

Inaugural Chatham Islands
Writers' Retreat

*Surround yourself with an
ocean of inspiration*

8-13 September 2023



Welcome to the Inaugural Chatham Islands Writers' Retreat. Surround yourself with an ocean of inspiration is a fitting title for what is planned to be an outstanding week of learning, relaxing, meeting some local Chatham Islanders, making new acquaintances, stepping into the island's culture and visiting many special places. As we've brought this event together, we have tried to work all these ingredients into, what we expect to be, a rich and engaging experience.

The demand from our Registration of Interest process has been outstanding. Being a small island we may have to limit numbers to the event. We encourage you to confirm your registration as soon as possible. A waiting list may be established.

We are very willing to discuss any aspects of the programme presented and try to address any specific writing needs wherever possible.

If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact us at manager@chathamislands.co.nz

Jackie Gurden and Reg de Wolf-Ngarimu

Writer's Retreat Dates: The Retreat will be held from 8th – 13th September inclusive.



SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

We acknowledge and thank Reg de Wolf-Ngarimu, Tourism Chatham Islands, Air Chathams, Toni Croon - Hotel Chathams, Val and Lois Croon - Admiral Gardens, Hokotehi Moriori Trust - Kopinga Marae, Deborah Goomes - Studio 44° S, Bridget and John Preece - Kopi Bush Farm, The Chatham Islands Museum Trust, Celine Gregory Hunt (Bubbles) - River Onion Cafe



Meet your hosts for the week



Regina de Wolf-Ngarimu (Reg) – R. de Wolf was born on the East Coast of New Zealand and lived overseas for 29 years. Since returning, she has published four fiction novels, two poetry collections, and three anthology short stories from 2020 to 2023. Reg is active in her local writing community as a volunteer and member of NZSA and the Central District Committee. Reg is personally connected to the Chathams, being of Ngati Mutunga descent. The event focuses on tailoring a program for writers to foster creative expression, skill sharing, learning and connecting.



Jackie Gurden – Jackie has been the Islands' Tourism Manager for four years. While based on the West Coast of the South Island, she is heavily involved in tourism and works with all the operators on many exciting projects. No doubt she will share much of her work during the retreat. Having published her own book on her family and district history, much of Jackie's writing comprises formal business documents.



Deborah Goomes (Deb) – Deb will be our tour guide. She is a Chatham Islander of Moriori, Maori and European descent. Deb has an enormous appreciation and enjoys sharing her knowledge of the Island's unique environment, the wealth and diversity of Island, history and life as a Chatham Islander. She is also a writer of Moriori history having been a researcher for many years. Deb aims to ensure that your island experience is adventurous, fun and memorable whilst supporting your writing journey.



Jocelyn Powell – Chatham Islands Museum Trustee, will be available to discuss sources of Chatham Islands information, accessible both on-island at the Museum and on the mainland. Jocelyn has been involved in non-fiction publishing for over 30 years as Deerubbin Press.

Presentations are proposed to be held in a number of stunning locations where you will meet the locals, hear their stories and be treated to some outstanding Island cuisine.



Val and Lois Croon – Admiral Garden – Val and Lois will host us for presentations and writing at their home. Visitors regularly view the garden, arts studio and enjoy evening dinners of delicious island cuisine. Val, who has self published a book of essays and describes himself as “stumbling around a novel based on the Chathams and her people”, will share his knowledge of the island and his writing within these inspiring surroundings – a treat for everyone.



Bridget and John Preece – Kopi Bush Farm – Famously known to many as the Grand Designs home, Bridget will take us on the short Kopi Bush walk through dense native bush featuring Rautini (Chatham Islands Christmas Tree), Kopi (Karaka), Karamu, Tarahina, Matipo, Hoho trees and Ponga and a range of Chatham Island birds. We will then relax in their magnificent home, surrounded by outstanding views out around the island, for the day’s presentations, a specialty lunch and, for those who want, the opportunity to spend the rest of the day writing.



Kopinga Marae – Uniquely designed and built as a tribute to the Moriori ancestors, Kopinga Marae was opened in 2005 and has magical 180-degree views of Rekohu (Chatham Island). Writers will learn about the history of the Moriori people and the sacred Covenant of Peace from our guide Deborah Goomes before enjoying presentations and a writing opportunity on site.



The Chatham Islands Museum – Opened in November last year, this facility presents the islands’ distinctive history of Moriori, Māori and European settlement, culture, geology and the rich and rare wildlife. Also held are significant archives where history can be researched.



The River Onion Gallery and Café – This small locally owned business is an island gem. Owner Celine Gregory-Hunt (aka Bubbles), has her very own personal Chatham Island style of art, photography, coffee and food. Every room has its own style and the garden is truly eccentric. Pending Retreat numbers, we will host a presentation and writing session at this memorable location.

Excursions will be made to some of the island's key attractions – weather and access permitting. Others may also be included pending time and interests – we are balancing seeing the sites and allowing time for you to write.



