

WORD CHRISTCHURCH

FESTIVAL & EVENTS



WORD CHRISTCHURCH SPRING FESTIVAL

28 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2020

WORDCHRISTCHURCH.CO.NZ

WELCOME

It's been quite a year. While our international festival in August was cancelled due to COVID-19, we pivoted quickly to turn the challenge into an opportunity to exclusively celebrate the writers who make Aotearoa and Ōtautahi (Christchurch) their home. What we found was a wealth of talent that has filled our Spring Festival programme to bursting, enabling us to once again present a world-class event.

This year has a focus on the community of Ōtautahi, with over 40% of the programme being offered free to attend, as well as plenty of glittering events to satiate the appetite for literature, ideas and entertainment. We welcome poet and comedian Ray Shipley as guest programmer, who says, 'In everything I write and perform, I feel like I'm walking a careful line between being serious and identity-focused, and being playful and silly – I've definitely fallen on the latter side here!' Check out their events **Bedtime Stories for Anxious Adults**, **Stand Up Poetry: A Quiz Show**, and a special edition of **Ray Shipley's Late Night Poetry Hour**.

We offer a huge thank you to all our funders, patrons, partners, supporters, volunteers and audience members. Executive Director Marianne Hargreaves and I extend our gratitude to the WORD Christchurch board of trustees, who have shown exemplary leadership through a crisis, and to our staff. Enjoy the festival!

Rachael King

Programme Director, WORD Christchurch

WORD CHRISTCHURCH PARTNERS



SUPPORTING PUBLISHERS

Allen & Unwin, Auckland University Press, Canterbury University Press, The Cuba Press, Dead Bird Books, Gecko, HarperCollins, Massey University Press, Otago University Press, Penguin Random House, Scribe, Text Publishing, Upstart Press, Victoria University Press

ELIZABETH KNOX: THE ABSOLUTE BOOK

Sunday, 1 November, 12:00pm,
Tūranga, TSB Space

Elizabeth Knox has one of the most singular voices in New Zealand fiction. In *The Absolute Book*, she once again pulls off the undefinable, with an urgently relevant novel that is part fantasy, part thriller, and part meditation on books, libraries and the environment. Don't miss her conversation with **Noelle McCarthy** in our own library, Tūranga, and witness this incredible mind at work.



THE GREAT WORD DEBATE

Saturday, 31 October, 8:30pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

Join MC **Joe Bennett** for this outrageous festival institution guaranteed to entertain and provoke. Is it the end of the world as we know it? Arguing for or against are *The Spinoff* editor **Toby Manhire**, satirist **Tom Scott**, novelist **Paula Morris**, comedian **Guy Williams**, scientist **Dr Siouxsie Wiles**, and te reo expert **Hana O'Regan**. A raucous night of argument and repartee is guaranteed!

PRESENTED BY
MILFORD
INVESTED IN YOU

NGAIO MARSH AWARDS

Saturday 31 October, 4:30pm | Tūranga, TSB Space | Free

Who will take out this year's Ngaio Marsh Awards for Best Novel and Best First Novel? Hear readings from shortlisted authors before the winners are announced.



ADVENTUROUS WOMEN

Thursday, 29 October, 7:00pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

To open the festival, we are bringing back one of our most popular events! This year we invite four extraordinary women to tell stories from their adventurous lives. Hear **Kaiora Tipene**, one half of the fabulous Netflix duo *The Casketeers*; **Selina Tusitala Marsh**, fast-talking PI, former Poet Laureate and author of *Mophead*; **Annabel Langbein**, celebrity chef and adventurer; and **Miriam Lancewood**, author of *Woman in the Wilderness*. Hosted by broadcaster and author **Miriama Kamo**.

PRESENTED BY **latitude.**
eastern's own lifestyle magazine



FEATURING



WORD GALA: BRAVE WORLDS

Friday, 30 October, 7:45pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

Our gala night opens the weekend with five of our distinguished writers responding to the shifting world around us. What does it mean to find courage in the face of a global pandemic, race protests, border strife and climate anxiety? With **Witi Ihimaera**, **Laura Jean McKay**, **Becky Manawatu**, **Elizabeth Knox** and **Behrouz Boochani**, hosted by **John Campbell**.

PRESENTED BY **HEARTLAND**
BANK

AN EVENING WITH WITI IHIMAERA & KINGSLEY SPARGO

Saturday, 31 October, 6:30pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

Join **Witi Ihimaera** for an evening of stories from his memoir *Native Son* and his new book *Navigating the Stars: Māori Creation Myths*, accompanied by sound artist and musical polymath **Kingsley Spargo**.





