



# **Auckland Literacy Association**

## **Start Of 2018 Newsletter**

# *PRESIDENT'S PEN*

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year. I'm sure you have all worked exceedingly hard to get this year off to a great start.

Last year ALA has enjoyed your company at our special events. We hope our inspiring speakers left you enthused and with ideas to enhance and to extend literacy opportunities for your students, and to inspire your own professional knowledge and practice. Special thanks to

**Sue Court** 'Off to a Flying start with the New Ready to Read'

**Jill Eggleton** 'Words of Wisdom'

**Rae Si'ilata** 'Translanguaging and Storying with Pasifika Dual Language Texts'

ALA were pleased to send six teachers to NZLA Conference "The Power of Words" in Hamilton last year. We were all inspired by Ralph Fletcher, Kyle Mewburn, Louise Dempsey and Sheena Cameron. ALA were pleased to contribute \$500 to the Books for Oceania and a further \$500 towards the costs of Oceania teachers attending NZLA conference in 2017.


At the NZLA conference ALA longstanding executive member Rob Southam received an **NZLA “Citation of Merit”** for her on-going service to ALA, NZLA and the wider literacy community. We also bid farewell to Jill Stephenson from the ALA executive and thank her warmly for her long service and valuable contribution to ALA.

The ALA executive is proud to announce one of our own executive, **Aylene FitzGerald** has been awarded ‘The University of Auckland, Faculty of Education and Social Work Research Scholarship’ and also the ‘NZLA Research Scholarship’. Aylene is currently working towards Master of Education thesis. We look forward to hearing more on this later this year and we wish Aylene every success in her studies.

As president I would like to thank the committed and talented members of the ALA executive committee for their tremendous help and support. We look forward to seeing you at our events this year.

Bronwyn Hayward, President ALA

Time & Date	2018 Programme
<b>Term 1</b> February 21st Mt Eden Normal Primary School Hall 4.30-6.00pm March 21st National Library 8 Stanley St Parnell 4.30-6.00pm	1. “Getting Started” Ideas to get your literacy programme up and running from classroom teachers 2. National Library Service and AGM Create a flourishing School Wide Reading Culture
<b>Term 2</b> Venue and date tbc	<b>Dr Rebecca Jesson, University of Auckland</b> 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: Manaiaikalani and Manaiaikalani Outreach Research and Development

	Programme (Principal Investigator); Pasifika Literacy and School Leadership Programme (Literacy leader); and Developing in Digital Worlds (Co-investigator).
<b>Term 3</b> Venue and date tbc	<b>Wayne Mills</b> Wayne is former senior lecturer from the University of Auckland with a passion for children's' books. He established the popular <b>Kids' Lit Quiz</b> . He is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's foremost authorities on children's and young adult books. 
3rd-5 <sup>th</sup> Oct Palmerston North	<b>41st NZLA Conference, Literacy Landscapes</b> We will advise when applications for sponsored teachers open
<b>Term 4</b> Venue and date tbc	<b>Peter H. Johnson</b> ~ Professor Emeritus, State University of New York 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.

## *SPEAKER REPORT*

In Term 3 the Auckland Literacy Association (ALA) were thrilled to present Dr Rae Si'ilata from the Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland. Rae is a highly regarded lecturer in Biliteracy-Pasifika and TESSOL. She focused on discussing how 'translanguaging and storying with Pasifika dual language texts' can support Pasifika learners to make meaningful connections with their home language, culture and identity.



Rae spoke passionately how classroom teachers, Reading Recovery teachers and literacy specialists should value a learner's home language as a "Total Language Resource" which should be valued and promoted in schools. Our learners should be encouraged to stay connected and to make meaningful connections with their culture and community and the linguistic code of their family and whanau. This "whanau knowledge" can in turn help to support and underpin their "school knowledge."

Bilingual learners come with a wealth of oral cultural histories and traditions. For many of our learners (Pasifika) literacy from home comes in the form of traditional songs, biblical memory verses, and Sunday school stories. Therefore, the use of the dual language texts is a perfect way to build relationships with your bilingual learners.



It empowers them to read in their own language, validating their knowledge and identity and builds their confidence and self-esteem in the classroom. It also

engages parents and caregivers (often grandparents) who can assist and support student reading at home. For Pasifika children learning through what they know and have experienced from their home/culture is so powerful, particularly when faced with learning in an English mainstream classroom. It gives them a real connection between home and school through language and invokes in them self-belief and pride. Implementing Pasifika dual language texts into any teacher's reading programme is one of many ways to create a truly culturally responsive and inclusive learning environment.

Gemma Maddocks  
ALA Executive

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NZLA's next conference, 'Literacy Landscapes' is in Palmerston North from 3<sup>rd</sup> -5th October 2018 featuring **Peter Johnston, Jan Gaffney, Rob Southam, Susie Johnson** and more to come. We will share details as they come to hand or check out NZLA.

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



[www.LOVEATFIRSTCHAPTER.com](http://www.LOVEATFIRSTCHAPTER.com)

Some YA writers have started a free book discovery resource suitable for young adult readers (intermediate and college age students) and for you as well.

It's called [www.LoveAtFirstChapter.com](http://www.LoveAtFirstChapter.com) and people can sign up on the website to get the first chapter of a new, curated YA novel every two weeks. It's good for readers of all ages (Young Adult books are for everyone!) who can't decide on their next book, or just for those who like a good surprise. The idea is that if you don't like the first chapter, you can just delete the email, and no harm's done. If you do find yourself hooked, you can follow the links to get the full book. We like to think that sometimes, one chapter is all it takes.

The writers don't make any money off this –they have set it up purely for the love of books. And with the number of readers (both adults and young adults) in New Zealand sadly on the decline, they hope this free resource will help people “dip their toes” in new books without having to make a full commitment, and hopefully encourage more people to give reading a go!

Hoping this was how you remember your summer break

