

# RAWA

READERS AND WRITERS AKAROA

## 6-8 March 2026 Programme

### Friday 6 March

#### **The Boatshed, Akaroa**

##### **10am - 5pm Storytelling for Film - A Bootcamp**

with Michael Bennett

#### **Akaroa Area School**

##### **10am - 3pm Inspiring Young Readers and Writers**

with Gavin Bishop and Ross Calman

#### **The Madeira Hotel, Akaroa**

##### **8pm Open Mic Poetry Night - All Welcome**

hosted by Ray Shipley

### Saturday 7th March

#### **Gaiety Hall**

##### **8.30-9am - Registration**

##### **9-10.30am Mihi whakatau and Welcome**

##### **Festival Opening - Story-telling by Word, Image and Song**

Ariana Tikao, Michael Bennett and Ross Calman

##### **10.30-11am morning tea**

##### **11-12pm Fiction and the Lives of Others**

Damien Wilkins in conversation with Kate de Goldi

## 12-1pm Lunch break

| Gaiety Hall   | Matariki Centre 3   | Parallel Workshops  |
|---|---|---|
| <a href="#"><u>1-2.45pm Poetry makes nothing happen – should it?</u></a><br>Ariana Tikao, Isla Huia, Ray Shipley and Nic Low, chaired by Joanna Preston | <a href="#"><u>1-1.45pm Stories of the Peninsula</u></a><br>Lou and Ant Bentley, John Curry and Marie Connolly in conversation with Morrin Rout<br><br><a href="#"><u>2-2.45pm Meeting the Ancestor on the Road: personal, cultural and historical essays</u></a><br>Tina Makereti with Jane Stafford | <a href="#"><u>1-2.45pm The Memoir</u></a><br>with Joe Bennett<br><br><a href="#"><u>1-2.45pm Short Fiction to Die For</u></a><br>with Vanda Symon<br><br><a href="#"><u>1-2.45pm The Craft of Fiction</u></a><br>with Damien Wilkins |

## 2.45-3.15pm afternoon tea

| Gaiety Hall  | Matariki Centre 3  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#"><u>3.15-4pm The South Island novels of Laurence Fearnley</u></a><br>Laurence Fearnley in conversation with Jane Stafford | <a href="#"><u>3.15-4pm Driving New Zealand's Organic Movement - the life of Bob Crowder</u></a><br>Matt Morris in conversation with Robyn Peers |
| Gaiety Hall  |  |
| <b>4.15-5pm This Writing Life</b><br>Joe Bennett   |  |

## 5.15-6pm RAWA's CRIME BOOK CLUBS

| Matariki 1  | Matariki 2   | Matariki 3   |
|---|--|--|
| <a href="#"><u>Michael Bennett</u></a> , <i>Carved in Blood</i> facilitated by Steph Walker | <a href="#"><u>Vanda Symon</u></a> , <i>Prey</i> facilitated by <a href="#"><u>Fee Jay</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>Liam McIlvanney</u></a> , <i>The Good Father</i> facilitated by <a href="#"><u>Marie Connolly</u></a> |

## 7pm - Festival dinner at The Gaiety Hall

Dinner Speaker: Steve Braunias!

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## Sunday 8 March

### Gaiety Hall

**9.30-10.30am Keynote**

**Awe: the miraculous and mysterious in writing** - Tina Makereti

**10.30-11am morning tea**

**11-12pm Lives of Crime**

Vanda Symon and Liam McIlvanney in conversation with Kate de Goldi

**12-1pm Lunch break**

| Gaiety Hall  | Matariki Centre 3  | Parallel workshops   |
|--|--|--|
| <b><u>1-1.45pm Mountain Writing: The Pleasure of Researching and Editing an Anthology</u></b><br>Laurence Fearnley, chaired by Morrin Rout | <b><u>1-1.45pm New Novels, New Conversations</u></b><br>Coleen Clare, Stef Harris and Heather McQuillan in conversation with Robyn Peers | <b><u>1-2.45pm Sonnets will not Bite You</u></b><br>Joanna Preston       |
| <b><u>2-2.45pm Te Araroa from South to North</u></b><br>Naomi Arnold in conversation with Liana Ashenden                                   | <b><u>2-2.45pm Southern Tales</u></b><br>Owen Marshall and Dan Smith in conversation with Jane Stafford                                  | <b><u>1-2.45pm Generating Sharp Fictional Prose</u></b><br>Josiah Morgan |
|  |  | <b><u>1-2.45pm The Story is Wiser Than Us</u></b><br>Tina Makereti       |

**2.45-3.15pm afternoon tea**

| Gaiety Hall   | Matariki Centre 3   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>3.15-4pm Mountain Ranging</u></b><br>Andy Buchanan and Nic Low in conversation with Morrin Rout | <b><u>3.15-4pm Submitting work for publication</u></b><br>Isla Huia and Josiah Morgan |

### Gaiety Hall

**4.15-4.45pm RAWA 2026 Awards**, presented by Owen Marshall

**4.45-5.30pm Closing Address:**

**Readers and Writers in Aotearoa - Are we in good heart?**

Kate de Goldi