

**True Stories: New Zealand Narrative Nonfiction
A Bibliography based on Appeal Theory**

by

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ABSTRACT

Research problem: Readers' advisory services are generally recognised as a core service offered in New Zealand public libraries. Currently no readers' advisory resources or tools exist based solely on New Zealand content, either for narrative nonfiction or fiction. The aim of this bibliography was to provide librarians with a tool to find New Zealand narrative nonfiction books within the context of a readers' advisory framework.

Methodology: The bibliography is based on appeal theory and takes the approach of creating a narrative nonfiction readers' advisory tool. 112 New Zealand narrative nonfiction books are described, classified by genre and identified by their appeal elements, characteristics that give readers insight into a book's qualities: character, mood, pacing and story line.

Results: The development and dissemination of a readers' advisory tool increases awareness of New Zealand narrative nonfiction genres and content. It offers a New Zealand point of reference that supports nonfiction leisure reading and promotes narrative nonfiction readers' advisory services.

Implications: The organisation of the bibliographic records into a library using Zotero referencing software enables the material to become an online New Zealand narrative nonfiction readers' advisory tool. An online environment increases the utility by broadening the scope of access to librarians, readers or other individuals with an interest in sourcing references relating to New Zealand narrative nonfiction writing.

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Riley, unknowingly you motivated me to complete my studies - thank you.

Ron, without you I would walk a lonely trail.

This project is dedicated to the memory of

Johanna Alida Samsom

who encouraged my adventurous spirit.

A nation is bound together not by the past,

but by the stories of the past

that we tell one another in the present.

~ Ernest Renan

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PART A: BACKGROUND TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Readers' advisory services are generally recognised as a core service offered in public libraries and a substantial amount of work is being done in New Zealand public libraries with respect to reader development. The current services predominantly consist of fiction readers' advisory and indirect readers' advisory services (Darling 2008). In other countries, particularly in North America, the boundaries of readers' advisory services have broadened in response to developments in the practice by extending their scope to include nonfiction collections, particularly books that convey a story. Within the realm of readers' advisory work, narrative nonfiction is viewed as a type of writing that by definition encompasses any nonfiction genre or topic that emphasises story.

Further, Alpert (2006, 26) explains there are two distinct elements to narrative nonfiction:

First, is the *narrative* element, which requires the author to employ strategies of fiction writing, including scene and character development, employing a voice to tell the story, and drawing readers in using plot, language, and imagery.

Second, is the *nonfiction* element which is essential to narrative nonfiction; the story must be based on facts, on actual events, objects, people, etc.

A narrative nonfiction book fulfils the elements as described above, written creatively and recounts a narrative story. For example, Polly Greeks' book, *Embracing the Dragon: A Woman's Remarkable Journey Along the Great Wall of China* (Greeks, 2006) offers a highly narrative account of her journeys, both personally as she struggles with a new relationship and the undertaking of walking the Great Wall of China; throughout the story she interweaves the country's history. In contrast, a book on travelling China, such as a Lonely Planet Series guidebook (Harper, 2011) offers a reader factual information and discusses the logistical aspects of travel rather than conveying a personal experience.

There is an opportunity for New Zealand public libraries to develop their readers' advisory [RA] services through the promotion of narrative nonfiction writing by introducing readers to new genres and expanding their reading repertoire into the unexplored collection of nonfiction stories. The majority of recognised RA resource tools in print or online that are currently consulted in New Zealand public libraries are focused on fiction or non-New Zealand content. Robert Burgin has pointed out that 'the central problem of the readers' advisory transaction – finding "more like that" – is complex, and we need all the help we can get' (Burgin 2001, 226).

Supportive RA tools offering coverage of New Zealand books in relation to readers' advisory narrative nonfiction genres are essentially nonexistent. The aim of this annotated bibliography based on appeal theory is to remedy this identified deficit by increasing understanding of New Zealand narrative nonfiction writing and raising awareness of narrative nonfiction readers' advisory services in public libraries.

2.0 RESEARCH PROBLEM

There is a lack of New Zealand specific readers' advisory tools for librarians to access New Zealand narrative nonfiction leisure reading materials. New Zealand public library catalogue systems are based on the use of subject headings and Dewey Decimal Classification [DDC] numbers and are sufficient for retrieving bibliographic records relating to nonfiction subject interests. However, relying on these two components to try to find narrative, nonfiction read-alikes is ineffective. Cords (2006, xx) points out that searching the library catalogue system for narrative nonfiction reading materials is problematic due to the 'levels of specificity and generality': the level of ambiguity associated with using subject headings either results in no matches or an overabundance of results that even with further filtering can produce thousands of records related to the identified subject headings. Further, the library catalogue information does not differentiate between non-narrative nonfiction and narrative nonfiction materials; the DDC classification number may direct readers to a subject area in a collection but is incapable of identifying a narrative nonfiction book on the shelf.

Subsequently, the reader is left with the option of browsing in order to locate a narrative nonfiction book that is of interest.

Vicki Novak's article, *The Story's the Thing: Narrative Nonfiction for Recreational Reading*, discusses a misconception about recreational nonfiction readers, that the subject of the book is the most important factor to them:

Nonfiction pleasure readers may be looking for something besides just the subject of the book. The subject may be important to some readers, but others are just looking for a good story (Novak 2004, 216).

Narrative nonfiction writers tend to publish fewer books than fiction authors, particularly for those who draw on their own personal experiences (Cords 2006, xxiii). For many specific subjects, there are a limited number of books, so in order to continue finding read-alikes (books with similar appeal elements) readers may need to look beyond subject to find a 'good story':

Categorisation of narrative nonfiction by genres and subgenres and delineation of the characteristics and appeals of narrative nonfiction are basic requirements for providing quality readers' advisory services (Alpert, 2006, 28).

Readers focus on what they like about a particular book, which are its appeal elements. Nonfiction readers' advisory uses a combination of subject and the appeal elements of a story to discover books that reflect a reader's personal preferences. By using genre and exploring the vocabulary of appeal, we are able to discover the underlying qualities that make a book engaging to its reader. The book's appeal is not the information identified by a subject heading in a library catalogue. The ability to make suggestions to readers is based on an understanding of what draws a reader to a particular book or genre. When a readers' advisor is unfamiliar with a genre or subject area, information can be obtained by consulting a readers' advisory tool such as a guidebook or more often, a database to determine a suitable read-alike or a benchmark title.

The online RA tools available in New Zealand for librarians and their readers to use are *Novelist* and *Fiction Connection*, databases that offer limited coverage of New Zealand fictional works, and it is worth noting that *Fiction Connection* also includes biography within its fiction genre database. *Novelist Plus*, the [narrative] nonfiction version, is similar to its fictional equivalent in that there is a strong representation of North American authors but do include a narrow scope of titles by internationally recognised New Zealand authors and predominantly concentrate on autobiographical and biographical works. Their usefulness for identifying New Zealand narrative nonfiction content is extremely limited.

Currently no readers' advisory resources or tools exist based solely on New Zealand content either for narrative nonfiction or fiction. This selective annotated bibliography aims to facilitate librarians who assist readers interested in finding New Zealand narrative nonfiction books within the context of a readers' advisory framework that recognises each book's subject, genre, and its unique appeal elements.

3.0 GENERAL READERS' ADVISORY TERMINOLOGY

There are multiple and often interchangeable terms used by practitioners associated with the delivery of all readers' advisory services:

Appeal elements: the appeal vocabulary captures what a reader likes about a book, by translating those qualities into language that can be applied to finding other books. It can provide a reader with information on a book they can use to decide if they are in the mood for that particular type of reading experience (Wyatt 2007c, 10).

Benchmark: a very well-known author/ book title that is considered representative of a genre.

Genre: any sizable group of authors or specific book titles that have a similar theme.

Genre-sliding: a book that can be categorised by more than one genre, this overlapping or crossing of genres results in a hybrid.

Narrative context: an author's use of storytelling devices such as dialogue, setting, plot and scene building in their writing enhances and develops the factual information into a narrative story (Wyatt 2007c, 3). The amount of narrative is determined by the extent to which these writing techniques are integrated. A story's narrative level is measured on a continuum:

High narrative: reads like fiction, includes lots of dialogue that tends to draw the reader into the story;

Moderate narrative: mixes story with facts contains some dialogue but is balanced with factual information; or

Densely written (low): offers fewer narrative elements as the content is fact and theory based; these books are slower to read because of the time it takes to process this type of writing.

Narrative nonfiction: a style of nonfiction writing that adheres to the facts, but employs the literary techniques of fiction to tell a vibrant story about real events, phenomenon, people, and places (Alpert 2006). It is also referred to as *creative nonfiction*, *literary nonfiction* and *narrative journalism*. Despite differences of terminology, all use literary skills in the writing of nonfiction.

Read-alikes: books which share appeal elements that may be of interest to the same reader.

Readers' advisory service: patron-centered library service for leisure readers. A successful service is one in which knowledgeable, nonjudgmental staff help fiction and nonfiction readers with their leisure reading needs (Saricks 2005a).

Subgenres: subsequent divisions of genre categories to further classify the scope of a grouping.

4.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

This section examines the development of appeal theory by reviewing the last ten years of research into contemporary readers' advisory services by outlining the role of appeal theory, and the significance of readers' advisory tools as aids for making book suggestions to readers. The literature review also gives a better understanding of narrative nonfiction services by contextualising it within the larger discipline of readers' advisory services.

4.1 Contemporary Readers' Advisory Services

Contemporary readers' advisory is viewed as a 'patron-oriented service' and this shift in ideology according to Saricks (2009) of learning to *suggest* books rather than give *recommendations* was considered a breakthrough within the discipline, as it allowed the reader, *not the librarian*, to be the decision maker. The approach of making book suggestions puts the emphasis on a reader's individual interests and tastes. The librarian does not recommend their favourite books or impose their own reading preferences during a RA interaction, enabling the delivery of an unbiased service. The interaction with a patron is referred to as a *transaction* or *conversation* rather than an *interview*, which is the term employed when conducting reference work. Saricks (2005a, 75) states the 'readers' advisory interview is actually a conversation between the advisor and the reader about books'. It does involve all the same communication skills as reference interviewing but it is not structured as a question and answer exchange for seeking information. The conversation is an opportunity for readers to tell the advisors about books and leisure-reading preferences and the advisor listens and suggests possible titles. It is not to be a onetime conversation, rather an ongoing dialogue between readers and the advisors which is also a method of gaining feedback regarding the suggested books. Trott (2005, 212) considers the RA transaction to be one of the 'most intimate library services and is the hallmark of

public library readers' advisory work from its beginning and has defined the role of the readers' advisor.'

Wyatt (2007a) discusses initially using narrative nonfiction titles as supportive or parallel reading to fiction selections. This can be interpreted as bridging the gap within the readers' advisory of honouring the tradition by offering an educational component to readers that could potentially enhance their fictional reading.

Nonfiction readers are attracted to the 'realness' and have an expectation that an element of learning will be part of their reading experience.

4.2 History of Appeal Theory

In general, the readers' advisory theoretical framework is designed on the appeal factors of a book; a concept first published in 1989 by Joyce Saricks in *Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library* (Saricks 2005a), and is in widespread use for the provision of readers' advisory services to leisure readers. The concept of appeal goes beyond selecting books by subject headings or similar genre classification; it considers other factors that concern leisure readers which have an effect on their text choice and reading experience (Moyer 2008). Saricks (2005a, 41-2) explains that most fiction readers are not looking for a book on a specific subject, but rather 'appeal elements that describe more accurately the "feel" of a book ... they reveal more of the book's essence'. Saricks (2005a) has identified the elements that make up a book's 'feel' as pacing, characterisation, story line, and mood. The concept has been expanded upon to encompass new areas of readers' advisory to offer a whole collection service inclusive of narrative nonfiction works.

4.3 Appeal Theory and Nonfiction

Burgin (2001) raised the idea that appeal theory would be equally applicable to works of nonfiction and re-interpreted the model and applied the framework to nonfiction readers' advisory. The fiction appeal elements of pacing, characterisation, story line, and mood were applied to narrative nonfiction writing and emphasis was given to the element of *learning/experiencing* as a main

consideration. The incorporation of nonfiction into advisory services resulted in a shift in potential new ways that appeal could function in nonfiction work. Ross (2004) summarised from her research findings on the pleasure of [narrative] nonfiction leisure reading, that strong factors in reading preference were the aspect of learning or experiencing, and the realness of a story.

Wyatt (2007b) expanded on Burgin's (2001) model of the narrative element by applying the literary device of *narrative context* to readers advisory. By measuring narrative context on a wide continuum it becomes a valuable tool for examining the story content of nonfiction books and in terms of how important it is to readers of nonfiction. Wyatt's contribution to the theory is innovative and useful as it quickly gives the advisor a clearer understanding of what type of true story the reader is seeking.

The concepts of genre and appeal factors associated with fiction identified in the readers' advisory literature overlap the appeal factors identified for nonfiction. There are other additional factors of importance that are uniquely related to nonfiction reading interests. There is a need to investigate how these elements relate to the concept of appeal for identifying benchmark titles and formulating narrative nonfiction book suggestions (Burgin 2004; Wyatt 2007c). The use of appeal theory is the perspective that is considered the basis of matching readers to books. By targeting the qualities and characteristics identified by the readers, practitioners will increase their skills for matching readers to a 'good read' rather than a 'good book'.

Wyatt acknowledges that appeal is the primary tool for fiction advisory and the subject matter is secondary in pairing readers with books. Wyatt argues that in the nonfiction context, subject is deemed very important and is often what draws a reader to the story experience. In Wyatt's version of the theoretical framework there are 'four intertwining aspects of nonfiction: narrative context, subject, type, and appeal as the elements that work collectively to determine the experience of reading' (Wyatt 2007, 22).

One of the early challenges in nonfiction advisory work according to Trott (2007), Alpert (2006) and Wyatt (2007a) was to resolve how to categorise the books, as narrative nonfiction is viewed as a style of writing and not a definitive genre. For consistency of practice, the library collection can be divided into genres and subgenres by breaking down their characteristics in order to develop categories that are independent of the DDC's own classification of groupings. For example, the *true adventure* genre has subgenres of *exploration*, *survival* and *sporting adventure*. The further delineation of the nonfiction collection between non-narrative nonfiction and narrative nonfiction materials potentially is a more user-friendly approach and means of promoting the narrative nonfiction genres as part of a readers' advisory service.

4.4 Nonfiction Readers' Advisory Tools

There is skill in integrating tools into the transaction without creating a barrier to engaging conversation with readers about books and ultimately, hindering the development of advisory skills. For readers' advisors, guidebooks and databases are essential reference tools as they assist with book title suggestions for unfamiliar genres and identify the qualities of the book based on the appeal characteristics that are of interest to the reader.

Saricks (2005b) reported that one of the main obstacles to widespread nonfiction readers' advisory services was the limited amount of supportive tools. Within a short period of time there was a response to this deficit as reader's advisory guidebooks were published by Wyatt (2007b), *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Nonfiction*, Cords (2006), *The Real Story: A Guide to Nonfiction Reading Interests* and the *Nonfiction Readers' Advisory* edited by Burgin (2004), as well as genre specific RA guides have emerged to provide specialised coverage. Each has made a significant contribution to nonfiction readers' advisory services through identification of nonfiction genres, setting benchmark titles, and demonstrating how appeal theory is put into practice by suggesting read-alike titles. Chelton (2008) strongly supports the use of readers' advisory tools and equates it to the use of resources such as reference tools, a standard practice for reference librarians.

