

November 2017

Kia Ora,

This is our last newsletter for 2017. Sadly, Raewyn Maher, the outgoing CLA President, will not be returning to the committee. On behalf of the committee I would like to acknowledge and thank her for her leadership, all the hard work behind the scenes and the fun times during her involvement on the Canterbury Literacy Association.

My thanks also to all the attendees and supporters of our four amazing events this year:

- Our AGM in early March was brightened up with Heaton Librarian Jane Boniface's presentation on Livening Up Your Library!
- Dr Viv Aitken shared her workshop "Dramatically Enhancing the Teaching of Literacy Years 1 – 8"
- 300 + literacy enthusiasts enjoyed Murray Gadd's presentation in May entitled "Inspiring the Reading and Writing - What is Critical for Reluctant Readers and Writers?"
- The Mo Show - a fabulous children's event promoting the Mo Willems picture books, led by CLA committee member Sophie O'Rourke.

We put a lot of effort into providing amazing events that support and promote effective literacy in Canterbury. Thanks to all the CLA committee for their passion, enthusiasm and hard work in running these events!

The treat for many of our committee members and local educators was to attend the NZLA Power of Words - One Day Roadshow Conference at Haeata Community College in the September holidays. It was truly inspiring listening to Ralph Fletcher, Sheena Cameron and Kyle Mewburn!

Our last event for the year, Best and Worst Books, will be held on Wednesday 29 November at the Bishopdale Community Centre Hall at 7pm. The highlight over the last couple of years has been the children panellists, who enjoy sharing their favourite (and not so favourite!) books. We look forward to seeing you there! Bring a gold coin and enjoy a drink and slice of Christmas cake.

Finally, look out for our newsletter at the beginning of next year with details of upcoming events and remember to renew your CLA membership! The benefits include cheaper attendance costs to all CLA events, access to the free children's event and 3 volumes of the Literacy Forum journal (which will soon be able to be accessed online). Members also have the opportunity to apply for Travel Awards and Research Scholarships. For further details on the benefits of belonging to our Association, check out the website nzla.org.nz.

Good luck with all the end-of-year activities and best wishes for the silly season.
Meri Kirihimete!

Karen Amyes

President-elect
Canterbury Literacy Association

World Literacy Day 2017

Te Puna Oraka were the recipients of Canterbury Literacy Association's book donation to mark International Literacy Day in 2017. Marge Reedy (pictured) was delighted to accept the books on behalf of the families they work with.

Te Puna Oraka is a partnership between Barnardos and the Early Start Project which was set up in late 2008. This is the only site in Christchurch and one of 13 throughout NZ which are funded by Family & Community Services. The vision is that: "all children have the best start in life, flourish in early childhood, and are supported to reach their potential."

Te Puna Oraka offers a number of programmes for mothers 24 years and younger, including Early Start, Triple P – Positive Parenting, Listen Love Play and Incredible Years.

Early Start is offered to Christchurch families with newborn babies, where social and family circumstances may put at risk the health and well-being of their children.

The service provided is entirely voluntary, free, long term (up to 5 years) and home based and promotes healthy child development within a nurturing family environment.





NZLA The Power of Words Conference - Christchurch 4 October 2017

Recently the NZLA Annual conference did something new with a roadshow across the country. Five CLA member teachers were awarded Marie Clay Literacy Trust awards this year enabling them to attend 'The Power of Words' one day conference roadshow in Christchurch.

Recipients' insights

I was fortunate to be a recipient of a Marie Clay Literacy Trust Early Career Teacher Conference Award to attend The Power of Words conference in October. To spend a day surrounded by fantastic speakers and other literacy lovers was a day well spent!

As a Sheena Cameron fan and drama enthusiast my particular highlight was attending Sheena's workshop. I implemented many of Sheena's ideas the first day of term 4, and my students are loving more drama and oral language in our reading and writing sessions. Attending this conference has helped my teaching, my students' learning and my passion for what I do. Huge thanks to the Marie Clay Literacy Trust for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference.

Kathleen Ryan – Early careers MCLT teacher

Recently I was lucky enough to be awarded the Marie Clay Trust award to attend the National Literacy Conference, Power of Words, in Christchurch. I was so pleased to have this opportunity and to come away inspired and with some great ideas to add into my daily literacy programme.

I particularly enjoyed hearing from Ralph Fletcher and his inspirations and ideas to encourage our reluctant readers, specifically, boys. One of his ideas was to introduce boys to a writing journal. This is not something to be marked, but rather a place in which they can write down their thoughts and imaginings safely, without fear of someone judging. I found this very poignant as I had just done this for my son as he was having difficulty expressing himself and I hoped it would give him a valid and safe place to let everything out. So far it has been a positive and effective tool for my son.

