

Whitcoulls

TOP 100 books



The 2012 - 2013 List

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CATEGORY KEY

Books on this list are colour coded to help identify the genre to which they belong. This will make it easier to locate the particular titles in which you're interested. We hope you enjoy these books as much as thousands of other New Zealanders.

-  FICTION
-  SCI-FI/FANTASY
-  KIDS
-  NON FICTION
-  BIOGRAPHY
-  COOKING
-  CLASSIC
-  SPIRITUAL

1 THE MILLENNIUM TRILOGY

Stieg Larsson

The popularity of this series is undiminished - and deservedly so. These are captivating books, voted by our readers yet again as the pick of the bunch!

2 THE HUNGER GAMES SERIES

Suzanne Collins

A series which has captured the imagination of young and older readers alike. Set in a dystopian future with a brave young heroine.

3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS

J R R Tolkien

An epic that stands the test of time and has become very dear to the hearts of New Zealanders.

4 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Jane Austen

Clearly this great English classic holds enduring appeal for new generations of readers.

5 THE FIFTY SHADES TRILOGY

E. L James

This series dares to be different - and has become an international blockbuster in the process.

6 HARRY POTTER

J K Rowling

Even after the end of the series, votes for JK Rowling's magnificent creation continue to pour in.

7 CROSS STITCH

Diana Gabaldon

The first book in *The Outlander* series - an historical novel which follows Kate from her honeymoon in 1945, back in time to 1743.

8 SONG OF ICE & FIRE SERIES

George R R Martin

Thousands of readers have discovered this epic series in the last year - it is thrilling and addictive.

9 THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH

Ken Follett

This epic, wonderful story about the building of cathedrals in the 12th Century has been on our List since the beginning.

10 THE HOBBIT

J R R Tolkien

Tolkien's classic has enduring appeal - and nowhere more so than here in New Zealand.

11 MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Jodi Picoult

A compelling moral dilemma - the trademark of our most popular author's books - is at the heart of this page turner.

12 THE BOOK THIEF

Markus Zusak

A sophisticated work that has found favour with both teens and adults. Death himself narrates this World War 2 story about Liesel.

13 THE BRONZE HORSEMAN

Paullina Simons

First in a trilogy set against the backdrop of Leningrad during World War 2, this is top of many readers' lists.

14 TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Harper Lee

A timeless classic about racial tension, beloved by generations of readers.

15 THE HELP

Kathryn Stockett

Set in Mississippi in the 1960's this tells the riveting story of African American maids and the white families they care for.

16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

Audrey Niffenegger

A touching love story with a dash of science fiction - it works on a number of levels.

17 THE POWER OF ONE

Bryce Courtenay

Set in Africa in the 1930's and 40's, this was Bryce Courtenay's first - and some say, best - book.

18 THE DA VINCI CODE

Dan Brown

One of the true publishing phenomena in recent times - and the secrets in this book are as alive and relevant as ever.

19 THE TWILIGHT SERIES

Stephenie Meyer

The Twilight series took the world by storm, and the fascination that it holds for our readers is undiminished.

20 THE EARTH'S CHILDREN SERIES

Jean M Auel

The magnificent *Earth's Children* series - 6 books of pure epic magic.

21 THE TEA ROSE

Jennifer Donnelly

This has it all - romance, love, loss, heartbreak, fear, conspiracy, rebellion, and happiness. *The Winter Rose* is #93 on this List.

22 THE KITE RUNNER

Khaled Hosseini

A terrific novel about friendship in difficult circumstances - set against the challenging political turmoil of Afghanistan.

23 THE LOVELY BONES

Alice Sebold

A haunting novel about what happens to a family when their 14 year old daughter is murdered. Unforgettable.

24 SHANTARAM

Gregory David Roberts

A convicted Australian bank robber and heroin addict escapes from prison and flees to India. Fiction, with more than a dose of real life.

25 THE MAGICIAN

Raymond E Feist

Set in the world of Midkemia this is the first book in *The Riftwar* series. Great escapism.

26 UNBROKEN

Laura Hillenbrand

This brilliant book tells the story of Louis Zamperini, a US track and field star who fought in the Pacific and became a Prisoner of War.

27 JANE EYRE

Charlotte Bronte

This novel remains a favourite, especially amongst younger readers who continue to be entranced by the young Jane and her mysterious Mr Rochester.

28 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

Philippa Gregory

Historical fiction at its very best, with treachery and politics in the Court of King Henry VIII.

29 WUTHERING HEIGHTS

Emily Bronte

Heathcliff and Catherine can neither live with nor without one another. One of the greatest love stories ever told.

