



THE NEW ZEALAND  
SOCIETY OF AUTHORS  
(PEN NEW ZEALAND INC) TE PUNI KAITUHI O AOTEAROA

## NZSA Mentor Programme

### Guidelines for Mentees

#### Overview

The NZ Society of Authors mentorship programme is for writers and comic book / graphic novelists who want professional development, a safe space to discuss their work, intellectual community, role models, accountability and substantive feedback. It is designed to give beginning or emerging writers and graphic novelists who demonstrate potential and commitment the opportunity to work closely with an experienced writer or graphic novelist as their mentor in order to hone their writing and illustration skills and, in the process, take a piece of work from the early stages to a polished manuscript with potential for publication.

There are 12 full and 2 half mentorships available in 2017. The two half mentorships are for the comic book / graphic novelists. In 2017 we would also like to support emerging writers identifying as Maori, Pacifica, and Asian and to do this we will tag 3 mentorships for these ethnicities.

Mentors dedicate 25 hours of their time to a full mentorship and 12.5 hours to a half mentorship. For this work the mentor is paid \$60 per hour (plus GST if registered). The programme is mostly funded by a grant from Creative New Zealand. The applicants contribute a \$20 fee that goes towards the administrative cost of the selection process.

Each mentorship spans a 7 – 8 month period which starts in April when the match is confirmed and ends November 2017.

The NZSA Mentor Programme provides emerging, newer writers and graphic novelists with one-on-one feedback from an experienced writer or graphic novelist. The mentor will assist the mentee with their professional development and support them in the way that is most likely to move their project closer to publication and achieve the greatest long-term benefits.

## Process

Once National Office has received the names of the successful applicants from the Selection Committee the mentee is matched with a mentor taking into consideration the names given to us on the application form.

The selected mentor is sent a sample of the work in progress and once he or she has agreed to mentor, a phone or skype meeting is scheduled to ensure a good working relationship can be formed. If both parties are happy, each signs an agreement form and the mentorship can begin. If one of the pair feel that it would not work then a new mentor will be found for the mentee.

Once the mentorship is confirmed National Office will provide a guide for the mentee on how to get the best out of the mentorship. This will include the rules of the mentorship, agreeing on a communication plan with the mentor and setting goals that are shared with the mentor.

The mentor will dedicate a percentage of the mentoring hours to reading, researching (if required) and writing notes so they can critique the work and give constructive feedback. The rest of the time will be spent communicating with the mentee.

National Office will check in with both the mentor and the mentee during the term of the mentorship to ensure everything is running smoothly.

At the end of the mentorship both the mentor and mentee participate in an evaluation of the programme.

## Outcomes

Desired outcomes from the mentoring process are that the writer / graphic novelist is more able to:

- utilise skills and awareness to self-critique their work;
- work through the various drafts on their own to produce publishable work;
- have confidence in their ability and worth as a writer / graphic novelist;
- have learnt and gone some way towards perfecting the techniques of writing / illustrating;
- have a project that is approaching a publishable quality;
- develop tools and techniques that will assist them throughout their writing career;
- gain a better understanding of the publishing industry;
- achieve stated goals more easily.

For the best outcome it is preferred that the mentee work on a single project for the duration of the mentorship.

## National Office

National Office is Jackie Dennis, Chief Executive Officer and Claire Hill, Operations Manager.

Claire Hill is the first point of contact for any enquiries or concerns during the mentorship. She can be contacted on phone 09 379 4801 and email [office@nzauthors.org.nz](mailto:office@nzauthors.org.nz)

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