

From: Featherston Booktown info@booktown.nz
Subject: Happy Autumn! Read the latest news from your favourite Booktown! 📖 🌿
Date: 7 March 2026 at 10:00 AM
To: degrineer@hotmail.com



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It's our **11th** anniversary!

You are cordially invited to attend the **launch** of our exciting Featherston Booktown **2026** Karukatea Festival Programme.

When Friday **13 March**, 6pm-9pm

Where **Anzac Hall**, 62 Bell Street, Featherston

FEATHERSTON BOOKTOWN NEWS

ISSUE #23/2026

Kia ora booklovers!

Happy Autumn – where did Summer go? Autumn to us means books and more specifically the

Happy Autumn - where did Summer go? Autumn to us means books and more specifically the 2026 Karukatea Festival Programme, which we launch next Friday 13 March! We would love you to join us at the ANZAC Hall for the launch— see below for invite details. We are also putting out call for volunteers and help with our Book Voucher scheme - we are halfway there, can we get to the top?

It's a big weekend in Featherston next week – as well as the Programme Launch, the Featherston Pride Festival returns for its second year with a host of absolutely fabulous events including the Pride Parade on Saturday the 14th March. We have teamed up with the Pride Festival to bring Hugo's Rainbow Show to Featherston – find all the details below.

Happy reading,

Jordan Hamel

Director

Featherston Booktown

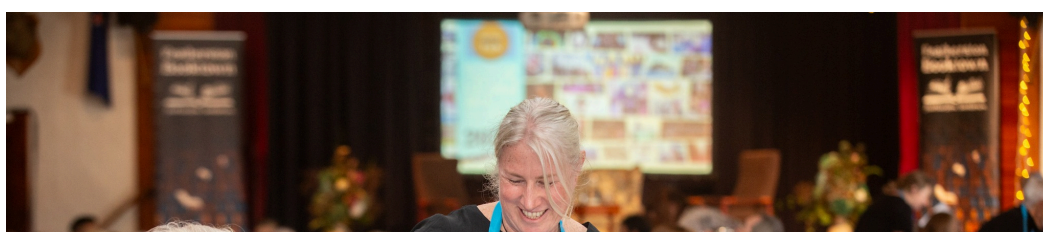
You're invited to the 2026 Karukatea Festival Programme Launch

We would love it if you could join us for the 2026 Karukatea Festival programme launch on Friday March at ANZAC Hall! You will get to hear Festival Director Jordan Hamel talk about this year's exciting lineup and get a paper copy of the programme to take home and start planning your festival. Plus, the Earlybird code will be revealed, giving you early access to tickets from 9pm that night to 9am Monday, 16 March, when tickets go on sale to the general public.

If you can't make the launch, fear not, the Earlybird code will be sent to you at 9pm on the night of the launch.

To RSVP to the Programme Launch, email mary@booktown.nz. As snacks and refreshments will be served, please advise of any dietary requirements. We hope to see you there!

Calling all volunteers!



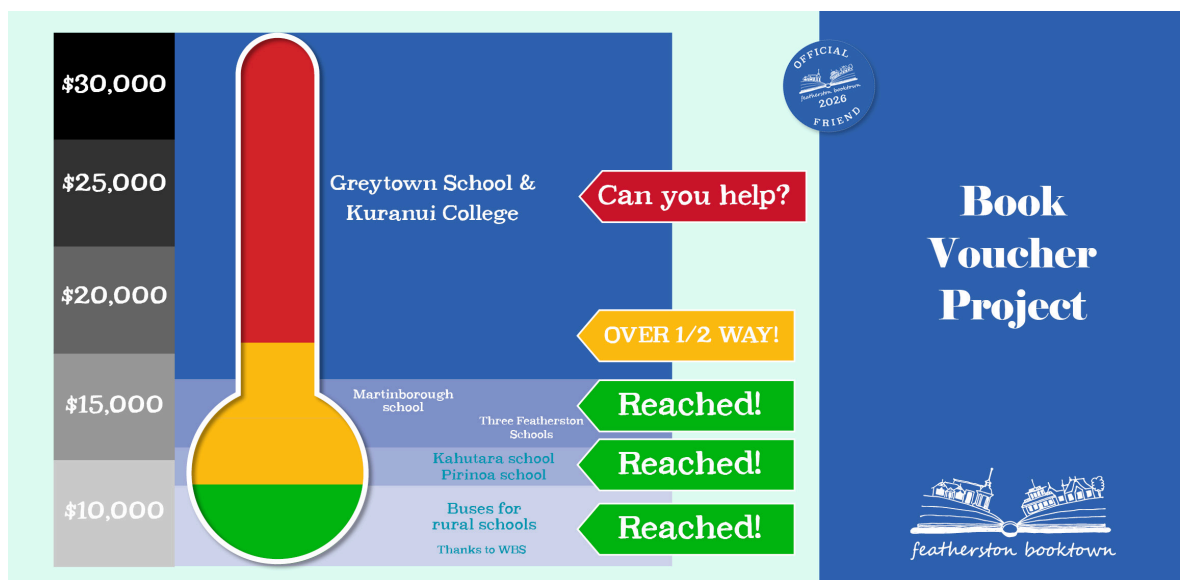


Want to be part of something special this May? Featherston Booktown is on the lookout for volunteers for the 2026 Karukatea Festival.