30 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

Arthur Golden

A truly wonderful story that uncovers the hidden world of the Geisha - a world of eroticism and enchantment.

31 ME BEFORE YOU

Jojo Moyes

Falling in love can be the most beautiful thing in the world, but it can also be the most painful. This is wonderful.

32 THE NOTEBOOK

Nicholas Sparks

In 1932, two North Carolina teenagers from opposite sides of the tracks fall in love. After spending one idyllic summer together, Noah Calhoun and Allie Nelson do not meet again for 14 years.

33 THE DISCWORLD SERIES

Terry Pratchett

Discworld is a comic fantasy series - set on the Discworld, a flat world balanced on the backs of 4 elephants, which in turn stands on the back of a giant turtle.....

34 THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY

Mary Anne Shaffer & Annie Barrows

Set on both Guernsey Island and in London, this charming book, set shortly after the end of World War 2, is an absolute gem.

35 THE GREAT GATSBY

Scott F Fitzgerald

Young, handsome and rich, Jay Gatsby appears to have it all - yet he yearns for the one thing that will always be out of reach.

36 GONE WITH THE WIND

Margaret Mitchell

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the American Civil War, Margaret Mitchell's magnificent historical epic is an unforgettable tale of love and loss.

37 THE ALCHEMIST

Paulo Coelho

A parable that has touched millions of lives with its thoughtful message.

38 ANGELS & DEMONS

Dan Brown

The mystery thriller which introduced Robert Langdon to the world – and was the precursor to *The Da Vinci Code*.

39 ONE DAY

David Nicholls

A huge hit internationally, this is the story of Dex and Em told on the same day, over 20 years. Beloved by our readers.

40 LIFE

Keith Richards

Keith Richards's funny, honest and unflinching account of his own life is a modern classic.

41 INTO THE WILDERNESS

Sara Donati

Weaving a tapestry of fact and fiction, this epic first novel in *The Wilderness* series sweeps us into another time and place.

42 EDMONDS COOKERY BOOK

Edmonds

A New Zealand icon that just goes on giving – as beloved in Kiwi households today as it was when first published.

43 EAT, PRAY, LOVE

Elizabeth Gilbert

Elizabeth Gilbert's true journey in search of three things she had been missing in her life : pleasure, devotion, and balance.

44 THE POISONWOOD BIBLE

Barbara Kingsolver

The year is 1959, in a remote village in the Belgian Congo. Nathan, a Baptist preacher, has brought his family to spread The Word. A wonderful book.

45 A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

Khaled Hosseini

This story covers three decades of anti Soviet Jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny through the lives of two women.

46 ROOM

Emma Donoghue

The story of Jack, a typical boy who likes to watch TV, read books and play with his Ma. But Jack is different – he's lived his whole life in a single room.

47 LIFE OF PI

Yann Martel

The oceanic wanderings of a lost boy, the young and eager Piscine Patel of the title (Pi).

48 LONE WOLF

Jodi Picoult

A terrific story about family, love, and letting go from New Zealanders' favourite author, as voted for by our readers.

49 THE PASSAGE

Justin Cronin

Epic, thought provoking and filled with action, bloodshed, love and the ties of family. A novel that crosses genres.

50 BIRDSONG

Sebastian Faulks

This intensely romantic yet stunningly realistic novel spans three generations and the unimaginable gulf between the First World War and the present.

51 A SHORT HISTORY OF NEARLY EVERYTHING

Bill Bryson

The ultimate book for a curious mind! This book covers the people and the discoveries which have shaped our understanding of the Universe.

52 BELLE

Lesley Pearce

London, 1910, and 15 year old Belle has lived in Seven Dials all her life with no understanding of what happens in the rooms upstairs.

53 WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

Lionel Shriver

A smart and stylish story that is also harrowing, intense and thought provoking. It's also a challenge to every accepted parenting manual.

54 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

Douglas Adams

One Thursday lunchtime, the Earth gets unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. A true modern classic.

55 RIVER GOD

Wilbur Smith

Ancient Egypt is the land of the Pharaohs, a kingdom built on gold as well as a legend shattered by greed. Wilbur Smith at his best.

56 THE KILLING FLOOR

Lee Child

This is where it all started with Jack Reacher. Literally thousands of readers have loved his books and keep coming back for more.

57 CATCH 22

Joseph Heller

This satirical, anti-war novel is an hilarious send up of bureaucracy, still as relevant today as when first published.

58 A FINE BALANCE

Rohinton Mistry

A truly wonderful story set in Mumbai between 1975 and 1984 – an era that saw severe crackdowns on civil liberties.

