

Joan became a member of the Waikato Reading Association in 1971, when she was at Teachers' College. She then joined the WRA committee in the 1980s, after she became Deputy Librarian at the Teachers' College in 1984. She assisted with the organisation of many events, particularly those with a focus on children's literature, and at a national level, held the role of Forum editor for 12 years.

Joan attended the first NZRA leadership workshop in Nelson in 2001, and was given the Forum journal editor's job description to work on during an activity. In no time at all, Joan was the new editor of Forum taking over the national role from Libby Limbrick. Her role as editor began with Issue 1 in 2002 and finished with Issue 2, 2014. Joan has overseen major changes in the publication, including a colour cover, a title change from *Reading Forum NZ* to *Literacy Forum NZ* and a peer review process for the key articles. She was always a conscientious editor, ensuring articles were of an excellent standard. The role involved continual liaison with councils, encouraging compilation of material and seeking reviewers to ensure standards were maintained. She also liaised with the journal publisher and managed distribution to councils. Associated with this Joan was responsible for distributing the Waikato Forums for many years. During this time, she contributed articles and many book reviews to the journal. Articles covered topics such as 'Exploring Maori Knowledge and Values in picture books' (2012) and 'Mathematics in New Zealand Picture Books' (2015). Joan was awarded the Marie Clay Travel Award and attended the UKLA conference in 2013.

Joan was also an instigator and key organiser for the running of a regular WLA event; the Young Authors' Conference. The first was at Hamilton East School, which Martin Baynton was a speaker at, bringing his young son Theo. Joan had many contacts in the NZ children's literature field through her work as a librarian and as a member of Waikato Children's Literature Association, and she was able to gather together a fantastic line up of authors every time the WLA held this day for budding authors. Young people who have attended these Young Authors conferences have had their writing published in the WLA newsletter and one or two that we know of have gone onto to have other work published. It is particularly pleasing that Joan, who is such a font of knowledge about children's literature, was also an important part of these conference days where children were able to hear first hand about the work and life of published authors.

During her time on the council, Joan also helped regularly with other events. She also provided the council with the benefit of her expertise and knowledge about the workings of both our local council and the NZLA.

Joan has just resigned from the Waikato Literacy Association committee this year in March 2018. This marks 47 years as a member of the association and 33 years on the committee. We feel this is an appropriate time to nominate her for the NZLA Service Award in order to acknowledge the significance of the contribution she has made at both national and local levels.

Waikato Literacy Association committee

