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Have You Registered?



President's Pen

Kia ora koutou,

Earlier this year President Alice Musuku resigned due to health issues. We offer Alice all our best wishes for a return to full health and acknowledge her commitment to ALA. I am pleased to be able to resume the presidency until the next AGM and know I have the full support of Alice and the executive and committee members.

This term has been busy and full of interesting events. Three of the ALA executive committee attended the NZLA Annual meeting in Wellington recently. This was an opportunity to meet with NZLA executive and council members from other regions and to help set a course for NZLA into the future.

The NZLA executive has recently been reviewing the publication of our flagship journal *Literacy Forum NZ*. A new editor, Dr. Stephanie Dix, has been appointed along with a new editorial committee. There have been changes to the design, layout and distribution of the *Literacy Forum NZ*. Currently this is sent to all members three times a year. The printing and postage costs have made publishing a hard copy very expensive. The next volume will be a digital copy. There will be a new link and a password to access the *Literacy Forum* that will be sent to all members soon. The digital volume will be able to be downloaded either as a PDF or for individual articles. Access to the *LFNZ* will be easier for all your staff with the link. More information will follow.

ALA held an amazing Young Authors and Illustrators event recently. The budding writers and illustrators were enthralled by the speakers, so please read the students' reports in this issue.

Your students may be interested in developing their personal writing. Melinda Szymanik shared information about a group of writers who offer story starters online every two weeks. Students sending in writing can expect responses, encouragement and maybe prizes for their writing. Follow the link for more details and happy writing. <https://fabostory.wordpress.com/>

Next term we are pleased to offer an opportunity to hear Associate Professor Rebecca Jesson and Professor Jan Gaffney presenting a seminar on ***Who sets the course for literacy in Aotearoa?*** You won't want to miss this exciting and thoughtful presentation. See the flyer for details and registration links.

Ngā mihi nui,
Bronwyn Hayward
President ALA

Mark Your Diaries — ALA Term 3 Event!

A seminar with Associate Professor Rebecca Jesson and Professor Janet Gaffney

Faculty of Education and Social Work, The University of Auckland

I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.

Literacy in Aotearoa New Zealand has a whakapapa.

What do we keep and what do we leave behind, and who chooses?

Who sets the course of our waka?

This seminar traces the foundational principles of current research on literacies and languages to their whakapapa in Aotearoa New Zealand.



**Epsom Campus
The University of Auckland
Room N637 N-Block**



**Wednesday 11 August
4:30 – 6:00 pm
Cost: Members \$ 20.00 Non-members \$ 30.00
RSVP Monday 9th August**

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/SqDGBgiAuZezo7xC6>

The presenters are literacy researchers with commitments to learning equity. They value differences in the linguistic, cultural, social, spiritual and knowledge competencies of the children and their whanau. “When children are positioned as experts, teachers are positioned as learners” (Gaffney & Jesson, 2019, p. 29).



Rebecca Jesson is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Social Work. Rebecca's research is situated in schools and their communities in New Zealand and the Pacific. Her focus is on designing, with teachers, innovations that will improve the literacy outcomes for students.



Janet S. Gaffney is Professor of Educational Psychology-Literacy and Director of the Marie Clay Research Centre. In her research, Jan engages with children, their families and teachers in the areas of early oral languages and literacies. She co-designs relational pedagogies with teachers to extend children's communicative competencies in their learning-teaching interactions.

ALA Membership Link: <https://forms.gle/wiPfgCpTyKhRCSVV6>

ALA: Young Writers and Illustrators Day

Kat Quin inspired me to become a better author. She has inspired me to help others who don't think they can achieve the goal of becoming an author or illustrator. Hearing Kat talk really gave me an even better feeling of being an author and gave me a spark of hope to become an illustrator. Without her I would have never found the spark for becoming an illustrator. I realise now becoming an illustrator or author does not mean to write or illustrate a top selling book in New Zealand. It means that I achieved my goal and should inspire other children to believe in themselves. You should never stop believing you can do anything you put your mind to. Kat also taught me that drawing emotions is all about your eyes and how they look.



Melinda helped all of us with our endings of stories and told us how to keep the reader interested and enjoying themselves and not fall asleep at the start. She gives a spark of wonder when reading books not just for kids but adults too.