FARID AHMED: HUSNA'S STORY

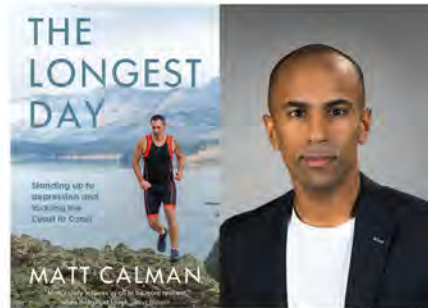
Saturday, 31 October, 1:30pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

The horrifying events of the March 15 terror attacks on two Christchurch mosques in 2019 must never be forgotten. Husna Ahmed was a victim of the shooting, killed while looking for her husband, who was in a wheelchair. In *Husna's Story*, **Farid Ahmed** tells his wife's story, including the tragic account of the shootings. He also outlines his philosophy of forgiveness, which he has travelled the world to convey. His conversation with **Raf Manji** should not be missed by anyone who was affected by that terrible day in our city.

GOING VIRAL: SIOUXSIE WILES & TOBY MORRIS

Sunday, 1 November, 10:30am
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

The ongoing containment of the coronavirus pandemic in Aotearoa has been in no small part due to the co-operation of what Jacinda Ardern affectionately calls our 'team of five million'. It has been a triumph in communication, with clear messaging that New Zealanders have followed. An essential part of this effort is the work of **Dr Siouxsie Wiles** and cartoonist **Toby Morris** (*The Spinoff*), whose comics and animations have gone viral (excuse the pun) around the world. They discuss their strategy and challenges with **Noelle McCarthy**.



LANDSCAPES OF THE MIND: ADVENTURES IN MENTAL HEALTH

Sunday, 1 November, 1:30pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

Matt Calman's book, *The Longest Day*, describes how training for the Coast to Coast helped him find a way up the perilous path from rock bottom. Fellow journalist **Jehan Casinader** (*This Is Not How It Ends*) found the power of storytelling helped him to survive. Both men talk with **Ekant Veer** about their experiences with depression and their individual roads to mental health.

PRESENTED BY Pegasus



DEAR KATHERINE

Sunday, 1 November, 5:00pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

For fifty years, some of our finest writers have travelled to Menton in the south of France to take up the Katherine Mansfield Fellowship. While there, they work in a studio attached to the Villa Isola Bella, where Katherine Mansfield, arguably New Zealand's most famous writer, lived and wrote for a time late in her career. We invite five of those writers to write a letter to Mansfield about their time writing by the Mediterranean, or about anything they think Katherine should know about the world in 2020. Featuring **Paula Morris**, **Vincent O'Sullivan**, **Bill Manhire**, **Carl Nixon** and **Fiona Farrell**.

Supported by the Katherine Mansfield Fellowship administered by the Arts Foundation Te Tumu Tai.

PRESENTED BY MILFORD
INVESTED IN YOU

MEET OUR YOUTH JURY

We are proud to introduce this year's WORD Christchurch Youth Jury, a group of seven young people aged 14 to 22, who have been challenged to brainstorm, develop, promote, and finally to realise, two events in the programme. With support from WORD, the Youth Jurors have gained experience in event production and have helped to establish a WORD youth programme that will continue in future festivals. The two events, **For You(th)**, and **In Other Words**, have been designed by young people for everyone. Check the website for more information about our fabulous jury and how they arrived at these events.

SUPPORTED BY RATA FOUNDATION

READ ALOUD SCHOOLS DAY

Once again WORD brings a free schools' programme for primary and intermediate children, on 30 October 2020 (fully booked). Featuring **Selina Tusitala Marsh**, **Jonathan King**, **Miriam Lancewood**, **Weng Wai Chan**, **Tania Roxborough** and **Toby Morris**.

PRESENTED BY Harcourts gold

BECKY MANAWATU: AŪE

Saturday, 31 October, 3:00pm
The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

Becky Manawatu (Ngāi Tahu) exploded into the literary landscape last year with her book *Aūe*, a story of broken family. Steve Braunias called it the best book of 2019: 'a deep and powerful work, maybe even the most successfully achieved portrayal of underclass New Zealand life since *Once Were Warriors*.' It went on win the 2020 Ockham awards for both best first novel and best novel. Don't miss this exciting new writer in conversation with **Emma Espiner**.



SUPPORTED BY READ NZ TE POU MURAMURA

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Please refer to WORD Christchurch website for COVID-19 updates and up to date programme changes.

