



# BLACKWELL BUGLE

MRS BLACKWELL'S  
Village  
BOOKSHOP  
ESTD. 1981

CYCLING LIFESTYLE MERCHANTS  
BLACKWELL  
& SONS Est. 1913

**100% TRUE FACTS, JUST LIKE FACEBOOK**



## DIALLING IT BACK A BIT

Are we really as busy as advertisers and social media like to portray us as? Or are we just flat out trying to get mundane things done like work, eating and exercise so we can curl up on the couch with a beverage, Reddit and a streaming show on TV we can divide our attention into thirds for? Oh, that's right, and family. That's also family time. Forth.

*Continues on Page 2*



Millie and I are working on doing less now. Shortening the to-do lists. Creating a bit of space to work out how we can do something better than if we rush it. And we like it this way.

One very tangible example is my first children's book; *Don't Go Near The Creek*, illustrated by my friend Paul Rees. I originally thought I could crank out the writing in a few weeks, give Paul three months to illustrate it, print it with a pressured deadline and launch it for Christmas 2021. Er, no. It took two years to eventually finish it but I really feel like we all did our best work and the book, when critiqued by its young readers, will be much better for it. Some of the early writing took place at home at my desk, and some of the latter sitting outside under huge Oak trees in Maine, New England. And I'll remember those moments in the slower writing process forever.

There is nothing very revolutionary about this idea. We've been told by evil marketers (I know, I am one) we need to be squeezing more into our lives to be successful. More money, more gadgets, more fancy holidays. But satisfaction and enjoyment has never been about volume. It's always been about quality and the rewards that come from completing something that you didn't think you could achieve. (Back at the start of last century, Theodore Roosevelt said "When you are asked if you can do a job, tell

'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it." I love Teddy's *gumption*, and Nick Offerman for introducing him to me through his book of the same name.)

During the warmer months ahead, make a big list of all the things you want to get done. Then, choose the three most important ones and don't worry about the others. Take the time to do the ones you chose like a boss. And build in plenty of time around them, preferably outside while you're getting a bit of gentle exercise, to think about the tasks you're on and how you can do them better. Everyone and everything, including your blood pressure, will benefit from this calmer, dialled-back approach.

At *Blackwell and Sons*, we call this lifestyle 'slow motion'. It's what we built the store on, and it reflects many of the items we discover, test and make available to our friends and guests. I hope you find some ideas or products in this edition of the Bugle to help you enjoy your slow motion spring, summer and autumn seasons ahead.

Adam Blackwell  
Blackwell and Sons

# OLD SCHOOL GAMING

## NO SHOOTING REQUIRED. OCCASIONAL BAD LANGUAGE ACCEPTABLE.

Most fellow humans aged 30 or less only understand one style of gaming. It requires, headphones, a fast internet connection and Uber eats.

Gaming using archaic relics like boards, dice, cards and little die-cast objects is however making a comeback. Why? Some commentators believe it simulates sport for people who want to compete with their friends and family without having to spend time in gyms or on fields training.

But Mr Blackwell believes its appeal is much more primitive. “It’s partly alpha male stuff, it’s definitely about status and winning – ‘you’re going to be so tired of all the winning’ – and it’s a metaphor for claiming territory and a mate using cunning and brute force,” he says raising one of his lavish eyebrows while gawking uncomfortably at this wife. “Or just, you know, fun,” says Millie gawking back at him, stone-faced.

*Blackwell and Sons* is the exclusive New Zealand store for the WS Games collection of beautifully constructed classics like *Monopoly* and *Clue* (Cluedo to kiwis). Both of these classic favourite games are available in *Luxury* and super-luxurious *Heirloom Editions*, while new to the store this season are *Nostalgia Tin* versions (suitable for travel) of *Monopoly*, the worrying *Twister* (avoid playing after a couple of Greytown Distilling Company Gin and Tonics) and the blatantly sexist *Mystery Date* from the 1960s. We think the sheer fun of playing these old school classics with your enlightened friends and some sullen teenagers will create total havoc, learning opportunities and non-stop laughter this holiday season.



SCAN THE QR CODE

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SEARCH 'GAMES'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)





# INVESTMENT BICYCLES; LIKE ART BUT MORE FUN



Anyone can ride, collect and admire these beautiful, rare investment bicycles from Pashley's Stratford Upon Avon facility; they are however deemed to be for male cyclists according to the sticker on the box.

Men like Mr Blackwell have a software bug in their programming that no helpdesk can remedy. They seem to spontaneously purchase things 'just to have them.' This doesn't make sense of course but when questioned as to why they have a garage full of bicycles, many of which they never ride, they somehow look pained like a scolded puppy. It may come down to early onset hoarding syndrome, or it could be status related: "I own this rare, beautifully hand crafted, precision designed, classic Pashley bicycle and you? You do not."

Forget about the why. Focus on the why not. You could spend your money on a painting of course. Can you ride a painting to the coffee shop with the boys and stand around in your offensive Lycra outfits discussing frame weight and how much your bike set you back? Nope. But you can if you own one or even an entire collection of these Pashleys. And when you've reached home again after tailing that punk Greg on his uninsurable \$24,000 Specialized Aethos Flagship Featherweight that weighs just 588g, you can wipe the frame, dress the saddle and blacken the tyres. And know your Pashley investment collectable will be passed down the family for generations to come.

## MORGAN 8

When two enduring and highly respected British engineering brands come together, magic happens. The Pashley-Morgan 8 is the outcome of a one-of-a-kind collaboration between Pashley and the Morgan Motor Company. Perfect for road or trail, the Pashley Morgan 8 features a light pearl grey livery and components inspired by Morgan's racing heritage.



SCAN THE QR CODE

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SEARCH 'MORGAN 8'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)





## GUV'NOR

Pashley's original 1930s Path Racer is reimagined for the 21st century in the extraordinary Guv'nor. True to its heritage, the Guv'nor is built with relaxed, elegant geometry using the legendary Reynolds 531 butted cycle tubing.

SCAN THE QR CODE

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SEARCH 'GUV'NOR'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)



## SPEED 5

The Speed 5 is Pashley's tribute to the heyday of gentlemanly British cycle racing. This was a time when riders would come together in the pursuit of record-breaking sprints with only the satisfaction and thrill of success for reward.

SCAN THE QR CODE

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SEARCH 'SPEED 5'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)



## ROADSTER SOVEREIGN

This imposing gentlemen's bicycle offers an unsurpassed ride thanks to its sturdy 28-inch wheels and regal riding position. Ideal for country jaunts, the Roadster Sovereign transports the rider to a more relaxed age using low-maintenance componentry and hand-built quality.

SCAN THE QR CODE

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SEARCH 'ROADSTER SOVEREIGN'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)



# LATHER FOR YOUR FATHER

## AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, THIS IS A VERY TARGETED PRODUCT

True story; Mr and Mrs Blackwell were recently retailing their way around New England in the United States and upon visiting a very attractive seaside town's bookstore, they stumbled upon a well merchandised display of Man Bars. Mr Blackwell lifted a sample to his XXL nose and inhaled the *Musk and Sandalwood* option deeply; an involuntary high pitched squeal went off like an alarm, followed by an exhaled sigh of deep satisfaction. Other customers grabbed their youngsters by the hand and quickly exited the store. Mr Blackwell purchased the sample, got in

touch with the factory, discovered it was a mere 20 minutes away, requested a visit, placed an order, shook hands and ... here we are.

*Blackwell and Sons* is now the exclusive New Zealand retailer of this excellent range of soaps for men or anyone else who needs regular cleaning.

