



Ruapehu Writers Festival

Bringing words to the mountain
Ohakune 17–20 March 2016

Programme



www.ruapehuwritersfestival.nz

Welcome

to the first ever Ruapehu Writers Festival

Ever since we started talking to people about this crazy idea, we've been overwhelmed by support and enthusiasm from Ruapehu locals, the literary community and keen readers. Thank you all for helping us make this happen.

Our aim is for this festival to be a series of the best conversations about books, writing and ideas, and we're delighted you're joining this conversation with us. Enjoy!

Anna Jackson, Simon Edmonds and Helen Rickerby
Festival Organisers

Thanks!

We couldn't have done it without you:

Creative NZ; Victoria University of Wellington, particularly the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Cheryl Spain and Chris Wilson; Ruapehu District Council, especially Paul Wheatcroft and Fiona Thomas; Vic Books, especially Marion Castree and Luke Finnigan; the Powderhorn Chateau; Eventfinda, especially Trudy Barton; Boosted, everyone who donated to our Boosted crowdfunding campaign, and Harry Ricketts and Nick Ascroft for starring in our Boosted video; Elizabeth Heritage for helping us with publicity; Amy Leigh Wicks; Paula Green for the school event and poetry competition; Sue Orr for the workshop; the Book Council, especially Steph Soper; Ruapehu College, especially Johnny Greene; Taumararui High School, especially Antony Millen and Nikki Pike; Ngati Rangi Trust, especially Andy Gowland-Douglas; Ohakune New World, especially Dan Rolls; TCB for bike hire; Bachcare; Ruapehu Alpine Lifts; our fabulous volunteers, Kate Wanwimolruk, Tom McLean and Ya-Wen Ho; all the guest writers and publishers who so enthusiastically agreed to come and talk and read; everyone we have temporarily forgotten; and you!

Thursday 17 March

Gala Opening

Join us to celebrate the beginning of the festival, and enjoy readings from some of our featured writers.

Thursday, 6.00pm
The Matterhorn,
Powderhorn Chateau
Free event, all welcome

Friday 18 March

Fiction Writing Workshop with Sue Orr

Join acclaimed fiction writer Sue Orr for a workshop in writing fiction. Tickets for this session have sold out.

Friday, 9.00–10.30am
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$30 (not incl. in season pass)

Ohakune Stories, with Martin Edmond and Merrilyn George

Martin Edmond, one of New Zealand's leading non-fiction writers, spent his formative years in Ohakune and returns to the Ruapehu region over and over again in his work and his imagination. Merrilyn George was born and raised in Ohakune, and is the author of a history of the district: *Ohakune – Opening to a New World*. Join these two authors as they tell and discuss some of the town's many stories.

Friday, 11.00am–12.00 noon
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Poetry Anthology, with Siobhan Harvey, Johanna Aitchison, Kiri Piahana-Wong, Amy Leigh Wicks, Maria McMillan and Ingrid Horrocks

One hour, six amazing poets.

Friday, 12 noon–1.00pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
Free event, all welcome

Writers Talk: Place as Character, with Sue Orr, Bianca Zander and Stacy Gregg

Three well-known fiction writers discuss the importance and role of place in their works.

Friday, 2.00–3.00pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Fiction Anthology, with Emily Perkins, Bianca Zander and Nix Whittaker

Enjoy hearing fiction writers reading from their work.

Friday, 3.00–4.00pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
Free event, all welcome

Desert Road, with Fiona Kidman, Ingrid Horrocks and Fergus Barrowman

The Desert Road has a somewhat mythic hold over our imaginations. Listen to writers Fiona Kidman, Ingrid Horrocks and publisher Fergus Barrowman talk about the place of this iconic road in literature.

Friday, 4.30–5.30pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Festival Lecture by Elizabeth Knox: 'On Doubt, Dubiously'

Acclaimed writer Elizabeth Knox's festival lecture about writing memoir promises to be exciting, engaging, thoughtful, and not-to-be-missed.

