

A photograph of a modern interior space, likely a library or conference hall, with a curved wooden ceiling and large windows. People are seated at tables, and some are standing and talking. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the windows and ceiling fixtures.

Bookse/ers

CONFERENCE 2026

THE PROGRAMME

Kia ora

Welcome to the 2026 Booksellers Conference

Our annual Booksellers Conference is the premier book industry event of the year. It's a unique opportunity to come together as a community and hear from industry leaders; a chance to celebrate the highs and tackle the lows of the bookselling business together.

Bookselling in Aotearoa is a story of resilience, creativity, and community; and this year's Conference is our chance to celebrate exactly that, while looking boldly at what comes next.

Special thanks to our sponsors

This conference would not be possible without the generous support of:

 HarperCollinsPublishers
Aotearoa New Zealand

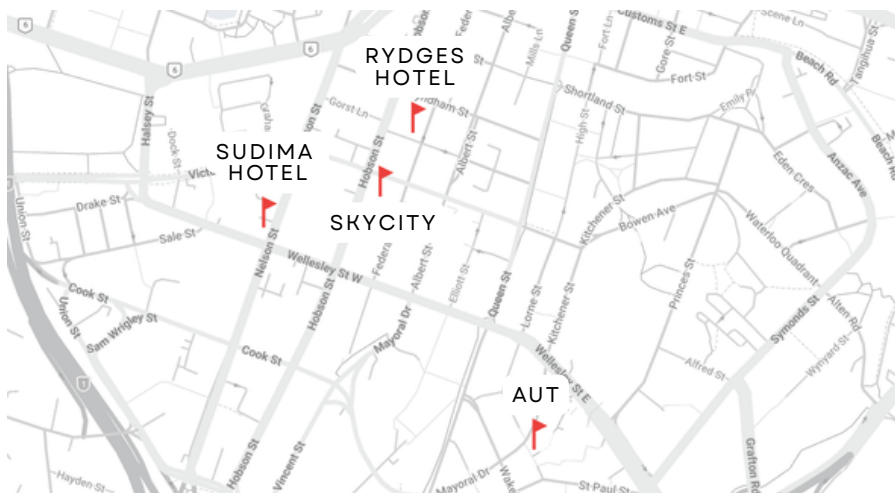
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PRESS



The Itinerary

Friday 24 July

The Booksellers Conference

WHERE AUT Events Centre – WG Building, Wave Room
74 Governor Fitzroy Place, Auckland 1010

WHEN 8am–5.30pm

Cocktails & Catch-Ups

WHERE Sunset Rooftop Bar in the Sudima Hotel
10th Floor/63–67 Nelson Street, Auckland 1010

WHEN From 6pm

Saturday 25 July

Auckland Trade Day

WHERE AUT Events Centre – WG Building, Foyer
74 Governor Fitzroy Place, Auckland 1010

WHEN 9am–5pm



WHERE Rydges Hotel, Kingston Room
59 Federal Street, Auckland 1010

WHEN 6pm–9.30pm

The Morning

FROM 7AM

Arrive

Sign in, get your lanyard, grab a free coffee from the Libro.fm Coffee Cart and find your seat.

8AM

Welcome

Meet your emcee Clara van Wel and hear from Renee Rowland, Association Manager of Booksellers Aotearoa NZ

8.25AM

Market Insights

with Nevena Nikolic
Territory Manager NZ for NielsenIQ BookData

9AM

Children's Book Week

with Juliet Blyth
Chief Executive of Read NZ Te Pou Muramura

9.20AM

Children's Book Week: The Workshop

9.45AM

Morning Tea with HarperCollins

Mix-and-mingle with Emma Galloway while enjoying a beautiful morning tea spread from her upcoming cookbook: *Thyme to Cook*.

