

## **Auckland Literacy Association Newsletter – Term 1 2016**

Dear ALA Members and Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016. We hope you all had a relaxing and rejuvenating break and your new year has begun well. If you have any queries or comments please let us know. Our contact details are available on [www.nzla.org.nz](http://www.nzla.org.nz) under the Councils page.

### **President's Report – Annual General Meeting**

With apologies to Glenn Colquhoun

Today I cannot be your President any more.

My two-year term is over.

No more planning meeting agendas or booking the venue.

No more organising and following the Annual Plan.

No more working with our delegate to support the Honour Council submission.

No more supporting our programme and publicity convenors.

No more celebrating our excellent programme – Jan Gaffney and Collaborative Reasoning at our last AGM, Sharon Ross and Supporting Reluctant Writers, and Barbara Ala'alatoa sharing fantastic results from the Mutukaroa programme.

No more automatic attendance at the NZLA Conference and the opportunity to get to know our sponsored teachers.

Finally my last public opportunity to farewell our dear friend and colleague, Sharon Pond.

She was not only a colleague and friend but also a mentor during my time as ALA President.

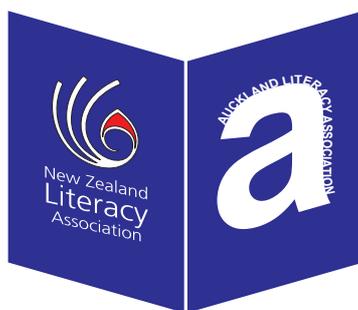
For me she was kindness personified.

She will be sorely missed.

Today I can be your Immediate Past President.

Now it is time for me to ensure the archives are well maintained.

Now it is time for me to support our new President.



Thank you to everyone for your ongoing commitment to the Auckland Literacy Association.

Barbara Strong

President 2014/2015

## **2016 Executive Committee**

President – Bronwyn Wilkinson

Past President – Barbara Strong

Secretary – Heather Bell

Treasurer – Sandra Gilmore

Programme Convenor – Alice Musuku

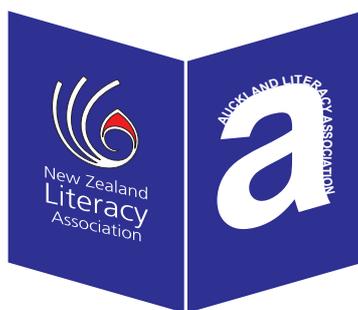
Publications Convenor – Emily Mason

Committee Members – Jill Stephenson, Christine Boocock, Rob Southam, Brooke Siposi

## **Sharon Pond**

It is with extreme sadness that we acknowledge the recent death of Sharon Pond, and celebrate her life and her rich contributions to the literacy communities of Auckland, New Zealand and internationally. Sharon's contributions to the Auckland Literacy Association have been numerous. She has held a variety of membership and executive positions, including being president in 2006 and 2008. She has presented at many local and national seminars and conferences. Sharon represented ALA five times at the NZLA annual meeting, wrote articles for NZLA Reading Forum, and attended the IRA annual conference in Chicago in 2012 as the winner of an ALA travel sponsorship. In each position Sharon has been thorough, calm, sensible, knowledgeable and committed.

Sharon's leadership in literacy has been exemplary. She has chaired many committees, been a committee member of the Resource Teacher of Literacy Association and treasurer 2002 – 2003 and recently President, a coordinator of the Auckland Literacy Network since its inception in 2002, and the coordinator/convenor or



committee member and presenter at such professional gatherings as the inaugural Reading Recovery Institutes in Hawaii in 1992, USA in 1995, and in Auckland in 2004 when she was the chairperson. Many local Principals' Associations have benefitted from Sharon's wisdom, guidance and encouragement in developing effective ways for principals and teachers to support literacy learning in their schools. In 2008 Sharon was a keynote speaker at the Congreso Educativo sobre Enseñanza de la Lengua (Literacy Education Congress) in Uruguay, and while in South America she provided professional learning workshops and presentations for English speaking schools in Argentina. Sharon was a committee member of the IRA World Congress on Reading in Auckland 2010 and convenor of the 2012 National NZLA Conference in Auckland. Few people have given of themselves and their professionalism as willingly and consistently as Sharon.

