

November / December 2016

Ngā mihi o te tau hou.

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2016.



May I take this opportunity to thank all educationalists in and around Christchurch who have supported the initiatives of the Canterbury Literacy Association in 2016. We have had some very successful events.

The excellent PD and Literacy Ramble held at the new Rāwhiti School earlier in the year with Jill Eggleton as the keynote speaker, and the launch of the new Oral Language Handbook by Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey in the new facilities at Halswell School both succeeded in having over 300 attendees attend each event which makes us who organise such events feeling very satisfied.

The children's Storytelling for Students event proved to be a great day and a great venue at the Christchurch School of Music. This free event was offered to motivated children from local schools and they had a great day.

The highlight of the year for many teachers was the action packed New Zealand Literacy Association Conference - *Navigating the Literaseas* held this year in the Bay of Islands at Waitangi during the recent September break.

Our final event of the year is the Best and Worst books available in 2016 where we offer a free event with wine, juice and Christmas cake to give you a snapshot of reading resources to tempt you for next year. These books are always selected from a panel of front line teachers so they are usually tested and received by students. We hope many of you will take the opportunity to support the evening. Details are in the newsletter.

Again, thank you each and every one of you who support the work we do. We are always looking for anyone who has a passion for literacy and would like to join our relaxed and approachable committee for 2017.

If you do attend the Best and Worst event and would like to please make yourself known to a committee member or email us at the address on this newsletter.

On behalf of the CLA have an enjoyable Term 4 and look forward to another exciting year in 2017.

Nāku noa,
Raewyn Maher
CLA President.



The centenary of Roald Dahl's birthday – 13 September

A special anniversary of an author well-loved occurred this year. Many schools celebrated the birth day of Roald Dahl. Do you have a favourite Roald Dahl story, or many?

At Waitākiri School "... we celebrated the 100th birthday of author Roald Dahl with a quiz, Dahl trivia and jokes each day and a display in the library. The winners of the quiz are pictured below with their Roald Dahl themed prizes. They were very excited to receive them."

Jacqui Malham



Images (below) shared by Sue Bridges who was in the UK on Dahl's birthday and saw Quentin Blake's amazing original BFG illustrations at the House of Illustration.





Navigating the Literaseas **New Zealand Literacy Association** **Conference** **Waitangi – Bay of Islands**



Congratulations to NZLA and the Tai Tokerau committee for a wonderful conference in what could only be described as the best-ever venue for a literacy conference! Waitangi, Bay of Islands!

As the title of the conference suggested we “navigated our way around the literaseas” in a variety of ways.

We attended an authors’ evening at a variety of cafes and restaurants in historic Russell with Fifi Colston, Jennifer Beck, Paula Green, Des Hunt, Kyle Mewburn, Norm Heke and Julie Noanoa. We ‘navigated’ an early evening cruise around the Bay of Islands and we were also captivated by messages from the keynote speakers.

From the opening night **Brian Falkner** engaged us with his message about inspiring young writers and exciting young readers:

*You can't force kids to do creative writing.
You can't force them to read books.
You can inspire them to want to tell stories.
You can inspire them to seek out new worlds...
New Civilisations...
To boldly go...
...where they have never gone before!*

Karen Spencer inspired us with her messages about digitally-enhanced, inclusive learning design.

We navigated the NZ literacy journey over the last 10 years with **Dr Alison Davis** asking ourselves ‘are we there yet?’ The big change we notice is learners in control and making learning visible.

Nathan Mikaere Wallis challenged our thinking about the brain and about how this knowledge can help children. A key message was the importance of the first 1000 days in a child’s life and intelligence.

I found **Marcus Akuhata-Brown** to be a gifted communicator and he inspired me with his powerful message – he spoke about how glass lids of low expectations and achievement were lifted off his life and how, through positive encouragement, intuitive goal setting as well as having the courage to break out of comfort zones, led to a life of excitement, adventure and purpose.

Nigel Latta humorously challenged our thinking with his keynote entitled “The Story of Stories”.

It was encouraging to see that so many from the South Island attended this conference, including 7 from the CLA committee and 4 of these people also presented workshops. It is inspiring that teachers and educators are prepared to share their knowledge and learning by putting themselves in the spotlight for an hour or so.



Our committee members Heather, Jacqui, Sophie and Scott's workshops were well supported:

Accelerating Learning in Literacy (ALL) – The success stories – What works for whom?

On a tropical spring morning in the Waitangi Bowling Clubrooms and as the birds sang in the trees ALL Regional Leaders for UC Education *Plus* **Scott Wolfe** and **Adie Bonisch's** workshop shared successes and teacher innovations in the Programmes for Students: Accelerating Learning in Literacy (ALL) school led, school driven interventions in Te Waipounamu. The workshop presented data and strategies for students' accelerated progress, strengthening family/whānau partnerships, what strategies worked for whom: for students, for teachers and using the Literacy Progressions as a smart tool for developing individual Pathways of Progress. Photos were taken and emails sent.



Jacqui and Sophie

Maximising Literacy in a Flexible Learning Space

Jacqui Malham and **Sophie O'Rourke** from Waitākiri School enthusiastically engaged their audience in the new purpose-built studio at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Their message was about their journey but also about Effective Pedagogy (understanding quality teaching and learning) being the 'key'.

The topic of this workshop really hit a chord with the audience and many stayed on during the lunch break to find out 'more', to swap email addresses and to set up visits!



Redrafting Writing – The Missing Links from First to Final Drafts

The Waitangi Treaty Grounds were also the venue for a workshop presented by our resident 'writer who teaches' **Heather McQuillan**.

