



THE NEW ZEALAND  
SOCIETY OF AUTHORS  
PĒNĒ NEW ZEALAND IŌNGŌ TE PŪNĒ KĀTŪHŌ O AOTEAROA

## Assessor and Mentor Register 2017

### Fleur Beale

### Assessor

**Area:** Wellington

**Genre:** Young adult, children's literature

*Member of NZAMA*

**Contact:** Email, skype, phone, face to face (if possible)

Fleur is a Wellington author of many novels, contemporary and historical, for kids and teenagers. Short listed nine times for the NZ Post Children's Book Awards. **Won the NZ Post awards with *Fierce September***. Winner of Honour Award in the NZ Post awards for *I am not Esther*. Received the Gaelyn Gordon Best Loved book award for *Slide the Corner* and for *I am not Esther*. Has won the Esther Glenn award and been short listed twice. Was awarded the Margaret Mahy Award. **Won the LIANZA Librarian's Choice award for *Being Magdalene***.

Fleur likes writing for children and young adults because when she started writing there wasn't much New Zealand fiction for kids and she believes it is vitally important for New Zealanders to have their own stories. Then she just got hooked on writing for an audience where you have the scope to write different genres, for different ages, and pretty much on any topic that takes your fancy.

### Norman Bilbrough

### Assessor/Mentor

**Area:** Wellington

**Genre:** Novel, short story, children's literature, non-fiction

*Member NZAMA*

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Norman Bilbrough has published nine books: *Man with Two Arms* (Random 1991) stories; *The Birdman Hunts Alone* (Penguin 1994) - Aim Book Award finalist; *Dog Breath and other Stories* (Mallinson Rendel 1998)-New Zealand Post Children's Book Award finalist; *Dump Giants* (Cape Catley 1997) picture book; *Desert Shorts* (CUP 1999) stories; *Star Thief* (Learning Media 2000) chapter book; *Dinosaur Detective* (2002) and *Strike* (2001), both published by Learning Media. His latest novel is *A Short History of Paradise* (Penguin, 2005).

His stories have won prizes in NZ and Australia (including winning the Sunday Times Short Story Award twice). In 1999 he was Writer in Residence at Canterbury University. He has taught creative writing throughout NZ, and has mentored on this programme for over ten years. He has been a manuscript assessor for over twenty years. <http://www.msassess.com/>

### Gavin Bishop

### Mentor

**Area:** Christchurch

**Genre:** Writing and illustrating for young children

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

As a picture book author and artist, Gavin Bishop has published 60 plus books that have been translated into eight languages and won numerous awards. He has also written television scripts, and the libretti for two children's ballets for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. In 2003 he worked closely with the HIT Lab

at Canterbury University on developing the world's first 3-dimensional, animated picture books.

He has won the Russell Clark Medal for Illustration in 1982, 2006, 2008 and 2010; the Margaret Mahy Medal for Services to Children's Literature in 2000 (New Zealand's Highest Honour for Children's Literature); NZ Children's Picture Book of the Year in 1982, 1994, 2000 and 2013; NZ Children's Book of the Year in 2000, 2003 and 2008. He has been nominated for national book awards more times than any other author in any genre. Gavin was also Writer in Residence at Canterbury University in 2003. He was President of Honour of the Society of Authors 2013 - 2014 and was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2013. [www.gavinbishop.com](http://www.gavinbishop.com)

## Diane Brown                      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Dunedin    **Genre:** Memoir, poetry, fiction

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Diane Brown is a novelist, memoirist, and poet who runs her own creative writing school, Creative Writing Dunedin in Dunedin. She has taught creative writing for the past 20 years at a variety of institutions including Paremoro Prison, Continuing Education Auckland University, Otago University and Aoraki Polytechnic.

Her publications include two collections of poetry - *Before The Divorce We Go To Disneyland*, (1997) - winner of the NZSA Best First Book of Poetry at the Montana Book Awards 1997 - and *Learning to Lie Together*, (2004); two novels, *If The Tongue Fits*, (1999) and *Eight Stages of Grace*, (2002) - a verse novel which was a finalist in the Montana Book Awards 2003; a travel memoir, *Liars and Lovers* (2004) and a prose/poetic work, *Here Comes Another Vital Moment*. Her latest book, *Taking My Mother To The Opera*, Otago University Press (2015) is an extended poetic family memoir, in part about post World War Two domestic life and the ageing of parents.

She has held the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellowship and was an inaugural fellow at the Michael King Writer's Studio. She won the Janet Frame Memorial Award in 2012 and the Beatson Fellowship in 2013.

In 2013 she was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to writing and education. She lives in Dunedin with her husband, author Philip Temple.

For further information go to <http://www.dianebrown.nz>

## Frances Cherry                      Assessor / Mentor

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**Area:** Wellington            **Genre:** Fiction, novel, short story, radio

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Frances Cherry is a writer and writing tutor. After running writing workshops for many years through various High school Community Education classes she now runs workshops on the memoir or novel in her own home in Wellington. She also mentors people privately and through NZSA.

She has published seven novels and three books of short stories as well as numerous stories in anthologies, radio and school publications. Her short story, *Always a Good Woman* was short listed in the NZSA Page Blackmore 2014 Short Story Competition judged by Graeme Lay.

She has recently finished her own memoir which is to be published by Steele Roberts in 2017.

## Christine Cloughley      Assessor

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**Area:** Tauranga      **Genre:** Adult fiction, non-fiction

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Christine Cloughley is a freelance fiction and non-fiction writer and editor who loves words and the stories they reveal. She has a particular interest in contemporary literature.

