



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

### **Annual Report 2023**

In 2023 we successfully delivered eight Storylines Story Tours to widely disparate areas of Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as holding the Storylines Notable Book Awards and Storylines' manuscript awards programme.

It was a tough year financially and though we cut expenditure, we had to draw on our financial reserves. In 2023, costs continued to rise, which impacted on the delivery of our programmes, particularly the Story Tours, and we worked during the year to manage costs and look for different ways to successfully deliver the programmes. At the end of the year, in developing a budget for 2024, we considered each area of our operations to see how we could maintain our programme but streamline operations and reduce expenses while continuing to deliver a rich and valuable programme

### **THE 2023 STORYLINES STORY TOUR**

Storylines completed eight face to face Story Tours around Aotearoa New Zealand in 2023. This is the key programme for the organisation to deliver, as the Story Tours play a valuable role in raising awareness and highlighting the importance of reading for pleasure among tamariki and rangatahi across Aotearoa, and provide opportunities for children's and young adult writers and illustrators to engage directly with their audiences. Reaching students in remote and economically deprived areas of the country remained a strong focus. The commitment to mentoring writers and illustrators in the use of technology and presentation adds depth and relevance to the programme, and to the artists' ability to engage with their audiences.

What makes the Story Tours truly special, though, is, more than the numbers of students reached, the heartfelt appreciation expressed through letters and emails from teachers, students and parents. Knowing that the Story Tours have made a positive impact on individuals' lives and that they are valued by the communities visited is testament to the programme's success.

The Storylines Story Tour programme in 2023 included eight face-to-face Story Tours around the regions. Storylines extended 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 Storylines Story Tours have settled into the three-year rotation for regional visits. The tours in 2023 were:

Bay of Plenty	8 - 12 May
Northland	29 May - 2 June
Tasman	12 - 16 June
Kapiti Coast	31 July - 4 August
Waikato	21 - 25 August
Auckland	11 - 15 September
Hawkes Bay	30 October - 3 November
Otago	13 - 17 November

Over the course of the tours, 32 New Zealand authors, illustrators or storytellers reached 31,007 children in early childhood centres, schools, community groups, and libraries across Aotearoa. This is a significant increase over the 2022 audience of 21,508.

## STORYLINES AWARDS

Through its awards programme Storylines celebrates and acknowledges the achievements of writers and illustrators for young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as the dedicated work of people in the children's and YA literature sector, and those who enable Storylines to achieve its aims.

The 2023 Storylines Margaret Mahy National Awards Day included the presentation of the Storylines Margaret Mahy Lecture by Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal recipient James Norcliffe.

The event also celebrated shortlisted entrants and the announcement of the winners of the 2023 Storylines manuscript awards: the Storylines Joy Cowley Award; Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award; Storylines Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira Award; Storylines Janice Marriott Mentoring Award; and the winner of the Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award for a much-loved book.

The Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award was not awarded in 2023.

Storylines Notable Book Awards were presented at an event in November.

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

Storylines' annual Margaret Mahy National Awards Day, which includes the presentation of the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal and lecture, was held on Sunday 2 April, to coincide with International Children's Book Day. The event was held at the University of Auckland Epsom campus in Auckland, and was a key face to face gathering for the children's and YA literature community. Attendees at the event included award winners, whānau supporters, writers and illustrators, Storylines members, representatives from other literary organisations and publishers, as well as general public.

The Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal is the supreme Storylines award given to an individual for lifetime achievement in the field of children's and YA literature. The 2023 Medal winner James Norcliffe presented a stimulating and engaging lecture, which is available to view on the Storylines [website](#).

The day also included the presentation of Storylines' manuscript awards. We look forward to the publication in 2024 of the winners of the 2023 Storylines Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te

Heikōkō Mataira Award (to be published in both te reo Māori and in English), Storylines Tessa Duder Award, Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award, and Storylines Joy Cowley Award.

