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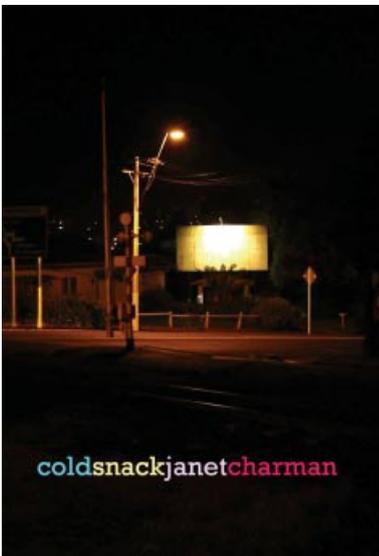
Janet Charman



Poet Janet Charman was born in Auckland, lived in the Hutt Valley till the age of eight and spent her teenage years in New Plymouth. She now lives in West Auckland with her partner and teenaged children.

Janet is a productive, consistent poet with a distinctive vision and style, a keen sense of gender politics and a flair for the telling detail and the unexpected connection. Her poems always emerge out of ordinary daily experience, the life with which her readers are only too familiar. By illuminating that world she broadens our perceptions and understandings without romance or melodrama.

Janet has an MA in English from The University of Auckland and was the Literary Fellow (Writer in Residence) there in 1997. Early in her career she qualified as a nurse and she has also been, among other things, a radio copywriter, a telephone operator for a TV channel and a tutor at The University of Auckland. After a mid-life career switch, she retrained as a secondary school teacher and taught for seven years until the start of 2008 when she left teaching to spend time on her writing. Her years as a teacher and her time as a telephone operator for a TV channel are deftly and revealingly covered in her latest collection, *cold snack* (Auckland University Press (AUP)).



Janet has published poems widely in Australian and New Zealand journals and her poems appear regularly in anthologies, most recently in the book-and-CD set *Contemporary New Zealand* (AUP, 2007) and *Best New Zealand Poems Online 2007*. Her first collection of poems *Drawing Together*, written with Marina Bachmann and Sue Fitchett, was published by Spiral in 1985. She has since published five critically acclaimed collections of poems with AUP: *red letter* (1992), *end of the dry* (1995), *Rapunzel Rapunzel* (1999) – much of which she wrote during her Literary Fellowship – *Snowing Down South* (2002) and *Cold Snack* (2007), a finalist in the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

More information about Janet is available online at The New Zealand Electronic Poetry Centre – <http://www.nzepec.auckland.ac.nz/authors/charman/> – and on the New Zealand Book Council's Writers Pages – <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/nzbookcouncil/writers/charmanjanet.htm>.