

Storylines

Festival Report Of the

Storylines festival of New Zealand Children's Writers and Illustrators 18 – 26 August 2012





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INTRODUCTION

The 19th annual Storylines Festival of New Zealand Children's Writers and Illustrators has again created a literary whirlwind around New Zealand, reaching thousands of New Zealanders, both young and old, who experienced – and enjoyed – the depth and diversity of New Zealand's children's literature. This year Storylines again provided a platform for children and adults to experience the outstanding quality of work New Zealand offers: challenging, innovative and culturally diverse. As well as offering a great networking opportunity for the authors, illustrators, photographers, storytellers and performers who take part, the Storylines Festival offers an opportunity to meet the children who inspire, and for whom they create, their stories.

This year's festival included five cities: Whangarei, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Each year the Festival continues to grow and strengthen, with the support of many sponsors and funders – and the volunteers in each centre who dedicate days, if not weeks, of their time to ensure the success of the free Family Days for their local community.

The Storylines Festival aims to reach as many children and their families as possible. The Storylines Festival presents regional Family Days and allows large numbers of children to experience New Zealand books and meet authors and illustrators, regardless of their social or economic circumstances.

The Festival is promoted widely throughout the country through a variety of different methods. A large mailout to the majority of schools within each Family Day region ensured school children and their communities were informed. In addition, brochures and posters were distributed to retailers, libraries and community centres; and further promotions through electronic newsletters, e-cards, and listings on online networking and events sites targeted wider community groups. A print advertising campaign was held in the regional centres to promote the Family Days and our participating booksellers also provide great support in distributing information about the Family Days to their customers and networks.

The support shown to the festival by sponsors and funders, and by the hundreds of volunteers who return year after year, is a reflection of their shared commitment to the importance of continuing to spread the joy of reading, particularly New Zealand literature, and the impact of stories on all our lives. Such experiences promise a life-long treasure through a direct and intimate connection with books.

storylines special event – meet the authors and illustrators

21 & 22 August

TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre, Manukau, Auckland

Replacing the usual Auckland Story Tour this year, but still responding to the need from schools within the region, a central location was used for schools within the vicinity of the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre for this Special Event.



Genesis Energy Theatre
Photo credit: Frank Sin: Telstra Clear

The TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre is surrounded by a vibrant multicultural community in South Auckland, predominately catering to areas of Botany Downs in the east to Onehunga in the west, to as far south as Hamilton. The schools who attended were representative of the communities' cultural diversity. Two schools from as far north as Waiheke Island and from Katikati on the Coromandel Peninsula travelled for up to 2 hours to attend.

Schools this year undertook to bring students to the venue for one of the four free sessions by four highly talented and diverse speakers – dependent on the students' year levels. We received an overwhelming response from the attending schools.

Storylines offered;

Tuesday AM session 10am -11.45am Years 4-6

Tuesday PM session 12.40pm – 2.30pm Years 7&8

Wednesday AM session 10am – 11.45 am Years 4-6

Wednesday PM session 12.40pm – 2.30pm Years 9+

Bookings saw two of the four sessions filling the 600+ seat theatre with 36 individual schools attending over the two days. We also offered a waitlist for those schools unable to attend the session of their choice. Over 1819 students benefited from the local event.

This year's guest speakers included Nic Bishop (international NZ Photographer based in USA), Tim Tipene (author), Feana Tu'akoi (non-fiction author) and Zac Waipara (Graphic Novelist and illustrator).

Speaking for 20mins each, followed by question time, many of the speakers took advantage of modern technology to engage the students and highlight their work. By using power point presentations, video clips or reading their story aloud, the speakers easily adapted their presentations for the different age ranges. Their willingness to talk with the children openly and honestly and to answer the students' questions (which were many and varied), was greatly appreciated by the teachers and all involved in the event.

Special thanks to the Special Event coordinator, Rosemary Tisdall who also MC'd and the support of TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre in Manukau.



Guest speakers; L to R; Nic Bishop (author and photographer), Tim Tipene (author), Feana Tu'akoi (author) and Zac Waipara (graphic novelist).