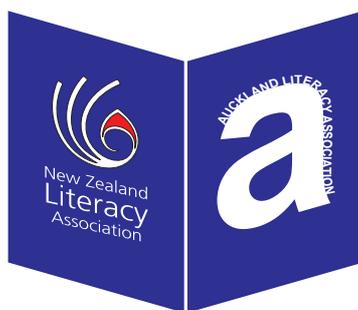
Sharon loved travelling. She managed to successfully combine travelling with attending and participating at conferences and workshops: to work hard, to shop well, to enjoy riding in convertibles, to create fun with colleagues and to sample the local hospitality wherever she went. Sharon's death is incomprehensible. Her recent election to the executive of the NZLA was applauded all over New Zealand – she had so much still to give and we all mourn her passing.

We thank Sharon for her leadership, her friendship, her compassion, her commitment, her willingness to share herself and her skill. Vale, Sharon, rest in peace.

Heather Bell



*Pictured: Sharon and Heather celebrating Sharon's recent election to the NZLA executive*



## Helen Villers – Once Upon a Time & Happily Ever After



*Pictured: Helen with our incoming president Bronwyn Wilkinson*

I have been lucky enough to have Helen Villers as a lecturer in recent years. She inspired my literacy teaching then and did it again in her seminar at our AGM on the importance of reading aloud to our students. The main points that I took away, as well as a list of great titles I now need to access, were:

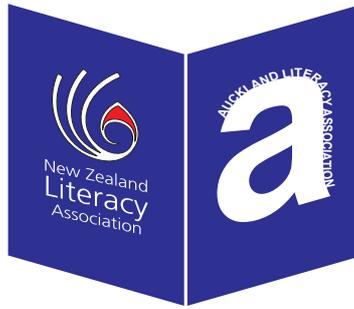
- Books, read aloud by teachers and responded to by children, still constitute a critical component of our classroom teaching and we need to make time for them
- Does digital 'stuff' always cut it in our classrooms?
- We need to select good quality texts to read aloud and avoid the 'Disneyfication' of children's literature
- Children need to be exposed to Radical Change books that:
  - have changing formats and forms
  - are non-linear and interactive
  - have multiple meanings, perspectives and voices
  - change boundaries
- These Radical Change books promote:
  - interactivity
  - connectivity
  - access(Dresage, 1999, 2006)

Finally, here is the list of just some of the books I now want to go out and get my hands on!

*Voices in the Park* – Anthony Browne (great for multiple perspectives and voices)

*Nanny Mango* – John Walsh

*Fox* – Margaret Wild



*Owl Babies* - Martin Waddell

*Wolves* – Emily Gravett

*Black and White* – David Macaulay

*Duck Death and the Tulip* – Wolf Erlbruch

*Chester* – Mélanie Watts

*Just One Bite* – Lola M Shaefer (information book in the format of a picture book)

My final piece of inspiration from Helen that will sit above my desk:

‘If speaking is silver, then listening is gold’ – Turkish proverb

Emily Mason

## **Student Writing**

Kia Ora I'm a year 5 student at Orere School, there are only 46 students and only two classrooms. We live a long way from Auckland. We have limited trips. No internet. We would love to go to Queenstown because some of us have never gone on a plane and we all like playing sports. We miss out on lots of great opportunities. We don't travel because of the cost. This would be amazing to stay in a hotel. Our school really deserves to go. This would be a trip of a life time full of wonderful opportunities.

Alysha Marie

(Since this letter was written we have heard that Orere School did indeed win a trip to Queenstown.)

## **Looking Ahead...**

Keep an eye out for the following events:

Term 2: Barbara Watson: Developing Constructive Writers – 18 May

Term 3: Stuart McNaughton – 10 August

Term 4: Young Authors and Illustrators Workshop featuring Susan Brocker and Dave Gunson