10.15AM

The Keynote

with Kate De Goldi
Te Awhi Rito New Zealand Reading Ambassador

11AM

Bookselling Scholar's Report

with Māia Te Whetū and Anna Hedley

11.15AM

Q&A with Gavin Williams

ABA President and owner of Matilda Bookshop

11.50PM

The Booksellers Brief

Three upcoming campaigns from your booksellers association

The Afternoon

+ Evening

12AM **Lunch**

1PM **Bookshop Day 2026**

Artist & artwork unveiling with Coco Solid

1.10PM **Exit Strategy: Looking at modern bookshop succession**

with Neil Craigen
Link Business Brokers

1.50PM **Succession Case Studies**

with Jay Lansdown, Jenna Todd and Graeme Holmes

2.40PM **Copyright and AI**

with Tāwhia Copyright Aotearoa

2.50PM **Afternoon Tea with Te Papa Press**

3PM **Is the romance genre a bookselling bubble or bedrock?**

A panel discussion between publisher Kate Stephenson, author Jackie Ashenden and specialist bookseller Ruby Wallace from Enamoured Books

4PM **Community Forum**

4.45PM **AGM**

FROM 6PM **Cocktails & Catch-Ups**

Wind down and catch-up with long-distance friends, or make new connections, over cocktails and canapes at the Sunset Rooftop Bar in the Sudima Hotel.

Our Speakers



Jackie Ashenden

Author

Jackie Ashenden is the Publisher's Weekly bestselling author of over 80 books and prefers writing sexy, emotional contemporary romance with alpha heroes who've just got the world to their liking only to have it blown wide apart by their kick-ass heroines. She lives in Auckland, New Zealand, and when she's not writing, she can be found drinking martinis, reading anything she can lay her hands on, wasting time on social media, or knitting yet another jersey.



Juliet Blyth

Chief Executive of Read NZ Te Pou Muramura

Juliet found her calling when she became an accidental bookseller at Bennetts Government Bookshop in Wellington in the mid-nineties. For 20 years she ran Vic Books – the campus bookshops at Victoria University of Wellington, now sadly no more, and in 2020 moved from the board table of Read NZ Te Pou Muramura to Chief Executive where she still gets to talk about reading all day, possibly the best job in the world!



Neil Craigen

LINK Business Brokers

Neil Craigen, Head of Sales New Zealand at LINK Business Brokers, brings more than 25 years of experience across banking, finance and business. Passionate about developing people and building relationships, Neil combines practical leadership with industry expertise to help brokers achieve exceptional results and drive long-term business success.



Kate De Goldi

Te Awhi Rito New Zealand Reading Ambassador

Kate De Goldi is the current Reading Ambassador. She is a writer, a dedicated reader and a long-time advocate for the importance of reading at every stage of life. Kate reviews books in print and broadcast media, and teaches creative writing at schools throughout New Zealand. With Susan Paris, she is co-publisher of the Annual Ink children's imprint.



Glenn Edley

Spike, Founder

Glenn Edley is the founder of Spike, one of New Zealand's leading email marketing agencies, and has spent more than 20 years helping businesses turn email into one of their most profitable marketing channels. A long-time Mailchimp expert, Glenn specialises in practical, no-nonsense strategies that help organisations grow their audiences, increase sales, and build stronger customer relationships through email.



Emma Galloway

Author

Emma Galloway (Te Atihaunui a Paparangi, Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngati Rangi) is the bestselling author of *My Darling Lemon Thyme*, *A Year in My Real Food Kitchen* and *Every Day*. She's also a former chef, photographer, stylist, budding potter (@tahu.ceramics) and creator of the award-winning food blog *My Darling Lemon Thyme*. Her work has appeared on *Oprah.com* and *Food52* and in *The Guardian*, among others. She's a past recipient of the Tui Flower Award for Best Recipe Writing at the NZ Food Media Awards and a regular contributor to numerous magazines. Emma lives in Raglan, New Zealand, with her husband and two children.



Anna Hedley

Hedley's Books

Anna is the fourth generation of her family to work at Hedley's Books in Masterton. Growing up in a bookshop was every bit as magical as you might imagine. Through books, she's been lucky enough to meet extraordinary people, from the world-famous to the most down-to-earth. While her career has taken her beyond the bookshop at times, her love of stories – and the communities they create – has always drawn her back to bookselling.



Graeme Holmes

Arty Bees Books, Owner

Born and raised on a dairy farm in Mangatawhiri, Graeme brings a background in technology and training to everything he does. A book obsessive since childhood, he is currently editing his debut novel ahead of self-publishing in 2027, and is enrolled in postgraduate studies in classics at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka. Graeme has been the owner of Arty Bees Books since June 2025.