The 2023 award winners were:

### **THE STORYLINES MARGARET MAHY MEDAL – James Norcliffe.**

- James Norcliffe is an award-winning poet, educator, editor and author of books for adults and children. In December 2022 he was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Poetry. *The Loblolly Boy*, published in 2009 in New Zealand, Australia and the United States, was described by acclaimed children's writer Margaret Mahy as 'a rich fantasy — alive with original twists surprises and mysteries'. It won the 2010 NZ Post Junior Fiction Award, was shortlisted for the LIANZA Esther Glen Medal for Junior Fiction and the Sir Julius Vogel Science Fiction Award, and won a Storylines Notable Junior Fiction Book Award.

### **STORYLINES MANUSCRIPT AWARDS**

- **The Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award** for a much-loved book which has never received a national award was presented to *A Kiwi Night before Christmas* by Yvonne Morrison, illustrated by Deborah Hinde.
- **The Storylines Joy Cowley Award**, sponsored by Scholastic New Zealand, for an unpublished manuscript for a picture book, was awarded to Kristin Kelly of Whangarei for her manuscript *The Squeakling*.
- **The Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award**, sponsored by Scholastic New Zealand, for an unpublished manuscript of junior fiction, was awarded to Claire Aramatuku of Burnham for her manuscript *Koro's Star*.
- **The Storylines Tessa Duder Award** for a manuscript for a young adult novel is awarded biennially so there was no award in 2023.
- **The Storylines Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira Award**, sponsored by Huia Publishers, for a manuscript written originally in te reo Māori, was Hana Tapiata for her manuscript *He aha tērā e rongō nei au?*. It was a pleasure to welcome Hana and her whānau, the whānau of Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira, and representatives of sponsor Huia Publishers to the presentation.
- **The Storylines Gavin Bishop Award** for a previously unpublished illustrator, sponsored by Penguin Random House, is generally awarded biennially, but was not awarded in 2023. There will be an award in 2024.
- **The Storylines Janice Marriot Mentoring Award**, supported by Janice Marriot, was awarded to Kate Gallant of Koitiata for the submission of *Aunty Bart's Vegetable Cart*.

### **STORYLINES BETTY GILDERDALE AWARD**

- The Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award for services to children's literature was awarded to Dr Libby Limbrick in 2022. There was no award made in 2023.

### **STORYLINES NOTABLE BOOKS**

- One hundred and thirty-nine books were submitted by publishers and self-published authors for the 2023 Storylines Notable Book Awards, and the Storylines Notable Book lists were announced ahead of the Christmas book sales period. A panel of librarians, teachers and past and current Storylines Management Committee members with specialist knowledge of children's literature was coordinated by Vicki Cunningham. Ten titles in each genre (picture books, junior fiction, young adult

fiction, non-fiction and books written originally in, or translated simultaneously into, te reo Māori) were selected as Storylines Notable Books for 2023. A full list is on the Storylines [website](#). A brochure highlighting the 2023 Storylines Notable Books was produced and distributed to bookshops, libraries and individuals throughout New Zealand. An event to celebrate the winners and award certificates to the authors, illustrators and publishers for each Notable Book was held at National Library in Auckland on Saturday 4 November 2023.

## BOOK LAUNCHES

- Storylines Tessa Duder Award 2022. Book launch was held on Sunday 2 April 2023  
**Winner: Leonie Agnew** *The Impossible Story of Hannah Kemp*
- Storylines Joy Cowley Award 2022. Book launch held on 13 September, at UBS Canterbury University  
**Winner: Melanie Koster** *Tama and the Taniwha*
- Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award 2022. Book launch was held on 20 August 2023 in conjunction with Hamilton Book Month  
**Winner: Feana Tu'akoi (Hamilton)** *Lopini the Legend*

## OTHER EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- **Storylines Saturday Sessions**  
A new initiative in 2023 was the Storylines Saturday Sessions for new and established writers. These workshops were held in Auckland and Christchurch and provided opportunities for professional development, as well as a new revenue source to support Storylines
- **Writing from the Heart**  
Storylines expresses its great thanks to Storylines patron Joy Cowley, who generously donated her time and expertise to update the publication she wrote for writers and aspiring writers, *Writing from the Heart*, which she had earlier donated to Storylines to assist with fundraising. This allowed Storylines to publish the new edition in November 2023, raising revenue of more than \$800 to date.