J M Barker (Hapupu) National Historic Reserve – One of only two national historic reserves in New Zealand, Hapupu once contained many remnant of rakau momori (Moriori memorial tree impressions). Today just one remains amongst this kopi forested area. Our guide will uncover some of the history and lifestyle of the Moriori people and their way of life in these earlier times.



The Basalt Columns – One of the most popular attractions on the Island, this impressive outcrop was formed from lava flows cooling around 80 million years ago. Bearing a remarkably similar resemblance to the internationally recognised Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Ireland, rarely are they seen in such exquisite glory as in Ohira Bay.



Port Hutt – Just west of the Basalt Columns is the picturesque harbour of Port Hutt. The site of the US scientific camp to observe the Transit of Venus in 1874, this fishing bay is the resting place for the first radar equipped fishing boat in the country, *Betty T* and former Royal Navy minesweeper and fishing trawler/freezer the *Thomas Currell*.



The Northern Volcanics – A little further north-west, the view from the Waitangi West road across the range of volcanoes, called the Northern Volcanics, is simply breath-taking. It reveals a totally different landscape compared to the rest of the Island. All are extinct basalt volcanoes formed between five and 50 million years ago.



Tommy Solomon Statue Site – Manukau Point is located on the south-eastern side of Rēkohu, Chatham Islands and is home to the Tame Horomona-Rehe (Tommy Solomon) statue. Tommy Solomon, who died in 1933, was the last known full Moriori. The statue not only commemorates Tommy, it also acts as a memorial to all Moriori people.

The Programme

The Retreat will begin on Friday 8th of September and conclude on Wednesday night the 13th September. Below is the proposed programme.

PROPOSED TOPICS

History of Rekohu – Wharekauri – the Chatham Islands

Local writers and residents will share their knowledge of the history of this fascinating island group. Several speakers are available throughout the week, and each will present a different perspective, delivering a living insight into island life, people and characters

- ✓ *Opening Your Senses Workshop*
- ✓ *Place – Explore the nuances of writing about place.*
- ✓ *History & Research*
- ✓ *Art & Writing Workshop*
- ✓ *Te Tiriti and Tikanga*
- ✓ *Generative Poetry*
- ✓ *Literary Taxidermy*
- ✓ *The Nuts and Bolts of Writing Fiction*
- ✓ *Introduction to Creative Writing*
- ✓ *Poetry Film*



Independent Publishing (four sessions)

1. New author journey – making the choice to publish, or self-publish. (New)
2. Private publishing, hybrid publishing, and understanding cover design. (Mid)
3. Step through the process of progressing your manuscript to a publication. (Experienced)
4. Building a career strategy and fandom. (Expert)

Roundtables, Workshops & Action Stations

Participants elect the topics they want to explore. There will be pairs, cluster or group sessions where writers can speak to each other and share experiences, and we will organise practical exercises on subjects throughout the week to stretch our writing muscles. Or, if people want to chill and write that's also available.

This Writing Retreat aims to deliver the experience that each participant wants.

Writers' Retreat Pricing

This event has been organised with much support from local operators and many of our attendee presenters to keep the cost to only \$NZ1500 per participant. We acknowledge our sponsors. The price includes:

- ✓ All venues
- ✓ Dinner at Admiral Garden
- ✓ Lunch at Kopinga Marae and Kopi Bush Farm
- ✓ Packed lunches on other days
- ✓ Rental Van transport from Waitangi to venues
- ✓ Rental Van transport from Waitangi to and entry fees for the attractions visited
- ✓ The Chatham Islands Voluntary Visitor Levy of \$25 per person

Accommodation and Flights should be purchased separately.

Accommodation – Hotel Chathams is offering accommodation at \$175 pp single and \$350 double, including breakfast.

For more accommodation options please check out www.chathamislands.co.nz

Flights – Air Chathams is the only carrier to the island. The flight schedule is:

Mon/Fri - Wellington return

Tuesday – Christchurch return

Thursday – Auckland return

Air Chathams have flights from Paraparaumu, Whakatane and Whanganui that link to their Thursday Auckland – Chathams flights.

Please note flights can be delayed due to weather. Consider booking Flexirefund options for your mainland domestic return connecting flights just in case changes need to be made.



Registration Form

To register for the Writers' Retreat please click the link below. You will need the following info: name and address, emergency contacts, special requirements for food

Please note, registering and paying the deposit does not guarantee a place on the Retreat. If numbers exceed spaces available, those registering may be placed on a waiting list. If unable to be placed full refunds will be made.

<https://forms.gle/JiGFLbLnMzCAet4E8>



Other Information

The Chatham Islands are part of New Zealand and a domestic flight. Passports and currency exchange are not needed. Island time is 45 minutes ahead of the mainland.