Jay Lansdown

The Constant Reader Bookshop, Owner

Jay started work with a 15-year career in Sales and Business Development, initially with Qantas and finishing in Hong Kong with Flight Centre Limited. Returning to Australia Jay took a 6-month break and worked in a bookshop. Two years after re-entering the corporate world (in Legal publishing) he took the opportunity to return to bookselling managing the Constant Reader before buying the business in 2012. Constant Reader continues to run a broad Author event program include 'Writers at Stanton' Sydney's oldest continuously running series of Author talks. He sat on the board of the Australian Booksellers Association from 2014 to 2023 and was president from 2019 to 2021. He continues to run the Constant Reader, however, due to awesome staff, that doesn't amount to doing much.



Ruby Leonard

Te Papa Press

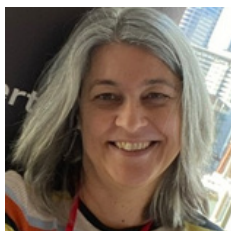
Ruby Leonard is the Publishing Assistant at Te Papa Press.



Mandy Myles

Bookety Book Books, Founder

Mandy is the founder of Bookety Book Books, an online indie bookstore based in Wānaka with a cult following and a curated subscription offering. She's not an influencer – despite everyone's attempt to brand her as one (though honestly, she suspects the pay might be better). With a background in fashion, not bookselling, Mandy has flipped the script on what a bookstore can be: digital, design-led, and anything but traditional. She also sits on the board of Booksellers Aotearoa and is fiercely passionate about making reading exciting and inclusive.



Nevena Nikolic

NielsenIQ BookData, Territory Manager NZ

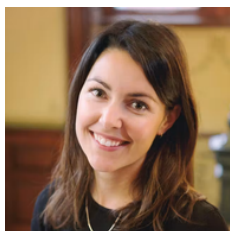
Nevena has worked in the book industry for over 30 years, including over a decade with NielsenIQ BookData as territory manager. She is a passionate advocate for the importance of data to illuminate the state of the bookselling industry, and to better understand category trends. She also has fond memories of her stint at well-known indie bookstore, Time Out.



Coco Solid

Writer, multimedia artist and musician

Coco Solid (Jessica Hansell) is a Ngāpuhi and Samoan multidisciplinary artist from Tāmaki Makaurau, working across literature, music, film and visual art. She is the author of the acclaimed novel *How to Loiter in a Turf War* (Penguin Random House), and a co-founder of Wheke Fortress, an artist-run space supporting underground art and kaupapa-driven creatives.



Kate Stephenson

Head of Publishing at Moa Press, Hachette Aotearoa NZ

Kate is Head of Publishing at Moa Press, Hachette Aotearoa NZ. She spent over a decade in London, working for HarperCollins and Hachette, before returning home to launch Moa Press in 2022. She is passionate about discovering new voices and publishes a wide range of fiction and non-fiction.



Māia Te Whetū

Scorpio Books

Māia Te Whetū (Ngai Tūhoe, Waikato-Tainui, Pākehā) is a bookseller and social media manager at Scorpio Books. She began bookselling alongside her studies at UBS Otago in 2021, and grew fond of spending all day with books and those that read them. Māia will start books from any genre, but is most likely to finish strange fiction and local poetry.



Jenna Todd

Time Out Bookstore, Owner

Jenna Todd (Kāi Tahu) hails from Ōtepoti and was Time Out's longtime manager until taking over ownership in 2026. Jenna reviews books monthly on RNZ's Nine to Noon and fortnightly on 95bFM's breakfast show and presented on the now retired book podcast *Papercuts*, on *The Spinoff*. She currently sits on the boards of the Auckland Writers Festival and Auckland University Press. She has been Chair of Booksellers NZ and sat on the NZ Book Awards Trust.



Clara van Wel

Unity Books, Auckland

Clara van Wel is a writer, musician, comedian and bookseller who likes reading short books and writing long ones.



Ruby Wallace

Enamoured Books

Ruby Wallace is the owner of romance bookstore, Enamoured Books. Curated to be more than a bookstore, Enamoured is a space which celebrates the genre, the community behind it, and feels as though you're stepping into your own romance novel.



Gavin Williams

President, Australian Booksellers Association

Gavin Williams is the owner of Matilda Bookshop, and has been selling books since he and his wife bought the bookshop in 2008. He has been on the ILF board since 2023 and is a passionate believer in the positive capacity of books to unlock new worlds and possibilities, and feels that they should be available to all, no matter where they live.