



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

90TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The New Zealand Society of Authors
Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa (PEN NZ) Inc

Online

Wednesday
August 21, 2024
7.00pm



TE PUNI
KAITUHI

O AOTEAROA

THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
AUTHORS (PEN NZ INC)



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

Karakia to open and close:

Tūtawa mai i runga
Tūtawa mai i raro
Tūtawa mai i roto
Tūtawa mai i waho
Kia tau ai te mauri tū
Te mauri ora ki te katoa
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!

Translation:

I summon from above,
I summon from below,
I summon from within
I summon my surroundings.
Let the vitality, energy and well-being be in us all.
We bind, we fix and unify in this intention!

90TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Online 7.00pm
Wednesday 21
August, 2024

Agenda

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- Any other business
- Finance report and Statement of Service Report
will be posted to be separately.
- Closing Karakia



The Empty Chair AGM 2024

OPT/Israel: Writer and President of PEN Palestine held at gunpoint by Israeli soldiers

“PEN is appalled by the craven intimidation of our colleague Hanan Awwad and demand that those responsible be held accountable. Holding a writer at gunpoint, intimidating and humiliating her for hours while threatening to kill her because of her books, are cowardly acts that must not be tolerated. PEN International stands in solidarity with Awwad and all Palestinian writers living under Israeli occupation who face daily threats and violence. We continue to call for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories and the ongoing war on Gaza,” said Burhan Sonmez, President of PEN International

13 July 2024: PEN International is outraged by the detention and intimidation of Palestinian poet, writer, and President of PEN Palestine, Hanan Awwad, by Israeli soldiers at the Hizma checkpoint in East Jerusalem on Thursday 11 July.

The organisation calls for an inquiry into the incident and demands that Israeli authorities drop the summons order for investigation into the content of Awwad’s writings. PEN International [continues](#) to call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Hanan Awwad informed PEN International that she was physically assaulted and humiliated after Israeli soldiers stopped and held her at gunpoint. She was driving home with copies of three books she authored. Soldiers conducted an invasive search of Awwad and her car upon seeing her books.

While holding her at gunpoint, soldiers screamed: “Terrorist... terrorist,” and threatened: “Terrorists like you must die, and I wish I could do this.” Soldiers kicked and struck Awwad repeatedly and detained her for four hours, during which they interrogated her about the content of her writings. According to Awwad, they were enraged at the preamble of her book (*Memory of Narcissistic Luxury*), in which she presents her biography and reflects on the long history of Palestinians’ struggle for liberation. The soldiers confiscated her books and issued her a summons to appear at an Israeli police station for investigation, under charges of “supporting Palestine” and “incitement against Israel.” During the detention, soldiers destroyed a photograph of the iconic Palestinian author and poet [Mahmoud Darwish](#), and seized a Palestinian Hatta (scarf/keffiyeh) Awwad had in her car, throwing it on the ground and stomping on it.

Awwad is the author of 13 [books](#) and poetry collections, including “*Woman - a symbol and a cause: the voice of women in Palestinian resistance literature,*” and “*Episodes of the Siege.*”



89TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday May 27, 2023, 10.00am. By zoom

Present: Susan Battye, Weng Wai Chan, Sherryl Clark, Jenni Edwards, Chris Else, Barbara Else, Mia Farlane, Tracy Farr, Robert Fisk, Siobhan Harvey, Claire Hill, Tim Jones, Elizabeth Kirkby-McLeod, Lesley Marshall, Heather McQuillan, Jenny Nagle, Robyn Prokop, Tess Redgrave, Eleanor Rimoldi, Noel Rodgers, Cristina Schumacher, Prue Scott, Jane Simpson, Vanda Symon, Melinda Szymanik, Jennifer Watts, Philippa Werry, Kit Willett, Nara Wilson

Karakia

Tūtawa mai i runga Tūtawa mai i raro Tūtawa mai i roto Tūtawa mai i waho Kia tau ai te mauri tū Te mauri ora ki te katoa Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!

Translation:

I summon from above,

I summon from below,

I summon from within

I summon my surroundings.

Let the vitality, energy and well-being be in us all. We bind, we fix and unify in this intention!

Apologies: Marilyn Duckworth, Pip Harrison, Kristen Phillips, Cristina Sanders, Janine Irvine, Catherine Hart, Bethany Rogers, Paddy Boylan, Claire Beynon, Sabrina Malcolm, Ian Hosford, Sharon Manssen, Janette Busch, Rick Shera, Gigi Fenster, David Hill, Fiona Kidman, Jeanne O'Reilly, Christian Phillips, Tessa Duder

Agenda

1.The Empty Chair (PEN NZ Inc)

International groups demand release of Kurdish journalists, lawyers and political party officials arrested in the Turkish Election crackdown.

NZSA President, Vanda Symon says we support PEN's calls on the authorities to immediately give the detained journalists, lawyers, and political activists access to legal counsel, to disclose full details of any charges brought and to ensure that they are released from detention.

2. Minutes of the 2022 88th AGM

Vanda moved the Minutes be received. Seconded Melinda Szymanik

CARRIED

Matters Arising

Correct spelling of Szymanik noted.

No other matters arising.

2. President's Report

The President's report was opened for discussion

Vanda Symon moved the President Report be accepted. Seconded Tracy Farr

CARRIED

3. Te Ao Māori Report

Jenny Nagle spoke of the struggle to get funding to stand up the Māori Branch (Te Mangai Māori ki te Poari) in Tairāwhiti. NZSA is hoping an event will coincide with the Janet Frame Memorial Lecture be given by The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi O Aotearoa 2022/ 23 President of Honour Witi Ihimaera at his home marae in Waituhi.

The Te Ao Māori report was opened for discussion

It was moved the report be accepted

Moved Jenny Nagle. Seconded by Melinda Szymanik,

CARRIED

4. National Office Reports

Chief Executive Officer's Report & Statement of Service Performance including Programmes, Awards, Professional Development.

Jenny emphasised long legacy of work by NZSA – 89 years.

It was moved the CEO's report be accepted.

Moved by Jenny Nagle. Seconded by Robert Fisk

CARRIED

Financial Report

It was moved the Financial Report and audited consolidated accounts be accepted.

Moved by Vanda Symon. Seconded by Tracy Farr

CARRIED

5. Annual 2022 Branch Reports

Otago Southland, Canterbury, Top of the South, Wellington, Central Districts, Waikato, Auckland, Northland.

Branch reports opened for discussion.

It was moved that the branch reports be accepted.

Moved by Tess Redgrave. Seconded by Robyn Prokop

CARRIED

6. Representatives' Reports

Reports as listed below, open for discussion

Book Awards Trust, Public Lending Right Advisory Group, PEN Report, Coalition for Books, Copyright Licensing New Zealand & Book Sector Map, Youth Board Member Report.

It was moved the representatives' reports be accepted.

Moved by Siobhan Harvey. Accepted by Melinda Szymanik

CARRIED

7. The President of Honour tenure.

A poll was taken and all present unanimously voted to change the President of Honour tenure to a calendar year.

CARRIED by 100% poll vote

8. Confirmation of President of Honour for 2024

Barbara Else was nominated by the Board to be the President of Honour with the NZSA for 2024.

CARRIED by 100% poll vote

9. Ratification of board delegates to renew for a second term

Heather McQuillan - Top of the South/Canterbury; Helena Andrews – Board Youth Intern. Tracy Farr-Vice-President and Wellington & Wairarapa region (2nd term).

CARRIED by 100% poll vote

*Vanda added that Tess Redgrave's second term for Central Districts needs ratification too, but that won't happen today.

10. Appointment of Auditors

It was moved that NZSA retain Hounsell' Accounting Ltd for 2023

Moved by Jenny Nagle. Seconded Vanda Symon.

CARRIED by 100% poll vote

12. Other business

Chris Else suggested the NZSA acknowledge the contribution of Kevin Ireland, who passed recently, to the Society and New Zealand writing.

It was moved that the AGM meeting recognise Kevin Ireland's life and contribution.

