

MEDIA RELEASE

On the fringe with the Whanganui Literary Festival

There is a feast of goodies lined up for the Whanganui Literary Festival's Fringe on 14-15 September.

The Saturday programme on 14 September offers a full menu for the enthusiastic book lover. Successful author of *The Last Sanctuary*, Prabh Mokha, will discuss the dos and don'ts of writing fantasy fiction at the Red Lion Hotel from 10.30 – 11.30am. This talk will demystify the process of creating a fantastical world for readers of all ages and will interest emerging writers and the general public alike.

Following that, there will be lunch, also at the Red lion, for those who are interested in the 'Art of Literary Conversation' and would like to express their views and ideas on topics such as: 'If you were to write a novel, what would be the first line? What was the first book ever read? Who is an author you would like to meet?' It promises to be a lively lunch.

At 1pm the bus will pick up those who are booked on the Legends Literary Bus Tour from outside the Red Lion. It is some time since this informative and enjoyable bus tour has taken place. The number of writers who have spent time in Whanganui is 'legend'.

Robin Hyde had séances in Alma Road, Katherine Mansfield's father went to school here, Janet Frame lived in Gonville and loved the seagulls until she learned that they were screeching over the Balgownie tip. One of the first books ever written in New Zealand about New Zealand came from the Reverend Richard Taylor of Wanganui. Edward Jerningham Wakefield was a bit of a lad, and at loggerheads with the Rev. Taylor. John A. Lee loved the river with a passion, and Sylvia Ashton-Warner taught at Pipiriki where she wrote her autobiography *Myself*. Find out what was truth and what was fiction in that work.

We stop at the home of Whanganui author, Valerie Cowan, for afternoon tea. All this and more, including children's events over 14-15 September and a book fair on Sunday 15 September. More information from www.writersfest.co.nz

Bookings for Fringe events can be made at the Community Education Service (CES), 19 Taupo Quay, ph. 345 4717