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## President's Pen

Nau mai haere mai, Tēnā koutou, Ko Margaret Carter tōku ingoa. He Kaiako ahau no te kura o Tirimoana Primary and President of the Auckland Literacy Association.

The Auckland Literacy Association [ALA] is an organization dedicated to providing high quality practices and is a learning network supporting literacy for our ākonga and teaching facilitators. We are affiliated with the New Zealand Literacy Association and if you join the ALA, your ALA membership means that you are automatically an NZLA member.

This term has been memorable with ALA launching its new look social media platform making events and literary reviews much more accessible and having the ability to engage with a far wider audience. The feedback has been superb, so if you are not following our Facebook page, please do so for up-to-date literacy news, professional learning opportunities, ALA events and so much more.

During Term 3 we have been able to hold two amazing events; one for our ākonga "The Young Authors and Illustrators Event" leaving our learners utterly inspired by authors and illustrators Stephanie Thatcher, Peter Millet, Raymond McGrath and Minky Stapleton. We also had an event for our kaiako, a superb gala dinner with Dr Rae Si'ilata "Creating Spaces in Classrooms for Translanguaging and Embodied Cultural Literacies". This was an evening not to be missed and was supported by ALA Life Member; Professor Emeritus Warwick Elley, a profound educational expert in children's literacies who was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame in 1993 and Professor Janet Gaffney, whose research into families and children's literacies challenge intellectual current trends.

Each year the NZLA hosts a literacy conference. However, with recent covid disruptions the previous two years had to be cancelled. The ALA are delighted to support this year's 2023 NZLA National Conference which is being hosted by the Southland Literacy Association in Invercargill, Lighting the Literacy Pathway. Your ALA membership entitles you to register at the NZLA rate.

NZLA Literacy Forum has been updated and is provided to you online, with your ALA membership. It is a fantastic resource with articles from New Zealand researchers and teachers alike, as well as contributions from overseas experts. Make sure to look out for your *Literacy Forum*, membership link.

The ALA is pleased to announce we have an incredible guest speaker for our Term 4 event, Dr John Milne from Auckland University of Technology. Dr Milne is part of a team of researchers with Celeste Harrington, Jayne Jackson and Ruth Boyask who have partnered with different schools around Auckland to focus on this necessary component of the refreshed Te Mātaiho New Zealand curriculum. John will be sharing his research and what this will mean for teachers of Reading. Please look out information on how to register for this via our Facebook page and links emailed to your school.

Ngā mihi nui  
Margaret Carter  
ALA 2023 Presidents

# Join ALA Today



- Attend seminars and workshops at member rates
- Receive free copies of Literacy Forum
- Have opportunities to hear literacy experts at seminars and workshops
- Apply for sponsorship to attend the annual NZLA conference, and so much more!

It's just a click away!

## **Membership Form**

<https://forms.gle/wiPfgCpTyKhRCSVV6>





### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



KATH  
MURDOCH



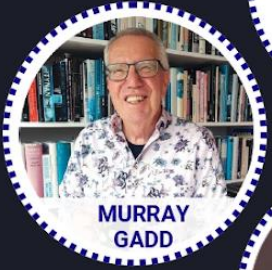
KATHRYN  
BERKETT



LIZ  
KANE



ANDREA  
GREER



MURRAY  
GADD



CHRISTINE  
BRAID

### OPEN TO NZ & OVERSEAS:

Educators & Principals  
Support staff  
RTLits & RTLBs  
Specialist teachers  
ECE educators  
Parents

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[conference2023@nzla.org.nz](mailto:conference2023@nzla.org.nz)

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New Zealand  
Literacy Conference

## Lighting the Literacy Pathway

25 - 27 September 2023  
Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**  
**30TH JANUARY 2023**

2023 Southland Literacy  
Association member Early Bird **\$395** pp

2023 NZ Literacy Association  
member Early Bird **\$425** pp

Full Registration **\$495** pp

Early bird specials will end 1st May 2023. Registration details & link will be emailed to New Zealand Schools and local Early Childhood Centres, on the New Zealand Literacy Association website, as well as posted on our Facebook & Instagram pages.

