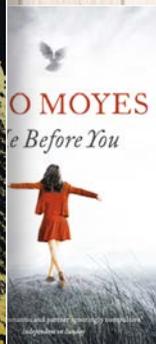
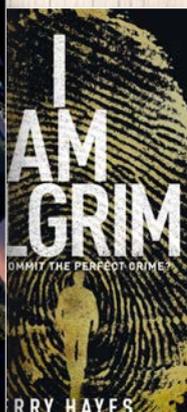
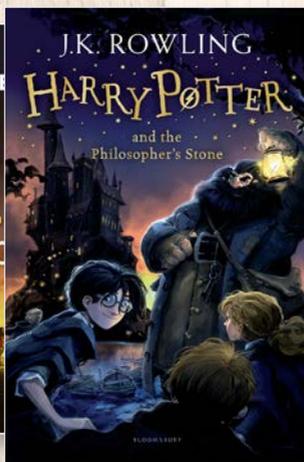
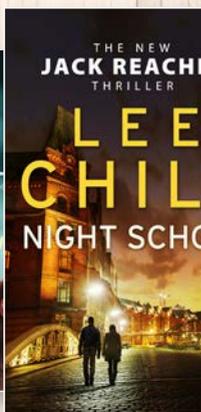


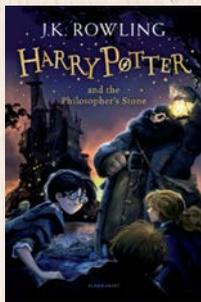
Whitcoulls  
**Top  
100**  
books

**The 2017 - 2018 List**  
As voted by New Zealanders!



**Whitcoulls**  
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# Whitcoulls Top 100

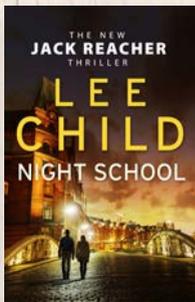


## 1 HARRY POTTER SERIES

*J.K. Rowling*

FICTION

In the seven books which chronicle the life of the young wizard Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling created a world which continues to captivate readers of all ages. Harry and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and have become a part of modern folklore. Votes for this magnificent creation continue to pour in, and ensure that these books will be read for generations to come.

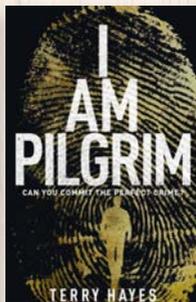


## 2 NIGHT SCHOOL

*Lee Child*

THRILLER

This is a prequel to the earlier Jack Reacher novels. It's 1996, he's in the military police, and he's partnered with the CIA and FBI.



## 3 I AM PILGRIM

*Terry Hayes*

THRILLER

An astonishingly good thriller which has electrified everyone who's read it. We love this book as much as our readers do!

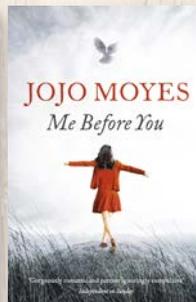


## 4 SMALL GREAT THINGS

*Jodi Picoult*

FICTION

This timely story about race relations is simply Jodi's best book for 12 years! Highly recommended by all the Whitcoulls Team.



## 5 ME BEFORE YOU

*Jojo Moyes*

FICTION

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

## 6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS

*J. R. R. Tolkien*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

New Zealand embraced this series and made it its own – the classic epic which has endured through generations and still stands the test of time.

## 7 THE OUTLANDER SERIES

*Diana Gabaldon*

FICTION

Big, fat, wonderful historical fiction – this series has thousands of obsessed fans here! Per capita, New Zealand is her biggest fan base.

## 8 A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE SERIES

*George R. R. Martin*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

Thousands of new readers have discovered these books, whose popularity is undiminished – even as everyone waits for number six in the series!

## 9 LILAC GIRLS

*Martha Hall Kelly*

FICTION

During WW2, the lives of a wealthy American socialite, two Polish sisters and a young German woman doctor connect in the most unexpected of ways. This is wonderful.

## 10 BIG LITTLE LIES

*Liane Moriarty*

FICTION

Set around the lives of three women, connected because their kids attend the same school, it soon becomes clear that at the school Trivia Quiz night, after a lot of parents behaved extremely badly, somebody died.

## 11 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

*Jane Austen*

CLASSIC

Her popularity goes on and on – this classic is consistently voted to a high position on the List.