Photo credit: Frank Sin: Telstra Clear

You Tube Video Link

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_vtEDzp9Uc

Tim Tipene reads Hinemoa te Toa

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVvXSmR_Lb4

Telstra Clear Pacific Events Centre



children and adult workshops

19 August Wellington, 25 August Auckland

This year six children's and two adult workshops were held at the National Library Centre, Stanley Street, Parnell. At the workshops, where children were given the opportunity to gain expert tuition from some of the country's leading writers and illustrators, an author and illustrator led a practical workshop for a maximum of 20 children for 1.5 hours, with the content of each workshop developed for a specific age range. The adult workshops were two hours in duration.

Developing a piece of writing or art under the guidance of experienced authors and illustrators was both inspiring and instructional for the students. Positive feedback from both students and the tutors reaffirmed the value of these important workshops.

The workshops were \$15 per child attending the workshop or \$20 per adult (this cost included materials). Bookings for the workshops were through the Storylines website, with most workshops well attended.

Writing Workshops

Maria Gill	<i>Picture Writing</i>	Ages 9-14years	15 attendees
Paula Green	<i>Funky Poetry</i>	Ages 6-10 years	8 attendees
Melinda Szymanik	<i>The Plot Thickens</i>	Ages 10-16 years	22 attendees
Lorraine Orman	<i>Shifting Sands: Writing Fiction For Children in the 21st Century</i>	Adult	20 attendees

Illustration Workshops

Aki Fukuoka	<i>Creative Characters</i>	Ages 10-16 years	10 attendees
Bruce Potter	<i>Caricaturing</i>	Ages 6-10 years	13 attendees
Ant Sang	<i>How To Make A Comic Book</i>	Ages 10-16 years	21 attendees
Gabriella Klepatski	<i>A Focus Within My Frame</i>	Adult	5 attendees

Children's Writing Workshop, Wellington

An opportunity in Wellington allowed a writing workshop lead by Fleur Beale to be incorporated as part of the Wellington Family Day.

Fleur Beale	<i>Improve Your Writing Skills</i>	Ages 11-14 years	15 attendees
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Special thanks to Melanie McVeigh, who coordinated the Auckland workshops, and Barbara Smaill who so generously volunteered her time and the support of The National Library Centre in Parnell. In Wellington, Sarah Forster's organisational skills were greatly appreciated.

Dunedin family Day Dunedin City Library, Moray Place 18 August

The second Dunedin Family Day was held on a bright, crisp morning in Dunedin despite a southerly cold blast heading north from Antarctica in the previous days. Approximately 1900+ children and their parents visited the Central Public Library for the second Dunedin Family Day and enjoyed the activities and talks that were on offer. Still in its infancy in Dunedin, the Family Day is growing as part of the national Festival.



*Storytellers and entertainers at the Dunedin Family Day
Photo credit: Dunedin Public Libraries*

Marketing coordinator, Lynette Hartgill, a member of the Dunedin Public Library team, undertook the task of Dunedin Regional Coordinator and, with the assistance of a small library-based committee; the Family Day was again warmly received by the Dunedin community.

A team of 25 volunteers assisted on the day to paint faces, assist with craft activities, staff the Welcome Desk, collect competition entries, and act as minders for participating authors, illustrators and performers. The contribution of these volunteers was significant, and it is these efforts both leading up to the event and on the day that ensured its success.



*David Elliot and Sally Rippin
Discuss Pen vs. Paintbrush.
Photo credit: Dunedin Public Library*

Heritage Hotels Book talk utilised space on the ground floor. Scheduled author talks were well received with many of the audience members staying for two or three sessions. Doubling up the guest speakers with a set theme also allowed the audience to participate to the 'conversation'. Themes included: *Pen Vs Paintbrush. Where To Start As A Writer and Illustrator, Carnivorous Plants and Saving Planet Earth: Writing About The Weird Real World, Boys To Men: What Keeps Boys Reading As They Grow Up?* and *Angels and Spiders; The Inspiration Behind Writing For Young Children.*

The Scholastic Books Out aloud area was popular with all ages for the majority of the day, with many returning for another story. The guest readers enthralled their audience with stories from well known and loved books and some lesser known titles. Storytellers shared a mixed schedule with Kat Anna Fiddle, Juggler Jay and Filipa Fairy sharing the story pit. Mix in some storybook characters and the Story Pit on the ground floor was full for most of the day.

