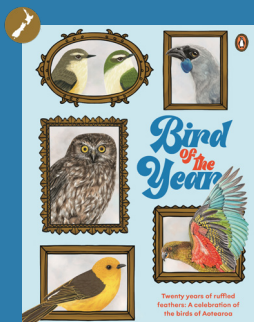




august highlights



Bird of the Year

Forest and Bird

Penguin Random House | \$45.00

Forest & Bird's iconic Bird of the Year competition is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and to mark the occasion the organisation is releasing a new book celebrating both the history of the competition, and the endangered birds it champions. *Bird of the Year – Twenty Years of Ruffled Feathers: A celebration of the birds of Aotearoa* is informative and beautifully illustrated by some of Aotearoa's finest artists, as well as humorous and heartfelt.

The book covers firstly the origins of the Bird of the Year competition, when the RNZ Morning Report hosts contemplated axing the iconic bird call recordings that started the morning news bulletins. The country was immediately outraged, and the outcry made Forest and Bird communications manager Michael Szabo (of Wild Wellington fame) conjure up the Bird of the Year idea to raise awareness of the conservation issues facing some of Aotearoa's natives.

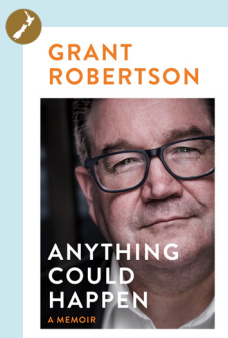
The book chronicles the history of the competition over the last 20 years, including some of the hilarious campaigns that have been run – including voting scandals, celebrity endorsements, viral social media campaigns and, infamously, the John Oliver-led movement that saw the obscure puteketete crowned the winner in 2023. And who remembers the "controversy" when a bat won Bird of the Year in 2021?

The second half of the book covers a huge variety of our birds – each bird (and a bat) given a beautiful full-page illustration and accompanying text telling the reader the history of the bird, and the conservation efforts involved in trying to raise both awareness of their plight, and their numbers.

The book is not designed to be a field guide – instead it is a snapshot of each bird, accompanied by fun facts and trivia. If you have a bird lover in your life, start your Christmas shopping early and gift this book. It's a stunner!

Reviewed by Briony
Marsden Books, Wellington

NON-FICTION

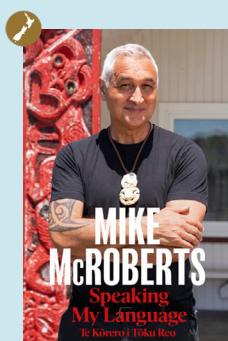


Anything Could Happen

Grant Robertson

Allen & Unwin | \$40.00

An insightful look into the life of Grant Robertson, one of New Zealand's most influential politicians. He reflects on a loving but complex childhood in Dunedin, coming to terms with his sexuality, managing bands, and the shock of his father's imprisonment. Robertson charts his political rise, learning from Helen Clark and serving as Finance Minister during the Covid-19 crisis. With honesty and warmth, he explores the realities of politics, his belief in Aotearoa's uniqueness, and his enduring hope for its future.



Speaking My Language

Mike McRoberts

HarperCollins | \$39.99

Journalist Mike McRoberts shares his journey of reconnecting with te ao Māori and learning te reo. Raised in a mixed-race family with little connection to Māoritanga, he long felt shame over not speaking his own language. As a news presenter, even saying "Kia ora" triggered anxiety. In *Speaking My Language / Kōrero i Tōku Reo*, he recounts reclaiming his identity through te reo and encourages all New Zealanders to take the first step in embracing Māori language and culture.



The Hungry Cook

Olivia Galletty

Allen & Unwin | \$45.00

Olivia Galletty, aka The Hungry Cook, shares drool-worthy, easy recipes with a twist in this must-have cookbook. Known for her blog, *Dish* magazine contributions, and work with top New Zealand food brands, Olivia creates delicious dishes for everyday cooks. From reinvented classics to weeknight meals, nibbles, weekend entertaining, and even cocktails, these tried-and-true favourites are made to be cooked on repeat. Perfect for when you need something quick or when you have time to savour the process.