5.0 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES and INTENDED AUDIENCE

The research project has the following objectives:

- to identify and examine a selected range of New Zealand narrative nonfiction works held by various public libraries for the purpose of producing a readers' advisory resource tool of New Zealand narrative nonfiction;
- apply the principles of appeal theory, a readers' advisory theoretical framework, to New Zealand narrative nonfiction books to identify their appeal elements; and
- to increase awareness of New Zealand narrative nonfiction content and offer a New Zealand point of reference in support of nonfiction leisure reading interests in public libraries.

The intended audience for this annotated bibliography are librarians who offer readers' advisory services.

6.0 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The items for inclusion in this annotated bibliography of narrative nonfiction were selected using the following criteria:

- written by a New Zealand author or the story is based on a New Zealand experience;
- published in New Zealand between January 2000 and September 2012;
- current bibliographical record in a New Zealand public library catalogue;
- received an award or acknowledged by positive critical book reviewer during 2000-2012; and/or
- nonfiction work that contains narrative context as defined in Section 3.0.

6.1 Locating Sources

The books titles included were extracted from searches done from print publications, internet websites and online resources from the following

authoritative sources, acknowledged within the New Zealand publishing industry, including:

- **New Zealand book awards:** *Montana New Zealand Book Awards, New Zealand Post Book Awards, Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award, E.H. McCormick Best First Book of Non-Fiction;*
- **Review resources:** *The New Zealand Listener, Booknotes, and New Zealand Books: A Quarterly Review;*
- **Bestseller lists:** *Nielsen Weekly Bestseller Lists;*
- New Zealand Book Council; and
- New Zealand Publications.

7.0 PROJECT SCOPE

This selective annotated bibliography based on appeal theory takes the approach of creating a narrative nonfiction readers' advisory tool. It is a resource of New Zealand narrative nonfiction books that are classified by genre and identified by their appeal elements: character, mood, pacing and story line. These are the characteristics that give readers insight into a book's qualities and contribute to the reading experience.

7.1 Genres

The nonfiction genre classifications for the purpose of categorising New Zealand narrative nonfiction books were selected from a listing (Reference and User Services Association, 2005) developed in 2005 by members of the Collection Development and Evaluation Sections [CODES] Readers' Advisory Committee (part of the American Library Association), and are the most recognised genres of nonfiction writing.

The narrative nonfiction genres for the scope of this project are:

Food focuses on all things related to food, cooking, dining, and the cultural history associated with it.

History includes historical accounts of periods, events, eras and people written in the form of a coherent story, but they still must be researched.

Memoirs focus on a specific event or time period of a person's life, recalled more from memory than fact.

Science and Nature deals with scientific subject matter in a narrative format, often in a non-technical manner for an audience of non-scientists.

Sports stories capture the spirit of the people who participate in them and chronicle the significant events that occur in the sporting world.

Travel writing is an account of travel in a real place that creates a coherent, factual story with a focus on the experience of travelling.

True adventure stories deal with adventure, survival, heroism, and exploration.

True crime examines an actual crime and details the actions of real people. The story must be based on the facts of the crime, but told in an engaging and narrative manner.

7.2 **Cross Referencing**

Another issue related to genre categorisation is that some books are hybrids, containing elements from more than one genre grouping. For example, there is often overlap between *true adventure* and *travel* genres. Books assigned dual genres have both listed on the entry record and are cross-referenced in the bibliography to the other genre.

7.3 **Delimitations**

Nonfiction books excluded from the scope of this project are:

- poetry and classic literature form part of a public library's nonfiction collection but are recognised as fictional works;

- instructional or informational reference books; and
- biographical or autobiographical books follow an individual's entire life from birth to old age: these books are classified as DDC 920 and are straightforward to access from a library's catalogue system and not useful for inclusion in this bibliography.

8.0 PRESENTATION STYLE

Each entry record contains an annotation of the book's content, the subject, and its identified appeal elements.

8.1 Citation Format

The citation format for this bibliography is the humanities style from the *Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition* (University of Chicago, 2010). This format is chosen because it is descriptive in nature and complements the style of writing for readers' advisory annotations.

8.2 Annotation Text

The text of the annotation provides a brief outline of the book and summarises what can be expected from the reading experience. The inclusion of photographs, maps and other unique content is specified to make readers aware of them.

8.3 Special Features

Titles that have been acknowledged by receiving notable awards as referred to in Section 6.1 are specified.

8.4 Subject

The subject is included in the entries to offer a point of reference, as it may identify information that is relevant to the reader, such as places travelled or a particular time period in history.

8.5 *Appeal Elements*

This project seeks to identify the appeal elements of New Zealand narrative nonfiction. The entry contains text that aims to provide clues to the book's appeal and stylistic concerns. Along with subject matter, these elements on their own or in combination are what determine a reader's response to a book. Appeal is a way to 'capture what a reader likes about a book ... appeal terms translate why a reader enjoyed a book into a language that can be applied to a wide range of other title possibilities' (Wyatt 2007c, 10).

The appeal elements give RA librarians a vocabulary framework to describe key characteristics of nonfiction readers' advisory. It is a way to 'articulate each term as to give an indication of the type of language readers' advisors use when talking about the elements of a book' (Wyatt 2007c, 23). The terminology that describes the appeal is predominantly used by practitioners for discussing books in an attempt to have a shared common language and translates into making connections between books based on similar qualities instead of solely subject or genre classification. This is the information that provides RA advisors with the knowledge to suggest read-alikes, which is an essential part of offering readers' advisory services. The Adult Reading Round Table's [ARRT] basic list of narrative nonfiction vocabulary that is commonly used as descriptive terms for appeal elements and Novelist's adult appeal vocabulary for fiction and nonfiction are attached respectively as Appendix A and B.

The appeal elements (Cords 2006; Saricks 2009; Wyatt 2007c) are intended to capture:

- **Characters:** Identifying with the main character(s), often the author causes a reader to invest in the story. A travelling companion(s) can be prominent secondary character creating a dynamic and their interactions add to the storytelling. As well any other individuals who help the story unfold.
- **Mood:** Describes the tone of how it feels to read the book and relates to the mood of the reader.

- **Pace:** Reflects the speed at which the story is unfolds and how the reader is drawn along when reading the book.
- **Story line:** Includes components that develop from the story’s narrative context and gauged on the narrative continuum (refer to Section 3.0). Additional elements reflect the author’s intent and the subject matter that are noted by action/character/issue oriented.

8.6 Capturing the Appeal Elements

A sample entry (refer to Section 8.6.1) demonstrates the process of articulating a book’s appeal elements. The annotation text conveys information about the story, and the characteristics identified in the narrative are translated into the appeal elements vocabulary. The underlined footnoted phrases with numbers correspond to the four appeal elements of *characters*, *mood*, *pacing* and *story line* that reveal the book’s qualities and are indicative of the reading experience that can be expected.

8.6.1 Sample Entry

85. Greeks, Polly. *Embracing the Dragon: A Woman’s Remarkable Journey Along the Great Wall of China*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2006.

Rich in dialogue⁵, this highly narrative tale⁶ of New Zealander Polly Greeks^{1 & 7} ‘spur of the moment decision’ to accompany her new partner^{2 & 7} on a walk along the Great Wall of China taking her through mountains and remote villages, and herself being a spectacle as the first European woman to travel to such isolated destinations³. Her journey of adventure⁸ captivates a reader as she interweaves the country’s history while describing the hardships⁴ she encounters while walking through snow blizzards and the treacherous crumbling terrain of the wall. Greeks vivid descriptions⁴ will make you want to walk in her footsteps.

Special feature:	Finalist in the 2005 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Awards	
Subjects:	Description and travel, China, Great Wall of China	
Genre:	Travel	
Appeal elements:	Characters	<i>personal¹; strong character²</i>
	Mood	<i>introspective³; descriptive⁴</i>
	Pace	<i>fast-paced⁵; high narrative⁶</i>
	Story Line	<i>character centred⁷; experiential⁸</i>

8.7 *Definitions of Appeal Elements Vocabulary*

Although there has been much discussion in the RA literature regarding the development of a controlled vocabulary for nonfiction RA (Trott, 2008; Wyatt 2007b), no one has yet taken on this task. Therefore, the attached definitions of vocabulary have been developed by this author to clarify the meaning attributed to the appeal elements as listed in Appendix A for the purpose of this annotated bibliography. The definition list is included in Part B.

9.0 **ARRANGEMENT OF BIBLIOGRAPHY & INDICES**

The bibliography and indices have been arranged in two sections.

9.1 *Bibliography*

The bibliography entries are grouped into the eight genres identified as Food, History, Memoirs, Science and Nature, Sports, Travel, True Adventure and True Crime based on narrative nonfiction readers' areas of interest. The genres are arranged alphabetically and within each genre group the entries are organised alphabetically by the author's surname. No genres were divided into subgenre classifications as this was beyond the scope of this project.

9.2 *Indices*

The bibliography includes the following:

Name/Title Index: alphabetical listing of inverted authors' names and book titles;

Subject Index: alphabetical listing of subjects; and

Appeal Elements Index: identifies selections with appeal similarities.

10.0 DISSEMINATION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliographic data for this project was compiled using Zotero referencing software (Zotero, 2012) as the interface automatically detects when the user accesses a bibliographic record in a library catalogue. Zotero offers several layers of functionality as it allows the records to be manipulated to suit an individual's information needs.

For submission purposes the bibliographic information has been transferred from Zotero to an Adobe Acrobat [PDF] portable document format.

10.1 Increasing Access in an Online Environment

The software's accessibility in an online environment allows us to fully utilise an annotated bibliography for a New Zealand narrative nonfiction readers' advisory tool and to function at its fullest potential. This can be achieved by expanding the existing bibliographic records into a Zotero based library. The annotation text can be directly input into the Zotero files and will be automatically indexed, thus creating a full-text searchable readers' advisory database. The appeal elements can be marked by use of the software's 'tag selector' which enables individual bibliographies to be produced, with the tag terms acting as filters. Any bibliographic entries that match the selected tags generate read-alike suggestions based on the appeal element preferences as selected by the user.

10.2 Audience and Awareness

The reality of introducing a Zotero library online enables the sharing of this project in a public, open forum. It offers unlimited access to the contents of the bibliography, along with the potential to develop a collaborative readers' advisory library. Open access permits input by all users, allowing for new books to be added, together with further development of the appeal elements vocabulary, thus building the language used when talking about books within a readers' advisory context.

In order for librarians to be able to use Zotero library they must be aware of its existence. A most fitting method of sharing information about this new resource

is to send an online message to members of NZ-LIBS email group, post a news update on the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa [LIANZA] website and its Readers' Advisory special interest group. The intention is that by raising the profile of the Zotero library with library professionals it will also increase awareness with their reader audience.

Broadening the scope beyond librarians, to be inclusive of readers or others with an interest in sourcing references relating to New Zealand narrative nonfiction writing would also increase its utility. It presents an opportunity for readers to increase their personal awareness of the readers' advisory services and the tools available to find a good New Zealand narrative nonfiction story to read.

11.0 REFERENCES FOR PART A

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PART B: BIBLIOGRAPHY

DEFINITIONS OF APPEAL ELEMENTS VOCABULARY

Definitions are specific to this annotated bibliography and are provided to give clarity of the words used to describe the appeal elements.

Characters

Intriguing secondary characters: individuals that have a role in the unfolding of the story, and in some way impact on the author's experience

Multiple points of view: alternative perspectives to the central character that are shared throughout or alternatively, has been written by multiple authors

Quirky secondary characters: eccentric, unconventional or peculiar type of individual(s)

Personal experience: directly based on an author's own account

Strong characters: an important person(s) that is significant to the story, often someone who has been a companion throughout an experience

Vivid secondary characters: vibrant, life-loving individuals with extrovert personalities

Mood

Bittersweet: mixed emotions due to circumstances that simultaneously create feelings of happiness and sadness

Candid: straight to the point, honest and direct account of a story

Dialect rich: use of stylistic language – prose, poetry, or quotations that contribute a meaningful element but are not necessarily written by the author

Descriptive: writing in a manner that can allow the reader to easily visualise the imagery of a scene or place being described

Dramatic: consequence of an event that results in an overwhelming, intense, and powerful experience

Exotic: offers an exciting unknown, foreign or a mysterious factor

Historical details: writing based on past events which includes a large amount of specific information

Humorous: funny, amusing, comical quality that is prevalent throughout a story

Insightful: a level of understanding, perceptiveness or knowledgeable

Introspective: aspect of self-reflection, contemplative of new understanding or meaning due to events or experiences that increases one's personal awareness

Nostalgic: reminiscent, evocative quality that persists throughout the story that is an acknowledgement to the past which adds another layer of meaning

Psychological: science of the mind, includes examining how the human brain works as well as understanding of our mental/thought processes

Uplifting: friendly, optimistic, and cheerful attitudes that are conveyed throughout a story

Pacing

Densely written: densely written material offers the reader minimal narrative, for that reason it is slow-paced as it takes longer to read because of the amount of comprehension required

Fast-paced: gives a feeling that the writing is quick to read as it will have a high degree of narrative, easy vocabulary to comprehend, conversational style

High narrative: the writing offers lots of storytelling qualities, meaning the inclusion of written dialogue as conversational writing is faster to read and understand

High readability: writing that is jargon free, often in reference to complex, scientific or technical information that is integrated into the text making it understandable, clear writing for the reader to understand

Leisurely-paced: implies an easy-going, unhurried, relaxed pace of writing

Moderate narrative: writing that offers a balance of the factual information and narrative story

Story Line

Action-oriented: primary focus is on a person's participation in a sustained activity and is physical in nature

Character-centred: primary focus is on the individual(s) and their experience

Experiential: sharing of information or insight gained through personal experience

Folksy: simple, down-to-earth, casual or carefree manner

Inspirational: affective in a moving, heartfelt manner

Investigative: focus on fact finding to reveal information, has an exploratory element

Issue-oriented: primary focus is on some aspect of a topic, rather than a person or an activity

Layered: involves multiple levels of a story that are simultaneously being revealed

Informative: delivers a greater level of understanding by enlightening the reader on a topic

Linear: a story that progresses in a sequential manner

Richly-detailed: the richness or high degree of description included in the story that relates to a physical setting which may be further illustrated by the inclusion of photographs, maps, diagrams, etc.

Scholarly: thoroughly researched, in a style associated with academic writing

Thought-provoking: intellectually stimulating, leads one to ponder about the matter

FOOD GENRE

1. **Brown, Al. *Go Fish: Recipes and stories from the New Zealand Coast*.
Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2009.**

This book is a dedication to fish: the thrill of catching them, the techniques for preparing and cooking them, and finally, the pleasure of a fish meal. Informative, yet entertaining, this informally written book of recipes gives straight forward 'how to' instructions that will even deliver confidence to novice cooks on proper fish preparation. Brown introduces each recipe with a synopsis that encapsulates the qualities of the dish, often sharing his personal tales of fishing. He conveys his passion for fishing as a pastime, as an important food source while imparting a message on sustainability for future generations.

Special feature: Winner of the 2010 New Zealand Post Book Awards (People's Choice Award category)

Subjects: Cooking (Fish), Fishing, New Zealand

Genre: Food

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *uplifting; humorous*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *experiential; informative*

2. **Burton, David. *David Burton's New Zealand Food and Cookery*. Auckland, NZ: David Bateman, 2009.**

A fully updated version of Burton's classic, this may be considered the definitive guide on all aspects of New Zealand food and its culinary history. This book has been thoroughly researched, including a section on traditional Māori food resources and delivers rich historical information on food supplies and the cooking methods practiced in New Zealand from the late 1700s to the present. The second part of this ambitious cookbook consists of more than 100 recipes that are organised by the type of main ingredients that over the centuries have been available to use in New Zealand cooking. Inclusive of recipes for the very adventurous or just simply fascinated by historical dishes, who may be interested in the 'Braised Pukeko' featured on page 189.