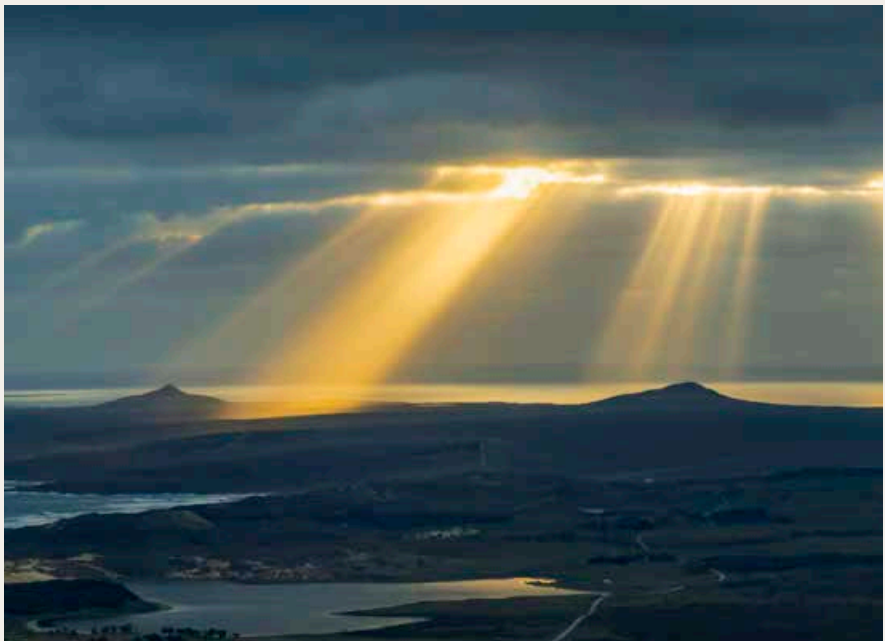
Medication – The medical services on the island are busy serving local needs and there is no chemist on island. Please bring all your medications plus extra in case of unexpected longer stays.

Dress – Tidy casual is encouraged. In fitting with the Island, this is a relaxed event.

Weather and Clothing – Like many islands, the Chathams can have four seasons in a day. Please make sure you pack rain coats, leggings and wet weather footwear.

Insurance – We recommend participants take out travel insurance.

Covid - 19 – Please watch the Government requirements. We will advise if any special considerations are needed prior to and during the event. As Covid - 19 still exists we encourage you to take all precautions including wearing of masks on the plane. While masks are not required at workshop sessions, this will still be encouraged as we are isolated.



Terms and Conditions

- ✓ When you register to participate in this amazing adventure, you will fill out your registration form. Tourism Chatham Islands will send you an invoice for a \$500 non-refundable deposit. We will then confirm with you if you have secured a place. Please note, if numbers are exceeded a waiting list may be required. Those who are unable to be given a place will receive a full refund.
- ✓ The deadline for full payment is Friday 21st July 2023.
- ✓ Tourism Chatham Islands is pleased to be able to offer a refund policy for cancellations as follows: Cancellations filled from the waiting list will receive a 90% refund of the full fee. Cancellations prior to the 1st August that are unable to be filled from the waiting list will receive a 50% refund. Unfortunately, no refunds will be able to be given for unfilled cancellation after this date although the organisers will exercise discretion in exceptional circumstances.
- ✓ If you register and find you are unable to attend, organisers will consider your registration being transferable. Please contact us as soon as possible if this arises.
- ✓ If this event is cancelled or postponed at the organisers discretion, a full refund of the fees paid will be issued. Unfortunately, this doesn't include any other costs incurred by participants.
- ✓ In relation to Covid-19:
You cannot begin or continue to travel if you have received a positive Covid-19 test in the last 7 days, so do your best to make sure you can come.
If participants contract Covid – 19 while on island and are required to isolate for the required time, any additional costs will be at the participant's expense so travel insurance is encouraged.
- ✓ Tourism Chatham Islands' maximum liability to participants and/or any third party is limited to the fee paid by you to Tourism Chatham Islands for your booking.
- ✓ Tourism Chatham Islands shall not be liable for any delay or failure to fulfil its obligations under these Terms that are a direct or indirect consequence of any Force Majeure Event* or any other event beyond Tourism Chatham Islands' control.
- ✓ Tourism Chatham Islands and the participant agree that these terms constitute the entire agreement between both parties and are governed by the laws of New Zealand.
- ✓ By submitting this registration you acknowledge that you have read the Terms and Conditions and you understand and accept them in their entirety.
- ✓ You will pack your adventure hat, your creative magic and fully submit to having a great time.

* Force Majeure Event means any act of God, war, terrorism, fire, flood or any other extreme weather conditions, loss of power, epidemics or pandemics, industrial disputes, slow-downs or other strike activities, riots or civil disturbances, acts of government, semi government or other authorities, inability to obtain any necessary license or consent and delays caused by sub-contractors, suppliers or other third parties, including telecommunication carriers, material shortages or other disruption to any component of this event.

