The great snowfall of June 2006 was the worst the Timaru district and other parts of Canterbury had experienced for half a century.

In the towns power poles broke, roofs collapsed, roads were blocked and many households were without power for two weeks.

Independent Bookseller, Jeff Grigor (*Chapter & Verses*) awoke on one of the heaviest snowfall days and turned to his wife, “This snow is probably heavy enough to have a book in it,” he told her.

Grigor placed ads in the Christchurch Press, Ashburton Guardian and Timaru Herald seeking photographs of the snowfall. To his surprise he received over 5,000 images. For a man who “dislikes snow intensely”, this is an awful lot of pictures of snow to sift through in order to decide on the final 144 photos.

Penguin Books came on board and *The Big Chill* sets records for the publishers by being the fastest-put-together book in their history - within four weeks of Grigor’s first advert appearing.

This illustrated book is a magnificent visual record of the great snowfall and covers everything from the bizarre -a young couple having a swim in Lake Tekapo on the day of the snow storm to ice curtains on houses.
The Big Chill is out now, published by Penguin Books (NZ). RRP $19.95. For author interviews, review or competition copies, please contact Danielle Wright, e: daniwright@xtra.co.nz, t: 09 449 1280 or 021 662 419.