

Finding Florence: Researching New Zealand's first women architects
Lecture by Elizabeth Cox
2pm-3pm, Friday 24 July,
Te Kahu o Waipuna - Marlborough Library, \$15

A lecture that unfolds like a detective story, tracing the life of early Nelson architect Florence Field. Elizabeth will also talk about her research into early colonist Marianne Reay and the lovely church at Wakefield she designed in the 1840s.



Opening Night
6.15pm Drinks and nibbles
7pm Stories Told Live
Friday 24 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$40

Join us for a captivating evening of live storytelling at the Marlborough Book Festival's ever-popular Opening Night. This year's theme is Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu - Although it is small, it is precious. A group of talented guest authors will take the stage to share stories, fact, fiction or a mix of both. Come along from 6:15pm to enjoy a complimentary drink and delicious canapés in the theatre's beautiful foyer. The session starts at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

Aotearoa in Bloom
Rachel Clare and Tryphena Cracknell
9.30am-10.30am, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

A botanical hikoi through Aotearoa's flowers, exploring where they grow, when they bloom, the stories behind their names, their uses in te ao Māori and how to grow them in your garden.



Proudly supported by:



The Book of Guilt
Catherine Chidgey in conversation with Jane Forrest Waghorn
10am-11am, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Catherine discusses *The Book of Guilt*, critically acclaimed as both a deeply immersive page-turner and a serious exploration of belonging in a world where some lives are valued less than others.



Photo: Ebony Lamb

Character Masterclass
Writing Workshop with Dominic Hoey
10.30am-12.30pm, Saturday 25 July, Te Kahu o Waipuna - Marlborough Library, \$40

Novelist, poet, rapper and creative writing teacher Dominic shares techniques he uses all the time in his work, exercises to stretch your creativity, providing a good base into writing a short story or novel.



A History of Māori Art
Ngarino Ellis in conversation with Peter Meihana
11.30am-12.30pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Hear about the art, stories, and creative history of Aotearoa New Zealand with leading Māori art historian Ngarino Ellis. Ngarino discusses her work including *Toi Te Mana: An Indigenous History of Māori Art*, the landmark book she co-wrote with Deidre Brown and the late Jonathan Mane-Wheoki.



Photo: Chris Louite

the schedule.



This year's Marlborough Book Festival features 17 wonderful authors speaking across 20 sessions from Friday 24 July to Sunday 26 July at venues in Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough and Marlborough Library at Te Kahu o Waipuna. *It's going to be a fabulous weekend of inspiring, informative and entertaining conversations. You don't need to be a book worm to enjoy a book festival, but if you are, you'll feel right at home! We look forward to seeing you there.*

Friday 24 July

Marlborough Library at Te Kahu o Waipuna

2.00pm Finding Florence
 Researching New Zealand's first women architects. Lecture by Elizabeth Cox

Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough

6.15pm Marlborough Book Festival 2026 Opening Night
 Drinks and nibbles from 6.15pm. Please be seated in the McLauchlan Family Auditorium by 7pm for **Stories Told Live**, a selection of guest authors share stories on the theme Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu - Although it is small, it is precious.

Saturday 25 July

Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough

10.00am The Book of Guilt
 Catherine Chidgey in conversation with Jane Forrest Waghorn

12.00pm Night Ma
 Elizabeth Knox in conversation with Noelle McCarthy

2.00pm All Her Lives
 Ingrid Horrocks in conversation with Naomi Arnold

4.00pm Ngāti Kuia He Pūtake, Hei Pakiaka Ora | A History Book Launch - Madi Williams in conversation with Peter Meihana (90 minutes)

6.30pm A Fantastic Night Out
 Rachael King and Elizabeth Knox in conversation with Noelle McCarthy

Anderson Theatre

9.30am Aotearoa in Bloom
 Rachel Clare and Tryphena Cracknell

11.30am A History of Māori Art
 Ngarino Ellis in conversation with Peter Meihana

1.30pm The Hollows Boys
 Peta Carey in conversation with Robbie Burton

3.30pm An Hour with Dominic Hoey
 Dominic Hoey in conversation with Tania Miller

Marlborough Library at Te Kahu o Waipuna

10.30am Character Masterclass
 Dominic Hoey workshop

2.00pm Play Wild in the Library
 Rachel Clare workshop

Sunday 26 July

Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough

9.30am Stakes
 Noelle McCarthy in conversation with Rachael King

11.30am An Hour with Booker Winner Shehan Karunatilaka
 Shehan Karunatilaka in conversation with Jane Forrest Waghorn

1.30pm Unforeseen Consequences
 Ron Crosby in conversation with Peter Anderson

3.30pm Te Kaikaukau | The Swimmer
 Witi Ihimaera Smiler in conversation with Meriana Johnsen

Anderson Theatre

10.00am Mr Ward's Maps
 Elizabeth Cox in conversation with Liz Ward

12.00pm Northbound
 Naomi Arnold in conversation with Tania Miller

2.00pm Crime and Conscience
 Chris Stuart in conversation with Tessa Nicolson



Marlborough Book Festival 2026

24-26 July

www.marlboroughbookfest.co.nz

Night, Ma
Elizabeth Knox in conversation with Noelle McCarthy
12pm-1pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Elizabeth discusses her memoir, *Night, Ma*, a book about the net of family which people are held by, but also slip through. About the actual daily work of love; the physical and cognitive work love requires.