Over the years Christine has worked as a book reviewer, manuscript assessor and editor on a variety of literary genres. She began her career as a journalist and contract writer and has written extensively on a broad range of subjects for a variety of print media and businesses.

She has run courses in journalism and was prose editor of literary magazine *Bravado* before turning her focus towards short and long fiction writing, editing and assessments.

Christine loves the opportunity to work with authors and offers a friendly voice of encouragement, guidance and constructive criticism. [www.noveediting.com](http://www.noveediting.com)

## Shirley Corlett      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Masterton      **Genre:** Adult fiction, children's and young adult novels, short story

*Member NZ Book Council's Writers in Schools Scheme*

**Contact:** Email, skype, phone, face to face (if possible)

Shirley Corlett has published nine novels. *The Hanging Sky* (Mallinson Rendel) for adults, and seven junior and young adult novels. *The Stolen* (Scholastic) won the Tom Fitzgibbon Award in 1999. *The Weathermakers* (Scholastic) was a finalist in the 2002 NZ Post Children's Book Awards. Two 'My Story' novels are *Abandon Ship* (the Wahine Disaster), and *Fire in the Sky*, about the Mt Tarawera Eruption. *You've Got Guts Kenny Melrose* (Scholastic) was a finalist in the 2005 NZ Post Children's Awards. Also: *Through Thick and Thin* (2007, Scholastic and DTD Junior Germany); and *In the Spotlight* (Gilt Edge, 2008). Her ninth novel *Addie Accident* (Scholastic) was launched in 2010.

She was the Writer in Residence for three months at the Dunedin College of Education in 2005, is a creative writing tutor, and has visited dozens of schools over the years through the Writers in Schools programme. She is happy to mentor children's or young adult novels and short stories, and adult novels - especially NZ historical writing.

## Majella Cullinane      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Otago Southland      **Genre:** Fiction, Historical Fiction, Short Stories and Poetry

**Communications:** Email, phone, face to face

Majella Cullinane was born and raised in Ireland, and has been living in New Zealand since 2008. In 2014, she was awarded the Robert Burns Fellowship at the University of Otago. She has previously received a Sean Dunne Young Writer's Award for Poetry, the Hennessy XO/Sunday Tribune Literary Award for Emerging Poetry, and also an Irish Arts Council Award to study for an MLitt. in Creative Writing at St. Andrew's University Scotland.

She has an MA in Publishing from Oxford Brookes University, and completed her BA in English and Italian at the University of Dublin. She's been short-listed for awards in historical fiction, short stories and essays, and has previously held Fellowship and Writer-in-Residence positions in Ireland and Scotland. In 2011, she published her first poetry collection *Guarding the Flame* with Salmon Poetry Ireland. This year she started a PhD in Creative Practice (short fiction) at the Centre for Irish and

Scottish Studies at Otago University. She was recently shortlisted for the 2016 Dundee International Book Prize.

## Barbara Else    Assessor / Mentor

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**Area:** Dunedin            **Genre:** Novel, short story, non-fiction.

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face

Barbara Else is the author of six novels for adults and six for children. She has also edited several anthologies of stories for children and young adults. Her first novel *The Warrior Queen* was on the NZ Bestseller list for almost a year, and short listed for the Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Her second, *Gingerbread Husbands*, was short listed for the Booksellers BookData Award. Her historical novel *Wild Latitudes* has just been republished in the UK. Her fantasy quartet for children, starting with *The Travelling Restaurant* has had overseas publications and won several awards including IBBY and White Raven awards.

She holds an MNZM for services to literature, the Esther Glen Medal and the Margaret Mahy Award. She has been Writer in Residence at Victoria University of Wellington and the CNZ/Otago University Children's Writer in Residence. With her husband, author Chris Else, she runs TFS, an advisory service for writers: this includes a manuscript assessment service. She has been a judge for the Young Writer Section Katherine Mansfield Short Story Award and twice for the NZ Post Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

Barbara is co-ordinator of the New Zealand Association of Manuscript Assessors.

## Chris Else            Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Dunedin            **Genre:** Novel, short story, non-fiction Founder member NZAMA/NZALA

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

His publications include six novels - *Brainjoy* (1998), *Why Things Fall* (1992), *Beetle in the Box* (2001), *On River Road* (2004), *Black Earth/White Bones* (2007) and *Gith* (2008) - as well as two volumes of short stories (*Endangered Species* 1997 and *Dreams of Pythagoras* 1981). *Why Things Fall* was also published in Australia in 1993. His short stories have been widely anthologised.

He has worked as a creative writing teacher for over twenty years. In 1988 he set up TFS, a literary agency and assessment service, and is a founder member of the associations the NZ Association of Literary Agents and the NZ Association of Manuscript Assessors. Many new and experienced writers, including Alan Duff, Rachael Craw and Emma Neale, have acknowledged Chris's help in bringing their work to publication.

## Bronwyn Elsmore            Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland            **Genre:** Adult and children's fiction, short story, poetry, non-fiction, plays

**Contact:** email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Bronwyn is a multi-award and prize winning writer of short stories, books, plays and articles. She is an occasional teacher of creative writing and lectured at Massey University (1989-2005).

She is the author of 10 books and has seen her short stories published in the Listener, Radio NZ, Takahe, and many other publications. She has had numerous plays produced, and has authored work for academic publications.

