



## **STORYLINES CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CHARITABLE TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND TE WHARE WAITUHI TAMARIKI O AOTEAROA**

### **Annual Report 2020**

During 2020 Storylines reviewed both the Storylines Trust Deed and the Constitution of the associated Storylines Foundation to ensure both organisations conformed to recent and pending changes to charities law. As part of the review both organisations adopted new names: Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust of New Zealand Te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa, and Friends of Storylines Ngā Pou o Te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa.

Despite the inevitable disruptions and uncertainty created by Covid-19 lockdowns the management team ensured continuity of Storylines Trust operational activities. The Story Tours expanded their geographical (and online) reach, relationships with groups interested in literature and literacy for young people were strengthened and Storylines' status in the literary community affirmed.

### **STORYLINES AWARDS**

#### **The Storylines National Awards Day and Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and Lecture.**

The Storylines National Awards Day, which includes the presentation of the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and lecture, was due to be held on Sunday 5th April, a weekend date International Children's Book Day, at the University of Auckland Faculty of Education and Social Work in Epsom. With the announcement of the month-long Covid lockdown, this was changed to an online presentation of the Storylines Margaret Mahy lecture by the 2020 winner, Maria Gill, and separate presentations to each of the individual manuscript award winners.

The Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal is the supreme Storylines award given to an individual for lifetime achievement in the field of children's literature.

The videos of all award presentations were subsequently released over the next few months, after editing of each presentation was complete, and the presentations now sit on our You Tube channel as a permanent record of the award presentations.

This was the first year of the newly established Storylines Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira Award for a manuscript written originally in te reo Māori, so it was a particular disappointment not to be able to welcome the winner, the whānau of Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira, or the award sponsor Huia. We look forward to the publication of the manuscript in 2021, alongside those of the other award winners of

the books resulting from the 2020 Storylines Tessa Duder, Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon, and Storylines Joy Cowley awards

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. Attendees at the event include award winners, whanau supporters, writers and illustrators, Storylines members, representatives from other literary organisations, and publishers, as well as general public.

The 2020 award winners were:

- **The Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal** – Maria Gill. Maria writes mostly children's non-fiction and educational resources that align with the curriculum. During the 2020 pandemic and consequent lockdown, she worked on her AUT Masters of Creative Writing thesis. Her books have been shortlisted in the New Zealand Post and LIANZA Children's Book Awards, as well as being selected as Storylines Notable Books (non-fiction). Maria has also written 60 children's books for the trade and international educational market. In 2016 *Anzac Heroes*, illustrated by Marco Ivancic, won the non-fiction category of the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, as well as the Supreme prize – the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year award.
- **The Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award** for a much-loved book which has never received a national award was presented to *The Big Block of Chocolate*, written by Janet Bottin and illustrated by Christine Dale.
- **The Storylines Joy Cowley Award**, sponsored by Scholastic New Zealand for an unpublished manuscript for a picture book, was awarded to Tania Sickling for her manuscript *Grandpa versus Swing*.
- **The Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award**, sponsored by Scholastic New Zealand for an unpublished manuscript of junior fiction, was awarded to Belinda O'Keefe of Geraldine for her manuscript, *Slime*.
- **The Storylines Tessa Duder Award** for a manuscript for a young adult novel was awarded to *Cristina Sanders* for her manuscript *Displaced*.
- **The Storylines Gavin Bishop Award** for a previously unpublished illustrator is awarded biennially, so not awarded in 2020
- **The Storylines Janice Marriot Mentoring Award**, another new award, was awarded to Janine Williams of Whangarei.

### **Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award**

At a special function in November the 2020 Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award for services to children's literature was awarded to Lorraine Orman who trained as a librarian, and worked for many years at National Library and in libraries in schools and tertiary institutions. She also wrote short stories, novels and reviews, and became actively involved in the Children's Literature Foundation and Storylines as an advocate for New Zealand children's literature and the engagement of young people with books and reading.

## **STORYLINES NOTABLE BOOKS**

More than 150 books were submitted by publishers and self-published authors in 2019 for the 2020 awards. A panel of librarians, teachers and past and current Storylines Management Committee members with specialist knowledge of children's literature was coordinated by Sarah Fordyce, a Storylines Management Committee member. Eight picture books, ten junior fiction, six young adult fiction, ten non-fiction and two books written originally in or translated simultaneously into te reo Māori texts were selected as Notable Books for 2020. A full list is on the Storylines website. Certificates for the authors, illustrators and publishers for each Notable Book were presented with all books identified with a gold Storylines Notable Book sticker. A poster of the Notable Books for distribution to booksellers and available digital was produced and distributed to bookshops throughout New Zealand.

## **BOOK LAUNCHES**

Two award-winning books from last year, [Ursa](#) by Tina Shaw (published by Walker Books) and [Bullseye Bella](#) by James T. Guthrie (published by Scholastic New Zealand) were launched during the afternoon.

