



Auckland Literacy Association

Term 1 2018 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Sadly, this is my final report as President of the Auckland Literacy Association.


Over the past two years ALA has welcomed new members both individuals and schools. However, we are struggling to retain memberships and we will need to look creatively at ways we can improve our membership. Through our strong links with NZLA our members have opportunities to develop and network with literacy experts by attending NZLA conferences as a sponsored teacher, applying for scholarships and research grants to further literacy study and support for travel to overseas literacy conferences. Many of our members have been recipients of ALA Sponsored Teacher awards and last year six early career and experienced teachers attended the NZLA Road Show held in Hamilton. We also have a recipient of the 2017 NZLA Research Scholarship on our executive at present and are very proud of Aylene FitzGerald's endeavours towards completing her Master's Thesis. Information on NZLA Research and Travel Scholarships is on the NZLA website.

In the last 12 months, we have extended our reach through Facebook, so please like us and check out future events there and on the NZLA website. We are also working to spread ALA events across different parts of Auckland throughout the year.

Already this year we have been inspired by "Getting Started" to springboard us into our Literacy Year. The session on "Creating a Flourishing School-Wide Reading Culture" broadened our knowledge of texts to engage our learners across our schools. In Term 2, we have an opportunity to hear how NZ literacy research impacts our classroom practice with Dr Rebecca Jesson from the University of Auckland. Then, Wayne Mills will ignite our passion for literature and enthuse both you and your students to dive into great stories. We are building up to our key event for the year in Term 4 with another exemplary Kiwi, Peter Johnston, Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York, Albany (SUNY).

Even though I stand down today as President I do so knowing there is great commitment and desire to provide ALA members with literacy expertise to enhance literacy teaching practice, and importantly student achievement and enjoyment of literacy.

Bronwyn Hayward
Immediate Past President

Time & Date	2018 Programme
<p>Term 1 21st February Mt Eden Normal School 4.30-6.00pm 21st March National Library 8 Stanley St Parnell 4.30-6.00pm</p>	<p>1. “Getting Started” Ideas to get your literacy programme up and running from classroom teachers</p> <p>2. National Library Service and AGM Create a flourishing School Wide Reading Culture</p>
<p>Term 2 30th May 4.30-6.00pm</p> <p>Venue (as advised)</p>	<p>Dr Rebecca Jesson, University of Auckland Rebecca works closely with teachers and schools to examine pedagogy and overcome constraints. Rebecca leads Design Based Research projects with groups of schools, developing shared hypotheses to drive the development of literacy instruction that is contextually appropriate and draws on the expertise of the learners and their teachers. Her research programmes include: Manaiakalani and Manaiakalani Outreach Research and Development Programme (Principal Investigator); Pasifika Literacy and School Leadership Programme (Literacy leader); and Developing in Digital Worlds (Co-investigator).</p>
<p>Term 3 15th August 4.30-6.00pm</p> <p>Venue (as advised)</p>	<p>Wayne Mills Wayne is former senior lecturer from the University of Auckland with a passion for children’s’ books. He established the popular Kids’ Lit Quiz. He is widely regarded as one of New Zealand’s foremost authorities on children’s and young adult books.</p> 
<p>3rd -5th Oct Palmerston North</p>	<p>41st NZLA Conference, Literacy Landscapes Applications for sponsored teachers are now open</p>
<p>Term 4 Venue (as advised)</p>	<p>Peter H. Johnston- Professor Emeritus, State University of New York, Albany(SUNY) and author of many books including <i>Opening Minds: Using Language to change lives</i> (2012) Peter has a special interest in factors that influence classroom talk and student engagement. This will be a very popular event.</p>

SPEAKER REPORTS Term 1

Getting Started 21st February

In Term 1, the Auckland Literacy Association started the year with a fantastic literacy event, 'Getting Started' - Ideas to get your literacy programme up and running.



Janet Hawkins shared her experiences setting up a writing programme that allows children to become independent writers. Daily literacy rotations, guided writing, independent writing and vocabulary tasks that extend vocabulary knowledge are some effective ways children can become independent writers. Janet emphasised the importance of organising literacy programmes that engage children so that learning becomes more purposeful and meaningful. A way of doing this is by providing children with motivating language experiences as these maximise opportunities to compose and construct language, learn about the real world and channel intellectual motivations into their reading and writing.

Kezia Lagdon and Nicola Russell from Tirimoana School shared how they set up a reading programme and a classroom based on a print rich environment that integrates dramatic play, oral language, and student ownership of learning. They shared relevant examples of literacy learning and showed how they plan and group students for reading.

Like Janet, both teachers believe that practical literacy experiences and activities that are motivating will enrich student learning especially when they are integrated across the curriculum. Students will start to make links and valuable connections between language and rich experiences as this allows them to take ownership of their learning.

Sharon Croft from Tirimoana School described her role as a literacy leader and the school's literacy framework. We learnt that the role of a literacy leader is an important role in the school. Reporting to the school board or trustees, organising literacy programmes, purchasing resources, organising guidance for teacher aides to support literacy learning in the classroom and assist with planning for targeted teaching are only some of the responsibilities of a literacy leader. Sharon described how the literacy inquiry team at Tirimoana School is made up of teachers with strengths in literacy and with different roles across the school, thus bringing a variety of differing perspectives.

Margaret Carter from Tirimoana School is a Community of Learning (COL) teacher. She shared her teaching inquiry which focused on writing. Margaret described in detail the process of her inquiry which started with the scanning phase. This involved looking closely at current student and teaching data and identifying strengths within teaching and learning. This analysis assisted with the development of a hunch which flowed into an action plan for her inquiry. Margaret continues to review the process of her teacher inquiry by analysing and reflecting on student data to determine the next steps for her inquiry.