Friday, 5.30–6.30pm
The Matterhorn
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Poetry Slam

Whether you're a competitor or an audience member, come along for a great night of poetry. The slam, run by acclaimed slammers Carrie Rudzinski and Ken Arkind, is open to poets of all styles. Poems must be no longer than 3 mins and 10 secs. No props or costumes. Prepare three poems – there will be up to three rounds, depending on the number of entrants. Sign up on the night!

Friday, 8.00pm
The Matterhorn
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Saturday 19 March

Writers Talk: Working with Myth, with Tulia Thompson and Vana Manasiadis

Vana Manasiadis's debut poetry collection *Ithaca Island Bay Leaves: A Mythistorima* wove Greek myth with family history and contemporary Wellington. Tulia Thompson's children's book *Josefa and the Vu* brings to life a range of myths and ancestors in present-day Auckland. These writers talk about using their ancestral stories in their creative work, and what myth brings to literature.

Saturday, 10.00–11.00am
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Children's Poetry with Paula Green and Children's Songs with Jenny and Laughton Patrick

As well as writing and editing poetry collections for children, Paula Green has become an ambassador for poetry to children. Jenny Patrick, known for her historical fiction, writes children's songs with her husband, musician Laughton Patrick. Join them all for this fun free session for children of all ages.

Saturday, 11.00am–12 noon
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
Free event, all welcome

Waterfall Walk

Walk across a stunning landscape to the picturesque Waitonga Falls. The walk will take approximately 1.5 hours. A moderate level of fitness is required as it does include a very long and steep flight of steps to and from the waterfall at the mid-point of the walk.

Saturday, 11.00am–1.00pm
Waitonga Falls
Ohakune Mountain Road
Free event, all welcome
Includes free shuttle from the Powderhorn Chateau and back, leaving at 11.00am

Horse Trek with Stacy Gregg

Join popular pony book author Stacy Gregg for a horse trek. Suitable for beginners or experienced riders. Especially for Stacy's younger fans (though adults are welcome as well). Free shuttle from the Powderhorn Chateau included, leaves at 12.45. Tickets for this event have sold out.

Saturday, 1.00–2.00pm
Ruapehu Homestead
SH 49, Rangataua
\$40 (not incl. in season pass)

Comic Poetry, with Nick Ascroft, Harry Ricketts, Johanna Aitchison, James Brown and Vivienne Plumb

See the funnier side of poetry with these fantastic poets.

Saturday, 2.00–3.00pm
The Matterhorn
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Editors Talk, with Fergus Barrowman, Harriet Allen, Anna Hodge, Helen Rickerby, Kiri Piahana-Wong

Find out about the business of publishing and what editors are looking for with five literary editors: Fergus Barrowman of Victoria University Press, Harriet Allen of Penguin Random House, Anna Hodge of Auckland University Press, Helen Rickerby of Seraph Press and Kiri Piahana-Wong of Anahera Press.

Saturday, 3.00–4.00pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Writers Talk: Structure: Pip Adam, Emily Perkins and Fiona Farrell

Three fiction writers discuss the importance of structure and how they deal with structure in their own work.

Saturday, 4.30–5.30pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Performance Poetry, with Carrie Rudzinski, Ken Arkind, Tulia Thompson and Nick Ascroft

Enjoy performance poetry by this great range of poets.

Saturday, 5.30–6.30pm
The Matterhorn
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Nicky Pellegrino and Jenny Patrick in Conversation

Two popular and much-loved novelists come together in conversation for this special Saturday evening event.

Saturday, 8.00–9.00pm
The Matterhorn
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Sunday 20 March

Essays and Place, with Ashleigh Young, Ingrid Horrocks, Harry Ricketts, Cherie Lacey, Tim Corballis and Martin Edmond

Short readings from the forthcoming book, *Extraordinary Anywhere: Essays on Place from Aotearoa New Zealand* (eds. Ingrid Horrocks and Cherie Lacey, VUP), featuring Te Kuiti, Pukeahu in Wellington, Napier, Ohakune, elsewhere, outer space and an out-of-body experience. Introduced by publisher Fergus Barrowman.