Subjects: Cooking, Food supply, New Zealand, Cookbooks

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *informative; richly-detailed; scholarly*

3. **Donaldson, Michael. *Beer Nation: The Art & Heart of Kiwi Beer*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2012.**

According to author, Michael Donaldson, one of life's pleasures is enjoying a good beer. To ensure that he thoroughly researched New Zealand's beer history tastings were carried out at each brewery visited. Donaldson examined the progression of New Zealand's beer industry from the development of the main breweries, Lion and Dominion, to the specialised regional operations that subsequently were established. The book is heavily illustrated with historical photographs and ephemera, which visually contextualise both the social and commercial aspects of New Zealand's beer drinking culture. Anecdotes taken from interviews with individuals in the beer industry and from the author's own experiences create an informative and enjoyable narrative to complete the history of our 'beer nation'.

Subjects: History, Beer industry, Beer, New Zealand

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *nostalgic; historical details*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story line *linear; richly-detailed*

4. **Fraser, Kate. *Cooking Times*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins, 2008.**

A nostalgic overview of Kiwi cooking that revisits favourite recipes back to the 1930s. The recipes are interwoven through a reminiscent historical portrayal of each decade and the societal consequences/circumstances that impacted on home cookery, both with positive and negative impacts, such as the addition of electrical technology, restrictions imposed by food rationing during wartime and the discovery of exotic ingredients. It offers a wonderful insight into New Zealand's domestic culinary history through a collection of recipes.

Subjects: History, Cooking, New Zealand, Home economics, New Zealand, Cookbooks

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *nostalgic*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *folksy; informative*

5. **Johnston, Alexa. *Ladies, A Plate: Traditional Home Baking*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2008.**

Nostalgic in appearance and content, this delightful cookbook reflects an era when baking cookies, slices and making preserves was part of a regular ritual in New Zealand kitchens. Selected recipes are personalised with stories that will evoke memories and lead you to reminisce about such delectable treats that were regularly served up at family and community gatherings. Johnston has slipped in visual mementos of handwritten recipes, specialised baking trays and front covers from the original Cookbooks which all pay tribute to the tradition of home baking. What's more it discusses the practicalities of traditional home baking and shares little anecdotes about these classic recipes.

Special feature: Winner of the 2009 New Zealand Post Book Awards
(Lifestyle & Contemporary Culture category)

Subjects: History, Home baking, New Zealand

Genre: Food

Appeal Elements: Characters

Mood *nostalgic; historical details*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *folksy*

6. **Leach, Helen (ed.). *From Kai to Kiwi Kitchen: New Zealand Culinary Traditions and Cookbooks*. Dunedin, NZ: Otago University Press, 2010.**

Based on the 2008 MacMillan Brown Lecture Series, this well researched book with contributions from multiple authors, explores range of culinary themes throughout New Zealand's history. Topics discussed examine the beginnings of traditional Māori cooking and the historical implications that result of varying produce and the subsequent impact of European cookery on traditional methods. More domestically focussed issues cover subjects relating to the intergenerational aspects of cooking are looked at through the sharing of recipes and cooking methods. The role of technology in food preparation has influenced New Zealander attitudes towards eating habits and their food preferences. Leach offers a highly readable history of New Zealand's cooking traditions and the recipes that define our food culture.

Subjects: History, Cooking, Food habits, Home economics, New Zealand

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *informative; issue-oriented*

7. **Leach, Helen. *The Pavlova Story: A Slice of New Zealand's Culinary History*.
Dunedin, NZ: Otago University Press, 2008.**

Interesting historical account of the Pavlova, including its origins and the cultural significance it has for both New Zealanders and Australians which have contributed to the dessert's iconic status. Inspiration for the dessert's invention was to pay tribute to Anna Pavlova, during the Russian ballerina's 1926 visit to our nation. True to its cookbook history, there is an examination of the main types of Pavlova and the key ingredients of these enduring classic recipes and the variety of techniques employed to ensure baking success. Leach has thoroughly researched her subject in an academic manner but delivers a highly enjoyable read.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2009 Montana New Zealand Book Awards

Winner of the 2009 Culinary Quill Awards Book of the Year (Food category)

Subjects: History, Desserts, Anna Pavlova, New Zealand, Recipes

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *informative; linear*

8. **Mathias, Peta. *Culinary Adventures in Marrakech*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2010.**

The exotic cultural history of Morocco is explored through the culinary experiences of Peta Mathias as she travels through the country, giving an insight into the importance of the culture's relationship with food and its preparation. It is a food focussed travelogue that complements the author's TV series 'Peta unplugged in Marrakech'. Each chapter examines a course of a meal, featuring tagine cooking techniques, and the fragrant spices which are equated with this style of cooking and culminate in the mouth-watering dishes which are synonymous with Moroccan cooking. The reader is indulged through richly-detailed accounts which conjure up the aromas of the meticulously described dishes which Mathias has the pleasure of tasting. Written in a relaxed manner that is reflective of table conversation, the shared stories and experiences give a sense of enjoying a satisfying meal, with the recipes included.

Special feature: Finalist of the 2011 Culinary Quill Awards

Subjects: Cooking, North African, Cooking, Arab, Food habits, Morocco, Marrakech, Recipes

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *exotic*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *linear; layered*

9. **Oliver, Robert, Tracy Elena, Lee Berno and Shiri Ram. *Me'a Kai: The Food and Flavours of the South Pacific*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2010.**

Travelling to the South Pacific conjures up images of relaxation, warm beaches, and an opportunity to awaken one's palate by tasting authentic cuisine based on local ingredients from the Islands. This book is more than a culinary journey as it addresses larger issues and challenges the reader to consider other aspects relating to food sustainability, farming practices and cultural preservation for Pacific islanders to ensure longevity for their traditions. Undeniable are the confronting realities of economic uncertainty and tourism but it is outweighed by the vitality of the local people within the communities. *Me'a Kai* is thought-provoking reading, a cookbook of recipes but one that will hopefully make a difference.

Special feature: Winner of the 2010 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards (Cookbook of the Year category)

Subjects: Description and travel, Cooking, Pacific Islands, Oceania, Cookbooks, Recipes

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: **Character** *vivid and intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *exotic; insightful*

Pace *moderate narrative*

Story Line *issue-oriented; thought-provoking*

10. **Rowland, Perrin. *Dining Out: A History of the Restaurant in New Zealand*.
Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2010.**

This is a previously untold history of cuisine, one that is not based on cooking but the experience of dining in New Zealand restaurants during the last 150 years. It examines significant decades and the implications that arose during the time, from licensing and the Depression, pre and post war eras and circumstances necessitating having a place to eat rather than a dining as a social engagement. It further explores how more contemporary restaurants have been influenced by the growing ethnic diversity of the New Zealand culture and a willingness to push culinary boundaries. Photographs and the use of ephemera depicting advertisements and menus further elaborate this engaging story of the country's gastronomic past.

Subjects: History, Restaurants, Dinners and dining, New Zealand

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *descriptive; historical details*

Pace *densely written; high readability*

Story Line *linear; informative*

11. **Simpson, Tony. *A Distant Feast: The Origins of New Zealand's Cuisine*.
Auckland, NZ: Godwit, 2008.**

Tony Simpson presents a meticulously researched historical overview of the beginnings of New Zealand cuisine dating back to the 19th century and the arrival of immigrants who had to settle into a new way of life and adjust their eating habits. Simpson presents interesting explanations of how our relationship with food has evolved through influences from other countries and the adaptation of recipes to integrate the abundance of fresh ingredients available in New Zealand. Cooking and the sharing of food experiences with others became a social pastime, and contributed to the creation of a distinctive New Zealand culinary culture. *A Distant Feast* includes wonderful historical photographs and a selection of recipes.

Subjects: History, Social life and customs, Cooking, New Zealand, Food habits, Home economics, Cookbooks, Recipes

Genre: Food

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details; descriptive*

Pace *densely written; high readability*

Story Line *scholarly; linear; richly-detailed*

12. **Veart, David. *First Catch Your Weka: A Story of New Zealand Cooking*.
Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2008.**

David Veart's passions for cooking and history, along with a substantial personal collection of cookbooks have culminated with his writing New Zealand's culinary history. Researching over 150 years of recipes has led to an understanding of New Zealanders food preferences. It chronicles the progression of a changing palate, and a willingness to use less familiar ingredients and add in new flavours to cuisine influenced by the growing ethnically diverse New Zealand population. Veart's use of evocative images from a bygone era of cookbooks and recipes are lovely visual cues that support the cultural and culinary history of New Zealand food.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2009 Montana New Zealand Book Awards

Subjects: History, Cooking, Food habits, Home economics, New Zealand, Cookbooks, Recipes

Genre: Food

Appeal Elements: **Characters**

Mood *humorous; historical details*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *linear; richly-detailed*

HISTORY GENRE

See also: 52 (Science & Nature)
64 (Sports)

13. **Binney, Judith. *Encircled Lands: Te Urewera, 1820-1921*. Wellington, NZ: Bridget Williams Books, 2009.**

This is a substantial, meticulously researched history examining the first hundred years of the Tūhoe people's quest to establish and maintain a self-governing system from the beginnings of their interactions with Europeans. Dating from 1872, Binney details how Tūhoe leaders were awarded the right to autonomy by the government, legislation being introduced to fulfil a promise to the Tūhoe, and documenting the Te Urewera Reserve as the tribe's official land boundaries. By the early 1920s, the government had retracted this arrangement and the Crown reclaimed the land. Binney brings attention to this forgotten history of the Tūhoe people and their memory with illustrations of early photographs, maps and whakapapa.

Special feature: Winner of the 2010 New Zealand Post Book Award (Book of the Year category)

Subjects: Land tenure, History, Government relations, Ngāi Tūhoe/New Zealand people, Urewera, Māori, Manawhenua (Territorial rights), Whenua tautohetohe (Land disputes), Ahi kā, Korero nehe, 19th century, 20th century

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *strong characters*

Mood *dialect-rich; historical details*

Pace *densely-written*

Story Line *linear; scholarly; issue-oriented; thought-provoking*

14. **Bourke, Chris. *Blue Smoke: The Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music 1918-1964*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2010.**

Blue Smoke captivates and it unfolds New Zealand's rich and colourful music history is journey through popular music of the 20th century. Bourke's writing is engaging, richly layered and enlightening as it explores New Zealand's social and cultural history through the music of this era. It is heavily illustrated which further accentuates the feeling of being transported back in time to the sounds of jazz and swing music, war-time influences and the arrival of rock 'n' roll to our shores. Bourke shares how these musical experiences from overseas have historically inspired New Zealand musicians and contributed to the making of our own unique musical identity.

Special feature: Winner of the 2011 New Zealand Post Book Award (Book of the Year, General Non-fiction, and People's Choice Award categories)

Subjects: History, Rock music, Jazz, Popular music, Radio broadcasting, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *historical details*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; layered*

15. **Brickell, Chris. *Mates & Lovers: A History of Gay New Zealand*. Glenfield, NZ: Godwit, 2008.**

This is the first published book that celebrates the history of gay men in New Zealand. This thoroughly researched book by Chris Brickell acquaints us with the gay community and reveals a history of men from all occupations and social standings. The exceptional photographs enhance depict the intimacies of male lifestyle and captures the essence of the gay community during the 19th and 20th centuries. His ability to scrutinise the images and interpret what they convey about the men, particularly regarding their social class or possible liaisons with each other, is both intriguing and an enlightening lesson on interpreting the historical male body language of a society.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2009 Montana New Zealand Book Awards
Winner of the 2009 E. H. McCormick Best First Book Award for Non-Fiction

Subjects: History, Social conditions, Gay men, Gay community, Photography of men, 19th century, 20th century, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements:

Characters	<i>intriguing secondary characters</i>
Mood	<i>introspective; historical details</i>
Pace	<i>highly readability; moderate narrative</i>
Story Line	<i>scholarly; richly-detailed</i>

16. **Cohen, David, *Little Criminals: The Story of a New Zealand Boys' Home*.
Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2011.**

As a previous resident of Epuni Boys' Home, Cohen has personal knowledge of the realities of being incarcerated in a New Zealand government run residential institution. His research investigates the premise for developing such environments that were at the time, the state's response to managing delinquency and recent challenges to social morals. The consequence of this reformatory reaction was a disproportionate number of Māori adolescents were incarcerated and often for reasons unknown to them. Eventually, as less punitive strategies were implemented to focus on helping troubled youth, the residential institutions were closed. The boys' welfare and the long term repercussions of being isolated, unloved and lonely all contribute to this powerful story.

Subjects: Institutional care, History, Children, Juvenile delinquency, Reformatories, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements:

Characters	<i>personal</i>
Mood	<i>psychological; insightful</i>
Pace	<i>moderate narrative; leisurely-paced</i>
Story Line	<i>issue-oriented</i>

17. **Desmond, Pip. *Trust: A True Story of Women & Gangs*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2009.**

Pip Desmond was pivotal to the establishment of Aroha Trust, a co-operative work trust for women during 1977-1980 in Wellington. The young women worked hard doing physical labour, shared a flat together, and most importantly friendships, 'we supported ourselves and each other'. Desmond as an insider, candidly documents the sobering experiences of the women prior to their life in the Trust. As the stories unfolded, the bonds they shared were of dysfunction: abusive childhoods, alcohol and drug related problems, as well as a connection with gang life. This is a confronting look at part of New Zealand's social history, the women who were united by Aroha Trust and the implications of longstanding gang involvement.

Special feature: Winner of the 2010 E. H. McCormick Best First Book Award for Non-Fiction

Subjects: History, Female gang members, Gangs, Aroha Trust, New Zealand, Wellington

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *candid; bittersweet*

Pace *high narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *layered; character-centred*

18. **Druett, Joan. *Tupaia: The Remarkable Story of Captain Cook's Polynesian Navigator*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2011.**

Tupaia's role in the success of Captain James Cook's expedition to New Zealand and Australia from Tahiti has been given little acknowledgement. Druett remedies this oversight in her latest book. Tupaia was originally recognised for his valuable navigational skills; however, he also fulfilled many key roles on the voyage: acting as translator, negotiator, and ship's artist. He is credited with drawing the only surviving sketches done on the voyage of Tahitian life which is featured on the book's cover. Druett's talent for storytelling makes this meticulously researched history compelling reading, as the book's quick pacing matches the adventurous nature of the narrative.

Special feature: Winner of the 2012 New Zealand Post Book Award (General Non-fiction category)

Subjects: Discovery and exploration, Explorers, Tupaia, James Cook, French Polynesia, Tahiti (Island), Oceania

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details; descriptive*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *scholarly; informative; character-centred; thought-provoking*

19. **Eldred-Grigg, Stevan. *Diggers Hatters & Whores: The Story of the New Zealand Gold Rushes*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2008.**

Eldred-Grigg presents a thoroughly researched and richly detailed history of major gold rushes around world and when the rush struck in New Zealand during the 1850s-1870s. The goldfields were populated with European New Zealanders, Māori, and foreign diggers who all arrived with the same agenda: to prosper. The wealth from the gold created a lucrative time for local businesses, particularly those with the enticements of drink and women. There is a substantial focus on the social history of New Zealand during the gold rush and the inevitable ramifications when the goldfields were exhausted. Eldred-Grigg delivers fascinating accounts of the colourful personalities whose stories go beyond the search for gold, engaging narrative of scandals, crimes and not least, of passion.

