

November 2015

Kia ora colleagues,

2015 has seen some changes within the Canterbury Literacy Association with reduced numbers on the working committee and some mixed results from our Professional Development events. We had planned to have one event each term but this year has thrown us some interesting curve balls resulting in the first term event having to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Our second event was a roaring success – a MLE! at Waitākari School. Rob Southern from Scholastic Books gave us a thought provoking session of our early introductions to books then a very stimulating and exciting Literacy Ramble proved to be valuable time to observe and ask questions of upwards of 20 practitioners of Literacy demonstrating good practice within classrooms.

Our third event with Des Hunt was received well by the smaller than usual participants probably due to his busy schedule in the city at the time. The free session for students was very welcomed and most left excited and stimulated about his books and ideas of how to use them.

Our final event for the year promises, once more to be a showcase of the best and worst books, teachers, librarians and students have read this year. We have a change of venue this year and will be hosting it at the Everglades Golf Course on Marshlands Road. -Look for the flyer in your schools!

Many of us went to the Annual New Zealand literacy Conference held this year in Wellington and were 'wowed' by the ideas and inspiration we came away with. There was a good representation of educationalists from Canterbury attending the Conference and I personally recommend all teachers to think now about "Navigating Literaseas" – Waitangi – Bay of Islands – 2016. Look on the New Zealand Literacy Association web site for details of this conference.

2016 is beginning to look an exciting year of events most of which are already in the pipeline so suggest you make a real effort to look out for these and take the time to come along and share the camaraderie of other likeminded and stimulated literacy practitioners.

We send out newsletters each term to over 250 Primary Schools and some Secondary Schools in Canterbury so ask your Literacy Leader for information on upcoming events.

If you have even a little time to spare, come and share the load with us and join our fun loving committee. Please feel free to contact any of the addresses on the newsletter or make yourself known at the upcoming "Best and Worst" event in November – the work is not onerous, the company is great and the rewards are worthwhile.

Have a safe and relaxing summer break and remember to share some summer reading with those close to you.

Look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Raewyn Maher
CLA President

MLE and Literacy Ramble – held at Waitākiri School on 6 August

CLA has once again offered the region's teachers a PLD event that inspires and encourages motivating and meaningful literacy for students. The title was the hook. *MLE: Marvellous Literacy Experiences & Practices*. Judging by the comments of participants and presenters the evening certainly lived up to this title!

The event began with an inspirational address from Rob Southam (manager of Scholastic *Books in Home*). She discussed e-reading trends and shared some ideas for 'read to' books and ideas for recreational reading. The main message as always was about the **power of engagement with text**.

We are so fortunate in Canterbury that teachers are willing to open up their practice and share their successes with others. We had a number of class teachers and authors sharing and displaying a variety of reading, writing and digital literacy ideas. Participants rambled along stopping to listen and chat when something struck a chord.

Thank you to Jacqui and the team at Waitākiri School for opening their school, organising the evening and the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you also to all the teachers and authors who were willing to share their ideas with others.

Joy Hawke



Des Hunt: Author and Scientist

You could tell these weren't going to be ordinary writing lessons as author, Des Hunt, set up a science laboratory at the front of the room. Over two two-hour sessions, he kept a classroom full of children fully engaged with his own story as a writer, his written stories, and the wonders of static electricity, magnets and chemical reactions. Each science experiment was a metaphor for a writing technique. Des demonstrated how repulsion is more interesting than attraction, how a writer must draw the reader in with the magnet of the next intriguing event, and how key ingredients need to be added to the story, in just the right amounts and at just the right time, to achieve the desired reaction. The reaction in this case was "wow" and he got it each time. Des's science demonstrations were interspersed with valuable skills lessons on the structure of story and sentences, and how to manage dialogue effectively.

Over fifty lucky children from the Christchurch/ Canterbury region had been sponsored by the CLA to attend the sessions for free, some travelling for hours to attend. They took home a notebook, a pencil and a sense of excitement about their next writing project.

Noah, Year 7, said, "I liked what he taught us about writing, he told us how to rewrite and how to swap sentences around to make them more interesting."

