



A Good Keen Man

Barry Crump

Crump's classic Kiwi yarn has been brought to life again in this celebratory hardback edition.

In the new foreword by long time friend and writer Jack Lasenby, Lasenby recounts his memories of Crump and his wonderful story-telling abilities. The following paragraph from that foreword sums up the where Crump should sit in NZ literary history.

'Almost irrespective of their authors, certain works become emblematic. Maning's Old New Zealand, Te Rauparaha's "KaMate", Lady Barker's Station Life, Guthrie-Smith's Tutira, Sargeson's "An Affair of the Heart", Mulgan's Man Alone, Glover's Arawata Bill all capture, construct or even invent certain moments for ever, are history in the best sense. Fifty years on, A Good Keen Man belongs with them.'

A Good Keen Man is the tale of a young joker's introduction to the art of deer culling and is as rich and compelling now as when it was first published. Set against the rugged beauty of the New Zealand backcountry, it follows the exploits of a good keen man as he learns the skills necessary to become a good bushman. Unlike most authors on outdoor life, Barry Crump's interest was fixed on people – able and cloddish, balanced and eccentric, mad, sad, funny and altogether marvellous people.

While the humorous and vivid story is from an era far removed from today's hurly-burly world, its appeal remains strong through Crump's timeless ability to capture the essence of the Kiwi character.

www.barrycrump.com

A Good Keen Man – 50th Anniversary Edition

Available in stores from 1 September 2009

Son of A Good Keen Man

is available for interviews

Always a story-teller, Barry Crump was encouraged to put his yarns down on paper and there began one of NZ's most enduring and successful publishing ventures. Although seldom acknowledged, Barry Crump was one of the most loved and best-selling fiction writers in our history. His first book, *A Good Keen Man*, has sold over 300,000 copies and is still one of the most popular.

Crump always lived his life on the land and the stories he told reflected that. Born in Papatoetoe, South Auckland, he grew up on dairy farms, and was educated at numerous South Auckland schools before attending Otahuhu College. Throughout the 1950s he was a farmhand, pig-hunter, bushworker, and deer-culler. It was the latter two that were the backdrop of *A Good Keen Man*. He went on to publish more than 20 novels several featuring his best-known character, Sam Cash.

Although most of his growing up was done away from his father, Martin Crump has inherited that wonderful storytelling ability and distinctive voice. Always a fan of his father's books, Martin has worked tirelessly to get the books back in the family fold. The copyright to the Barry Crump books returned to the Crump children in October 2007. It is now owned by the family trust, which was set up to benefit all six of Barry's sons. Martin along with Campbell Vance and Roger Marbeck administer the trust and Bush Media, the business that supports the trust.

A Good Keen Man is the first reissue of Barry's novels to benefit from these exciting plans as we see the release of the fantastic 50th Anniversary Edition on shelves in September.

And there is much more to come as we see the Barry Crump novels reemerge for a whole new generation to enjoy and a nostalgic rediscovery for the rest of us.

Martin Crump will be travelling to Otago, Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Waikato, Wellington, Taranaki and Manawatu to promote the release of *A Good Keen Man, 50th Anniversary Edition* as part of the NZ Book Month celebrations in October. He will be available for face-to-face interviews in these areas and/or by telephone from Auckland beforehand.

To request a review copy or an interview with Martin Crump please contact:

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