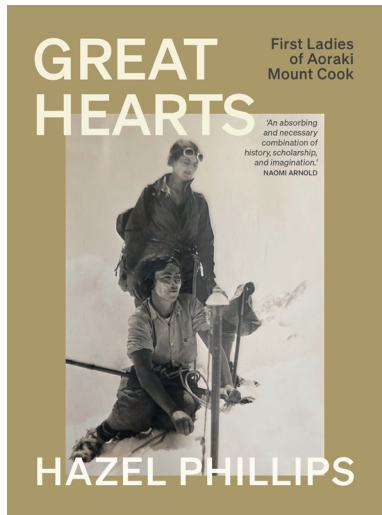


# Great Hearts

## *First Ladies of Aoraki Mount Cook*

HAZEL PHILLIPS



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### WRITING NEW ZEALAND'S EARLY WOMEN CLIMBERS BACK INTO HISTORY

From the 1870s, a generation of bold women made mountaineering history around Aoraki Mount Cook. They claimed space in the mountains, defying conventions and forging a legacy that shaped every woman who followed. Then their stories were quietly erased.

Drawing on scattered records, oral histories and forgotten stories, *Great Hearts* resurrects their extraordinary achievements, blending nonfiction with reimagined fiction in a tribute to their resistance, courage, and grit.

'Gives voice to the early women alpine explorers, who mostly remain nameless but who were there, pushing limits' — Anna Keeling, President, New Zealand Mountain Guides Association

'The extraordinary endeavours of women battling prejudice, sexism, male ego and poor clothing to win their place in New Zealand mountaineering history' — Sir Graeme Dingle, mountaineer and philanthropist

'An absorbing and necessary combination of history, scholarship, and imagination' — Naomi Arnold, author of Ockham-shortlisted *Northbound*

### 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.

### SALES POINTS

- Another excellent outdoors book by a well regarded writer
- Adds to the vibrant legacy of climbing and outdoor books in Aotearoa New Zealand