## James George      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Adult Fiction, Short Story, Non-fiction, writing tutor  
**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

James George is a novelist, short story writer and manuscript consultant. He is the current chair of Te Ha - the Literature Committee of Toi Maori Aotearoa - the Maori Arts Council. He is also a very experienced creative writing tutor (currently at AUT and Unitec) and the co-director of The Story Bridge - a company which provides tuition on creative writing and independent publishing. George's published work includes the novels *Wooden Horse*, *Hummingbird* and *Ocean Roads*. *Hummingbird*, was short listed for the Deutz Medal in fiction (Montana NZ Book Awards) and chosen as Whitcoulls 'Book of the Month' in 2003. George is also the co-author of a biography, *Showbands - Mahora and The Maori Volcanics* published by Huia in 2005. Over the last ten years he has had numerous short stories published in various anthologies and he is currently working on two further novels under contract to Huia Publishers. [www.thestorybridge.co.nz](http://www.thestorybridge.co.nz)

## Mandy Hager      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Paraparaumu, Wellington      **Genre:** YA and adult novels, non-fiction resources, scripts and shorter fiction  
**Contact:** email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Mandy Hager is a multi-award winning writer of fiction for young adults. She has won the LIANZA Book Awards for Young Adult fiction 3 times ('Smashed' 2008, 'The Nature of Ash' 2013, 'Dear Vincent' 2014), the NZ Post Children's Book Awards for YA fiction ('The Crossing' 2010), an Honour Award in the 1996 AIM Children's Book Awards ('Tom's Story'), Golden Wings Excellence Award ('Juno Lucina,' 2002), Golden Wings Award ('Run For The Trees', 2003) and Five Notable Book Awards. She has also been awarded the 2012 Beatson fellowship, the 2014 Katherine Mansfield Menton Fellowship and the 2015 Waikato University Writer in Residence. In 2015 her novel 'Singing Home the Whale' was awarded the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year award, and the Best Young Adult fiction Award from the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

She is a trained teacher, with an Advanced Diploma in Fine Arts (Whitireia) and an MA in Creative Writing for Victoria University. Her 'Blood of the Lamb' trilogy has been published in the US by Pyr Books. She also writes adult fiction, short stories, non-fiction, educational resources, blogs and articles, and currently tutors the Novel Course for Whitireia's Creative Writing Programme.

## Siobhan Harvey      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Poetry, stories, novels  
**Contact:** Phone, email, skype, face to face (if possible)

Siobhan Harvey is a poet, fiction and creative nonfiction author, editor, mentor and Lecturer in Creative Writing at The Centre for Creative Writing, AUT. Her most recent books are *Cloudboy* (OUP, 2014) and, as co-editor, the bestselling anthology, *Essential New Zealand Poems* (Penguin Random House NZ, 2014). Her fiction has been published in *Griffith Review* 49: New Asia (Aus), *Landfall* and *Asia Literary Review* 28 (HK), broadcast on National Radio and recently won the 2016 Write Well Award (US). Her creative nonfiction has been selected as highly commended in 2013 *Landfall* Essay Prize and runner up in 2011 *Landfall* Essay Competition, and published in *Atlas*, *Griffith Review* 52: *Imagining the Future* (Aus), *Landfall*, *Segue* (Miami University Press) and *Pilgrimage* (Colorado State University Press), and is forthcoming in the anthology, *Memoirs of the Feminine Divine* (US). Additionally, she is winner of the 2013 Kathleen Grattan Award for Poetry, runner up in the 2014 and 2015 New Zealand Poetry

Society's International Poetry Competitions and shortlisted for the Janet Frame Memorial Awards (2012, 2014 & 2016), as well as runner up in 2012 Dorothy Porter Poetry Prize (Aus) and 2012 Kevin Ireland Poetry Competition. Between 2006 and 2013 she coordinated New Zealand's National Poetry Day.

Siobhan's work is often described as lyrical, engaging language, imagery and ideas in unusual and provocative ways. She has a Poet's Page on The Poetry Archive (UK), co-directed by Sir Andrew Motion.

## Jenny Haworth      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Canterbury      **Genre:** Fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction, memoir.

**Communications:** Email, phone, face to face

I write both fiction and non-fiction. In the last few years I have had three sell-out novels published and a number of works of non-fiction. I have also worked as a freelance journalist for most of the major newspapers and magazines in New Zealand. In recent years my main emphasis has been on writing non-fiction particularly history. I was shortlisted in the 2015 heritage nonfiction awards for Roads' the Mode the history of the road transport industry. My *Behind the Twisted Wire*, on the New Zealand artists of World War I is now published and has received excellent reviews. I have also just had *Auckland Then* and now published by Pavilion books in London. I am currently working on a biography of Robert McDougall a leading Canterbury philanthropist. I am also part way through a novel set in the 1970s which looks back to the New Zealanders in Italy in World War II.

I also run a small publishing company Wily Publications Ltd which focuses on helping first time authors reach publication standard.

## David Hill      Assessor/Youth Mentor

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**Area:** New Plymouth      **Genre:** Young adult and children's literature

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

New Plymouth author of many novels for kids and teenagers. Winner of Times Educational Supplement Special Needs Award, CBC Children's Book Award (USA) for *See Ya, Simon*, Esther Glen Medal for *Fat, Four-Eyed and Useless*, prize-winner in AIM Book Awards, and the NZ Post Book Awards. His latest YA novel is *Fire on High*. David has received the Margaret Mahy Medal Award, and has been translated into many languages including German, French, Chinese, Japanese, and Dutch, and has recently been awarded the Prix D'Adolire in France. He has held Writer's Residencies in NZ and the USA. In 2013, his novel "*My Brother's War*" won the NZ Post Junior Fiction Award.

David also writes for adults, books, newspaper pieces - humour, travel, reviews. Stories and plays. His work is published extensively overseas. In 2001 he had books translated into Mandarin and Estonian and received the Gaelyn Gordon Best-Loved book Award for *See Ya Simon*. He likes writing about fears and embarrassments. And for young people because they're 'such a truthful audience'.