59 OPEN

Andre Agassi

This is an outstanding book. For lovers of tennis, and equally for those compelled by a fascinating life. One of our favourites.

60 THE FORRESTS

Emily Perkins

Dorothy Forrest is one unremarkable, but splendid character who has grabbed hold of the hearts of readers and reviewers alike.

61 ANGELA'S ASHES

Frank McCourt

Frank McCourt's poverty stricken childhood in Ireland comes to life in a memoir that is as comic as it is tragic.

62 MAO'S LAST DANCER

Li Cunxin

The true story of a poor Chinese peasant boy, who spent seven gruelling years at the Peking Ballet Academy. Performing in the US led to his dramatic defection.

63 THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER

Kim Edwards

What happens when a choice is made to protect the ones you love – but it affects their lives, and can haunt you for decades?

64 DUNE

Frank Herbert

This tells the sweeping tale of a desert planet called Arrakis, the focus of an intricate power struggle in a byzantine interstellar empire. It's one of the most famous science fiction novels ever written.

65 JESSICA

Bryce Courtenay

The story of a young woman growing up in the harsh environment of the Australian outback in the 1940's. It's an epic story about her search for justice against seemingly impossible odds.

66 1984

George Orwell

The original futuristic look at what our lives would become – it was prescient. A true modern classic.

67 THE STAND

Stephen King

This is an apocalyptic vision of a world blasted by plague and embroiled in an elemental struggle between good and evil.

68 THE SWORD OF SHANNARA TRILOGY

Terry Brooks

This interweaves two major plots into a fictional world called The Four Lands, and is the first in a highly successful fantasy trilogy.

69 THE AFFAIR

Lee Child

This recent book predates Lee Child's first thriller, *The Killing Floor*. Everything starts somewhere, and for elite military cop Jack Reacher, that somewhere was Carter Crossing, Mississippi, back in 1997.

70 THE BIBLE

The Bible has appeared on every single Top 100 List since we started taking votes. It continues to inspire and guide, and is as relevant now as it ever was.

71 TULLY

Paullina Simons

Tully is a tough young woman from the wrong side of the tracks who forms an enduring bond with two school friends. But their lives are changed forever by two young men, and a tragedy engulfs them all. Her first book and, many believe, her best.

72 THE SECRET

Rhonda Byrne

The secret of obtaining anything you desire is now revealed by prominent physicists, authors and philosophers as being based on the universal Law of Attraction. Anyone can access its power to bring themselves health, wealth and happiness

73 THE GIRL IN TIMES SQUARE

Paullina Simons

From one of our most popular authors comes this magnificent novel. It's the odyssey of two young women, Lily and Amy, roommates and friends on the verge of the rest of their lives.

74 THE PACT

Jodi Picoult

Popular high school swimming star Chris Harte and talented artist Em Gold bonded as infants; their parents have been best friends for 18 years. When they fall in love, everyone is ecstatic – except for Em.

75 61 HOURS

Lee Child

A bus skids and crashes in a gathering storm. On the back seat, Jack Reacher, hitching a ride to nowhere. A life without baggage has many advantages – and disadvantages too, like facing the Arctic cold without a coat.

76 APRIL FOOLS DAY

Bryce Courtenay

Bryce Courtenay's son Damon died on April Fool's Day. In this tribute to his son he writes of suffering, struggle, compassion, and about understanding: how when we confront our worst, we can become our best.

77 I KNOW THIS MUCH IS TRUE

Wally Lamb

This is an epic story of identical twins: a paranoid schizophrenic and his brother whose life is dominated by his resentment of and love for his damaged twin. He has beaten the biochemical odds to remain sane – but at what cost?

78 KANE & ABEL

Jeffrey Archer

Many readers think this is Archer's best book – about two men, born on the same day in different parts of the world who, when their paths eventually cross are thrown into a world of double dealings, backstabbing and intrigue.

79 CHOCOLAT

Joanne Harris

The battle lines between Church and chocolate are drawn in this wonderful story about a bewitching confectioner who settles in a sleepy French village and arouses the appetites of the pleasure starved parishioners.

80 THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY

Alexander McCall Smith

Precious Ramotswa inherits her father's cattle herd and sells it to start a new life. She opens the first private detective agency run by a woman in Botswana, and then sits back and waits for clients. Gentle, charming, funny and the first in a very welcome series.

81 HOUSE RULES

Jodi Picoult

Jacob Hunt is a teenager with Aspergers – wanting to be like everyone else but not knowing how. When his tutor is found dead, all the hallmark behaviours of Aspergers start to look a lot like guilt to the police. And Jacob's mother must ask herself the hardest question in the world: is her child capable of murder?

