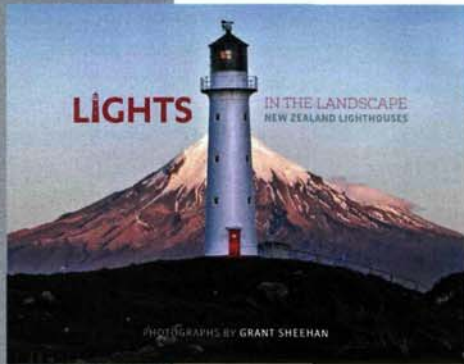


BY SHELLEY HOWELLS

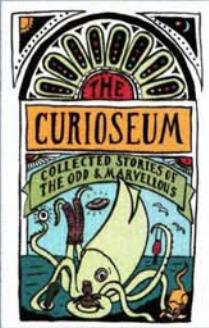
APPLAUSE



**Lights in the Landscape: New Zealand Lighthouses**

Grant Sheehan (Phantom House, \$75) 01 Apr 2014

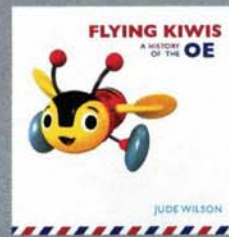
This is classic coffee-table territory, a big hardback full of ravishing photographs of New Zealand lighthouses and their surrounds, from Cape Reinga to Foveaux Straight. Sheehan has been perfecting "ravishing" for a good couple of decades and a score of books now. His work reveals his love of moving light and landscape, and this book continues his fascination with lighthouses, which he first explored in his 1991 book *Leading Lights*.



**The Curiozeum: Collected Stories of the Odd & Marvellous**

Edited by Adrienne Jansen, illustrated by Sarah Laing (Te Papa Press, \$29.99)

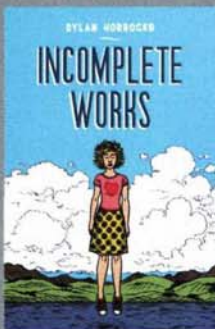
This charming book is intended for kids but its appeal is universal. Te Papa took some talented writers – think Joy Cowley, Ant Sang, Mandy Hager, Elizabeth Knox, Margaret Mahy, Barbara Else and Bill Manhire – and let them loose in the museum to each pick an object from the collection and make up new stories and poems about them. It's a marvellous, engaging mix, with delightful illustrations that enhance and complement the stories. At the end is a short piece about the authors explaining who they are and why they chose the items they did.



**Flying Kiwis: A History of the OE**

Jude Wilson (Otago University Press, \$45)

I was recently trying to explain to a European couple the New Zealand tradition of sending our youngsters out into the world, in the great Kiwi coming-of-age ritual, The Big OE. "Ah, of course," they said, "a gap-year." Yeah nah. This book explains it all. Wilson, a tourism researcher at Lincoln University, explores the topic from its 70s birth through to its current decline in importance. Wilson's OE lasted 20 years, so she is in a perfect position to tackle "the magnitude and mess of the OE" through travellers' personal accounts.



**Incomplete Works**

Dylan Horrocks (Victoria University Press, \$35)

This collection of short comics by graphic artist and cartoonist Dylan Horrocks – with themes that include love, fantasy, and work – were drawn between 1986 and 2012, so you get a taste of changing times, through reference to things like the lyrics of The Verlaines and Nurse Manu leaving *Shortland Street*. This is an opportunity to revel not just in Horrocks' excellent art, but his writing too: "Shining blocks of sunlight moved slowly and silently through the streets, and people crossed the road to walk within one." Comic aficionados will appreciate the tributes to other comic artists such as Barry Linton and Eric Resetar, and there's even a cameo by Adrian Kinnaird, author of *From Earth's End: the Best of New Zealand Comics*.



**Beyond the State: New Zealand State Houses from Modest to Modern**

Text by Bill McKay and Andrea Stevens, photography by Simon Devitt (Penguin, \$75)

New Zealand state houses, those endearing, boxy, solid homes from the 30s and 40s, are "a neglected aspect of our architectural history", writes McKay. Part one delves into the past, origins and development of state housing, while part two looks at the present day. Now that state houses no longer lurk in the outskirts of cities, they are prime real estate and have been adapted in many ways. This book takes a look at 14 houses, beautifully photographed, which have been lovingly restored and renovated, yet stay true to their origins. The "before" and "after" floor plans are fascinating.