## Jane Hole      Assessor

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**Area:** Canterbury      **Genre:** Non-fiction: travel/memoir/spirituality

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Jane Hole writes as Jane Carswell. Her book 'Under the Huang Jiao Tree: Two Journeys in China' was winner of the 2010 Whitcoulls/Travcom Travel Book of the Year award, and shortlisted for the Ashton Wylie Book Award in the same year. Her second non-fiction book (memoir) 'Talk of Treasure' was published by Makaro Press, Wellington, in October 2016.

## Raymond Huber      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Dunedin    **Genre:** Editing, Children's literature, adult fiction

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Raymond's children's books, published by Walker Australia, are *Sting and Wings*, (junior novels); the award-winning *Flight of the Honey Bee* (picture book) published by Walker UK and Candlewick (US); and *Gecko* (picture book) also an international publication. He's written school readers (for NZ, the US, and China) and NZ textbooks (ESA); short stories (*Te Papa*, *Random*); and poems (*Amazon*). Raymond is a freelance editor - specialising in structural editing - and a writing teacher. His website is [www.raymondhuber.co.nz](http://www.raymondhuber.co.nz)

## Dr Susanna Lyle      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Northland      **Genre:** Non-fiction (art, botany, biology)

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

In addition to being an artist, Susanna is the author of numerous non-fiction books and magazine articles on a series of wide-ranging topics. Her first book "Discovering Fruit and Nuts" was published in 2006 and is released in NZ, Australia, USA and Europe.

She has extensive tutoring experience (including in creative writing) and hold a BSc Hons and PhD in Biological Science.

## Anna Mackenzie      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Hawke's Bay      **Genre:** Fiction, young adult and general

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Anna Mackenzie writes young adult and adult fiction. Her eighth novel, *Donnel's Promise* (Random House, 2014) was an iBooks 'Top Five' pick for 2014. Her ninth title, *Evie's War*, was published by Penguin Random House in June 2015. She has won an NZ Post Honour Award, Sir Julius Vogel Award, White Raven Award (Germany) and six CLF Notable Book Awards. In 2013 she was awarded a writing residency in Belgium and the following year was invited to speak at the inaugural 'This Way Up' festival of the Arts in London.

Anna has worked in feature writing and editing for more than twenty years, and has taught creative writing in London, Belgium and New Zealand. Her students have enjoyed considerable success.

You can learn more about Anna at [annamackenzieauthor.com](http://annamackenzieauthor.com)

## Janice Marriott      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Children's novels and picture books, adult novels, and life writing

**Communications:** Email, phone, face to face

Janice Marriott is a writer of fiction, poetry and non-fiction for adult and child readers. Her children's novels have won the Supreme Award, Senior Fiction Award, the Junior Fiction Award, and been a finalist in the Non-Fiction section of the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. She has been awarded the Ester Glen Medal for her children's writing. She's written children's material for TV, radio, and the educational market.

For adults she has written four books of memoir, *Common Ground* being the first, and *Changing Lives* the most recent. She has been a weekly columnist for the Herald on Sunday, and a columnist in *NZ House*

and Garden for the last five years. Her short fiction has appeared in magazines and on radio. Her most recent book is *Grandparents Talk*, published in 2016

Her main focus now is helping others write their stories. She is a member of the NZ Association of Manuscript Assessors, and runs a popular online tutoring business for emerging writers, through [www.gowritenow.nz](http://www.gowritenow.nz) Several of her students have won book awards themselves.

## Lesley Marshall Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Northland      **Genre:** Editing (non-fiction, fiction, short story)      *Member of NZAMA*

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Lesley Marshall runs Editline, a freelance editing service in Northland. She has over 35 years' experience in editing and assessing general fiction, short stories, thrillers, romances, historical novels, women's fiction, sci-fi, plays and family histories. She always tries to edit within the writer's voice and style.

Lesley has edited many award-winning short stories one of which was made into a film. As well as acting as outside assessor for the NorthTec and Whitireia Polytechnic writing programmes and mentor for Whitireia, she is currently teaching on-line writing and editing papers for NorthTec. On an occasional basis she has edited manuscripts for various publishing houses, and is a regular appraiser, assessor and mentor for the New Zealand Society of Authors. Lesley is a founding member of the NZ Association of Manuscript Assessors.

## Owen Marshall Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Canterbury      **Genre:** fiction; short stories.

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Novelist, short story writer and poet Owen Marshall has written, or edited, thirty books. He has held fellowships at the universities of Canterbury and Otago, and in Menton, France. In 2000 his novel *Harlequin Rex* won the Montana New Zealand Book Awards Deutz Medal for fiction. Marshall is an adjunct professor at the University of Canterbury, which awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in 2002. He received the ONZM in 2000 and the CNZM in 2012 for services to literature, and in 2013 the Prime Minister's Award for Fiction. He has served on the Board of the New Zealand Book Council and the Arts Board of Creative New Zealand. More information can be found on the websites of [authors.org.nz](http://authors.org.nz), [Academy of New Zealand Literature](http://Academy of New Zealand Literature), and [New Zealand Book Council](http://New Zealand Book Council).

## Sue McCauley Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Hawkes Bay/Wairarapa      **Genre:** novel, short story, drama, screenwriting.

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Sue has spent over 40 years as a self-employed writer. Her published work includes four novels (*Other Halves*, *Then Again*, *Bad Music* and *A Fancy Man*), two short story collections (*It Could Be You*, and *Life on Earth*) and a non-fiction book, (*Escape from Bosnia - Aza's Story*).

