

"You know you've read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend." ~ Paul Sweeney.

Wellington writer Kate De Goldi wins Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal 2011

Wellington author, publisher and broadcaster Kate De Goldi is the 2011 winner of the New Zealand's top award for children's writers and illustrators, the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and Lecture Award.



The award, for a distinguished contribution to New Zealand children's literature, is given annually by the Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust.

'Kate De Goldi's achievements over two decades have made a very significant contribution to the continuing rise of children's publishing in New Zealand,' says Trust chair Dr Libby Limbrick. 'Her versatility, creative use of language and reputation as a fine public speaker have earned her a special place among New Zealand writers.'

De Goldi began as a short story writer and poet, winning the American Express and Katherine Mansfield prizes, before writing a series of notable young adult novels.

In 2004, she and illustrator Jacquie Colley published their picture book *Clubs*, which went on to win the New Zealand Children's Book Awards Post Book of the Year, the Russell Clarke Award for illustration and a Spectrum design award for typography.

Her 2008 novel *The 10 PM Question* is regarded as a publishing phenomenon, a classic of New Zealand literature, again winning the top New

Zealand Post Children's Book Award, and popular with both youth and adult audiences. It has featured on the best-seller list for many months.

De Goldi's further major awards have included an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award, and in 2010 the \$100,000 Michael King Fellowship to work on a study of the Wellington children's book collector and mentor Susan Price.

Kate De Goldi will deliver her Mahy Lecture at the Storylines' annual Margaret Mahy Day being held in Auckland on International Children's Book Day, 2 April, which this year is also part of the Spinning Tales National Children's Writers' and Illustrators' Hui.

Previous winners of the Margaret Mahy Medal include Joy Cowley, Lynley Dodd, Gavin Bishop, Maurice Gee, David Hill, publisher Ann Mallinson and educationalist Wayne Mills.

Kate de Goldi is available for interview.

Media contact: Storylines Executive Officer, Christine Young via email or 09-4459891.

Storylines Margaret Mahy Day - book your diaries now!

The 2011 Storylines Margaret Mahy Day will be on Saturday 2 April - International Children's Book Day - at King's School, Remuera, Auckland. Watch out for the March enews and the website for more details.

We can tell you that ticket prices will be: Members \$20 and non-members \$35.

Spinning Tales Hui

Writers and Illustrators.

Closing Date for Registrations 1 March.

The Spinning Tales Hui promises a weekend of camaraderie, sharing and professional development for New Zealand children's writers and illustrators, 1 & 2 April 2011. Whether you are established as a writer/illustrator, newish to the game or still dreaming, the hui is the only place to be this April weekend.

If you have a new book due out or recently released, check out the details for the chance to promote this to teachers and librarians at the pre-hui Thursday night Sneak Preview event at the new National Library building in Parnell. All details are on the Spinning Tales website [www.spinningtales.co.nz].

Register now to make sure you don't miss out.

Teachers & Librarians.

Mark your calendar to attend the Sneak Preview of recently and about-to-be released books by some of New Zealand's best writers and illustrators. Thursday 31 March at the new National Library building in Parnell.

Everyone!

Here's your chance to hobnob with authors! Volunteer to help out for the hui!

Things we need help with:

- Airport pick-ups. Thursday, Friday and Sunday (31 March, 1 and 3 April).
- Sneak Preview Evening. Thursday 31 March.
- Published Authors / Illustrators Meeting. Friday 1 April.
- Logistics. Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April.
- Pitching in. Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April.
- Timekeeping. Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April.
- Technical. Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April.
- Runners. Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 April.
- Displays. Friday 1 April.
- Literary Feast. Saturday 2 April.

If you're interested, email Vicki the Storylines events manager, who will pass on the message.

Nic Bishop news

Who amongst us hasn't drooled over the fabulous photography of Nic Bishop? His collaborations with Joy Cowley – particularly *The Red-Eye Tree Frog* – are classics. One of his latest books, *Kaikapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrots*, written by Sy Montgomery, has just won the 2011 Sibert Medal, which is the highest possible honour for children's non-fiction in the US.



Now... why are we telling you this? Because Nic is coming to this year's Storylines Festival!