Information was correct at the time of printing.

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER



Colin McCahon: Is this the Promised Land?

Christchurch Art Gallery
Te Puna o Waiwhetū
6:00pm - 7:00pm | Free Entry

Peter Simpson discusses and illustrates the evolution of Colin McCahon's work and life.

THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER

Book Launch: Fiona Farrell

Scorpio Books, 120 Hereford Street
5:30pm - 7:00pm | Free Entry

Join Fiona Farrell for the launch of her new poetry collection, *Nouns, Verbs*, etc.



Book Launch: Mohamed Hassan

Check website for venue
6:00pm - 7:00pm | Free Entry

Mohamed Hassan launches his poetry collection *National Anthem*, with special guests including Dominic Hoey and Daisy Speaks.

Adventurous Women

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
7:00pm - 8:15pm | \$35/33*
See Featured Events overleaf.

New Zealand Heritage Book Awards

St Michael & All Angels, 95 - 99 Oxford Terrace
7:00pm | Free Entry

Award ceremony for this year's Heritage Book Awards, hosted by the New Zealand Society of Authors.

Christchurch Poetry Slam Finals

Check website for venue
7:30pm - 9:30pm | \$10 on the door

Who will represent Christchurch at the National Poetry Slam?

FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER

Heritage: Historical Writing

Tūranga, TSB Space
10:30am - 11:30am | Free Entry*

AJ Fitzwater and Joanna Orwin and the winners of the Heritage Book Awards discuss their books.

The Quick Brown Dog

Tūranga, Spark Place
12:00pm - 1:00pm | Free Entry*

Hagley Writers' Institute celebrates the launch of the fourth edition of their literary journal, *The Quick Brown Dog*.

Spoonful of Spice

Tūranga, TSB Space
12:00pm - 1:00pm | Free Entry*

A celebration of food and culture from women of Christchurch, chaired by Annabel Langbein.

Family Ties: Carl Nixon & Chloe Lane

Tūranga, TSB Space
1:30pm - 2:30pm | Free Entry*

You can't choose your family, or can you? Carl Nixon and Chloe Lane discuss their gripping new novels with Kirsten McDougall.

Workshop: Short Fiction with Owen Marshall

Tūranga, Spark Place
2:30pm - 5:00pm | \$50* (limited to 20 places)

Master short fiction writer Owen Marshall leads a workshop on craft to improve your own writing.

Merchant, Miner, Mandarin

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
3:00pm - 4:00pm | Free Entry*

Jenny Sew Hoy Agnew and Trevor Agnew present the remarkable story of Choie Sew Hoy.

An Hour with Vincent O'Sullivan

Tūranga, TSB Space
3:00pm - 4:00pm | \$20/18*

Vincent O'Sullivan, one of our most acclaimed and versatile writers, talks to Paul Millar.

Ko Aotearoa Tātou: We Are New Zealand

Tūranga, TSB Space
5:00pm - 6:00pm | Free Entry*

In Ko Aotearoa Tātou, writers answer the question: *Who are New Zealanders?* With Selina Tusitala Marsh, essa may ranapiri, Mohamed Hassan, Tusiata Avia and more. Followed by launch at 6:00pm.



Annabel Langbein: Bella

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
6:00pm - 7:00pm | \$20/18*

Annabel Langbein discusses her remarkable life and new memoir with Jo Malcolm.

Bedtime Stories For Anxious Adults

Check website for venue
7:30pm - 8:30pm | \$15*

Pip Adam, Eamonn Marra, Tusiata Avia and Laura Borrowdale tell soothing stories with live illustrations from *The Spinoffs's Toby Morris*. Devised by Ray Shipley.

WORD GALA: Brave Worlds

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
7:45pm - 9:00pm | \$35/33*
See Featured Events overleaf.



Ray Shipley's Late Night Poetry Hour

Check website for venue
9:00pm to late | \$15/10*

Ray Shipley introduces late night poetry with

Mohamed Hassan, Freya Daly Sadgrove, Dominic Hoey, essa may ranapiri and more...

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER

Te Papa Ōtākaro Walk

Assemble at Manchester St Bridge
10:00am - 11:00am | \$25* (limited spaces)

Encounter poets and storytellers whose works are engraved along the Ōtākaro. With David Eggleton, Frankie McMillan, Fiona Farrell and Bernadette Hall, led by Joseph Hullen.

Brian Easton: A History of the New Zealand Economy

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
10:30am - 11:30am | \$20/18*

Economist Brian Easton discusses his new book, *Not in Narrow Seas*, with Geoffrey Rice.