Subject: History, Gold mines and mining, Gold miners, 19th century, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; scholarly*

20. **Holmes, Paul. *Daughters of Erebus*. Auckland, NZ: Hodder Moe, 2011.**

The 1979 Mount Erebus tragedy has affected the entire nation but no more so than the family of Jim Collins, the pilot of flight TE-901. This is the personal story of the Collins women and what they have endured since the death of a beloved husband and father of four daughters. Compelling and gripping to read as the dramatic complexities of past events are recounted, from the formal inquests and the accusation of pilot error, to the conclusions of Justice Peter Mahon's report. The moving and intimate passages of Pip Collin's participation in the 2009 memorial visit to the crash site reflects their depth of loss and the lifelong emotional impact has continued to have for the Collin's family.

Subjects: Aircraft accidents, Collins family, Antarctica, Mount Erebus

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *dramatic; historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *character-centred; investigative*

21. **Hutchins, Graham. *Last Train to Paradise: Journeys from the Golden Age of New Zealand Railways*. Auckland, NZ: Exisle Publishing, 2011.**

Graham Hutchins draws on his own memories of travelling New Zealand by train up to the late 1950s to evoke a nostalgic reflection of the days when railway was the preferred mode of transportation. The distinctive 'name' trains based on tourist destinations engendered excitement for passengers boarding the 'Rotorua Limited' or the 'Auckland-Opua Express'. Other memorable journeys include the 'Prince of Wales' tour through the country in 1920, and the 1956 'Test Match Special'. Hutchins interjects colourful descriptive tales of ladies and scallywag passengers as well as onboard antics into his history of New Zealand train travel making it delightful and entertaining to read.

Subjects: History, Railroads, Railroad travel, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *nostalgic; uplifting*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *linear; richly-detailed*

22. **Hunter, Ian. *Age of Enterprise: Rediscovering the New Zealand Entrepreneur, 1880-1910*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2007.**

This historical account of New Zealand's economic conditions during a 30 year period from 1880-1910, largely written in an academic style, will be of interest to many history enthusiasts, as it defines the importance of small business ventures, and the development of new industries that contributed to the country's economic growth. Hunter's use of case studies offers personal stories which are rich in historical details that examine the entrepreneurial ambitions of New Zealanders and immigrants alike. Attributes associated with work ethic, inventiveness and industry knowledge have ultimately had a role in shaping New Zealand's societal values.

Special feature: Finalist of the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards

Subjects: History, Commerce, Economic conditions, Entrepreneurship, Industries, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details*

Pace *densely written*

Story Line *linear; scholarly*

23. **King, Michael. *The Penguin History of New Zealand*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin Books, 2003.**

King's book is a gift of history for everyday New Zealanders which builds a fuller awareness and understanding of this country's fascinating story and how it has impacted our culture's development. The content is written in a manner that is informative and easy to read yet has a thought-provoking quality. This work is substantial, as King ambitiously examines pre-history and early Māori history, through discovery and exploration, to European settlement, and all the way to current day. Regarded as an excellent general history to New Zealand and is now acknowledged as a Kiwi classic.

Special feature: Winner of the 2004 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Readers' Choice category)

Subjects: History, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details; descriptive*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *informative; thought-provoking; scholarly*

24. **McLeod, Rosemary. *Thrift to Fantasy: Home Textile Crafts of the 1930s-1950s*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins Publishers, 2005.**

Rosemary McLeod's book on the history of New Zealand home textiles is a follow up to a successful exhibition of her personal handcrafts collection at The Dowse in Wellington. Many of these exquisite pieces are used to illustrate the book. McLeod cleverly tells the social history of the women who shared this pastime and created these needlework crafts during the 1930s-1950s. Interestingly, she offers an explanation as to why crafts such as embroidery, knitting and tatting were popular as creative outlets for women that offered a form of escapism from their lives during a very unsettled time in war and depression.

Special feature: Winner of the 2006 Montana New Zealand Book Award (History category)

Subjects: History, Social life and customs, Handicraft, Needleworkers, 20th century, New Zealand, House furnishings

Genre: History

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *uplifting; historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *folksy; issue-oriented; richly-detailed*

25. **Palenski, Ron. *The Making of New Zealanders*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2012.**

The evolution of New Zealand's social identity examines the question, when did the early immigrants primarily from England, Scotland and Ireland start identifying as New Zealanders? Ron Palenski proposes that a feeling of nationalism was established closer to the end of the 19th century, dating it considerably earlier than other historians. Through his analysis, influential factors on the development of a shared identity are linked to the rise of published news, the impact of government decision making, and even unity on the sporting fields. Palenski's writing is based on his extensive research but it is presented in such a manner that makes it stimulating and engaging to read.

Subjects: History, Ethnic identity, Social life and customs, National characteristics, Nationalism, New Zealanders, 19th century, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *scholarly; issue-oriented*

26. **Petrie, Hazel. *Chiefs of Industry: Māori Tribal Enterprise in Early Colonial New Zealand*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2006.**

Coastal shipping and flourmilling were two prosperous industries strongly controlled by the Māori during the 1840s and 1850s: deemed the ‘golden age of Māori enterprise’. The era saw chiefs prosper as astute businessmen on behalf of their tribes. Hazel Petrie’s scholarly research into New Zealand’s early economic history is from a social perspective. Fluent in te reo Māori, Petrie has consulted alternative information sources including journals, letters and heritage newspapers, revealing a compelling and interestingly written history of the colonial economic and trading practices of Māori and Pakeha.

Special feature: Finalist of the 2007 Montana New Zealand Book Award (History category)

Subjects: Commerce, History, Economic conditions, Māori (New Zealand people), Shipping, Flour industry, Tauhokohoko, Kōrero nehe, Ohaoha, 19th century, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details; insightful*

Pace *densely written*

Story Line *scholarly; informative*

27. **Salmond, Anne. *The Trial of the Cannibal Dog: Captain Cook in the South Seas*. London: Allen Lane, 2003.**

Ann Salmond's enlightening historical account of Captain Cook's three epic voyages in the South Seas during the 18th century is approached from a scholarly perspective. This dense, extensively researched writing contains a vast amount of richly-detailed information. Consequently the stories, particularly the retelling of the first interactions between Europeans and Polynesians are riveting, bringing to life the dynamic characters and the extreme cultural differences set within an exotic landscape. Lives were definitively changed as a result of these encounters and ultimately they are the first stories of our European ancestors' arrival in the Pacific.

Special features: Winner of the 2004 Montana Medal for Non Fiction
Winner of the Montana New Zealand Book Award
(History category)

Subjects: Description and travel, Discovery and exploration,
James Cook, Oceania

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *vivid secondary characters*

Mood *historical details*

Pace *high readability; densely written*

Story Line *scholarly; thought-provoking;
informative; character-centred*

28. **Shute, Gareth. *Hip Hop Music in Aotearoa*. Auckland, NZ: Reed Publishing, 2004.**

New Zealand's evolving music scene has been well documented over the years. Gareth Shute adds yet another fascinating layer to the country's musical history, as he examines the historical lineage to the music styles of hip hop and rap music scenes. Through entertaining interviews with prominent artists he has retraced the stylistic origins and musical influences that have inspired this new generation of New Zealand musicians. He explores the development of a Pacific Island influence to hip hop and rap music, and ultimately, creating a unique sound that has transformed part of the cultural footprint by identifying new forms of mainstream popular music.

Special feature: Winner of the 2005 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Lifestyle and contemporary culture category)

Subjects: History, Hip-hop, Rap music, Kōrero nehe, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *candid; historical details*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; character-centred*

29. **Soutar, Monty. *Nga Tama Toa: The Price of Citizenship, C Company 28 (Māori) Battalion 1939-1945*. Auckland, NZ: David Bateman, 2008.**

This is the shared history of C Company of the 28th Battalion, nicknamed the 'Cowboys'. Sir Apirana Ngata, MP, initiated the idea of documenting their story on their return from the war, and finally 60 years later the project has been completed. While densely written, the story is powerfully told through the soldier's personal stories, oral history and previously documented interviews. Recounting experiences from the early days of enlistment and training, to the horror and danger they faced together on the battlefields – tribute is paid to soldiers who were acknowledged for their tenacity and bravery.

Special feature: Winner of the 2009 E. H. McCormick Best First Book Award of Non-Fiction
Winner of the 2009 Ngā Kupu Ora Māori Book Awards (History category)

Subjects: Regimental histories, Māori, World War Two, Tūmataunga, Pakanga, Kōrero nehe, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** vivid and intriguing secondary characters

Mood bittersweet; historical details

Pace moderate narrative; leisurely-paced

Story Line richly-detailed; character-centred

30. Yska, Redmer. *Truth: The Rise and Fall of the People's Paper*. Nelson, NZ: Craig Potton Publishing, 2010.

Redmer Yska tells a story of New Zealand's media and social history through the *Truth*, one of New Zealand's most popular newspapers and a leader in establishing a modern journalistic stance of news coverage. Scandals, sex, crime and political antagonism filled the pages contributing to our social history. However, as Yska points out, at its heart, *Truth* was a voice for New Zealand's working class people. Yska's insightful and readable narrative unfolds the *Truth's* history from its beginnings in 1905 to claiming its bestseller status, through turmoil in the 1960s and eventual demise in 2005.

Subjects: History, New Zealand newspapers, Tabloid newspapers, New Zealand

Genre: History

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details*

Pacing *moderate narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *linear; issue-oriented*

MEMOIRS GENRE

See also: 63 (Sports)

81, 83 (Travel)

31. **Beaton, Hamish. *Under the Osakan Sun: A Funny, Intimate, Wonderful Account of Three Years in Japan*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2008.**

After studying Japanese for eight years and graduating from university, Hamish Beaton sets off for Japan to teach English and experience a new culture far removed from life in New Zealand. Inexperienced as a teacher, he must instruct the students in their English studies, however, it is he who gets an education in understanding the mystifying social and cultural intricacies of contemporary Japan. Beaton recalls stories from his new circle of acquaintances and memorable events from the three years he spent living in the small community of Osaka.

Special feature: 2009 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award (Readers' Choice Award)

Subjects: Travel, Social life and customs, English teachers, Japan

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *uplifting; humorous*

Pacing *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *linear; experiential*

32. **Bowron, Jane. *Old Bucky & Me: Dispatches from the Christchurch Earthquake*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2012.**

Christchurch resident and journalist Jane Bowron was in the city when the second major earthquake struck on February 22, 2011. Amongst the chaos and devastation of her surroundings, with a sense of immediacy she was able to relay a poignant message to her newspaper describing the catastrophic events that she had just witnessed. Bowron recounts the trauma of that particular day but continued to regularly report very touching, personal narratives of coping with the aftermath conditions - a new reality for the residents of Christchurch. This is an extremely moving, candid memoir with touches of humour offered during bleak moments of adversity as the city's people try to move forward.

Subjects: Social aspects, Christchurch Earthquake, 21st century, Earthquakes, New Zealand, Christchurch

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; bittersweet; candid*

Pacing *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *thought-provoking*

33. **Braunias, Steve. *Fool's Paradise*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2001.**

In *Fool's Paradise*, Steve Braunias, well-known for his former column in the *New Zealand Listener*, gives an entertaining view as he writes about places, experiences and aspects of life that are uniquely New Zealand. Often looking back to the past, Braunias has a tendency to gravitate towards the quirky, avoiding of mainstream subjects he favours the likes of tearooms and mangroves which adds to the refreshing quality of his writing style.

Special feature: Winner of the 2002 E.H. McCormick Best First Book of Non-Fiction

Subjects: Social life and customs, New Zealand, 20th century

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *nostalgic; insightful; humorous*

Pacing *fast-paced; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *issue-oriented; experiential*

34. **Elliott, Marianne. *Zen Under Fire: A New Zealand Woman's Story of Love and War in Afghanistan*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2012.**

Ambitious and wanting to make a difference, lawyer Marianne Elliott accepts a position working for the United Nations in central Afghanistan. Although she had previously worked in Iran, it did not prepare her for the reality of surviving in a war zone. Elliott chronicles her work as a human rights advocate and the frustrations of negotiating a male-dominated culture. The intimacy of her writing captures the reality of living in Afghanistan, which was personally taxing with the burdens of work, the struggles of maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing, as well as coping with feelings of isolation. Reflecting on this chaotic country, her lasting thought is of wanting to make a difference - for its people.

Subjects: Politics and government, Travel, New Zealand, Afghan War, 21st century, Afghanistan

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *introspective; dramatic*

Pacing *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *issued-oriented; linear*

35. **Kidman, Fiona. *At the End of Darwin Road: A Memoir*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2008.**

Accomplished author Fiona Kidman shares stories from her personal life, considering the multitude of obstacles that could potentially have prevented her becoming a writer, despite her great desire 'to write, if possible, every day of my life'. Kidman reflective writing recalls her early childhood of growing up in northern townships of New Zealand, which beyond being a personal story presents a fascinating layer of social history: giving insight of growing up in New Zealand postwar era. Acknowledging the realities of financial hardship and negotiating domestic life, she writes candidly of battling to overcome period of depression which also threatened her ability to generate creative work.

Subjects: Women authors, Authors, 20th century, New Zealand

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *introspective; dialect rich*

Pacing *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *linear*

36. **Krull, Friedrich. *An Indescribable Beauty: Letters Home to Germany from Wellington, New Zealand, 1859*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2012.**

A collection of correspondence written by Friedrich August Krull giving his impressions of the landscape, and describing his adventures and exploits upon his 1859 arrival in New Zealand. The letters, addressed to his mother in Germany, are riveting reading as the writing vicariously transports you to the place and time of mid-19th century New Zealand. Krull recounts tales of discovery on horseback to satisfy his curiosity and fulfil his desire to become acquainted with the Māori people living in the area. Originally penned in German but translated into English for all to enjoy.

Special feature: Published to recognise New Zealand's guest of honour status at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2012

Subjects: History, Travel, Germans, Māori (New Zealand people), Kōrero nehe, Noho-ā-iwi, 19th century, New Zealand, Wellington

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *dramatic; descriptive*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *experiential*

37. **McQueen, Harvey. *This Piece of Earth*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2004.**

Harvey McQueen's poetic writing style is evident throughout this memoir of a Wellington gardening year. In this personal journey he recounts the pleasure derived from his new found interests of gardening and the satisfaction of nourishing oneself by cooking what you have grown. His thoughts flow in a manner that is similar to a relaxed, meandering conversation, much like a garden path that has many interesting diversions along the way. McQueen touches on significant points in his life and relationships as well as reflecting on his work experiences. He also shares a few recipes from his expanded cooking repertoire.

Subjects: Poets, New Zealand, Teachers, 20th century, New Zealand

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *introspective*

Pacing *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *richly-detailed; folksy*

38. **Mahon, Sam. *Year of the Horse*. Dunedin, NZ: Longacre Press, 2002.**

Accepting a commission by Speight's Brewery to produce the *Southern Man* as a life-size bronze sculpture is the creative task at hand for artist Sam Mahon. The *Year of the Horse* recounts to his friend in a letter, his time spent devoted to project. The writing instils a feeling of being part of an artistic journey, labouring alongside through the physical process of the project but also the limitations imposed by a corporation for the piece to transform into sculpture. Mahon divulges his internal turmoil as he attempts to reconcile the validity of the commission's merit as a creative work. Readers will equally enjoy the tales from his rejuvenating getaways into the outdoor as he pursues many other passions.