## 12 ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

*Anthony Doerr*

FICTION

An utterly brilliant, captivating WW2 story which transcends all the others. We don't know anyone who has read this who hasn't absolutely loved it. Definitely a must-read.

## 13 THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

*Paula Hawkins*

FICTION

Rachel's life is a mess, and she's envious of the perfect lives she sees around her – but when she seems something unusual from the window of her train, a series of events spiral out of her control.

## 14 THE BOOK THIEF

*Markus Zusak*

FICTION

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

**15** 1984

*George Orwell*

CLASSIC

The original futuristic look at what our lives would become – George Orwell was way ahead of his time, and this remarkable vision of the future becomes ever more relevant with each passing year.

**16** TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

*Harper Lee*

FICTION

A timeless classic about racial tension, beloved by generations of readers – and now the book she wrote first, *Go Set a Watchman* is also available!

**17** THE HELP

*Kathryn Stockett*

FICTION

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

**18** THE DA VINCI CODE

*Dan Brown*

THRILLER

The second Robert Langdon novel, but the one which made Dan Brown a household name with its gorgeous Parisian background, and brilliant symbology.

**19** THE BRONZE HORSEMAN

*Paullina Simons*

FICTION

Paullina Simons is one of our customers' all time favourite authors, and this first book in a trilogy set against the backdrop of Leningrad during World War 2, is still a highlight for many of our readers. Two others in the series – *The Bridge to Holy Cross* and *The Summer Garden* – are every bit as good.

**20** THE KITE RUNNER

*Khaled Hosseini*

FICTION

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

**21** THE BIBLE

SPIRITUAL

*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.

**22** THE MILLENNIUM SERIES

*Stieg Larsson & David Lagercrantz*

THRILLER

These are clever, thrilling, utterly captivating mysteries. The series has continued after Stieg Larsson's death, with David Lagercrantz taking up the mantle and holding true to the original vision. There are more titles promised in the future.

**23** ORPHAN X

*Gregg Hurwitz*

THRILLER

We think the hero Evan Smoak is the new Jack Reacher. This is an outrageously good thriller, and is the first in a series, with the third book due in 2018.

**24** THE HANDMAID'S TALE

*Margaret Atwood*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

The television series has brought this to a whole new audience – at a time when the themes are perhaps more relevant than ever.

**25** THE HOBBIT

*J. R. R. Tolkien*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

Tolkien's classic has enduring appeal, and is particularly loved here in New Zealand.

**26** INTO THE WATER

*Paula Hawkins*

FICTION

The follow up book from the author of *The Girl on the Train*. Set in a small English village with a cast of fascinating – and possibly murderous – characters, this is about a number of mysterious drownings in the river – with a good surprise at the end!

**27** THE POWER OF ONE

*Bryce Courtenay*

FICTION

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

**28** THE TEA ROSE SERIES

*Jennifer Donnelly*

FICTION

This has it all – romance, love, loss, heartbreak, fear, conspiracy, rebellion, and happiness. It is a much loved trilogy.

**29** AMERICAN GODS

*Neil Gaiman*

FICTION

Shadow is an ex prisoner, who takes a job with a mysterious conman. This amazing novel touches on many things, including the modern obsession with media, celebrity, drugs and power.

**30** THE LUMINARIES

*Eleanor Catton*

FICTION

The New Zealand Man Booker winning historical novel set on the West Coast, which has amazed readers around the world.

**31** GONE GIRL

*Gillian Flynn*

FICTION

An apparently perfect marriage, where all is most definitely not as it seems. One of the biggest books of the last few years.

**32** THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH

*Ken Follett*

FICTION

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

**33** MY SISTER'S KEEPER

*Jodi Picoult*

FICTION

A compelling moral dilemma – the trademark of our most popular author's books – is at the heart of this pageturner.

## 34 KILL THE FATHER

*Sandrone Dazieri*

THRILLER

A mystery thriller on a higher level than most – about a murder, and a child abduction outside Rome which seems to bear the hallmarks of a similar event years ago. It's brilliant. Fans of *I Am Pilgrim* will love it.

## 35 THE ALCHEMIST

*Paulo Coelho*

SPIRITUAL

A parable which has touched millions of lives with its thoughtful message about a young Andalusian shepherd on his journey to Egypt, after having a recurring dream of finding treasure there.

## 36 THE WHISTLER

*John Grisham*

FICTION

The most corrupt judge in America is finally exposed when a whistleblower alerts the authorities. John Grisham writes brilliant legal thrillers, and he never disappoints.