Pure Capital thinking factopia adopted a conservation theme with Orokonui Ecosanctuary volunteering to help us learn about the world around us using some wonderful interactive activities. Ecosanctuary staff were available to answer many interesting and intriguing questions. Science experiments with Des Hunt and discovering edible weeds, solar cooking and carnivorous plants with Johanna Knox added another dimension to the activities.



*Des Hunt explains science and nature.
Photo credit: Dunedin Public Library*



Jenna Packer talking with
A volunteer
Photo credit: Dunedin Public
Library

The *artists in action* (illustrator's gallery) allowed new illustrators to meet and talk with the illustrators. Being able to talk to local David Elliot and Jenna Packer added a new dimension to the day, with many illustrators more than happy to answer questions from the visitors or to explain their techniques. The constant contact with visitors viewing their illustrations and approaching them for autographs and a moment's discussion allowed the illustrators to really get to know their audience.

the *Bookworks* area (arts and crafts) was spread over many floors of the library. Being able to create your own origami animals, spy's eyes or fairy wings proved too tempting for many – including adults – who had a go and created their own original masterpieces. *Mr Tripp's Quiz* around the library was a popular activity that allowed children to explore the different events/ activities happening within the library and allowed for problem solving of the clues.

A mailout to schools, brochures distributed to retailers, libraries and local community centres, and an email campaign were used to market the Family Day to the Dunedin community. Add to this advertising in the local newspapers in the week prior, and the outcome was good visitor numbers for the second Dunedin Family Day.

Special thanks to our Dunedin co-ordinator, Lynette Hartgill, and the small Dunedin committee who's behind the scenes organisation and knowledge was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to all the Dunedin volunteers who were up before very early to ensure the Dunedin community had a day to remember.

Participants at the 2012 Dunedin Family Day were: Des Hunt (author), Elizabeth Pulford (author), Filipa Fairy (performer), James Norcliffe (author/ poet), Jenna Packer (illustrator), Johanna Knox (author), Juggler Jay (performer), Kat Anna Fiddle (storytelling duo), Scott Willis (author), Sally Rippin (author/ illustrator Australia), Sandy McKay (author)



Christchurch family day Catholic cathedral College 19 August

This year the snow and aftershocks abated for the fourth Christchurch Family Day (19 August), held at Catholic Cathedral College. The cold start to the day did not deter children, their parents and many grandparents attending to enjoy the array of book related activities on offer and to meet the ten visiting guests. Catholic Cathedral College very graciously agreed to host this year's Family Day and the use of the school was greatly appreciated as many venues in the region still have an undecided future.

An estimated 1500+ children and their parents visited throughout the day. It was wonderful to see such a high level of interest in terms of visitor numbers and a great opportunity for some normality for the Christchurch community.

This is the fourth year Christchurch has hosted a Family Day. Storylines and Te Tai Tamariki Member, Kim Dovey, undertook the task of Christchurch Regional Coordinator with the assistance of a small supportive and proactive committee behind her. The Family Day has become a 'must do' event on many people's calendars.

Again this year we observed an increased number of grandparents attended with their grandchildren and thoroughly enjoyed the interactive and sometimes challenging activities. There was also a noted increase in the cultural diversity of the visitors attending, with performances and craft activities relating directly to the cultural diversity of the community. A team of 50+ volunteers pledged their time to paint faces, assist with craft activities, staff the Welcome Desk, collect competition entries, and act as minders for participating authors, illustrators and performers. The contribution of these volunteers was significant, and it is their efforts both leading up to the event and on the day that again ensured its success.



*Arts and crafts tiger style.
Leon Edwards creates.
Photo credit: Jane Dolan*

The **Bookworks** area (arts and crafts) was a popular choice for all ages and the team chosen to look after this area provided some great book-related interactive activities. Beginning with a *Never Ending Story*, clues were hidden around the venue to be found. Fish were made and caught to set imaginations alight from Melanie Drewery's book *Fishing Fame*. The ability to be able to use the playground was appreciated by many – braving the cold to add their piece to the chalk snake that twisted around the basketball court. Many parents also joined in with the children, helping to create some truly original masterpieces.

Close by, at the **artists in action** (Illustrators Gallery) young illustrators were able to meet our guest illustrators up close. The area also provided a space where children could create their own piece of art or, if they preferred, take the opportunity to sit, chat and observe one of the guest illustrators at work. Being able to chat with local illustrator's Helen Taylor and Jenny Cooper may have set in motion a new career for a budding illustrator.