Four times a finalist in Wattie/Montana Book Awards and winner of both NZ Book Award and Book of the Year (*Other Halves*). She has selected/edited three anthologies and written successfully for screen, stage, TV (adult and children) and radio. Sue has tutored creative writing and scriptwriting and worked as a script assessor/advisor/consultant.

## Rae McGregor Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Fiction, and non-fiction.

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Rae has written five books. Three biographies a children's story and a novel. She has also had short stories published.

Rae works as a full time writer and assessor and reviews regularly for National Radio both fiction and non-fiction work.

She is also closely involved with theatre and has directed several plays for Howick Little Theatre and for Dolphin Theatre.

## Cilla McQueen Mentor

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**Area:** Otago/Southland      **Genre:** Poetry      **Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Cilla (MA Hons, Hon Litt D (Otago) has published fourteen collections of her poetry, most recently *Markings* (2000), *Axis* (2001), *Soundings* (2002), *Fire-penny* (2005), a CD of poetry and music, *A Wind Harp* (2006), *The Radio Room* (2010), *Edwin's Egg* (2014), the letterpress book '*An Island*' (2014), '*In A Slant Light, a poet's memoir*' (2016). She has taught English, modern languages and creative writing.

Her poetry has won three New Zealand Book Awards and she has been the recipient of several travel awards and fellowships, notably the Robert Burns Fellowship in 1985 and 1986, the inaugural Australia-New Zealand Writers' Exchange Fellowship, a Fulbright Visiting Writer's Fellowship and a Goethe Institute scholarship to Berlin. She was the 2009-11 New Zealand National Library Poet Laureate and in 2010 received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Poetry. Cilla works full-time as a writer.

## Janine McVeagh Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Hokianga Harbour      **Genre:** short and long non-fiction for children and adults

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

I've been published across a wide range of genres and media over the years: short and long non-fiction for children and adults; short and long fiction, including two novels for children and short stories on radio for adults; collaborated in writing plays for radio and early childhood readers in Te Reo Maori as well as reviews of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, films and websites for magazines and newsletters.

My current writing projects are a picture book (to be published by Makaro Press), a young adult novel (being published as an e-book), a biography and historical novel about Priscilla Wakefield.

I conceived and developed the online Diploma of Applied Writing programme for Northtec and taught it for 20 years. I have now retired.

I live with my family in Rawene on the Hokianga Harbour and am involved in several local issues, all of which feeds my writing.

## Diana Menefy Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Northland      **Genre:** Short story, novel, children's fiction, non-fiction, biography, education, history.      **Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

In addition to being an experienced tutor and course designer, Diana has had novels and short stories published and numerous articles for newspapers, magazines and educational organisations. She has written five commissioned local histories, the last being the centenary history of Whangarei Hospital for Northland Health.

Her novel *Shadow of the Boyd* was shortlisted for NZ Post Children's Book Awards and won the LIANZA Esther Glen medal in 2011.

She last novel *1915 Wounds of War*, the second book in the Scholastic WW1 Series *Kiwis At War*, came out in April this year. Diana is now working on another junior historical novel *Chasing Silver*.

## Kyle Mewburn      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Central Otago    **Genre:** Picture books, general children's fiction

**Contact:** Email, Phone, Skype, face to face (if possible), et al

Kyle Mewburn has published numerous picture books, junior fiction and School Readers. His books have been published in 23 countries and won numerous awards.

*Old Hu-hu* (Scholastic 2009) won the 2010 NZ Post Children's Book of the Year. *Melu* (Scholastic 2012) won the NZ Post Best Picture Book category at the NZ Post Children's Book Awards in 2013 and was a White Raven title for 2012. *Kiss! Kiss! Yuck! Yuck!* (Scholastic 2006) won both the Best Picture Book and Children's Choice categories at the NZ Post Children's Book Awards in 2007, as well as the *Flicker Tale Award* in North Dakota, USA. His best-selling junior fiction series *Dinosaur Rescue* has been sold into over 20 countries. He was Children's Writer-in-Residence at Otago University in 2011 and is currently President of the NZSA. Kyle's first junior novel, *A Crack in the Sky* (Scholastic 2010), was written while participating in the NZSA Mentorship programme, under the guidance of David Hill.

## Julia Millen      Assessor

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**Area:** Wellington      **Genre:** Non-fiction, especially biography & social history

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Biographer of Ronald Hugh Morrison and Guthrie Wilson, Julia Millen's published works include *Colonial Tears & Sweat* and histories of the following: Kirkcaldie & Stains, Glaxo, IHC New Zealand, the NZ National Forest Survey, The Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport and law firm Bell Gully Buddle Weir.

She has also published family history, short story collections, and in *Dilemma of Dementia*, relates caring experiences with her mother who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. In 2010 she published *Te Rau Herenga, A Century of Library Life in Aotearoa, 1910-2010: the centennial history of LIANZA* (Library & Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) and a World War II old soldier's memoir: *North to the Apricots*; the escape stories of Sgt Bruce Crowley DCM.

In the past, Julia has tutored non-fiction writing workshops at Whitireia Polytechnic and is currently a mentor and manuscript assessor for writers. Julia is a Director of Writes Hill Press Ltd.

## Barbara Murison      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Wellington      **Genre:** Young adult and children's literature    *Member of NZAMA*

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Barbara has had nearly 50 years of editing and assessing material for children and young adults as a private assessor, through her work as a Children's Librarian at Wellington Public Libraries and Adviser

at National Library of New Zealand; and as a member of the New Zealand Association of Manuscript Assessors (NZAMA).

