires burning within ourselves when we have forgotten where our homes are. But have our homes forgotten us?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749562>

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The Sets / Victor Billot

Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2021

122p.

9781988592602

\$ 32.00 / PB

172gm.

*The Sets* returns again and again to the ever-present sea – as a metaphor, a mirror, a companion and an otherworld that contains our dreams and nightmares. Dunedin poet Victor Billot finds in the South Pacific Ocean an oracle of the future and a keeper of our histories.

*The Sets* begins with reflections on the domestic world and the fragility of the family and personal relationships that sustain us, the necessity and refuge of love, and the sometimes catastrophic effects of failure in these relationships.

The collection then shifts towards political and social satire, punching out mashups of fake news and rogue algorithms that mix mordant wit with compressed rage at the banality of humanity's descent towards oblivion.

From the poet's coastal childhood to the turbulent post-1980s experiences of his generation, we end with a series of meditations on the ocean as a site of the brutality of globalised capitalism, and a representation of the complex and difficult worlds we carry within us.

In love with language, entangled in the world, Victor Billot's poetry draws on post-punk music and spoken word performance to create a panoramic extravaganza firing on all cylinders.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749563>

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Election Day of the Dead : Seventy Haiku from the Americas /  
Doc Drumheller

Lyttelton: Cold Hub Press, 2020

96p.

9780473549954

\$ 25.00 / PB

86gm.

*Election Day of the Dead* comprises seventy haiku selected from more than four hundred Doc Drumheller wrote while travelling in the USA, Nicaragua, Mexico, and El Salvador. His travels coincided with several international poetry festivals, the Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico, and the 2016 US presidential elections.

The haiku are presented with Spanish versions by Dylan Brennan and images by Liliana Perez-Brennan.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749564>

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## **Sports**

The Warm Sun on My Face : The Story of Women's Cricket in  
New Zealand / Trevor Auger & Adrienne Simpson

Auckland: A Mower Book, 2020

676p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9781988516301

\$ 100.00 / HB

2740gm.

Despite what happened at Lord's in 2019, New Zealand has won a Cricket World Cup. It was at Lincoln in December 2000 that New Zealand beat Australia to win the Women's World Cup. The first recorded cricket match in New Zealand between teams of women had been played in the Wairarapa as long ago as 1867 and the New Zealand women played their first Test match in 1935. In 2014 Debbie Hockley became the second New Zealander after Sir Richard Hadlee to be inducted into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame. This is the story of women's cricket in New Zealand, from its earliest humble origins to its glory days on the international stage. It is also the story of the women who have come to be recognised amongst the very best in the world at their sport. It is the story of a game played for the sheer love of it, and of the hard work of the dedicated souls who built and sustained women's cricket, often in the face of challenge and adversity. Most of all it is the story of every woman who relished the warm sun on her face as she enjoyed the Trevor Auger has been involved with cricket almost all his life. A senior club cricketer in his day, he had earlier been the press scorer at international matches at Eden Park during the 1970s, taking inspiration from working alongside some of the top cricket writers from New Zealand and around the world. He contributes a regular column to the Auckland Cricket website, and he is a member of the Auckland Cricket Judicial Committee. Adrienne Simpson was a passionate cricket follower. She began research for a history of women's cricket in New Zealand in the late 1990s and was able to collect a vast trove of material. Unfortunately she took ill and passed away in 2010 before she could finish the book. Her family donated her to the New Zealand Cricket Museum, and her tireless efforts are the foundation upon which this book has been built.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=749565>

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