Oh yes he is.

There's more going on this year – and planning is well-advanced! So keep an eye on the website and enews to plan your time.

Congratulations Wayne!

Wayne Mills, longtime Storylines supporter, Storylines Margaret Mahy winner, and Kids' Lit Quiz™ quizmaster, appeared in the New Year's Honours List – Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

We can't tell you who nominated Wayne, but rest assured it was a member of the wider Storylines family who has been a fan of the Kids' Lit Quiz™ for years. The nominator sought support from schools and individuals – including Philip Pullman! – for a year before the nominator.

A justly deserved honour, Wayne.

For members only.

The booklist this time is all about friends and friendship. Log on to our website using your existing membership number, or your newly reset password if you have already visited our new website, to view our booklists. This is only accessible to members. If you wish to become a member, contact our Membership Secretary [email: membership@storylines.org.nz].

Creating a Peace Story

Life takes us on interesting journeys sometimes, doesn't it?

Putting my hand up four years ago in a committee meeting to attend a children's book festival in South Korea, has opened up a new world for me. I have now been there three times, become part of an international committee and have helped to create an anthology of stories about peace from 22 countries.

Let me begin from the beginning:

IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) is an international organisation. Storylines is the New Zealand section of IBBY. Korean IBBY invited one person from every member country around the world, of which there are about 70, to attend their annual Children's Book Festival in May 2007. All expenses were paid for the week, except for a one-way ticket on my flight. Lucky!

22 countries accepted the offer and we were treated like royalty all week. The festival is held on idyllic Nami Island on the Han River, idyllic because it is full of trees and not cars, and is a relaxing haven for Koreans to visit for holidays or day visits. We had an incredible amount of fun, as well as spending time in a seminar session discussing ways to encourage reading and books around the world.

A memorable tour of the National Library for Children and Young Adults in Seoul allowed us to view a current display of information and works by English illustrators such as Michael Foreman, Quentin Blake, John Burningham and Lauren Child.

Culturally enlightened through the Opening Ceremony where Korean children danced and sang, many traditional meals and a visit to the National Museum, a stunning architectural work of art in itself, I felt privileged to be there, representing New Zealand. Meeting delegates from so many interesting countries: Moldova, Lithuania, Brazil, Bolivia, Iran, Palestine, Turkey to name a few, who all spoke English, made me feel very fortunate. Today, many of these I can now call friends as we have spent so much time together since then and shared so much.

Two years later, November 2009, the same 22 people were invited back to help KBBY plan the 2010 festival as it was now to be a biennial event (all

expenses paid this time!). This time, we saw Nami Island in glorious colours of autumn, absolutely stunning. A lot colder this time, -2° one evening, but breath-takenly beautiful in its coat of reds, golds and yellows.

What a week: two full days of meetings shared between the National Library for Children and Young Adults and in the Hans Christian Andersen Hall on Nami Island. Our mission was how we could create a book about peace each country could participate in. What format would it take, what age level would it be for, would it be illustrated? The outcome was to develop an anthology of illustrated stories suitable for 9 -12 year olds.

There was to be a set number of words and maximum pages. Our mission on our return home was to select an author and illustrator from our country to create a story about peace in 'our' village.

As our theme was peace, an eye-opening tour of the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) between North and South Korea seemed a logical place for them to take us. Here we could look across the barbed wire to North Korea, 4kms away, and to venture underground into one of the four tunnels found after the armistice, dug by North Korea with secret plans of invasion. We walked down about 70m (and later, back up!), it was over 1km long, only 2m wide by 2m high, perfect for an army of soldiers to run through in an hour apparently. This visit certainly brought home the tension that still exists between the two countries.

An interesting visit to Paju Book City, a publishing industrial complex about 30 km out from Seoul, captivated our attention. Here all the publishing houses, printers and distribution centres are based, with many authors now coming to live in the precinct.

New ZealandIBBY, managed by Storylines, had already selected Jennifer Beck through a competition we held for any children's author. We received many entries with the judges choosing the story on its merits; they did not know who the writer was. A large number of illustrators had also expressed interest in participating in this wonderful opportunity. Lindy Fisher was chosen.