She has been awarded the Betty Gilderdale Award for distinguished services to children's literature, The School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA) for innovation and contribution of over 50 years in the development of quality resources and expertise in libraries for children/ young people and is a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to children's literature.

Barbara organises a book review BLOG, Around the Bookshops, which means she reads all the relevant current books for the age group published in New Zealand and overseas - and reviews many of them at [barbaramurison.blogspot.co.nz](http://barbaramurison.blogspot.co.nz)

## Lee Murray                      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Wellington            **Genre:** Fiction, adult/YA/MG, short story  
**Contact:** email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Lee Murray is a six-time winner of the Sir Julius Vogel Award for science fiction, fantasy and horror writing. She is proud to have co-edited six collections of speculative fiction, including the horror flash fiction collection *Baby Teeth: Bite-Sized Tales of Terror*, for which she won an Australian Shadows Award for Best Edited Work (with Dan Rabarts). The author of several novels and novellas, her fourth novel is the bestselling military thriller, *Into the Mist* (Cohesion Press, Australia). The first book in her supernatural crime-noir series *The Path of Ra* (co-authored with Dan Rabarts) will be published by USA publisher Raw Dog Screaming Press in 2017. Visit her at [www.leemurray.info](http://www.leemurray.info)

## Dan Myers                      Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Whangarei/Northland    **Genre:** Editor, Literary Agent, Short Story, Consultant  
**Contact:** Email, skype, face to face (if possible)

Daniel Myers is the owner of Word|Link Literary inc., a literary agency with offices in the USA and New Zealand. Word|Link has recently opened a Film/TV rights office in Los Angeles, and works in collaboration with a Europe-based agency to provide a much wider market for their authors. In addition to running a busy literary agency, he is also a novelist - *The Second Favorite Son* (2004, re-released in 2016) and *Corporate Blue* (2007), short story writer, essayist, editor and publisher (AE Link Publications, Inc. - publishers of language training materials for pilots and air traffic controllers). He also has more than 30 years' experience in the aviation industry. He currently divides his time between New Zealand and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Email [DMA.EditNZ@gmail.com](mailto:DMA.EditNZ@gmail.com)

## James Norcliffe              Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Canterbury            **Genre:** Poetry, fiction for young people, short story  
**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

James has had many years' experience as a writer and editor. He has published eight collections of poetry, most recently *Villon in Millerton*, *Shadow Play* and a collection of poems for younger people *Packing A Bag for Mars*; ten novels for young people, including the YA fantasy *The Loblolly Boy* which made the USSBY list of best foreign children's books published in the USA, its successor *The Loblolly Boy and the Sorcerer*, and more recently *The Enchanted Flute*, *Felix and the Red Rats* and *The Pirates and the Nightmaker*. He has written a collection of short stories, *The Chinese Interpreter*. He was a long time editor for *Takahe* magazine, is poetry editor for the Christchurch *Press*, is an editor for the on-line journal *Flash Frontier* and has edited anthologies of poetry and the annual *ReDraft* anthologies

of writing by young people. With Siobhan Harvey and Harry Ricketts he edited the major anthology *Essential New Zealand Poems: Facing the Empty Page* (2014). A new collection of poems *Dark Days in the Oxygen Café* was published by VUP in 2016.

He has twice won the NZ Poetry Society's International Poetry Award, been short listed for the Montana poetry awards for *Letters to Dr Dee*, and won an honour award for *The Emerald Encyclopaedia* at the NZ Children's Book Awards. *The Assassin of Gleam* was short listed for the Esther Glen Medal, and won the Sir Julius Vogel Award. In 2010 *The Loblolly Boy* also short listed for the Esther Glen Award and won the NZ Post Children's Book Awards Junior Fiction Award. *The Loblolly Boy and the Sorcerer, Felix and the Red Rats* and *The Pirates and the Nightmaker* were shortlisted for the NZ Post Children's Junior Fiction Awards.

James has been invited to a number of international poetry festivals and has been awarded a number of residencies including the Burns Fellowship, the Iowa International Writers Programme, and the University Of Otago College Of Education Creative New Zealand Fellowship for Children's Writing. With Bernadette Hall, he was presented with a Press Literary Liaisons Honour Award for lasting contribution to literature in the South Island.

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## Vivienne Plumb      Assessor/Mentor

**Area:** Wellington      **Genre:** general fiction, poetry, drama  
**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Vivienne Plumb is based in Wellington. She writes poetry, fiction, and drama, and works as a professional writer. She holds a Doctor of Creative Arts (Australia). She has published sixteen texts which include a novel, a novella, two collections of short fiction, poetry, stage plays, and the non-fiction collection of interviews: 'Twenty N.Z. playwrights'. She has been the recipient of several Creative N.Z. funding grants, the Sargeson Fellowship, a University of Iowa residency, and has held writing residency positions at both Massey and Canterbury universities. Her next collection of writing will be published with split/fountain publications (N.Z.) during 2016.

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## Sue Reidy      Assessor/Mentor

**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Adult fiction, memoirs, young adult & children's literature  
**Contact:** Email, phone, Skype, face to face

Sue Reidy is an Auckland-based novelist, freelance writer, manuscript assessor and poet. Three of her novels have been published internationally (*The Visitation, Four Ways to be a Woman, L'Amore Secondo Miranda*). Her collection of short stories (*Modettes*) was published locally. Her novel *The Visitation* was shortlisted in the NZ Montana Book Awards. She is a former Buddle Findlay Sargeson literary fellow and a former BNZ Katherine Mansfield short story winner. She has also been runner-up in the *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Award. Her short stories have been anthologised and broadcast on Radio National. Sue's poetry has been published in the *Listener, Landfall, Jaam, Takahe, Bravado* and *International Literary Quarterly*. She has participated in 15 local and three international literary festivals (Sydney, Brisbane, Wellington)

Sue has been a mentor and an external examiner on the AUT Creative Writing Programme (2009) and is a former mayoral speech writer (Manukau Mayor Sir Barry Curtis). She has had extensive experience assessing manuscripts in a wide range of genres, reflecting her broad reading background.