Moved Chris Else. Seconded Vanda Symon

CARRIED by 100% poll vote

A general query re. when Māori Branch will be stood up. Jenny replied it is subject to funding but is hopeful of a September launch.

Susan Battye acknowledged the passing of writer Rae Macgregor and the work she did over the years, and particularly with PLR.

Query from a Southland Branch member Robyn Prokop on how to get new and diverse blood on the committee. Jenny responded that it is probably a raft of things rather than one single answer and something for the Board to discuss further.

Meeting closed at 10.54 am

Karakia by Vanda Symon (same as opening)

2024 AGM President's report

Kia ora Koutou,

It has been a busy year for The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa, and my second year as President. Our National Office staff have been outstanding in their work in what have been challenging times with limited resources, and still adapting to the long-term effects Covid has brought to business as usual for organisations and the sector.

We are truly fortunate to have Jenny Nagle and Claire Hill as the cornerstones of National Office and I offer all of our thanks for your dedication and work. With MCH funding we have been able to employ a Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka to support the Māori branch until the end of June. Thank you to Tash Lampard who initially took this role, and to Michelle Rahurahu who is now providing that support. We are also fortunate to have a number of contractors who do great work on events and project work. We are immensely grateful for the work of Kirsten Le Harivel in organising our events and Roadshows, as well as our digital resources, Libby Kirkby-McLeod for her work on audio & Special projects, Tina Shaw as editor of the NZ Author magazine, and Becky Carruthers who has filled in for Claire when she has been on leave.

Thank you to all of the members of the NZSA Board for all of your work and contribution to the governance of the organisation. We have been very fortunate to have a wonderful team with the drive, experience and dedication to keep the organisation vibrant and doing its very best to support and advocate for New Zealand writers. This year we will be farewelling two members, with Heather McQuillan, the Top of the South/ Canterbury representative, and Kathryn van Beek, the Otago Southland representative standing down. I would like to acknowledge all of their hard work and service both to their regions and to the board. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Tracy Farr who stepped back from her role as Vice President of the NZSA. Thank you for your wisdom and critical thinking and being such a great support in the role. We welcomed Melinda Szymanik as the new Vice President.

We have representation on a number of important groups and panels. One of these is the Public Lending Right Advisory Group. I would like to extend our gratitude to Anna McKenzie and Sherryl Clark for representing the NZSA and writers in this group. Anna is the chair of the PLR Advisory Group. I would also like to acknowledge the continuing work of Lesley Marshall as our PEN International representative.

One of our most important endeavours has been working towards standing up the Māori branch Te Kaituhi Māori. We were delighted to finally receive MCH funding to be able to support this and to be able to have a Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka at national office for 20 hours per week. With this funding we were able to move ahead with supporting Te Kaituhi Māori to form their Komiti and plan ahead for events and how they wish to uplift and support Māori members. They are holding their inaugural wananga at Ōrongomai Marae, Upper Hutt, 3-5 May. Entitled "*He Aha Te Taiao O Kaituhi Māori?*" We offer our thanks and

gratitude to our Te Māngai Māori ki te Poari Representative Michelle Rahurahu and to Matua Witi Ihimaera and the Komiti for their work. Thank you to Airana Ngarewa and Regina de Wolf Ngarimu the co-chairs of Te Kaituhi Māori.

Another piece of vital work that was undertaken was working towards attaining charitable status for the organisation. I would like to acknowledge the hard work Jenny Nagle has put into this. This will have a huge positive affect on our finances and ability to source funding.

The general election featured large last year. Jenny worked with PANZ, CLNZ and The Coalition for Books to produce a manifesto to ensure we had a unified voice in highlighting the critical issues facing writers. Thanks to the many people who had input into the document which aimed to ensure electoral candidates recognised the immense value writers add to society, culture and the economy, and that they heard our concerns and were aware of the issues that adversely affect writers and our ability to make a fair living from our work.

Janet Frame Memorial Lecture was a wonderful event to celebrate Witi Ihimaera's time as President of Honour. Having the event tied in with Verb Wellington brought a much wider audience than we have previously had. It was great to see past Presidents of Honour Patricia Grace, Dame Fiona Kidman and Tessa Duder in the audience. Matua Witi delivered his address *Wetewete te wheke, release the Kraken*, and then showcased our young writers, including NZSA Board members – Michelle Rahurahu and Helena Claudia. Having up and coming opera singers entertain with waiata during the refreshments afterwards topped off what was a fabulous event. Thank you to Tracy and the members of the Wellington Branch for their hard work in making this event so special. In 2024 we are delighted to have Barbara Else as our President of Honour

Due to reduced funding we were unable to hold as many Regional Roadshows as we would have liked, but the two were able to hold in Christchurch and in Hamilton were greatly enjoyed and appreciated. It was great to see members travelling from all over the Waikato and Bay of Plenty to attend the Hamilton event. Our thanks to all of the local branch members and board members who worked hard to make these events a success and to Kirsten for organising them. We will be holding roadshows in Manawatu and Otago this year.

The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi O Aotearoa is about writers and people and our branches continue to be the core of our organisation. We cannot do what we do without the unwavering support of those who volunteer at a branch level. I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those who give of their time and energy to being committee members, and organising events and fellowship within their communities. Writing can often feel a solo and isolating endeavour and we encourage all writers to get along to events in person and online to meet fellow creative people. Our membership continues to grow, and I thank you all for your ongoing support. Please promote the NZSA and the work we do and how we can benefit writers, professionally and socially.

We would like to thank MCH, Creative New Zealand and CLNZ for their ongoing funding of our organisation and programmes and will continue to lobby for increased funding for ourselves and the arts sector in general. This will be especially important with the change in government and uncertainty in their cost-cutting measures, and how they value the arts sector. As I stated last year funding has not kept up with inflation and has resulted in us effectively having a nett decrease each year. Trying to do more for less is unsustainable for our organisation and unfair on our staff. The reality of this is that we are having to reduce what we do, but to do the core work and the best-value work we do exceptionally well. We appreciate the continued support of our members and are encouraged by the continued growth in membership. It shows that The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi O Aotearoa is relevant and does important work to support writers and it is the number one organisation to represent writers in the literary sector.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Vanda Symon

President

The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi O Aotearoa

Overview of activities from Te Kaituhi Māori Summary for NZSA AGM 2024



Tui Tui Tuhia:

Our first biennial wānanga was held at Ōrongomai Marae, Lower Hutt, inviting all Māori writers to stay, reflect on strengths and barriers for Māori writers, hearing from established writers and connect with their community. The wānanga took place over three days, with the option of staying the entire time or coming and going to different parts of the programme. In total, 56 attendees were recorded with an additional ten or so attendees that were made up of mana whenua that joined. Mana whenua were very pleased to hold a programme like ours on their marae and they were given a bundle of books from our kōmiti as well as the customary pūtea for their hospitality.

Feedback:

“Overall it feels so important for us to get together like this.

“Just to be with other kaituhi Maori and have the opportunity to whakarongo and to korero about our world and writing together, feel the collective energy and what is possible”

“I got a lot out of hearing Emma Hislop with Tayi Tibble, Michelle Rahurahu, Jasmine, Ruby Solly. I had never heard a Maori editor speak about their mahi before so what Jasmine had to say was particularly fascinating, in general hearing about what these young wahine are accomplishing was amazing and inspiring”

Mentorships:

The first set of mentorships (NZSA Te Kaituhi Māori Mentorships for Māori writers writing predominantly in English and Kupu Kaitiaki Mentorships which offered additional support in writing in Te Reo Māori) was announced in April and applications closed late May. Four mentees were chosen out of a pool of applications for the NZSA Te Kaituhi Māori mentorships and two were selected for Kupu Kaitiaki Mentorships. These mentorships will run for the rest of the year, ending in December 2024.