Peter was a super spy and lots of fun. He taught us that writing a story is hard, but it helps if you have actually experienced some of it and then write about that experience. Peter wrote a story called "*Johnny Danger*." (Johnny is actually Peter and he wrote about his experience of being a spy when he was at school). Peter showed us his secret notebook that had an old phone inside a hole he had cut in his book. In this book he also wrote about all of his unique adventures. These included, sneaky papers, lines written by children up to a hundred times for misbehaviour, and then selling them for \$5! Peter also talked about using an anagram for your name. His one was Mr Toilet Turtle Heap, which was actually "Author Peter Millett."

Minky is an illustrator and a very good one at that. She showed us some amazing book covers. She did the cover for "*The Wahine Disaster*", "*Dawn Raid*", "*Kia Ora*", and more! Minky said that being an illustrator is hard work. You have to be alone all the time. You have to be very focused and never get distracted and continue to draw all the time.

My time with the authors and illustrators was amazing. I learnt so much from just listening. I really hope I can experience this amazing opportunity again one day in the future. Thank you for letting me have that amazing experience.

Written by Ella
Manurewa Central School
Year 5

On Friday 25th June, Suki, Julianne, Eliza, Xavier, Chloe, Sophia, Mahikaa and I went to the Young Authors and Illustrators event. We got to meet four authors and illustrators. Their names were Melinda Symanik, Peter Millet, Kat Quin, and Minky Stapleton. Melinda is an author, Peter is an author, Kat Quin is both and Minky is an illustrator. They talked about what they do as an author and illustrator and how they create books for us. One of them was sending a story to Scholastic. If they like your story they will send it to an illustrator, but if they don't like it, you guessed it, they will tell you that they won't be publishing your work and getting it illustrated, I can't imagine it would be easy to hear that they don't want your story.

I enjoyed the Young Authors and Illustrators event. It was exciting to see a couple of my favourite authors and illustrators. My favourite was Kat Quin Merewether. It was cool to see how they became who they are today. When I saw the first person, I knew it was going to be exciting. I was excited with everyone that I saw.

Overall, I had a great time seeing everyone there and hearing how they became who they are today.
by Stella, Massey Primary



I was picked to go to a Young Authors and Illustrators Workshop, which I was very grateful for. We went to Te Papapa School for the workshop. They greeted us very nicely with a Kapa Haka performance, which was beautiful. There were many other schools that came to visit as well. All schools were divided into 4 equal groups because there were four authors/illustrators. Each group went to one author at a time.

Our group's first meeting was with an author. I've read many of her books before. I can't remember her name. She read us one of her books. Then she taught us what you should have in the beginning, middle and end of your story. Some things she told us for the beginning was that you need a setting so basically where the story is set, a main character so introduce the main character and a problem to solve. Some things she told us for the middle of the story was that you try and solve the problem. For the end you need to either have a good ending or a bad ending and the problem needs to be solved. She taught us a lot.



The next one we had was an illustrator. She showed us some of her books that she illustrated. Her illustrations were incredible. I don't think I'll ever be able to draw as well as her. After that we got to eat our morning tea peacefully with our school's representatives.

Our third one was an author / illustrator. Her name was Kat Quin. She was basically both. She told us something that was heart-breaking. She told us that when she was small her dad's work was basically killing deer but in a good way. And that she didn't talk until she was 6 years old. Her older sister wrote a 48-page story when she was five years old and when her older sister was 4 years old, she read a National Geographic book. She was just basically telling us about her life. Oh, and she also told us that she had dyslexia. This meant she had trouble reading and she didn't really want to write either. Now she really loves writing. Her first job was working at a call centre where she answered phone calls and wrote whatever people told her. Instead of writing she used to draw the numbers and letters. It was superb. But then her dyslexia wore off and she started to write stories and

draw pictures. Her nana helped her a lot to write her stories as well. She always wrote stories that matched either to her life or things around the world but made them fiction so kids would enjoy them and because everybody loves picture books. She was my favourite author/illustrator that I met that day.

The last person we met was an author. His name is Peter. He showed us his books. He also told us that most of his books are either about life or his life. Kind of like Kat Quin's books. He also likes comedies. He also taught us how to do an anagram with his name. If I anagram my name to a funny name it would probably be Plot car sad heart. My name is Charlotte Prasad.

