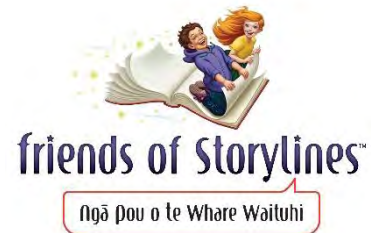


Chairperson's Report to the AGM of Friends of Storylines Incorporated Ngā Pou o te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa

25 May 2021.



Nau mai, haere mai, talofa, malo e lelei. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of Friends of Storylines Incorporated Nga Pou o te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa. Hereafter I will refer to the Friends.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the amazing work that Libby Limbrick has done as Chairperson before me and the fantastic amount of support she has given me in the last year.

The work of the Friends is wide and varied and accomplished by you, the members and those friends and whānau that we “rope in” to help in small and sometimes big ways. Without this ongoing support the activities of the Friends – and of Storylines – would not happen. There are many ways in which members contribute including on the management committee, as judges and award coordinators, Story Tour drivers and Storylines representatives, catering and taking photographs at events, and much more.

2020 was a challenge and what we had done before was no longer fit for purpose; this was of course because of the impact of Covid-19 and its impact on our projects. Our Story Tours moved online and our authors and illustrators and those who introduced them had to learn to interact in a new medium. Behind the scenes was our amazing ever-present administrator Vicki Cunningham who had to organise the change of plans at the last minute and coordinate matters to enable our tamariki to still have the amazing experience of seeing and hearing New Zealand authors and illustrators. I am pleased to report that despite the changes imposed on us, between the face-to-face and online Story Tours we reached over 24,000 children throughout the country. This has been noted by the Management Committee as an area to develop in the future.

Unfortunately, again because of Covid-19, we had to present our Storylines awards online also. This fortunately did not impact on our ability to work with *WhatNow* on the Storylines Kids' Pick competition. This is a continuing area of engagement that is greatly valued. We were also fortunate enough to attend the awarding of the Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award and hear Lorraine Orman present her speech in November 2020 at the School of Music auditorium at the Epsom Campus of the University of Auckland. I am sure for many of you it felt like we were coming out of a long tunnel and had a little more confidence that any planning we undertook would eventuate.

This brings me to thanking and acknowledging the work done by the Storylines Management Committee who do the planning, developing, and organising of Friends' initiatives. This committee is made up of a group of members who all bring different talents and strengths to the table or zoom meetings. The 2020 Committee was:

- Libby Limbrick
- Tessa Duder
- Vanessa Hatley-Owen
- Anne Girven (resigned for work commitments)
- Anne Kayes

- Bridget Mahy
- Helen Villers (minute secretary)
- Leonie Agnew
- Helen Beckinsale
- Annemarie Hartley (newly returned to the committee)

2020 saw a rapid development of online meeting skills and we have moved to having every second meeting via zoom. This has flowed over to other subgroups and awards groups enabling members from different regions of the country to participate. So, if you think you would like to bring your skills to the Management Committee or you are looking to contribute in some other way please get in contact.

Kaaren Hirst,
Chairperson,
Friends of Storylines Incorporated Ngā Pou o te Whare Waituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa