

STORYLINES CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CHARITABLE TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND

Annual Report 2018

2018 was a year of consolidation of the strategic change of direction initiated in 2017. The Story Tours were continued covering areas right around the country, relationships with other groups interested in literature and literacy for young people were strengthened and Storylines' status in the literary community affirmed.

STORYLINES AWARDS

The Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and National Awards Day.

The National Awards Day, which includes the presentation of the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and lecture, was held on Sunday April 8th, a weekend date close to International Children's Book Day on April 2nd, at the University of Auckland, Faculty of Education and Social Work. Through its awards programme Storylines acknowledges the achievements of writers and illustrators for young people in New Zealand, as well as the dedicated work of people who enable Storylines to achieve its aims.

A highlight of this event is the presentation of the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal, the supreme award given to an individual for achievement in the field of children's literature. It was presented this year by Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. The event attracted more than 200 people, including award winners, whanau, supporters, Storylines members and members of the general public.

Other awards presented on this Storylines National Awards Day were the Gaelyn Gordon Award, the 2018 Storylines Notable Book Awards (for books published in 2017) and awards for manuscripts for new and established writers. Two books published as a result of manuscript awards presented in 2017 were launched, and the Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award for a much-loved book was also presented. The Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award for services to literature was presented later in the year. The awards, and books launched, were as follows:

- **The Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal** was awarded to Janice Marriott whose writing for children has spanned more than two decades and for which she has several prestigious awards. Janice has also made an outstanding contribution to writing for young people in New Zealand through her workshops for, and mentorship of, writers. In accepting the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal, she presented an engaging analysis of the development of literacy and how children's

experiences of words and stories, at home and at school, enrich their lives. Her lecture was entitled *The Word Witch's Gift* (the text of which can be accessed on the Storylines website).

- **The Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award** for a much-loved book which has never received a national award but which has been continuously in print for more than five years was presented to *Nicketty Nackety Noo, Noo, Noo* written by Joy Cowley and illustrated by Tracey Moroney.
- **The Storylines Joy Cowley Award**, sponsored by Scholastic New Zealand for an unpublished manuscript for a picture book, was presented to Elaine Bickell of Wellington for her manuscript, *The Little Ghost Who Lost His Boo*. It will be launched at a special Storylines event in 2019.
- **The Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award**, sponsored by Scholastic New Zealand for an unpublished manuscript of junior fiction, was presented to James Guthrie, of Wellington for his manuscript *Bullseye Bella*. It will be launched at the Storylines National Awards Day in 2019.
- **The Storylines Tessa Duder Award**, sponsored by Walker Books Australia, was awarded to Tina Shaw for her manuscript *Ursa*. It will be launched at the Storylines National Awards Day in 2019.
- **Storylines Gavin Bishop Award**, a bi-annual award sponsored by Penguin Random House, was not awarded in 2018. The call for submissions was made during 2018 for the award to be made in 2019.
- **Storylines Notable Books**
More than 140 books were submitted by publishers and self-published authors in 2017 for the 2018 awards. A panel of librarians and teachers, past and current Storylines Management Committee members, with specialist knowledge of children's literature was coordinated by Sarah Fordyce, a Storylines Management Committee member. Ten picture books, ten junior fiction, nine young adult fiction and ten non-fiction texts were selected as Notable Books for 2018. Certificates for the authors, illustrators and publishers for each Notable Book were presented. All books can be identified with a gold Storylines Notable Book sticker to guide purchase in bookstores. A poster of the Notable Books for distribution to booksellers and available digitally was produced and distributed to bookshops throughout New Zealand. The 2018 list was assessed during later 2018 awards for Notable Books published in 2018 will be presented at the 2019 Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and National Awards Day.
- The 2018 Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award book, *The Short but Brilliant Career of Lucas Weed* by Crissie Walker, winner of the 2018 Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award, and published by Scholastic New Zealand, was launched by Lynette Evans, Publishing Manager of Scholastic New Zealand.
- The 2018 Storylines Gavin Bishop Award book: *Granny McFlitter, the Champion Knitter* illustrated by Lael Chisholm, winner of the 2018 Storylines Gavin Bishop Award, written by Heather Haylock, and published by Penguin Random House was launched by Gavin Bishop.

The Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award

The 2018 Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award was awarded to Jeannie Skinner at a special function at National Library premises in Auckland in November. Jeannie is a librarian, highly regarded for her commitment to the promotion of children's literature, especially in schools, and for her support of the work of Storylines and other children's literature organisations. She presented the Storylines Spring lecture, outlining the development of her love of literature.

FUNDING, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

We are grateful to our major funders and sponsors for their continued support of our operations, Story Tour and Awards programmes. Providing free entry and access to the Storylines National Festival Story Tour continues to be a Storylines' commitment, so that any child can enjoy the excitement and stimulus of a literary environment and meeting authors and illustrators regardless of their family's economic circumstances. As a result, we remain highly dependent on the support of grant funding, sponsorship and other partnerships to sustain our activities.

In 2018 we received the second of our two-year Creative New Zealand Toi Uru Kahikatea funding grants towards the 2017 and 2018 Festivals and staffing costs. Foundation North also granted Storylines significant funds towards our 2018 operations and Storylines' Auckland and Northland Festival Story Tour programme costs.

Funding for various aspects of the Storylines National Festival Story tour was gratefully received in 2018 from Lottery Communities, Lion Foundation and Four Winds Foundation, whom we acknowledge and thank for their valued support.

We also acknowledge and thank Auckland Council its funding of the 2018 Storylines National Festival Auckland Story Tour, and our use of the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau, which sponsored and hosted South Auckland participants of the Auckland Story Tour. We also thank Heritage Hotels for its sponsorship of accommodation for Festival participants.

We also acknowledge and thank New Zealand Book Council for its funding support of the Storylines National Festival Story Tour adult events.

We would also like to thank Scholastic New Zealand, Penguin Random House New Zealand and Walker Books Australia for their ongoing support which enables us to continue with the Storylines awards for the benefit of the children's literature community and to offer cash prizes to the winners of the Storylines Joy Cowley Award, Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award, Storylines Gavin Bishop Award, and Storylines Tessa Duder Award.

A full list of Festival sponsors, funders and partners is included at the end of this report with our grateful thanks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website (storylines.org.nz)

A part-time website editor, Christine Young, continues the management and updating of the site.

Newsletter and other publications

Storylines sent out monthly newsletters throughout 2018 to our database of nearly 10,000 (9490) subscribers and members.

Writing from the Heart, by Joy Cowley on writing for children, continues to attract interest and continues to be available on line as an e-book through the Storylines website. Joy Cowley's generosity allows all proceeds to go to Storylines

THE 2018 STORYLINES NATIONAL FESTIVAL STORY TOUR

Having undertaken a review in late 2016 at the conclusion of the 2016 Storylines Festival, Storylines continued initiatives begun in 2017 and the new-look Storylines National Festival Story Tour comprised another six individual Story Tours in 2018. The Tour was widely embraced by the communities we visited around New Zealand, with authors and illustrators welcomed in new regions and areas where we had previously visited. The six tours were scheduled for 2018 were:

- Canterbury Story Tour, 12-16 March
- West Coast Story Tour, 7-11 May
- Hawkes Bay Story Tour, 11-15 June
- Taranaki Story Tour, 6-10 August
- Auckland Region Story Tour, 10-14 September
- Northland (Far North & Kaipara) Story Tour, 29 October – 2 November.

Many of the areas toured were new regions for Storylines so it was uncharted territory for both the regions and Storylines, and extended our reach into regions around New Zealand. New relationships were formed with local groups and the ability to work together was highly rewarding for all concerned.

Adult evening events were also held on each of the tours. Over the course of the six tours, we had 24 New Zealand authors, illustrators and storytellers visiting 23,209 children in 225 preschools, primary, intermediate and secondary schools, community groups, and libraries.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Storylines National Festival Auckland Event

Booksellers New Zealand invited Storylines to hold an event on the evening prior to the opening of its annual conference. This was planned as part of the Storylines National Story Tour in Auckland, as in 2017. The event was entitled '*Children Know Best*' and held at Rydges Hotel in Auckland on 24th August. The evening consisted of a panel of an adolescent customer advisor at Time Out bookshop, Elijah Flynn; author Melinda Szymanik; a specialist children's bookseller, Mary Wadsworth of Dorothy Butler Bookshop; and Wayne Mills, quizmaster of the Kids Lit Quiz.