*The first signs of Spring.
Photo credit: Jane Dolan*



*Regional Coordinators hat.
Photo credit: Jane Dolan*

Catholic Cathedral College's School Hall hosted **Books alive** (performances), catering for a varied timetable of performers. The diversity of the programme and the area itself was extremely popular, with some visitors staying in their seats for a number of the guest performers, including Riccarton Players version of *The Three Little Pigs*, storyteller Helen Moran and performer Melanie Poppins.



Riccarton Players; the audience gets to meet the cast.
Photo credit: Jane Dolan



Helen Moran tells a tale with a little help.
Photo credit: Jane Dolan

Many children were able to sit quite close to the guest speakers in the **Heritage Hotels Book talk** area. The ability to step away from the hustle and bustle of the main hall activities was a welcomed relief for many throughout the day. Listening to some interesting and inspiring stories, many of the guest speakers also enjoyed the interactive and intimate nature of this area. A moving tribute to Margaret Mahy in her home town by Trevor Agnew allowed time to reflect and remember a great New Zealand literary hero.



Books, books and more books
Photo credit: Jane Dolan

Cushions in the **Scholastic Books Out loud** area were well patronised all day, with many children making return visits wanting to hear "just one more story" from the extremely popular authors and volunteers who read aloud. The guest readers enthralled their audience with stories from well known and loved books and some lesser known titles.

Advertising for the event was promoted in the main papers of the region along with local suburban papers also being utilised in the week prior to the Family Day. In the week

prior radio advertising was also introduced to reach the community. A mailout to regional schools, brochures distributed to retailers, libraries and local community centres were used to market the Family Day to the Christchurch community.

Special thanks to our Christchurch co-ordinator, Kim Dovey, and the small volunteer committee whose proactive approach to the planning of the day was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the Christchurch volunteers who were up before the birds to ensure Christchurch had a day to remember. Support for the event being held in Christchurch was again overwhelming and much of the feedback received from the local community has been extremely supportive of this community event.

Participants at 2012 Christchurch Family Day were: Helen McKinlay (author), Helen Moran (storyteller), Helen Taylor (illustrator), Jenny Cooper (illustrator), Leonie Thorpe (author), Melanie Drewery (author/illustrator), Melanie Poppins (performer), Sandy McKay (author), Sarona Aiono-Iosefa (author), Tim Tipene (author).

Wellington family day Michael Fowler Centre 19 August

Wellington's programme was exciting and innovative again this year. Wellington has a very multi-cultural community and a good cross-section of the local and wider community attended. The Wellington Family Day drew an attendance from families from Wellington City and surrounding suburbs as well as from Lower and Upper Hutt and Porirua, with some families carpooling from Waikanae for the day. Approximately 2500 people attended throughout the day to enjoy the all of the activities on offer.



Michael Fowler Centre foyer entrance.

Photo credit: Sarina Hutton



Harriet Bailey starts with a Squiggle

Photo credit: Sarina Hutton

Pure Capital thinking factopia's (non-fiction) and the **artists in action** (illustrators' gallery) were linked together this year with non-fiction illustrators spilling into Factopia with activities. Side by side, both were well attended by Wellington's young illustrators, who appreciate the opportunity to meet and talk with the illustrators face to face. Being able to talk to Harriet Bailey, Margaret Tolland or Sabrina Malcolm, and being shown how to use a *squiggle convertor* or to blindfold one of the illustrators ensured a busy day for our guests.

Stop Motion Movies displayed how the ever-changing pace of today's technology can be used to create some wonderful animation using something as simple as a smart phone. Not to be overlooked was the chance to blindfold Harriet, who then drew the picture being described by the audience left many of the audience spellbound, wanting to see what would be drawn next.

Creating Venus Fly traps also caught many children's imagination, and a collection of interactive activities that included wonderful activities to help visitors learn about the world around us was included in this area. The chance to create a Piwakawaka and a unique bird caller to take home or adding to the Storylines Mural, allowed creativity to flow.

Bookworks (arts and crafts) are always popular with any age group and Fifi Colston planned and designed many of the craft activities for inclusion this year. Each craft activity was carefully crafted around a participating guests' book, with several activities proving so popular that resources were exhausted before the conclusion of the day. All of the activities/ crafts were created to allow children to use their own imagination and ability without the need for constant supervision from an attending adult. These crafts were extremely popular.