If it was possible to scratch and sniff these pages, like the interactive children's books of the 70s and 80s, we would of course offer that facility. For now, you'll need to use your imagination or visit our emporium in Greytown so you too may release a shriek of instant pleasure.

**\$19.90**  
each







## MOISTURE RICH SPICED TOBACCO

A warm and woody fragrance that reveals spiced tobacco with orange zest, cardamom and vetiver. Remember the now illegal Marlboro Man? Like him. Without the horsey whiff behind him.



## CLEAN COMFORT COASTAL DRIFTWOOD

Coastal Driftwood with its fresh and crisp fragrance made of bright citrus, salted water and blue sage will keep you clean and rescue ready from whatever island you are stranded on.



## REVITALISING EXOTIC MUSK AND SANDALWOOD

An exotic blend of radiant citrus and dewy florals will create an aura that makes you memorable when up close and personal. But in a way that allows you to maintain your mysterious persona.



## BERGAMOT AND COGNAC

Invigorating Bergamot and Cognac bar is rich & bold, blending a vibrant bergamot accord with ambery sweet tonka bean nuances. Nope. We don't know what a tonka bean is either.

*See the full range of Man Bars:*

**SEARCH 'MAN BAR' AT**  
[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)



GREYTOWN

NEW GREYTOWN  
DISTILLING  
COMPANY  
GINS FOR KIWI  
ADVENTURERS

## TRAILBLAZE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE WARMER MONTHS

Continuing the phenomenal popularity of New Zealand's most respected gin distiller comes a brand new release; the GDC Trailblazer Selection.

### STATIONMASTER

Woodside railway station opened on 14 May 1880, initially with two trains between Greytown and Wellington each day. The original station master welcoming passengers onto the platform, Robert Hodgson was the great grandfather of GDC director Adam Blackwell. In the same period, Greytown's famous apple orchards were in their earliest stages. Stationmaster gin brings walnut, apple and cassia together for a perfect martini gin, best enjoyed with a hint of vermouth and a lemon twist.

### SEAFARER

Regardless of our heritage and whether our ancestors arrived by waka or sailing ship, we are all descended from brave seafarers who risked it all to start new lives in Aotearoa New Zealand. Whether you're on the ocean or next to it, that invigorating salty sea air is a scent we are all drawn to and is the inspiration for Seafarer gin; distinctively savoury with a light saltiness from angelica, warming cinnamon and refreshing lime comes together in a delicious cocktail gin, or sniff it and sip it neat.

### STAGECOACH

Travelling up and over the Remutuka Range to deliver mail and commuters between Wellington and the Wairarapa was no picnic. The stagecoach journey took a full day, and that was when the weather was kind. The scents of the range's native plants including horopito and manuka would have provided some respite. We've balanced those peppery and nutty flavours with local honey to create one of the most delicious gins in our range. Perfect for a G&T base with a light Indian Tonic.

Trailblazer Selection gins are available, from early November, to purchase from the GDC Tasting Shed (inside *Blackwell and Sons*) every day or online at [www.greytowngin.com](http://www.greytowngin.com)



# GROW MORE GOODNESS

On a recent roadie, Mr Blackwell opened his eyes wider in a moment of rare thought and asked his beloved wife “You know how trees absorb carbon, and bees pollinate plants, and worms add nutrients to the soil and how we are all connected in the great circle of life?”

“Yes, my personal bartender,” she replied.

“Well, here’s a question for you. What good do humans do for this beautiful natural system we inhabit? What is our contribution?”

They sat silent for the next 30 minutes trying to think of something. Anything. Sometimes we ‘do good’ by cleaning up the mess we made. But apart from that? Nothing.

So it feels like gardening and growing plants to feed ourselves, without chemicals, may be our best shot. Being an active part of nature instead of working against it. To assist with these baby steps towards doing something good for ourselves and our planet, we present these carefully selected products in our *Blackwell and Sons Heritage Harvest Collection*.



## BAREBONES HARVESTING AND GATHERING BAG

Get back to your agrarian roots with this vintage orchard-inspired gathering bag. Versatile, hard-wearing and easy to care for, the bag’s multiway straps allow for comfortable carrying on your chest or back, while its drop-out bottom makes quick work of emptying the harvest.

## HERITAGE HARVEST SEEDS

We’re thrilled to bring you our very own heritage range of seeds prepared by the lovely people at Egmont Seeds in Taranaki to thrive in New Zealand growing conditions.



## BAREBONES METAL PRUNER WITH SHEATH

Inspired by old world Japanese design, *Barebones* pruners offer unmatched dexterity and utility, complemented by timeless beauty. Durable steel construction, classic copper accents, and a weather-resistant waxed canvas sheath make the pruners a lasting staple of indoor and outdoor gardening.

*Continues on Page 10*

*See the full gardening range:*

SCAN THE QR CODE

— or —

SEARCH ‘GARDEN’

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)





## BAREBONES SMALL SCISSORS

Maintain your sweet horticultural sanctuary or indoor greenery year after year with this essential garden tool. These durable small garden shears have an ambidextrous grip that allows you to harvest leafy greens quickly. Wide handles accommodate a comfortable fit with or without gloves.

## COMPOST HAPPENS TEE BLACKWELL AND SONS EXCLUSIVE

Compost happens when all-natural ingredients come together in perfect balance and harmony. If that balance is upset, something else happens.



# TORSO TALK

## THESE NEW TEES FIT YOUR PERSONAL BRAND PERFECTLY

Don't just wear a tee shirt. Wear a hilarious, cutting edge message about who you are.

And wear some advertising for *Blackwell and Sons* so we can reduce our budget in this department.



## HEALING 10 SPEED TRIBUTE

In the 1970s, none of us knew that this was the worst 'racing' bike ever released. Because 10 gears, right?! It was heavy, the handlebar tape came off after two weeks and the cross bar was unforgiving in an accident. But, at the time, it was the bicycle of choice for 12 year olds wanting to impress certain classmates ... because you could do the *Night Fever* dance as well as being a bicycle athlete.



## SAFETY THIRD

Boys between the ages of 9 and 14 are idiots. *How dare you, Mr Blackwell?* I dare because I speak from experience. Under the influence of formative shows such as *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The A Team* and other 70s/80s classics, at 12 years old, I was both invincible and occasionally bionic. And on my bicycle, I could do stunts the whole world was in awe of. In the 70's, safety was for losers.



## FORMER PAPER BOY

It seemed like a good idea: \$12 a week for six delivery days. Gosh, that Saturday Evening Post was a weighty monster. And, yeah, winter. Forgot about winter. And hills. And dogs. And hard-to-get-to letter boxes. And flat tires. And having to collect subscription money like a debt collector. Being a paper boy sucked! One of New Zealand's first child labour 'high turnover' jobs. But slightly safer than being a milk boy hanging off the back of that milk truck and running across the road with glass bottles.



## LIFE BEHIND BARS (BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND)

It was an instant classic as soon as we released it, because it had a bad boy vibe and most Saturday morning lycra lads are too scared to do anything that would get them in trouble with their love, let alone the law. So the double meaning has some appeal and we've just re-released it due to popular demand, and to make some money.

SCAN THE QR CODE

— or —

SEARCH 'TEE'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)





# AND THERE WAS LIGHT

For Mr Blackwell, 2023's *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* was probably the most anticipated movie of the decade. Leather bound notebooks, fedoras, battered knapsacks and lanterns or flaming torches have been Indy's adventure-essentials since 1981 and Mr Blackwell was looking forward to getting his final dose. As John William's familiar score filled the theatre, tears streamed down his face, partly out of nostalgic feels, and also because he was urgently needing to use the toilet thereby missing crucial minutes of the movie. Yes, yes, he knows he should have gone earlier and anyway, he did.

