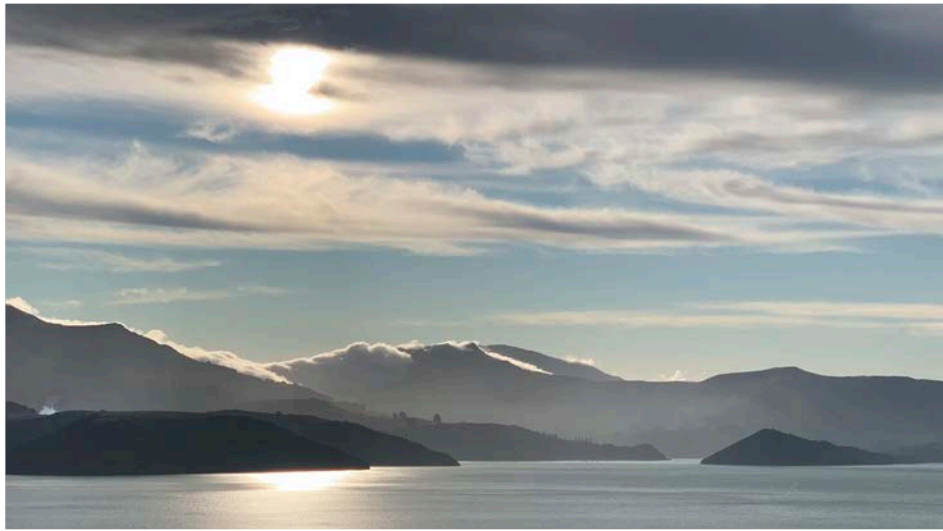




Readers And Writers Akaroa



## Welcome to RAWA 10-11 June, 2023

Kia ora koutou

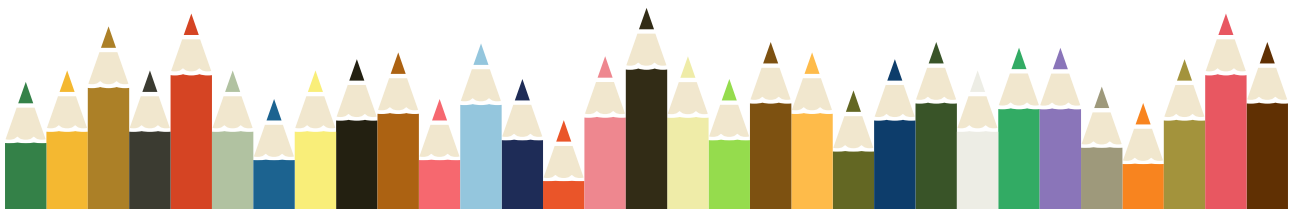
The Akaroa Community Arts Council, in association with the New Zealand Society of Authors, is delighted to host its inaugural festival, Readers and Writers Akaroa 2023. Building on a successful foundation of creative writing events in the past few years we are branching out with a festival for people who love to read books, and for people who love to write them.

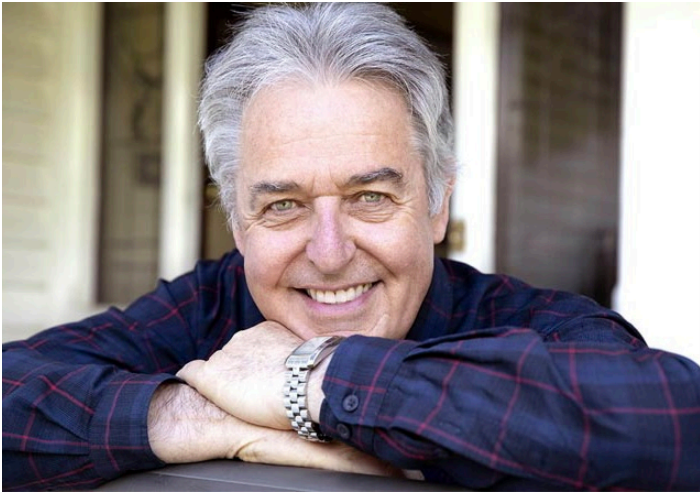
This year, we are bringing together some of New Zealand's most celebrated writers. Gavin Bishop, premier children's book illustrator and author, opens our festival, and we have authors across genres, including fiction, flash fiction, crime fiction, non-fiction, and playwriting. With three streams to our programme, we offer presentations that will appeal to both readers and writers, and workshops that will be of particular interest to writers wanting to develop or sharpen their skills. Morrin Rout, trustee on the WORD Christchurch Trust Board, founder of Bookenz, and dedicated supporter of writers and literary events for many years, will be helping us as MC.