Activities	People	Delivery Date	Number of writers engaged	Comments
Wānanga	Kōmiti Speakers: -Patricia Grace -Witi Ihimaera -Haare Williams -Tayi Tibble -Ruby Solly -essa ranapiri -Jasmine Sargeant -Talia Marshall -Colleen Leniham -Shelley Burne-Field -Henarata Pishief -Maui Passarello -Kimihia Grace	May 2024	54 (presenters, audience members, etc)	
Mentorships	-Emma Hislop mentoring Jessica Hinerangi Thompson -Steph Makutu mentoring Aroha Winitara -Arihia Latham mentoring Miriama Gemmell -Kiri Piahana Wong	Started June 2024 (ongoing for six months)	12 (mentees and mentors)	

	mentoring Jorga Heta -Vaughan Rapatahana mentoring Ura Wilson			
Webworkshops/ Toolkit	Workshops: Ruby Solly - Whakapapa as WorldBuilding essa may ranapiri - Poetry as Intergenerational Conversation Toolkits: CLNZ Māori Intellectual Property	July 2024	2 writers (delivering workshops) audience is 80 (Te Kaituhi Māori members)	
Awards/Sector Engagement	MLT Kupu Festival	Ongoing	A conversation about sponsoring mentor/mente es tickets to Kupu Festival	



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

Chief Executive Report

90th AGM 2024

It is an honour to represent the organisation at its 90th AGM. The establishment of PEN NZ in 1934, 10 years before the formation of Federated Farmers, illustrates that thinkers and writers understood the value in forming a network and bonds between writers, and the value of collaboration, collegiality and union. As a legacy organisation it is imperative NZSA continues to evolve, that it remains engaged and relevant within the wider sector, that it provides support and professional services and advocates for writers and is sustainable.

2023 was really the first full year post-COVID and was about consolidation, reconnection and survival. During COVID NZSA was supported to launch new in person and digital strands of professional development and these new services have been continued and embedded into NZSA's programmes.

There were some exceptional highlights. With support from the final round of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage's Regeneration Fund, NZSA has supported Te Kahui Māori, who established dedicated programmes and professional development. In October NZSA became a charity, a registered charitable organisation that will support our fundraising and financial future. In November, NZSA President of Honour, Witi Ihimaera, delivered the Janet Frame Memorial Lecture with Verb Festival and the National Library, an event that showcased young emerging writers.

We acknowledge the ongoing financial support via a Kahikatea investment client grant from Creative New Zealand and professional training and development financial support from Copyright Licensing New Zealand.

NZSA now has 8 regional branches, and Pens and PJ's that deliver a vibrant programme of regional events, meetings, professional development, competitions, collegiality. Many of our volunteers on regional branches are involved in other regional sector events such as festivals. I pay tribute to the small army of members who are a powerhouse around the regions and am grateful to all our officers and committees who volunteer their time. Membership has remained steady over 1800, sustaining the increase achieved in recent years.

Te Kaituhi Māori formed a komiti late in the year and worked to establish its Kaupapa for the programmes and wananga rolling out across 2024 and consider its aspirations and direction for the future. I acknowledge Michelle Rahurahu, Natasha Lampard, Witi Ihimaera, Regina de Wolf Ngarimu, Perena Quinlivan, Airana Ngarewa, Kim Harris, Te Paea Maurirere and Emma Hislop for all their mahi. The new assessment and mentor programme in 2024 will provide support and skills development for Māori writers and this programme will continue as an annual programme.

As a Creative New Zealand Kahikatea client, NZSA is grateful for the ongoing support for our annual Assessment and Mentorship programmes, now running 30 years. Applications numbers are up for

programmes and prizes and awards and selectors and assessors report the increasingly high calibre of work submitted. The NZSA programmes ran to contract: four mentorship and assessment programmes and support for the quarterly NZ Author magazine, produced in print and as an ebook. For 2023 we produced a 'Best of' chapbook used in a social media membership drive, that was able to share some of the excellent content in our magazine more widely across the sector. Application to these programmes is increasingly competitive, and recipients of mentorships and assessments site them as 'invaluable'. Pairing emerging writers with experienced creative writing teachers and mentors has become a proven path to publication with high success rates of projects that are usually published, and often achieve acclaim. The programmes are managed most professionally by Claire Hill, and our strong team of practitioners and coaches across all genres

We acknowledge the contribution and support of Copyright Licensing NZ and annual contribution to our Professional Development and Training programme. That support meant NZSA ran Regional Roadshows in Waikato/Bay of Plenty and Canterbury, offered monthly web-workshops, released new Writer Toolkit modules, launched more Oral History podcasts and ran the Perfect Online Pitch. I note the expertise of Kirsten le Harivel, who has now been running our professional development programmes since 2020, and first joined us for the 2018 National Writers Forum. I acknowledge Libby Kirkby-McLeod for her wonderful management of the Oral History series, as a smidgeon of funding allowed the release of Series 5 podcasts.

It is worth recording that CLNZ developed, with an MCH Regeneration grant, a new *My Creative Rights* management platform, and launched a creative sector contract review service with 15 minutes free legal advice, offering a professional subsidised service for writers. CLNZ was also successful in securing the government contract to manage the Visual Artist Resale Royalty scheme. CLNZ is engaging with government re AI. We acknowledge their work and thank CLNZ CE Sam Irvine, and Mandy Hager and Rose Carlyle as the CLNZ-NZSA board representatives.

Collaboration was a theme in 2023 and we partnered with Verb/National Library for the NZSA annual President of Honour address with Witi Ihimaera; and with Read NZ and Copyright Licensing NZ creating two free Writer Toolkits: On Copyright and Writers in Schools. NZSA shares offices in Takapuna with Copyright Licensing NZ and the Publishers Association of NZ.

NZSA's representatives are active within book sector organisations: formally within The Book Award Trust, Copyright Licensing NZ, Northtec, The Public Lending Right Advisory Group, and The Burns Fellowship committee with thanks to Melinda Syzmanik, Rose Carlyle and Mandy Hager, Justine Baddeley, and Emily Duncan. Te Mangai Poari ki te Māori board member Michelle Rahurahu attended the Kupu Festival of Words as NZSA representative, and Youth Board representative Helena Claudia the Dunedin Young Writers Festival. Helena launched a national youth meeting – the in person and online *Pens and PJ's*.

NZSA holds a board role with The Coalition for Books, occupied by its Chief Executive. The Coalition for Books received an MCH Regeneration Grant in 2023 to redevelop and relaunch the KETE website and provide digital marketing training across the sector. KETE Books, as the promotional arm of the Coalition produces reviews, and catalogues and now sells books in multi-formats. The Coalition produces digital and print catalogues and digital marketing assets across the year and ran book stalls in 2023 at Te Matatini and Pasifika Festivals.

NZSA's Chief Executive also represents NZSA at We Create, and acknowledge their work across government with advocacy to further the interests of the creative industries.

Lesley Marshall and her team of PEN campaign letter writers represent us in our support for PEN International, and I offer sincere thanks. The PEN news is always sobering as freedom of expression is attacked around the world, and as mis-and-dis-information abounds we should never take our freedoms for granted; our affiliation to Pen International reminds us it requires vigilance.

NZSA collaborates across the book sector and seeks to increase the visibility of NZ books and writers' and this involves advocacy across the wider sector and with government. NZSA took a lead role in creating a Book Sector Election Manifesto and was at the table for a meeting with Radio NZ to champion and increase in local content, following our submission and presentation at the select committee into a new media entity. We led engagement with Overdrive, that now showcases NZ books award shortlist titles in that dominant library ebook platform. NZSA submitted three briefs (BIM's) to incoming ministers with the new government in December, all relating to the library sector where responsibility for libraries stretches across three ministries and where we seek change in some regulations and policies that will significantly impact the book economy and writers' incomes: PLR Reform, School Libraries and Buy Local policies. *#Read Local Buy Local*.

I want to thank the Board for their support, especially NZSA president Dr Vanda Symon and Vice-President and Wellington/Wairarapa representative Tracy Farr. As well as managing the programmes and prizes I also acknowledge and thank Claire Hill for her oversight of operations such as membership, website and communications as the fulcrum of NZSA. We thank Blakat Accounting who have taken over our accounting contract in April 2023.

