

List of Youth Mentors 2019

Ivy Alvarez

Area: Auckland **Genre:** poetry and fiction **Contact:** Email, skype, face to face (if possible)

Ivy Alvarez is keen to work with writers who value impactful words and memorable imagery, and can advise on both creative and practical concerns in the writing arena.

A three-time Pushcart Prize nominee, she is the author of several poetry collections, including *The Everyday English Dictionary* (London: Paekakariki Press). Her work is widely published and anthologised, with several poems translated into Russian, Spanish, Japanese, and Korean. Her editing credits include *a fine line* (NZ Poetry Society), and *Atlanta Review's* first New Zealand edition

Norman Bilbrough

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. In 1999 he was Writer in Residence at Canterbury University. He has taught creative writing throughout NZ, and has mentored on this programme for four years. He has been a manuscript assessor for over twenty years.

Deborah Challinor

Area: Hamilton **Genre:** Historical, contemporary, young adult and crime fiction

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

I'm the bestselling author of two works of non-fiction, fifteen historical novels, and a young adult novel (for Scholastic Australia). My books sell in New Zealand, Australia, the UK, Germany and Russia, and in print, digital and audio formats. I've taught researching



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and writing historical fiction at university level for several years, and in 2016 received a distinguished alumni award from Waikato University.

I also have a Ph.D. in military history, specialising in New Zealand's involvement in the Vietnam War, from which came my first non-fiction book, *Grey Ghosts*. I was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature and historical research in 2018.

I write commercial/popular fiction, with a strong focus on well-developed characters and solid story arcs, and I set most of my novels in New Zealand and/or Australia in either the 19th or the middish-20th century. It's the history that fascinates me and I thoroughly enjoy researching all of my books.

I also enjoy writing series, including The Children of War series, The Smuggler's Wife series, and the Convict Girls series, and I'm currently [working](#) on my fourth now. I write full time and I'm published by a traditional publisher. www.deborahchallinor.com

Shirley Corlett

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

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



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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. Her second poetry collection 'Whisper Of A Crow's Wing' will be published by Otago University Press in 2018, and her novel 'The Life of De'Ath' has recently been accepted for publication and is due out next year also.

Laurence Fearnley

Area: Dunedin

Genre: Adult fiction and non-fiction

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

I am a novelist and non-fiction writer living in Dunedin. I have published ten novels and many of these relate to landscape and regional or rural parts of Aotearoa/ New Zealand.

Reach, was long-listed for the 2016 Ockham NZ Book Awards and my 2011 novel, *The Hut Builder* won the fiction category of the NZ Post Book Awards and was shortlisted for the international 2010 Boardman Tasker Prize for mountain writing. My novel *Edwin and Matilda* was runner-up in the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards and my second novel, *Room*, was shortlisted for the 2001 Montana Book Awards. In 2004 I was awarded the Artists to Antarctica fellowship and in 2007 the Robert Burns fellowship at the University of Otago.

In 2015 I worked alongside mountaineer Lydia Bradey to write *Going Up is Easy*, a climbing memoir that was a finalist in the Banff Mountain Literature Award.

In 2016 I was awarded (with Paul Hersey) the Friends of the Hocken Collections award to edit an anthology of New Zealand mountaineering writing, to be published by Otago University Press in 2018.

I received the 2016 Janet Frame Memorial Award and the 2016 NZSA/Auckland Museum National Research Grant and I'm currently working on a book of essays and short fiction exploring landscape through scent. I have a PhD in Creative Writing from Victoria University of Wellington. I am most suited to mentoring novelists, or non-fiction writers with an interest in the natural environment, the outdoors or mountaineering.



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Mandy Hager

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. In 2017 Penguin NZ published 'Heloise', a historical novel for 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

Area: Auckland **Genre:** Poetry, stories, novels, nonfiction (including creative nonfiction).

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.



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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.

Karyn Hay

Area: Auckland

Genre: Literary fiction, short story, non-fiction, radio

Contact: email, mobile, face to face, facetime

Karyn Hay is an award-winning novelist: her debut novel *Emerald Budgies* won the *New Zealand Society of Authors Hubert Church Best First Book Award* in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards in 2001. She was awarded a Frank Sargeson Fellowship in 2004 with a six-month residency in the Frank Sargeson apartments in Auckland, and is currently a literary advisor to the Frank Sargeson Trust. Her latest novel *The March of the Foxgloves* was published in December 2016 and was a No.1 bestseller on the New Zealand Fiction list. She has worked as a copywriter, television front person, producer and director, radio announcer, newspaper columnist, and been General Manager of radio station Kiwi FM. She has also been on numerous boards and was the inaugural Chair of Women in Film and Television, Auckland branch. [Karyn Hay profile](#)

Lesley Marshall

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.

