

Eileen Merriman



Eileen Merriman is a doctor with a serious addiction to writing. She is particularly interested in writing for young adults. Her work has previously been published, or is soon to be published, in the Sunday Star Times, Headland, Takahe and Flash Frontiers. She was awarded 3rd place (2nd runner-up) in the NZ Sunday Star Times National Short Story Competition 2014. She completed a 30-week fiction-writing course through Creative Hub in 2013.

Nod Ghosh



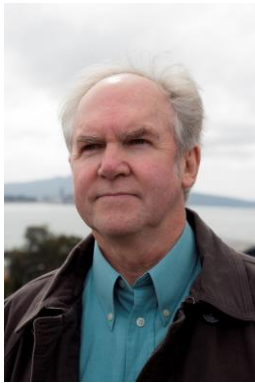
Nod Ghosh lives in Christchurch. She graduated from Hagley Writers' Institute in 2014. Nod's short stories and poems have appeared in Takahe, Christchurch Press, TheGayUK, Penduline Press and Flash Frontier. She received the Flash Frontier Winter Writing Award in 2014. Nod's work features in the anthology Love on the Road 2015 (Liberties Press, Dublin.) Years ago, an aunt urged Nod to start writing. Feeling rather pleased, Nod's illusions were shattered when she was told, "It isn't how you write dear. You were born on the 23rd of April, the Bard's birthday. I felt you ought to be a writer too."

Ann Barrie



Ann Barrie is a former librarian, who lives in Owhiro Bay, Wellington. Her parents both loved to write and they bequeathed to their children a rich store of historical source materials. Ann began writing fiction in 2012 after attending night classes at Wellington High School. To further develop her skills she became a student of Creative Writing Otago in 2014. She will be using her NZ Society of Authors Mentorship to complete her first novel, which is based on a true story of World War II.

David Horne



David Horne is a marine engineer and aspiring novelist, combining writing with his career. Originally from Wales he began writing in 2008. Regarding fiction writing as a learning process, in 2013, he graduated from John Cranna's Fiction Writing course at The Creative Hub in Auckland. David supplied two stories, *Under Mountain Road* and *Writing Struggles for Views from the Bridge*, a collection of short stories and poems of Mangere Bridge, published in November 2014. He has completed several novels and is seeking representation. He intends to use the Mentorship Programme to prepare his latest novel, *The Devil You Don't Know*, for publication.

Nira C



Nira likes telling stories. But the older she gets, the more she realises that life is not a fairytale, that it's full of darkness, white-tailed spiders and casual contracts, with no happy endings. So you gotta be careful where you tread. The little happiness she does see is hidden away in hidden away places, like on buses, or inside that certain curtain sweatshop on the outskirts of town, or at that curry shop on K- Rd, run by them sassy proprietors, Naina and Arvind. It's especially their stories that Nira loves. They also even happens to make the best cuppa masala tea in town. Nira writes up their stories till they throw her out and tell her to 'go home dear, come back tomorrow.'

Courtney Davis



Courtney Davis is a Nelson writer of memoir and fantasy. The project she will be working on with her mentor, 667, is an intimate account of her experience with mental illness. When 667 is complete, she intends to write her high fantasy novel about fairies and goblins: *Queen Rosalyne*.

Courtney is a passionate advocate for mental health awareness, and hopes to help as many people as she can to better understand those who live with mental illness of any form or severity. She is also a part-time student of English and Psychology at Massey University, and loves winter nights in, reading (of course!), and the feeling of

hope against all odds.

Marion Townsend



Marion's passionate about writing and about becoming a better writer – which does not mean she sees herself as a “literary” writer, because she's not. She wants to write about the things she wants to write about, but really really well. She's interested in climate change and the human impact on the environment, and the ethical dilemmas posed by scientific advances in medicine and genetics, but even that isn't really what lights her writing fires. The bottom line is always people (and plot, a bit). She loves great characters, preferably grappling with mortally important, insurmountable problems. And always remembers what Meg Rosoff told her, something along the lines of: genius is not born but earned, by 10,000 hours of hard graft. Not that she professes genius, but you get the general idea. She works hard.

Andrew Stiggers



Andrew Stiggers is a writer of fiction. Born in Paris, France, the son of a British expatriate family, he has lived overseas since childhood including in countries such as Hong Kong, Cameroon and Singapore. He studied English Language and Literature at the University of Reading in the UK. He has self-published a play and a novella, won the Vernon Dobtcheff creative writing prize and was shortlisted for the Asia New Zealand Foundation Short Story 2014 competition. Andrew lives with his wife, son and two daughters in Auckland, and juggles his writing with full-time work and family life. He is looking forward to using his NZSA Mentorship to work on his German historical fiction short story collection and get it ready for publishing!

Iona Winter



Iona Winter is a Pākehā/Māori mother, daughter, sister, mokopuna, e hoa, writer, holistic practitioner and environmentalist, who is interested in the interconnectedness of everything. She regularly blogs, was a contributing author to *Transforming Clinical Practice Using the MindBody Approach*, and completed her Master of Creative Writing (AUT) in 2014. She is certain that her NZSA mentorship will assist her, in weaving her full-length novel (aka ‘The Thesis’) more fully into shape.

Jill McCaw



Jill McCaw can't help herself, she has been a writer all her life, but only gradually increased her writing skill set enough to start to make her living using them. She is currently working part time for Kathmandu as an Assistant Copywriter while freelancing in aviation journalism and managing to create *SoaringNZ*, the quarterly, official journal of Gliding New Zealand. Writing fiction is a pleasurable passion and she hopes one day to be as well known for her fiction as for her non-fiction work. With a diverse background from Registered Nurse to Circus Worker to Entomology Technician with the Bachelor's degree to match; her achievements and interests are wide and varied.

Kay Meyer



Kay Meyer writes and paints by the shores of Wellington harbour. Both her parents were lively raconteurs but she owes her love of fiction to the many stories her father made up for her as a child, stories that, sadly, were never recorded. Kay has been writing mainly short fiction and has had a couple of pieces published. She encountered the protagonist-narrator of her first novel at the Pompeii exhibition four years ago and hopes her mentor will help her get him out of her computer and on to the page.

Rory Stewart



I'm Rory Stewart, an illustrator, animator and graphic designer. I've recently completed my Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Graphic Design at Whitecliffe College of Art and Design in Auckland. I have now returned to Wellington as a freelance designer and illustrator while looking for permanent work. I'm a big fan of independent graphic novels and hope to become part of that line-up. I won the Thumbnailed design competition in 2012 in both categories and I've built a fanbase on DeviantArt of over 3,000 people with my webcomics and illustrations. I'm hoping this mentorship will help my first graphic novel to be published.

Sally Bollinger



Sally Bollinger is a 21-year-old Auckland based human being. She enjoys storytelling; she co-wrote and directed the webseries *Nothing Much To Do*, and is currently working on the sequel *Lovely Little Losers*. She draws comics whenever she has the time and sometimes even when she doesn't. She constantly aspires to be a cartoonist and hopefully will one day be worthy of the title. In the last few years she spent most of her time studying photography at AUT and thinking about Shakespeare. Many of her comics are re-tellings of Shakespeare, as are all her webseries. She considers comics to be a Fine Art. Some of her favourite cartoonists are Noelle Stevenson, Craig Thompson and Dave McKean.