## **THE 2020 STORYLINES NATIONAL STORY TOUR**

The Storylines National Story Tour toured five regions in 2020, extending its reach in attendance numbers and geographically, including many rural and smaller communities. New relationships were formed with local groups and the ability to work together was highly rewarding for all concerned. The five tours in 2020 were:

Manawatu 27 – 30 July – digital tour  
Auckland 31 August – 4 September – digital tour  
Northland 12 – 16 October – digital tour  
Central Plateau (Taupō) 19 – 23 October  
Marlborough 16 – 20 November

The Southland Story Tour, planned for early in the year, as Covid-19 lockdowns impacted, had to be cancelled but the team quickly reworked the programme so that five of the six planned tours took place either in person or online. The digital tours to Manawatu, Northland and Auckland enabled the delivery of our Story Tours to young audiences in these regions and beyond, and provided opportunities for our guest authors and illustrators' professional development to gain experience of digital presentations. Over the course of the five tours, 20 New Zealand authors/ illustrators and storytellers visited 24,471 children in early childhood centres, schools, community groups, and libraries across Aotearoa.

## **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, especially Creative New Zealand, which responded quickly and positively to reassure its major clients that funding support would continue during the Covid-19 disruptions, even if our programmes were unable to be delivered as planned. In the event, this funding was crucial to our being able to develop an online live and recorded format for 2020 Storylines Story Tours (see separate report above). Providing free entry and access to the Storylines National 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 whanau's or community's economic circumstances. We therefore remain highly dependent on the support of grant funding, sponsorship and other partnerships to sustain our activities.

In 2020 we received Creative New Zealand Toi Uru funding towards the 2020 Story Tours and staffing costs as part of our two-year Kahikatea funding. Foundation North also granted Storylines significant funds towards our 2020 Storylines Auckland and Northland Festival Story Tour programme costs. All these funds were essential to our ability to continue operating in 2020, and to delivering programmes online, and live when Covid restrictions were eased.

Funding for various aspects of the Storylines National Story tour was also gratefully received in 2020 from Lottery Communities whom we acknowledge and thank for their valued support.

We also acknowledge and thank Auckland Council for its funding of the 2020 Storylines Auckland Story Tour.

We would also like to thank Scholastic New Zealand, Penguin Random House New Zealand, Huia and Walker Books Australia for their ongoing support which enables us to continue with the Storylines awards for the benefit of our literary community and to offer cash prizes to the winners of the Storylines Joy Cowley, Tom Fitzgibbon, Gavin Bishop, Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira and Tessa Duder Awards. We were also delighted to receive a cash sponsorship for the first year of the Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira Award from Massey University Te Pūtahi-a-Toi: School of Māori Knowledge.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Website ([storylines.org.nz](http://storylines.org.nz))**

Our part-time website editor, Christine Young, continues the management of the site. Regular e-newsletters were sent throughout the year and the website content kept up to date.

### **Media Relations**

Storylines has continued to be ably supported by Margaret Samuels and Lorraine Steele of Lighthouse PR with our media relations and external communications.

### **Newsletters and other publications**

Storylines sent out monthly newsletters throughout 2020 and to our database of around 7000 subscribers and members. *Writing from the Heart*, by Joy Cowley on writing for children, remains available online as an e-book. Joy Cowley's generosity allows all proceeds to go to Storylines.

## **TE AWHI RITO NEW ZEALAND READING AMBASSADOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Storylines is one of the founding partners in this initiative, led by National Library of New Zealand and funded by Te Puna Foundation. Having long advocated for the establishment of a Children's Laureate, we were delighted with the announcement of the role, which will have a more specific brief than some international laureate programmes, and is a powerful signal of the importance of books and reading for young people. During 2020 Christine Young, Chair of the Storylines Board, met regularly by Zoom or in person with representatives of the other members of the partnership (National Library, Te Puna Foundation, Te Pou Muramura and Creative New Zealand) to establish the parameters for the role, and to develop a brief and selection process for the role. Nominations for Te Awhi Rito were called for in late 2020, with the selection panel meeting in 2021 to select the first person to hold this prestigious new role

## **STORYLINES IBBY NZ**

NZ IBBY, chaired by Frances Plumpton, operates as the New Zealand National Section of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) working through Storylines and supported by the NZ IBBY Consortium. Despite Covid-19 the IBBYNZ committee continued to meet six-weekly via Zoom and when possible in person.

- **The consortium,**

The consortium, which has assisted with the funding of Storylines' membership of IBBY since 2002, includes representation from several New Zealand publishers. Three levels of membership of the consortium enable new and smaller publishers to share the benefits and the costs of New Zealand's membership of IBBY. Storylines is grateful to the consortium, not only for their financial support of Storylines/IBBYNZ but also for the commitment to working with Storylines to ensure that New Zealand authors and illustrators are recognised internationally. The composition of the consortium in 2020 was: Harper Collins Publishers (NZ) New Zealand Book Council; Penguin Random House; Scholastic New Zealand; Upstart Press; Duck Creek Press; Millwood Press; He Kupenga Hao ite Reo; Gecko Press; Flying Start Books.

