

the creativehub *write now!*

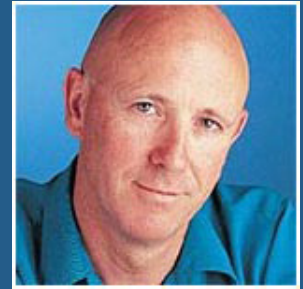
Auckland's Downtown Writing Centre

www.thecreativehub.net.nz



"Our philosophy is simple ... match the best writers in the country to the next generation of aspiring novelists."

Our teachers include Sarah Laing, Tessa Duder, Roger Hall, Geoff Walker, Elisabeth Smither, Ruby Porter, Judith White, Robert Glancy, Kapka Kassabova and Eileen Merriman.



In the last three years, 25 of our graduates have published novels or won prizes in national or international writing awards.

John Cranna, Director

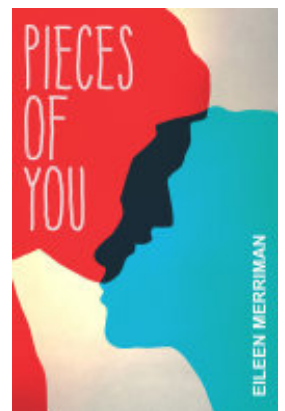
Winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book

Books

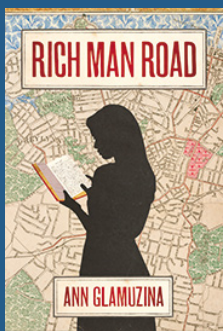
Eileen Merriman



Eileen's novel 'Pieces of You' was published by Penguin Random House in 2017. This is the compelling story of a young woman who is uprooted from her home city and whose life begins to disintegrate. 'Catch Me When You Fall', was published in 2018, and tells the story of a girl who has leukemia, and her relationship with a boy suffering bi-polar disorder. Her third novel 'Invisibly Breathing' was published in 2019. Eileen works as doctor. She has won prizes in UK and NZ short story awards, including the Sunday Star-Times Award for the last four years.



Ann Glamuzina



Ann's elegiac novel 'Rich Man Road' reached No 1 on the Booksellers NZ fiction sales list in Winter 2015. The novel is published by Eunoia Books, a publishing house made up of former students of Hub Director John Cranna. Ann says of her novel: 'My extended family lives in Croatia and I have grown up with the rich stories and legends of the Dalmatian coast. During WWII, my relatives escaped the German occupation, spending time as refugees in the British run camps in El Shatt, Egypt.' The novel follows the journey of one of these relatives who migrated to New Zealand. Ann's novel received a glowing review from Rae McGregor on National Radio in Winter 2015, which helped catapult it to No 1 position.

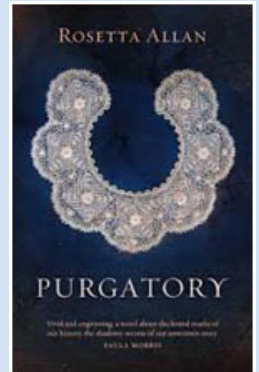


Novels



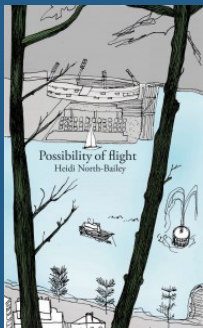
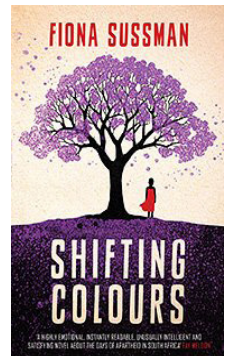
Rosetta Allan

"Rosetta Allan's debut novel 'Purgatory' (Penguin) is one of those books that draws you into its exquisitely crafted, atmospheric and entirely believable world within the first couple of pages. The time is 1865, the place is Otahuhu, New Zealand - back then just a small outpost designed to create a boundary between the slowly expanding settler's Auckland, and the edge of the Waikato, still protected by King Country Maori." NZ Booklovers. Rosetta's second novel, 'Unreliable People' was published by Penguin Random House in 2019.