If you love books, enjoy meeting new people, or simply want to soak up the festival buzz from behind the scenes, we'd love to have you join the team. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the festival, and every role plays a part in creating an unforgettable experience.

To register your interest, please email our Volunteer Captain Hannah at hannah@booktown.nz

Help us reach the top!



Our Book Voucher Project thermometer is half way there - but we need your help to reach the top

Thanks to our amazing Friends of Featherston Booktown, we've now secured funding for:

- Rural school bus transport to the Karukatea Festival
- \$20 book voucher for every child attending Kahutara and Pirinoa Schools
- \$20 book voucher for every child attending Featherston's three schools & Martinborough

\$20 book voucher for every child attending Featherston's three schools & Hāmihiwhanga School

However, we still need support to issue book vouchers to Greytown School & Kuranui College students. Every contribution helps put books into young hands and ignites a love of reading.

Become a Friend today and help us fill that thermometer! Whether you're an individual or a business, your support makes a real difference to Wairarapa's young readers.

Become a Friend today

Pae Tū Mōkai Featherston Pride Festival - Hugo's Rainbow Show



We are thrilled to partner with our friends at [Pae Tū Mōkai Featherston Pride Festival](#) to present: **Hugo's Rainbow Show** - a show for kids about the science of rainbows!

Join drag superstar Hugo Grrrl for a musical, magical adventure exploring the science of the skies above. Expect original songs and stories, and of course, outrageous costumes in this novel rainbow-reading-style experience.

Hugo's Rainbow Show is for everyone! Best for two to ten-year-olds and our neurodivergent whānau, but even big kids will love this wholesome, goofy, and glamorous experience.

Entry is free, but there are options to koha to support Featherston Pride. Register [here](#).
10 am - 11am, Saturday 14 May, Kiwi Hall Featherston.

The full Pae Tu Mōkai Pride Festival programme can be found [here](#).

Pae Tu Mōkai Pride
THE GAY AGENDA
13 - 15 MARCH, FEATHERSTON NZ

FRI 13	SAT 14	SUN 15
Drag Bingo 7:30 - 9:30pm Featherston RSA	Hugo's Rainbow Show 10 - 11am Kiwi Hall Queer Market 10am - 12pm Anzac Hall Pride Parade 11:45am - 1pm Anzac Hall Pride Party 6pm - 12:30am Kiwi Hall	Pride Korero 11am - 12:30pm Kiwi Hall Pride Picnic 12:30 - 2:30pm Anzac Hall

PRE-PRIDE EVENTS

Pride Banner Making @ Fareham Creative Space
Sat 21 Feb 1pm - 4pm

Tie-Dying Tutorial @ Fareham Creative Space
Sat 28 Feb, 10am - 12pm

Beaded Jewellery @ Fareham Creative Space
Sat 7 March 9am - 11am

www.featherstonpride.nz
@featherstonpride



Latest podcast and YouTube video





Ko Aotearoa Tēnei: How Will The Justice System Make Use Of Tikang Māori?

One of New Zealand's biggest constitutional issues is how state law and tikanga Māori intersect. Join tikanga expert and lawyer Te Raumawhitu Kupenga as he unpacks this with a distinguished panel: former High Court Judge, Māori Land Court Chief Judge and longtime Waitangi Tribunal Chair Tā Edward Taihakurei Durie; Māori rights champion, Treaty expert and lawyer Annette Sykes; Treaty and public law expert and barrister Natalie Coates; and lawyer, mana whenua and Papawai Marae chair Herewini Ammunson.

Listen to the podcast on Buzzsprout

Watch on YouTube

What else is happening in our vibrant valley & beyond?

Hedley's Bookclub

Hedley's Bookclub is back this Wednesday! Be welcomed into a community of readers, experience the cosy magic of the bookshop after hours and be inspired by the latest book recommendations from [Sue Reid](#).

5:30pm Wednesday 11th March, Hedley's



Books, 150 Queen St, Masterton.

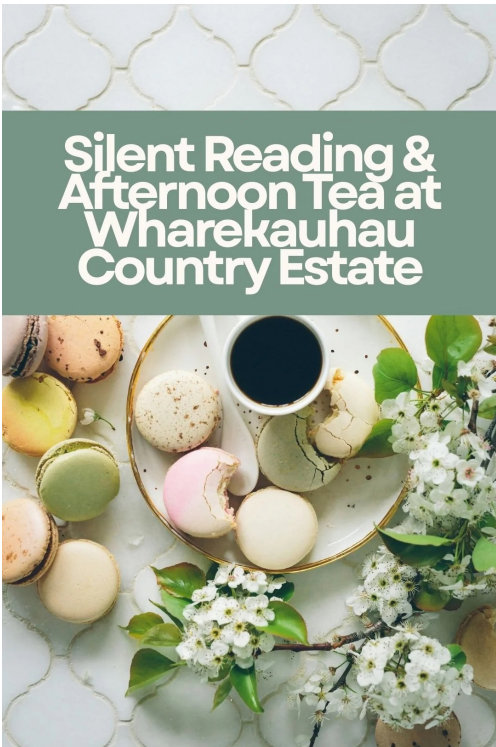
[Full info here.](#)



Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop presents Silent Reading at Wharekauhau Country Estate

Join Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop for a unique opportunity to experience Wharekauhau Luxury Lodge as a day guest and combine your love of literature & luxury in one unforgettable afternoon!