Literacy  
across the  
Curriculum

WellBeing  
Hauora

Structured  
Literacy





### Kath Murdoch

Kath Murdoch is an experienced teacher, writer, university lecturer and popular consultant who has worked for many years with teachers and students in schools across the globe. Author of 16 books and numerous articles for teachers – including the bestselling ‘The Power of Inquiry’ (2015). Kath is widely respected for her work in the field of inquiry-based learning.



### Kathryn Berkett

Kathryn Berkett has dedicated 22 years to understanding how extreme trauma impacts the developing brain. She has a master's degree in educational psychology and is a certified Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics Practitioner. Kathryn points out that the changes we are seeing in young people correlate with rapid changes to the way our children are growing up.



### Andrea Greer

Andrea is the owner and founder of Nurturing Relationships. Her vision is to empower the village that surrounds our mokopuna. Often hearing the phrase, “it takes a village to raise a child”, when it comes to supporting healing of trauma, the same is true – we need a village. It is relational connectedness, whanaungatanga that brings healing, restoration and allows our mokopuna to thrive. Her trauma responsive training supports that vision by empowering you with tools and strategies you can put into your kete to empower the children or youth you work with.



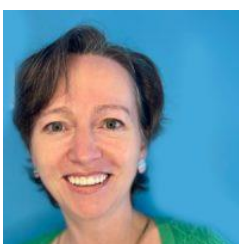
### Dr Murray Gadd

Dr Murray Gadd is an independent literacy facilitator, teacher and researcher working throughout Aotearoa. His research interests are primarily on ‘what is critical in the effective teaching of writing’ and ‘what can teachers do to enhance the engagement, progress and achievement of students as developing writers, especially under-achieving students’. He is particularly interested in, ‘what makes a difference for students?’



### Dr Christine Braid

Dr Christine Braid is a Professional Learning and Development Facilitator / Kaitakawaenga at Tātai Angitu at Massey University specialising in supporting literacy across the primary school years. She was part of the Massey research team “Enhancing Literacy Learning Outcomes for Beginning Readers.” Christine has been working in education for more than 30 years and works extensively with teachers and schools to explore best practice in literacy teaching for the benefit of all learners.



### Lyn Stone

Lyn Stone is the founder and creator of Lifelong Literacy and a Scottish linguist in private practice in Australia. Lyn is an author, education consultant, mother of diverse learners, and a dyslexia advocate. She uses research, evidence and linguistics to produce programs, methods and texts for students, teachers and educators worldwide. Lyn has written 3 bestseller books, including her latest book ‘Reading for Life: High quality literacy instruction for all.’

Wonderful memories were made for the students who attended this event from contributing ALA member schools, who were given the opportunity to work with four Auckland based authors and illustrators at the recent 'Young Authors and Illustrators workshop held at Te Papapa School. Enthusiasm and excitement was in the air as the aspiring students took part in four workshops where they learnt what makes a great story and the process from the idea to its creation in graphic form.

Emily Kay Year 8 student from Massey Primary sums the day up beautifully.

*On August the 4th, some students were selected from years 5 to 8 to go on an inspirational trip for those who may be authors one day. I was one of the lucky students who were selected, and I learned a bunch of new writing and artist tips that were fresh. Here is my report on each author/illustrator who taught us something.*



*In our first session, we were with a talented author, illustrator, and graphic designer named Stephanie Thatcher. She mainly wrote kids picture books, and they are amazing. In this session, she taught us the process of making a picture book which is not as easy as you think. In order to make a picture book you have to go through a whole process of things. She showed us the steps she did to get the final results of her wonderful books. The main idea I learned from her was get loads of inspiration. One of her books, which is called 'Great Galloping Galoot' was inspired by her brother.*

*After that, we headed into the second session which was with Minky Stapleton, who is an illustrator. In this session we were to get a lot of inspiration and hopefully end up with a beautiful drawing. The main idea of this lesson was to get inspiration everywhere such as your daily life or things off the internet. One of her popular books 'Roo and Vladimir' was based on her dog.*