Recreating the Indy vibe using a whip or a flaming torch is a health and safety nightmare, but it can instead be achieved with these beautifully made Barebones rechargeable LED lanterns and torches. We've been Barebones fans for over five years now, and our guests love them for camping, outdoor entertaining and as a back up device for power outages. Don't leave them outside though. They aren't for that.

## BEACON

Hanging is a snap with its carabiner top. The beacon comes with a 75cm cord for its rechargeable battery—which lasts 200+ hours on low or three hours on high.



## RAILROAD LANTERN

Seeded glass and copper accents make this a unique light for a curated outdoor dinner table or at camp. High-tech and functional, this lantern utilizes battery or USB with a run time of 100+ hours on low or 3.5 hours on high. Adjustable brightness LED Edison-style bulb provides a classic warming glow perfect for every occasion.



## EDISON MINI LANTERN

Inspired by old mining and warehouse lights, this rust-resistant steel lantern creates an intimate space anywhere. Light enough to hang from a tree branch – or create a soft glowing atmosphere with several together.



## VINTAGE RECHARGEABLE FLASHLIGHT

This tough, convenient everyday LED flashlight has a hook on the bottom that makes it easy to hang at eye level in the garage or tent. It's perfectly sized to fit in your hand, throw in your bag or car for emergencies, or pack for camping or hiking. Includes USB-C charging cable. Up to 24-hour run time.

## FOREST LANTERN

Rechargeable Li-Ion batteries put out 325 lumens of warm light for up to four hours – but the lantern is never hot to the touch. Keep the light setting on low and the Forest Lantern will glow for 80+ hours – just like your burning desire for the great outdoors.



See the full range of Barebones lighting devices:

SCAN THE QR CODE

– or –

SEARCH 'BAREBONES'

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)



# EXTRA!

SENSIBLE AND PRACTICAL DESPATCHES FROM THE PROPRIETOR OF MRS BLACKWELL'S VILLAGE BOOKSHOP



## OUR CURIOUSLY SHORT SUMMER READING LIST

Winter gets all the credit as the most voluminous reading season but for me, the longer days of spring and summer usually see me turning more pages.

With the arrival of summer comes a proliferation of summer reading guides. These guides generally contain hundreds of book recommendations focusing on new releases, often untested by readers.

Before I was a bookseller, I found these guides actually added stress to my reading life and ever expanding TBR (to-be-read) list.

So in an effort to relieve you of any such pressure that our reading list might bring, we're sticking to a strict limit of two dozen highly filtered book recommendations, along with a few puzzles, games and nifty stationery items.

Either I or someone else at *Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop* read and loved each of these books during the course of the year. They're not all brand-new releases; in fact most aren't, and they're endorsed purely by our love for them. For this reason, it's a little like a pick-and-mix lolly bag from the dairy of your childhood but we hope you'll tolerate a Lego Fact book alongside Ann Patchett, some unique nature writing and a series of Kiwi cookbooks originally published in the 1970s!

To further ease any pressure that might be mounting in your reading life, we've finished off with a guide

to why it's ok to not finish every book you start.

We hope this summer brings you some happy and fulfilling reading hours; however many or few that number looks like to you, you'll savour every one of them!

**Mrs & Mr Blackwell, Mr Matthews, Mrs Floss, Mrs Gee, Mr Stevens, Mrs Hodder and Mrs Reid.**





# DON'T GO NEAR THE CREEK

Written by

ADAM BLACKWELL

Illustrated by

PAUL REES

Young Adam has been warned.  
Don't go near the creek.  
It's dangerous. Creatures live there.  
Unseen hazards. It's too risky.

So what's a boy going to do?

Available in Greytown from 18 November 2023  
or at [www.villagebookshop.co.nz](http://www.villagebookshop.co.nz)



**HANDS IN THE DIRT - GROW YOUR OWN KAI WITH MRS EVANS**

*Leah Evans*  
**\$45.90 Flexibound**

Food security has been on my mind since 2020 and lockdowns made clear just how much our household relied on the supermarket for everything we were eating. Leah Evans' new book is filled with easy-to-understand advice on how to start gardening including growing in small spaces and containers, building great soil and compost, growing from seed, companion planting and much more. She'll get you started with eleven staples that grow well in NZ conditions: beetroot, beans, broccoli, carrots, cucumber, herbs, pumpkin, leafy greens, potatoes, zucchini and tomatoes. *Instagram: @mrs.evans.garden*



**WHO MADE ALL THE PIES**

*Wendy Morgan* **\$38.90, Flexicover**

Part of the family behind the South Island's Hillyer's Bakery, Wendy Morgan's mother is reportedly the original creator of the mince and cheese combination! Wendy worked in the family business from a young age and built up serious knowledge of pastry and pie filling. In *Who Made All The Pies?* she shares her years of knowledge and recipes for lots of classic pairings along with adventurous new combinations to try.



*Mr Blackwell Recommends*

**THE AFTER-HOURS STYLIST**

*Kate Williams*  
**\$69.90, Hardcover**

This lovely book was published in October 2022 which meant it missed out on its rightful place and profile among last year's Christmas gift guides. Stylist Kate Williams shares her love of nature and the seasons from her property in rural Canterbury. As well as styling tips for special occasions Kate's main goal is to help you love your everyday surroundings with the homeware and resources you already have. Develop your creativity and build on your personal style, in your home, garden and social media feed (!) with this stunning book. *Follow Kate on Instagram: @theafterhoursstylist*



*Mr Blackwell Recommends*

**WHAT YOUR CHICKENS WANT YOU TO KNOW**

*Andrea Graves*  
**\$30.90, Paperback**

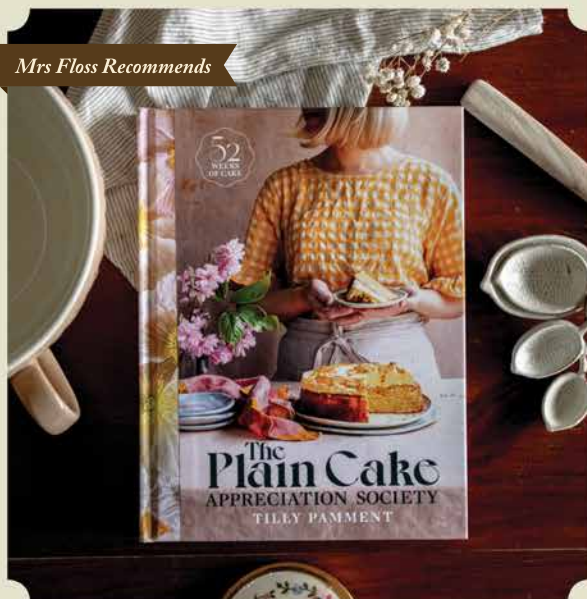
What do your chickens want you to know? Our guesses include:

1. The meaning of eggs-istence.
2. That their favourite movies are chick flicks.
3. And a mischievous egg is a practical yolker!

For infinitely more practical advice on raising chickens author Andrea Graves puts her doctorate in animal behaviour science, and her practical experience to good use in this guide to keeping happy, healthy chickens in Aotearoa.