Special feature: Winner of the 2003 E.H. McCormick Best First Book of Non-Fiction

Subjects: Sculptors, Bronze sculpture, New Zealand, 20th century

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *introspective; descriptive*

Pacing *high narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *linear*

39. **Smither, Elizabeth. *The Commonplace Book: A Writer's Journey Through Quotations*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2011.**

As an alternative to a traditional diary or personal journal, Smither has adopted a preference for the keeping a 'commonplace book', a popular pastime in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a collection of writing extracted from meaningful works by other writers, including quotations, poetry or any turn of a phrase that in some way personally resonates. Part of the practice is reflective in nature, as the book is interspersed with one's own writing by jotting down ideas, thoughts and feelings in response to the collection of words. Smither's delivers an unconventional memoir that is enticing due to range of subject matter and the fluidity of the written words which are explored in this interesting and entertaining journey of thoughtful writing.

Subjects: Notebooks, Sketchbooks, Quotations, English, 17th century, 18th century

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *introspective; dialect-rich*

Pacing *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; thought-provoking*

40. **Thomson, Peter. *Kava in the Blood: A Personal & Political Memoir from the Heart of Fiji*. Auckland, NZ: Tandem Press, 1999.**

In stating his ancestral heritage author Peter Thomson proudly identifies himself as a 'fifth generation Scottish Fijian', born and raised in Fiji. As this book's title suggests this story is complex, layered and a heartfelt journey that largely focuses on the political unrest associated with the two coups d'état. Thomson entwines stories of island life from his childhood through to holding the position of permanent secretary to Fiji's Governor General during the years between these events. Evocative writing describes his efforts to restore parliamentary democracy during the 1987 coup resulting in being incarcerated by the army forces him to contemplate being relegated to the status of an outsider in his own country.

Special feature: Winner of the 2000 E.H. McCormick Best First Book of Non-Fiction

Subjects: History, Politics and government, Coup d'état (1987), Fiji

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; vivid secondary characters*

Mood *bittersweet; dramatic*

Pacing *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; issue-oriented*

41. **Turbott, E. Graham. *Year Away: Wartime Coastwatching on the Auckland Islands, 1944*. Wellington, NZ: Department of Conservation, 2002.**

Graham Turbott originally kept a journal chronicling the year he was stationed on Enderby Island in the sub-Antarctic as part of the coastwatching operations during the Second World War, for his wife. Station duties consisted of enemy surveillance and uneventful hours slowly passed. However, on occasion he accompanied land surveyors around the islands: on one memorable trip he discovered a lake – it was aptly named Lake Turbott in his honour. When off duty, Turbott would seize the opportunity to carry out his own field research by observing and recording in great detail, the island’s bird life. His highly descriptive writing captures images of the landscape that transport you back to 1944 and this extraordinary environment.

Subjects: History, Surveillance, Natural history, Naturalists, New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Expedition 1941-1945, Auckland Islands, New Zealand

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *historical details; descriptive*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *informative; linear*

42. **Woodham, Kerre. *Short Fat Chick to Marathon Runner*. Auckland, NZ: Harper Collins, 2008.**

Radio personality Kerre Woodham makes the decision to take control of life and physical fitness by naively setting a very ambitious goal of completing the Auckland marathon. Armed with a new trainer, the support of her family and the camaraderie of a running group she recounts the process of physically and sometime even more challenging mentally committing to her new lifestyle. The writing is funny and very candid: Woodham does not hold back in sharing the details of embarrassing moments, self doubts or the milestones she accomplishes on the journey to reaching her goal. This is a fast-paced, entertaining story that includes a dose of inspiration for taking on a fitness challenge.

Subjects: Marathon running, Physical fitness, New Zealand

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *uplifting; humorous*

Pacing *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *linear; layered; inspirational*

43. **Wright, Douglas. *Ghost Dance*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2004.**

Ghost Dance is choreographer Douglas Wright's memoir written to reflect on moments in time and journeys taken, and often intertwining with the life of close friend and ex-lover Malcolm Ross. He experiences a difficult youth, but finds refuge upon discovering the modern dance world and his exceptional talent gains him acceptance within New Zealand's pre-eminent dance company. In the 1980s Wright's dance career catapults him forward to New York City and its licentious gay bath house scene, and soon after he must reconcile himself with a diagnosis of being HIV-positive. The writing is captivating and eloquent but the underlying tone of sadness is unmistakable.

Special feature: Winner of the 2005 E.H. McCormick Best First Book of Non-Fiction

Subjects: Dancers, Choreographers, Modern dance, HIV-positive persons, AIDS (Disease), New Zealand

Genre: Memoirs

Appeal elements: Characters *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *bittersweet*

Pacing *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character-centred*

SCIENCE and NATURE GENRE

See also: 92, 97 (Travel)

44. **Adds, Peter. *Transit of Venus*. Wellington: Awa Press, 2007.**

A fascinating collection of essays that recount the significance of the transit of Venus, an astronomical event which occurs as the planet Venus passes across the sun. Historically, adventurous and scientifically minded individuals would seek out any opportunity to bear witness to such an experience during their lifetime. Of relevance to New Zealand, almost 250 years ago Captain Cook undertook such an expedition on the *Endeavour* and was able to utilise this astrological event to locate the 'Great Unknown Southern Continent'. The most recent occasion to witness this sight was June, 2012.

Subjects: History, Navigation, Astronomy, Geology, Natural history, 18th century, Venus (Planet), Oceania, New Zealand

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details; insightful*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative, leisurely-paced*

Story Line *scholarly; issue-oriented; thought-provoking*

45. **Ballance, Alison. *Southern Alps: Nature & History of New Zealand's Mountain World*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2007.**

Allison Ballance's book documents the natural history of the Southern Alps: one of New Zealand's most amazing geological features by exploring the rocks, ice, flora and fauna that creates this astounding landscape. The qualities and significance of each element is explained through descriptive narrative, similar to a character on a journey from its beginnings, culminating with its final destination in the natural cycle. Given equal weight is the human story of early mountaineering expeditions associated with guiding, climbing and traversing the peaks of the Southern Alps. The book is illustrated with wonderful images that complement the story of New Zealand's natural history.

Special feature: Finalist of the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards (Environment category)

Subjects: History, Description and travel, Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *vivid and intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *richly-detailed; informative*

46. **Bull, Colin, Richard Barwick, Barrie McKelvey and Peter Webb. *Innocents in the Dry Valley: An Account of the Victoria University of Wellington Antarctic Expedition, 1958-59*. Wellington, NZ: Victoria University Press, 2009.**

As a member of the first Victoria University of Wellington's expedition research programme to the Antarctic, Colin Bull recounts from his highly detailed personal diary his time spent exploring an area called the Dry Valley of Victoria Land. The year was 1958-59, Bull was the physicist on the team and he was accompanied by a university biologist and two geology students. These intrepid scientists had a budget of \$1000.00 for their two month expedition, so being resourceful was mandatory. Witty personal stories are effortlessly interwoven into accounts of their summer together conducting geological research. Impressively, this programme has continued to send a team annually since its inaugural year.

Subjects: Discovery and exploration, Scientific expeditions, Victoria University of Wellington Antarctic Expedition, Antarctica, New Zealand

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; historical details*

Pace *high narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *informative*

47. **Corballis, Michael, C. *Pieces of Mind: 21 Short Walks Around the Human Brain*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2011.**

In *Pieces of Mind*, psychology Professor Michael Corballis wants us to consider how our minds work. He explains the answers to many curiosities such as *why do people swear more when they are angry?* A few myths are dispelled by throwing light on the subject of right-brain creativity, as well, *do we really only use 10 per cent of our brain?* Corballis's writing style effortlessly interprets complex scientific information into understandable, fascinating stories that entertain while educating.

Subjects: Evolution, Thought and thinking, Brain

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal Elements: Characters

Mood *insightful; psychological*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *informative; thought-provoking*

48. **Davis, Lloyd Spencer. *Looking for Darwin*. Dunedin, NZ: Longacre Press, 2007.**

Candidly written, this is a personal journey of Lloyd Davis as he retraces the 19th century naturalist, Charles Darwin's voyage of the world. Davis, himself a zoologist, offers highly descriptive accounts of the stunning landscapes, his strange animal encounters and the reasoning for embarking on his own travels. Ultimately to unravel some of his own mysteries to gain better insight into Darwin and what propelled his fascination and research on evolution. The writing is rich, layered and contemplative through examining philosophical questions on the concept of religion and its alignment within the natural world.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2008 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Naturalists, Evolution, Natural history, Charles Darwin, England

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *introspective; insightful*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; thought-provoking; issue-oriented*

49. **Flynn, James Robert. *Fate & Philosophy: A Journey Through Life's Great Questions*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2012.**

Fate & Philosophy is the second instalment in Flynn's trilogy: its collective goal to fill the gap in our knowledge that a modern university education does not necessarily impart. This is a stimulating introduction to the study of philosophy and issues of morality. Advocating for neutrality when faced with hard moral choices, and warns of the influential nature of, for example, family values or religious beliefs as a hindrance to the process. Flynn's provocative writing style delivers lively discussions and draws the reader into contemplate many of 'life's great questions'.

Subjects: Philosophy, Ethics, Science

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *introspective; dialect rich*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *issue-oriented; thought-provoking*

50. **Gibbs, George W. *Ghosts of Gondwana: The History of Life in New Zealand*. Nelson, NZ: Craig Potton Publishing, 2006.**

Gibbs presents a book based on historical biogeography, the ‘science that traces the history of life on earth’, a rather daunting subject matter but the author’s writing translates the scientific theories and knowledge into accessible, easy to read and fascinating stories for a wider audience. Includes images to convey information visually that enhances how unique and distinct many of the species are to New Zealand’s environment. An educational and interesting reading experience for anyone who is curious about the natural world, this book is able to provide the answers as to the how and why life evolved the way it did, here, in New Zealand.

Special feature: Winner of the 2007 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Environment category)

Subjects: Endemic animals, Endemic plants, Biogeography, Natural history, New Zealand

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *informative*

51. **Gill, Brian. *The Owl that Fell from the Sky: Stories of a Museum Curator*.
Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2012.**

This engaging book is a selection of intriguing stories that offer a glimpse into the museum world. Brian Gill's work as curator at the Auckland War Memorial provide s the wonderful narrative as he traces the history of various specimens including turtles, owls, and elephants held within the natural history collection. Making discoveries in order to solve scientific mysteries are part of the fascination of Gill's entertaining tales that will amuse anyone with an inquiring mind who enjoy s the natural world.

Subjects: Curatorship, Museums, Museum curators, Auckland War Memorial Museum

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details; insightful*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *experiential; informative*

52. **Harvey, Bob. *Rolling Thunder: The Spirit of Karekare*. Auckland, NZ: Exisle Publishing, 2001.**

Rolling Thunder explores the rich history of Karekare, the beach and the surrounding scenery. Harvey's personal tie with Karekare dates back 40 years and through his longstanding association with this spectacular coastal area, he is well acquainted with the local families and their personal stories: those who share a passion for this beach and who have each contributed to its vibrant community and history. Artists, filmmakers, photographers, and writers have long been inspired by the magnificent environment. Harvey's book delivers an interesting history and features spectacular imagery that encapsulates both the beauty and significance of the Karekare area.

Special feature: Winner of the 2002 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Environment category)

Subjects: History, Description and travel, Beaches, Karekare, New Zealand, Auckland

Genre: Science and Nature, History

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *richly-detailed; issue-oriented*

53. **Hunt, Janet. *Wetlands of New Zealand: A Bitter -sweet Story*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2007.**

New Zealand's precious wetlands are undervalued and endangered according to Janet Hunt's in-depth historical knowledge of the wetlands and the issues surrounding their decline. Each chapter introduces a different wetland environment and their unique inhabitants from birds and animals to plants and water life which are captured in stunning images. Resonating throughout Hunt's lively, descriptive writing is the need to increase awareness on the importance of wetland areas, and highlights New Zealand's internationally recognised Ramsar Convention wetland locations including how these efforts factor into a larger environmental conservation plan.

Special feature: Winner of the 2009 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Environment category)

Subjects: Environmental aspects, Wetlands, New Zealand

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters**

Mood *descriptive; insightful*

Pace *high readability; densely written*

Story Line *informative; issue-oriented*

54. **Meduna, Veronika. *Science on Ice: Discovering the Secrets of Antarctica*.
Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2012.**

Scientist Veronika Meduna has participated in two expeditions to the Antarctica giving her the opportunity and privilege of exploring the ice in a truly unique part of the world. Her writing captures the spirit of unveiling new knowledge and gives insight into the dedicated people who perform research by exploring and ‘discovering the secrets’ of this fascinating ice landscape. Captivating detailed descriptions convey the beauty of the land despite it being cold and barren as well as moments of wonderment from up-close encounters with Antarctica’s wildlife inhabitants. It offers interesting historical information on the scientific research and natural world, illustrated with numerous photographs.

Subjects: Discovery and exploration, Natural history, Antarctica

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal Elements: Characters *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; informative; richly-detailed*

55. **Peat, Neville. *The Tasman: Biography of an Ocean*. North Shore, NZ: Penguin, 2010.**

This is a story of the sea, the Tasman, all of its natural elements and sea life are described with great detail, but it also investigates the lives of the people in its coastal communities and who have been drawn to it. Peat's stories of early exploration, the development shipping routes between Australia and New Zealand and the tragedies that resulted due to the Tasman's wild, unforgiving conditions. Exciting tales of ambitious individuals have taken on the sea as a challenge to conquer and have done so, or attempted to, through sailing voyages and daring solo crossings. Such catalysts of epic adventure contribute to this fascinating history of the Tasman.

Special feature: Finalist of the 2011 New Zealand Post Book Awards (General Nonfiction category)

Subjects: History, Description and travel, Tasman Sea

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *layered; experiential*

56. **Priestley, Rebecca (ed.). *The Awa Book of New Zealand Science*.
Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2008.**

Rebecca Priestly has compiled a range of works on New Zealand's science history with an emphasis on scientific discovery. Drawing on writings by some of this country's pioneering scientists, as well as well known individuals who are currently making significant contributions in the field of science. It is compelling and enjoyable to read as the writing selections make the subject accessible to individuals with less scientific background knowledge. As a history unfolds in a chronological order touching on the remarkable discoveries that offer wide appeal across an impressive scope of scientific disciplines.

Special feature: Winner of the 2009 Royal Society of New Zealand Science Book Prize

Subjects: Science, Natural history, New Zealand

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *descriptive; historical details; dialect-rich*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *informative; issue-oriented*

57. **Priestley, Rebecca. *Mad on Radium: New Zealand in the Atomic Age.*
Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2012.**

New Zealand's stance as nuclear-free is a strong part of the country's global identity as environmentally responsible. Rebecca Priestley presents in *Mad on Radium* a history outlining this was not always the case, in fact, New Zealand physicist Lord Rutherford was at the forefront of nuclear science research. This revealing book examines our keen interest for this exciting new era, the atomic age. New Zealand as a set towards progress, quickly adopted the new science and technology of radium by using x-ray machines in medicine, proposing to develop nuclear power and uranium mining. Priestley accessible writing uncovers our changing attitudes; it is only since the 1980s that our anti-nuclear status was established.

Subjects: Government policy, History, Nuclear energy, Antinuclear movement, Nuclear engineering, New Zealand

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal Elements:

Characters	<i>multiple points of view</i>
Mood	<i>historical details</i>
Pace	<i>high readability; moderate narrative</i>
Story Line	<i>linear; informative; scholarly; issued-oriented</i>

58. **Redvers, Grant. *Tara Arctic: A New Zealander's Epic Voyage*. Masterton, NZ: Fraser Books, 2010.**

New Zealander Grant Redvers tells his account with a French lead scientific team who intentionally drifted as part of the frozen ice pack in the Arctic Ocean. As expedition leader of the 18 month long voyage, he was the only member of a team of 22 who endured all 506 days onboard the vessel *Tara*, which had its own history as Sir Peter Blake's *Seamaster*. Redvers describes the important scientific studies being conducted and the achievement of being the 'closest any ship had ever been to the geographic North Pole', a mere 160 kilometres away. It is, however, the human story that delivers great insight into the personal hardships and strife associated with extended voyages.