*Then we went into session three with the author, Peter Millet. Here he taught us a unique way to hide our names in codes, as most authors should. For example, rearranging the letters in your name to come up with another. We were also lucky enough to see a glimpse of his unpublished book that is about to be released in a year or so. This book was about a unique zebra, and instead of the zebra having stripes, he thought why not have the zebra with dots. This gave me an idea of thinking unique and outside the box.*



*And last but not the least, was Raymond McGrath. Raymond McGrath gave us many tips on graphic novels and how to make them. He has a great imagination when it comes to graphic novels. We were lucky again because he showed us a few pages of his upcoming novel and showed us a TV show series he is making.*

*I had a really enjoyable time learning the different techniques from different authors / illustrators on writing as well as art designing. I look forward to using the many different tips shared.*

Julie White  
ALA Executive

## LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP! CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Massey Primary School Library

John's research is focused on reading, children's experience of reading and the development of different styles of reading. Reading for Pleasure and John's own research have become linked to each other through the notion of reader identity. In this session John will share some of the outcomes of that research and what it means for us as educators. The inclusion of Reading for Pleasure in Te Mātaiho: The Refreshed NZ curriculum and the ongoing debates about the teaching of reading are important topics for discussion.



Auckland Literacy Association  
presents for Term 4:



# Reading for Pleasure

and the refreshed English Curriculum  
with Dr John Milne (AUT)

**When:** Term 4, Wednesday 1 November  
3.45pm Afternoon Tea  
4.30pm John speaking

**Where:** Library at Massey Primary School  
326 Don Buck Road, Massey

**Cost:** \$15 ALA Members  
\$25 non-members



CLICK HERE  
for more information & to register:  
<https://forms.gle/2NfKk3usKUaBQ9e97t>

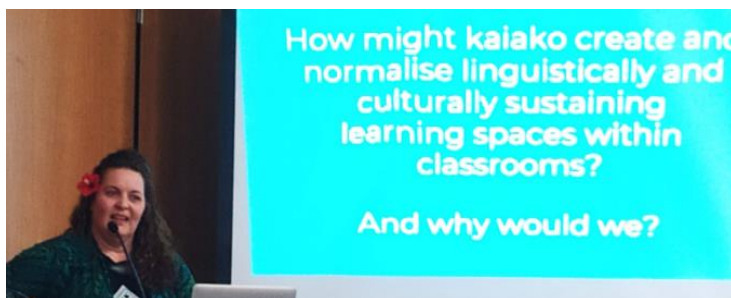


## Linguistically and Culturally Sustaining Teaching Practice

### Dr Rae Si'ilata

On Wednesday 30 August 2023 members of the Auckland Literacy Association were privileged to hear Dr Rae Si'ilata speak at Parnell Conference Centre for the ALA annual Gala Dinner event. Dr Si'ilata explained her identity: her mother came to New Zealand from Fiji and her father is from the Kapiti Coast region of New Zealand. Dr Si'ilata's mother works to keep her connection to her Fijian home. Dr Rae Si'ilata exemplifies a Pasifika learner negotiating multiple, intertwined, cultural identities.

Dr Rae Si'ilata leads Va'atele Education Consulting Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi. The Vaatele is a double hulled canoe, and it is a metaphor for Pacific learners' success. The double hull represents the home and school cultures working together for the learners' success, ideally. Va'atele work to make the school system more equitable for all learners so that students can develop strong identities and confidently carry who they are wherever they go. Our cultures, languages and lived experiences are part of how we understand and make sense of our world and our place in it. We also make sense of our world through language and texts. Therefore, it is essential to connect the literacy practices of all our communities and privilege them.



Our audience was reminded of the importance of creativity, fun and Te Reo Māori in our education system. We recalled Sylvia Ashton Warner who advocated that first books should be created out of the lived experiences of the children themselves so the children can identify with and understand what they are reading. This relates to the theories of Elwyn Richardson who said that children should have culturally and context embedded experiences through which to learn. Jim Cummins, in language teaching theory, suggests first teaching language in a context embedded manner. Then moving towards context abstract representation. Marie Clay promotes the importance of teachers' careful choice of texts to which children can relate.