- **IBBY Honour Books**

Three New Zealand books were successfully nominated for the IBBY Honour Book List: Writer-Eirlys Hunter *The Mapmakers' Race* (Gecko Press, 2018); Illustrator-Josh Morgan *The Bomb*, text by Sacha Cotter (Huia, 2018); Translator- Evelyn Tobin *Tu Meke Tūi* by Malcolm Clarke, illustrated by Flox (Little Love, Mary Egan Publishing 2017).

- **IBBY Silent Books**

Three books were submitted for the 2021 IBBY Silent Books exhibition: *Migrants* by Issa Watanabe, Gecko Press; *The Holidays* by Blexoblex, Gecko Press; *Aleph* by Janik Coat, Gecko Press.

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

Although the refugee programme was curtailed by Covid-19, books in languages anticipated to be the likely home lands of the refugees, continued to be purchased and presented to the Mangere Refugee Centre anticipating the programme would be restarted in 2021. Two Storylines trustees working with the programme, have continued regular contact with the refugee centre and have established contact with Ministry of

Education Migrant and Refugee Support Advisors throughout the country who are providing information on how best to use funds to support the children in their settlement homes.

A seminar on the Storylines Refugee Book programme was presented at the Mangere Refugee Centre early in the year and a paper published in a highly regarded education journal, *Educator Sciences* *The Joy of Having a Book in Your Own Language: Home Language Books in a Refugee Education Centre* by Nicola Daly and Libby Limbrick has received a number of favourable reviews internationally.

### **STORYLINES' PARTNERSHIP with WHAT NOW**

The partnership between Storylines and children's television programme *What Now* to encourage children's engagement with literature, was initiated in 2019 and continued in 2020. The Storylines 'Kids' Pick' is the Storylines Junior Fiction Notable Book that most appealed to an audience of young readers from all parts of New Zealand based on reviews by a panel of intermediate school aged readers. The Storylines What Now Kids' Pick for 2020 was *The Prince of Ponies* by Stacy Gregg. It was voted for by young readers/viewers during June 2020, the winner announced on *What Now* on 5 July, and the award presented digitally in September.

### **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, and continues to seek funding from other sources so that Storylines is financially well supported. She develops the budget in collaboration with the Board and Management Committee, supports strategic planning and works closely with Storylines' Treasurer, Lynette Roycroft, to manage and report on the budget. With Events Manager and Administrator Vicki Cunningham she ensured that the Storylines National Story Tour was implemented with great outcomes in 2020.

Vicki Cunningham continues to be an outstanding 'multi-tasker' as the Story Tour planner and executor, Storylines administrator and communicator. In 2020, she also took on the role of Awards administrator, relieving the load on Storylines' volunteers, with funding received from Creative New Zealand. The continuing success of the Storylines National Story Tour is due to Vicki's significant commitment to the project and to her excellent communication with schools, early childhood centres and libraries as well as the writers, illustrators and Story Tour drivers and Storylines representatives on the tours. 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 accountant/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 – and success – in promoting Storylines and what it achieves.

The Management Committee, ably led by Chair Kaaren Hirst, worked extremely hard over 2020 not only on the regular activities of Storylines including Storylines' awards judging, events organisation, the online Story Tour presentations, NZIBBY activities and the What Now Notable Books Kid's Pick initiative. Without the enthusiasm and hard work of this

wonderful group of volunteers, most of whom are members of Friends of Storylines Ngā Pou o te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa, Storylines could not achieve any of what it does: the Storylines Trust Board is grateful for their commitment.


Finally, as Chairperson of the Storylines Trust, I am proud to work with such an able and supportive group of trustees. I would like to thank the members of the Storylines Board for their support, advice and strategic work during 2020. We are truly fortunate to have trustees who represent a range of interests and skills and have a deep commitment to supporting and developing New Zealand children's literature. My warm thanks to Tessa Duder, Darryn Joseph, Carolyn Lagahetau, Will Smith, Frances Plumpton, Tony Sissons, Rosemary Tisdall and Libby Limbrick. To Tony Sissons our most sincere gratitude for hosting our Trust Board meetings in the Kings School boardroom. And to outgoing trustee Frances Plumpton, our warmest thanks for your commitment to and work for Storylines since its inception over two decades ago.

### **Sponsors, funders and partners**

Our thanks go to Storylines' 2020 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 relationships, many of which have been developed over a considerable time:

- Creative New Zealand
- Foundation North
- Lottery Communities
- Auckland Council
- Scholastic New Zealand
- Penguin Random House New Zealand
- Walker Books Australia
- Huia

Our deepest thanks also go to the Storylines Management Committee, Awards committees, and other sub-committees who, with Gillian and Vicki, do much of the operational work during the year. Storylines is indebted to them all for their tireless work for New Zealand children's literature.



**Christine Young, Chair**



**Gillian Wess, Executive Officer**