ROTORUA LIBRARY
TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O ROTORUA

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2026

HE KETE RAU MAHARA

OUR PEOPLE, OUR PLACE

A day of free family fun - Saturday 7 November

He Kete Rau Mahara: Our People, Our Place is a community-wide celebration of the unique stories of Rotorua

Sponsored by Friends of the Rotorua Library

Ngā Hoa Tautoko o Te Aka Mauri
Friends of the Rotorua Library

He Kete Rau Mahara 2026

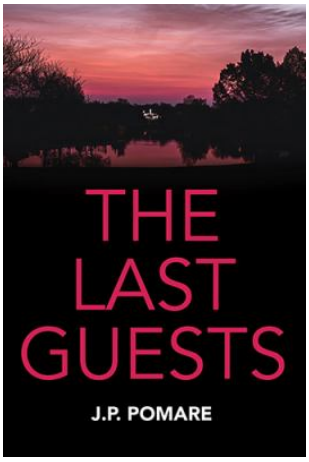
Discover the people, stories and treasures that make Rotorua unique.
Join us for a fun-filled day celebrating the history, culture, creativity and communities that shape Rotorua. With FREE activities for all ages, there's something for every member of the whānau.

Connect with local stories, culture and creativity! Enjoy a day of FREE family fun, featuring vintage cars, hands-on activities, cultural performances, museum and archives experts, a vintage photobooth, children's toys and much more. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

Saturday 7 November, 10am-12pm

Abby's pick

A book...



The Last Guests by J.P. Pomare
A chilling thriller set on the shores of Lake Tarawera. What's not to love!?

Find it in the catalogue

On Pakiaka...



The Rotorua Photo News
The Facebook of its day, this publication is packed with local gems from the 1960s and 1970s. If you want to discover the stories of our people and places, this is the magazine for you.
Explore it on Pakiaka

Find it in the catalogue

At He Kete Rau Mahara you can…

- Enjoy cars from the Rotorua Vintage and Veteran Car Club.
- Get creative with a hands-on activity from The Arts Village.
- Dress up and snap a vintage shot in a digital photobooth AND take a postcard away with you.

Alison's pick

A book...

On Pakiaka...



Jean Batten: The Garbo of the Skies by Ian Mackersey
Jean Batten was one of the great aviation superstars of the 1930s. I was fortunate to attend the launch of this fascinating account of her remarkable life.

Find it in the catalogue



Friends of Rotorua Library
Supporting the library community since 1991, this collection captures decades of dedication, fundraising, and advocacy. I loved cataloguing it and learning more about the group's contribution to our library's story.

Explore it on Pakiaka

At He Kete Rau Mahara you can…

- Play with toys from the Rotorua Toy Library.
- Learn about fibre arts with Wacky Warm-Ups knitting group.

Pakiaka competition

PAKIAKA
ROTORUA HERITAGE ONLINE

LOOKING BACK PHOTO COMPETITION

Help capture the story of Rotorua, one photograph at a time. Saturday 7 November to Friday 25 November.

Upload a photograph to Pakiaka and show us what makes Rotorua great. From treasured local landmarks to everyday moments that bring our community together, every image adds to our story.

SHARE YOUR PHOTO AND BE IN TO WIN!

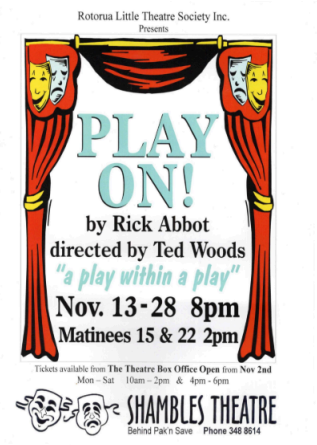
Graeme's pick

A book...



A History of Rotorua by Enid Tapsell

On Pakiaka...



Rotorua Little Theatre Society

district, and a title I regularly return to when researching local history.

Find it in the catalogue

posters, and production photographs, capturing the creativity, talent, and community spirit behind each performance.

Explore it on Pakiaka

At He Kete Rau Mahara you can…

- Discover the treasures held in the Council's archive.
- Explore the legacy of B Company 28th Māori Battalion with Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa
- Join the Philippine Club of Rotorua to celebrate Filipino culture through traditional dress, dance and storytelling.

Shyan's pick

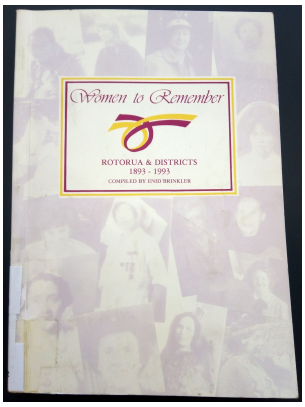
A book...



E kō, nō hea koe by Matariki Bennett
A paenga kōrero from a Te Arawa poet exploring identity through whakapapa, hāpori, and the formative experiences of youth.

Find it in the catalogue

On Pakiaka...



Women to Remember Project
This collection preserves the stories of hundreds of Rotorua wāhine whose contributions to our community might otherwise have gone unrecorded.

Explore it on Pakiaka

- Meet the St Chads taniwha!
- Get some bargains at the Friends of the Library book sale

Visit the website

Download the programme

We look forward to seeing you on
Saturday 7 November, 10am-12pm

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