Dr Rae Si'ilata emphasised the existence of multiple Englishes in our classrooms, which should be treated with respect. In fact, most people speak a variant form of English. Indeed, relatively few people, even in the United Kingdom, speak standard English. Some schools are creating spaces for heritage languages and teaching in the heritage language of the children, for example: Samoan. Teaching children in bilingual classrooms has been shown to have beneficial effects on their mastery of English in the long term. The bilingual pathway is not the same as the monolingual pathway but in the long term can be beneficial. This may be because children learn to perceive language as language, an entity in and of itself, when they navigate more than one language.



The evening was richly informative, and I have touched on just a few points here. We all went away inspired to inquire into our practice of valuing heritage languages in our classrooms and schools, looking for cognate connections between our languages. We were also inspired to put effort into learning about and valuing the home cultures of our students and to do this because children who feel that their culture is valued by the school maximises their learning opportunities.

Dr Moira Newton  
ALA Executive



## Reviews in Loos: Creating Reading Communities

*Reviews in Loos* is a fabulous new section reviewing fabulous literature, thanks to our wonderful ALA Executive Committee Member Nova Gibson. Nova has been reviewing books that are great to use in our classrooms. She has posted these reviews all around her school at Massey Primary, including even in the student and teacher loos. What better places to review your next book to read!

### REVIEWS IN LOOS

#### Dr Tokilupe Taumoepeau : Tongan trailblazer

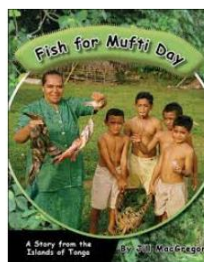


Dr Tokilupe Taumoepeau made history when she became New Zealand's first female vascular surgeon. This trailblazing Tongan is helping bust open doors in health and medicine for young people with Pacific heritage ... including her own family!  
This book is one in the Wahine Toa series.

### REVIEWS IN LOOS

#### Fish For Mufti Day

by Jill & Scott MacGregor

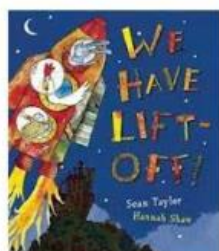


Jill MacGregor and her son Scott have collaborated in a series of books: *Children of the Pacific*. They have travelled extensively in the Pacific region and collected real-life stories to produce these beautiful books. In this book, four students raise money for the mufti day donation by collecting seafood and selling it to local villagers.

### REVIEWS IN LOOS

#### We Have Lift-Off

by Sean Taylor



Mr Tanner, the farmer pollutes his farm and mistreats his animals, leading them to stage a rebellion. They are sick of living on a messy planet and have a plan! They build an intergalactic space rocket to take them up into the clean, clear skies, far away from those who are polluting the planet. First a chicken, then a clever rabbit, and lastly a calm sheep, are chosen for test flights. But each time something goes wrong and the rocket returns to Earth. The animals don't know what to do. Farmer Tanner discovers the rocket and laughs at the animals. However the last laugh is on Mr Tanner and the animals live happily ever after.  
This is an amusing picture book, with a very important message: TAKE CARE OF OUR PLANET.

### REVIEWS IN LOOS

#### Please Bury Me in the Library

by Patrick Lewis



There's nothing like curling up with a good book, but you have to be careful. Before you know it, a minute turns into an hour, an hour turns into a day, and a day may turn into . . . eternity.

Inspired by the likes of Edward Lear, X. J. Kennedy, and Lewis Carroll, the author has created a collection of original poems about books and reading that range from sweet to silly to laugh-out-loud funny. Kyle M. Stone's clever, witty, and endearing paintings make this the perfect treat for book lovers of all ages. With this book, Lewis, winner of an ALA Notable Children's Book Award, has certainly created many poems worthy of quoting, not to mention the perfect epitaph for a bibliophile: "Thank you for the plot".