Lastly and most importantly I thank you, our 1825 current members, who support our advocacy, programmes and professional services with your membership. While the market is tough and has numerous challenges, NZSA is contributing nationally and in regions via the branches, working across the sector, towards what we believe will be a tipping point where NZ books and writers are more visible and more widely read and writers are fairly remunerated for their work.

Jenny Nagle

Chief Executive

NZSA Financial Report AGM 2024

Notes:

- The perennial struggle for NZSA is around financial sustainability and resourcing.
- Funding is the biggest challenge for the organisation. As NZSA became a charity in October 2023, new avenues of potential funding are available for application from 2024.
- Income is made up from membership fees, programmes and prizes and external funding. Membership fees were not increased through the pandemic as so many of our members experienced lost income from the gig economy and covid shutdowns, then inflation and cost of living pressure.
- Creative New Zealand contributed \$106k to support the annual assessment and mentorship programmes.
- Copyright Licensing NZ Ltd contributed \$20k to support the delivery of the professional development programmes.
- A Pub Charity grant of \$10k allowed Stage One to be completed (of three parts) of our website refurbishment. The new menu and landing page launched in December.
- A significant increase in the second half income reflects part of the MCH Regeneration grant received of \$143k to support the establishment of Te Kaituhi Māori branch and its inaugural programmes and activities carried forward into 2024.
- The financial result shows a deficit of \$30k for the financial year as the final result. The outstanding leave liability outstanding for staff is \$40k. A high staff leave balance increased during COVID, and we are working to address this.
- Two payments were made to the Book Award Trust in the same financial year, so a \$15k sponsorship is in the 2023 accounts instead of \$7.5k.
- Staffing for 2023 was two full time staff; and a 0.5 contract staff member dedicated to Te Kaituhi Maori from September - December, and one contractor 0.2 FTE delivering the professional development programmes. One temporary staffer worked FTE 0.5 to support Claire who too extended leave.



Charity Summary

Registration Number:	CC61705
Registration Date:	19/10/2023
Charity Name:	The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa PEN New Zealand Incorporated

Charity Details

Trading Name

Registration Details

Registration Status:	Registered
Balance Date:	March 31
IRD Number:	Restricted
NZBN Number:	N/A

Address for Service:

Charity's Postal Address: PO Box 143
Shortland Street
Auckland Central
Auckland 1140

Charity's Street Address: level 6 Kotahitanga
19-23 Como St
Takapuna
Auckland 0740

Charity's other details

Phone:	093794801
Fax:	
Email:	director@nzauthors.org.nz
Website:	https://www.authors.org.nz
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/nzs.authors
Twitter:	https://twitter.com/NZSocAuthors
Social Network Name:	Instagram: nzsocietyofauthors

Areas of Operation

New Zealand: Nationwide
Percentage spent overseas 0

Purpose & Structure

Purpose

The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa (PEN NZ) Inc is the principal representative body for writers. The society works to protect basic human rights to freedom of expression, working to improve income and conditions for writers, and promoting Aotearoa New Zealand writing and literary culture. We offer opportunities for writers and create a community to support writers.

Entity Structure

A national Office and 9 regional branches: 8 regional and one Maori branch. A board made up of 5 regional branch representatives, plus a te ao Maori board seat, President and Vice-President.

Activities

Main Activity: Acts as an umbrella / resource body
Activities:

Sectors

Main Sector: Education / training / research
Sectors:

Beneficiaries

Main Beneficiary: General public
Beneficiaries:

Annual Returns

Date Submitted

For Year Ended

Total Income

Total Expenditure

Reference

Officer Details

Current Officers

Name	Officer Type	Position	Position Appointment Date
Tracy Farr	Individual	Vice-President	21/05/2021
Vanda Symon	Individual	President	21/05/2021
Jennifer Nagle	Individual	Chief Executive Board Administrator	15/05/2017

NZSA Activities and Programmes Report – to 30 December 2023

Authors: Claire Hill, Kirsten Le Harivel, Natasha Lampard

Programmes & Awards

Programme/Award	Opening Date	Closing Date	Selection Panel	Number of applications	Results	Comments
NZSA Mentor Programme	1 December	1 February	Mandy Hager (con), Rosetta Allan, Jacquie McRae	80	13 mentorships	Paddy Boylan (Christchurch), Cheryl Evans (Tauranga), Hannah Field (Brighton, UK), Rachael Gordon (Taihape), Joseph Janiszewski (Auckland), Merryn Jones (Hastings), Sara Litchfield (Te Anau), Jo Luke (Huntly), Lucy O'Connor (Porirua), Christopher Reed (Auckland), Kathryn Saunders (Manawatu), Frances Turner (Auckland), Eileen Woodhead (Napier).
NZSA StartWrite Programme	1 Feb	2 nd week in December	N/A	N/A	15 completed	<i>3 still left for 2023</i> Six currently being completed. <i>NB Last two years the 25 were gone by July, very different patterns of engagement this year.</i>
NZSA Youth Mentor Programme	2 nd week in February	6 March	Elizabeth Kirkby-McLeod (con), Catherine Cooper	41 applications	4 yth mentorships	Yiyang Cao, Callum Love, Kaitlyn Mckenzie, Stella Weston
NZSA CompleteMS Programme	1 March	29 May	Caroline Barron (con), Sharon Mansson, Mikaela Nyman	61	13 assessments	Scarlett Bailey, Fiona Barber, Lilla Csorgo, Emelita Luisi, Sam Keenan, Kiri Lightfoot, Hannah Marshall, Jade McCann, Heather McQuillan, Rostislava Pankova-Karadjova, Joanne Paulsen, Jennifer Trevelyan, Paul Veart.
NZSA Peter & Dianne Beatson Fellowship	17 June	20 August	Philippa Werry, Paddy Richardson	18 applications		Winner: Laurence Fearnley

Programme/Award	Opening Date	Closing Date	Selection Panel	Number of applications	Results	Comments
Michael Gifkins Prize for an Unpublished Novel	25 July	14 October	2023 judges: Michelle Elvy, Ruby Porter (longlist), Text Publishing (shortlist, winner)	87 (2023) (2024) open 31 July	1 winner	Longlist: Thom Conroy, Danielle Heyhoe, G.M Allen, Helen Waaka, Heidi North, Tina Shaw, Alex Lodge, Andrew Spittle, Rachel J Fenton, Jane Bitomsky, Joe Parker, Anne Lohead, Tina Cartwright, Phoebe Wright, Oliver Clifton Shortlist: G.M Allen, Jane Bitomsky, Danielle Heyhoe, Tina Shaw, Helen Waaka Winner: Tina Shaw
NZSA Lilian Ida Smith Award	2024 (TBC)	2024 (TBC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize	8 October	31 January	2023: Tina Shaw (con), Cassie Hart (shortlist). Cuba Press, Nicky Solomon, Tina Shaw (winner)	58 applications	1 winner	Shortlist: Susanna Elliffe, Melanie Kwang, Wes Lee, Lee Murray, and Kathryn van Beek Winner: Lee Murray
CLNZ / NZSA Research Grants	11 May	8 June	Siobhan Harvey (con), Vaughan Rapatahana, Vasanti Unka	88 applications	4 recipients	Shortlisted: Jenny Purchase; Sarah Scott; Bronwen Wall; Amy Head; Sarah Catherall and Janine Williams. Recipients: Trevor Bentley, Saige England, Hana Tapiata (awarded grant for diverse writers, diverse or new projects) and Michael O'Leary
CLNZ / NZSA Writers' Award	1 June	29 June	Vanda Symon (con), Nic Low, Elizabeth Kirkby-McLeod	43 applications	1 winner	Shortlist: Tom Doig, Peta Carey, Chris Bourke Winner: Tom Doig
NZSA Mentor Programme	1 December 2023	1 February 2024			13 mentorships	Open for applications
NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize	Open now	31 January			1 winner	open for applications

Membership

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Current Membership total	1840	1844	1810	1812

			Many members citing suspending membership due to cost of living.	NB Pikihuia award new members (sponsorship) will take this over 1800 again by Christmas.
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Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka

What	Notes
Onboarding	Training in Tāmaki with Jenny, Claire and Kirsten. Familiarisation with processes, systems and general wairua of organisation and role.
Initial online hui to welcome potential branch members	When: Wed 18 October What: Hosted (beautifully) by Michelle; Attended by 14 people + me (16 people in total). Warm reception to the concept of the komiti and valuable whakaaro on its desired shape, form, intent & purpose. An update to all who attended will be going out next week to share the news of the komiti's formation, and then following up again post-Dec-hui.
Kāhui Māori branch komiti	Kāhui Māori komiti has now been formed (ie members have been invited to join and have accepted positions). Members are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michelle Rahurahu ○ Emma Hislop ○ Robert Sullivan ○ Airana Ngarewa (a recommendation from Matua Witi Ihimaera) ○ Regina de Wolf-Ngarimu ○ Perena Quinlivan ○ Natasha Lampard ○ Advisors: Witi Ihimaera & Kim Harris 7 December Whakawhanaungatanga hui via zoom scheduled. 16-17 December Hui kanohi ki te kanohi organised in Pōneke (Kim Harris kindly offered her whare). All the above will be in attendance with the exception of Robert Sullivan who can only attend online on Sunday.
Launch/whakaingoa of Māori branch	Initial planning for the inaugural signature hui (i.e. the official launch and whakaingoa) of our Māori branch in April, in Gisborne now underway: runsheet and budget created. Firming up these will be part of the agenda at our Dec hui on 16-17 Dec.

Training / Digital Marketing programme+webworkshop creation	Attendance on 16 Nov at Digital Marketing training offered by Coalition for Books in Tamaki - out of which a Kahui Māori branch PD offering will come. This course will extend over 6 months for 20 people across the sector, so participants pay it forward to others through their orgs. (staff and members).The creation of courses arising from this training will be part of the PD offered by the branch in 2024. The DM course includes a special session on Māori digital marketing as well as mainstream digital marketing. This knowledge will be paid forward in workshops for all members as well as a special session for Māori members. Also a networking opportunity with other course participants eg Huia.
Whakawhanangatanga	Making contact with Te Ha, MLT, and with Pikihiua award finalists to invite sign up to NZSA comp one year membership as per sponsorship agreement. Further outreach ongoing.

Podcasts / Oral histories

Season	Featured	Dates first aired (all still available to listen to)	Number of total listens
NZSA Oral history Podcast, special episodes	1. Introducing 'The Author's Tale'	October 2022	Current report – 433 listens to 6 Nov 2023 (<i>listenership drops when no new content – new series Season 5 now appearing</i>)
Summer Encore Series (well-known NZSA authors to introduce you to some of their favourite episodes from the NZSA podcast so far)	1. Mary-anne Scott introducing Joy Cowley's Oral History. 2. Whiti Hereaka introduces 'Getting Hot and Bothered' from NWF 3. Rosetta Allan introduces Paula Morris 202 Janet Frame Memorial Lecture. 4. Graci Kim introduces 'Making it in the international market' from NWF 5. James Russell introduces Philip Temple's Oral History 6. Gigi Fenster introduces Lynn Jenner from NWF	December 2021 – February 2022	Current report – 1,279 total listens to 6 Nov 2023
NZSA Oral History Podcast, Season 5	1 & 2. Witi Ihimaera 3& 4. Marilyn Duckworth 4 Graeme Lay 5. Denys Trussell 6. Fleur Adcock	New series launched November 2023	

NZSA Oral Podcast Janet Frame Memorial Lecture Nov 2023 Witi Ihimaera. Recorded at Verb Wellington, NLNZ	Witi Ihimaera –NZSA President of Honour Janet Frame Memorial Lecture	December 2023	
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 4	1 & 2. Kyle Mewburn 3. Philip Temple 4 & 5. Barbara Else 7. Brian Turner 8. Margaret Mahy	March – July 2021	Current report – 2,089 total listens to 6 Nov 2023

Season	Featured	Dates first aired (all still available to listen to)	Number of total listens
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 & 2. Tessa Duder 3. David Hill 4. Joy Cowley 5 & 6. Chris Else 7. Owen Marshall 	February – June 2020	Current report – 1,913 total listens to 6 Nov 2023
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alastair Te Ariki Campbell 2. Elsie Locke 3. Ian Cross 4. Tony Simpson 5. Ruth Dallas 6. Ray Grover 7. Dennis McEndowney 	May-July 2019	Current report – 1,502 total listens to 6 Nov 2023
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lauris Edmond 2. Gordon McLauchlan 3. Fiona Kidman 4. Bernard Brown 5. Kevin Ireland 6. Christine Cole Catley 7. C.K Stead 	September – December 2018	Current report – 1,959 total listens to 6 Nov 2023
NZSA Live! (audio from live events held by NZSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tessa Duder, 2022 Janet Frame Address 2. Paula Morris 2020 Janet Frame Memorial Lecture 3. Getting Hot and Bothered (NWF) 4. Making it in the International Market (NWF) 5. Writing Series (NWF) 6. Who needs books when you've got digital platforms? (NWF) 7. YA or Not YA? (NWF) 8. Indigenous Writers Talk (NWF) 9. Translating the Stars (NWF) 10. How to self-publish (NWF) 11. Penny Hartill (NWF) 12. The Business of being a Writer (NWF) 	September 2019 - ongoing	Current report – 4,548 total listens to 6 Nov 2023

Season	Featured	Dates first aired (all still available to listen to)	Number of total listens
	13. Adaptations (NWF) 14. Lynn Jenner (NWF) 15. Brannavan Gnanalingam (NWF) 16. Dr Anita Heiss (NWF) 17. Lani Wendt Young 18. David Hill 2019 Janet Frame Memorial Lecture		

Webworkshops

- We have introduced a single Webworkshop per month (due to falling attendance numbers post pandemic *online fatigue*) and offer the recording to access for up to one month after the event. We have noticed an increase in participants who are watching the recording only.

Presenter	Topic	Date	Number of participants
Paula Morris	Attention to Detail	22 February	25
Caroline Barron	Promotion for Authors	15 March	19
Madison Hamill	The Art of Self-Editing	25 April	25
Kit Willett	Writing in an AI world: an introduction to the use, limitations, and ethics of ChatGPT for writers	25 May	22
Kathryn Burnett	Adapting Your Novel (Story?) For The Screen	21 June	15
Paula Morris	Book Reviewing (this was part of an opportunity to access a Book Reviewing Mentorship with Paula Morris)	24 August	36
Eileen Merriman	Writing YA	18 October	15
Graci Kim	Pitch to the US Market	2 November	22

Kate O’Keeffe	Romance for Writers	23 November	13
Aimee-Jane Anderson-O’Connor	Poetic Lives: Poetry and Biography	6 December	9

Writer Toolkit

- We have 581 users sign up for a Writer Toolkit Module since the Toolkit launched in January 2022.

From 1 January to 31 October 2023:

- 99 users completed 142 modules.
- 49 people used the Membership Renewal coupon.
- 128 new users signed up.