## 37 WOMEN'S WELLNESS WISDOM

*Dr Libby Weaver*

WELLBEING 🧘

The ultimate gift for any woman. Dr Libby knows the issues women face, and she knows what to do about them. This is like a health spa in a book!

## 38 IT

*Stephen King*

FICTION

This deals with themes which are Stephen King staples: the power of memory, childhood trauma, and the ugliness lurking behind a façade of traditional small-town values.

## 39 IN ORDER TO LIVE

*Yeonmi Park*

BIOGRAPHY

The deeply moving true story of one girl's escape from North Korea (it's easy to see why) and what happened next. This is a rare insight into the secret kingdom, and the lengths some people are driven to, to escape.

## 40 THE CLOUD LEOPARD'S DAUGHTER

*Deborah Challinor*

FICTION 🐾

This is set in the Otago goldfields, where love, lust, greed, opium and deception are centre stage. It's the final in *The Smuggler's Wife* series but can be read on its own – though we recommend them all!

## 41 THE THIRST

*Jo Nesbo*

THRILLER

Harry Hole is a maverick Oslo detective, and this is the 11th in the series. A serial murderer has begun targeting Tinder daters—and his MO reignites Harry's hunt for a nemesis of his past.

## 42 AFTER YOU

*Jojo Moyes*

FICTION

Sequel to *Me Before You* - # 5 on this list! Will Lou ever get over the love of her life? This is every bit as good.

## 43 PACHINKO

*Min Jin Lee*

FICTION

A true epic, covering four generations of a family throughout the 20th Century, in Korea and Japan. It's a big, satisfying, thoroughly enjoyable read.

## 44 A LITTLE LIFE

*Hanya Yanagihara*

FICTION

The much acclaimed novel about the decades long relationship between four men who move to New York to make their way in the world, which was nominated for many literary prizes.

## 45 SHANTARAM

*Gregory David Roberts*

FICTION

A convicted Australian bank robber and heroin addict escapes from prison and flees to India. This has been enduringly popular since first published - it's fiction, with more than a dose of real life.

## 46 THE GOLDFINCH

*Donna Tartt*

FICTION

Theo Decker is 13 years old when his life changes forever. This epic, sweeping, brilliant novel is simply one of the very best books of the last 5 years.

## 47 THE LOVELY BONES

*Alice Sebold*

FICTION

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

## 48 THE MARTIAN

*Andy Weir*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

When a mission to Mars goes freakishly wrong, one astronaut is left behind and finds a way to survive. A truly remarkable thriller.

## 49 A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

*Khaled Hosseini*

FICTION

This story covers three decades of anti Soviet Jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny through the lives of two women. From the author of *The Kite Runner*, which is number 20 on this List.

## 50 THE NOTEBOOK

*Nicholas Sparks*

FICTION

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 very long years.

## 51 DEAD TO ME

*Lesley Pearce*

FICTION

Ruby and Verity are great friends but as Ruby's fortunes improve, Verity's decline, until it looks as though their friendship might be over for good. Lesley Pearce writes brilliantly about women's relationships and has a loyal and dedicated following.

## 52 MAGICIAN

*Raymond Feist*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

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

## 53 THE PASSAGE TRILOGY

*Justin Cronin*

FICTION

The world we knew is gone. What world will rise in its place? This is a huge, epic, post apocalyptic trilogy set in a wasted America, with a brilliant premise, and unputdownable.

## 54 THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

*M.L.Stedman*

FICTION

A baby washes up on a remote island and is rescued by the lighthouse keepers – with unforeseen consequences. This is wonderful.

## 55 THE DRESSMAKER

*Rosalie Ham*

FICTION

A funny, darkly satirical tale of love, revenge and great frocks – set in small town Australia, and was made into a terrific film.

## 56 UNBROKEN

*Laura Hillenbrand*

BIOGRAPHY

Louis Zamperini went from the wrong side of the tracks to becoming an athletics star, to the war in the Pacific, and a Japanese POW camp. All true, this is one of our customers' favourite autobiographies ever, and we agree!

## 57 LIFE OF PI

*Yann Martel*

FICTION

The oceanic wanderings of a lost boy, the young and eager Piscine Patel (Pi) of the title, who survives 227 days stranded on a boat with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Winner of the Man Booker Prize.