Margaret Tolland creates a Piwakawaka

Photo credit: Sarina Hutton

Books alive (performances) made use of the Michael Fowler Auditorium, and proved a very popular area, with a diverse programme on offer for the audience. The performance space was utilised for the very popular Read Aloud Competition, Raroa Intermediate School Orchestra, Chamber Music Group, Seatoun School Rockband & Choir, Hutt International

Boys School Ukulele Orchestra and PERFORM. Complementing this area was the **Story Zone**, where storytellers Moira Wairama and Holly Gooch enthralled with stories of wonder and excitement.



Chamber Music Group, Hutt International Boys School Ukele Orchestra and storyteller/ author Moira Wairama

Photo credit: Sarina Hutton

The **Scholastic Books Out loud** room was part of the “buzz” of the auditorium foyer and proved to be a very popular area for both young and old alike. Having an intimate space added to the ambience of this area for those who wanted to listen to the vast array of stories being read aloud. Being able to listen to guest readers such as Juliette McIver, Mark Sommerset, Sally Rippin and Ruth Paul, added to the excitement of being able to meet and talk with them at the conclusion.

The **Heritage Hotels Book talk** room was ideal for smaller, more intimate presentations. It was popular with visitors from the beginning of the day and at times the room was full to overflowing with its appeal. Popular sessions were Barbara Else, Anna Mackenzie and Storylines 2011 Tom Fitzgibbon Award Winner, Kathy Taylor. A Young Adults discussion panel featured a lively debate themed *What's The Story*. The discussion panellists' included YA authors Fleur Beale, Anna Mackenzie and Barbara Else.

This year's advertising efforts were thorough; from utilising the banner on Jervois Bridge, to the library displays and ads in the papers with editorials. Much of the marketing was undertaken by Wellington's new Regional Coordinator, Sarina Hutton. Sarina Hutton performed the role of Wellington Regional Coordinator, and was backed by the steadfast and committed Wellington committee, who gave freely of their time and knowledge to bring together a wonderful Family Day in Wellington. Many thanks have to go to the committee, volunteers and everyone involved in the Family Day.

Participants at Wellington Family Day were: Anna Mackenzie (author), Barbara Else (author), Fleur Beale (author), Harriet Bailey (illustrator), Holly Gooch (Story Tailor), Juliette McIver (author), Kathy Taylor (author), Margaret Tolland (illustrator), Mark Sommerset (author), Moira Wairama (Storyteller/ author), Ruth Paul (author/ illustrator), Sabrina Malcolm (illustrator), Sally Rippin (author/ illustrator Australia)

Northland family Day, Whangarei Whangarei Central Library and the Old Library Community Arts Centre 25 august

With activities/ zones spread across two venues, the Whangarei Family Day begun with the Whangarei Community Brass Band and welcome speeches by a local councillor, a Storylines representative and the Ringmaster for the day, Leanne Ferris. The Whangarei Central Library and The Old Library Community Arts Centre, positioned side by side in a central location in Whangarei, were ideal for hosting this event. The Plaza linking the two venues was used for additional interactive activities for young and old alike.



*Whangarei Community
Brass Band
Photo credit: Chris Schreuder*

This year's Northland Family Day returned to Whangarei and was brought together by local children's librarian Sue Scott and her volunteer committee - many of whom have been involved in the Whangarei Family Day since its beginning in 2008.



*A favourite book is read
aloud.
Photo credit: Chris Schreuder*

An estimated 2350+ people from Whangarei and the surrounding districts attended the Family Day, with some driving from as far away as Kaitaia and Kerikeri. It was busy right from the beginning of the day through to the end.

In the Central Library, an Author Zone, hosted by Diana Menefy, attracted a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, with the authors accessible to answer questions and talk one-on-one with their fans directly. The intimate surroundings allowed for conversation to flow easily.

The **Scholastic Books Out loud** was hosted under the stairs, where the area was overtaken by cushions and colourful decorations. Many of the guest readers had an attentive audience, whose enjoyment of the books being read out aloud was evident on their faces.

Familiar faces came back to listen to a number of stories throughout the day with many being given the opportunity to choose their own favourite book to be read aloud.