Mrs Floss Recommends



## THE PLAIN CAKE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Tilly Pamment \$45.90 Hardcover

"The cornerstone of contentment lies in a slice of cake, a cup of tea and company to share it." This is the philosophy behind *The Plain Cake Appreciation Society* by recipe developer, photographer and stylist Tilly Pamment. A recipe a week for a year of delicious, uncomplicated cakes - each the perfect reason to sit down and connect with your friends, family and community. We have a lot of baking books on our shelves but the underlying message along with the gorgeous photography make this one something really special. *Follow Tilly on Instagram: @tillys\_table*

## DIGBY, DIGBY, DIGBY!

Digby Law, \$30.90 each

*Digby Law's* cookbooks have been best sellers since the 1970s, reprinted dozens of times and still recognised as some of the best collections available. Every Kiwi kitchen should have a copy of the clear and simple guidebooks:

**Vegetable Cookbook:** 400+ recipes that make the most of the combinations, flavours and textures of New Zealand produce.

**Soup Cookbook:** Every soup you've ever heard of and many that you've only dreamt of are contained in this timeless cookbook.

**Pickle & Chutney:** Indispensable reference guide with 300+ recipes for chutneys, relishes, sauces, oils, pickles, jellies, vinegars and mustards.



## FUNGI OF AOTEAROA

Liv Sisson  
\$45.90 Flexibound

A complete introduction to finding, identifying and using mushrooms and other fungi in NZ. Practical and up-to-date, this guide for foragers and fungi enthusiasts shows you how to identify edible varieties, how to cook with them, and how these incredible organisms have shaped the world as we know it. No need to thank us for recommending *Fungi of Aotearoa*, it's no truffle at all, that's what friends are spore.

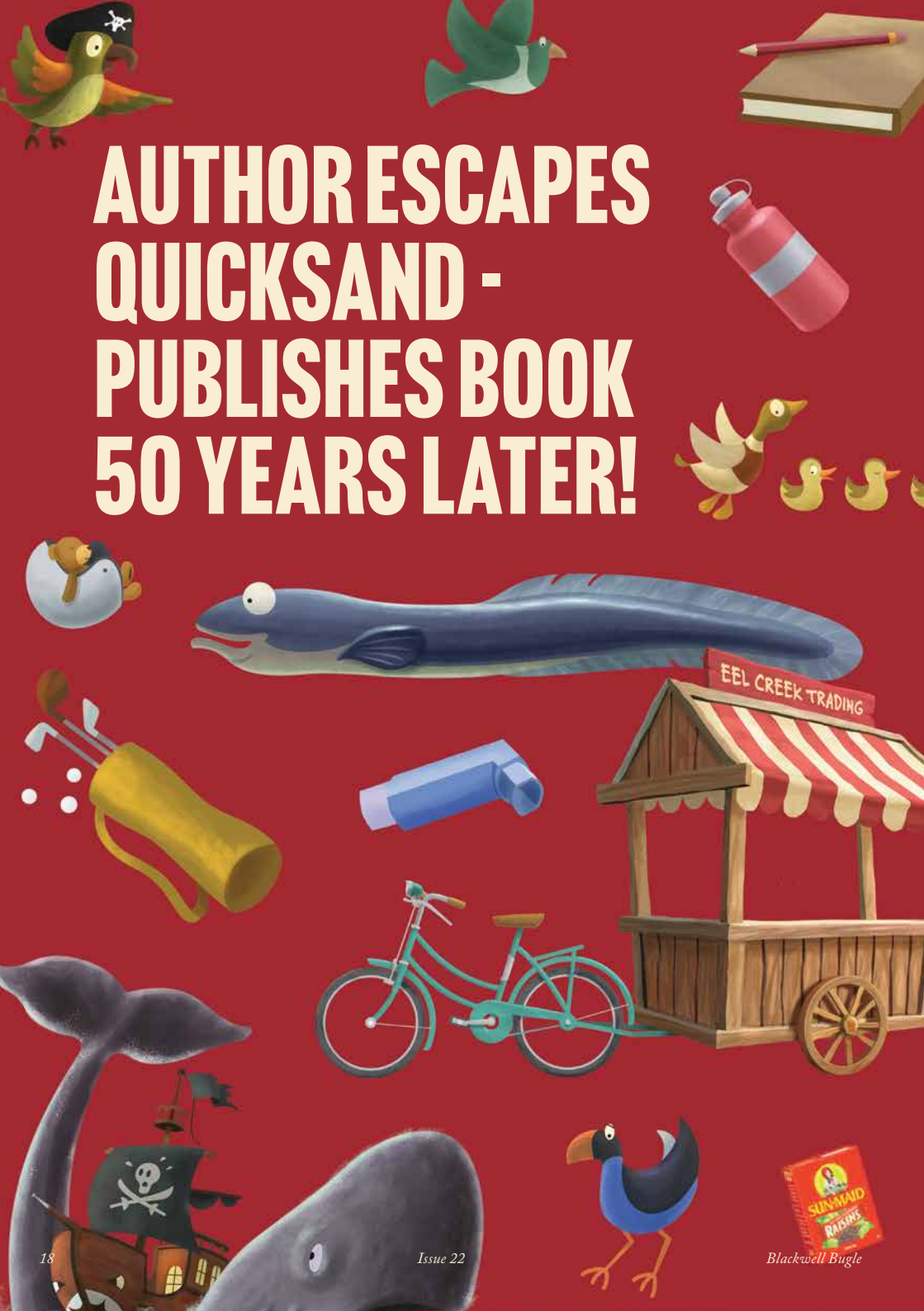


### Let Us Do Your Gift Wrapping!

For just \$3.00 we'll wrap all of the products in your order. Select this option when you checkout online. Proceeds donated to Trees That Count.



# AUTHOR ESCAPES QUICKSAND - PUBLISHES BOOK 50 YEARS LATER!



While setting our annual goals in 2022, Mr Blackwell told me he would be committing to his children's book. Like many people, the desire to write a book lingered year to year, but knowing Adam as I do, once a task is on his list, it's going to be done, and I was excited to see the result.

I'm even more excited now that it's finished and he can share it with the young readers of the world. His skill with rhyme is on full display and the story shares what might have been the genesis of his entrepreneurial journey - in a creek full of eels and golf balls in Upper Hutt!

Adam's story is skillfully illustrated by this long-time collaborator Paul Rees. If you've been reading the Bugle for a while now, you'll be familiar with Paul's work on our *Blackwell Press* jigsaw puzzles, cards and posters.

Technically, this is Adam's second adventure book. He wrote and illustrated his first book at age six. His production of just one unit was stapled together by his mum who now plays a starring role in Adam's second adventure story.



## In preparation for the book launch, I had a couple of hard hitting questions for the author!

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*MB: Hello Mr Blackwell. Tell me, why this particular story?*

*AB:* This story was a very memorable part of being a boy in Upper Hutt in the 60s and early 70s. The mystery of the creek, the treasures that lay within, and as every boy in the 70s knew, the ever-present threat of quicksand that could swallow me up in the squishy creek bed!

*MB: Who is this book for?*

*AB:* The reading level is aged 4-9, but any reader who can recognise rhyme will enjoy this story.

One of my favourite series when I was young was the *Berenstain Bears*, and like the Bears, this is a locally based adventure story where the hero always has the safety of home to return to.

*MB: This book deals in part with the sale of second hand merchandise. What advice do you have for other young entrepreneurs?*

*AB:* It doesn't matter how good your product is, your story is the thing that other people will get excited by - so focus on finding the magic in your story and sharing it with others. Regarding secondhand goods: presentation is everything! Do your best to make them look new - even when all parties know that they aren't.

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**Don't Go Near the Creek will be released on 18 November 2023. The limited edition hardcover is \$29.90 and preorders are available now from [www.villagebookshop.co.nz](http://www.villagebookshop.co.nz)**

The book is 100% made in New Zealand with illustrations by Paul Rees from Otautahi, Christchurch and printed by the team at Lamb Peters in Kuratawhiti, Greytown.