Presenter	Topic	Launch date	Number of paid sign ups (1 Jan 2023 – 31 October 2023)	Net revenue (1 Jan 2023 – 31 October 2023) (USD)
Mandy Hager	Storybuilding: Strategies and exercises to build solid foundations	16 January	12	\$175.29
Paula Morris	Point of View	7 April	10	\$183.31
Caroline Barron	Memoir: Telling Your Story	7 April	14	\$204.02
Steff Green	Successful Self-Publishing	3 May	10	\$104.59
Paula Morris	Writing Action: Emotional and Dramatic Moments	5 May	6	\$69.61
Pip Desmond	Finding Your ‘I’	4 April	8	\$115.29
Rajorshi Chakraborti	Writing Fiction from Life	19 April	5	\$41.03
Whiti Hereaka	Research for Fiction	22 August	10	\$112.06
Jack Cottrell	Developing Your Web Presence	22 August	9	\$97.99

Presenter	Topic	Launch date	Number of paid sign ups (1 Jan 2023 – 31 October 2023)	Net revenue (1 Jan 2023 – 31 October 2023) (USD)
Siobhan Harvey	Writing Poetry with the Eye and the Ear	7 October	12	\$135.48
Steff Green	Uploading Your Ebook or Print Book to Amazon KDP	18 October	4	\$43.17
Steff Green	Formatting Your Manuscript for Publication as an Ebook or Print Book	20 October	3	\$34.32
Mohamed Hassan	Writers In Schools with ReadNZ	31 January	Can't count free ones	Free
Anna Mackenzie	Introduction to Editing	10 February	24	\$260.36
Anna Mackenzie	Every Word Counts	10 March	20	\$206.29
Karen Workman	Creative Rights for Creative People	1 September	Can't count free ones	Free

NZSA Regional Roadshows

This year the number of Regional Roadshows has been reduced due to funding limitations. Due to the current cost of living, we adapted the attendee fee structure to provide more options for members. While most participants still chose the full-day option, the session-only ticket seems to have contributed to increased attendance. We also made the lunch optional to reduce costs with a nominal lunch charge, and used free or donated venue space, thus providing free morning and afternoon teas. This was happily accepted by participants. Minimised travel costs using regional writers plus Auckland presenters to Waikato were able to drive.

Location	Date	# of streams	# of presenters	# of participants	Highlights of the Day
Christchurch	25 March	2	7	58	<i>Witi Ihimaera's korero</i> <i>Vanda's character workshop</i> <i>The talk by Witi Ihimaera.</i> <i>Course offering</i> <i>Witi Ihimaera's talk! So many gifts handed to us all.</i> <i>Very trifling, but finding I was not the only one who hates the Oxford comma. LOVED that. But, really, the people there. Everyone was so lovely.</i>

					<p><i>Witi Ihimaera! Hard act to follow. Very generous of him to share his writing journey and tips - felt like we got an unexpected masterclass.</i></p> <p><i>meeting others</i></p> <p><i>Witi Ihimaera</i></p> <p><i>James Norcliffe - very entertaining and knowledgeable</i></p> <p><i>Talking with other people writing who were carrying a similar sense of inadequacy in being able to achieve their goals.</i></p> <p><i>Learning new skills and meeting new people</i></p> <p><i>Witi Ihimaera is always a highlight.</i></p> <p><i>Character development workshop</i></p> <p><i>Witi Ihimaera's talk</i></p> <p><i>Hearing Witi Ihimaera</i></p> <p><i>Meeting other writers</i></p> <p><i>For me personally, the highlight was the interview with Witi Ihimaera. Such an inspiration!</i></p> <p><i>Socialising with other writers</i></p>
Waikato	15 October	2	9	43	<p><i>The quality of speakers and workshops offered in a fantastic venue with not too many delegates.</i></p> <p><i>Tracey Slaughter's workshop</i></p> <p><i>The highlight for me was the Poetry workshop with Anne Kennedy.</i></p> <p><i>Writing Funny workshop was brilliant.</i></p> <p><i>Just being able to attend was a real highlight.</i></p> <p><i>Having the time to talk to other professional writers I don't normally see.</i></p>

NZSA Perfect Online Pitch – NZ Publishers

Completed for 2023.

To be held again in August 2024.

139 author submitted projects for pitching slots.

10 NZ Publishers signed up for the initiative.

Allen & Unwin, Penguin Random House, Moa (Hachette), One Tree House, Auckland University Press, Bateman Books, Otago University Press, Te Hererenga Waka University Press, Cuba Press.

74 pitching projects accepted by NZSA and NZ Publishers for pitching.

Pens & PJs Board Report 2024

Prepared by Helena Claudia

In November 2023 we had our first session of Pens & PJs, a national writers' collective for authors aged 18-29. Pens & PJs was established by the board to support our younger members, with the intention of bringing together creatives to explore new opportunities for publication and creation, and to familiarize the NZSA with those who might feel out of place. Over six months we have seen several NZSA members return regularly.

Structure

I host a two-hour session once a month from 7-9pm at Wellington Writers' Studio with an advertised Zoom option. Instagram (@pensandpjs), email, and Eventfinda are our main Comms channels. Half of our session is dedicated to quiet writing and the other a general discussion or activity, loosely guided by a 'Midnight Snack' (a piece of writing by a young Kiwi author that is accessible online). The intent of the Midnight Snack is also to engage with those who cannot attend in any given month. This format has been successful, with feedback that casual activities in particular are valued. In recent months we have put Lily Holloway and Madeleine Chapman in the hot seat and tried a hand at blackout poetry.

Funding

Pens & PJs is currently funded by NZSA Wellington Branch, at a cost of \$600 a year for venue hire. We are currently trialing catering at a cost of roughly \$30 a session. The future of funding may lay elsewhere and will be discussed with the incoming Wellington Branch committee.

Success

The intent of Pens and PJs was to support our younger members nationally, however, Wellington Branch members have been the overwhelming majority of attendees. The importance of face-to-face connection in a world that is now often virtual is a clear lesson to learn from our first few months. The benefit to our members and flow on effect to other events has been clearly observed. Moving forward, the board will be advised on how Pens & PJs might be shaped to more effectively service all our members across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Venue and co-host

The fact Wellington Writers' Studio is not an accessible venue will be seriously explored. The low hire cost, central location, welcoming facilities, and relationship with the venue have all been an excellent asset to the success of the group. In addition, a co-host or backup host will be necessary to ensure continuity when I am unavailable.

Attendance 2023-24

November: 5; December: 12 (via Zoom 1); January: 3; February: 6; March: 4

Otago Southland Branch of the NZSA Chair Report for the year ending 2023

In 2023, we had a variety of events – online and in person. Our branch continues to grow in membership, and it appears to encourage lively exchanges.

Here is an outline of our 2023 activities.

Salon series/ 2023 readings

We rejuvenated the Salon reading series in 2021 and continued in 2022 with a wide range of invited guests. In 2023, we held the following Salons in various places around the region, including one ‘Salon on the road’ reading in Queenstown, to include members there.

- February, at Carey’s Bay Hotel: David Eggleton, Iona Winter
- June, at Carey’s Bay Hotel: Barbara Else, Kyle Mewburn, Robyn Maree Pickens
- July, Queenstown: Camille Khouri, Bethany Rogers, Franciska Soares
- September, at the Athenaeum: Mira Harrison, Rakibul Khan & Rushi Vyas
- December, at Alexander Pianos: Robert Sullivan, Charles Olsen, Lola Elvy (with music and an open mic, for our year-end gathering)

National Flash Fiction Day in June

A big bash occurred last year – June 22, at Alexander Pianos. NFFD judge David Eggleton presented awards; Lola Elvy presented youth awards. Otago had a good showing in 2023. Winners in our region included:

Linda Collins – Highly Commended

Long List:

Liz Breslin
Susan Wardell
Atom Gush
Madeleine Child

Youth winners:

Ocean Jade – Second Place


Lynn Jenner was visiting Dunedin in the month of June, and we invited her to run a workshop on creative nonfiction – it was filled and very successful, and people stayed on for lunch.

We also held a wonderfully colourful ekphrastic series for emerging voices, inviting writers to write a micro in response to local artist’s work. These were displayed in the library on a floating electronic display, The Cube, and also in poster form. We invited four artists to participate: Claire Beynon, Many Berry, Ewan McDougall, and Marta Brash (Gore). Writers whose work was chosen and included in the poster series, supported by Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature, included:

Tunmise Adebawale (secondary school student)
Bram Casey (secondary school student)

Camila Puricelli Callau
Janean Cherkun
Atom Gush (university student)
Bronwyn Hegarty
Ocean Jade (secondary school student)
Sara Litchfield
Monty McGee (secondary school student)
Mikaela Preston (secondary school student)
Rumi Silvestro (middle school student)

Here's an image of one of the posters:




Monty McGee
Logan Park High School

after Marta Brash's 'Tree of Life'

All around me

I sit under an ancient oak. Blackbirds singing above, thunder rumbling in the distance. Chaos all around me, but a bubble of peace forms here. Calmness spreads itself over me, reassuring me, comforting me. I see things going on around me. Dad, walking my dog on the pavement, a chick calling for its lunch. And then it starts to rain. Really pouring down around me. Lighting strikes, bringing me round, and then I head off, making for the dry, at my house.