With a mix of authors talking openly and honestly about their work and where many of them derive their ideas from, the **Heritage Hotels Book talk** area was extremely popular. Talks by Sally Rippin, Lucy Davey, Nic Bishop and local author/illustrator Catherine Foreman were greatly enjoyed by the audience. In addition was the opportunity for many of the children in the audience to take part as characters in books by Lucy Davey (*The Fidgety Itch*) and launch of the new book, *Madison Moon and the Hot Air Balloon* by Chris Gurney and local illustrator Catherine Foreman.



*Sally Rippin with stories
from her childhood.
Photo credit: Chris Schreuder*

pure Capital thinking factopia was hosted in the Shutter Room of the Old Library Community Arts Centre where a vast array of interactive and educational activities had been planned for

children young and old. These non-fiction activities were designed to help children learn about the world around them, animals and themselves. The theme of *Senses: Sight, Smell, Touch, Taste and Hearing* incorporated activities with these themes, including looking through a fly's eye, matching the noses, experiencing a tingle tongue test and listening to the music of noise. Exploring Nic Bishop's nature photography books and seeing a camera trap in action allowed for participation and proved to be popular with a number of visitors savouring all the activities to the fullest. Parents were also encouraged to participate and there was a lot of encouragement and interaction between children and their parents.



Experimenting with one of the senses in Factopia
Photo credit: Chris Schreuder

The *artists in action* (illustrator's gallery) played host to Auckland illustrator, Fraser Williamson, who was very popular with the children with his interactive style of drawing. Many children used their imagination to create their own animals on the mural that was started, using crayons, pencils and pens to complete their illustration.



Fraser Williamson
Photo credit: Chris Schreuder

The *Books alive* performance and storytelling area in the Old Library Community Arts Centre proved to be incredibly popular, drawing large audiences for the performances by Moira Wairama and locally based performer, Robert Pollock.

As always the face painters had a steady line of children waiting their turn to have their face changed into their favourite book character.

Thanks to Sue Scott, Whangarei Central Library, the Whangarei Committee and the many volunteers who were instrumental in organising the 2012 Whangarei Free Family Day in Northland.

Participants at Whangarei Family Day were: Fraser Williamson (illustrator), Moira Wairama (storyteller), Catherine Foreman (author/ illustrator), Sally Rippin (author/ illustrator Australia), Nic Bishop (non-fiction author and photographer), Lucy Davey (author).



Bookworks arts and crafts for all ages; Moira Wairama starts a story and Robert Pollack gets assistance from a member of the audience.
Photo credit: Chris Schreuder

Auckland Family Day Aotea Centre, The Edge 26 August

The 19th annual Auckland Family Day returned to being held in one venue this year, the Aotea Centre, The Edge, attracting an enthusiastic crowd, who were eager to experience and take part in all the activities, talks and events that were on offer. A team 100+ volunteers, coordinated by Anne Coppell, again offered a wide range of book-related craft activities, escorted and guided their guest participant around the venue, participated in a myriad of interactive activities, or took their turn as one of the well-practised face painters. Without the support and input from these volunteers, the Family Day would not have been possible – we extend our gratitude to all who again gave up their traditional “sleep-in day” to help bring the magic of books to life for so many children from within the Auckland region.



Said, Basil and mum
Christina enjoy Bookworks
Photo credit: Julian Lewis

Participation from many local schools brought to life the Books Alive (performances) room. Drama performances were presented throughout the day and the room was filled for a majority of the time. The room flowed well with most of the performances starting on time – a credit to Michelle Hesketh, who co-ordinated the Books Alive room again for the third consecutive time this year and liaised with the drama groups about their interpretations of the books. The books were chosen to coincide with the authors present at the Family Day. Many of the school and recreational drama groups had put considerable time and effort into their performances and the value of this was evident by the appreciative faces of the audience. Also appearing was the educational performance team PERFORM, who once again provided performances free of charge in bringing their show, based on finalists in the NZ Post Book Awards, to the Family Day in Auckland. A book launch of *The Three Little Pigs* by Roger Hall saw an encore performance by St Cuthberts College.

