

# BOOKRAPT™

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## ***New Zealand Hall of Fame: 50 remarkable Kiwis – Maria Gill*** illustrated by Bruce Potter

**Publisher: New Holland**

**RRP \$29.99**

It's refreshing to read about 50 outstanding New Zealanders, the majority of whom are still alive and active. Often people are only given credit for their achievements after they have died.

The author turns the spotlight on a variety of talented people. It must have caused quite a headache to choose 50 individuals above others who also merit mention. Some faces are instantly recognisable for their public profile, while others are quiet achievers.

Amongst the lesser-known people are super-kite inventor, Peter Lynn; portable resuscitator inventor, Norma McCulloch; Trade Aid pioneer, Vi Cottrell; and master carver and seafarer, Matahi Brightwell.

There's a good balance of male and female high-flyers in the overall selection. Rugby fans will be surprised to see only Sir Colin Meads included amongst the sports people. However, representatives from a wide range of sports have also earned recognition. Artists feature in the largest group of remarkable Kiwis. Although, this creative category covers musicians, writers, movie makers, actors, dancers and artists.

Attractive design delivers information in easy-to-read sections. Timelines note milestones in each person's life, Trophy Boards list awards, inspiring quotes catch the eye, plus film-strips show a snap-shot of important events. Passport photos give succinct details, while 'diary' entries outline the subjects' daily lives. Life-like caricature portraits by Bruce Potter personalise each individual and add humour.

The first edition of this valuable book won the Children's Choice Award for non-fiction at the 2012 NZ Post Children's Book Awards. This soft-cover edition will appeal to New Zealanders of all ages.

**Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett**

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