

**FREE**

**BRITOMART  
6PM - 9PM**

**FRIDAY  
8 MAY**

# **STREET SIDE**

**TALKS. ACTIVATIONS.  
SPOKEN WORD. MUSIC.**

**EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.**

# STREETSIDE: FRIDAY 8 MAY

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, WRITERS, COMEDIANS AND ARTISTS HIT THE STREETS OF BRITOMART WITH BITE-SIZED EVENTS MADE FOR EVERYONE – READERS, WRITERS, BOTH, OR NEITHER... NO TICKET OR REGISTRATION REQUIRED – JUST TURN UP AND JOIN THE RIDE. ALL OF BRITOMART'S BARS AND RESTAURANTS ARE OPEN FOR SNACKS AND DRINKS FOR WHEN YOU NEED TO REFUEL.

## THE PROGRAMME

### WRONG READERS CLUB

6.00 - 7.45pm | Hayman Building Lobby, 13 Galway St

Do audiobooks count as reading? Is there a 'right' way to experience a story, or does it just matter if it works for us? Join **The D\*List**, a space dedicated to disability culture and community in Aotearoa, for a night where we all read 'wrong'. **Allyson Hamblett** and **Em Berry** will spin fantastic stories, then you're invited to dive into the multi-format reading corner. Let's be wrong together.

### TĀMAKI NOIR

6.00 - 8.00pm | Loading Dock, 59 Tyler St

Your chance to delve into the underbelly of Auckland, a city of glamorous facades, derelict buildings and unforgettable characters. Curated and hosted by **Emma Gleason**, this conceptual event sees writers **Laura Vincent** (Ngāti Māhanga, Ngāpuhi), **Samuel Te Kani** (Ngāpuhi), **Henry Oliver**, **Six** and **Geneva Alexander Masters** (Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa) invited to play with the idea of Tāmaki Noir across an evening of live readings in Britomart's best loading dock.

### DROP THE BALL, DROP THE TRUTH

6.15 - 7.30pm | Takutai Square

One table, two paddles and a whole basket of balls – each containing a question our writers *really* don't want to answer. Watch tense rallies unfold as writers (literally) bat away the Qs at our literary ping-pong table. Whoever loses the shot spills their truth. No do-overs. MCed by **Te Radar**.

### AUCKLAND, IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

6.00 - 7.45pm | Daily Bread

Tāmaki Makaurau is a city in flux, its people and places in a constant state of change. **Damien Levi** (Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi), curator of *Tāmaki Makaurau 2025: Essays on Life in Auckland*, hosts four mini-interviews with contributors, exploring their connections to the city and what it means to call it home.

### W IS FOR WAHINE TOA

6.30 - 7.30pm | Kiri Nathan

Forget everything you know about alphabet books! Join **Qiane Matata-Sipu** (Te Waiohau; Waikato; Ngāpuhi; Ngāti Pikiao; Cook Islands) for an empowering journey through identity, strength and storytelling as she reads her bilingual book for all ages, *W is for Wahine Toa*, then shares the lived experiences and kaupapa that inspired its creation. Get ready to reconnect with your power!

### NIGHT MAYORS PRESENT: SEALED SECTION

8.00 - 9.00pm | Daily Bread

The Night Mayors put Auckland icons in the hot seat to talk about why they're still here. In this edition, behind-the-scenes dreamers **Rosabel Tan**, **Damien Levi** (Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi) and **Kaan Hiini** (Te Arawa, Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa) tear open the sealed section, dish the dirt on what they find hot and not in local writing, and share secrets to spice up your Tāmaki life.

### TOIKUPU HEI KAPO WHETŪ / POETRY TO CATCH THE STARS

6.10 - 8.20pm | Rocketman

**Matariki Bennett** (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Hinerangi) brings together the city's top spoken word artists and turns Rocketman into a dynamic beat-poetry lounge for the evening. Each performer's work has taken them to new heights, and each is poised to perform three outstanding pieces. MCed by **Eric Soakai**, with DJ **Jack Glacier** providing the beats between sets.