I also loved hearing from Sheena Cameron. She left me feeling inspired and with some great hands on activities that my students would benefit from and could be used immediately. I purchased one of her literacy books to ensure that I am using ideas and activities that have been proven to be effective and follow best practise. All in all it was a positive and inspiring day where I came away with new knowledge and understanding as well as the belief that what I have been doing in the classroom has been useful and beneficial for the children.

Rachel Wood – Early careers MCLT teacher

The Power of Words Literacy conference

Attending the Power of Words conference in Christchurch in early October was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on my literacy practice and what it is that I need to do more of, more often.

Ralph Fletcher's sessions, both his keynote and workshop session, were inspirational. He reminded us that in the simple act of observing closely the goings-on around us in our everyday lives, we can find motivation to write. Keeping a *Writers notebook* is key to this philosophy. It gives writers an opportunity to goof around, take risks and have fun with words. Young writers can record their wonderings, snippets of conversations, odd facts and their feelings about "what's on top" for them in their lives.

Ralph told us that through providing a daily time and place to write, we give young writers the chance to express themselves, and that from this, they will naturally fall into their preferred writing genre.

Providing powerful mentor texts is another important aspect to consider when seeking to engage students. Ralph made the point that the writing that students do in class will only ever be as good as the literature that supports and surrounds it. Making use of micro-texts is a useful strategy along with double reading of a text – once to enjoy and once to steal the author's craft.

As a final thought to leave with, Ralph reminded us that we need to give students choice in their writing, celebrate what they do well, especially our boys, and build from there.

Many thanks to the Marie Clay Trust for supporting my attendance at this conference.

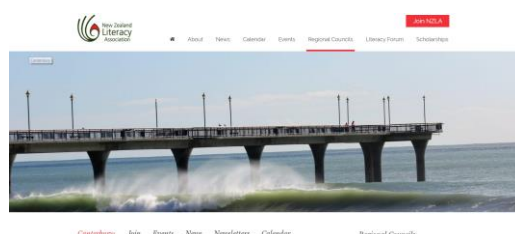
Jude Edwards - experienced MCLT teacher

New Zealand Literacy Association (NZLA) website

<http://nzla.org.nz/>

A wealth of information is contained in the newly redesigned website. Have a browse when you can.

- About
- News
- Calendar
- Events
- Regional Councils
- Literacy Forum – the official Journal of the NZLA
- Scholarships
- Membership



The final CLA event for the year

Best and Worst Books of 2017

Wednesday 29 November 7:00 - 9:00pm



Not many sleeps until the annual CLA Best and Worst Books evening. In partnership with the Christchurch City Council Libraries, the Canterbury Literacy Association invites you to a summer evening of laughter, Christmas cake and refreshments as a selection of children's books are toasted and roasted by a panel passionate about children's books. Great ideas for Christmas stockings and holiday reading.

Cost - Gold coin contributions for drinks and raffle tickets.

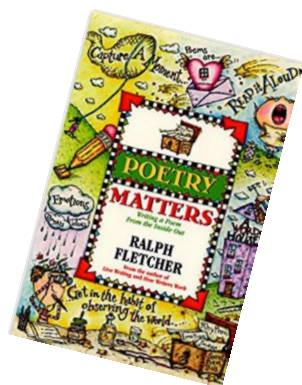
https://christchurch.bibliocommons.com/events/search/local_start=2017-11-29%20TO%20/event/5979242a0986e13e008f3f82

All welcome.



Quality Reads.

Well worth a read, a peruse, a glance or an obsession ...

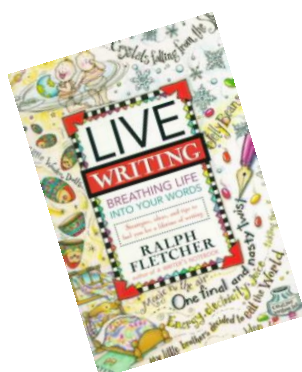


Following on from Ralph's tour of NZ with the NZLA Power of Words conference here are two of his great books. Written for the young writer in mind they give great practical pointers, examples and ideas for writing. A great resource for teachers also!

Poetry Matters: Writing a Poem From the Inside Out. **Ralph Fletcher.**

"Poetry matters. At the most important moments, when everyone else is silent, poetry rises to speak."