Subjects: Description and travel, Scientific expeditions, Tara (Yacht), Arctic regions

Genre: Science and Nature, True Adventure

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *insightful; dramatic*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *linear; investigative*

59. **Simpson, Philip. *Pohutukawa & Rata: New Zealand's Iron-hearted Trees*.
Wellington, NZ: Te Papa Press, 2005.**

This is a generously sized book covering all matters pertaining to New Zealand's much-loved pohutukawa and rata trees. Simpson's thorough research examines the scientific aspects such as the uniqueness and evolution of the species, as well as how New Zealanders use the trees as a natural resource and the importance of protecting them. Subsequent chapters offer interesting narrative on the connection role of pohutukawa and rata trees to Māori culture. Heavily illustrated with imagery depicting the trees in art and design as they are symbolic of New Zealand and their presence evoke memories of the landscape, often getting captured by authors in their writings.

Special feature: Winner of the 2006 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Environment category)

Subjects: Pohutukawa, Rata, History

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *descriptive; historical details*

Pace *moderate narrative; high readability*

Story Line *informative; richly-detailed*

60. **Spackman, Kerry. *The Ant and the Ferrari: Lifting the Hood on Truth, Society and the Universe*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins Publishers, 2012.**

Spackman sets out early that this book will ‘change your beliefs – and change your life’ as he continues on his life long quest to find absolute truth. Applying the same techniques to beliefs and ideas as he renowned for in the sports world, he applies a scientific approach to examine the logic associated with religious beliefs. Spackman covers a wide range of topics from the principles of capitalism, ethics and destiny, but the emphasis is predominantly on the falsehoods of religion from a scientific perspective. The author’s writing creates a thought-provoking and quick to read as it is unhampered by complex theory or language.

Subjects: Teleology, Causation, Truth, Ethics

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *candid; psychological*

Pace *high readability; fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *thought-provoking*

61. **Turner, Brian. *Into the Wider World: A Back Country Miscellany*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2008.**

Poet, outdoor enthusiast and ardent conservationist Brian Turner's anthology is themed around one of his most pleasurable pastimes of trout fishing in central Otago, often accompanied by fellow anglers. The featured stories, poems and previously published essays that are fluidly written as the language in a sense, replicates the movement of a flowing river. Turner's descriptions the breathtaking scenery allow you to visually escape into the outdoor world along with him to explore the wilderness he is inspired by and drives his passion to protect it.

Special feature: Finalist of the 2009 New Zealand Post Book Award (Environment category)

Subjects: Fishing, New Zealand poetry, 21st century, New Zealand, Otago

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *dramatic; dialect rich; uplifting*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *folksy; layered; experiential*

62. **Turner, Gillian. *North Pole, South Pole: The Epic Quest to Solve the Great Mystery of Earth's Magnetism*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2010.**

Turner enlightens us with her depth of knowledge on history of magnetism and the fascinating scientific explorations that contribute to its origins of discovery. It chronicles scientific history from the ancient Greece to modern day discoveries and the use of specialised supercomputers is interwoven into a compelling narrative of the scientists, the people who were dedicated and unrelenting in their pursuit to solve the mystery and made it their life's work. These explorers of Earth's magnetism ultimately contributed to solving of one scientific history's greatest unknowns.

Subjects: Geomagnetism, Magnetism, Magnetic fields, History

Genre: Science and Nature

Appeal elements: Characters

Mood *historical details; descriptive*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative;
fast-paced*

Story Line *informative; linear; issue-oriented*

SPORTS GENRE

See also: 75 (Travel)

63. **Colquhoun, David (ed). *As if Running on Air: The Journals of Jack Lovelock*. Nelson, NZ: Craig Potton, 2008.**

Jack Lovelock was one of running's most celebrated athletes. During the 1930s he was the fastest man on the track, breaking both world and Olympic records that earned him a gold medal in Berlin. Colquhoun's *As if Running on Air* contains the contents of Lovelock's personal journals dating from 1931-35, as well as his training diary from 1936. Lovelock's writing is focused on his track performances but it does also offer glimpses into his personal life. Colquhoun's inclusion of illustrations from Lovelock's sporting career and through the use of descriptive narrative he has contextualised the original works as penned by Lovelock to enhance the reading experience.

Subjects: Runners (Sports), John Edward Lovelock, New Zealand

Genre: Sports, Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *historical details; nostalgic*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *linear; action-oriented*

64. **Daley, Caroline. *Leisure & Pleasure: Reshaping and Revealing the New Zealand Body 1900-1960*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2003.**

This is lively scholarship with a descriptive narrative that explores New Zealand's history of body image and physical fitness, but rather than being a unique phenomenon as a country we were following a worldwide trend. Daley has researched the beginnings of New Zealand strongmen contests to beauty pageants for women, as well as the more leisurely past-times of sunbathing and voyeurism. Quirky, entertaining newsworthy items from over the decades are interspersed as reminders of cultural attitudes towards nudism and appreciation of the physical form. Not to be missed are the visually enticing photographs that depict the ever-changing swimwear fashions, which often encouraged modesty or retaliated against it.

Subjects: History, Body image, Physical fitness, New Zealand

Genre: Sports, History

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details; descriptive*

Pace *high readability; moderate narrative*

Story Line *informative; scholarly; richly-detailed*

65. **Hale, Steve. *The Heart of Our Game: Players and Personalities in New Zealand Rugby*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins, 2012.**

This enjoyable collection of 28 stories profiles players from present and past in addition to individuals who are part of the rugby collective from around the country, each in some way has made a lasting contribution to the sport. Steve Hale's narrative celebrates the true meaning of the game, its spirit and the vibrant social atmosphere that made the 2011 Rugby World Cup rugby experience so memorable. Commemorating New Zealand's favourite game from reminiscing tales of players and scrums from a bygone era to a closer look at today's game of rugby and its place within contemporary New Zealand culture.

Subjects: Social aspects, Rugby Union football, Rugby Union football players, New Zealand

Genre: Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *uplifting*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character-centred*

66. **Hamill, Rob. *The Naked Rower: How Two Kiwis Took on the Atlantic - and Won!* Auckland, NZ: Hodder Moa Beckett, 2000.**

In 1997 New Zealanders Rob Hamill and Phil Stubbs were the winners of the Transatlantic Double Handed Rowing Challenge and *The Naked Rower* is Hamill's story of realising his dream and their triumphant win. Part of the success was due to preciseness of the boat's construction and a Hamill covers this aspect in great detail. Rowing is difficult and physically demanding, and taking on this challenge elevates it to an extreme sport. Onboard Kiwi Challenge their aptly named rowboat, the real test was ahead as Hamill's narrative candidly recalls the race experience. The ultimate challenge was tolerating with each other and surviving their dysfunctional partnership throughout the ordeal and its aftermath.

Subjects: Travel, Rowing, Rowers, Kiwi Challenge (Rowboat), Transatlantic Double Handed Rowing Challenge (1997), Atlantic Ocean, New Zealand

Genre: Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *candid; descriptive; dramatic*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *layered; informative*

67. **Malcouronne, Peter and Arno Gasteiger. *Our Game*. Auckland, NZ: Kowhai, 2011.**

Our Game embodies the spirit of New Zealand's favourite sport of rugby, along with its players, coaches and the diehard fans who live for the game. Malcouronne's narrative describes the game's history by drawing on recollections from both the playing field and the sidelines to convey the cultural importance of rugby for New Zealanders of all ages. The story is complemented by Gasteiger's spectacular images of players from recreational rugby leagues around the country, from the old timers to the youngest of players who want to emulate their rugby heroes.

Subjects: Rugby Union football, New Zealand

Genre: Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *nostalgic; uplifting*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *folksy; character-centred; richly-detailed*

68. **Paul, Gregor and Gregory Crow. *For the Love of the Game: Grassroots Rugby in Heartland New Zealand*. Auckland, NZ: Exisle Publishing, 2011.**

Rugby has always been a part of New Zealand's social history, and this book brings attention to another aspect of the sport as it pays tribute to the men, women and children who are New Zealand's weekend rugby players, and do so 'for the love of the game'. Looking beyond the players, authors Paul and Crow prominently feature the team supporters, those who work tirelessly to make the games occur and cheer them on. The accompanying photographs are evidence that game conditions are irrelevant to these hearty players, as being uncomfortable or even injured appears to also be part of the grassroots rugby experience.

Subjects: Rugby Union football, Football for children, New Zealand

Genre: Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *vivid secondary characters; multiple points of view*

Mood *uplifting*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *folksy; action-oriented; richly-detailed*

69. **Ricketts, Harry (ed.). *The Awa Book of New Zealand Sports Writing*.
Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2010.**

The Awa Book of New Zealand Sports Writing is an anthology of sporting stories so diverse in coverage there is something for all enthusiasts. There are offerings for devoted rugby and cricket fans, to the more unconventional activities of horseracing and flying airplanes, as well as memorable stories of New Zealand's spectacular sporting triumphs and defeats. Ricketts has drawn on sportswriters and other notable authors of prose, poetry and plays as sources for his collection. The theme is clear, unified by their love of sports and the ability to bring to life the legendary tales of bygone events and our nation's sporting heroes.

Subjects: Sports, Sportswriters, New Zealand

Genre: Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *vivid; intriguing secondary characters
multiple points of view*

Mood *dialect-rich; insightful*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *action-oriented*

70. **Ricketts, Harry. *How to Catch a Cricket Match*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2006.**

In cricket terms, do you know how a *bunny* and *hoodoos* are related? This is an introduction to the sport of cricket that clarifies the game's basics, rules and offers explanations of its perplexing lingo. Ricketts confesses to being cricket obsessed since his early childhood, and is eager to share his passion and knowledge of the game. As an ardent fan and player, he provides a nostalgic overview of the cricket history and shares his own significant memories including attending the 2006 pivotal match between New Zealand and the West Indies.

Subjects: Cricket, Cricket matches, New Zealand, Wellington

Genre: Sports

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *nostalgic; descriptive*

Pace *moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; informative*

71. **Saker, John. *Tracing the Arc*. Wellington, NZ: Four Winds Press, 2003.**

Former professional basketball player, John Saker reminisces on the allure of basketball despite having a traditional New Zealand rugby upbringing, where ‘basketball wasn’t part of the landscape’. His passion for the game and perfecting his hook shot was all-consuming during his youth and when tragedies struck his family, basketball offered him a form of escapism. Saker is reflective in his writing of this essay as he revisits events from his sporting past but it is evident that he maintains a strong affection for the game of basketball and his memories as a player.

Subjects: Basketball players, Basketball, New Zealand

Genre: Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *nostalgic; introspective*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *inspirational; experiential*

72. **Thomas, Paul. *Union: The Heart of Rugby*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2011.**

Paul Thomas explores as a theme the eight core principles of rugby which are celebrated as ‘pride, team, honour, courage, passion, heroes, pain and glory’. These collective values have the ability to inspire a player’s commitment to the sport and are vital to the rugby brotherhood both on and off the playing field. Thomas’s narrative focuses on conversations with some of the world’s most prominent rugby union players, including the All Blacks John Kirwin. As these legendary players reminisce by sharing their personal thoughts on playing the game and the sport’s significance, Thomas’s engaging writing truly captures the real meaning of the sport.

Subjects: Rugby Union football, Rugby Union football players

Genre: Sports

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *dramatic; insightful; uplifting*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *action-oriented*

TRAVEL GENRE

See also: 92 (*Science and Nature*)

73. **Bennett, Joe. *A Land of Two Halves*. London: Scribner, 2004.**

After living in New Zealand for 15 years, author Joe Bennett decides to take a road trip around the South and North Islands to understand what his ties are to this country. As a nod to his youth, he decides the best way to see the country is by hitch-hiking, allowing one the freedom to follow the road rather than an itinerary. It's a chance to meet many interesting and sometimes quirky, people from all walks of life, as well as a few locals often over a drink at the town pub. Bennett's impressions of the country have a tendency towards the cynical, his commentary is sharp tongued but it also lets his witty sense of humour shine.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2005 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Humour, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; insightful; exotic*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *experiential*

74. **Bennett, Joe. *Where Underpants Come From: From Checkout to Cotton Field – Travels Through the New China*. London: Simon & Schuster, 2008.**

This is an investigative travel adventure inspired by a pair of generic men's underwear purchased in a New Zealand shop and a curious idea, to retrace their journey back to where they were manufactured, a factory in China. Bennett takes it even further as he wants to explore the production of retail goods, and the implications of 'made in China' consumerism. The outcome for the author, and potentially his readers, is an enlightening education on global economics. In an engaging and witty manner, he shares a few challenging experiences with eating, travelling and overcoming the language barrier while in China.

Special feature: Winner of 2009 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Economic conditions, Commerce, Clothing trade, Exports, China

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *humorous; insightful*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *issue-oriented; investigative; thought-provoking*

75. **Brown, Justin and Brendon O’Hagan. *Bowling Through India: Five Kiwi Blokes Take on India at Cricket*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2009.**

A group of five Kiwi blokes who are passionate about the game of cricket and looking for an adventure concoct the idea of travelling to India ‘to play backyard cricket with Indians in their own backyard’. In line with the team’s sense of humour, they name themselves ‘The Black Craps’ as they set off on a cricket playing tour across India. Their competitors were school children who are as obsessed with the game as the visitors, frequently bowling in strange locations and with improvised equipment. This is an enjoyable and illuminating story of people united by a sport but it also encompasses all facets of life in India.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2010 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Cricket, New Zealanders, India

Genre: Travel, Sports

Appeal elements: **Characters** *strong characters*

Mood *uplifting; humorous*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; experiential*

76. **Calder, Peter. *Travels with My Mother*. Auckland, NZ: Tandem Press, 2003.**

Peter Calder accompanies his elderly mother on a trip to England. Although she has lived her life as an Englishwoman, she has never visited the country. At this point in their relationship, son now guides mother on this journey of kin and country and not all is to their satisfaction. Recounting childhood memories, he reflects on his upbringing of being raised 'English' in New Zealand, adding another layer to this wonderfully entertaining story. Upon returning to New Zealand, the author truly felt like he was home.

Special feature: Winner of the 2004 WH SMITH Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Childhood and youth, Mothers and sons, England

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *nostalgic; candid*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *layered*

77. **Carswell, Jane. *Under the Huang Jiao Tree: Two Journeys in China*.
Yarraville, VIC: Transit Lounge Publishing, 2009.**

Education has long been a part of Jane Carswell's life so deciding to teach English in China for a year would not seem that daunting, except she is in her mid-50's and leaving behind the comfortable and happy life she leads with her husband in New Zealand. Travelling to China takes her on a multi-layered journey, initially getting accustomed to new surroundings and learning about the local culture and its people. Carswell's thoughtful, poignant writing unfolds more than a physical journey; it is as much about exploring her own personal spiritual path.

Special feature: Winner of 2010 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Teachers, China

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *introspective; descriptive*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *inspirational; experiential*

78. **Chapple, Geoff. *Te Araroa: The New Zealand Trail*. Auckland, NZ: Random House New Zealand, 2002.**

Geoff Chapple has walked the length of New Zealand from northern Cape Reinga all the way through to Bluff at the southern tip in an effort to establish the definitive trail for walking enthusiasts. Single-handedly he marked out the track's route, but in order for it to progress further, a plan was drawn up that was capable of transforming his dream into a reality, largely made possible through the creation of the Te Araroa Trust. His skilful writing allows us to sample the trail through richly-detailed accounts of his journey introducing the landscape and its historical significance, in addition, we meet some of the generous people who are support Chapple's vision by permitting the New Zealand Trail to cross their private land.

