

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.
The good, the bad, the sublime and the ridiculous.

10.15am Morning tea

10.45am Workshops
Wrangling those twinkling, twirling ideas: how and why I write.

Sacha Cotter

From fact to fascination: writing true stories for young people.

Maria Gill

The process and design choices to take script and narrative ideas into storyboard form.

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.*

Panel / Pitch Slam

Donovan Bixley, Claire Mabey, Isabel Joy Te Aho-White, and Roger Christensen (Little Unity Bookstore)

2.15pm Workshops
Juliette reverses the curses on verses: what to avoid (and what to do!) when writing in rhyme.

Juliette MacIver

From story to script: writing a graphic novel.

Swapna Haddow

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

Josh Morgan

3.30pm Afternoon tea

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

Gavin Bishop

World building.

Elizabeth Knox

Creating a graphic novel.

Li Chen

5.15pm Panel discussion chaired by Rosemary Tisdale.

Panel

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 Workshops
Picture book clinic: the doctor will see your manuscript now.

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 Workshops
DIY: how to build a successful Indie Publishing career.

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.*

Panel

James Russell, Graci Kim, and Gemma Finlay.

3.30pm Farewell.