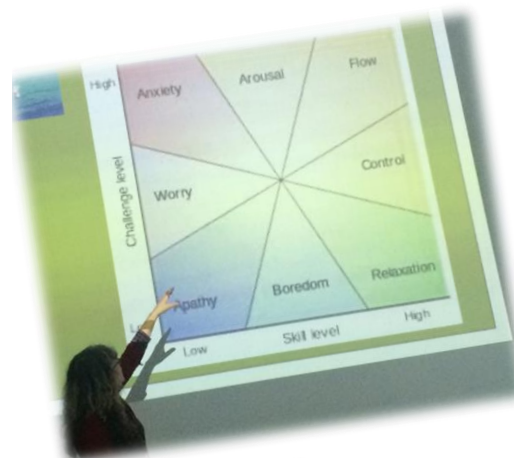
Some key thoughts I took away included:

The best way to have A Good Idea is to have Lots of Ideas.

Every activity has a purpose BUT not everything needs (is worth) redrafting.

First drafts don't have to be perfect – they just have to be written!

Simplified steps for redrafting – ADD, CHANGE, SUBTRACT, REARRANGE.



Joy Hawke

Heather



☆☆☆☆☆ Upcoming Event- our last for the year ☆☆☆☆☆



The Best and Worst Books of 2016

Wednesday 23 November
Sydenham Room, South Learning Centre
7 - 9pm

This year's Best and Worst Books evening, in association with Canterbury Public Libraries, is a light hearted evening and a great opportunity to listen to the panel's choices of what's hot and what's not in 2016.

Come along for an opportunity to connect with colleagues and get some hot tips on great children's books. It's a chance to have your first piece of Christmas cake for 2016, to have a convivial drink.

Bring yourself, some gold coins for refreshments, raffle tickets and something to record the titles of books you will want to purchase for yourself or someone for Christmas.

Book Reviews – Mary Sangster *The Original Children's Book Shop*



Wolf Hollow

by Lauren Wolk Penguin Random House, paperback \$23.00

The date setting is never specified exactly, but this story unravels during the Second World War in a remote country community in the US. The values are different to those of today and life is a struggle. Our protagonist Annabelle lives a simple, but happy life until a new girl enters the community and she is a bully. We follow the open-natured Annabelle as she copes with bullying and becomes tangled in guilt and doubt as she first tells a "white lie" to give herself time to decide what course of action to take, and then compounds her lie until she reaches the point where she feels that she can't tell the truth and be believed.

The community's bigotry is highlighted when Annabelle's friend is blinded by a rock thrown in her direction from an unknown source. People are quick to point the finger at a squatter who is seen to be eccentric. A man-hunt follows during which Annabelle finds herself lying more in order to protect someone that she believes is innocent.

The story does not end well for all the characters. It is a poignant and well-written tale highlighting, not only the pitfalls and consequences of bullying and lying, but the damage that can be done by expressing ill-founded opinions and judging people with no forethought or empathy.

The story flows well and whilst the language is suitable for a confident 9 year old, the underlying themes are more appropriate for those 10/11 years+.



Olive of Groves and the Great Slurp of Time

by Katrina Nannestad, illustrated by Lucia Masciullo. ABC Books, hardback, \$24.99

This story, set in Mrs Groves' Boarding School for Naughty Boys, Talking Animals, Circus Performers and Time Travellers, is an enjoyable adventure. The characters are an eclectic and somewhat eccentric mix of people and animals and include a villainous bully and a muddlesome and completely disorganised head mistress as well as the sound, sensible Olive.

The story moves along at quite a good pace as every good adventure should. The author however, slows from time to time and addresses the reader directly, adding or asking for an opinion or explaining something in the action. This is done in a conversational style, never patronising and actually adds to the imagery. A scattering of black and white drawings throughout add to the fun, but don't conflict with the imaginative process inspired by the prose.

Altogether, a rollicking good read which would suit 8/9 year olds. It would be a fun read-aloud to a younger audience.

Literacy Online updates

The English medium literacy instructional series teaching and learning resources for years 1 to 8 now has its own website.

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

You can find a range of resources to support Ready to read, Junior Journal, School Journal, School Journal Story Library and Connected in the form of:

- Text – download the digital copies
- TSM PDFs – download Teacher Support Material
- TSM Word - download Teacher Support Material
- Download Audio – download MP3 files
- Google Slides - view resource in Google slides, and
- Reusable content on Google Drive



Canterbury Literacy Association Committee

President: Raewyn Maher

Secretary: Karen Amyes e: karena@hvs.school.nz

Treasurer: Lesa McKenzie e: mcks.5@xtra.co.nz

Committee: Sue Bridges, Joy Hawke, Jacqui Malham, Kate McClelland, Heather McQuillan, Lynmaree Sopoaga, Lynne Topham, Scott Wolfe & Cathie Zelas

New committee members are welcome - feel free to contact a committee member to find out more.

Panel Discussion

Holiday Reading List

Early Christmas
Raffle

You are invited to attend...

The Best and Worst Children's Books of 2016

*Ngā Pukapuka Tamariki Pai Rawa,
Kino Rawa hoki mō 2016*

Hosted by: Christchurch City Libraries and the
Canterbury Literacy Association

When: Wednesday 23 November, 7–9pm

Where: South Library, 66 Colombo Street

Gold coin donation for wine or juice and a slice of Christmas cake

For more information, please visit christchurchcitylibraries.com or call 941 7923