

# Tauranga Literacy Council

## 2017 Calendar

Date	Event
Term 1 Feb 28th	<b><i>Karen Spencer</i></b> - Director of Education, NetSafe, to work with IT teachers around Cyber Safety issues. (see attached blurb for more info)
Term 2 Wed 31st May	<b><i>Nathan Mikaere-Wallis</i></b> - Keynote Speaker. A truly fascinating speaker for anyone who works with or is raising children! (see attached blurb for more info)
Term 3 Date TBC	<b><i>Authors Tour</i></b> - NZ authors can visit your school to inspire, and work with students.
Term 4 September Holidays (Sat 30th Sept)	<b><i>Day Trip to Conference</i></b> - Join colleagues on a bus trip to Hamilton and attend the New Zealand Literacy Association's National Conference, this year hosted by the Waikato Literacy Council.
8th Sept	<b><i>International Literacy Day</i></b> - Select students from your school to attend a day full of fun literacy activities. More details to come!
Date TBC	<b><i>Jenny Giles Writing Competition</i></b> - Students enter their writing to win great prizes for themselves and their school!



## Karen Melhuish Spencer

### Personal Biography

Tēnā koutou, no Yorkshire o Ingarani ahau, kō the Chevin te maunga, kō Wharfe te awa, Ngāti Pakeha tōku iwi, kō Karen toku ingoa.

Karen (Twitter: @virtuallykaren) is the new Director of Education at NetSafe and has worked in education for over 20 years. With a background in teaching, project leadership and consultancy, she is now internationally recognised for her expertise in future-focused professional learning, and digitally-enhanced, inclusive learning design. She is an inspiring presenter, known for her energy, humour and research-led approach.

Karen is focused on helping educators and leaders put the learner at the heart, aligning vision to action to create ambitious, transformed curricula.

In recent years, Karen has been the lead advisor for the national Connected Learning Advisory-Te Ara Whītiki service, with CORE Education, supporting all New Zealand schools and kura to use digital technologies. She spearheaded New Zealand's inaugural Connected Educator Month in 2014 and has undertaken extensive work in curriculum and assessment projects for the Ministry of Education, NZQA, and for international agencies. She was central to the development of Enabling e-Learning, the VLN Groups social network and the e-Learning Planning Framework. With a Masters in Education, Karen received the inaugural ICET Asia-Pacific Senior e-Fellow award, and the John Avery Scholarship from the University of Waikato, in 2013.

Find out more about Karen via her blog: [www.karenmelhuishspencer.com](http://www.karenmelhuishspencer.com)



Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

### Personal Biography

Nathan Wallis is a father of three & foster parent with a professional background in child counselling, teaching and social service management.

Until recently he lectured in Human Development at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand and was also a board member and senior trainer with the highly respected Brainwave Trust. In

2010 he founded a private training consultancy, Nathan Wallis Ltd, with the goal of facilitating easy to understand professional development training reflecting the latest neuroscience discoveries and their practical implications for everyday practice.

Since then he has been in hot demand, delivering in excess of 150 presentations every year throughout New Zealand and Australia. He has developed a reputation as a lively and engaging speaker who uses humour and plain language to make this complex topic come to life.

### Keynote Blurb

Nathan's presentations explore how the brain works and how neuro- science can better inform our day to day interactions with children and young people.

Information about the human brain (and how it grows to reach full potential) has exploded into our awareness over the past twenty years. The 1990's were called the 'decade of the brain' and advances in scanning technologies allowed us to understand the workings of the brain like never before, showing us the huge significance of the early years and the critical role this period plays in defining later outcomes. The Teenage Brain has also gone under the microscope and we now understand with greater clarity the link between brain development and 'the teenage condition'.

These new findings often contradict many of the practices that parents, teachers, and other helping professionals have utilised in the belief that they are helping children. Nathan presents the practical implications of this research with a focus on how to use this knowledge to create better outcomes.