National Flash Fiction Day celebrates emerging writers of Ōtepoti Dunedin



We thank our UNESCO City of Literature and Creative Communities Dunedin for their support of the event.

National Poetry Day in August

Theme: Poetry on the Edge

A celebration of poetry, with readings, workshops and two competitions (youth and adult), featuring the Bill Martin Trio and poets both new and experienced.

Workshop tutors:

Competition judges (presenting awards): Susan Wardell (youth), Robert Sullivan (adult)

Poets:

Cilla McQueen
Richard Reeve
Talia Marshall
Sophia Wilson
Susan Wardell
Robert Sullivan
Megan Kitching
Rushi Vyas
Louise Wallace
Robyn Maree Pickens
Ocean Jade (youth)
Bram Casey (youth)
Tunmise Adebowale (youth)
Shima Jack (youth)
Victor Billot
Sile Mannion
Emma Neale
Claire Beynon

We thank UNESCO City of Literature and Creative Communities Dunedin for their support of the event.

Branch bulletin

We initiated a new bulletin in 2022, and continued through 2023. We send it to members monthly, on the first Thursday of each month. In the newsletter, we offer a spotlighted member section each time. 2023 spotlights included:

Gay Buckingham, February
Angela Pope, Mar
Jenny Powell, April
Sara Litchfield, May
Susan Wardell, June
Bronwyn Hegarty, July
Kirstie McKinnon, August
Sandie Forsyth, September
Donelle McKinley and Elizabeth Noel – two new members, October
James Courage spotlight, with Chris Brickell, November (Courage Day)
Ann Jacobson – new member, December

We also share branch news, member news, upcoming book launches and readings, and also news from the wider creative community. We work closely with Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature and UBS to help share events in our literary community.

Other news

Writers in our regions celebrated new books and readings throughout the year. Other events included our year-end Holiday Party and auction, which brought in \$500+ for the branch.

Michelle Elvy
Otago/Southland Branch Chair
29 May 2024

NZSA CANTERBURY BRANCH AGM REPORT 2023

There is always a feeling of positivity when a committee can cement itself into a cohesive unit, and our last AGM was able to do just that. We secured a more permanent chairperson, Victor Brown, along with a new secretary, Paddy Boylan, and a social media guru, author Saige England. The pairing of Paddy and Saige meant we were able to better reach out to all our Branch members with up-to-date information through meeting minutes, as well as current upcoming news and events in a twice-monthly newsletter.

Paddy used his IT talents to create an opportunity for members to link in via Zoom for author's talks with Saige England (*The Seasonwife*) and Brent McMillan (*Here Upon the Tide*). We hope to be able to use this format for future broadcasts, and recordings that can be accessed on demand via the Canterbury Branch website. We also intend to use this approach to provide the wider-Canterbury members with the opportunity to join in for Toolkit Workshops.

Although we haven't been quite as successful with events as we'd hoped, the Branch has been able to solidify a number of activities. An evening Writers Group, which commenced in mid-2023, has recommenced in 2024 and will be sustainable with the assistance of Branch funding and regular attendees. Branch funding also continues to assist the Children's Literature Hub which meets once a month. This is well supported by volunteers and draws a significant following of writers.

Starting off the year well, we're also able to celebrate the release of three new books, Rachel King's *Grimmelings*, Heather McQuillan's sequel novel *Avis and the Call of the Kraken*, and Marie Connolly's new murder mystery, *Dark Sky*.

Unfortunately, not all has gone quite as well with respect to retaining people in branch roles. At the end of 2023 Paddy Boylan returned to Australia, relinquishing the Branch Secretary role, and this year Saige England has been unable to continue in the social media role. This has left important positions vacant which now need to be filled. The Branch nevertheless has the potential to achieve a lot and, with a committed and forward-thinking committee, we plan to do just that in 2024.

Victor Brown
NZSA Canterbury Branch Chairperson

NZSA TOP O THE SOUTH BRANCH Chair's Report AGM 2023

**From Robyn Prokop,
updated by Lucy Wilson 27 April 2024**

The Top of the South continues to be an active branch of NZSA, representing a diverse group of writers. Taking in Marlborough, the West Coast, Golden Bay, Tasman and Nelson, our region presents significant geographical challenges. For this reason, most of our committee meetings are held via Zoom, with informal catch ups arranged as often as possible.

The committee has seen a few changes this year with our Chair, Robyn Prokop, being lured away to Australia after less than a year in the role. We have had a total of four resignations from the committee due to changing life circumstances, but we also realise that we need to review our strategic goals in order to manage the workload for our dedicated volunteer group.

Currently, our strategic goals are:

- To support and promote the writing activities of writers and writers' groups in the craft and business of writing
- To maintain a healthy financial status and demonstrate effective governance
- Uphold the goals of and promote and increase the membership and diversity of membership of NZSA

The Te Tauihu Short Story Awards continues to be our main commitment for the year. The competition is an important fundraiser, along with koha collected at various events. In 2023, the capitation received from NZSA (membership fees distributed to the branch) amounted to just \$178.29. Sponsorship and competition fees bring in much needed revenue, allowing us to create opportunities throughout the year for writers to learn about writing and publishing and interact with fellow creatives.

We are very proud of our short story awards, accepting entries in both of New Zealand's official written languages. We have received praise from NZSA, tangata whenua and local business-people alike. The benefits of the competition do not just extend to the writers who enter from all around the country. Since moving to a sponsorship model, we have been able to pay all short-listing judges for their time, as well as the coordinator and judges. Although we cannot pay handsomely, the committee has made a firm commitment to rewarding writers fairly for their work and expertise. In 2023, in association with the competition, an additional workshop was offered to writers in our region. This was a prerequisite of our \$1500 Creative Communities funding. Paula Morris conducted the workshop, in conjunction with last year's Annual General Meeting. Although the workshop did not draw as many writers of Te Reo as we would have liked, the event was well attended nevertheless, with excellent feedback from participants.

This year we continued our close relationship with Pukapuka Talks as part of the Nelson Arts Festival. We sponsored a workshop by Caroline Barron on Literary Citizenship.

'Rock-up & Write' was a new initiative this year, aimed at growing our membership and diversity. Offered in the Richmond library on the last Saturday of each month, the event provides a quiet venue for writers, as well as a visible presence for our branch.

During the first week of July, our writers also had the opportunity to showcase their work at the English Teachers' Conference. Robyn Prokop was delighted to represent the branch at this professional annual conference, which took place over three days. Our stall was colourful and diverse, reflecting the extraordinary range of writing produced by our region. It drew a great deal of interest from the teachers, standing up well against the trade publishers. The teachers were invited to take review copies home at the end of the conference. Traditional publishers have long understood the importance of sending out review copies to influential readers — it was wonderful to see so many of our independently published authors taking up this opportunity to gain national visibility.

We have many active writing groups in our region, across many genres and approaches. I'd like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the work of those individuals who give up their time to organise events for their fellow writers. These safe and nourishing spaces are the essence of our branch, providing welcome and support to writers, regardless of their writing experience.

Diversity continues to be a challenge. For that reason, our newsletter and writing groups are now open to all. Membership of the NZSA is not a requirement, but we aim to encourage membership, especially amongst younger writers.

From Robyn Prokop:

I have been proud to serve as a committee member and chairperson for the Top of the South branch. Over the past five years I have been impressed and encouraged by my fellow committee members. My move to Australia has made my resignation necessary, but I will always cherish the relationships I have developed, both personally and for my writing career. I will be watching with interest as the branch continues to flourish.

NZSA Wellington Wairarapa Chair Report for AGM 2023/2024

For NZSA Wellington Branch (including Wellington Writers Walk), 2023 has been a year of reviewing and refocussing and holding the fort, while also celebrating our treasures and exploring new initiatives.