## 58 JANE EYRE

*Charlotte Brontë*

CLASSIC

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

## 59 THE PACT

*Jodi Picoult*

FICTION

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. This is a perennial favourite.

## 60 SCAR TISSUE

*Anthony Kiedis*

BIOGRAPHY

One of the best music memoirs ever, this story of Anthony Kiedis's life and fame with the Red Hot Chili Peppers ticks all the right boxes.

## 61 THE BALTIMORE BOYS

*Joël Dicker*

FICTION

A wonderful book about the promise of a golden childhood, and how real life often turns out to be so much different – from the author of the wonderful *The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair*.

## 62 BIRDSONG

*Sebastian Faulks*

FICTION

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

## 63 THE FIX

*David Baldacci*

THRILLER

From one of our most popular thriller writers – and the character of FBI Agent Amos Decker is up there with the best. Here he tries to solve a highly unusual killing, before it's too late. David Baldacci is recognised as one of the great modern thriller writers.

## 64 THE LITTLE PARIS BOOKSHOP

*Nina George*

FICTION

A floating barge on the waterways of France is a bookshop with a difference. Jean Perdu matches books with ailments, but can't cure his own broken heart.

## 65 THE ROSIE PROJECT

*Graeme Simsion*

FICTION

Don Tillman embarks on The Wife Project, for which he's designed a 16 page questionnaire to assist with assessing likely candidates.

## 66 THE NIGHTINGALE

*Kristin Hannah*

FICTION

The New York Times bestseller, about two sisters navigating their way through German-occupied, war-torn France. This is an amazing book.

## 67 THE EDMONDS COOKERY BOOK

*Edmonds*

COOKING 🍴

*The Edmonds Cookery Book* is a perennial Kiwi favourite – this is the book that taught many of us to cook, and still has pride of place in New Zealand's kitchens. Every home should have one!

## 68 THE KINGKILLER CHRONICLE

*Patrick Rothfuss*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

The books in this highly acclaimed fantasy series tell the autobiography of Kvothe, an adventurer and famous musician.

## 69 THE SECRET HISTORY

*Donna Tartt*

FICTION

Under the influence of their charismatic Classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite college begin a downhill slide into obsession and evil. A modern classic. Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch* is #46 on the list.

# Whitcoulls Top 100

## 70 MILK AND HONEY

*Rupi Kaur*

POETRY

A book of poetry and prose about survival - and violence, abuse, love, loss, and femininity. It has touched a chord with thousands of readers.

## 71 THE CROW GIRL

*Erik Axl Sund*

THRILLER

This ventures into some of the darkest places of the human mind, in a rattling, racing, turbo paced thriller which fans of Stieg Larsson should read immediately!

## 72 THE GIRL YOU LEFT BEHIND

*Jojo Moyes*

FICTION

Two young women, separated by a century, are united in their determination to fight for the thing they love most - whatever the cost.

## 73 THE STORYTELLER

*Jodi Picoult*

FICTION

An elderly man, beloved by his community in a small U.S. town, turns out not to be the good guy they all thought he was.

## 74 THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS

*Arundhati Roy*

FICTION

Set in Kerala, India, in 1969, when although having achieved independence twenty years earlier, the caste system is still prevalent. This extraordinary first novel won the Booker Prize in 1997, and shows a country clinging on to the traditions of its past, whilst giving glimpses of a possible future.

## 75 WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR

*Paul Kalanithi*

NONFICTION

A profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis who attempts to answer the question *What makes a life worth living?*

## 76 THE CUCKOO'S CALLING

*Robert Galbraith*

FICTION

The highly acclaimed first novel in the *Cormoran Strike* series, by J.K.Rowling writing under a pseudonym.

## 77 THE HEART'S INVISIBLE FURIES

*John Boyne*

FICTION

An epic, multi layered generational novel about Cyril Avery, who was born to an unwed mother in conservative, Catholic controlled Ireland. Following the course of his life, this is storytelling at its best.

## 78 WHEN THE MOON IS LOW

*Nadia Hashimi*

FICTION

The story of Fereiba and her children en route as refugees to England, after the Taliban murder her husband.

## 79 RACHEL'S HOLIDAY

*Marian Keyes*

FICTION

Rachel Walsh's family send her to rehab - which isn't at all what she thought it would be. This is very funny black humour.