## Paddy Richardson    Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Dunedin    **Genre:** Short story, novel, Crime/psychological thriller

**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face, Skype

Paddy Richardson has taught numerous creative fiction writing courses, has been awarded three Creative New Zealand Awards, the University of Otago Burns Fellowship in 1997, the Beatson Fellowship in 2007 and the James Wallace Arts Trust Residency Award in 2011. In 2012 she was invited to and attended both the Leipzig and Frankfurt Book fairs.

As a writer of short fiction, her stories have been widely broadcast on New Zealand National Radio, published both locally and in Australia and short-listed for the 1997 BNZ Mansfield Awards, the international short story Best of Penknife 2006 and won a highly commended award in the Sunday Star Times Awards, 2005. She has published two collections of short stories, Choices and If We Were Lebanese and six novels, The Company of a Daughter, A Year to Learn a Woman, Hunting Blind, Traces of Red, Cross Fingers and Swimming in the Dark. A Year to Learn A Woman ('Der Frauenfänger'), Hunting Blind ('Komm Spiel Mit Mir') and Traces of Red (Deine Schuld) .have been published by German publishers Droemer Knaur.

## Joan Rosier-Jones                    Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Wanganui                    **Genre:** YA & Adult Fiction

**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, face to face (if possible)

Joan Rosier-Jones writes fiction for adults and young readers and non-fiction. The true murder mystery, *The Murder of Chow Yat*, was published in 2009. She began her working life as a teacher, and now combines her two passions - writing and teaching by running classes and writers' retreats for adults and working with the NZA programmes for emerging writers. She has taught creative writing for several institutions - University of Auckland, UNITEC, and local community education services. Several of her students have gained success in the world of publishing. *So You Want to Write*, her guide for aspiring authors, is about to go into its 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Other similar subjects include family history writing, book publicity and marketing. She is the author of several courses for the NZ Institute of Business Studies, and has published a number of novels since her first book, *Cast Two Shadows*, described as a 'powerfully realistic novel', was released in 1985. Her last Novel, *Waiting for Elizabeth*, was set in Tudor Ireland. The latest publication is *Doing it My Way: an Egyptian Memoir*, which she co-wrote with Egyptian entrepreneur, Elhamy Elzayat.

## Kerrin Sharpe                    Mentor

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**Area:** Christchurch                    **Genre:** Creative Writing, teacher, poetry.

**Contact:** Phone, email, face to face (if possible)

Kerrin is married with four children all studying at university.

Kerrin is much in demand as a teacher of creative writing. She teaches poetry and creative writing in several schools in Christchurch and her students have been very successful in winning national poetry competitions consistently over the years. Kerrin also provides professional development workshops for teachers on teaching creative writing skills to students. She has a particular interest in teaching creative writing to students with learning and behavioural difficulties and has had success in engaging these students with the writing process.

Kerrin has been a tutor and mentor (until December 2015) on the Hagley Writers' Institute, a unique venture devoted to developing the creative writing skills of talented emerging writers.

Schools who have used Kerrin as a creative writing teacher: St Andrews College, Rangi Ruru Girls School, Hillmorton High School, Ilam School, Fendalton Open-air School, Selwyn House School, Paparoa Street Primary School.

## Tina Shaw Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Taupo **Genre:** Fiction for adults & children  
**Contact:** Email, phone, skype, googleplus, face to face (if possible)

Tina Shaw is the author of literary novels: *Birdie*, *Dreams of America*, *City of Reeds*, *Paradise*, and *The Black Madonna*. She has held the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellowship, the Creative New Zealand Berlin Writers' Residency, and the University of Waikato Writer-In-Residence. Tina has published in the children's educational market, and her 2009 novel *About Griffen's Heart* (Longacre Press) was named a Storylines Notable Book for 2010 and was shortlisted for the 2010 LIANZA Children's Book Awards. Her latest publications are the *Bateman New Zealand Writer's Handbook* and *The Children's Pond*. Tina is a creative writing tutor, manuscript assessor, and worked as the NZSA Programme Manager for six years.

## Deborah Shepard Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland **Genre:** Memoir, journal  
**Contact:** Email, phone, Skype, face to face (if possible)

Deborah Shepard is a biographer, oral historian, journaller and life writing mentor with many years of experience teaching memoir through the Centre for Continuing Education at The University of Auckland and at the Michael King Writers' Centre. Her books include: *Reframing Women: A History of New Zealand Film* (2000), *Between the Lives: Partners in Art* (2005), *Her Life's Work* (2009) and a journal, *Giving Yourself to Life: A Journal of Pain, Hope and Renewal* (2015). In 2013 she was awarded the autumn residency at the Michael King Writers' Centre and in 2015 Deborah conducted a series of interviews with senior New Zealand authors for the New Zealand Society of Authors. She is now at work on a book *The Writing Life: Twelve New Zealand Authors* based on those interviews.