Hosted at the historic Gaiety Theatre in the beautiful Akaroa environs, we welcome you Te Pataka o Rakaihautū, Banks Peninsula. Come and join us for a wonderful weekend where presenters celebrate books and ideas in the company of readers and writers.

Mā te wā

Marie Connolly, Chair of the Akaroa Community Arts Council





### Gavin Bishop, ONZM, Ngati Pukeko, Ngati Awa, Ngati Mahuta, Tainui

A children's author and illustrator of 70 highly acclaimed books, Gavin Bishop has an international and national reputation. His books have been translated into twelve languages and have won numerous awards. He has also written the libretti for two children's ballets for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. The Storylines Gavin Bishop Award was established in 2009 in recognition of his contribution to children's literature. In August 2018, Gavin's non-fiction book, *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story*, took out the top honour at the Children and Young Adult book awards. *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story* also won the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award. In 2018 Gavin was awarded Ngā Tohu ā Tā Kingi Ihaka (Sir Kingi Ihaka Award) for his contribution to Māori art and culture.

### Fiona Farrell

Fiona Farrell lived for nearly 30 years at Otanerito on Banks Peninsula, where she wrote and published poetry, plays, short stories, non-fiction and eight novels. Her first novel won the New Zealand Book Award and several later titles were shortlisted for the award and also long listed for the International Dublin IMPAC Award.

Fiona has appeared at festivals in Adelaide, Edinburgh, Salisbury and Vancouver, and is a frequent guest at festivals throughout New Zealand. She has received numerous awards, including the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in 2007 and in 2012 the ONZM for Services to Literature.



### Vanda Symon

Vanda Symon is Dunedin crime writer of Fijian and European descent. She is the author of the Detective Sam Shephard series, and the stand alone psychological thriller *Faceless*. She is a three time Ngaio Marsh Awards finalist, has been shortlisted for a British CWA Dagger Award, and was nominated for a Barry Award in the United States. Vanda produces and hosts a monthly radio show 'Write On' on Otago Access Radio, showcasing local writers and the book community. When Vanda isn't working the day job or writing, she can be found in the garden, or on the business end of a fencing foil...



### Victor Rodger ONZM

Victor Rodger is a playwright and producer of Samoan and Scottish heritage whose theatre work deals with race, racism and identity. Rodger's first play, *Sons*, premiered at the The Court in 1995. He continues to produce plays that explore and challenge racial and cultural stereotypes, and that are grounded by vivid characterisation and complex character relationships. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his theatre work and held several writing residencies, including the Robert Burns Fellowship at Otago University. As a producer he helped revive Tusiata Avia's *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*, taking it Off Broadway to the SoHo Playhouse in New York in 2020. In 2021, he was appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to theatre and Pacific Arts.

### Mark Williams and Jane Stafford

Jane Stafford is a professor and Mark Williams is an emeritus professor at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. They are the co-authors of *Maoriland: New Zealand Literature 1872-1914*, the joint editors of *The Auckland University Press Anthology of New Zealand Literature*, and, with Ralph Crane, the co editors of *The World Novel to 1950*, a volume of *The Oxford History of the Novel in English*. Jane is the author of *Colonial Literature and the Native Author: Indigeneity and Empire* and Mark is the editor of the Cambridge University Press *History of New Zealand Literature*.