After that our session with the authors was over. Then all the schools got called to go to the hall/auditorium. The organisers were giving gifts to the authors and to the schools. But there were only 4 packs of books and like 10 schools. So, they had a bowl with all the school names and drew out 4. Surprisingly we were one of them. We got about 8 books all signed by the authors. The books were written and illustrated by them as well. Our trip was incredible.

By Charlotte
Manurewa Central School

On Friday 25th June, 10 students from the Year 6 Team went to Te Papapa School to learn how to improve our writing skills. It was eventful, fun and most importantly we learnt many things, that I hope to share with you.

Minky Stapleton is an illustrator who was born in South Africa. She usually illustrates children's books or magazines. Minky told us to keep things simple and not cluttered, but to still define the main features. She also said to use a specific colour palette when colouring your illustrations. Minky makes illustrations based from real things, whenever she goes on a walk, she looks for things to illustrate in a book. The book "*There's a Bear in the Window*" was based on the bears in the windows during COVID quarantine.

Kat Quin is an author and an illustrator, who has raised \$55,000 for kiwis when she wrote the book series "Kuwi the Kiwi" and "Kiwicorn". Kuwi the Kiwi was based on her own experiences as a mother, when she was confused about what to do as a new parent.

Kat Quin as a child lived in the Waikato on a dairy farm. Her dad was a conservationist. In primary Kat only knew how to draw and didn't know how to read or write. Her teachers couldn't talk to her since she couldn't speak very well. Then a special teacher came in and said she had dyslexia. Some famous people that are dyslexic are John Lennon, Steve Jobs, Leonardo Da Vinci, Winston Churchill and many others.

After graduating from high school at a young age she went to work. She strived through her work and really pushed herself out of her comfort zone eventually becoming the amazing author / illustrator she is today.





Peter Millett's job is to write children's books. Peter told us that you can recycle other stories. In some stories he wrote about his own experience. His book "Johnny Danger" is based on how he acted in school. He told us about a book his grandmother gave him, he said that every day he slowly cut a large hole into the book. Once he was finished, he stored a small flip phone within the space. He called it his **spy book**.

Peter told us about how you can turn your name into a secret spy name by using anagrams. He said that in his book series "Johnny Danger" he uses anagrams for each new chapter. He asked us to help him turn his name into a *secret spy name*. We used letters to make the name **Mr Toilet Turtle Heap!**

You can take letters out of your name and shuffle them around to make yourself a new *secret spy name*. **What would yours be?**

Melinda Szymanik is a writer who has written kids' books and some of the stories in the NZ School Journals. She told us how to set out a story, properly. Melinda told us about a website called **fabostory.wordpress.com** where you are given a new theme to write about every few weeks. Then your writing will be judged, and you might win some cool **PRIZES!** You will also be given ways you can improve your writing skills from actual authors! Try this website out if you want to improve your writing!

We enjoyed meeting the authors & illustrators and learning many new tips and tricks from them.
Thank you, Auckland Literacy!

By Max Dean Y6
Tirimoana Primary

READING HALL OF FAME

IAN WILKINSON – SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS!

Ian Wilkinson, currently Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University, and Professor of Education Sciences-Literacy at the University of Auckland (2018-2020) was this month elected to the Reading Hall of Fame. In 2019 Ian was our Auckland Literacy Association Gala Dinner speaker – and he wowed us all! Ian continues his affiliation with the University of Auckland, where he was Lecturer-Senior lecturer (1992 – 1999) and continues as an Honorary Professor and a member of the Auckland Dialogic Education Network (ADEN).