### GREAT ESCAPES

6.00 - 7.45pm | Karen Walker

Inspired by Karen Walker's iconic Runaway Girl, four artists take to the stage for an engrossing night of storytelling, confessing what they're running from, and what refuses to stop chasing them. MCed by **Johanna Cosgrove**.

### BLACK INK: STAR MAPS & STORYLINES

6.00 - 7.15pm | Valet Parking

Beneath the lights of Britomart, Black Creatives Aotearoa presents an evening of astro-informed work, where Afrofuturism and astrology comes together in a bold new form of speculative writing. Hosted by MC **Bareeka Vrede**.

### CROSSING THE LINE – AND NEVER COMING BACK

7.00 - 8.45pm | Bar Ziti

Every sports field has boundaries. Cross them and the game changes. But what about in life? Writers and comedians line up to share stories of the times they crossed the line and what happened next ...

### LAMPLIGHT BOOKSTORE POP-UP

6.00 - 9.00pm | Daily Bread

Loved one of tonight's performances or panels? Support the artists by buying books at the Lamplight Books pop-up at Daily Bread.



12 – 17 May 2026.

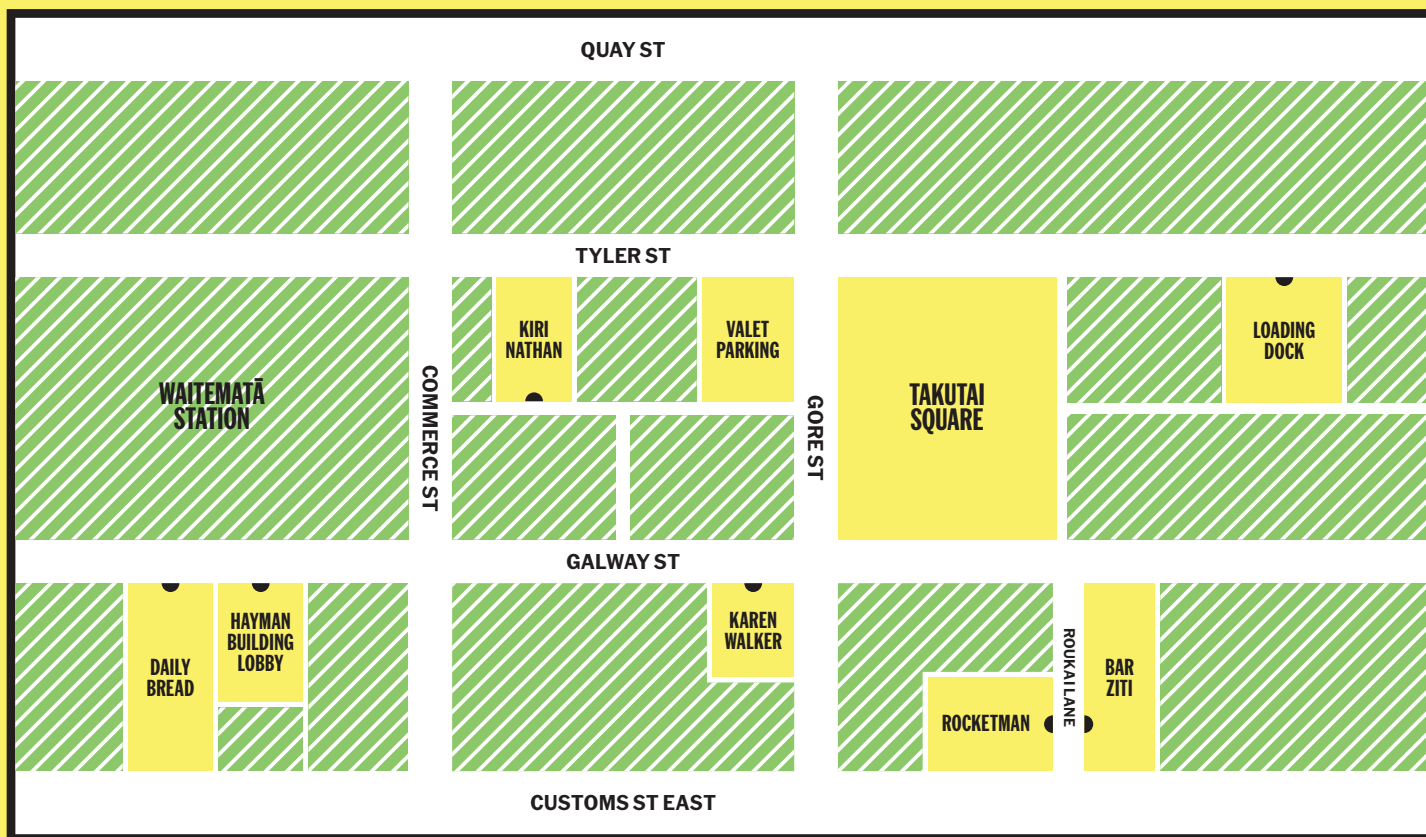
**AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL**  
Waituhi o Tāmaki