Photo: Ebony Lamb

Photo: Kristine Crabb

The Hollows Boys
Peta Carey in conversation with Robbie Burton
1.30pm-2.30pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Hear all about the heyday of helicopter deer hunting and recovery in Fiordland. Peta has known Kim and Mark Hollows for many years and has told their story and that of their brother Gary through an extraordinary era of New Zealand history in her captivating highly acclaimed book.



Play Wild in the Library
Rachel Clare workshop
2pm-3pm, Saturday 25 July, Te Kahu o Waipuna - Marlborough Library, Free

Rachel brings nature inside with her book *Play Wild* which is full of fun activities. Come and forage for special treasures to make a nature craft and hear other cool ideas



to celebrate te taiao / our natural world. Best for ages: 4 – 10 and their grown-ups. Please reserve your seat through the theatre ticketing website.

All Her Lives
Ingrid Horrocks in conversation with Naomi Arnold
2pm-3pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Ingrid discusses *All Her Lives*, her Ockham Award-winning collection of linked short stories about nine women, and her creative non-fiction writing.



Photo: Ebony Lamb

An Hour with Dominic Hoey
Dominic Hoey in conversation with Tania Miller
3.30pm-4.30pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Dominic discusses his most recent acclaimed novels *1985* and *Poor People With Money* and looks back on his creative career from slam poetry champion to acclaimed novelist.



Ngāti Kuia: He Pūtake, Hei Pakiaka Ora | A History
Ngāti Kuia History Book Launch
Madi Williams in conversation with Peter Meihana
4pm-5.30pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

The Marlborough Book Festival is honoured to host the Wairau launch of

Dr Madi Williams' expansive new history of Ngāti Kuia, whose marae is Te Hora at Canvastown, and whose stories reach through time from tūpuna to modern day events.



Photo: Melissa Banks

A Fantastic Night Out
Rachael King and Elizabeth Knox in conversation with Noelle McCarthy
6.30pm-7.30pm, Saturday 25 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Elizabeth and Rachael discuss their recent YA fantasy books. World-building and transformative journeys are up for discussion, but who knows where the magic will lead when these three storytellers share the stage.



Photo: Ebony Lamb

Photo: Kristine Crabb

Stakes
Noelle McCarthy in conversation with Rachael King
9.30am-10.30am, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Noelle discusses *Stakes*, a darkly funny, sparkling follow-up to the author's bestselling memoir, *Grand*.



Photo: Kristine Crabb

Mr Ward's Maps
Elizabeth Cox in conversation with Liz Ward
10am-11am, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Elizabeth shares the story of research-



ing and writing the book along with captivating human stories of our capital's past.



An Hour with Booker Winner Shehan Karunatilaka
Shehan Karunatilaka in conversation with Jane Forest Waghorn
11.30am-12.30pm, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Shehan discusses his Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, set during Sri Lanka's 25-year civil war, as well as his writing life.



Northbound
Naomi Arnold in conversation with Tania Miller
12pm-1pm, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Naomi shares stories about the challenges and joys of walking Te Araroa, from Bluff to Cape Reinga.



Unforeseen Consequences
Ron Crosby in conversation with Peter Anderson
1.30pm-2.30pm, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Ron shares the journey behind his new books, *Keep Calm - We're Coming* (*The NZSAS in Action in Afghanistan, 2009-2021*), and *Lucky You're Tough*, written in association with Mark Law.



Crime and Conscience
Chris Stuart in conversation with Tessa Nicholson
2pm-3pm, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough, \$25

Chris Stuart is a crime writer with a strong social conscience who lives in Nelson. She talks about her page-turner crime books *For Reasons of Their Own* and *The Glasgow Smile*, and shares from her bookworthy life working in health in hotspots around the world.



Te Kaikaukau / The Swimmer
Witi Ihimaera Smiler in conversation with Meriana Johnsen
3.30pm-4.30pm, Sunday 26 July, Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough

Witi discusses *Te Kaikaukau / The Swimmer*, his memoir about joining an immersive te reo Maori class at the age of 80. Remarkably, it is one of four books by Witi to be published this year. He reflects on the wonderful new chapter in his writing life.



Photo: Harry Culy

find us here



Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough -
2 Hutcheson Street, Mayfield, Blenheim www.whitehaventheatre.co.nz
Te Kahu o Waipuna - Marlborough Library -
15 High Street, Blenheim Central www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz
Ticket prices quoted in this brochure do not include ticketing fees.

To buy tickets and to read more about the authors and their sessions visit www.marlboroughbookfest.co.nz

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