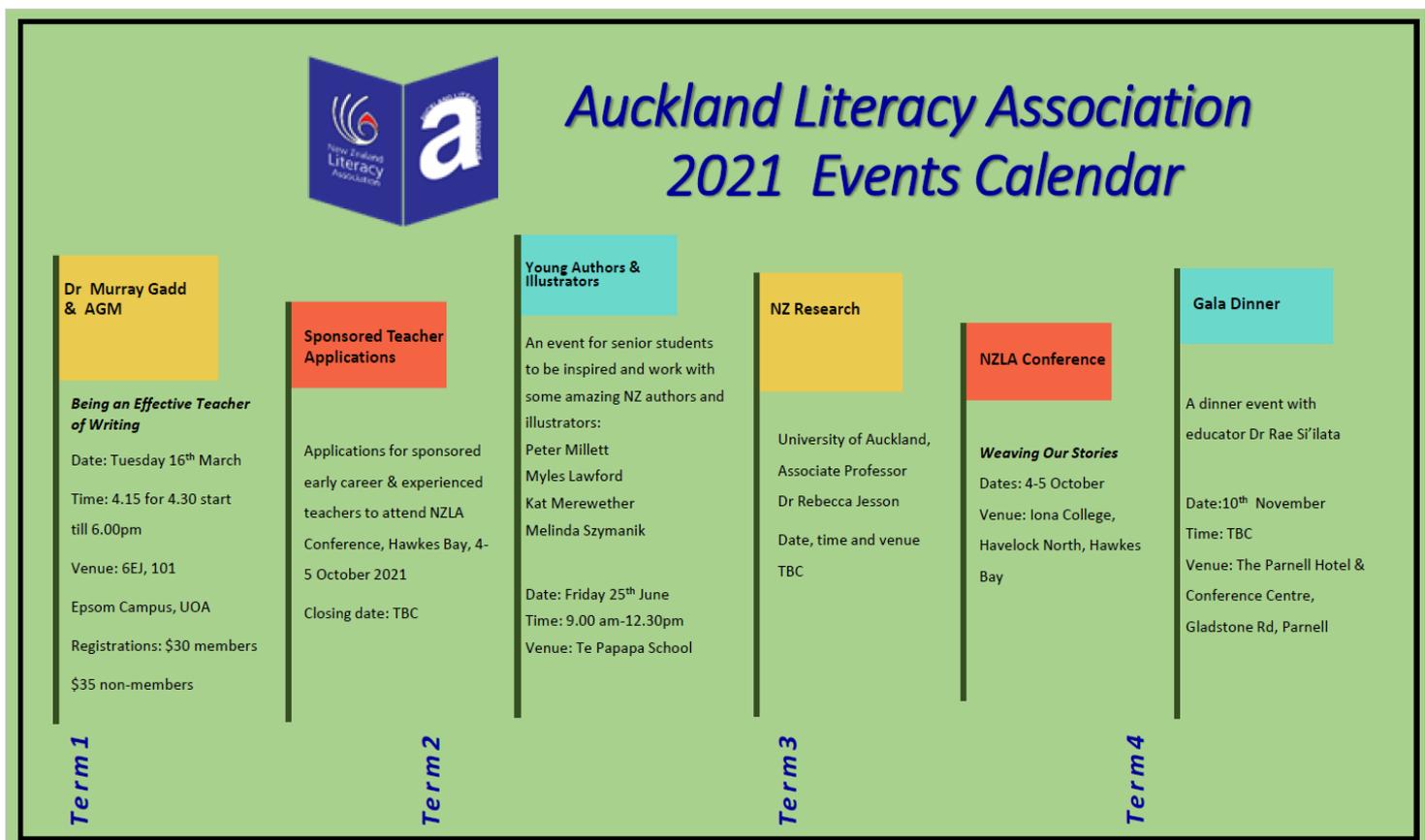
Ian has authored, co-authored, and edited dozens of articles, chapters and journals and has been the co-author of *Reading Research Quarterly* and served on editorial boards for some incredibly prestigious journals. Two of his recent books are *The Most Reasonable Answer – Helping Students Build Better Arguments Together* – with Alina Reznitskaya, published Harvard College 2017, and *Quality Talk About Text* –Kristen Bourage, published Heinemann. He, along with colleagues, developed 'Quality Talk' a general approach to conducting classroom discussions to promote students' high-level comprehension of text.

Being elected to the Reading Hall of Fame acknowledges Ian's long-standing service and outstanding scholarship and demonstrates the exceptional regard in which he is held by his literacy colleagues from all over the world. Ian is Australian by birth, but we regard him as an honorary Kiwi. Ian, ALA salutes you and thanks you for your contributions to literacy and learning and to ALA.