Thank you to all our guest speakers for sharing your work with us.

Aireen Ah Kui
ALA Committee



Creating A Flourishing School-Wide Reading Culture 21st March

Our AGM and second seminar of the year took place at the National Library Auckland. We were surrounded by displays of enticing books and an exhibition of New Zealand art that has illustrated some of our most well loved children and young adult literature. The presenters Jo Buchan, Senior Specialist Developing Readers and Rosemary Tisdall, Librarian Reading Services National Library, Services to School captivated the audience with their deep knowledge of the research about engaging readers and developing a school wide reading culture with practical ideas and recommended titles across all age groups.



Jo unpacked the key elements of choice, access and time which are required to encourage and support a school wide reading culture which fosters the pleasure and joy of being lifelong readers. She emphasised the need for plentiful of free voluntary reading which includes the opportunity for students to engage in reading with their peers as a social activity. The National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement (NMSSA) in English: Reading 2014 showed a significant decrease from Year 4 to Year 8 in the opportunities available to read independently, decreased instances of teachers who talked about and introduced different kinds of books and those who act as role models for struggling readers by sharing their own favourite books. Jo also reminded us of the importance of home and school partnership and the need for reading for pleasure homework.



In New Zealand, access to a wide variety of books is provided through public, school and classroom libraries and the home. Developing a school wide reading culture is most effective when teachers, librarians and students together plan book related events. Effective teachers used data about withdrawals from the library to know and respond to their students' interests and inquiries.

Research has shown that time spent reading is especially critical over the summer break when students can lose reading skills if not practiced. Jo shared some practical ideas to increase reading mileage such as using a cross curriculum approach. Teachers have read books like *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* by John Haddon which have opened up ideas and concepts students may not be able to access independently. Have you ever played 'musical books' or done speed dating with picture books? Some schools have renamed silent reading or DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) as Bring Out my Books – BOMB.

Rosemary then shared her passion and breadth of knowledge of literature which engages readers across all age levels. Her snippets and summaries left us pouring over the titles and noting ones we would like to read ourselves, as well as using these to hook in our students. Not only was the emphasis on the joy of reading but Teachers as Readers UK research has highlighted the impact of reading on wellbeing.

Our thanks to Jo and Rosemary for hosting the meeting at the National Library, inspiring and firing up our commitment to develop a school wide reading culture and clarifying the borrowing process from National Library. While individual teachers can no longer select books, schools can request a large number of reading for pleasure books, inquiry and topic specific books. This change has enabled more schools to access this excellent resource.

We urge you to checkout the National Library website whose services to schools include Engaging Readers, Digital Literacy, Ask Questions, professional development for schools and links to the research.

<https://natlib.govt.nz/schools/digital-literacy/digital-resources-and-guides/anyquestions-guide>

Sue Court
Incoming President

Office Bearers and Committee Members Auckland Literacy Association 2018-2019

President Sue Court

President Elect Alice Musuku

Past President Bronwyn Hayward

Treasurer Alarna Sutton

Secretary Heather Bell

Committee Members

Rob Southam

Christine Boocock

Sharon Croft

Aylene FitzGerald

Aireen Ah Kui

Liz Clarkson

Margaret Carter

Nicola Russell

Gemma Maddocks

Literacy Landscapes



The NZLA conference is in Palmerston North from 3rd-5th October 2018 featuring **Peter Johnston, Jan Gaffney, Rob Southam, Susie Johnson, Dr Bernadette Dwyer, Wayne Mills, Rae Si'ilata** and **Nathan Wallis**. We will share details as they come to hand or check out NZLA at <http://nzla.org.nz/>

Remember that applications are open for the Sponsored Teacher awards to attend the NZLA conference, and must be received by 13 April. Application forms are included in this newsletter.

Auckland Literacy Association



Sponsored Teacher Application – 2018

The Auckland Literacy Association offers four sponsorships for members to attend the national NZLA conference, which is being held this year in Palmerston North, from Wednesday 3 October to Friday 5 October 2018. This conference offers significant professional development and an opportunity to mix with colleagues from New Zealand and overseas. Two sponsorships will be for early career teachers (teaching six years or less) and two for experienced teachers (teaching six years or more). ALA will pay registration, travel, accommodation for three nights on a shared twin basis and a koha for incidentals. Any other costs are at the individual's expense.

Requirements:

- You (or your school) must be a current financial member of ALA.
- You will be required to write a report of the conference, for inclusion in the ALA Newsletter.
- You must have a written statement of support from a senior staff member from your school or centre.
- Nominations must not exceed one page.
- Late or excessive nominations will not be considered.
- You must be willing to attend general ALA meetings.
- You must sign to indicate acceptance of these requirements.
- Failure to attend the conference will result in the individual being required to repay the cost of the sponsorship.
- You will be required to work with the other sponsored teachers in a joint presentation of your experience at the ALA General Meeting.
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Please apply on this application form only and send to Heather Bell 2/3 Francis Street, Takapuna 0622 or email heatherbell1992@gmail.com no later than 5:00pm on Friday 13 April 2018.

**AUCKLAND LITERACY ASSOCIATION
SPONSORED TEACHER APPLICATION 2018**

Name:

School:

Address:

**Phone: (Home)
(School)**

Email:

Length of service:

Reasons for wishing to attend:

How might you apply new learning from the conference:

Statement of support from a senior staff member:

Name of applicant:

Signature:

Name of supporter:

Signature:

Position