

A festival of books, storytelling and ideas.

This year's programme printing is generously sponsored by JR Matthews Trust

booktown.nz

2015-2025 BOOK TEN KARUKATEA FESTIVAL

FEATHERSTON BOOK TOWN Karukatea FESTIVAL 2025

FEATHERSTON BOOKTOWN MAJOR FUNDERS 2025



BOOKSELLERS STALLS 📖
Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm
Bookseller Marquee outside Anzac Hall

BOOKTOWN BUSKERS
Saturday & Sunday, various times & places

COUNTRY TEA & CAKES
Saturday 9.30am-3.30pm
Sunday 9am-11.30am
Supper Room, Anzac Hall Complex

MINI FELL ENGINE IS ON TRACK 🌟
Saturday & Sunday 10am-2pm
Clifford Square (weather permitting)

FEATHERSTON SATURDAY MARKET
Saturday 9am-12.30pm
33 Fitzherbert Street

POP-UP ARAIOI MUSEUM
Saturday 9.30am-12pm
Featherston Library

JOY OF TEA AND BOOKS
Saturday 10am-4pm
Mrs. Hope's Second Chance Emporium window
Displays by Beverley McNally and Dilma Tea

PAINT A MURAL AT THE BAKEHOUSE COLLECTIVE
All weekend
4 Wakefield Street

FEATHERSTON VINYL CLUB AT WAIMARIE EATERY & BAR
Sunday 4.30pm-late, RSA, free
Playing all New Zealand music on vinyl

Featherston's eight bookshops are open during the Karukatea Festival weekend and book stalls are in the marquee outside the Anzac Hall.



Scan for Karukatea Festival 2025 tickets on eventfinda.co.nz

Where events are not sold out beforehand, tickets will be sold at the ticket booth in the Anzac Hall. Discounts for students and seniors with ID will be available.

For the full festival event details and the latest updates go to: booktown.nz

9-11 MAY 2025 Karukatea Festival Programme

Second-hand, new & collectable books for sale.
Author talks. Panel discussions.
Craft of the book workshops.
Children's events. Buskers.
Book launches.

FRIDAY 9 MAY

THE FISH'N'CHIP SUPPER

Friday 6pm-9.30pm, Anzac Hall, \$55, cash bar

It's become a tradition for the opening night of the Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival – the best fish'n'chips, a sensational speaker and kapa haka by Featherston's tamariki. On our 10th birthday, Matt Brown, author of *She is not your rehab*, will rivet you to your seat with his personal story of healing and the anti-violence movement he and his wife, Sarah, co-founded from a barbershop in Christchurch. Kaumātua Paora Ammunson will welcome writers and readers, and Liz Mellish (Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui) is our MC. Generously sponsored by Ihi Research.

LATE NIGHT LIT

Ko au te taiao, ko te taiao ko au:
I am nature, and nature is me

Friday 8pm-9.30pm, Royal Hotel, \$35, beverage included

Poets and storytellers read from their work about the natural world and how we intersect with it, from a coastal swamp to the streets of Colombo. Come to hear Apirana Taylor (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Ruanui), Nafanua Purcell Kersell (Satupa'itea, Falealupo, Aleipata, Tuāfū), Michael Fitzsimons (Irish Pākehā), Robin Peace (Orkney, Donegal, Herefordshire) and romesh dissanayake (Sri Lankan, Koryo Saram).

SATURDAY 10 MAY

NORWEGIAN WOOD: LARS MYTTING TALKS WOOD CHOPPING, STACKING AND DRYING

Saturday 9am-10am, Anzac Hall, \$25

Norwegian author Lars Mytting's book *Norwegian Wood* – the definitive woodcutter's bible to preparing firewood – spread like wildfire around the world. No wonder, when our relationship with fire is ancient and universal and the age-old rituals around chopping and stacking wood continue to be a part of 21st-century life. Don't miss Lars Mytting on his first visit to New Zealand, in conversation with John Campbell.

Generously sponsored by an anonymous donor.

Hunting and fishing experiences for Lars donated by Syd and Stephen Wainwright of JSW Contracting.

Thanks to the Nordic Council of Ministers and Auckland Writers Festival Waituhi o Tāmaki.

ON THE COUCH: MATT & SARAH BROWN

Saturday 9.30am-10.30am, Kiwi Hall, \$20

She is not your rehab, a movement created by Matt Brown and Sarah Brown (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa), promotes safe relationships and a new view of masculinity to stop family violence. Their work started in a barbershop, became a TED talk, moved to prisons and went global. The conversation with Victor Rodger will end with the launch of *This Is Not Yours to Carry* – one copy is to go to every child sheltered by Women's Refuge.

Generously sponsored by Ihi Research.

GOING COASTAL

Saturday 9.30am-10.30am, Featherston School Hall, \$20

The coastal areas around Wellington have got crowded lately. Ghosts, a psychic, an ex-cop, a retired librarian, triplets, a theme park and Marie Curie have taken up residence, and novels by Damien Wilkins (*Delirious*), Mandy Hager (*Strays & Waifs*) and Tracy Farr (*Wonderland*) are responsible. Mary McCallum asks why these writers went coastal so close to home and what it brought to their novels.

PAPER-MAKING DROP-IN SESSION

Saturday 10am-12pm, St Teresa's School Quad, koha

Come and enjoy making and learning about handmade plant paper. Rob Kennedy will guide you through the basics of paper-making and answer your questions about this ancient craft. Drop in in the morning for a casual informal session. Prepare to get your hands wet!