Books Breakout also hosted two book launches. These were peppered in amongst the speakers and a discussion panel. Included in the launches, was the winner of the 2011 Joy Cowley Award, *Wooden Arms* by Sarah Johnson. In addition, Joy Cowley was present for the award presentation. Tessa Duder, Rachael King, Diana Menefy, Melinda Szymanik and David Hill’s discussion panel, chaired by Gerry Judkins provided some thought provoking insights for the teenage audience present when discussing *What Next For YA Literature?*



Amberley and dad Selwyn create
a masterpiece
Photo credit: Julian Lewis

With a huge chair as a back drop, the Story Zone had a mixed timetable that included a mix of Storytellers and performers. Based in the Blues Bar, Aunty Bea and Moira Wairama enthralled the audience with stories that allowed their imaginations to soar. Bringing to life current books, Janet Martin introduced a musical partner whilst Dawn McMillan read from her new book for the New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, *Colour the Stars*.



Matthew Keyte gets some tips from Dylan Horrocks
Photo credit: Julian Lewis

The **artists in action** (illustrators' gallery) again proved popular this year, with children wanting to know more about the process of creating an illustration. The participating artists were only too happy to share their knowledge with young fans, who posed some interesting and varied questions and presented some of their own artwork for critique by the professionals. Some of the artists also provided a personalised memento for a lucky admirer or two to take away with them. Included in the illustrators gallery was the very popular Comic Zone for older children. This area was well visited throughout the day, with many children turning

their hand to creating their own comic. On hand were Dylan Horrocks and Chris Slane, who gave advice and guidance to the next generation of graphic novel creators.

The ever popular **Scholastic Books Out loud** drew large audiences throughout the day, with many choosing to stay and listen to "*just one more*" guest reader. Stories were read throughout the day by a number of guest authors and volunteers, to a crowd who were comfortable sitting on the provided cushions and floor rather than chairs. A highlight was the *Best Loved Bear* Competition, where children were asked to bring in (and show off) their favourite soft toy.

Pure Capital thinking factopia transformed into the most amazing display and interactive activities based around the non-fiction guests. Kites and the art of Pat Hanly with Maritime Museum featured; along with activities that included discovering ancient treasures and coin rubbings with David Veart, nature photography with Nic Bishop, a knowledge test about Kakapo with Sarah Ells and Maria Gill's focus on volcanoes (with regular eruptions) were just some of the exciting activities that Pure Capital Thinking Factopia offered this year. Melanie McVeigh coordinated this non-fiction room with the assistance of Barbara Smaill. Both Melanie and Barbara (and the room itself) seemed never to have a quiet time throughout the day. The assistance from a small number of volunteers and organisations made it all flow remarkably effectively, with many guests enjoying all the activities that were on offer. YOUTHTOWN again provided its own team and resources for activities that included a photo booth, where you could bring to life your favourite book character.



Maria Gill creates a Volcano in Factopia
Photo credit: Julian Lewis



Carys and Castor Chacko in the YouthTown photo booth
Photo credit: Julian Lewis

Bookworks (art and craft activities) provided six craft and activity stations throughout the venue which were readily available with thousands of different and individual pieces of craft created over the course of the day. Each of the craft activities were linked to a book by the participating authors and illustrators attending the day.

Some of the many crafts and activities included:

- Creating your own individual and personalised badge with artwork from current books.

- Using your imagination to make your own book (from a choice of three), designing your own cover.
- Making a card for someone you love
- Superhero masks
- Mermaids and Pirates; with wiggly fish tails and parrots
- Origami animals



Connor Smith uses the Printing Press with MOTAT, Bruce Grenville

The choices that were provided proved very popular and many happy faces were seen leaving with a new book mark firmly held in one hand. The simplicity of some the activities was appreciated by younger visitors, while older children were able to undertake more complex versions. An activity was provided for every age group.



*Alex Beattie shows off his Superhero mask
Photo credits: Julian Lewis*

The duo of calligraphers from NZ Calligraphers were busy for most of the day, impeccably naming children's bookmarks, which no doubt will be cherished for years to come. Many children also turned their hand at using the MOTAT printing press. After patiently preparing their individual plates, the chance to then print them onto a bookmark ensured that the printing press had a continual line of children waiting. It was an extremely busy day from a craft perspective. Participation by NZ Calligraphers and MOTAT was appreciated by all those who attended.

Heritage Hotels Book talk drew on the many guest participants present on the day. A number of fantastic guests spoke throughout the day to an eager audience about their work and inspirations. Question and answer time was well used by those in attendance, sometimes asking some tricky, but relevant, questions. With a projector and screen provided in the room, many guest speakers opted to use a power point presentation, which added depth to their talks.