### Ray Shipley

Ray Shipley first performed stand up comedy in the Raw Comedy Quest in Christchurch in 2016, coming third in the competition. Just three years later, they were nominated for the prestigious Billy T Award in 2019. In a celebration of poetry and feelings, Shipley created the Late Night Poetry Hour which features some of the best Ōtautahi poets from Christchurch and further afield, along with an audience open mic, and occasional surprises. A lover of all things literary, Ray also works at Scorpio Books and regularly reviews books on Radio New Zealand's *Nine to Noon*.





### Owen Marshall ONZM, CNZM, Adjunct Professor The University of Canterbury

Admired by leading contemporary writers and described by Vincent O'Sullivan as New Zealand's best writer of prose, Owen Marshall has written or edited over 35 books, including his best-selling novel, *The Larnachs*. Multiple awards for his fiction include the NZ Literary Fund Scholarship in Letters, academic fellowships, and the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellowship (France). In 2000 he was awarded an ONZM for services to literature, in 2012 he was made a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit, and in 2013 he received the Prime Minister's Award for literary Achievement in fiction.

### Gavin Lang

Wānaka-based Gavin Lang is one of the most respected and accomplished mountaineers and mountain guides in Aotearoa New Zealand. He has developed a parallel career as an adventure photographer and videographer, gaining a reputation also as one of our finest mountain photographers. Gavin has achieved many of his climbing and guiding goals in New Zealand and on his trips internationally, but his desire to photograph and film New Zealand's highest peaks has remained with him. In many ways his new book, *Seeking the Light*, has responded to some of his unanswered questions. This beautiful book comprises the most significant collection of modern mountaineering photography ever published in New Zealand, providing a rare and unique view of our Southern Alps. It ultimately shows how the pursuit of mountaineering, in awe inspiring environments, can provide purpose and insight, building resilience and fostering wellbeing in our daily lives.



### Tanya Moir

Southland born, Tanya Moir is a prolific writer of novels. Her critically acclaimed first book, *La Rochelle's Road* was long-listed for the Commonwealth Book Prize in 2012, and her subsequent novels have identified her as 'a New Zealand writer to watch'. She received the Margaret Mahy Award in 2008, and she was awarded the Todd New Zealand Writer's Bursary in 2012. She also awarded a Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellowship in 2013. She writes romance novels under the pseudonym of Holly Ford, by the series, and has published four in the past four years, including the popular Blackpeak Station trilogy.





### John Wilson

John Wilson was raised in Christchurch and graduated from the University of Canterbury in 1966. He studied in the United States from 1966 to 1974, returning to Christchurch with a PhD in Chinese history from Harvard University. He worked as a journalist for some years, first as a leader writer for the Christchurch *Press*, then as the founding editor of the magazine of the Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand). He is the author of several books, most of them local histories. The books include histories of the Canterbury rural districts of Cheviot and Waikakahi and of the Christchurch suburb of Addington. He has also written extensively about Christchurch and Banks Peninsula buildings. He has lived at different times in Springston, Christchurch and Wellington, on Banks Peninsula and in Arthur's Pass, his present home.

