

Turning The Page – Taking Stories From Pen to Pukapuka

Storylines Children's Writers and Illustrators' National Hui 2026

SATURDAY 3 October

8.00am Registrations open.

9.00am Welcome.

9.15am Keynote presentation: Donovan Bixley. Sponsored by Little Moa
The good, the bad, the sublime and the ridiculous.

10.15am Morning Tea

10.45am *Wrangling those twinkling, twirling ideas: the magic of picture books.*
Workshops
Sacha Cotter

From fact to fascination: writing true stories for young people.
Sponsored by OneTree House
Maria Gill

Words into pictures.
Zak Waipara

12.15pm Lunch & Pitch Slam Sessions

(Please keep an eye on the time if you have a Pitch Slam booked)

Lunch / Pitch Slam

1.15pm Panel discussion chaired by Kate De Goldi: *What Makes a Successful Book in Aotearoa.*
Donovan Bixley, Claire Mabey, Isobel Joy Te Aho-White, and Roger Christensen (Little Unity Bookstore)

Panel / Pitch Slam

2.15pm *Juliette reverses the curses on verses: what to avoid (and what to do!) when writing in rhyme.*
Workshops
Sponsored by Kiwi Christmas Books
Juliette MacIver

From story to script: writing a graphic novel.
Sponsored by Scholastic NZ
Swapna Haddow

The illustruggle: the highs and lows of life as an illustrator.
Josh Morgan

3.30pm Afternoon Tea & The Poets XYZ Open Mic Session (children's poetry)

4.00pm *Writing and researching a non-fiction book.*
Gavin Bishop

World building.
Sponsored by Allen & Unwin NZ
Elizabeth Knox

Creating a graphic novel.
Sponsored by Penguin Random House NZ
Li Chen

5.15pm Publishers Panel chaired by Rosemary Tisdall.
Allen & Unwin NZ, Oratia Books, Scholastic NZ, and Penguin Random House NZ.

6.15pm Literary Banquet, Dilworth School Dining Hall

SUNDAY 4 October

9.00am Keynote presentation: Kate De Goldi, Te Awhi Rito Reading Ambassador.
Doom or Dinner: Reading for our lives.

10.00am Morning Tea

10.30am *Picture book clinic: the doctor will see your manuscript now.*
Workshops
Sponsored by Bateman Books
Melinda Szymanik

From seed to story: how to write a compelling Middle Grade novel.
Graci Kim

"That's Not Where the Legs Go!" Balancing character and scientific accuracy in your animal illustrations.
Giselle Clarkson

12.00pm Lunch

1.00pm *DIY: how to build a successful Indie Publishing career.*
Workshops
James Russell

Creating suspense: how to keep your readers awake past midnight.
Eileen Merriman

Pūrākau and Pakiwaitara: telling our ancient stories.
Isobel Joy Te Aho-White

2.30pm Panel discussion chaired by Alison Shucksmith: *The Art of Marketing.*
James Russell, Graci Kim, and Gemma Finlay.

3.30pm Farewell.

Thank you to our generous hui supporters...

