

## Poetry

# The top verse of 2020

by **NICHOLAS REID**

### **MEZZALUNA: SELECTED POEMS**

by Michele Leggott (AUP)

Gleaned from her nine published collections and charting the poet's development from experimentalism to a more confessional style.

### **THE SAVAGE COLONISER BOOK**

by Tusiata Avia (VUP)

Lively, provocative and confronting. Mad as hell about colonialism and racism, but also sometimes funny as hell.

### **ENDURING LOVE: COLLECTED POEMS**

by Robert McLean (Cold Hub Press)

Selections old and new from New Zealand's most underrated poet, unashamedly modernist in style and essential reading.

### **THE LIFERS**

by Michael Steven (Otago University Press)

Skilled in many types of verse, Steven gives a dark view of New Zealand, realistic but not pessimistic.

### **HOW TO BE OLD**

by Rachel McAlpine (Cuba Press)

The octogenarian poet won't go down without a fight and charts old age in verse both bouncy and ironic.

### **FAR-FLUNG**

by Rhian Gallagher (AUP)

Philosophy injected seamlessly into landscape poetry and then a brilliant evocation of old Dunedin and its psychiatric hospital.

### **STAR TRAILS**

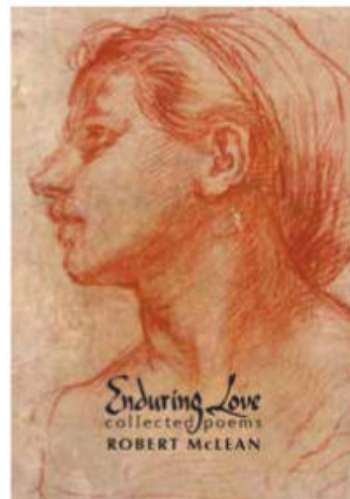
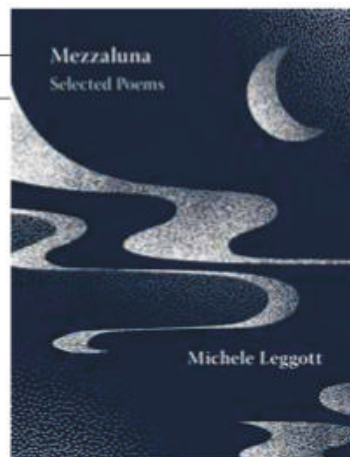
by Alexandra Fraser (Steele Roberts)

One of the very few poets who understand science. She mines personal experience while making astronomy sing.

### **ESCAPE PATH LIGHTING**

by John Newton (VUP)

A novel in verse by a literary scholar. Rollicking yarn of hipsters, alternative-lifestylers



and poets in conflict.

### **NOUNS, VERBS, ETC**

by Fiona Farrell (OUP)

An impressive summation of a poet who can make ancient woes relevant to the present age.

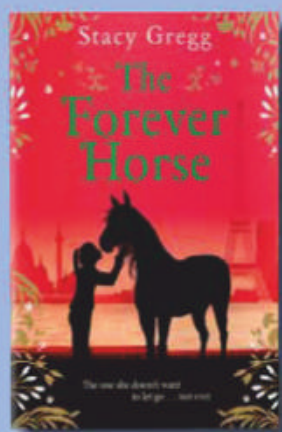
### **FANCY DANCING**

by Bernadette Hall (VUP)

New and selected poems from a seasoned observer of southern locales. A highlight is the new sequence of blank-verse sonnets. ■

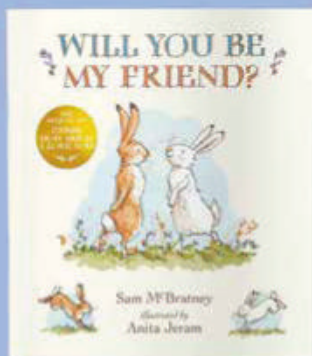
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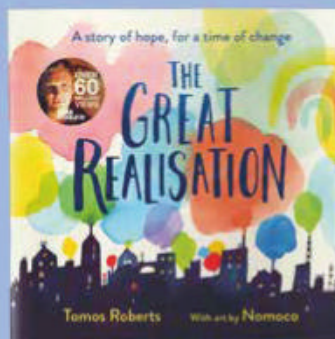
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