



**MEDIA RELEASE: For Immediate Release**

<http://www.storylines.org.nz>

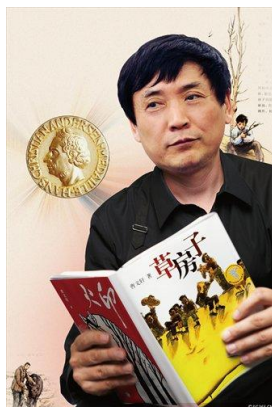
## **2016 Storylines Festival Family Days**

**20-28 August 2016**

**Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, South Auckland, Auckland, Kaitaia**

**Meet your favourite children's authors, illustrators, storytellers and performers.**

**All in one place, all for free.**



**CAO WENXUAN**

This national festival celebrating children's literature is one of the biggest of its kind in the world, and is a highlight of the New Zealand literary calendar. Over 100,000 children and their families have attended The Storylines Family Days since it began 23 years ago.

The six free Family Days are this year being held in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Kaitaia, South Auckland and Auckland, between 20-28 August, and festival goers can join Leigh Hobbs, Australian Children's Laureate and the IBBY 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner Cao Wenxuan from China at Auckland Family Day!

*"The Storylines Family Days provide a place where our children and their families, and our authors, illustrators and storytellers share the magic of our New Zealand stories,"* says Gillian Wess, Storylines Executive Officer.

- **South Auckland Family Day**

**Saturday 20 August, Mangere Arts Centre.**

Meet award-winning authors, watch the Pacifica Mamas perform, make masks, enter the comic zone and Insult Joust with Kyle Mewburn!

<http://www.storylines.org.nz/Events+and+activities/Storylines+Festival+of+New+Zealand+Childrens+Writers+and+Illustrators/South+Auckland+Family+Day.html>

### **THE PACIFICA MAMAS**



- **Auckland Family Day**  
**Sunday 21 August, Aotea Centre.**

Celebrate Joy Cowley's 80th birthday with her, and meet local and international guests, including Leigh Hobbs, Australian Children's Laureate and the IBBY 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner Cao Wenxuan from China. Meet Donovan Bixley and Michel Mulipola and join in activities and games for the whole family.



**LEIGH HOBBS**

<http://www.storylines.org.nz/Events+and+activities/Storylines+Festival+of+New+Zealand+Childrens+Writers+and+Illustrators/Auckland+Family+Day.html>



**JOY COWLEY**

- **Northland Family Day**  
**Saturday 27 August, Te Ahu and Kaitaia Library, Kaitaia.**

Listen to Waikarere Gregory read stories in Te Reo Maori + English, make a volcano, join a comic workshop, dress up as your favourite book character and meet authors Tim Tipene and Maria Gill. And don't miss Kaitaia College students' performance of *The Little Yellow Digger!*

<http://www.storylines.org.nz/Events+and+activities/Storylines+Festival+of+New+Zealand+Childrens+Writers+and+Illustrators/Northland+Family+Day.html>

- **Wellington Family Day**  
**Saturday 27 August, Michael Fowler Centre.**

Meet your favourite authors including Mandy Hager, Glyn Harper, Ruth Paul and Nikki Slade Robinson. Join a Crash Course Writing Workshop for littlies, or Mandy Hager's Writing Course for more confident writers. Cat Chapman will be entertaining children via interactive illustration and Bob Kerr and Glyn Harper will talk about adapting historical nonfiction for young readers.

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- **Dunedin Family Day**  
**Saturday 27 August, Dunedin City Library.**

Join Leonie Agnew, Fifi Colston, Gillian Candler and Otago-based writers and illustrators and performers including Ella West, Elizabeth Pulford, Elena de Roo and Scott Tulloch.

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- **Christchurch Family Day**  
**Sunday 28 August, Upper Riccarton Library.**

Meet Fifi Colston and Leonie Agnew, and listen to Steve Gurney's stories from *My Adventure Racing Toothbrush* – perfect for teenagers and adults getting started in adventure sports. There's poetry writing classes for both adults and children and interactive digital stories for ages 4-9 year olds, and mask-making and games.

<http://www.storylines.org.nz/Events+and+activities/Storylines+Festival+of+New+Zealand+Childrens+Writers+and+Illustrators/Christchurch+Family+Day.html>

### The Storylines events are designed to:

- celebrate NZ children's literature with children and their families across socio-economic boundaries
- spark children's imaginations and offer them the chance to meet emerging and established New Zealand authors and illustrators in the flesh
- showcase NZ children's authors and illustrators' work, along with that of international guests who join us (this year we are lucky to have Australian Children's Laureate Leigh Hobbs, and the IBBY 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award 2016 winner Cao Wenxuan from China!).
- nurture the authors and illustrators of tomorrow, giving them the opportunity to tell their own tales, draw their own dreams
- provide authors and illustrators with the opportunity to share their craft, develop new collaborations
- open up opportunities to increase sales of NZ literature.

All the Storylines Festival Family Days are free, enabling young people and their families access to high quality New Zealand literature.



**DONOVAN BIXLEY**



**MICHEL MULIPOLA**

Please join us and New Zealand's children at this year's Storylines Festival Family Days and help to keep our stories going and nurture our children's love of books and reading.

**<http://www.storylines.org.nz>**

**For more detailed information, and author interviews, please contact:**

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