Heather Bell



Dr Rae Si'ilata



**Auckland Literacy Association
2021 Events Calendar**

Term	Event	Details
Term 1	Dr Murray Gadd & AGM	Being an Effective Teacher of Writing Date: Tuesday 16 th March Time: 4.15 for 4.30 start till 6.00pm Venue: 6EJ, 101 Epsom Campus, UOA Registrations: \$30 members \$35 non-members
Term 2	Sponsored Teacher Applications	Applications for sponsored early career & experienced teachers to attend NZLA Conference, Hawkes Bay, 4-5 October 2021 Closing date: TBC
Term 3	Young Authors & Illustrators	An event for senior students to be inspired and work with some amazing NZ authors and illustrators: Peter Millett Myles Lawford Kat Merewether Melinda Szymanik Date: Friday 25 th June Time: 9.00 am-12.30pm Venue: Te Papapa School
Term 3	NZ Research	University of Auckland, Associate Professor Dr Rebecca Jesson Date, time and venue TBC
Term 4	NZLA Conference	Weaving Our Stories Dates: 4-5 October Venue: Iona College, Havelock North, Hawkes Bay
Term 4	Gala Dinner	A dinner event with educator Dr Rae Si'ilata Date: 10 th November Time: TBC Venue: The Parnell Hotel & Conference Centre, Gladstone Rd, Parnell

WEAVING

OUR

STORIES

Raranga i ā tātāu kōrero

2021 NZLA CONFERENCE

4th - 5th October 2021
Iona College, Havelock North

REGISTER NOW

www.nzla.co.nz

ALL ENQUIRIES

hawkesbayliteracy@nzla.org.nz

NOTE: If the Conference is cancelled due to COVID19 all registration fees will be refunded in full

WEAVING OUR STORIES

Raranga i ā tātāu kōrero

2021 NZLA Literacy Conference

Havelock North, Hawkes Bay

This year's NZLA literacy conference is being hosted by the Hawkes Bay Literacy Association and will be held on Monday 4 October and Tuesday 5 October at the beautiful Blyth Performing Arts Centre at Iona College in Havelock North. The theme of the conference is **Weaving our Stories**.

The keynote speakers are all well-known and well-regarded New Zealanders.

- Emeritus Professor Russell Bishop
- Dr Murray Gadd
- Dr Alison Davis
- Sir Ian Taylor
- Sheena Cameron & Louise Dempsey



The programme for the two days is available on the NZLA website nzla.org.nz and by following the prompts you'll be able to download this.

Conference registration is open.... \$450 +GST for NZLA members (if you are a member of ALA you are automatically an NZLA member), and \$595 +GST for non-members. If you are not an ALA member you could join and save considerably as our subscription is less than the difference between these two rates!

Havelock North is a delightful village about 20 minutes' drive from Napier Airport. Everything there is central – and Iona College is a good walk or a short drive of about 5+ minutes from the village. There is a New World Supermarket in the village which offers all the supplies anyone could wish if people wanted to have food at their selected motel. The coffee shops are also great, especially the Maina Café and Bistro and the Malo at Porters Hotel. Lots of good restaurants are easily accessible.

There are several very good motels within easy distance from the village, and each will welcome a direct call to offer a good rate. October is the beginning of the busy season, so some of the motels already have confirmed bookings. These are the motels that are recommended – for price, convenience, comfort and closeness to Iona College. When you make contact with the motel of your choice, please let them know that they have been recommended. In order of closeness to the village these are the properties I personally checked....

Porters Boutique Hotel

4 Te Aute Road, Havelock North 4130, Ph 06 877 1234

reservations@portershotel.co.nz

Village Motel

Cnr Te Aute Road & Porter Drive, Havelock North 4130, Ph 06 877 5401

villagemotel@xtra.co.nz

Te Mata Lodge

21 Porter Drive, Havelock North 4130, Ph 0508 504 030

Units here are particularly spacious, well appointed, have new beds and fantastic breakfasts!

stay@tematalodgemotel.co.nz

Havelock North Motor Lodge

7 Havelock Road, Havelock North, 4130, Ph 0508 405 405

office@havelocknorthmotorlodge.co.nz

Harvest Lodge

23 Havelock Road, Havelock North, 4130, Ph 06 877 9500

info@harvestlodge.co.nz

It will be a great conference offering excellent learning, and we hope that members of the Auckland Literacy Association will take the opportunity to enjoy a trip away to a special place, with special people and special scenery. And check out the wineries – brilliant!

Heather Bell