Madeleine, Year 7, said, "I really liked how he used science metaphors. He used different substances like iodine and potato starch which changed the colour of the liquid. This showed how a story should develop to hook us in. His session taught us new skills that we can use in the future."

The magnets and chemicals came out again for an after-school session for teachers and librarians where Des demonstrated precise steps he takes as a writer in order to motivate even the most reluctant reader to keep going to the very end of a book. And then he finished with a big bang – literally!

Heather McQuillan

Marie Clay Literacy Award recipient

I was very privileged to receive the Marie Clay Literacy Award for experienced teachers. I attended the annual New Zealand Literacy Conference 2015 held at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington during the first week of the September holidays.

This was the first Literacy conference I have attended so have nothing to compare but it was everything I had expected and more, as a classroom teacher – from the trade stands with many of the main service providers in our schools all in one place, new and exciting e-programmes available now and in the near future, the latest reading materials, and listening to the hilarious Billy Graham. We seldom get the time to be bombarded with such inspirational people. The Key Note speakers were:

- **Swee Tan**, a truly inspiring and humble man speaking of his world leading research in plastic surgery with particular direction in cancer research and birthmark and paediatric plastic surgery making amazing progress within his field and showing how self-belief can make anything possible.
- **Andy Griffiths**, the hilarious and prolific children's author
- **Morris Gleitzman**, another amazing and vital author of so many of the amazing books available to us.
- **Jill Eggleton**, an International Educational Consultant with practical ideas for firing up literacy programmes
- **Karen Melhuish-Spencer** using digital technology in the classroom
- **Manu Faaea-Semeatu**, providing the Pasifika perspective on education in New Zealand.

There were many and varied workshops available to push start practical ideas for our teaching and to revive our ideas baskets. There were also the latest research results in reading and writing progress. I was fortunate to listen to NZCER leaders, the people who wrote the curriculum and how to use the key Competencies effectively in our literacy programmes and to be able to question them about issues we have had and to have these explained.

The three days passed with such speed it was unbelievable and I know, many of the ideas gleaned will continue to enrich my classroom practice hugely.

Of course, having the opportunity to go to the Wearable Arts production in place of a dinner was yet another highlight of the conference.

In all, this opportunity was one of the best chances for professional development anybody could have been given.

I urge all experienced teachers to apply for this chance in the future to learn new skills and to revisit many ideas we have in our Toolboxes but have been put away carefully and forgotten about.

I would like to thank all those involved in the Marie Clay Trust administration who made this possible for me and the Canterbury Literacy Association for their belief in me and selecting me for this award.

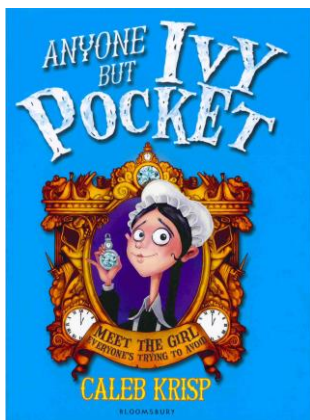
Raewyn Maher



Congratulations to Angela Harrison (r) from Avondale Primary School who won the free conference registration to next year's conference "Navigating Literaseas" – Waitangi – Bay of Islands

Redwood and Avondale School teachers between workshops at the WOW Literacy Conference

Anyone but Ivy Pocket by C Krisp. Published by Bloomsbury, HB \$24.99

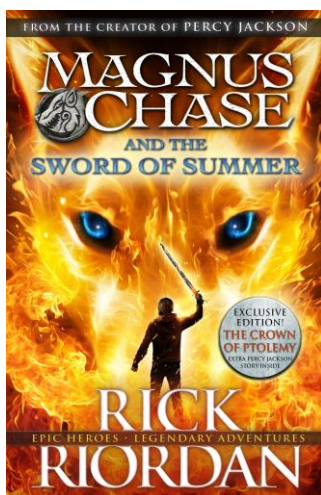


Ivy Pocket is a twelve-year-old maid of no importance, with a very lofty opinion of herself. Dumped in Paris by the Countess Carbunkle, who would rather run away to South America than continue in Ivy's companionship, our young heroine (of sorts) finds herself with no money and no home to go to ... until she is summoned to the bedside of the dying Duchess of Trinity. For the princely sum of £500 (enough to buy a carriage, and possibly a monkey), Ivy agrees to courier the Duchess's most precious possession - the Clock Diamond - to England, and to put it around the neck of the revolting Matilda Butterfield on her twelfth birthday. It's not long before Ivy finds herself at the heart of a conspiracy involving mischief, mayhem and murder. Illustrated in humorous gothic

detail by John Kelly, *Anyone But Ivy Pocket* is just the beginning of one girl's deadly comic journey to discover who she really is ...

