

14,000 New Zealand readers nationwide voted in a survey carried out by Carole Beu from the Women's Bookshop in Auckland to find the top 50 women writers of the last 50 years 1955-2005.

Here are the results of the survey—each name comes with the titles voted for most often.

1. **Margaret Atwood** The handmaid's tale / The blind assassin
2. **Barbara Kingsolver** The poisonwood bible
3. **Annie Proulx** The shipping news
4. **Janet Frame** An autobiography / Owls do cry
5. **Margaret Forster** Have the men had enough? (et al)
6. **Carol Shields** The stone diaries / Unless



7. **Doris Lessing** Martha Quest (et al)
8. **Keri Hulme** The bone people

9. **Patricia Grace** Potiki / Tu / Cousins
10. **A S Byatt** Possession
- 11= **Elizabeth Knox** The vinter's luck
- 11= **Isabelle Allende** The house of spirits



- 13 **Anne Tyler** The accidental tourist (et al)
- 14 **Alice Munro** Runaway (et al)
- 15 **Arundhati Roy** The god of small things
- 16 **Alice Walker** The color purple
- 17 **Amy Tan** The joy luck club / The bonesetter's daughter

- 18 **Rose Tremain** Music & silence
- 19= **Margaret Mahy** Memory / The changeover
- 19= **Margaret Drabble** Radiant way
- 21 **Kate Atkinson** Behind the scenes at the museum
- 22 **Toni Morrison** Beloved (et al)



- 21 **Pat Barker** Regeneration trilogy
- 22 **P D James** Death in holy orders / Devices and desires
- 23 **Fay Weldon** The life and loves of a she devil
- 24 **Fiona Kidman** The book of secrets



PALMERSTON NORTH
CITY LIBRARY

50-50

Women

The top 50
women writers
of the past 50
years 1955-
2005



These titles are currently available from the Fiction Zone, First Floor, Central Library or from any of the Branch Libraries & the Mobile. Please ask a librarian if you need any help finding these titles.

- 25 **J K Rowling** The Harry Potter series
- 26 **Alice Sebold** The lovely bones
- 27 **Joanne Harris** Chocolat
- 28 **Iris Murdoch** The sea, the sea
- 29 **Jung Chang** Wild swans
- 30 **Penelope Lively** Moon tiger
- 31 **Philippa Gregory** The other Boleyn girl
- 32 **Maeve Binchy** Tara Road



- 21 **Shonagh Koea** Sing to me, dreamer
- 36= **Jeanette Winterson** Oranges are not the only fruit
- 36= **Jane Smiley** A thousand acres
- 38 **Joanna Trollope** The choir / Other people's children
- 39 **Diana Gabaldon** Cross stitch
- 40 **Jodi Picoult** My sister's keeper (et al)
- 41 **Colleen McCulloch** The thorn birds
- 42 **Joy Cowley** Classical music

- 43= **Barbara Anderson** Portrait of the artist's wife
- 43= **Anita Shreve** The pilot's wife
- 43= **Ruth Rendell** Road rage / The rottweiler
- 46 **Rosamunde Pilcher** The shell seekers
- 47 **Barbara Trapido** Brother of the more famous Jack
- 48 **Jean Auel** The clan of the cave bear
- 49 **Ursula le Guin** Earthsea Quartet
- 50 **Marge Piercy** Woman on the edge of time

