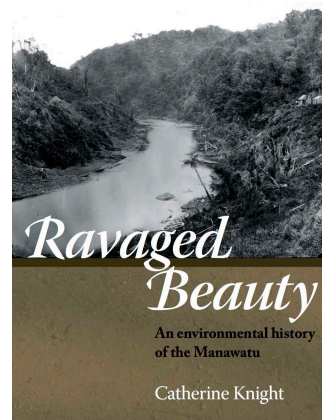


# The history of the Manawatu River

## A talk by Dr Catherine Knight

Only a century and a half ago, the Manawatu River and its myriad lagoons formed Rangitane's food basket and strategic highway. But today, it is known as one of the most polluted rivers in New Zealand.

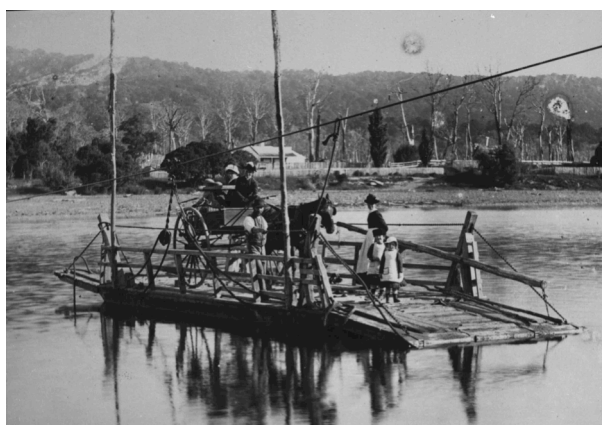
Dr Catherine Knight will explain how this dramatic transformation came about. She will also discuss the hopeful signs that our attitudes are changing; how we are embracing the river as part of our identity and sense of place.



Dr Catherine Knight is an environmental policy analyst and historian. Her first book, *Ravaged Beauty: An environmental history of the Manawatu*, won the Palmerston North Heritage Trust's award for best book about the Manawatu in 2013-14. Her second book, *New Zealand's Rivers: An environmental history* will be released in November.

**Where: The Ashhurst Library**  
**When: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm**

*Ravaged Beauty* will be available at a discounted price of \$40 (retail price \$49.99).



Crossing the Manawatu River by punt at Ashhurst, ca 1880