82 MISTER PIP

Lloyd Jones

With references to *Great Expectations*, this is an innovative story about what happens when soldiers invade a tropical island - by one of our finest writers.

83 NINETEEN MINUTES

Jodi Picoult

Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens – until a student enters the local high school with an arsenal of guns and starts shooting, changing the lives of everyone both inside and out.

84 CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

Louis De Bernieres

Captain Corelli's Mandolin is set in the early days of WW2, before Benito Mussolini invaded Greece. It's about love, politics, history and war on the island of Cephalonia.

85 FALL OF GIANTS

Ken Follet

A huge, wonderful historical novel which follows 5 families through World War 1, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage.

86 PERSUASION

Jane Austen

Set in the fashionable societies of Lyme Regis and Bath, Jane Austen's last completed novel is a brilliant satire of vanity and pretension - but, above all, it is a love story tinged with the heartache of missed opportunities.

87 WILD SWANS

Jung Chang

The true story of the lives of 3 generations of women in one Chinese family, from 1909 to 1991. An extraordinary book.

88 ATONEMENT

Ian McEwan

By the end of one long hot summer's day, the lives of three young people will have changed forever – one of whom will commit a crime, for which she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone. Magnificent.

89 THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

J D Salinger

Wry observations from a teenager just expelled from school, this is still edgy, insightful and essential reading, despite having been written in 1951.

90 THE LUCKY ONE

Nicholas Sparks

The story of a US Marine, Logan Thibault, who finds a photograph of a smiling young woman in Iraq. During his three tours of duty, he carries it with him as a good luck charm and on his return, goes looking for the woman in the photo to thank her.

91 THE POTATO FACTORY

Bryce Courtenay

The first in a trilogy, this is the story of a harsh journey from 19th Century London, to the convict settlement of Van Diemen's Land, and the family ambitions and enmities which bring the protagonists to the edge of disaster.

92 SCAR TISSUE

Anthony Kiedis

The rock and roller's life of success and excess is here transcended by the story itself - a truly memorable insight into a life like no other. If you enjoy great biography, this is one you shouldn't miss.

93 THE WINTER ROSE

Jennifer Donnelly

Set in London and Africa in the early days of the Twentieth Century, this book continues the story started in *The Tea Rose*, # 21 on this List.

94 CALL THE MIDWIFE

Jennifer Worth

A true story of life in London's East End in the 1950's – a world which has now changed beyond recognition. It was made into a much loved TV series.

95 THE SNOWMAN

Jo Nesbo

A Harry Hole thriller from the master of the Scandinavian Crime genre. Great if you love Stieg Larsson – but has also been compared to *The Silence of the Lambs*.

96 THE PROMISE

Lesley Pearce

The riveting sequel to *Belle*, #51 on this List.

97 WORLD WITHOUT END

Ken Follett

The sequel to *The Pillars Of The Earth*. It is now some 200 years later and the town of Kingsbridge is still dominated by its magnificent cathedral. But times have changed - war and plague have dramatically affected the infrastructure of the Middle Ages.

98 ONE FOR THE MONEY

Janet Evanovich

The first title in the wonderful, feisty, witty, and much adored Stephanie Plum series.

99 THE NIGHT CIRCUS

Erin Morgenstern

Mystery, magic and romance in a book which captivated both the international market, and readers of our List.

100 IT

Stephen King

It is about a group of adults who were once troubled children in the late '50s – 'the losers' - one of them a bestselling horror writer much like Stephen King. This is about digging deep into childhood memories, to regain the talent for magic which was once there.



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events.



The Whitcoulls Top 100 has become an institution over the last 16 years, and once again we're proud to bring you an updated version, highlighting the books which New Zealanders most love to read.

These books have been voted for by New Zealand readers. Some are old favourites, timeless and still much loved – and others are relatively recent titles which have been picked up with enthusiasm and recognised as delivering that extra special quality which lifts them apart from the rest of the pack.

There are literally hundreds of thousands of new books published every year. For those of us who love to read, and want some guarantee that we will love the books we select, The Whitcoulls Top 100 can help to narrow down the choices, reflecting the enthusiasm of thousands of New Zealanders.

Many readers have worked their way right through The Top 100, taking these recommendations as their guide, and have not been disappointed. Our staff will be pleased to help you if you'd like to know more about any of the books.

Happy reading, from everyone at Whitcoulls.

Whitcoulls

www.whitcoulls.co.nz