Your experience begins with a perfectly chilled Lighthouse Gin Gimlet, an hour of silent reading in the lodge, and then an elegant afternoon tea in the dining room, prepared by Wharekauhau's award-winning culinary team.
Sunday 22 March 11am - 2pm
More information and tickets [here](#).



Fareham Creative Space

Get creative and crafty with Fareham Creative Space's March workshops. Check out the programme [here](#).

 Fareham Creative Space March 2026		
Sunday 1 & 15 March 1-4pm	Painting with Friends Fortnightly painting sessions with Joanne. Join the series at any time, and work through your painting project with guidance, technical support and friends!	\$50
Thursday 5 March 6-8pm	Pottery Studio Open Night - All Welcome Current, past, and future members of the Community Pottery Studio are invited to a night of tile making/ choose your own adventure clay. We'll have clay for \$5 a lump, and brainstorming around how to make your studio even more awesome.	-
Saturday 7 March 9-11 am	PRIDE Beaded Jewellery Get into our (vast) supply of colourful beads at this open studio. We'll supply the materials!	Koha
Saturday 7 March 1-4pm	PRIDE Banner Making Make the PRIDE banner of your dreams at our open studio. We'll have art supplies on hand - you're welcome to bring your own supplies if you have a special design in mind.	Koha
Sunday 8 March 1-4pm	Intro to Encaustic Painting Explore painting with hot wax. This is a modern take to the ancient technique using heated wax and pigments to create vibrant textured artwork.	\$45
Weekly Tuesdays 6:45-8pm	Open Studio Space (Adults) This is your time to pop in and make use of our art studio, and hang with other creators. Bring your current project, or dream one up here. We start when the 2 nd train arrives! Children must be accompanied.	Koha
Weekly	Pottery Members Hangout	

Thur 6-8pm & Sundays	Looking for your pottery people? Thursday nights, and Sundays are the best time to pop into the Community Studio to hangout and bump into people.	-
17 March 5:30-6:30pm	Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting We're looking for a treasurer, and Expressions of Interest to join the Board	-

Contact us to register for workshops, enquire about classroom rent, and for more information. FCS is located at 80 Underhill Road, Featherston
registrations@farehamcreativespace.nz | www.farehamcreativespace.nz

After-Hours at The Bakehouse Collective

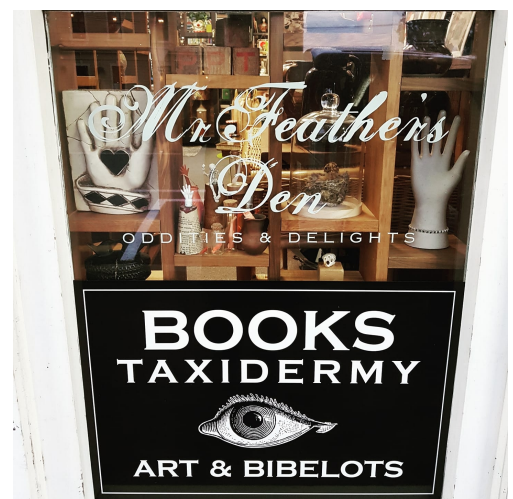
On random Fridays, from 5 till 7(ish), the Bakehouse opens up after hours and turns into a clubhouse — listening to records, playing board games, getting crafty, sharing snacks, and generally hanging out in good company. Come down, bring a friend, stay for a bit or stay for ages.

Fri 20 Mar 5pm - 7pm
 The Bakehouse Collective
 4 Wakefield Street, Featherston



Mr. Feather's Den

Mr Feather's Den is one of Featherston's eight bookstores. As well as books, they also offer taxidermy and retro lighting, among other delights and oddities. The shop will be closed from Monday, 9 March until Friday, 27 March, 2026 but their door will be open well in time for the Karukatea Festival.



The Featherston Great Easter Book Sale is coming!

Pop it in your diaries now and come along and grab some book bargains.

10am - 4 30nm Saturday 4 April in the Anzac



From 10.00am to 4.30pm
Hall, Featherston.

From 10.00am to 4.30pm

The Anzac Hall,
62-64 Bell Street. Featherston

Come along and grab some bargains,
bring a bag or two.
Come on a bookish treasure hunt and see what
you can find!

Maximum Price - \$5 per book
Minimum Price - as low as it goes!
NB: Cash or Bank Credit only



Read NZ

Read NZ Te Pou Muramura have announced the first ever Aotearoa NZ Children's Book Week taking place 15 August - 21 August.

They'll be leading the charge, working alongside other authors, creatives, and bookish groups.

The goal is to celebrate Aotearoa NZ children's books and increase the amount that kids read.

Find out more [here](#).



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