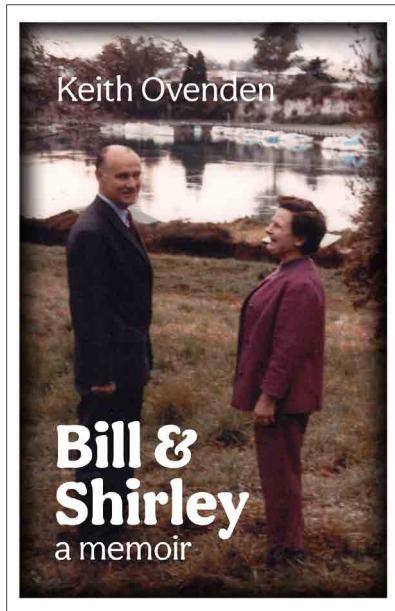




# Bill & Shirley

## *A memoir*

KEITH OVENDEN



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### AN EXEMPLARY MEMOIR EXAMINING THE COMPLEX, REMARKABLE LIVES OF TWO VERY FAMOUS NEW ZEALANDERS

Bill Sutch and Shirley Smith were two of New Zealand's most significant twentieth-century figures: Sutch as an economist, influential civil servant, and inspirational proponent of innovation in the fields of social and economic development; and Smith as a glass-ceiling breaker and sole practitioner in the formerly male dominated world of the law.

This wise, urbane memoir begins with the early years of Keith Ovenden's marriage to their only child, Helen Sutch, and carries through to Sutch's trial on charges brought against him under the Official Secrets Act, all the way to Shirley's death over thirty years later.

It offers unprecedented insights into the accusations against Sutch, as well as Smith's remarkable legal practice, and behind both, some of the dramas of their domestic life. Deeply intelligent and beautifully crafted, it offers a unique and intimate study of two complex and fascinating New Zealanders.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Keith Ovenden** ONZM was born in London in 1943 and was educated at various universities in England and the United States. He was well known in the 1970s and 1980s for his radio and TV commentaries on politics and the media, and for reporting on the *Rainbow Warrior* affair. His other books include *Apartheid and International Finance: A Program for Change* (with Tony Cole); *The Politics of Steel: A Fighting Withdrawal: The Life of Dan Davin: Writer, Soldier, Publisher*; and the novels *Ratatui*, *O.E.*, *The Greatest Sorrow*, and *Quick Bright Things*. Keith lives in Wellington.

#### SALES POINTS

- A lively, fresh and distinctive insight into the lives of two significant New Zealanders
- Beautifully written, with candour and grace
- A significant contribution to the literature on the controversial Sutch trial
- Ovenden's proximity to Bill Sutch and Shirley Smith enable him to assess them in ways unavailable to others

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