## YEAR OF SITTING DANGEROUSLY

*Simon Barnes,*  
\$40.90 Hardcover

In the autumn of 2020, Simon Barnes walked to a folding chair at the bottom of his garden, and sat down. His itinerary: to sit in that very same spot every day for a year and to see - and hear - what happened around him. For the next twelve months, he would watch as the world around him changed day by day. Gradually, he began to see his surroundings in a new way; by restricting himself, he opened up new horizons, growing even closer to a world he thought he already knew so well.



## ACROSS THE PASS

*Shaun Barnett*  
\$45.90 Hardcover

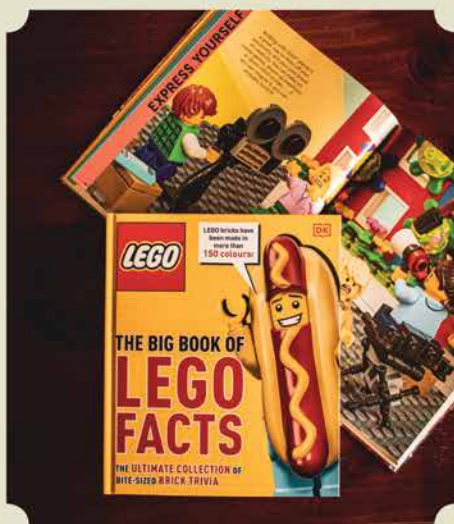
Tramping (or hiking, depending on your origin) is really any journey into unpaved territory. It could be mountainous backcountry, along a ridge, beside a river or through a forest. It's a chance to discover plants, to hear unique birdsong, or experience an entirely new ecosystem. And the very best tramps usually include friendship or an element of self-discovery. Across the Pass brings together some of the best writing from Kiwi trampers. From epic tales to stories of strolls, writing that pokes fun at companions or celebrates the bond forged when facing challenges together. A great collection.



## THE BIG BOOK OF LEGO FACTS

*Simon Hugo* \$48.90 Hardcover

Find out everything you ever wanted to know about bricks and minifigures. For example, did you know that 68,000 LEGO pieces are created every minute? Or that The LEGO Group is one of the biggest manufacturers of tyres in the world? You can pretend you're buying this for a kid if you want, but this is a must-have guide for LEGO fans of every age!



## TEACH YOUR DOG (AND YOURSELF) SOMETHING NEW

*Anne Cakebread*  
\$18.90 each

Light-hearted and fully-illustrated these cute retro-style pocket books contain 60+ words and phrases you can use to practise your Te Reo Māori, Spanish, French and Italian with your furry best friend! Many of the words and phrases can also be employed in non dog-related situations.

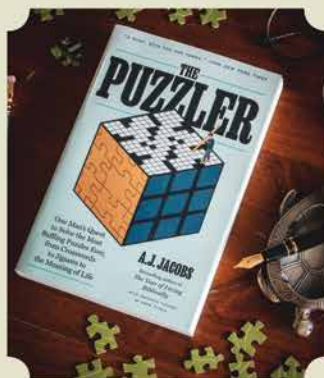




## THE PUZZLER: ONE MAN'S QUEST TO SOLVE THE MOST BAFFLING PUZZLES EVER, FROM CROSSWORDS TO JIGSAWS TO THE MEANING OF LIFE

A.J. Jacobs \$37.90 Paperback

A.J. Jacobs first came onto my radar in 2010 with the highly entertaining *Year of Living Biblically* where he attempted to follow every precept in the Bible, even where they contradicted each other. He's back again with a book that explores the enduring power of puzzles - why we love them, what they do to our brains, and how they can improve our world. Crosswords, Sudoku, Rubik Cube, jigsaw puzzles, mazes and a whole lot more are covered in the course of his explorations.



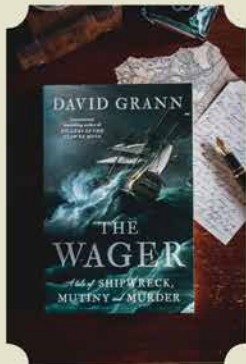
This year we've had two stand-out survival stories set at sea. *The Wager*, pieced together from 18th century records and presented as nonfiction, and *Mrs Jewell and the Wreck of the General Grant*, a fictional story based on real events.

## THE WAGER

David Grann  
\$40.90 Paperback

It's 1742 and a ramshackle vessel has washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside, thirty barely alive men say that they are survivors of the H.M.S *Wager*, a British vessel that left England in 1740 on a mission to capture a Spanish galleon filled with treasure. The *Wager* ran aground off the coast of Patagonia but the crew built their flimsy craft from the wreckage and sailed a hundred-plus days, through storm-wracked seas to reach Brazil...

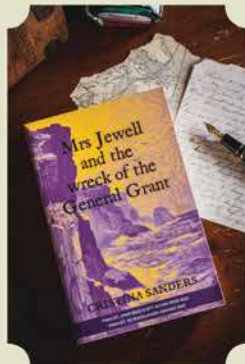
Six months later, another vessel lands on the coast of Chile. The three castaways on this craft have a different story to tell. The sailors who landed in Brazil were not heroes - "they were mutineers."



## MRS JEWELL AND THE WRECK OF THE GENERAL GRANT

Christina Saunders  
\$37.90 Paperback

1866: Fourteen men and one woman survive the shipwreck of the *General Grant*, a passenger ship sailing from Melbourne to London. This group is made up of gold miners, sailors and the newly-married Joseph and Mary Jewell. Stranded on the remote Auckland Islands, they must work together to survive in a rugged and inhospitable corner of the world. Mrs Jewell is our narrator and in between tales of dysentery, scurvy, and learning to cure seal skin, there's space for just a little Victorian-era romance. Based on a true story of one of New Zealand's earliest shipwrecks and a finalist for the 2023 Ockham's Prize for Fiction.

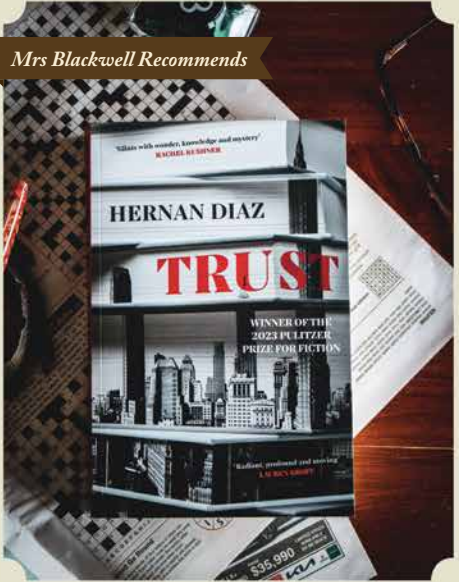


## TRUST

*Hernan Diaz* \$38.90 Paperback

My favourite book of 2022 was Barbara Kingolver's *Demon Copperhead* - based in Appalachia, it's a modern retelling of *David Copperfield* (I highly recommend it). So when Hernan Diaz's *Trust* and *Demon Copperhead* were announced co-winner the 2023 Pulitzer Prize it definitely caught my attention! A part of me really wanted not to like this book - because how useful is a bookseller who consistently recommends major prize winners?! - but this book was excellent, I didn't want it to end.

*Trust* is the same story, told from four perspectives, at four different points in time. Beginning in 1920's New York, we're privy to the life of one of the city's most powerful couples. As the chapters unfold, we realise that everything is not as it seems. The story questions the reliability of written history, and those who get to tell their story.