Talking Animals: Philip Armstrong and Laura Jean McKay

Tūranga, TSB Space
10:30am - 11:30am | \$20/18*

Novelist Laura Jean McKay and poet Philip Armstrong appear in conversation and ask: what would the animals say if they could talk to us?

Page to Stage and Screen

Check website for venue
11:45am - 1:00pm | Free Entry*

A panel for young scriptwriters featuring Nathan Joe, Ghazaleh Golbakhsh and Juanita Hepi.

Public Knowledge: The Future of Democracy

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū
12:00pm - 1:00pm | Free Entry*

Sally Blundell, Golriz Ghahraman and Sacha McMeeking discuss the state of our public knowledge and the implications for democracy.



Landmarks: Sydney, Marshall & Turner

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
12:00pm - 1:00pm | \$20/18*

Grahame Sydney, Owen Marshall and Brian Turner offer a love song to the South Island, in particular Central Otago, with Fiona Farrell.

A Long Time Coming: Ngāi Tahu's Settlement

Tūranga, TSB Space
12:00pm - 1:00pm | Free Entry*

The extraordinary story of Ngāi Tahu's treaty settlement negotiations with the Crown. With Te Maire Tau, Tā Tipene O'Regan, Chris Finlayson and author Martin Fisher.



Llew Summers: Body & Soul

Christchurch Art Gallery
Te Puna o Waiwhetū
1:30pm - 2:30pm | \$20/18*

Llew Summers: Body and Soul depicts the work and life of one of New Zealand's most recognisable sculptors. Author John Newton talks with Sally Blundell.

In Other Words

Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square
1:30pm - 2:15pm | Free Entry*

The WORD Youth Jury presents an accessible, all-ages event with readings in English, te reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language.

Farid Ahmed: Husna's Story

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street
1:30pm - 2:30pm | \$20/18*
See Featured Events overleaf.



Bill Manhire: Wow!

Tūranga, TSB Space
1:30pm - 2:30pm | \$20/18*

Join Bill Manhire and John Campbell for readings and conversation, featuring the poet's signature wordplay and humour.

Halloween Book Club: Shirley Jackson

Check website for venue

1:30pm - 2:30pm | \$15*

Some lively bookchat on quirky American writer Shirley Jackson with **Elizabeth Knox**, **Jonathan King**, **Erin Harrington** and **Noelle McCarthy**.

Finding a Place

Tūranga, TSB Space

3:00pm - 4:00pm | \$20/15*

Golriz Ghahraman and **Ghazaleh Golbakhsh** discuss their recent memoirs with **Donna Miles-Mojab**.

Becky Manawatu: Aūe

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

3:00pm - 4:00pm | \$20/18*

See Featured Events overleaf.

Tell It Slant

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

3:00pm - 4:00pm | Koha to Qtopia*

Festival writers come together to support rainbow youth. With **Nathan Joe**, **essa may ranapiri**, **Lil O'Brien** and **AJ Fitzwater**, hosted by **Ray Shipley**.



Wild Honey: A Celebration of New Zealand Women's Poetry

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

4:30pm - 5:30pm | \$20/18*

A celebration of New Zealand women's poetry with three generations of some of our finest poets.

Letters to Ōtautahi

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

4:30pm - 5:30pm | \$20/15*

Writers write letters to their city, with **Nathan Joe**, **Juanita Hepi**, **Lil O'Brien**, **Erik Kennedy** and **Behrouz Boochani**.

Ngāio Marsh Awards

Tūranga, TSB Space

4:30pm - 5:30pm | Free Entry*

See Featured Events overleaf.



New Regent Street Pop-Up Festival

New Regent Street

6:00pm - 7:30pm | Free Entry

A feast of short sharp events in the characterful spaces of New Regent Street. Check the website for the full programme.

An Evening with Witi Ihimaera & Kingsley Spargo

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

6:30pm - 7:30pm | \$30/28*

See Featured Events overleaf.



Tusiata Avia: The Savage Coloniser Book Launch

Space Academy, 371 St Asaph Street

8:00pm (doors - 7:30pm)

Free Entry

Join **Tusiata Avia** for the launch of her new collection *The Savage Coloniser Book*, with special guests **Selina Tusiata Marsh** and **FAFSWAG's Pati Solomona Tyrell**.

The Great WORD Debate

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

8:30pm - 9:45pm | \$35/33*

See Featured Events overleaf.

WORD Up Cabaret

Check website for venue

9:00pm - 10:15pm | \$15*

The Unicorn presents a night of dark storytelling, with special WORD guests.