VICTORIAN GOTHIC: A PERSONAL TOUR BY A TRAGIC DRACULA OBSESSIVE (1)

Saturday 10am-11.30am, Dickensian Bookshop, \$45 with morning tea

Noelle McCarthy has been obsessed by the fantastical stories of the late Victorian Gothic since she was a teenager wearing too much pale foundation and a black velvet swing-coat. Join the Featherston writer for a delicious repast in the mysterious book-lined walls of the Dickensian and she'll take you through her favourite Gothic titles, from *Dracula* to *The Island of Dr Moreau* to *Sherlock Holmes*. Limit 30. Gothic attire encouraged.

BOOK-BINDING WORKSHOP

Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm, St Teresa's School, \$40

Back by popular demand, Robyn Ramsden shows you how to make a fourth-century Nag Hammadi codex. Her design is reusable and the leather will last long after you fill your notebook, and with her written instructions you can make your own at home. Materials supplied.

KO AOTEAROA TĒNEI: HOW WILL THE JUSTICE SYSTEM MAKE USE OF TIKANGA MĀORI?

Saturday 11am-12.30pm, Anzac Hall, \$25

One of New Zealand's biggest constitutional issues is how state law and tikanga Māori intersect. Join tikanga expert and lawyer Te Raumawhitu Kupenga (Ngāti Porou) as he unpacks this with a distinguished panel: former High Court Judge, Māori Land Court Chief Judge and longtime Waitangi Tribunal Chair Tā Edward Taihakurei Durie (Rangitāne, Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Raukawa); Māori rights champion, Treaty expert and lawyer Annette Sykes (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Māhino); Treaty and public law expert and barrister Natalie Coates (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Hine, Tūhoe, and more); and lawyer, mana whenua and Papawai Marae chair Herewini Ammunson (Ngāti Kahungunu/Rangitāne ki Wairarapa, Te Arawa, Sāmoa).

Generously sponsored by Arotahi Communications.

DROP IN FOR LETTERPRESS & COFFEE

Saturday 11am-12pm, The Bakehouse Collective, 4 Wakefield Street

Resident artist and designer Cheryl Gallaway of Bower & Book Press will demonstrate the technique of letterpress printing, using the type and tools of the trade that have been used for centuries. With a table-top press, Cheryl will be printing special edition birthday cards that celebrate and mark the 10th Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival. Coffee will also be available for koha.

DESIGN A VAGINA: MEMOIR #2 FROM RUTH SHAW

Saturday 11.30am-12.30pm, Kiwi Hall, \$20

Ruth Shaw is on a mission to help rural women sort their prolapses, a common, disruptive and often embarrassing condition that can be prevented with the right treatment. She writes about it in part two of her provocative and funny memoir *Three Wee Bookshops at the End of the World*, which is launching at Featherston Booktown. Editor of *Shepherdess* magazine, Kristy McGregor, will launch it.

Kindly supported by Shepherdess magazine.

AOTEAROA OVER THERE

Saturday 11.30am-12.30pm, Featherston School Hall, \$20

More New Zealand authors are seeing their work going overseas than ever before – in UK and US editions, translations, audiobooks, eBooks, streamed series and movies. Becky Manawatu, Pip Adam and Carl Shuker will talk with publisher Mary McCallum about how it happens, and what it means for them and for Aotearoa literature as a whole.

ANIKA MOA: THE WITCH OF MAKETU AND THE BLEATING LAMBS

Saturday 12pm-12.45pm, Featherston Library, free

Auē! The Witch of Maketu is feeling grumpy and stink. The 12 juicy lambs she's kept for her winter kai are bleating all day and night. She can't get any beauty sleep! What can she do? Cheeky, funny, wildly creative singer and entertainer Anika Moa (Ngāpuhi, Te Aupōuri) wants to tell you all about it. Come along and help her sort out the witch and the taniwha!

Generously funded by South Wairarapa District Council.

PAPER-MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 1pm-3pm, St Teresa's School Quad, \$50

Enjoy digging deeper into the ancient craft of handmade plant paper using native plants. Rob Kennedy will guide you through the basics and answer your questions in a hands-on workshop. The paper will be posted to you once it is dried and pressed. Prepare to get your hands wet! Limited to 10, so book quickly.



Welcome from the Chair of the Featherston Booktown Trust

Kia ora tātou

Welcome to Featherston BookTen 2025!

This year's 10th Karukatea Festival will be one to remember as it features our first ever international writers – Lars Mytting, John Connell and romesh dissanayake, along with what booklovers have come to expect: bold and innovative programming across 44 events; 87 of Aotearoa New Zealand's top presenters, writers and provocateurs; multiple booksellers; absorbing panel conversations about nation-shaping topics; fascinating sessions exploring the craft of the books; and a not-to-be-missed gala evening featuring the writing and storytelling stars who have featured in the Karukatea Festival over the last decade. And, of course, our legendary warm hospitality and manaakitanga.

Many thanks to all who have made this possible: our mana whenua partners; our volunteers; our friends at the Auckland Writers Festival Waituhi o Tāmaki; our funders, sponsors, donors and the Friends of Featherston Booktown; Featherston's eight booksellers; our hard-working board of trustees and operations team; our patron Joy Cowley and our founding kaumātua, Lincoln Gould.

Enjoy the 10th Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival!

Ngā manaakitanga

Peter Biggs

Peter Biggs, Chair
Featherston Booktown Trust,
Registered Charity: CC52369

KEY 🌟 For rangatahi/young people

📖 Craft of the book