Despite her grandiose view of herself Ivy Pocket has an innocence about her that endears her to the reader. She has no filter – like young children she says what she thinks – if she considers you ugly and unfortunate, she tells you. She does not view herself in the same way of course, she is always right and the rest of the world wrong. Following the growth of Ivy Pocket and the mayhem and magic that is found along the way is a good read, one that could be shared aloud with younger children and could comfortably be handled by a confident nine year old. It is more likely to appeal to girls. It has a similar appeal as Pippi Longstocking.

Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer (Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard 1) by R Riordan. Puffin, \$26.00.



Magnus Chase has always been a troubled kid. Since his mother's mysterious death, he's lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, keeping one step ahead of the police and the truant officers. One day, he's tracked down by an uncle he's never met - a man his mother claimed was dangerous. His uncle tells him an impossible secret: Magnus is the son of a Norse god. The Viking myths are true. The gods of Asgard are preparing for war. Trolls, giants and worse monsters are stirring for doomsday. To prevent Ragnarok, Magnus must search the Nine Worlds for a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years. When an attack by fire giants forces him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents, Magnus makes a fatal decision. Sometimes, the only way to start a new life is to die . . .

In this series the Norse gods are reimagined for 21st century readers. Here is a compelling new hero for those who enjoyed the Percy Jackson series.

The last CLA event for this year

Term 4	<p>Best and Worst of 2015</p> <p>The Best and Worst Books evening in association with Canterbury Public Libraries is an opportunity to listen to the panel's choices, connect with colleagues and get some hot tips of great children's books.</p> <p>Wednesday 25 November 7pm</p> <p>Netherlands Society clubrooms Everglades Golf Course 673 Marshlands Road Shirley.</p>
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Some websites to explore

The New Zealand Literacy Association Website www.nzla.org.nz

The Writing Book by Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey

<http://www.thewritingbook.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheWritingBook>

Kiwi Kids News - National, International Sports and Odd news. (check out the 'Odd Stuff')

<http://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz>

Steve Spangler Science – experiments and videos etc <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com>

Author websites

Morris Gleitzman <http://www.morrisgleitzman.com/>

Mem Fox <http://memfox.com/>

Shaun Tan <http://www.shauntan.net/>

Paul Jennings <http://www.pauljennings.com/>

Andy Griffiths <http://www.andygriffiths.com.au/>

Des Hunt <http://www.deshunt.com/>

Situations Vacant

Are you interested in literacy? Would you like to be part of a group that organises local literacy events for teachers? We are all busy teachers in the sector and would welcome other interested people. Contact a member of the committee to find out more.

Summer's coming

As term four is well underway and Christmas quickly approaches we'd like to thank you for your support this year and wish you a safe and happy Christmas and summer break.

Hopefully there will be plenty of time to catch up on a good read or three.



Coming to a School near you ...

New reading resources



Text	Online resource downloads
Ready to Read	
Red At the Pool, Down the Slide, and Getting Ready for the Visitors.	Teacher Support Materials (TSMs) and audio versions are available to support each of these new titles
Yellow At The Market	
Shared <i>Two non-fiction books</i> Camouflage and Stick Insects.	
Junior Journal 51	Whole text, Teacher Support Material, Audio file

Literacy Online resource you may like to explore



<http://soundsandwords.tki.org.nz/>

This online resource is designed to support teachers and students to learn about phonological awareness and spelling. The resource examines Phonological Awareness, Spelling, Grammar and Vocabulary.

The site design uses an inquiry framework and builds on the Literacy Learning Progressions.

Canterbury Literacy Association Committee

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