Proudly Sponsored By:

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**AUCKLAND  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL  
WAITUHI  
O TĀMAKI**

# WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND STREETSIDE



## WRONG READERS CLUB

Hayman Building Lobby, 13 Galway St

6:00 - 6:15pm: Allyson Hamblett

6:30 - 6:45pm: Em Berry

7:00 - 7:15pm: Allyson Hamblett

7:30 - 7:45pm: Em Berry

## TĀMAKI NOIR

Loading Dock, 59 Tyler St

6.00 - 6.15pm: Geneva Alexander Masters

6.15 - 6.30pm: Samuel Te Kani

6.45 - 7.00pm: Henry Oliver

7.15 - 7.30pm: Six

7.45 - 8.00pm: Laura Vincent

## GREAT ESCAPES

Karen Walker

6.00 - 6.15pm: Johanna Cosgrove

6.30 - 6.45pm: Josie Shapiro

7.00 - 7.15pm: Liv Parker

7.30 - 7.45pm: Karen Walker

## AUCKLAND, IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

Daily Bread

6.00 - 6.15pm: Abigail Dell'Avo

6.30 - 6.45pm: Jeremy Hansen

7.00 - 7.15pm: Abel Mercer

7.30 - 7.45pm: Emmy Rākete

## W IS FOR WAHINE TOA

Kiri Nathan

6:30 - 6:45pm: Session #1

7:15 - 7:30pm: Session #2

## NIGHT MAYORS PRESENT: SEALED SECTION

8.00 - 9.00pm | Daily Bread

## TOIKUPU HEI KAPO WHETŪ / POETRY TO CATCH THE STARS

Rocketman

6.10 - 6.20pm: Eric Soakai

6.20 - 6.30pm: Piremina Ngapera

6.30 - 6.40pm: Koromiko Jacob-Williams

6.40 - 6.50pm: Sheldon Rua

6.50 - 7.00pm: Nathan Su'a

7.00 - 7.30pm: DRINKS BREAK

7.30 - 7.40pm: Phillip Toriente

7.40 - 7.50pm: Koko Alaisa

7.50 - 8.00pm: Arihia Hall

8:00 - 8:10pm: Stellar Pritchard

8.10 - 8.20pm: Matariki Bennett

## DROP THE BALL, DROP THE TRUTH

Takutai Square

6.15 - 6.30pm: Round #1

6.45 - 7.00pm: Round #2

7.15 - 7.30pm: Round #3

## BLACK INK: STAR MAPS & STORYLINES

Valet Parking

6.00 - 6.15pm: Lily Parker

6.30-6.45pm: Tusekah

7.00-7.15pm: Shalane Williams

## CROSSING THE LINE - AND NEVER COMING BACK

Bar Ziti

7.00 - 7.15pm: Morgana O'Reilly

7.30 - 7.45pm: Angella Dravid

8.00 - 8.15pm: Ruth Spencer

8.30 - 8.45pm: Samuel Te Kani

## LAMPLIGHT BOOKSTORE POP-UP

6.00 - 9.00pm | Daily Bread