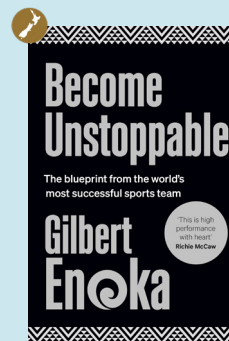


My Weekend Table

Gretchen Lowe

Bateman Books | \$60.00

Rediscover the joy of cooking with this comforting, beautifully crafted cookbook by Gretchen. Filled with simple, delicious recipes: crowd-pleasers, slow-cooked meals, sharing plates, brunches, baking and decadent desserts. It invites you to reconnect with loved ones through food. Gretchen combines unexpected flavours with familiar classics for outstanding results. Whether it's a quiet dinner or a lively gathering, these dishes help make your kitchen the heart of your home once more.



Become Unstoppable

Gilbert Enoka

Penguin Random House | \$45.00

Discover the mindset behind the world's most successful sports team with legendary coach Gilbert Enoka. For nearly 30 years, Enoka helped shape the All Blacks' unmatched mental strength and resilience, key to their 77% test match win rate. In this book, he shares powerful lessons on building mental toughness, leading under pressure, creating a winning culture, and inspiring teams to thrive. Learn the strategies that made the All Blacks great and how to apply them in your own life and work.



The Welcome of Strangers

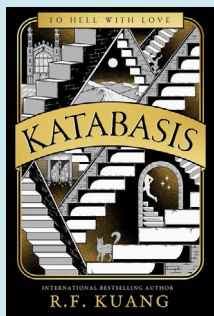
Atholl Anderson

Bridget Williams Books | \$70.00

Renowned archaeologist Atholl Anderson maps the early migrations and settlements of Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, and Ngāi Tahu in this updated edition of his groundbreaking 1998 book. *The Welcome of Strangers* explores the rich histories of these southern Māori communities and their encounters with early European whalers, sealers, and missionaries. Featuring new research, detailed maps, and a strong visual narrative, this edition is co-published with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and offers fresh insights into an evolving southern world.

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FICTION

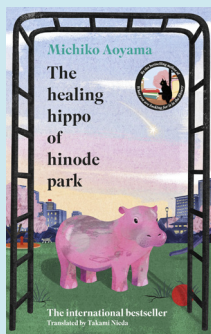


Katabasis

R.F. Kuang
Voyager | \$38.00

Grad student Alice Law will do anything to master analytic magick, even descend into Hell to find her dead mentor. Forced to team up with rival Peter Murdoch, she faces a world where nothing follows the rules.

Will they survive or kill each other first? *Katabasis* is 2025's most unexpected love story, from #1 bestseller R.F. Kuang.

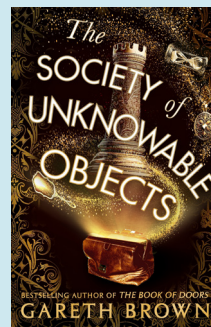


The Healing Hippo Of Hinode Park

Michiko Aoyama
Doubleday | \$38.00

From the bestselling author of *What You Are Looking for Is in the Library* comes a heartwarming novel set in a suburban apartment block. In Advance Hill, five neighbours seek healing, emotional and physical, through

a magical hippo ride in the local park. Enchanting and uplifting, this feel-good story celebrates kindness, connection, and the quiet magic of community. Perfect for fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*.

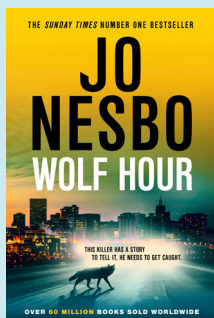


The Society of Unknowable Objects

Gareth Brown
Bantam | \$38.00

From the author of *The Book of Doors* comes a thrilling novel about a secret society guarding magical objects. New member Magda Sparks investigates a dangerous artefact in Hong

Kong, uncovering deadly secrets and betrayals. Her quest leads from London to the U.S., revealing a hidden legacy and the true power behind magic and the truth itself.

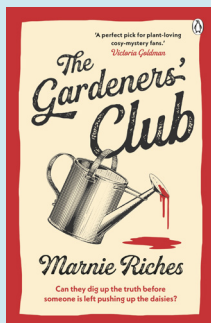


Wolf Hour

Jo Nesbo
Harvill Secker | \$38.00

Detective Bob Oz hunts a sniper terrorising Minneapolis in *Wolf Hour*, a gritty standalone thriller from Jo Nesbo. As the body count rises, Oz realizes the killer's motives are twisted and disturbingly familiar.

With dark secrets, political tension, and shocking twists, this intense thriller keeps you guessing until the very end.