Fortunately the fire alarm and consequently the evacuation of the entire venue did not dampen the end of the day as many gathered in Aotea Square to sing along with well know duo The Topp Twins for their version of some favourite songs: *Do Your Ears Hang Low* and *There's A Hole In My Bucket*.



*Aotea Square hosted the Topp Twins
Photo credit: Julian Lewis*

A special memorial for Margaret Mahy, one of Storylines Patrons, was also a feature of the day. Children and adults were given the opportunity to write personal notes to Margaret and add them to the 'chair'. Thanks to Gary and Carol Ardern for the creation of the chair that will be used at many Storylines Events in the coming years.



*Lily and Jack Shaw
Down the Back of The
Chair
Photo credit: Julian Lewis*

We can't mention every feature here, but every group, sponsor, stall holder, volunteer and participant adds their piece to the puzzle to create a truly wonderful day celebrating what New Zealand has to offer to the world.

Over the course of the day, an estimated 8,000 – 10,000 people came along to the Aotea Centre, The Edge. The large numbers highlight the communities' awareness of the wealth of children's literacy in New Zealand and its importance to our young people.

Thanks to all the volunteers and the dedicated Auckland Festival Committee who, by giving their time and expertise, created a Family Day that was enjoyable, exciting and celebrated New Zealand creativity in a uniquely New Zealand way.

Participants at Auckland Family Day were: Aki Fukuoka (illustrator), Aunty Bea (storyteller), Brian Lovelock (illustrator), Bruce Potter (illustrator), Chris Slane (graphic novelist), Chris Szekely (author), David Hill (author), David Veart (non-fiction author), Dawn McMillan (author), Diana Menefy (author), Dylan Horrocks (graphic novelist), Janet Martin (author), Joy Cowley (author), Leonie Agnew (author), Lucy Davey (author), Maria Gill (non-fiction author), Melinda Szymanik (author), Moira Wairama (storyteller), Nic Bishop (non fiction author and photographer), Peter Millett (author), PERFORM (educational theatre group), Rachael King (author), Sally Rippin (author/ illustrator, Australia), Sandra Morris (illustrator), Sarah Ell (non-fiction author), Sarah Johnson (author), Tessa Duder (author), Tim Tipene (author), The Topp Twins (performer duo), Victoria Azaro (author)



*Auckland Family Day Participants 2012
Photo credit: Julian Lewis*

funders & Sponsors

The support shown to the Storylines Festival by sponsors and funders is a reflection of the importance they place on literacy and children's literature in New Zealand, and Storylines role in supporting it. We focus particularly on New Zealand literature, either in the writing or illustration or both, as it reflects the cultures and experiences of young New Zealanders in a way that overseas titles, however good, can never match.

Books and stories have an impact on all our lives. Events like the Storylines Festival deliver quality experiences that engage both children and their adults. The Festival promotion of New Zealand children's literature promises a life-long treasure through a direct and intimate connection with books, and through intergenerational sharing of the joy of books and reading.

Storylines could not deliver this major free event without the support of our many funders, sponsors and supporters. Creative New Zealand was once again the major Festival sponsor, while support from ASB Community Trust and the New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board ensures we have the infrastructure in place and can cover the costs essential to Storylines' survival.

Several of our sponsors have continued their long-term support of Storylines, and for the continuity and engagement with the Festival from their staff, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Heritage Hotels, The EDGE, Pure Capital, many publishers and the major children's booksellers.

We also receive support from local councils and government organisations, who appreciate the value of the event in their regions. Our thanks to Auckland Council, Dunedin City Council, Wellington City Council, and the Whangarei District Council for your support.

We know that many gaming machine charities and funders have less income and greater demands on their funds than ever before. We are therefore extremely grateful for generous grants from The Lion Foundation and smaller grants from The Wellington Community Trust, Four Winds, New Zealand Community Trust all of which enable us to ensure that this event remains free so all who wish to can attend and enjoy the direct engagement with some of New Zealand's most talented and creative writers, illustrators, storytellers and performers.

To all the sponsors, businesses and organisations who support us in a myriad of ways (too many to detail here but who are listed on the back cover), our heartfelt thanks. We hope the relationship and involvement with Storylines in the Festival is as valuable to you, both personally and professionally, as it is to the many thousands of children and families that we reached this year through your generosity and support.

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