Sunday, 9.30–10.30am
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
Free event, all welcome

Small Town Shadows, with Tina Shaw, Antony Millen and Elizabeth Knox

Three writers talk about their novels set in small towns where sometimes creepy things happen. Free shuttle from the Powderhorn Chateau leaves 10.45am.

Sunday, 11.00am–12 noon
Horopito Hall
SH 4, Horopito
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Poets Who Cycle, with James Brown, Ashleigh Young and Bill Nelson

Poetry, cycling, together at last. Enjoy poetry from three Wellington poets who also enjoy cycling, and sometimes write poetry about it. Free shuttle return to the Powderhorn, or join a guided cycle ride back from Horopito to Ohakune. Pre-booking required for cycle hire.

Sunday, 12 noon–1.00pm
Horopito Hall
SH 4, Horopito
\$14 (\$10 concession)

Fiction and Biography, with Harry Ricketts, Helen Rickerby, Anna Jackson and Thom Conroy

Lives are the foundation of both fiction and biography, but what happens when you combine the two? Poet and academic Harry Ricketts has written an acclaimed biography of Rudyard Kipling, and *Strange Meetings: The Poets of the Great War*. In Helen Rickerby's collection *My Iron Spine*, she began experimenting with biographical poetry. The poems in Anna Jackson's *I, Clodia* tell the story of Clodia Metelli, the lover of Roman poet Catullus. Thom Conroy's debut novel *The Naturalist* is about the life of scientist and explorer Ernst Dieffenbach. These four writers talk about the place where lives and literature intersect.

Sunday, 2.00–3.00pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)

**Writers Talk: Point of View: Bridget van der Zijpp,
Paula Green, Tim Corballis**

Two fiction writers and a poet discuss the importance of point of view in their work.

**Sunday, 3.00–4.00pm
Turoa Room
Powderhorn Chateau
\$14 (\$10 concession)**

**Poetry Anthology, with Vana Manasiadis, Fiona
Kidman, Magnolia Wilson, Hannah Mettner and
Helen Reynolds**

This final event of the Ruapehu Writers Festival will be a celebration of poetry, and of the festival we will have just enjoyed. Join us!

**Sunday, 4.30–5.30pm
The Matterhorn
Powderhorn Chateau
Free event, all welcome**



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Where to eat

The Powderkeg bar and restaurant (downstairs in the Powderhorn) is open for coffee, tea, lunch and dinner. The OCR Cafe (corner of Mangawhero Terrace and Tyne Street – turn left after leaving the Powderhorn and walk 1–2 minutes) is open from 9am to 3pm Friday to Sunday. LaPizzeria (6 Thames Street – take a right from the Powderhorn, and head around the corner) is open 4.30–9.00pm every night. Or, if you have transport, you'll find more eateries in the main part of Ohakune.

Matterhorn bar

The bar in the Matterhorn will be open from 4.30pm for you to buy drinks.

Complimentary shuttle buses

Complimentary shuttle buses are provided for some events (Waterfall Walk, Horse Trek and Horopito Hall events). They will leave from out the front of the Powderhorn Chateau, and will return to the same place.

Doorsales

Doorsales will be available for sessions that haven't sold out from the festival information desk, on the first floor of the Powderhorn Chateau, right next to the Turoa Room. Doorsales are cash only, but there is an ATM downstairs.

Festival bookstall

The festival bookstall, run by Vic Books, will be open for the duration of the festival so you can buy books by your new (or old) favourite authors, and treat yourself to a Ruapehu Festival bag to put them in.



Session information

Because of our very full programme, sessions will start strictly on time. Most sessions will be 50 minutes long, to allow time for changeover.

Please remember to turn your phone off or onto silent during all sessions.

www.ruapehuwritersfestival.nz