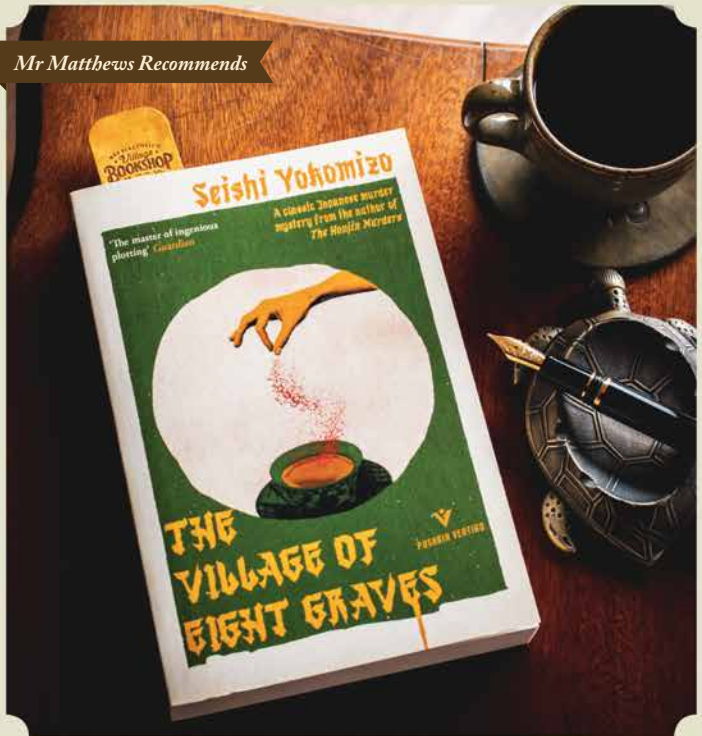


## THE VILLAGE OF EIGHT GRAVES

*Seishi Yokomizo*  
\$23.90 Paperback

Multiple deaths, diabolical twists and a cast of characters to enthral! Set in post war rural Japan, social alliances have changed and nobody is really whom they seem to be. Nestled deep in the mist-shrouded mountains, *The Village of Eight Graves* takes its name from a bloody legend: in the sixteenth century eight samurai, who had taken refuge there along with a secret treasure, were murdered by the inhabitants, bringing a terrible curse down upon their village.

Mr Matthews Recommends

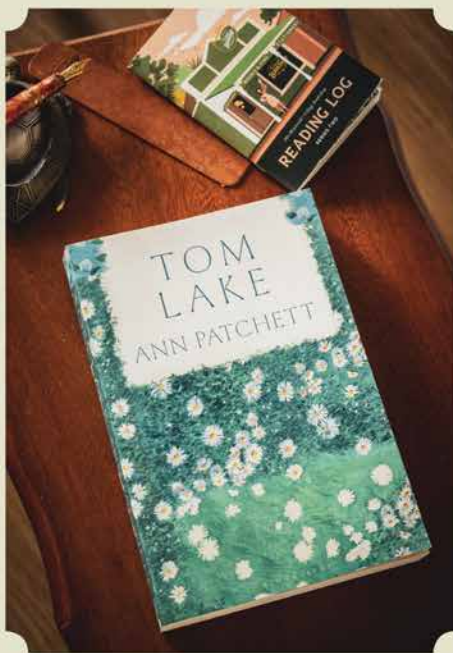


## TOM LAKE

*Ann Patchett \$35.90 Paperback*

Lara and Joe Nelson live on a cherry orchard in Michigan. It's 2020 and their three 20-something daughters Emily, Maisie and Nell are all home, waiting out a period of lockdown (rest assured, this is not a pandemic novel). It's harvest time and with farm labour in short supply, the girls must help pick the cherries, something they're not entirely enthused about.

It's well known that Lara was once an aspiring actress who had a summer romance with Peter Duke; a man who went on to become a famous Hollywood star. To pass the time in the orchard, the girls pester their mother for details of that summer. Controlled and intelligent, Ann Patchett shares all that is good in her main characters. The book exudes *cozy* appeal with the details of the Michigan farm house, Lara's evenings quilt making, and the description of the meal times and love the family shares.



## THE PARIS BOOKSELLER

*Kerri Maher \$35.90 Paperback*

Based on the real story of Sylvia Beach, founder of the *Shakespeare and Company* bookshop. When young American Sylvia Beach opens *Shakespeare and Company* on a quiet street in Paris in 1919, she has no idea that her bookshop will change the course of modern literature. Ernest Hemingway considered the bookshop a second home, and it was where some of the most important literary friendships of the twentieth century are forged - including the one between James Joyce and Sylvia herself. When Joyce's controversial novel *Ulysses* is banned, Beach takes a massive risk and publishes it herself.



## WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS IN THE LIBRARY

*Michiko Aoyama \$37.90 Paperback*

Sensing exactly what someone is searching for in life, librarian Sayuri Komachi provides just the book recommendation to help them find it. Meet five of Sayuri's customers, each at a different crossroads in their lives in this cozy and uplifting novel loved by Japanese readers, librarians and booksellers alike. A nominee of the Japan Booksellers' Prize is a celebration of community libraries and the life-changing power of book recommendation.



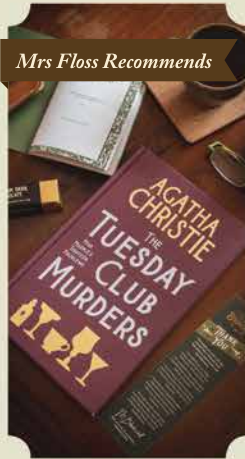


## TUESDAY CLUB MURDERS

*Agatha Christie* \$35.90 Hardcover

"Well,' said Joyce, 'it seems to me we are a pretty representative gathering. How would it be if we formed a Club? What is today? Tuesday? We will call it The Tuesday Night Club. It is to meet every week, and each member in turn has to propound a problem. Some mystery of which they have personal knowledge, and to which, of course, they know the answer.'"

Two years before *The Murder at the Vicarage*, Agatha Christie first introduced the world to Jane Marple and the stories of murder and intrigue told by each member of the Tuesday Night Club. Time and time again, crimes so wicked they have confounded even Scotland Yard's finest are solved by St Mary Mead's sharpest mind and everyone's favourite armchair detective.

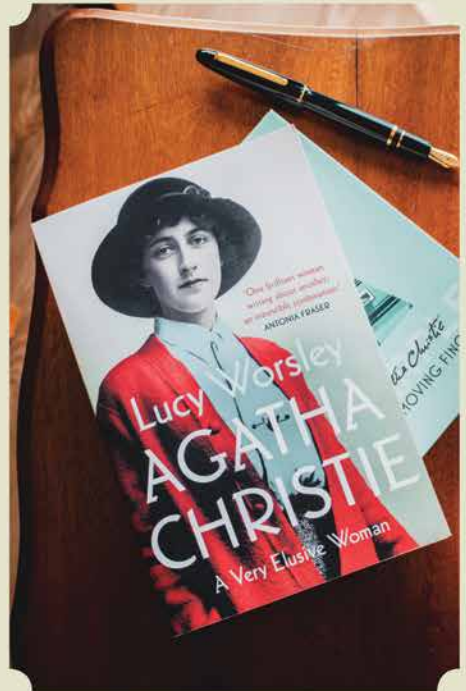


Mrs Floss Recommends

## SINISTER SPRING

*Agatha Christie*  
\$35.90 Hardcover

An all-new collection of spring-themed mysteries from the master of the crime fiction! Hercule Poirot, Jane Marple, Tommy and Tuppence and many more of Agatha Christie's unforgettable creations tangle with a season of sinister schemes and perilous crimes in this special edition hardback.



