

# 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.

Panel

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 down and up now.*  
Workshops  
**Sorry - fully booked**  
Sponsored by Bateman Books  
Melinda Szymanik

*The lowdown on Picture Books.*  
Sally Sutton

*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.

Panel

3.30pm Farewell.

Thank you to our generous hui supporters...