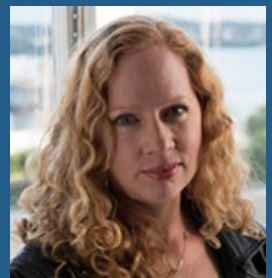
Fiona Sussman

Fiona's novel 'Shifting Colours' based on her experience of apartheid in South Africa, is published by Penguin in New York, and Alison and Busby in London. She was named an Amazon Rising Star in 2014 and her second novel, 'The Last Time We Spoke' plumbs the dark reaches of urban NZ. Fiona has worked as a general practitioner and graduated from the fore-runner to our Thirty Week Fiction course, taught by Hub director John Cranna. www.fionasussman.co.nz



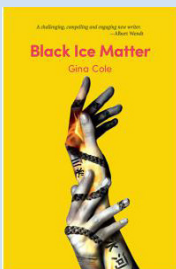
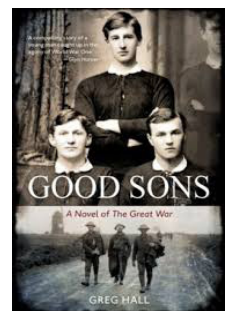
Heidi North-Bailey

Heidi's book of poetry 'Possibility of Flight' has been described as 'a thoughtful and intimate collection that ends unexpectedly with fireworks'. In 2016 she won the Shanghai Writers Scholarship and the Asia Foundation short story competition. In 2017, she was awarded the Hachette / NZ Society of Authors Trans-Tasman mentorship, to work with a senior editor at Hachette Australia on the manuscript of her latest book. Her work has appeared in New Zealand and international journals. Heidi lives in Auckland, and when not being kept busy with her three-year-old, squirrels away time to write.



Greg Hall

Greg Hall's novel was published in 2017 and profiled on Radio NZ and Television New Zealand to coincide with Anzac Day. It is a harrowing but uplifting story of three young men whose lives are overtaken by the First World War. It culminates at the battle of Passchendaele in which more than 800 young New Zealanders lost their lives. Greg is a Director of the Passchendaele Society, and a former senior banking executive.



Gina Cole

Gina's collection of short stories, 'Black Ice Matter' was published in 2016 by Huia Books. Gina is a graduate of our Thirty Week Fiction Course and is a family lawyer of Fijian and British ancestry. In these stories, a woman is caught between traditional Fijian ways and the brutality of the military dictatorship; a glaciology researcher falls into a crevasse and confronts the unexpected; two women lose children in freak shooting accidents. Gina has won prizes in several national writing awards and has been published in several Pacifica and other literary journals.



Some Of Our Teachers



Tessa Duder

Tessa is one of New Zealand's best-known writers. Her 'Alex' novels won her three New Zealand Children's Book of the Year awards and three Esther Glen medals, and are published in America, Britain, Australia and Canada. Alex is published in five languages, with 'Jellybean' and 'Alex in Winter' in two. Under the NZ Book Council's Writers-in-Schools scheme, she has visited hundreds of classrooms all over the country, and has spoken at many professional seminars of teachers, librarians and parents, including conferences all over the world. She has also published adult fiction, and edited a number of anthologies, some with a maritime theme. Her website www.tessaduder.co.nz gives an overview of her many publications.

Sarah Laing

Sarah is a fiction writer and graphic designer. She was born in the USA and has lived in New York and Germany before coming to NZ at the age of 17. Her first collection of short stories, 'Coming up Roses', was released after she won the 2006 Sunday Star-Times Short Story Competition. Sarah was Writer in Residence at the Michael King Writers' Centre in 2008. She published her first novel, 'Dead People's Music (Vintage)', in 2009, and her subsequent novel, 'The Fall of Light', was published in 2013. Sarah writes, "I come from a visual background and spend quite a lot of time describing the concrete world. I started off thinking I was going to be a poet so I pay a lot of attention to words. I also love pretending to be an analyst, trying to figure out motivations for people's peculiar behavior." www.sarahlaing.wordpress.com