## AGATHA CHRISTIE - THE BIOGRAPHY!

*Lucy Worsley* \$40.90 Paperback

Why did Agatha Christie spend her career pretending that she was 'just' an ordinary housewife, when clearly she wasn't? As Lucy Worsley says, 'She was thrillingly, scintillatingly modern'. She was surfing in Hawaii, she loved fast cars, and she was intrigued by the new science of psychology, which helped her through mental illness. Lucy Worsley's biography is not just of an internationally renowned bestselling writer. It's also the story of a person who, despite the obstacles of class and gender, became an astonishingly successful working woman.

Psst! Readers also loved Lucy Worsley's portrait of *Jane Austen at Home* \$30.90 Paperback.



## AGATHA CHRISTIE BINGO

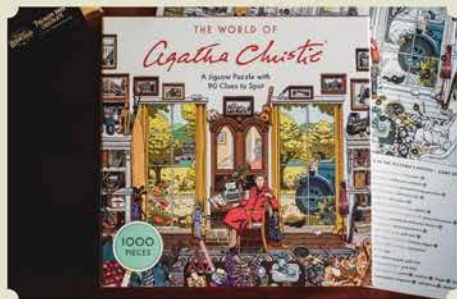
*\$60.90 each*

Travel down the Nile, on the Orient Express and into the drawing rooms of quaint English country cottages hot on the heels of Poirot, Miss Marple and other famous characters while you play this fun bingo game. Includes a booklet packed full of Agatha Christie trivia for discerning fans. This high quality game features bespoke illustration and sleek and stylish packaging.

## WORLD OF AGATHA CHRISTIE JIGSAW

*\$45.90 each*

1000-piece puzzle featuring Agatha Christie's life and novels in all their mysterious detail. Spot famous character, crime-solving clues, and historical locations as you build the puzzle. Track down Agatha Christie's most memorable characters, from Poirot and Miss Marple to Tommy and Tuppence and Parker Pyne, as well as real moments from Agatha Christie's life. Includes a fold out poster featuring fun facts about the Queen of Crime and her creations.



## AGATHA CHRISTIE PLAYING CARDS

*\$35.90 each*

The characters, places and objects important to Agatha Christie's best-selling mysteries appear on each card in this special boxed deck of playing cards. An accompanying booklet includes expert notes on everything in the deck. The perfect gift for any Agatha Christie fan!



## WIN YOUR OWN AGATHA CHRISTIE PUZZLE!

Our friends at Hachette New Zealand have a provided a World of Agatha Christie puzzle for us to give away. Order anything Agatha Christie from us before December 24th and automatically go in the draw to win.

## LEUCHTTURM PEN LOOPS

*\$7.90 - \$8.90 each*

If your writing instrument of choice is a plastic biro that you acquired at a team building event then the Leuchtturm pen loop is probably an over investment. For any other tool, it's a worthy companion.



Made with a strong textile rubber band, it's suitable for pens and pencils of all thicknesses, and there is an XL version for fountain pens. Self adhesive for easy attachment to almost any notebook, you can securely carry your favourite pen on your notebook at all times. There's a matching pen loop for almost every notebook colour in the *Leuchtturm* range.

## JIGSAW PUZZLE GREETING CARDS

*\$13.90 each*

Make your friends and loved ones work a little for your next snail mail update! We now have a delightful range of jigsaw puzzle cards in stock.

Each 60 piece card comes fully assembled. Write your message on the back, break up the pieces, place them in the envelope, and pop them in the post. A coloured envelope and sticker to seal your envelope are also provided.

Online: search 'Puzzle Greeting Card' to see the full range.



## WONDERFUL WAIRARAPA COLOURING BOOK, POSTCARDS AND STICKER SET

*\$18.90 for the set.*

If you are a local or one of the thousands of visitors that come to the Wairarapa every year, you probably love this place as much as we do. Back in 2020, we released the first of our collectable art prints to celebrate the natural beauty, architecture and lifestyles of our hometown, Greytown. It became so popular, we decided to expand the set to include other towns and landmarks throughout the Wairarapa.

Now you can add all your own colours to our beautiful region. Use pencils, felt pens, crayons or paint and either follow the guide on the back cover or fill in the spaces with your favourite colours instead!

*The gift pack includes:*

- A 16 page colouring book
- 6 beautiful postcards for you to colour in and send to someone special
- A set of fun stickers for you to decorate your books, bags or the family car!





## 2024 WALL CALENDARS

\$29.90 each

It's a big year for calendars at *Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop!*

First up, we've released our *Wonderful Wairarapa* Calendar for 2024. Each month features an exquisite artwork, created by Christchurch artist Paul Rees, depicting celebrated Wairarapa scenes and occasions.

All your favourite Wairarapa events and national holidays are marked in the calendar squares - with plenty of space for your own notes and occasions.

Calendar size (closed): A4 (210mm x 297mm).

Wire bound so you can fold the calendar all the way back if you choose.



### But wait! There's more

We were surprised and thrilled to be included in the Chronicle Books 2024 *This is My Bookstore* Calendar.

Chronicle Books is an independent publisher based in San Francisco and they've been producing their international bookstore calendar since 1981. It's fitting that Mrs Blackwell also came into the world in 1981, and it's taken exactly that long - 42 years if you're counting - for a New Zealand-based bookshop to be featured in the calendar. Celebrate twelve months of charming, cozy, quirky, and gorgeous bookstores around the world.

Our special thanks to Vicki who captured the featured photo the day our bookshop was being kissed by a rainbow! *Follow her inspiring Bookstagram account on Instagram: @antipodeanbookclub*





**LISTEN TO  
AUDIOBOOKS  
AND SUPPORT  
YOUR FAVOURITE  
BOOKSHOP!**

Here's something that happens every day at bookshops all over the world: customers tell us that they love to listen to audiobooks, but they feel bad about it because they're not buying from their local bookstore.

Well, the good news is that now you can listen to audiobooks and support your favourite bookshop so more of your money stays in your local community.

*Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop* has partnered with **LibroFM** - which is an alternative to Amazon's Audible - and like you, **LibroFM** is committed to supporting local bookshops. When you buy an audiobook through **LibroFM**, a portion of your purchase price goes right back to your nominated bookshop.



For readers who have never listened to audiobooks, here's a few examples of where audiobooks shine, allowing you to read when a printed book is just not a practical option:

- In the garden
- On a walk, or riding your bike
- During a road trip
- While cooking, doing the dishes or housework

At the moment my favourite audiobooks are biographies and memoirs narrated by the author, but there's a whole world of talking books out there. There's a huge range of fiction read by talented voice artist, there's science books, self development, social history, and sports! Really every kind of category that you'd expect to find in a great bookstore, you can find in audiobooks too.

**LibroFM**, which means "book" in Spanish and Italian, - offers monthly membership as well as the ability to purchase individual titles for yourself or as a gift.

We've made a video which you can find on our website - [thevillagebookshop.com/librofm](http://thevillagebookshop.com/librofm) - that walks you through the simple steps to get started, or you can pop in and see us at *Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop* and we'll get you set up with **LibroFM**.