Special features: Winner of the 2003 Montana New Zealand Book Award (Environment)
Finalist of the 2003 WH Smith Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Trails, Walking, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; uplifting*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *issue-oriented; inspirational*

79. **Coppell, Doris. *Kiwi Afloat*. Auckland, NZ: D. Coppell, 2005.**

Doris Coppell confesses to an obsession with boats and has always felt a sense of connectedness to water and also married to an Englishman: these signs lead her to the idea of exploring the English canals. So, over the next twenty years, aboard three different boats including one named 'Māori', and accompanied by a lively cast of companions that is exactly what she did. *Kiwi Afloat* is the light-hearted, amusing stories of their escapades navigating through the waterways and epitomises Coppell's passion for life on the water.

Special feature: 2006 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award (Commended)

Subjects: Description and travel, Women sailors, Inland navigation, Canals, Canal-boats, England, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *uplifting; nostalgic*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *linear*

80. **Edmond, Martin. *Dark Night: Walking with McCahon*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2011.**

At the opening of an exhibition of his art, Colin McCahon mysteriously disappeared from Sydney's Botanic Gardens, and a day later he was found a significant distance away at Centennial Park experiencing amnesia. McCahon had longstanding demons battling with alcoholism and experienced turmoil due to difficulties with reconciling his Christian beliefs, a theme frequently explored in his art. Edmond draws on this religious theme by using the Stations of the Cross as the core for composing his descriptive narrative that at moments digresses as he imagines the meandering path McCahon may have taken alone on that dark night.

Subjects: Description and travel, Painters, Colin McCahon, Australia, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; quirky secondary characters
strong characters*

Mood *descriptive; exotic*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *experiential; character-centred*

81. **Farrell, Fiona. *The Broken Book*. Auckland, NZ: Auckland University Press, 2011.**

Author Fiona Farrell travel story is atypical as its outcome was a result of circumstances that lead her on a metaphorical journey that encapsulates narrative and poetry with considerations on matters of family relationships, diseases in history and human vulnerability in the bigger forum of the natural world. Her introspective writing is fractured by her present reality of coping with the ramifications of the Christchurch earthquakes. *The Broken Book* is evocative and Farrell's writing expresses a healing quality in the aftermath of the quakes generating a renewed feeling of unity for her community and humanity.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2012 New Zealand Post Book Awards (Travel category)

Subjects: Description and travel, Women authors, Women poets, New Zealand poetry, New Zealand, Christchurch

Genre: Travel, Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *introspective; dialect-rich*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *issue-oriented*

82. **Farrington, Tony. *Sailing with Mohammed: A True Yachting Adventure in Asia and the Middle East*. Auckland, NZ: New Holland, 2005.**

The Farrington family's sailing voyages on the South Pacific and Indian Oceans takes them to places rich in history and culture but that also challenge rather than share their Western values. Tony Farrington shares descriptive, lively accounts of sailing the seas and their adventures exploring foreign lands, but it is the impressions of the Islamic people and their beliefs which are so memorable. His observations are perceptive and offer a refreshing outlook of the Muslim world shortly after the events of 9/11 when travel to the Middle East was deemed too dangerous.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2006 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Yachting, Antares II (Yacht), Indo-Pacific Region

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *vivid and intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *insightful*

Pace *fast-paced; highly narrative*

Story Line *experiential; action-oriented*

83. **Field, Michael. *Swimming with Sharks – Tales from the South Pacific*
Frontline. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2010.**

Michael Field has spent the last 30 years living as a reporter living in the South Pacific, as a consequence of his professional work he is currently banned from four Pacific countries, including Fiji. Recounting stories that investigate and unravel some of complexities associated with political and military unrest, media censorship and the restrictions imposed by non-democratic societies. In addition, these vulnerable countries have been met with crises from havoc caused by disasters – natural and otherwise. Field’s journalistic style of writing describes candid, amusing, and even poignant memories drawn from his time in the South Pacific, a place that was ‘never a paradise’.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2011 Whitcoulls Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Social life and customs, Politics and government, Pacific Islanders, National characteristics, Oceania

Genre: Travel, Memoirs

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *candid; dramatic*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *issue-oriented; informative*

84. **Goa, Karen. *One Flat Coyote on the Centre Line: Cruising Canada in a Classic Chevy*. Auckland, NZ: New Holland, 2006.**

The Canadian equivalent to the New Zealand overseas experience is taking a summer road trip across Canada's vast land from coast to coast. After living in New Zealand for 20 years, classic car enthusiasts Karen and Ken Goa decide to reconnect with Canadian culture by getting behind the wheel of a 1956 Chevrolet station wagon to spend a summer driving from British Columbia's back roads across the prairies to Nova Scotia's eastern shore and beyond. This is light and enjoyable reading that's interjected with snippets of personal memories, and doses of Canadian history which includes a fondness for places with quirky names.

Special feature: 2007 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award (Highly commended)

Subjects: Description and travel, Automobile travel, Canada

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *uplifting; humorous*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *experiential*

85. **Greeks, Polly. *Embracing the Dragon: A Woman's Remarkable Journey Along the Great Wall of China*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2006.**

Rich in dialogue, this highly narrative tale of New Zealander Polly Greeks 'spur of the moment decision' to accompany her new partner on a walk along the Great Wall of China taking her through mountains and remote villages, and herself being a spectacle as the first European woman to travel to such isolated destinations. Her journey of adventure captivates a reader as she interweaves the country's history while describing the hardships she encounters while walking through snow blizzards and the treacherous crumbling terrain of the wall. Greeks' vivid descriptions will make you want to walk in her footsteps.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2005 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Awards

Subjects: Description and travel, China, Great Wall of China

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *introspective, descriptive*

Pace *fast paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character centred; experiential*

86. **Lay, Graeme (ed.). *Home & Away: Award- winning Travel Stories by New Zealand Writers*. Auckland, NZ: New Holland, 2012.**

Home & Away is the ultimate anthology of 35 travel stories, written by New Zealand's best writers in this genre, as selected by editor Graeme Lay. Travel is an important part of this country's culture and the time honoured tradition of heading off for the long awaited overseas experience, the OE, is a rite of passage. These selections take us around the globe exploring places that may or may not be familiar, along with a few evocative excursions taken on our own shores. The stories capture the essence of a memorable travel experience by relaying meaningful encounters with vivid impressions of the land visited.

Special feature: *Home & Away* was published in recognition of the 20th anniversary of Travcom's annual Cathay Pacific Travel Media Awards

Subjects: Voyages and travels, Travellers' writings, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; multiple points of view*

Mood *exotic; descriptive*

Pace *high narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *experiential; character-centred*

87. **Lay, Graeme. *The Miss Tutti Frutti Contest: Travel Tales of the South Pacific*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2004.**

Graeme Lay's many travels to the Polynesian Islands over the years have allowed him to experience island life beyond the typical tourist locale. He is witty and perceptive in sharing his experiences of meeting the local people, attending cultural events as well as his encounters with an array of colourful characters who are also enjoying island life. There is a highly descriptive and entertaining tale of being a spectator to Samoa's annual fa'afafine contest, with the winner being crowned with the title of *Miss Tutti Frutti*. Lay's stories will put travelling to tropical Polynesia at the top of your destination list.

Subjects: Description and travel, Polynesia

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; quirky & vivid secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; exotic*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; experiential*

88. Malcolm, Jill. *At Home on the Road*. Auckland, NZ: New Holland, 2002.

A dream of escaping from the busy routine of daily life in Auckland became a reality for Jill Malcolm and her partner, as they liberated themselves from their work responsibilities and the confines of a house and its contents. In exchange they had the freedom to explore New Zealand at their leisure in a 20 year old caravan. Malcolm's narrative has a touch of humour as she candidly reflects on recent events in her personal life that were the catalysts for adopting a nomadic lifestyle. Now as part of the traveller community they are meeting a few unconventional personalities with their own interesting stories from life on the road that add to the book's charm.

Special feature: Winner of the 2003 WH Smith Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Social life and customs, Mobile home living, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; quirky secondary characters; strong characters*

Mood *humorous; bittersweet*

Pace *high narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *linear; folksy*

89. **Meecham, Eleanor. Llamas & Empanadas: 5000 Kilometres by Bicycle through South America. North Shore, NZ: Penguin, 2007.**

A solo cycling trip through the terrain of South America would be ideal for an individual who is experienced, self-reliant, confident and resourceful. Eleanor Meecham does not really fit this description when she starts out on a South American cycling adventure. Adding more complexity to the scenario is her desire to come to terms with her brother's death and gain a sense of inner peace. This is Meecham's personal story of challenging and testing her own resolve as she pedals through Argentina, Chile and Bolivia. She is confronted with the notorious and unforgiving weather, but simultaneously is enchanted by the vibrant local people she meets along the road.

Special feature: Winner of 2008 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Cycling, South America

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; introspective*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; experiential*

90. **Morgan, Jo, Gareth Morgan, John McCrystal. *Up the Andes*. Auckland, NZ: Public Interest Publications, 2010.**

Motorcycling adventurers Jo and Gareth Morgan's latest excursion in their pursuit of riding around the world has them tackling the terrain in the Andes region of South America. Amongst the challenges are riding across salt pans, surviving one of the most dangerous roads in the world, numerous near misses and the inevitable breakdowns. The Morgans and their riding companions are able to take in the amazing scenery as well as enriching cultural experience as they journey through the Andes. It is written in a conversational style, rich with candid witty exchanges that speed quickly along.

Special feature: Second Runner-up of 2011 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Motorcycle touring, South America, Andes Region

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *humorous; uplifting*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *action-oriented*

91. **Parker, Selwyn. *Chasing the Chimney Sweep*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2006.**

Author Selwyn Parker and three enthusiast companions embark on a daunting 2400-kilometre cycling expedition following in the tyre tracks of the first Tour de France in 1903. The avid cyclists take in the breathtaking countryside views but the landmarks from the first race are no longer recognisable as the idyllic country lanes of the past have transformed into dangerous highways. Physical exhaustion, road detours and a lack of French add to Parker's witty, engaging tales of his foursome as he interweaves the story of the cyclists from inaugural race. The book is named in honour of the 1903 Tour de France winner, Maurice Garin – a chimney sweep.

Special feature: Winner of the 2007 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Bicycle touring, Tour de France (Bicycle race), France

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *humorous; historical details*

Pace *fast-paced; highly narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; experiential*

92. **Peat, Neville. *High Country Lark: An Invitation to Paradise*. Dunedin, NZ: Longacre Press, 2008.**

Through richly described imagery Peat takes his readers on a journey to the Glenorchy area of New Zealand's South Island by unfolding the natural landscape's beauty, and the remarkable birdlife. Knowledge of the local history unveils how the establishment of business enterprises shaped the district in its early years and tells the tales of vivid personalities, who past and present, have called Glenorchy home. The addition of Denis Glover's poems of Arawata Bill, a well-known character in these parts is most fitting. Peat's nomadic and occasional trail walking companion, *The Lark*, completes the cast in this inviting story.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2009 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Folklore, Plants, Animals, New Zealand, Queenstown-Lakes District

Genre: Travel, Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; quirky secondary characters*

Mood *dialect-rich; descriptive*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *folksy; experiential*

93. **Reid, Graham. *Postcards from Elsewhere: Odd Destinations and Unusual Encounters*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2005.**

Graham Reid is adept at finding the offbeat rather than off the beaten track as he travels around the globe. This collection of tales from his journeys is often the result of serendipitous experiences in strange locations: during a trip to Japan, and feeling weirdly disoriented as he was immersed into Dutch culture. There is no shortage of oddities or eccentric characters as Reid has an uncanny knack of having an ‘unusual encounter’ at each stop. Engaging and entertaining anecdotes that invoke a sense of the places visited and the eclectic people which inspired Reid to write his collection of postcards.

Special feature: Winner of the 2006 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Voyages and travels

Genre: Travel

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; insightful*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *experiential*

94. **Riordan, Peter. *Gods of Stones: Travels in the Middle East*. Albany, NZ: David Bateman, 2011.**

Inspired by the travel writings of H. Morton's journey through the Middle East, Riordan is so intrigued by it all, that he decides to go on his own journey and replicate the experience. In keeping with Morton's itinerary, he too searches for signs of the beginnings of Christianity. Riordan's adventure of travelling across the region is fraught with potential dangers as he travels amongst the people and adopts the local ways of life by immersing himself in the culture and its fascinating yet tumultuous history. Perceptive observations are captured in his writing as it concentrates on portraying the uniqueness of the landscape and translates the current cultural climate of the Middle East.

Special feature: Winner of 2012 Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Middle East, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *nostalgic; exotic*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *experiential*

95. **Riordan, Peter. *Strangers in my Sleeper: Rail Journeys and Encounters on the Indian Subcontinent*. Auckland, NZ: New Holland, 2006.**

Peter Riordan embarks on a rail journey, an opportunity to travel across an immense range of geography known as the Indian subcontinent, taking in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. He witnesses the beautiful landscapes as well as the squalor that is often evident at the train stations. The communal aspect of travelling by train offers Riordan a chance to meet a vast array of people who are engaging and have interesting things to say on the issues of family, politics, business, religion, and much more. His narrative creates an atmosphere that allows the audience to feel caught up in these conversations with his fellow passengers.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2007 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Social life and customs, Railroad travel, Railroads, Locomotives, India

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; uplifting; exotic*

Pace *leisurely-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *character-centred; experiential*

96. **Robinson, Ian D. *You Must Die Once: Tibet, a Journey to the Centre of the Universe*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins, 2006.**

A journey to the mountains of Tibet is instigated by a promise to deliver the ashes of his 'spiritual advisor' to Mt Kailas. Robinson travels alone on horseback to this remote destination, fraught with gruelling physical challenges as he navigates the demanding landscape and survives the wilderness with his horses. Everything comes to a halt when he is arrested and deported, leaving him utterly defeated by the ordeal. Committed to keeping his word, two years later rejoins the trail to the sacred mountain and realises that he too, will be spiritually enlightened while undertaking this journey. Robinson's easy writing style offers a candid, insider's perspective to Chinese and Tibetan people and their cultures.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2007 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, China, Tibet Autonomous Region

Genre: Travel, True Adventure

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *exotic; candid*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *layered; experiential*

97. **Warne, Kennedy. *Roads Less Travelled: Twenty Years of Exploration with New Zealand Geographic*. Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 2008.**

Former editor of *New Zealand Geographic* Kennedy Warne's writing is of a more intimate journey packed with personal memories and candid stories of remote places and exciting discoveries. Tales of adventure are equally told through an impressive collection of stunning photographs taken to record these remarkable experiences and capture the wonders of the natural world. Warne's descriptive narrative uncovers a new appreciation for the places visited and reflects a genuine interest in the people he has had the opportunity to meet.

Special feature: 2009 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award (Highly commended)

Subjects: History, Description and travel, Social life and customs, Natural history, Zoology, Botany, New Zealand, Oceania

Genre: Travel, Science and Nature

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *descriptive*

Pace *moderate narrative; leisurely-paced*

Story Line *experiential; richly-detailed*

98. **Worrall, Jill. *A Blonde in the Bazaar*. Auckland, NZ: New Holland, 2003.**

Pakistan is a country of breathtaking scenery, welcoming people with a vividly, rich culture that never fails to delight author Jill Worrall. Her extensive travels over a period of 18 years have also made her aware that it is often a misunderstood country, especially in the Western world. Accompanied by her Pakistani colleague, Mujahid Ali Khan, Worrall is now considered part of the family and have extended their generosity. She has had the privilege of celebrating momentous life events that have awarded her with truly memorable experiences. Accounts are chronicled geographically as she travels from mountains to deserts and urban centres where Jill Worrall spent time being *A Blonde in the Bazaar*.

