

February 2025

From the Librarian

Kia ora koutou,

The Regent Book Fair is this Friday, and we will be purchasing some books for the library. I first went to this fair as a child with my parents. They were buying books for their bookshop *Scribes*, which they founded and ran for 10 years. It's wonderful that the fair is still running after all these years. It's great that it functions out of the Edgar Centre, making it accessible to everyone.

A very warm welcome to Saskia Leek, who will be covering some hours here in the library. I will be completing a master's at Otago University this year and Saskia will be covering most Wednesdays during this period.

- **Holly Fletcher**

What's Happening

Would you like to try your hand at writing a book review? Preferably, this would be a review of recent releases and roughly 300 words long. Please get in touch if this appeals to you.

Bella and I will be taking the radio show *Books Uncovered*
105.4FM

in a slightly different direction this year. We aim to interview various people about books and their reading habits. Whilst maintaining our usual themed show.

Would you like to be interviewed for our show? Please get in touch to discuss further.



Book Launch
On March 5th at 7pm
Athenaeum Theatre

Te Moana o Reo/ Ocean of Languages

This collection contains microfictions, essays and creative nonfiction work.



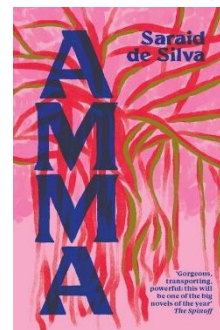
Amma
Saraid de Silva

This debut novel by playwright Saraid de Silva follows the migrant experience of three generations of woman.

The first generation is Josephina (Amma), an Indian and Sri Lankan woman living in Singapore during the 1950s. After being betrayed by

her family, she moves to Sri Lanka. She meets her husband and has two children Sithara and Suri. It is her daughter Sithara story we then follow as the family moves to Invercargill in the 1980s.

The third generation is Annie, Sithara's daughter who struggles with her identity in a predominately Pākehā city. Annie moves to London in search of an estranged family member. The descriptions of Annie's youth in NZ are poignant and at times disturbing.



The novel gently unpacks the trauma of each character, enlightening their behaviours in a convincing and realistic way. Each scene in this book has been thoughtfully crafted. Even the supporting characters feel well formed and tangible.

Because the book is set in various countries and perspectives, it succeeds in captivating its reader. There is no sense of being overwhelmed by these narrative shifts, they work well to explain the dynamics between the woman in this family. Which is at times fraught but at its core always filled with love.