This book is full of practical wisdom to help young writers craft beautiful poetry that shines, sings, and soars. It features writing tips and tricks, interviews with published poets for children, and plenty of examples of poetry by published writers—and even young people themselves." Goodreads.com



Live Writing: Breathing Life Into Your Words. **Ralph Fletcher.**

"This book is titled Live Writing, and you may be wondering what I mean by that. Most of us have read (and written!) the opposite kind of writing—dull, drab language that sounds about as interesting as a city phone book. By live writing I mean the kind of writing that has a current running through it—energy, electricity, juice. When we read live writing, the words seem to lift off the page and burrow deep inside us." Ralph Fletcher.com

Ruben

Written and illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Scholastic Australia 2017

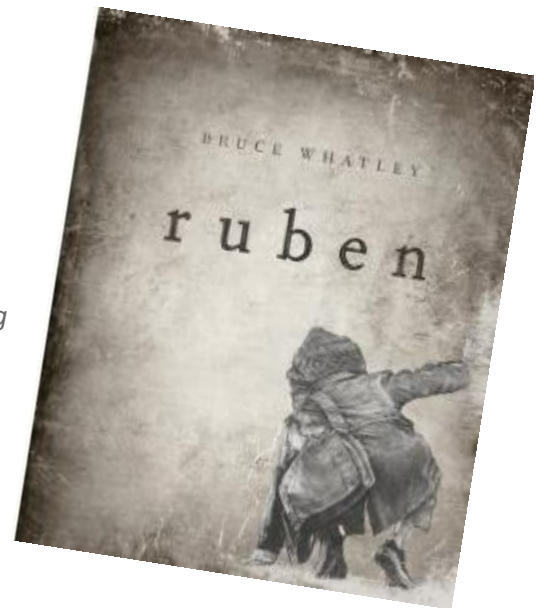
(ISBN: 978-1-74381-035-4)

"Ruben's dreams were of places that made no sense to him.

Places that didn't exist. At least not anymore.

Ruben lives in a safe place in a city that takes everything and gives nothing back. He begins to feel that he is in danger and ventures to Block City where he meets Koji. She too has been hiding from the dangers of the industrial city and its excesses. Ruben and Koji realise that if they combine their knowledge of how the city works, they can find a way to escape... together.

Ruben is a triumph of Bruce Whatley's imaginative and technical skills."
Scholastic.com.au



Bruce Whatley's latest book is visually stunning in monochromatic sketches that challenge the reader to explore what is in each illustration. The illustrations are a blend of digital and traditional art forms.

The text is beautifully written in the third person, with Ruben as the main character. More is said by less words, enticing the reader to discover more about Ruben and Koji. No speech is used, yet a story is told from Ruben's perspective, with his fears and thoughts easily visible.

Themes: dystopian, monochrome, industrial, friendship, loneliness.

TOITOI

A Journal for Young Writers and Artists

<https://www.toittoi.nz/>

Have you seen Toittoi at your school/kura?

A superb quarterly journal of New Zealand children's writing and art published to be shared and enjoyed by other children (and adults!).

A number of subscription options are available.

Single or multiple copies options as well as teacher notes to support teaching.

Great for reading aloud, sheer enjoyment, quality examples of authentic audience, purpose and voice in writing and motivation for student writing.

Opportunities for students' writing and art contributions to be published are shared on the website.

"Toittoi celebrates the ideas, imaginations and creative spirit of our young writers and artists. We believe that their work has purpose and deserves a wide audience.

We publish material with an original and authentic voice that other young people can connect to and be inspired by and that reflects the cultures and experiences of life in New Zealand.

Our philosophy is to treat young writers and artists with respect, handle their work with care and produce a beautifully designed journal of high quality that reflects how much we value and admire them." www.Toittoi.nz





2017 CLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term Four

**Wednesday 29
November**

Venue:
**Ōrauwhata: Bishopdale
Library and Community
Centre**

7:00-9:00pm

The Best and Worst Books of 2017

In partnership with the **Christchurch City Council Libraries** this is a time to listen and laugh as a selection of children's books are reviewed by people passionate about books. It's also a chance to have a drink and slice of Christmas cake and ease yourself into Christmas.

Cost - Gold coin contributions for drinks and raffle tickets.

Canterbury Literacy Association Committee

President-elect: Karen Amyes

Secretary: Sophie O'Rourke e: sophie.orourke@waitakiri.school.nz

Treasurer: Lesa McKenzie e: cla2014lesa@gmail.com

Committee: Barbara Aberhart, Joy Hawke, Jacqui Malham, Kate McClelland, Rachel McLaughlin, Kathleen Ryan, Lynnmaree Sopoaga, Chloe Williams & Scott Wolfe.



*Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nū /a.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*



BEST + WORST

Best & Worst Children's Books of 2017

*Ngā Pukapuka Tamariki Pai Rawa,
Kino Rawa hoki mō 2017*

In association with...

Christchurch City
Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

Proudly supported by
Paper Plus Bush Inn

paperplus



Wednesday 29 November, 7-9pm

Bishopdale Community Centre Hall

*13 Bishopdale Court, Bishopdale Shopping
Centre, Farrington Avenue*

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