This was followed by the launch of *Children's Literature in a Multiliterate World* edited by Nicola Daly and Libby Limbrick, a book based on papers presented at the 2016 IBBY

congress held in Auckland. The book was launched by Dame Wendy Pye, publisher and patron of Storylines. (See also below.)

The evening also included the award of a Storylines life membership to Wayne Mills and a presentation, *Margaret Mahy coming home* by Alison Shucksmith from Hachette NZ, about the challenges and opportunities of keeping Margaret Mahy books in the hands of New Zealand children as Hachette looked forward to the 50th anniversary of the publication of *A Lion in the Meadow* in 2019.

IBBY (INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE) NZ

The NZ IBBY Consortium

The consortium, which with Storylines has funded Storylines' membership of IBBY since 2002 and the costs of Hans Christian Andersen and Honour Books nominations now has three levels of membership. There are currently three members at Gold level (\$500 per year), two at Silver level (\$250 per year) and three at Bronze level (\$125 per year). We welcome the following publishers to the consortium:

Gold members: Penguin Random House, Scholastic NZ, NZ Book Council;

Silver: Clean Slate Press, Duck Creek Press;

Bronze: Makāro Press, Millwood Press, Upstart Press.

Storylines/NZ IBBY will continue to invite publishers to join.

Hans Christian Andersen nomination

Storylines nominated Joy Cowley for the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Thanks to Frances Plumpton, Mandy Hager and Clean Slate Press for their work on the submission.

ALMA (Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award) Award

Storylines nominated Joy Cowley for the 2019 ALMA Award. We are grateful for the assistance from Frances Plumpton and Helen Villiers in preparing this submission.

Children's Literature in a Multi-Literate World: chapters based on selected papers from 35th IBBY Congress

This book of papers from the 2016 IBBY Congress, edited by Nicola Daly and Dr Libby Limbrick with advisory editor, Pam Dix (UK IBBY), published by Trentham Book, was previously reported under its working title, *Understanding Ourselves and Others through Children's Literature in a Multiliterate World*. The editors were informed later in the year that it had been short-listed for the 2019 United Kingdom Literacy Association Academic Book award.

IBBY Yamada funded project to provide books for refugee children in their home language

Storylines/IBBY New Zealand received funds from the IBBY Yamada award early in 2018 to support the purchase of books to help refugee children settle in New Zealand by having the experience of being able to read books in their home languages. During 2018 more than 150 books in the home languages of the refugee children arriving at the AUT Refugee Education Centre at Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre were procured. These books, in Arabic, Farsi, Tamil, Burmese, Karen (Myanmar), Chin (Myanmar), Punjabi, Spanish, Dari and Pashto, were presented at an event involving the children at the end of the year at the refugee centre. Relationships developed through the IBBY Congress in 2016 were instrumental in obtaining the books, and a number of the books were donated, augmenting the donated funds and enabling the purchase of more books than originally anticipated. Ways of funding an extension of the programme for 2019 - 2021 are being investigated.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP: WHAT NOW

Late in 2018 discussions were initiated about a partnership between Storylines and What Now, a long-running and popular children's television programme produced by Whitebait Media for TV2, to encourage children's engagement with literature. The first activity confirmed is a 'Kids' Pick' for children to choose which of the Storylines Notable Books most appeal to them. It was decided to focus on the Junior Fiction category as being the most pertinent to the What Now audience. The 'Kids' Pick' will be launched on the on-air programme of What Now on 31st March 2019 to coincide with the Storylines National Awards Day. Other events such as a focus on illustration for children's book, books in te reo and possibly links to the Storylines Story Tour were also discussed.