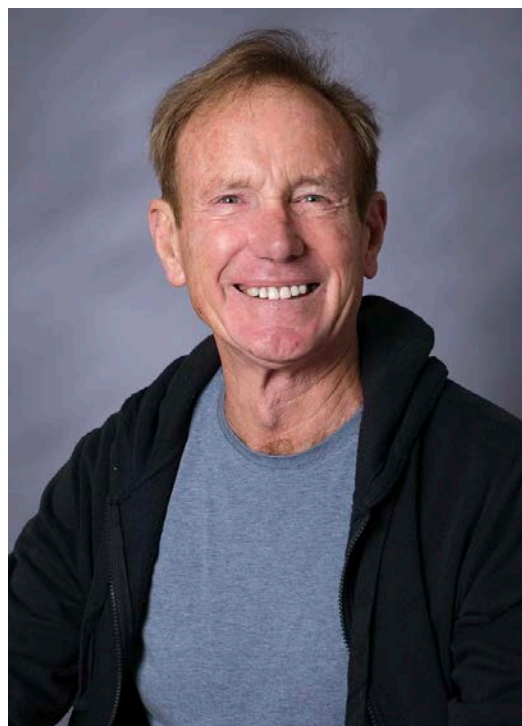
### Heather McQuillan

Heather McQuillan's flash fiction has been published internationally and has been selected for the prestigious Best Small Fictions anthology in 2020, 2019 and 2017. Heather was awarded the 2022 Flash Frontier Winter Writing Award, and in 2021 was one of the winners for the inaugural RNZ Short Story competition. Her collection of flash fiction *Where Oceans Meet and other stories* was published by Reflex Press UK, 2019. She was winner of NZ National Flash Fiction Day 2016. Heather also writes for young readers and is a three-time recipient of the Storylines Notable Books Award (2020, 2012 and 2006). She has a Master of Creative Writing with distinction from Massey University. Heather is the director and writing tutor at Write On School for Young Writers and is based in Ōtautahi-Christchurch.



### Rodney Laredo

Best selling NZ author and Royal biographer, Rodney's books have been published in the UK, America and his native New Zealand. He has enjoyed a career in national and international newspaper and magazine print marketing, freelance writing and photography. His illustrative books chart his travels around the globe to nearly 60 countries. He has also written a children's book inspired by his daughters time at a very traditional English village school straight out of 'Milly Molly Mandy'...



**Saturday**

9.00 - 11.00am	Mihi Whakatau, welcome and Keynote: <i>The World of Children's Writing</i> <b>Gavin Bishop</b>		
11-11.30am	Morning tea		
11.30 - 1.30 pm	<i>Writing across Genres</i> <b>Fiona Farrell</b>	<i>Writing Children's Books: Getting Organised, Getting Sorted</i> <b>Gavin Bishop</b>	<i>The Importance of Characterisation</i> <b>Owen Marshall</b>
1.30-2.30	Lunch		
2.30 - 4.30pm	<i>Criminally good - Crime writing in Aotearoa New Zealand</i> <b>Vanda Symon</b>	<i>The Art of Storytelling</i> <b>Fiona Farrell</b> <b>WORKSHOP FULL</b>	<i>The Image and the Word with</i> <b>Gavin Lang and Rodney Laredo</b>

**Sunday**

9.00 - 11.00am	<i>Contemporary New Zealand Literature</i> <b>Mark Williams and Jane Stafford</b> <i>Reviewing Books</i> <b>Ray Shipley.</b>	<i>You're not in Akaroa, now, Dr Ropata: a light hearted workshop led by former Shortland Street writer</i> <b>Victor Rodger</b>	<i>Three Perspectives on Publishing</i> <b>Heather McQuillan, Clare Corban-Banks and Rodney Laredo</b>
11-11.30	Morning tea		
11.30 - 1.30 pm	<i>Three Perspectives on People and Place with</i> <b>Owen Marshall, Tanya Moir and John Wilson</b>	<i>The Bad Guys have Feelings Too - Getting to Grips with your Villain</i> <b>Vanda Symon</b>	<i>Getting into Flash Fiction</i> <b>Heather McQuillan</b>
1.30-2.30	Lunch		
2.30 - 4.30pm	Closing address: <i>Comforting the Disturbed, Disturbing the Comfortable</i> <b>Victor Rodger.</b>		

**The RAWA dinner - Saturday 10 June 6pm**

The RAWA dinner on Saturday 10 June will be held at Ma Maison, one of the best restaurants in Akaroa. A three course menu is planned at a cost of \$75 per head, including a complementary glass of wine on arrival (courtesy of ACAC). If you would like to attend the dinner, please book directly with Ma Maison via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Ma-Maison>

**Any queries, contact us at: [art@akaroaarts.co.nz](mailto:art@akaroaarts.co.nz)**