

## Vale Barbara Murison

### Tributes from Storylines members



“Barbara Murison enjoyed enduring friendships with many authors and illustrators, on a personal as well as professional level. On my trips to Wellington over at least two decades, for writers’ hui or awards presentations or book launches, she was usually there, clearly enjoying every moment. Her support was shown in little ways: a catch-up coffee, an email dialogue or message of congratulations – as well as the more visible endeavours such as her review and news magazine, done not for money but of out sheer love for the genre and their young readers, and a keen interest in what was being published and everyone (not just the authors, and not just in Wellington) involved in writing, publishing and promoting books for the young. Storylines acknowledged her wisdom, enthusiasm and influence back in 2002 when she won the Storylines Betty Gilderdale awards for services to children’s literature. As a true and valued kaumatua of New Zealand children’s writing, she will be greatly missed.”  
– Tessa Duder, author, Storylines Trustee and Storylines management committee member

“I wrote to Barbara when I heard her devastating news. She was a stalwart supporter of the Kids’ Lit Quiz and regularly marked, supplied book prizes at the Wellington heat and always attended the National Final in Wellington with one of her many friends. There was nobody in the world of kids’ books in NZ who wouldn’t have run across Barbara at some stage. She’ll be greatly missed.” – Wayne Mills, Kids’ Lit Quizmaster

“Nobody introduced me to Barbara, she introduced herself at my first book awards and promptly invited me out for dinner with other writers and illustrators. She also ran Around the Bookshops and tracked me down so I could be included. These are little things and many people will have better stories, but she really stood out. We have so few individuals like her across the country - people who are committed and passionate about New Zealand children's books. She was a deserved winner of the Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award.”  
– Leonie Agnew, author