STORYLINES ADMINISTRATION

Storylines continues to benefit from its small but skilled and committed staff, for which the Storylines Trust Board is truly grateful. Gillian Wess, as Executive Officer, has established excellent relationships with our main funders such as Creative New Zealand and Foundation North, so that Storylines is financially well supported. She develops the budget, supports strategic planning and works closely with Storylines Treasurer, Lynette Roycroft, to manage and report on the budget. With Events Manager Vicki Cunningham she has ensured that the new initiative, the Storylines National Festival Story Tour, was implemented with great outcomes during its first year.

Storylines' Events Manager, Vicki Cunningham, continues to be an outstanding 'multi-tasker' as the Story Tour planner and executor, Storylines administrator and communicator. The success of the first year of the National Festival Story Tour was due largely to Vicki's commitment to the project and to her excellent communication with schools and libraries as well as the writers, illustrators and Story Tour drivers and representatives travelling with the group. Her ability to manage practical matters such as travel and accommodation around the country is outstanding.

The Storylines Trust Board is also grateful to Lynette Roycroft who continues as a most efficient and knowledgeable part-time Treasurer especially as the financial management of charities continues to become more complex and demanding.

We would also like to thank Lorraine Steele and Margaret Samuels at Lighthouse PR for support in promoting Storylines and what it achieves.

The volunteer Management Committee, ably led by Christine Dale, has worked extremely hard over 2018 not only on the regular activities of Storylines but on the additional events such as the 'Children's Know Best' event. Without the enthusiasm and hard work of this wonderful band of volunteers, Storylines could not exist: the Storylines Trust is grateful for their commitment.

Finally, but far from least, we acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Dr Libby Limbrick, Trust Chair for 13 years, who indicated late in 2017 that she would step down as Chairperson, but not as a Trustee, at the end of 2018. Storylines would not be the organisation it is today without Libby's deep commitment to children's literature and to Storylines, and her passion and hard work on behalf of the organisation. Notable among her many successes during this time was her leadership (alongside Rosemary Tisdall) of the organisation and funding of the 2016 IBBY Congress, which enable Storylines to

showcase New Zealand children's literature on the international stage, and to build invaluable international contacts. This was a huge undertaking for any organisation, let alone one which relies mostly on voluntary effort – much of it Libby's during the arduous two-year planning process – and her ability to cajole and entice support from a wide range of people and organisations. We are grateful to Libby for all she has done, and that she remains on the Trust as Immediate Past Chair, able to ensure that her wisdom and knowledge continue to be part of the organisation.

Christine Young, Storylines EO from 2005 - 2011, and a Trustee since 2013, took over as Chair from Libby at the start of 2019.

Storylines is fortunate to have able Trustees who represent a range of interests and skills. My warm thanks to my fellow Trustees: Libby Limbrick, Tessa Duder, Darryn Joseph, Carolyn Lagahetau, Frances Plumpton, Tony Sissons, Rosemary Tisdall. To Tony Sissons our most sincere gratitude for hosting our Trust Board meetings in the Kings School Board Room.

Sponsors, funders and partners

Our thanks go to Storylines' 2018 sponsors, funders and partners; without their financial support and in partnership for events held in their local communities we could not achieve our aims. We value these longstanding relationships and partnerships.

Creative New Zealand

Foundation North

Lottery Communities

Auckland Council

Lion Foundation

Vodafone Events Centre

New Zealand Book Council

Four Winds Foundation

Scholastic New Zealand

Penguin Random House New Zealand

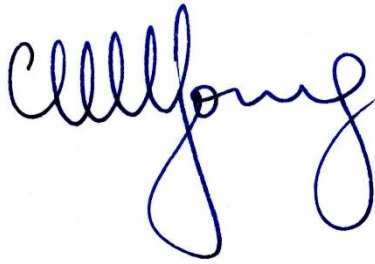
Walker Books Australia

Heritage Hotels

Our IBBY Consortium partners, listed above, who enable New Zealand to be part of the international children's literature community through Storylines/NZ IBBY membership.

We would also like to thank the Storylines Trust Board for its support, advice and strategic work during 2018. Our deepest thanks also go to the Storylines Management Committee,

Awards committees, and other sub-committees who do much of the operational work during the year. Storylines is indebted to you for your tireless work for New Zealand children's literature.



Christine Young
Chairperson



Gillian Wess
Executive Officer