SUNDAY, 1 NOVEMBER



Pip Adam: Nothing to See

Tūranga, TSB Space

10:30am - 11:30am | \$20/18*

Pip Adam discusses her latest novel, and her unique world view, with fellow novelist **Carl Shuker**.

Going Viral: Siouxsie Wiles & Toby Morris

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

10:30am - 11:30am | \$20/18*

See Featured Events overleaf.

Elizabeth Knox: The Absolute Book

Tūranga, TSB Space

12:00pm - 1:00pm | \$20/18*

See Featured Events overleaf.

Poet Laureate's Choice

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

12:00pm - 1:00pm | \$15*

Poet Laureate **David Eggleton** invites five poets to respond to the landscape of Te Waipounamu. With **Cilla McQueen**, **Kay McKenzie Cooke**, **James Norcliffe**, **Owen Marshall** and **Bernadette Hall**.



Tom Scott: Searching for Charlie

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

12:00pm - 1:00pm | \$20/18*

Tom Scott discusses his new biography of Charles Upham VC with **Christopher Moore**.

Landscapes of the Mind: Adventures in Mental Health

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

1:30pm - 2:30pm | \$20/15*

See Featured Events overleaf.

Medical Misadventures

Tūranga, TSB Space

1:30pm - 2:30pm | \$20/18*

Two novels, by **Carl Shuker** and **Eileen Merriman**, take medical mishaps as starting points. Chaired by **Emma Espiner**.



Remembering Ralph Hotere

The Piano, 156 Armagh Street

3:00pm - 4:00pm | \$20*

Vincent O'Sullivan, Ralph Hotere's biographer, is joined by **Bill Manhire**, **Cilla McQueen** and **Lisa Reihana** to discuss the life and work of one of our greatest artists.

A Cabinet of Curiosities: Tiny Lectures on the Weird and Wonderful

Rutherford's Den Lecture Theatre, The Arts Centre

4:30pm - 5:30pm | \$20/18*

A collection of short and intimate lectures on curious subjects from **Siouxsie Wiles**, **Pip Adam** and **Margaux Warne**.

Dear Katherine

The Piano, The Philip Carter Family Concert Hall

5:00pm - 6:00pm | \$20/18*

See Featured Events overleaf.

Stand Up Poetry: A Quiz Show

Check website for venue

6:00pm - 8:00pm | \$15*

Join **Ray Shipley** and two teams of poets and comics for a comedy show with feeling, and a poetry show with hilarity. With **Guy Williams**, **Dominic Hoey**, **Danielle O'Halloran**, **Audrey Porne**, **Eamonn Marra** and **Nathan Joe**.

Book Launch: John Newton & Bernadette Hall

Scorpio Books, 120 Hereford St

6:00pm - 7:30pm | Free Entry

Launching **John Newton's** comic novel in verse, *Escape Path Lighting*, and **Bernadette Hall's** poetry collection *Fancy Dancing*.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS

TŪRANGA | PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER

The Great WORD Story Hunt!

10:30am - 12:00pm | Free Entry

Join the family story hunt in the library! Find clues that will lead you to the next story, poem, comic or song, with leading New Zealand writers.



SUNDAY, 1 NOVEMBER

Spontaneous Storytelling for Families

10:30am - 11:15am | \$10

An intergenerational workshop for families to create stories together through connection, play and improvisation. For ages 6+.

Dragons, Gods & Adventure

12:00pm - 1:00pm | Free Entry

Join junior fiction writers **Tania Roxborough**, **Heather McQuillan** and **Bill Nagelkerke** with their adventure novels for 8-12 year olds, with **Zac McCallum**.

For You(th)

1:00pm - 3:00pm | Free Entry

An afternoon of activities for young people curated by our Youth Jury. With games, zine-making and workshops on creative writing with **Karen Healey** and illustration with **Katie O'Neill**.

Poetry Playground

2:00pm - 3:00pm | Free Entry

Poetry is the best playground! Join **Paula Green** and play with what poems can do. Ages 5+.

Loopy Tunes Book Launch

3:00pm - 5:00pm | Free Entry

Join musical duo **Loopy Tunes** as they launch their latest bilingual (English and te reo Māori) picture books.

Eileen Merriman: A Trio of Sophies

3:30pm - 4:30pm | Free Entry

Eileen Merriman discusses her novels for teens with fellow young adult author **Karen Healey**.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets to all events are available via the website wordchristchurch.co.nz

* Service fees apply. For details on ticketing concessions and offers check the Ticketing Information on the website. Please register via our website for free events.