



Fire & Ice

Secrets, histories, treasures and mysteries of Tongariro National Park

HAZEL PHILLIPS



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ONE WOMAN'S QUEST TO UNCOVER SECRETS IN A MOUNTAIN WORLD

What lies off-track in Tongariro National Park? This engrossing book contains stories of ghosts, fires, avalanches, plane wrecks, sly grogging, secret spots and more from around Ngāuruho, Tongariro and Ruapehu — a place of wild and chaotic grandeur.

This well-illustrated and lively exploration of the history of Ruapehu is told by a self-confessed 'Ruapehu addict' who has an uncanny talent for persuading a cast of great characters to join her on her explorations and investigations.

With more than 200 historic and present-day images and over 25 maps, it's a must-have for all who love skiing, climbing and tramping around this mighty mountain.

'Aotearoa's answer to Bill Bryson' — **David Slack**

'Diligently researched, excellently presented' — **Tony Orman, Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ**

'It's a damned good looking book, destined to be among the year's best, appealing to trampers, mountaineers, climbers, ski-ers, Tongariro crossers, local iwi and other citizens of the plateau, and really anyone who appreciates an intelligently told natural history.' — **Steve Braunias, Newsroom**

'Absolutely riveting stories' — **The Spinoff**

'Local secrets and mysteries revealed' — **Ruapehu Bulletin**

Newsroom illustrated book of the year 2025

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hazel Phillips is the author of four books: *Fire & Ice* (2025); *Solo: Backcountry adventuring in Aotearoa New Zealand* (2022); *Wild Westie* (2014), a biography of Sir Bob Harvey; and *Sell!* (2013), a history of the advertising industry. Her previous book *Solo* was shortlisted in the New Zealand Mountain, Film & Book Festival book awards (2022) for mountain and adventure narratives and was a New Zealand non-fiction bestseller. Hazel has a background in newspaper and magazine journalism, and her writing has been published in media and journals across New Zealand and Australia. She published an essay in the book *Otherhood* (2024) and contributed to the global publication *Atlas of Mountaineering* (2025), edited by Conrad Anker and Katie Ives. Hazel holds a Masters in Creative Writing with first-class honours and an MA in media studies. She is currently working on her next book, about early women climbers and adventurers of Aoraki Mount Cook.

SALES POINTS

- An engaging history of a region loved by so many
- Well researched and stylishly written
- Attractive design.