Sue McCauley

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*).



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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

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.

Kyle Mewburn

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. These 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. Kyle's best-selling junior fiction series *Dinosaur Rescue* has been sold into over 20 countries. Kyle was Children's Writer-in-Residence at Otago University in 2011 and was President of the NZSA till 2017. 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.

Lee Murray

Area: Tauranga **Genre:** Fiction, adult/YA/MG, short story

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

Lee Murray is a nine-time winner of the Sir Julius Vogel Award for science fiction, fantasy and horror writing. She is proud to have co-edited eight 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



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author of several novels and novellas, her fourth novel, bestselling military thriller, *Into the Mist* (Cohesion Press, Australia) was long listed for the 2017 Bram Stoker Award. Its sequels *Into the Wilds* and *Into the Ashes* will be released in 2018 and 2019, respectively. *Hounds of the Underworld*, the first book in her supernatural crime-noir series *The Path of Ra* (co-authored with Dan Rabarts) was published by USA publisher Raw Dog Screaming Press in 2017 with its sequel due in 2018. Visit her at www.leemurray.info

James Norcliffe

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 nine collections of poetry, most recently *Villon in Millerton*, *Shadow Play*, *Dark Days at the Oxygen Café* and a collection of poems for younger people *Packing A Bag for Mars*; eleven 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*, *The Pirates and the Nightmaker*, and *Twice Upon a Time*. He has written a collection of short stories, *The Chinese Interpreter*.

He is poetry editor for *Takahē* magazine, 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) and with Jo Preston an anthology of poems about the Canterbury earthquakes: *Leaving the Red Zone* (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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Jo Randerson

Area: Wellington **Genre:** Theatre, Short fiction, novel

Contact: Skype, email, face to face (if possible)

Wellington short fiction and theatre writer, dramaturg and director. Randerson was the Robert Burns Fellow in 2001, twice short listed for the IIML Prize in Modern Letters and won the Bruce Mason Playwriting Award 1997, New Generation Laureate Award 2008 and held the 2009 NZSA Beatson Fellowship.

Jo is an experienced theatre maker, writer, and has a great interest in work for young people and children. She collaborates internationally most recently with Goldin+Senneby for the Istanbul and Moscow Biennale. Her work is poetic, strongly voiced and often otherworldly and her first book of short stories *The Spit Children* was recently translated into a premiere work for Belgium's largest youth theatre. For further information see www.barbarian.co.nz.

Paddy Richardson

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

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 Knauer. *Through the Lonesome Dark* published in May 2017

Joan Rosier-Jones

Area: Whanganui **Genre:** YA & Adult Fiction, non-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



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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 4th 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.

Tina Shaw

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.

Vanda Symon

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.

Philippa Werry

Area: Wellington **Genre:** children's literature, non-fiction

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



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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

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.

Alison Wong

Area: Melbourne, Australia

Genre: Poetry, non-fiction, memoir, novel

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

Alison Wong is a fourth-generation Chinese New Zealander. She currently lives in Australia but returns to NZ regularly, particularly to Auckland and Wellington. She writes novels, creative non-fiction/memoir and poetry. Her work has been translated and published in French, Spanish, Polish, Hungarian, Italian and Chinese.

Alison spent several years in China in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2014 she was the inaugural NZ writer on the Shanghai International Writers' Programme and in 2016 she held a Sun Yat Sen University International Writers' Residency. She was the 2002 Robert Burns Fellow.



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Her novel, *As the Earth Turns Silver*, won the 2010 New Zealand Post Book Award for Fiction and was shortlisted for the 2010 Australian Prime Minister's Literary Awards. In 2018 it was voted by NZ booksellers as one of their top twenty bestsellers of the decade.

Her poetry collection, *Cup*, was shortlisted for Best First Book for Poetry at the 2007 Montana New Zealand Book Awards and her poetry appeared in Best NZ Poems 2015, 2007 and 2006. In 2018 she was one of the poetry judges for the Ockham NZ Book Awards. Her essays/memoir pieces have been published in Australia, China, the US and Mexico. She is working on a memoir, a novel and a collection of poetry.