Their combined work *Remember that November* is a beautiful portrayal of the peaceful resistance of the Parihaka people in 1881 when the soldiers came to attack.

Much work was done by Lindy, Jennifer and the Storylines team in early 2010 to get the completed story finished and sent to Korea.

The reward came in October when Jennifer, Lindy and I all flew to Korea, and believe it or not, all expenses were paid for all three of us and for the 21 other

contributing countries' representatives!

We had an astounding week beginning with the Opening Ceremony of the Children's Book Festival on Nami Island. How will we ever forget how we manhandled the rope of rice cake, a real delicacy, into a long snake stretching many, many metres! A fairytale dinner under the trees that night was truly magical, complete with fairy lights through the trees, a string quartet, traditional Korean pipe music and fireworks.

The anthology, *Peace Story*, was launched the following day and we were all thrilled with the final product.

Dotted among the trees on Nami Island, every single story had been enlarged and was displayed on big panels, complete with illustrations, for all visitors to the island to read. They looked amazing. To see *Remember that November* in giant format was fantastic. Of course, we took lots of photos.

Lindy had created a craft activity relevant to the story for children to participate in at the festival. We held two workshop sessions where Korean children made a Peace marker each, a bookmark with a white feather included. The white feather became a symbol of Lindy's during the week as she drew them on books, ceramics, scarves and even our host's studio toilet wall, at his request!

Back in Seoul, we spent time at the National Library for Children and Young Adults listening to authors and illustrators from twelve countries share their journey of creating the Peace Story. Jennifer and Lindy's touching recount of their visit to Parihaka, staying on the Marae and gaining approval from the chief to tell *their* story, moved everyone in the room. Allowing a white feather to drift down to the floor during their narration, added beautifully to the atmosphere.

Korean IBBY certainly spoilt us, and taking us on tours was one such example. We visited the Secret Garden of Changdeok Palace, more a park than garden! Huge. Wonderful.

We split into two groups and while most visited the DMZ where I had visited last year, the rest of us were taken on a special visit to the JSA (Joint Security Area), and to Camp Bonifas, the army camp where the American and South Korean soldiers control the border. We were right inside the DMZ and could see the North Korean soldiers closely watching our every move. It was quite scary and we felt very vulnerable, but the experience of being there and seeing the very real threat the two Koreas live with daily is hard to describe. Coming from safe New Zealand, it really got to me.

What fun Jennifer, Lindy and I had on our last full day together, after our

official time with our hosts was over and our sad goodbyes had been said. We spent the day visiting the markets at Insadong, finding dozens of art shops with beautiful papers and hundreds of brushes. I wish I could paint!

A memorable trip, a constructive trip with many memories and photos to share with our family and friends.

~ Rosemary Tisdall.

The Mallinson Rendel Illustrators Award

Late last year Ann Mallinson announced the establishment of \$10,000 award for children's book illustrators, administered by the Arts Foundation - the Mallinson Rendel Illustrators Award.

The first award will be made in 2011. The award will be presented every two years to a children's book illustrator with published work of a high standard and includes a no-strings cash gift of \$10,000.

The recipient will be selected by a voluntary panel appointed by the Arts Foundation, without the artist knowing that he or she is under consideration. It is not possible to apply for this Award.

Ann Mallinson said 'I have long felt the need for recognition of the painterly skills, imagination and artistry that are required to do justice to the words in a picture book. This is an important artform, as it is a child's first introduction to books. I am delighted at at the end of my publishing career I am able to make a contribution to this field.'

Mallinson Rendel was an independent publishing company which specialised in children's books. Established by David Rendel and Ann Mallinson in 1980, it operated until 2009. Mallinson Rendel was best known for its picture books which, in Joy Cowley's words, 'set in place in this country a standard of excellence that won't retire'. It was always Mallinson Rendel's belief that children's books deserve the best. Illustrators published by Mallinson Rendel include Lynley Dodd, Robyn Belton, Jenny Cooper, Bob Kerr, Philip Paea, Lesley Moyes, Christopher White, Trish Bowles and Terewai Kemp.

~ From the press release and website.

[http://www.thearts.co.nz/mallinson_rendel_illustrators_award.php]