## Here are a few of our favourite **LibroFM** listens:

Four Thousand Weeks:

Embrace your limits. Change your life.  
Make your four thousand weeks count  
*by Oliver Burkeman*

Paddle Your Own Canoe, One Man's  
Fundamentals for Delicious Living  
*by Nick Offerman*

The Secret Life of Groceries: The Dark  
Miracle of the American Supermarket  
*by Benjamin Lorr*

Freezing Order: A True Story of Russian  
Money Laundering, State-Sponsored Murder,  
and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath  
*by Bill Browder*

The Best of Me  
*by David Sedaris*

Normal Rules Don't Apply  
*by Kate Atkinson*

Lessons in Chemistry  
*by Bonnie Garmus*



# WHY IT'S OK NOT TO FINISH A BOOK

As much as we'd all love to have unlimited hours next to the fireplace with a book, the reality is that most of us don't.

Yet I think it's fairly common that some people feel they have to finish any book they pick up, even if they don't like it. I'm not sure where it comes from; some version of the "clean plate club" that we have to finish what's set out before us?

But our reading lives are limited and we have to make the most of any and all hours we can find for our favourite pastime!

For this reason, it can help to adopt a philosophy that it's ok not to finish every single book you start. If you struggle to walk away from a book without finishing it, I've collected some reasons that might help reconcile the idea of leaving some books unfinished.

## EIGHT REASONS TO STOP READING THAT BOOK

1. **There's a book for every reader. But not every book is for every reader.** If reading is even a somewhat serious part of your life, you're going to strike a few books that just aren't right for you. For me, this often happens with award-winning books, and for you it might happen with recommendations from friends and loved ones. Just because a book has been crowned "best" by a panel of experts (or just the experts in your own life!) doesn't mean it will be your cup of tea.

2. **How many more books can you realistically read in what remains of your life?** Sorry to get so morbid so quickly, but as Oliver Burkeman outlines in *Four Thousand Weeks*, if you live until you're 80 years old you'll live a total of four thousand weeks. If you're 50 and read an average of one book per month, that's 360 more books. Have you got time to waste on books you're not enjoying?
3. **You might be a different person now than when you bought the book.** If you run an ever growing TBR (to-be-read) stack there's a chance that books stay there for months or even years before you get to them. Consider whether you have changed in that time and what impact that could have had on a book that once filled you with enthusiasm. Call it personal growth and move on to the next book in your stack!
4. **It's ok not to love everything your favourite author produces.** Even if one of their books is your all-time favourite, it's alright not to enjoy the book that's in your hands right now. The same goes for versatile authors — Wendell Berry comes to mind — who produces fiction, nonfiction AND poetry! It's ok not to like them all. So put that book aside and be grateful for the experience you had with other books from that author.





## What to do about your unfinished books?

**5. Stress or distraction might be stopping you from connecting right now.** Sometimes life just gets in the way of our best efforts to read (or maintain any other hobby), so consider whether it might be something else in your life stopping you from really enjoying the book you have in your hands. Mr Blackwell has a suggestion for you on the right.

**6. Here's one for the numbers people:** There are approximately four million books published EACH YEAR, and that's just the books published in English. What do you think the chances are you will pick books that are 100% for you every time?

**7. Consider whether it could be the platform?** I love audiobooks and my favourites are heavily weighted toward non-fiction read by the author. I think that in my brain it's more like getting to spend a few hours hanging out with someone I wouldn't normally get to spend time with. But I don't really enjoy fiction as much as an audiobook as I do from reading on paper. So if you're struggling with the audiobook but think it's a book you could really like, consider switching. And vice versa, maybe the concepts in a social science book will resonate better as you hear the spoken words on your next walk.

**8. If all else fails, consider it part of your bookshop fantasy.** I know you've dreamed about throwing in your day job and owning a bookshop instead! Once you do, you'll realise that partially reading a whole lot of books — many that aren't right for you from the outset — is just part of the job so you can recommend books to readers who don't read like you. So chalk that unfinished book up to your training for the day you'll own your own bookstore!

- 1. One man's trash is another man's treasure** — give it away, or add it to your local Little Free Library or host a book swap and exchange your unwanted books with friends and family.
- Mr Blackwell does this when he feels a book has promise but just hasn't been able to get into it: He parks it, puts a note in his calendar for six months from the date and moves it to the "second chance" pile in his office. His top tip if you try this approach is to move your bookmark back at least one chapter to refresh where you were up to.
- 3. Sell it!** Most secondhand bookshops will give you cash or credit for your unwanted titles that you can put toward another read that might suit you better.

The point is, unless the book is damaged or totally out of date, it's very likely that someone, somewhere would love to have it and get good use out of it.

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*With wholehearted thanks to  
Penguin Random House New Zealand,  
HarperCollins New Zealand,  
Macmillan Publishers New Zealand,  
Hachette Aotearoa,  
Bateman Books  
and Potton & Burton  
for their generous support of this  
edition of the Blackwell Bugle.*

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Book photography by Mrs Floss  
(yes, our very own Mrs Floss!), store  
photography & portraits by Mike  
Heydon at Jet Productions.

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

First Friday of  
Each Month, Until 7pm  
Greytown Sip n Shop

Purchase a beverage of your choice from The White Swan and let them know you're taking part in the Sip n Shop. They'll give you an official vessel and you can stroll our Main Street while many of our best stores remain open until 7pm. Late night shopping, Country Village style! October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st 2023.

## NOVEMBER 2023

Greytown Distilling Company

An all-new set of gins celebrating the adventurers that sailed, stage coached or steam trained their way to Greytown as it was being built! SEAFARER, STAGECOACH and STATIONMASTER gins, all with distinctive botanicals and flavour profiles are available from Friday 10 November 2023.

## DECEMBER 2023

Truckstop reopens

Truckstop, Greytown's popular outdoor food truck dining camp reopens on the first Friday after Christmas with live music on Saturdays, a variety of dining options and space at our picnic tables for up to 120 guests. Plus cornhole for the kids!

## JANUARY 2024

Saturday 20th  
Greytown's Annual  
Sidewalk Sale

If the idea of a Huge Sale Event fills you with more dread than excitement, you'll love the Greytown Village version. At our annual Sidewalk Sale, you won't find anyone brawling over a discounted TV, but you will find some sweet deals on one-offs, samples, and overstocked merchandise from a great range of locally-owned small businesses.

[www.greytownvillage.com](http://www.greytownvillage.com)

## MARCH 2024

Blackwell & Sons  
National Tweed Ride

Join us Easter Saturday as Greytown's charming leafy byways once again resound with joyous hoots, bubbly bonhomie and tinkling bicycle bells as riders from all over fair Aotearoa take part in the fourth National Tweed Ride.

[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)

## MAY 2024

Sunday, 12th:  
Mrs Blackwell's Mother's  
Day Afternoon Tea

Join us for Featherston Booktown's ever-popular and delightfully old-fashioned High Tea, proudly sponsored by Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop. Make sure you're on the Booktown mailing list to be the first to hear who our special guests are in 2024!

[www.booktown.org.nz](http://www.booktown.org.nz)

## JULY 2024

All Month Long  
July 1 - 31st

Greytown's Main Street comes alive for our Annual Festival of Christmas. Visit Greytown throughout July for evening light shows, food trucks and late night shopping Friday and Saturday!

[www.greytownvillage.com](http://www.greytownvillage.com)



### Blackwell and Sons

110 Main Street Greytown | Open 10am - 4pm daily  
[www.blackwellandsons.nz](http://www.blackwellandsons.nz)  
All enquiries: 027 558 5503



### Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop

93 Main Street, Greytown | Open 10am - 4pm daily  
[www.villagebookshop.co.nz](http://www.villagebookshop.co.nz) | [hello@thevillagebookshop.co.nz](mailto:hello@thevillagebookshop.co.nz)  
All enquiries: (06) 304 9665

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