## 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 remains our principal and most valued funder. Over the past two years, this funding has been crucial to our being able to maintain our face-to-face contact in so many areas, though broader funding constraints have meant that digital initiatives were suspended in 2023. Providing free entry and access to the Storylines Story Tour continues to be a priority and commitment by Storylines so there are no barriers to any school, regardless of their whanau or community's economic circumstances, allowing its students to enjoy the excitement and stimulus of a visit from a notable (often award-winning) literary figure and meet authors and illustrators.

We remain highly dependent on the support of grant funding, sponsorship and other partnerships to sustain our activities, in an economic environment that is increasingly difficult.

We received Creative New Zealand Toi Uru funding for a further three years from 2023 – 2025 which has enabled us to plan operationally and strategically.

Foundation North granted Storylines significant funds towards the 2023 Storylines Auckland and Northland Story Tour programme costs. These funds were essential to our ability to continue operating these programmes in 2023.

Funding for various aspects of the Storylines Story Tour programme was also gratefully received in 2023 from Mātātuhi Foundation, Four Winds Foundation, and Aotearoa Gaming Trust whom we acknowledge and thank for their valued support.

We also acknowledge the support from The Lion Foundation for our Storylines Notable Book Awards.

We would also like to thank Scholastic New Zealand, Penguin Random House New Zealand, and Huia Publishers 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, Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon, Storylines Gavin Bishop, Storylines Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira Awards.

In 2023 Storylines was delighted to welcome Allen & Unwin New Zealand to this “family” of sponsors. From 2024 Allen & Unwin New Zealand is sponsoring the Storylines Tessa Duder Award. We thank Walker Books for their past support of this award, and are delighted that Allen & Unwin New Zealand is the new sponsor of the Storylines Tessa Duder Award for a previously unpublished young adult manuscript;

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))**

During 2023 we contracted a part-time editor to look after website updates.

### **Media Relations**

Our contract with Lighthouse PR ended at the end of 2022 and media releases and publicity are now managed internally.

### **Newsletters and other publications**

Storylines sent out monthly newsletters throughout 2023 to our database of around 7000 subscribers and members.

The new edition of *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.

In April 2023, Storylines became the sponsor for the new monthly Nielsen list that highlights best-selling New Zealand books in Junior and YA Fiction and Non-fiction. The aim is to increase awareness of and highlight the quality of local publishing and books available in this genre. We have had very positive feedback on this initiative and are delighted to be collaborating with the Coalition for Books in promoting the list via Kete Books and social media.

## **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 Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa and funded by Te Puna Foundation. Having long advocated for the establishment of a Children's Laureate, Storylines was delighted with the announcement of the role just over two years ago, as it offers a powerful signal of the importance of books and reading for young people. During 2023 Christine Young, Chair of the Storylines Trust Board, met regularly by Zoom or in person with representatives of the other members of the partnership (National Library, Te Puna Foundation, Read NZ Te Pou Muramura and Creative New Zealand) to continue to build the kaupapa for the role, to support the inaugural Te Awhi Rito Ben Brown as he completed his two-year term, and to welcome Alan Dingley as the second Te Awhi Rito from May 2023. The demands on the time of Te Awhi Rito are high, and Ben continued to deliver his message of the importance of reading and storytelling to audiences at schools, conference, marae, and a number of special events during the first months of 2023. Alan Dingley very capably picked up the mantle, and has been equally actively engaged in promoting the importance of reading and reading for pleasure through a number of avenues since he took up his appointment.

## **STORYLINES IBBY NZ**

Storylines, with the support of a small consortium of publishers, operates as the New Zealand National Section of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People).

Using an IBBY Yamada grant, during 2023 IBBY NZ purchased over 500 books in more than 20 languages and donated them to the library at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre. The books are purchased, catalogued, covered, and donated to be read and shared by children and adults of new New Zealand families. For these children and their families, a book in their home language with familiar stories, characters, pictures, and cultural images can help them adjust and build a sense of identity and cultural belonging.

