

Read all about it all over town

Marisa King

Featherston's booksellers and Featherston Booktown joined forces to take the books to the people in January, with a series of free summer pop-up reading rooms.

Held outdoors, the four events offered residents and their whānau the chance to dip into a selection of the booksellers' favourite summer reading, or to bring along a book of their choice to enjoy.

The first pop-up reading room was held on 13 January under the oak tree in front of the Fell Locomotive Museum, with the second on 20 January at the Featherston Playground. Two more followed on 22 and 29 January.

Joanna Ludbrook of The Chicken and Frog Bookstore said the idea evolved from a meeting between Featherston's booksellers and the Booktown board of trustees.

"It was really about taking the books to the people, rather than them having to go to a bookshop or public library."

Every bookseller was involved, lending items such as bean bags, chairs and, of course, books for each event.

The first pop-up room was very successful, with one attendee even delaying her work lunch break to make the 2pm event.

"It was quite overcast, but I took along some crocheted rugs made by Joy Cowley that people could wrap themselves up in," said Joanna. "It was almost a highlight that it was so cold!" The pop-up reading rooms will continue if there is demand.

Meanwhile, back at Booktown headquarters, operations manager Mary Biggs was putting the finishing touches to this



year's programme for the Booktown Festival from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 May. About 40 different events are likely to be on offer this year.

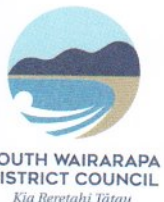
A popular feature of the Festival is the free \$15 book vouchers provided to every student at four local primary schools (Featherston, South Featherston, St Teresa's and Kahutara) along with Year 9 and 10 students at Kuranui College. Students can use the vouchers to buy books from more than 25 booksellers at the Festival.

Featherston locals can support the voucher scheme by becoming a Friend of Booktown, which also entitles you to preferential and advance bookings for the Festival, along with other benefits. For more information, go to www.booktown.org.nz/friendsofbooktown.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES GRANTS NOW OPEN



Applications are now open for the Creative Communities Scheme which supports and encourages local communities to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in arts activities within the South Wairarapa.



South Wairarapa

creative
COMMUNITIES nz

Applications close on **Monday 28 February 2022**. Application forms and guidance are available from the SWDC libraries, Council reception in Martinborough and on the SWDC website at www.swdc.govt.nz/grants