## Elizabeth Smither Mentor

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**Area:** New Plymouth **Genre:** poetry, novel, short stories  
**Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

**Elizabeth Smither** has published 18 collections of poetry, was Te Mata poet laureate (2001-3), and was awarded an HonDLitt by Auckland University and the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in 2008. She also writes novels, journals and short stories, and is widely published in Australia, Britain and USA. Her most recent publications are a poetry collection, 'The Blue Coat' (Auckland University Press, 2013) and a suite of poems for her granddaughter, Ruby: 'Ruby Duby Du' (Cold Hub Press, 2014)

## Vanda Symon Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Otago **Genre:** Crime fiction/ general fiction / non-fiction **Contact:** Email, phone, face to face (if possible)

Vanda Symon has had four crime fiction novels in the Detective Sam Shepherd series and a stand-alone crime fiction novel, *The Faceless*, published by Penguin New Zealand. Her novels have also been translated into German. She is a three time finalist for the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel.

Vanda is also involved in broadcasting, producing and hosting a monthly radio show on books and writers, and reviewing books for National Radio which requires her to critique both fiction and non-fiction work. She was a pharmacist and is now completing a PhD in Science Communication.

## Melinda Szymanik Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Picture books, short stories and fiction, Children's and YA  
**Contact:** phone, email, face to face (if possible)

Melinda Szymanik has published children's novels, YA novels and picture books, as well as short stories in trade and educational publications. Her most recent novel *A Winter's Day in 1939* (Scholastic, 2013) won Librarian's Choice at the 2014 LIANZA Awards, is a Storylines Notable Book and was shortlisted for the 2014 NZ Post Children's and YA Book Awards. Her second picture book *The Were-Nana* (Scholastic 2008) won the NZ Post 2009 Children's Choice Award, was a Storylines Notable Book and was short listed for the 2010 Sakura Medal. Melinda was twice a finalist for the Joy Cowley Award (2003 and 2006), was the 2014 University of Otago, College of Education, Creative New Zealand Children's Writer in Residence, and completed her first novel *Jack the Viking* (Scholastic 2008) while on the NZSA's mentoring programme in 2005.

Melinda runs creative writing workshops for adults and children, blogs regularly on writing (at [www.melindaszzymanik.blogspot.com](http://www.melindaszzymanik.blogspot.com)) and is one of 8 New Zealand writers taking part in an innovative on-line novel writing experiment -[www.fabostory.wordpress.com](http://www.fabostory.wordpress.com)

## Penelope Todd Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Dunedin      **Genre:** YA, fiction  
**Contact:** Email, skype, phone, face to face (if possible)

For several years Penelope Todd authored young adult fiction published by Longacre Press, most notably the Watermark trilogy, each of which was shortlisted for the NZ Post Book Awards. Her 2008 memoir is *Digging for Spain: A Writer's Journey*. Her novel, *Island*, was published by Penguin in 2010 and she co-authored and published in 2012 the English/Spanish novel *Amigas*.

Penelope Todd writes, edits (including translated children's books for Gecko Press), assesses manuscripts freelance, and publishes selected eBooks at Rosa Mira Books.

## Geoff Walker Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Auckland      **Genre:** Biography, memoir, Historical writing and Fiction  
**Communications:** Email, phone, face to face

Geoff Walker was for many years Publishing Director of Penguin New Zealand, where he worked with many leading New Zealand authors whose books won a large number of awards. Geoff is now working as a freelance publishing consultant, editor and manuscript assessor. He is also a commissioning editor on the BWB Texts series of books published by Bridget Williams Books. Geoff offers sound and expert advice on manuscript assessment, writing, rewriting and editing. He can also advise on the best way to publish and which publishers to approach.

For authors who wish to 'indie' publish he offers a wide array of advice on how to proceed. He can also project manage a book from the original manuscript through its editorial and design stages to finished printed copies or e-books. Geoff's personal interests lie in contemporary fiction, biography, memoir and history but he also works with all kinds of books across a broad range.

## Philippa Werry

## Mentor

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**Area:** Wellington      **Genre:** children's literature, non-fiction  
**Contact:** Email, skype, phone, face to face (if possible)

Philippa is a Wellington writer whose non-fiction, poetry, stories and plays have been widely published and broadcast on radio. Her work has appeared in various anthologies as well as the *School Journal* and other educational publications, and several of her titles have been shortlisted for book awards or named as Storylines Notable Books. *Enemy at the Gate* was nominated in the Junior Fiction section of the 2009 NZ Post Children's Book Awards. *Anzac Day: the New Zealand story* was shortlisted for both the NZ Post Book Awards and Lianza Book Awards 2014. *Waitangi Day: the New Zealand story* was shortlisted in the Children's Choice section of the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults 2015.

Philippa was runner up in the Playmarket Plays for the Young Competition 2010 and a Finalist in the Storylines Joy Cowley Award 2015. She has been shortlisted for the Text Publishing Prize, the Manhire Prize for Creative Science Writing (three times) and was the recipient of the 2010 New Zealand Society of Authors Mid-Career Writers Award. She is an online writing tutor, maintains several blogs, is a frequent speaker at book-related events and seminars and visits schools around the country as part of the Writers in Schools programme. In December 2016 she went to Antarctica with the Antarctica NZ community engagement programme (formerly Artists and Writers to Antarctica). She is passionate about the need to tell our stories and our history to our children and young people.

## Ella West

## Assessor/Mentor

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**Area:** Otago/Southland      **Genre:** Junior and Young Adult Fiction  
**Contact:** Email, skype, phone, Facebook, face to face (if possible)

Ella West is the pen name of Karen Trebilcock. She writes Young Adult fiction including *Night Vision* and the thriller series *Thieves*, and has been published here and overseas. She is a multi-award winning novelist and in 2010 was the University Of Otago College Of Education Creative New Zealand Children's Writer in Residence. She enjoys teaching in schools and helping people develop their writing skills.