The consortium, which has assisted with the funding of Storylines' membership of IBBY since 2002, includes representation from several New Zealand publishers. Storylines is grateful to the consortium, not only for their financial support of Storylines/IBBY NZ 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 2023 was: Booksellers Aotearoa New Zealand, Read NZ Te Pou Muramura, Penguin Random House NZ, Scholastic New Zealand, Upstart Press, Duck Creek Press, Gecko Press, Oratia Books.

## **IBBY Honours**

- In 2023 IBBY NZ nominated Gavin Bishop for the for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA). The award winner is announced in April 2024. Gavin Bishop has also been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award with the winner also to be announced in April 2024.
- *Charlie Tangaroa and the Creature from the Sea* by Tania Roxborough illustrated by Phoebe Morris (Huia Publishers, 2020) is included in the 2023 IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities. The book will now be part of a permanent collection housed at Toronto Public Library, with additional copies in the 2023 IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities international travelling exhibitions, which include the Bologna and Frankfurt book fairs.

## **FINANCIAL**

In 2023 Storylines costs were higher than budgeted on some events and we did not achieve the funding or sponsorship budgeted. However, we were able to trim costs on the Story Tours to bring a better result in that area. Storylines was able to absorb the increased costs by drawing on reserves, and we are proud to have been able to deliver our priority services and full awards programmes, allowing interaction with children and young adults and providing income to authors and illustrators in a difficult economy.

## **STORYLINES ADMINISTRATION**

Storylines continues to benefit from its small but skilled and committed staff, for which the Storylines Trust Board is truly grateful. Anne de Lautour, 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 and collaboration with other sources so that Storylines is financially as well supported as possible. The operational budget is developed in collaboration with the Board and Management Committee, supporting strategic planning, and Anne has worked closely with Storylines' Treasurer, Lynette Roycroft, to manage and report on the budget.

In 2023 the Trust budgeted to allow the appointment of Vicki Cunningham as full-time Operations Manager. She has been invaluable in this role, supporting Anne and ensuring the successful running of Storylines awards events and that the Storylines Story Tour was implemented with great outcomes in 2023. Vicki continues to play an outstanding role in all Storylines operational activities as the Story Tour planner and executor, Storylines administrator and communicator. She also manages all awards processes, ensuring they run smoothly and deadlines are met. The continuing success of the Storylines Story Tour is due to Vicki's significant commitment 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.

The Management Committee, led by chair Kaaren Hirst, worked hard over 2023 on the regular activities of Storylines, including Storylines' awards judging and events organisation. Without the enthusiasm and hard work of this wonderful group of volunteers, all 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 Storylines Trust, I am proud to work with such an able and supportive group of trustees. In 2023, we farewelled Darren Joseph and Will Smith. I would like to thank all members of the Storylines Board for their support, advice and strategic work during 2023. It was a difficult year financially, and the Trust was required to put in more time than previously to ensure that Storylines remained strong and considered a range of options for Storylines to continue to undertake its work. Storylines is 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, Carolyn Lagahetau, Weng Wai Bing, Tony Sissons, Rosemary

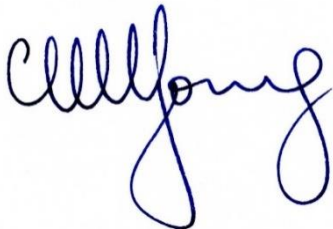
Tisdall and Libby Limbrick. To Tony Sissons our most sincere gratitude for hosting our Trust Board meetings in the Kings School boardroom.

### **SPONSORS, FUNDERS, DONORS and PARTNERS**

Our thanks go to Storylines' 2023 sponsors, funders, donors 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
- Mātātuhi Foundation
- Four Winds Foundation
- Aotearoa Gaming Trust
- The Lion Foundation
- Scholastic New Zealand
- Penguin Random House New Zealand
- Allen & Unwin
- Huia

Our deepest thanks also go private donors and philanthropists who have supported Storylines, as well as to the Storylines Management Committee, awards committees, other sub-committees and volunteers, who, with Anne 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**



**Anne de Lautour, Executive Officer**

**April 2024**