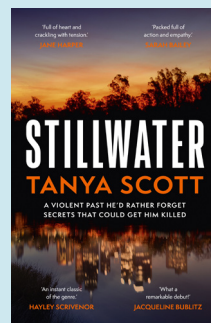


The Gardeners' Club

Marnie Riches
Michael Joseph | \$26.00

Gardening takes a deadly turn for Gill Swanley when a body is found in the community greenhouse. Joining the Bromley Botanists to combat midlife malaise, Gill and her group face more than competition for the

Golden Trowel and they must uncover who's behind the murder before someone else ends up pushing up daisies.



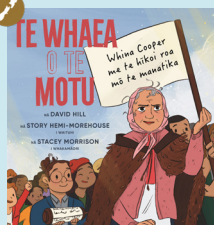
Stillwater

Tanya Scott
Allen & Unwin | \$38.00

Luke Harris wants a fresh start – normal job, house, dog – but his dark past won't let go. When ruthless criminal Gus Alberici reappears, Luke's pulled back into danger. With his father missing, stolen money, and secrets closing in, Luke

must outsmart a relentless enemy to protect his future and keep his past buried.

KIDS' BOOKS

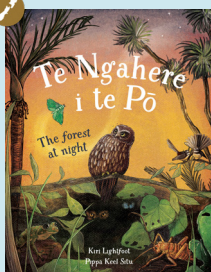
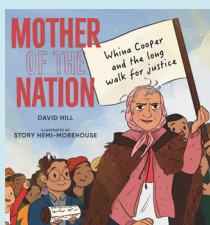


Te Whaea o te Motu Mother of the Nation

David Hill

Picture Puffin | \$25.00

Meet Dame Whina Cooper, a fearless kuia who dedicated her life to championing Māori and women's rights. From organising her first protest at 18 to leading the iconic 1000 km hīkoi to Parliament at 79, Whina united thousands to fight for justice and land rights. Known for her strength, leadership, and determination, she inspired a nation. This beautifully illustrated children's book tells her true story, capturing her mana and legacy. It is also available in te reo Māori as *Te Whaea o Te Motu*, translated by Stacey Morrison, honoring her enduring impact on Aotearoa.

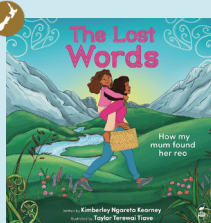


Te Ngahere i te Pō: The Forest at Night

Kiri Lightfoot & Pippa Keel Situ

Allen & Unwin | \$28.00

A perfect bedtime read exploring New Zealand's bush at night. As the sun sets, nocturnal creatures awaken while others sleep. What goes on in the forest under cover of darkness? This beautiful picture book reveals the hidden world of Aotearoa's nighttime animals, creating a soothing lullaby for tamariki to drift off with wonder and calm.

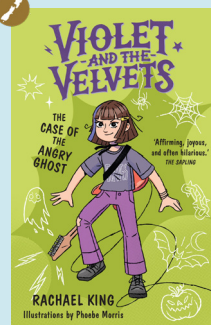


The Lost Words

Kimberley Ngareta
Kearney & Taylor
Terewai Tiave

Little Moa | \$22.00

The Lost Words is a moving daughter's account of her mother's journey through te reo Māori, weaving heritage, culture, and family bonds. As her mum collects forgotten words lost or replaced over time, this powerful story resonates with both young readers and adults, celebrating the revival of language and identity.



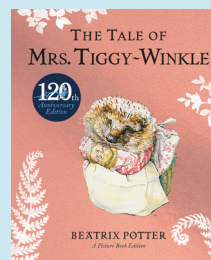
Case of The Angry Ghost: Violet and The Velvets #2

Rachael King

Allen & Unwin | \$19.00

Violet and her friends form a rock band to compete in the BandQuest competition—but a ghost haunting the Royal Theatre threatens to stop them. Rumoured to be a girl who died in a ballet

accident, the ghost's mystery must be solved. Can they overcome their fears, solve the haunting, and win the competition?



The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle

Beatrix Potter

Puffin | \$21.00

Celebrate 120 years of this beloved classic with a new picture book edition. Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle tells the charming story of Lucie and

her remarkable new friend, the hedgehog washerwoman. Now in a large format, perfect for families to enjoy together, this timeless Beatrix Potter tale continues to delight readers of all ages.

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