Special feature: Runner-up of the 2004 WH SMITH Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Journalists, Pakistan, New Zealand

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *insightful; humorous; exotic*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *experiential*

99. **Worrall, Jill. *Two Wings of a Nightingale: Persian Soul, Islamic Heart*.
Auckland, NZ: Exisle Publishing, 2011.**

Jill Worrall has a love of travelling in exotic lands and this is a journey inspired by Iran's Silk Road and the history of its caravanserais - the locations where travelling caravans would stay while crossing the desert. Being familiar with the country as having made several trips to Iran over the years, she sets out on this extensive 8000km road trip accompanied by her friend and local tour guide Reza. He offers an Iranian perspective to their journey and his insight of local history and customs is invaluable to Worrall as she navigates through this mesmerising world of fascinating people and culture which she elegantly describes in her writing.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2012 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Social life and customs, Iran

Genre: Travel

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *historical details; exotic*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *linear; experiential*

TRUE ADVENTURE GENRE

See also: 58 (*Science and Nature*)

96 (*Travel*)

100. **Deavoll, Pat. *Wind from a Distant Summit*. Nelson, NZ: Craig Potton, 2011.**

Mountaineering is often recounted from a male experiences, Pat Deavoll offers a woman's view of the high mountains and the sport of climbing. Expeditions have taken her to some of the most challenging mountain ranges around the world to fulfil her passion to climb. Deavoll shares accounts of expeditions, endearing friendships that develop from sharing a rope and the devastating consequences of the high alpine climbing environment. Provocatively written, she discusses the allure of mountains and her motivation for climbing despite the harshness of the conditions and the high risk.

Special feature: Finalist in the 2012 Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Mountaineers, Women mountaineers, New Zealand

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; vivid secondary characters*

Mood *introspective; bittersweet*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *layered; thought-provoking; experiential*

101. **Gurney, Steve. *Eating Dirt: Adventures and Yarns from New Zealand's Action Man*. Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2012.**

Endurance athlete Steve Gurney challenges society to reconsider how today's children are being raised. He believes kids are shielded from experiences that will teach them about their own abilities and limits as 'failure is only feedback – life's most valuable lessons come with bruises and dirt'. He shares his personal philosophy that is based on resiliency that can apply to daily life or high risk moments. As an adventurer Gurney thrives on physical challenges especially if the playground is a remote location. It is also ideal for generating candid, fast-paced, exciting tales for the armchair adrenaline junkie.

Subjects: Psychological aspects, Endurance sports, Adventure racing, Athletes, Coast to Coast Endurance Race, New Zealand

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *candid; insightful; psychological*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *thought-provoking; action-oriented; experiential*

102. **Hewitt, Robert and Aaron Smale. *Treading Water: Rob Hewitt's Survival Story*. Auckland: Huia Publishers, 2007.**

Defying tragedy, Rob Hewitt shares his story of survival after being swept out to sea while diving. It is a gripping tale of one man's unwillingness to surrender: a testament of his remarkable mental strength to combat the hallucinations affecting his decision making after spending so many days at sea, but also his physical ability to hold on. The love Rob Hewitt has for his family and his determination to live came through in every aspect of this inspirational book. He also shares stories of family and his career as a navy man, which are often told with a sense of humour.

Subjects: Divers, Survival, Search and rescue operations, Kōrero taumata, New Zealand, Kapiti Coast District

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: Characters *personal*

Mood *humorous; dramatic; introspective*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *inspirational; linear; experiential*

103. **Inglis, Mark. *No Mean Feat*. Auckland, NZ: Random House New Zealand, 2002.**

Mark Inglis, a New Zealander known by name for his reputation as an athlete recounts overcoming his greatest personal challenge, to continue a life of adventure after the loss of his legs at the age of 23. Determined not to let his physical disability prevent him from participating in an active lifestyle but driven by an adventurous spirit, Inglis is willing to explore whatever life has to offer. Inglis writes in a conversational style, candidly sharing memories from his first dark days as an amputee as well as the elation he felt when successfully reaching the summit of Mt Cook in 2001.

Subjects: Mountaineering, Mountaineers, Amputees, Athletes with disabilities, New Zealand, Aoraki/Mount Cook

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal*

Mood *candid; psychological*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *inspirational; experiential*

104. **MacIntyre, Garth, Neil McGrigor, Cam McLeay and John McCrystal.**
***Ascend the Nile: A Kiwi-Brit Journey of Discovery, Adventure & Tragedy.* Auckland, NZ: Random House, 2009.**

A 'Kiwi-Brit' trio tackle an ambitious expedition of the first ascent of the entire length of the Nile River from the Mediterranean Sea to determine its true source. The expedition goes to plan until they reach the challenging rapids at Murchison Falls in Uganda and the intrepid group are dealt a series of events that culminate with an ambush and the tragic death of a friend who was attempting to rescue them. The decision is made to abandon the expedition. Despite the trauma, their resolve grows stronger and 6 months later they continue with the expedition. Written as a journal documenting daily life on the river it has all the elements of an adventure -- danger, excitement, tragedy and joy.

Subjects: Description and travel, Nile River

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: **Characters** *personal; strong characters*

Mood *bittersweet; dramatic*

Pace *fast-paced; high narrative*

Story Line *action-oriented; linear; experiential*

105. **Orrell, Gillian. *New Boots in New Zealand: Nine Great Walks, Three Islands and One Tramping Virgin*. Auckland, NZ: Exisle Publishing, 2006.**

A novice trumper visiting New Zealand sets herself an objective to complete all of New Zealand's Great Walks. Luckily, she has an adventurous spirit and positive outlook that helps her through the many physical challenges she has to overcome but also her fellow trampers on the trails add to this engaging story. In addition, there are detailed descriptions of her daily life on the trail that conveys a lot of practical information which is intertwined with her new understanding of New Zealand's cultural and historical knowledge.

Subjects: Description and travel, Social life and customs, Walking, Legends, Trails, New Zealand

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: Characters *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; uplifting*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *informational; action-oriented; experiential*

106. **Robinson, Ian D. *Gantsara: Alone Across Mongolia*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins, 2004.**

Intrepid adventurer Ian Robinson sets off on a difficult, challenging solo journey of travelling across the harsh countryside of Mongolia on horseback - considered to be an impossible feat for a foreigner. The sheer amount of energy required to source supplies, seek out local guides and navigate unknown terrain in an inhospitable environment makes this a tale that is simultaneously exhilarating and exhausting. Robinson's determination and his ability to connect with the wonderful local people add a dynamic layer to his writing that offers a unique insight into Mongolia's cultures, interesting history and superb scenery.

Special feature: Winner of the 2005 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Packhorse camping, Mongolia

Genre: True adventure

Appeal elements: Characters *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; exotic; dramatic*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *action-oriented; experiential*

107. **Robinson, Ian D. *Tea with the Taliban: Travels in Afghanistan*. Auckland, NZ: Robert Bateman, 2010.**

Danger is a prominent feature of Robinson's journey through Afghanistan. The interactions he has with the people that he meets along the way shape the experiences that become his daily way of life. Everything about this journey is unusual, from the mode of transportation – horseback, solo travel, seeking out remote areas of a country that is not frequented by tourists. This descriptive account of the landscape and the people of Afghanistan all add up for an unforgettable adventure. Robinson delivers an engaging story that draws you into his environment.

Special feature: Winner of the 2011 Whitcoulls Travcom Travel Book of the Year Award

Subjects: Description and travel, Afghanistan

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: Characters *personal; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; dramatic*

Pace *moderate narrative; fast-paced*

Story Line *experiential; informative; action-oriented*

108. **Temple, Philip. *The Last True Explorer: Into Darkest New Guinea*.
Auckland: Godwit, 2002.**

Philip Temple shares a personal story from his youth set during a time of early exploration and discovery. Adventures that included climbing a significant peak with the legendary Heinrich Harrer and time spent with the Dani people of Papua New Guinea witnessing the art of traditional stone tool making. The narrative is expressive and even humorous at times which nicely balances the detailed historical observations that Temple has documented in his book.

Subjects: Description and travel, Mountaineering, Heinrich Harrer, Papua New Guinea

Genre: True Adventure

Appeal elements: Characters *personal; strong characters; intriguing secondary characters*

Mood *humorous; historical details; dramatic*

Pace *leisurely-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *experiential; richly-detailed; informative*

TRUE CRIME GENRE

109. **Graham, Peter. *So Brilliantly Clever: Parker, Hulme and the Murders That Shocked the World*. Wellington, NZ: Awa Press, 2011.**

Lawyer Graham Peter's thorough research examines in its entirety the horrific 1950s Christchurch murder of Honorah Parker at the hands of her own daughter Pauline Parker, and best friend Juliet Hulme. The intensity of Pauline and Juliet's unlikely relationship is scrutinised along with their psychological state to gain insight as to the motive behind such an extreme act of violence. Graham analyses the documentation relaying Honorah's murder, the court proceedings and the girls' inevitable incarceration in separate facilities, which for them, was the most devastating aspect of the ordeal. It is a gripping and compelling read of a murder case that 'shocked the world'.

Special feature: Nomination for the 2012 Montana New Zealand Book Awards

Subjects: Parricide, Pauline Parker, Yvonne Parker, Juliet Hulme, New Zealand, Christchurch

Genre: True Crime

Appeal Elements: **Characters** *multiple points of view*

Mood *historical details; insightful; psychological; descriptive*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *investigative; linear; character-centred*

110. Hood, Lynley. *A City Possessed: The Christchurch Civic Crèche Case*.
Dunedin, NZ: Longacre Press, 2001.

This book represents the immense undertaking of investigation and research conducted by Lynley Hood pertaining to the Christchurch Civic Crèche case. Beyond the initial allegations of child abuse, the story's complexity is enmeshed with broader issues of 'gender politics' and the implications of current law. Hood's meticulous work is scholarly and dense with factual information which is layered into an absorbing story. The seriousness of the subject matter is reflected in the mood of the book and offers significant reading for anyone with an interest in contemporary social history or New Zealand legal processes.

Special feature: Winner of the 2002 Montana New Zealand Book Awards (Book of the Year and History category)

Subjects: Investigation, Trials, Child sexual abuse, Peter Ellis, Christchurch Civic Crèche, New Zealand, Christchurch

Genre: True Crime

Appeal Elements: Characters *multiple points of view*

Mood *insightful; historical details; descriptive*

Pace *high readability; densely written*

Story Line *scholarly; investigative; thought-provoking; issue-oriented*

111. **Hutchins, Graham. *Bad: New Zealand Crooks, Cranks, Creeps and Killers*. Auckland, NZ: Hodder Moa, 2010.**

Bad profiles some of New Zealand's most notorious criminals: many of their names are well known and are part of our history. According to Graham Hutchins the subjects of this book represent the 'best of the worst'. Hutchins' writing is not motivated by sensationalism but rather he puts the lives of these individuals into context and gains insight from examining their personal backgrounds before being branded as a criminal. The profiles read like a timeline of New Zealand's criminal history; covering swindler Amy Brock to crime lord Terry Clark and the more heinous, mass murderer David Gray. These are gripping stories, rich with historical details on New Zealand's unlawful characters.

Subjects: Social conditions, Criminals, New Zealand

Genre: True Crime

Appeal Elements: Characters *quirky secondary characters; multiple points of view*

Mood *historical details; insightful*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *linear; investigative; character-centred*

112. **Sandiford, Anna. *Expert Witness*. Auckland, NZ: HarperCollins, 2010.**

Discover what it is like to spend a day in the life of an independent forensic scientist collecting and analysing evidence from pollen samples to the more grisly involving human remains. Besides opening her laboratory, Dr Anna Sandiford discusses significant cases in her career, some more prominent than others, but each presents a fascinating portrayal of the people and gathering of the forensic evidence from the crime scenes. Sandiford's informal, riveting storytelling recounts with a high degree of detail, yet surprisingly, there are light and funny moments despite the seriousness of the topic.

Subjects: Forensic sciences, Forensic scientists, Criminal investigation, New Zealand

Genre: True Crime

Appeal Elements: Characters *personal; vivid secondary characters*

Mood *descriptive; insightful; psychological*

Pace *fast-paced; moderate narrative*

Story Line *investigative; issue-oriented; experiential*

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GENRE	CHARACTERS						MOOD													
	Intriguing secondary character	Multiple points of view	Quirky secondary character	Personal Experience	Strong character(s)	Vivid secondary character	Bitter sweet	Candid	Dialect rich	Descriptive	Dramatic	Exotic	Historical details	Humorous	Insightful	Introspective	Nostalgic	Psychological	Uplifting	
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GENRE	PACING						STORY LINE											
	Densely written	Fast-paced	High narrative	High readability	Leisurely-paced	Moderate narrative	Action-oriented	Character-centred	Experiential	Folksy	Informative	Inspirational	Investigative	Issue-oriented	Layered	Linear	Richly-detailed	Scholarly
FOOD	10, 11	1, 3	3, 5, 8	10, 11	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12			1	4, 5	4, 6, 7, 10	1		6, 9	8	3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12	2, 3, 11, 12	2,11
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APPENDIX A: ARRT Genre Study Group of Nonfiction 2007-2008

Characters: *detailed, distant, eccentric, evocative, faithful, familiar, introspective, intriguing secondary (characters), laudatory, lifelike, multiple points of view, quirky, realistic, recognisable, sympathetic, vivid, well-developed, well-drawn*

Mood (Frame/Tone): *bittersweet, bleak, comfortable, contemporary, darker (tone), detailed setting, details of [insert an area of specialised knowledge or skill], dramatic; edgy, evocative, evangelistic, exotic, foreboding, gritty, hard-edged, heart-warming, historical details, humorous, journalistic, literary, lush, magical, melodramatic, menacing, mystical, nightmare (tone), philosophical, political, popular, psychological, romantic, rural, scholarly, sensual, small-town, stark, suspenseful, timeless, upbeat, urban*

Pacing: *breakneck, compelling, deliberate, densely written, easy, engrossing, fast-paced, leisurely-paced, measured, relaxed, stately, unhurried, austere, candid, classic*

Story line: *action-oriented, character-centered, cinematic, complex, conclusive, domestic, episodic, explicitly violent, exposè, family-centered, folksy, gentle, humorous, inspirational, investigative, issue-oriented, layered, linear, literary, multiple storylines, mystical, mythic, open-ended, plot-centered, plot twists, racy, rich and famous, romp, sexually explicit, steamy, strong language, thought-provoking, tragic*

APPENDIX B: EBSCO Novelist/Novelist Plus: Controlled Appeal Vocabulary

2012

accessible, atmospheric, bittersweet, bleak, candid, character-driven, compelling, conversational, creepy, darkly humorous, descriptive, dialect-rich, disturbing, dramatic, engaging, experimental, fast-paced, funny, gritty, gruesome, haunting, heart-warming, homespun, impassioned, inspirational, intricately plotted, issue-oriented, jargon-filled, journalistic, lush, lyrical, melancholy, menacing, moody, moving, nostalgic, offbeat, persuasive, plot-driven, reflective, relaxed pace, richly-detailed, romantic, scholarly, sobering, spare, steamy, strong sense of place, stylistically complex, suspenseful, thoughtful, thought-provoking, upbeat, violent, witty, world-building