



Canterbury Women's Club, Inc- CC 41122- 190 Worcester Street Christchurch 8011 New Zealand 03 366 8957

Thirty Canterbury Women

These 30 books about Canterbury women preserves and presents Canterbury history while engaging, educating, and enlightening people about Canterbury's unique contribution to the world through ideas, innovation, and culture. The Canterbury Women's Club, Inc., began in 1913 and has promoted Canterbury's artistic and cultural heritage. It provides an active, engaging centre that serves as a bridge from the past to the future. So, through captivating stories and experiences, we seek to inspire men, women, and children to dream the Canterbury dream and dare to make their mark on history.

This reading list is available to borrow through Libraries of the Christchurch City Council. The books bring our rich and diverse Canterbury history alive through an extraordinary collection of stories from throughout the province.

Margaret Stoddart, 1865-1934

[Flowers Into Landscape by King, Julie](#)

For five decades Margaret Stoddart was this country's foremost flower painter: beginning in the 1880s with precisely observed studies of native plants. By the early 1900s her painterly techniques and handling of light effects meant that in New Zealand she was well on the way to making this genre her own.

Elsie Locke

[Looking for Answers: A Life of Elsie Locke by Birchfield, Maureen](#)

A writer and activist who campaigned for birth control, women's rights, nuclear disarmament, social justice and the environment long before such causes were popular. She wrote almost 40 books, including historical novels for children and social histories of New Zealand, plus numerous articles and School Journal stories.

Sibylla Maude

[Nurse Maude: The First 100 years by Vivienne Allan](#)

The life of Sibylla Maude and the development of the Nurse Maude Association

Ngaio Marsh

[Ngaio Marsh: The Woman and Her Work](#)

Contents: Biography & reminiscence, plus examples of how her detective fiction mirrored social change.

Margaret Mahy



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[Margaret Mahy A Writer's Life : A Literary Portrait of New Zealand's Best-loved Children's Author by Tessa Duder](#)

Celebrated as a member of the Order of New Zealand (the country's highest civil honour), twice honorary Doctor of Letters and twice winner of Britain's Carnegie Medal for children's literature, Margaret was one of the world's leading authors for younger readers for four decades.

Kate Sheppard

[Kate Sheppard A Biography : the Fight for Women's Votes in New Zealand By Devaliant, Judith](#)

The most prominent member of [New Zealand's Women's Suffrage](#) and the country's most famous [suffragette](#)

Jane Deans

[Letters To My Grandchildren by Jane Deans](#)

A New Zealand founding mother and community leader. She came to [Christchurch](#) in 1853 onto her husband's farm that he had established ten years earlier. Her husband died in the following year, and Deans became a community leader.

Ettie Rout

[Unsung Heroes: Portraits of Inspiring New Zealanders by Jim Anderton](#)

Founder of a volunteer nursing group during World War 1 - the NZ Volunteer Sisterhood – whose work made her a hero in France although she remained unrecognized in this country at the time.

Helen Connon

[Easily The Best: the Life of Helen Connon by Margaret Lovell-Smith](#)

An educational pioneer from Christchurch who became the first woman in the British Empire to gain a degree with honors.

Ada Wells

[Women & Welfare Work 1893-1993 by Penny Ehrhardt](#)

Actively involved in the Women's Suffrage movement and the first woman to be elected to the Christchurch City Council

Mary Rolleston

[William and Mary Rolleston: An Informal Biography by Rosemond Rolleston](#)

Political hostess and community leader/Christchurch



Eunice Upton

[Mr & Mrs Us by Audrey Adams](#)

Life on the remote country sheep station of Canterbury during the early European settler years

Charlotte Godley

[Letters From Early New Zealand 1850-1853](#)

Prolific letter writer, describing early colonial life with wit, sensitivity, clarity and amazing detail. She fully participated in colonial social life.

Cora Wilding

[Cora, A Wilding Seed by Elizabeth Mathews](#)

New Zealand physiotherapist and artist, best remembered for her advocacy of outdoor activities and children's health camps in the 1930s

Elizabeth McCoombs

[The Political Life of Elizabeth Reid McCoombs by Christine Dickson](#)

Member of the NZ Parliament for Lyttelton 1933-35

Vivienne Allan

[Mollie McGrade Clark : "Go Home and Cook A Meal" by Vivienne Allan](#)

Canterbury Women were relatively new to local government in the 1970's. Mollie's biography highlights the changing status of women in local government as well as describing Christchurch from the time when Mollie was first elected to the Christchurch City Council and the North Canterbury Hospital Board in 1971. This biography shares the public and private face of a woman who helped shape Christchurch in the latter stages of its first 100 years. Published April, 2014.