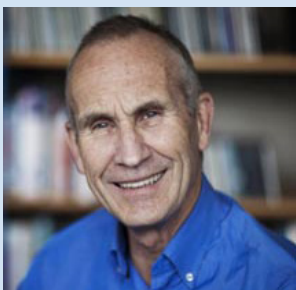


Judith White

Judith has won a number of awards for her short fiction, including the 1989 BNZ Katherine Mansfield Short Story Award. She has twice won the Auckland Star Short Story Competition, in 1987 and 1990. In 1996, White was the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellow. Her first collection of short fiction, 'Visiting Ghosts', was shortlisted for the fiction section of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Her novel 'Across the Dreaming Night' was shortlisted for the fiction section of the 2000 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. In the Sunday Star Times Iain Sharpe writes: 'White is second to none when it comes to depicting states of anxiety, both comic and poignant. And the brilliance with which she enters into her characters' aberrant states of mind, signals a major talent.' Judith's latest novel, 'The Elusive Language of Ducks', was published in winter, 2013.

Roger Hall

Roger is New Zealand's most respected playwright. His best-known play in New Zealand is 'Glide Time'. It gave rise to the popular 1980s television series 'Gliding On' and a sequel play, 'Market Forces', set in the restructured public service environment of the post-Rogernomics era. Roger's best-known works internationally are 'Middle Age Spread', which had a run in the West End and was also filmed in 1979, and 'Conjugal Rites', which was made into a situation comedy series in the UK. Roger's more recent work includes 'The Book Club', and 'Take a Chance on Me'. 'A Way of Life' was a new departure, a drama about three generations of a farming family in NZ. Roger has also published an autobiography, 'Burns on Seats'. www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Hall



Geoff Walker

Geoff is New Zealand's most successful publisher. He recently stepped down as publishing director of Penguin New Zealand, where he was responsible for building Penguin's local publishing list. He has published many of New Zealand's leading writers, including Michael King, Maurice Gee, Lloyd Jones, Witi Ihimaera, Patricia Grace and Anne Salmond. Before joining Penguin, Geoff was associate publisher at Reed Publishers. He is also a former newspaper, radio and television journalist. Geoff knows the publishing industry inside out; he has steered hundreds of books through the publishing process, and is passionate about language, books and writing. Geoff is now developing a reputation as an expert in the blossoming area of niche / self / electronic publishing.

Graduate Prize-Winners

Emma Vere-Jones

Emma won the Joy Cowley National Children's Book Award with 'Stan the Van Man'. She has been a regular contributor to the UK children's magazine 'Anorak'. Emma has something of an addiction to studying. She holds a BA in Theatre and Film from Victoria University, a Certificate in Journalism from Whitireia Polytechnic and a Certificate in Exercise Science from the Central Institute of Technology. Emma has previously worked as a journalist, aerobics instructor, postie, flower seller, bar person, bouncer and tea lady. Most recently she has been a full time mum to her two young kids.



Himali McInnes

Himali won the NZ Society of Authors / National Asian Short Story Prize 2014. Himali was born in Sri Lanka and moved to NZ as a teenager. She holds down a day job as an Auckland GP. Her prize-winning short story 'Your Place' follows the fortunes of a grieving woman who overcomes her prejudices and was described by judging panel convenor Lee Murray, as a truly beautiful story that clearly stood out.

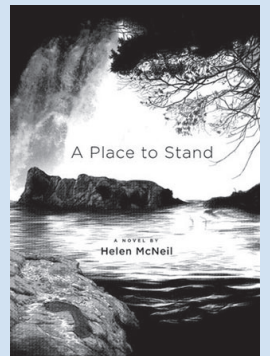
Mary Neilson

Mary won the National Dame Christine Cole-Catley Short Story Award. Mary's winning submission was part of her novel 'Salt of our Blood'. Set in the eighties, the novel follows the story of a woman who decides to challenge for the title in an international boating race. "There aren't enough female heroines in society." With a background in marketing and media, writing has always been one of Mary's strong suits. "Writers write to gain a voice," she says. "It's a wonderful thing to be able to do."



Helen McNeil

Helen's novel 'A Place to Stand' is set in Kawerau during the 1950s when the town is being constructed around the mill. The main character, Sandra McLeod, arrives as a child from England with her '£10 Pom' family, but their new life isn't what they'd hoped it might be. She was also Highly Commended in the Graeme Lay Short Story Award in 2013. She lives in an eco-community in West Auckland. www.helenmcneil.com



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