## 80 THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

*J. D. Salinger*

FICTION

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

## 81 THE STARS ARE FIRE

*Anita Shreve*

FICTION

Grace Holland is unhappily married and pregnant when fire ravages through her town and her husband goes missing. Based on a real fire which ravaged through the state of Maine - where this is set - this is Anita Shreve at her very best.

## 82 THE 100 YEAR OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED

*Jonas Jonasson*

FICTION

A great, feel-good book about Allan Karlsson who avoids his own centennial birthday party and begins a journey which revisits much of his earlier life.

## 83 SAPIENS

*Yuval Noah Harari*

NONFICTION

This remarkable book challenges everything we thought we knew about being human : our thoughts, our actions, our power... and our future.

## 84 KILLING FLOOR

*Lee Child*

THRILLER

This is where it all started with Jack Reacher. A modern hero - tough, intelligent and a crusader for justice. Literally thousands of readers have loved his books and keep coming back for more.

## 85 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

*Arthur Golden*

FICTION

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

## 86 LEAVING TIME

*Jodi Picoult*

FICTION

Jodi Picoult is right on form with this story of a woman who, searching for her lost mother, uses the services of both a detective and a psychic.

## 87 RIVER GOD

*Wilbur Smith*

FICTION

The story of the talented eunuch slave Taita, his life in Egypt, the flight of Taita along with the Egyptian populace from the Hyksos invasion, and their eventual return.

## 88 BEING MORTAL

*Atul Gawande*

NONFICTION

Deeply thought provoking, this asserts that medicine can not only improve life, but also the process of its ending; and that quality of life should be given the greatest consideration. The author is a practising surgeon and has both compassion and wisdom.

## 89 JESSICA

*Bryce Courtenay*

FICTION

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. Bryce Courtenay was a true Australian treasure

## 90 I KNOW THIS MUCH IS TRUE

*Wally Lamb*

FICTION

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?

## 91 TULLY

*Paullina Simons*

FICTION

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.

## 92 A FINE BALANCE

*Rohinton Mistry*

FICTION

A truly wonderful story set in Mumbai between 1975 and 1984 - an era that saw severe crackdowns on civil liberties. Centred on a band of misfits with impoverished, damaged lives, it's a very special book. It was Short listed for the Booker Prize in 1996.

## 93 ANGELA'S ASHES

*Frank McCourt*

BIOGRAPHY

Frank McCourt was born in Depression - era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. This was the original misery memoir.

## 94 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

*Mitch Albom*

NONFICTION

Mitch Albom reconnected with a former teacher, now suffering terminal illness. They met every Thursday, and these are their lessons on how to live.

## 95 THE GREAT GATSBY

*F. Scott Fitzgerald*

CLASSIC

The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, set during the shimmering Jazz Age. This has become one of the great classics of the Twentieth Century.

## 96 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

*Douglas Adams*

SCI-FI/FANTASY

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect. Brilliant, comic fantasy!

## 97 WUTHERING HEIGHTS

*Emily Brontë*

CLASSIC

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

## 98 CATCH 22

*Joseph Heller*

CLASSIC

The story of Yossarian, a hero endlessly inventive in his schemes to save himself from the horrible possibilities of war. It's hilarious, prescient, and the title became a part of our language.

## 99 NINETEEN MINUTES

*Jodi Picoult*

FICTION

A startling and poignant story about the devastating aftermath of a small-town tragedy. Is anyone ever really who they seem to be?

## 100 EAT, PRAY, LOVE

*Elizabeth Gilbert*

NONFICTION

Elizabeth Gilbert's journey has inspired many readers to examine their own lives, and live vicariously through hers.



## TOP 10 AUTHORS AS VOTED BY YOU!

- 1 J.K.Rowling
- 2 Jodi Picoult
- 3 Jojo Moyes
- 4 Lee Child
- 5 J. R. R. Tolkien
- 6 Diana Gabaldon
- 7 George R. R. Martin
- 8 Stephen King
- 9 Paullina Simons
- 10 Dan Brown



The Whitcoulls Top 100 began life in 1996, and is now 21 years old. This year, Harry Potter is again at number one – his appeal has proved to be enduring, and travels down through generations with new readers constantly seeking out the series.

It seems very fitting that Lee Child's 21st book should appear at number two in this anniversary year – he started writing in the same year as the first List was compiled, and has appeared on every single Top 100 since - along with an ever changing roll call of great books.

We're proud to bring this new Top 100, curated by our customers, to readers everywhere.

Happy reading, from everyone at Whitcoulls.

# Whitcoulls

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