

99 WAYS INTO NEW ZEALAND POETRY

‘A poem can hook the heart, intellect, ear, eye and a gut feeling. Whether we are reading or writing poems, there is no single recipe that tells us how we ought to do it, but if we are willing we can take the leap into the innumerable ways that animate poetry.’ — Paula Green and Harry Ricketts

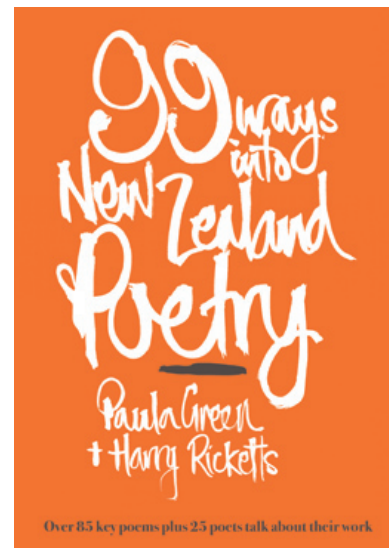
99 Ways into New Zealand Poetry includes over 85 key poems from various New Zealand writers that demonstrate a significant way of understanding poetry and its history in New Zealand. The book looks at elements such as form, features and effects to understanding how context and identity are expressed. It celebrates the diverse subject matter found within New Zealand poetry and how it can be read, written and brought to life.

‘This book is like a mosaic in that it is made up of many little pieces, each piece representing a way into thinking about a poem that is one part of the greater picture. It is also like a pond of stepping-stones in that each section aims to launch the reader into further reading and thinking’

By breaking the book down into five key parts, Green and Ricketts, two of New Zealand’s most distinguished poets, make the information accessible and readable to a wide range of audiences from reluctant school students to veteran poetry enthusiasts. All types of poetry are included to be discussed and appreciated from Pasifika poems to children’s poetry.

To further the reader’s understanding, 25 poets provide insight into the inspiration, meanings and creative processes put into their poems. All differ significantly in their themes, styles, and functions, yet represent the multitude of poetry within New Zealand.

This anthology will immerse you in poetry and get you wanting to read more and more.



99 Ways into New Zealand Poetry

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‘No reader ever exactly reads the poem the poet wrote. The act of reading initiates a collaboration or, if the poet is lucky, an ongoing series of collaborations. It is this collaborative act that gives a poem its enduring life.’ — Harry Ricketts



Paula Green graduated from Wellington Teachers College and from the University of Auckland where she received a Ph.D. in Italian. As well as publishing six poetry collections for both adults and children, she has taught university, primary school and creative writing courses. Among her most recent publications is the stunning children’s book *Aunt Concertina and Her Niece Evalina* and her adult poetry book *Slip Stream*. Paula was the 2005 Literary Fellow at the University of Auckland. She lives in Bethells Valley in the Waitakeres with her husband and two children.

Harry Ricketts studied English at Oxford University and now is an Associate Professor at Victoria University, Wellington. He has published eight collections of poems marked by dramatic and satiric devices and tones that are often grounded in personal commentary, as well as an acclaimed biography of Rudyard Kipling, *The Unforgiving Minute*. Now a co-editor of the review journal *New Zealand Books*, Ricketts edited the upcoming *Strange Meetings*, an unusual and moving account of the lives and work of the poets of the Great War from 1914-1918. This is due out in December.



Interviews and extracts are available



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