Branch committee

The April 2023 branch AGM saw chair Jana Mittelstaedt, treasurer Kate Clark, and committee members Constance Talbot and AJ Manson step down. All other members of the committee (Linda Hansen [secretary], Shani Naylor [comms officer], Tasha Haines, Tanya Ashcroft, Helena Andrews and Tracy Farr) were re-elected, with two new committee members added: Susan Koster (treasurer) and Maya Cohen-Ronen.

With no nominations for the key role of branch chair, Wellington/Wairarapa regional representative Tracy Farr agreed to act as branch chair in an interim capacity until a permanent officeholder took on the role. Tracy has continued as acting branch chair for the past year. We acknowledge with gratitude the continuing support and careful attention of outgoing treasurer Kate Clark as we worked through handover during 2023.

Branch secretary Linda Hansen and branch treasurer Susan Koster will be standing down from their roles, and from the committee, at the 2024 branch AGM (15 April). We thank them both for their mahi – particularly Linda, who has been branch secretary for three years. We have received strongly-supported nominations for the offices of branch chair, treasurer and secretary, so the branch looks set to head into 2024/25 with an energised and refreshed committee.

Membership and finances

The past year has seen membership numbers ebb and flow around an average of 350 across our region (wider Wellington, Kāpiti Coast and Wairarapa).

After a disappointing 2022 Christmas function and auction – formerly the branch's major fundraising activity for the year – we did not hold a Christmas auction in 2023, and we are exploring other fundraising options. Despite the lack of a fundraising activity, branch finances are in good health, and we ended the financial year roughly breaking even for the branch accounts. The Wellington Writers Walk accounts were bolstered by a generous donation mid-year from Walk Wellington (bit.ly/WALKWellington), acknowledged with thanks.

Wellington Writers Walk

As Wellington Writers Walk turned 21 in 2023, a highlight of the year was working with Wellington City Libraries on a series of videos of some of the sculptures, with voiceover by Maggie Rainey-Smith and Pippa Werry. The videos are hosted on the library blog (with links to books by that author in the library collection) and YouTube channel – find them collected online at bit.ly/WWW-WCL-blog.

The same library team worked with the Walk committee on an event at Kārori Library in May, with Dame Fiona Kidman and Elizabeth Knox in discussion with Tanya Ashcroft, to celebrate the Walk's 21st birthday. Several previous committee members were able to join the celebration, while others sent their apologies and were disappointed to miss it.

The Writers Walk committee continues to work towards the creation of a new sculpture in te reo Māori, working closely with WCC staff and local iwi.

During 2023, Rosemary Wildblood and Tina Makereti stepped down from the Writers Walk committee – huge thanks to both for their mahi. Mid-2023, Shani Naylor and Tracy Farr joined Tanya Ashcroft, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Geraldine Baumann and Pippa Werry (chair) on the Writers Walk committee. The committee see themselves as kaitiaki or guardians of the Walk, with the privilege of helping to look after what has become a much-loved part of the Wellington waterfront.

Programme of events

During 2023, the branch delivered a full programme, kicking off with guest speaker Cristina Sanders at our April AGM. In June, we invited Pippa Werry and Redmer Yska to discuss their recent books *Iris and Me* and *Katherine Mansfield's Europe: Station to Station*, in a session considering the challenges and delights of historical research. We're grateful to GOOD BOOKS for hosting this session, and sorry to see this excellent independent bookstore closing in 2024.

In June, Tracy (acting branch chair) and Pippa (Wellington Writers Walk chair) met with Caleb Gordon, City Gallery Wellington, to discuss the possibility of working with the Gallery on a poetry event for National Poetry Day on Friday 25 August. Wellington Branch and Wellington Writers Walk collaborated to run a competition (POETS ON THE WRITERS WALK) as well as a Poetry Day Salon at the Gallery to announce and celebrate the winners. The competition and salon were made possible by two successful applications for funding, from WCC Venues Subsidy fund, and from Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, for which we're grateful.

The competition attracted media attention and interest from new and established poets, and was a fitting celebration of the Walk in its 21st year. Caleb was very pleased with how the event went and we hope this might lead to more collaborations with City Gallery Wellington in the future.

In October 2023 we held a well-attended Book Showcase at Unity Books Wellington, at which 15 NZSA members had the chance to introduce their recently-published books to an enthusiastic audience. The showcase has proven to be a popular fixture in our calendar, and host and co-ordinator Maya Cohen-Ronen was key to the success of this year's event.

November saw the launch of Pens & PJs, a new initiative supported by NZSA Wellington Branch. This monthly writing group meeting is for young writers, aged 18-29, and is led by Youth Representative on the NZSA board, Helena Andrews. A national initiative (open to

young writers around Aotearoa via Zoom), this group has its feet firmly in Pōneke, meeting at Wellington Writers' Studio on Cuba Street.

Also in November, we marked Courage Day by offering an online workshop, On Freedom, Courage & Conviction. This participatory writing workshop was open to writers in any and all forms (poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction), and was devised and led by committee member Tasha Haines.

The branch, as always, provides support for national NZSA initiatives. Notably, we mobilised volunteers to support NZSA President of Honour Witi Ihimaera's Janet Frame Memorial Lecture for 2023, *Wetewete te Wheke! Release the Kraken!*, held on 9 November in the auditorium at Te Ahumairangi National Library of New Zealand, as part of Wellington's VERB Festival 2023.

Overall, event attendance in 2023 continued to be steady, though (as was noted in 2022) a little lower than in previous pre-COVID years. We noted that the Poetry Day competition and salon reached a wider and different audience than many of our other initiatives. To try to broaden our reach, in addition to in-person events, we also offered digital content, such as the workshop for Courage Day, as well as hybrid events (2023 AGM, Pens & PJs). In 2023 we added Instagram accounts for NZSA Wellington Branch as well as for Pens & PJs.

Challenges and opportunities ahead

We've kicked off 2024 with Pens & PJs ongoing each month, and a well-attended Emerging Writers Open Mic event in March. With the loss of Vic Books Pipitea (our regular events venue for a number of years prior to its closure in May 2022), though, we have struggled to settle on a regular – and, importantly, accessible – venue for branch events. We've used the opportunity to explore a range of different venues, large and small.

We look forward to supporting NZSA national initiatives in (or near!) our region, including the inaugural wananga held by Te Kāhui Māori at Ōrongomai Marae in early May 2024, as well as roadshows and other events.

We look to strengthen our relationships and engagement beyond central and suburban Wellington, and consider how might we reach across our wider region, particularly to writers in Wairarapa and those on the Kāpiti coast.

Looking back at a year in which the branch was necessarily in somewhat of a holding pattern, with only an acting chair in office, we nonetheless achieved much, and explored new initiatives. We look forward with excitement to the coming year, with a new chair in place.

Tracy Farr

Acting/interim chair, NZSA Wellington Branch

(with contribution from **Philippa Werry**, chair of Wellington Writers Walk)

March 2024

SUMMARY – Wellington Branch events and initiatives

Events in 2023

Date	Title, details	Speakers	Venue
3 Apr 2023	Branch AGM with guest Cristina Sanders	Cristina Sanders	In person at Toi Pōneke, and via Zoom
13 May 2023	Wellington Writers Walk panel event, celebrating 21 years	Dame Fiona Kidman + Elizabeth Knox (w/ chair Tanya Ashcroft)	Kārori Library (recorded by WCL, bit.ly/WWW-21-Kidman-Knox)
21 Jun 2023	TICKET TO WRITE: An evening with Philippa Werry & Redmer Yska	Pippa Werry + Redmer Yska (w/ chair Tracy Farr)	GOOD BOOKS
August 2023	POETS ON THE WRITERS WALK poetry competition	Poetry Day Competition, in collaboration with WWW, judge Janis Freegard	n/a
25 August 2023	POETS ON THE WRITERS WALK salon (comp announcement / award)	Guests Dame Fiona Kidman, Janis Freegard, Pippa Werry (w/ host Tracy Farr)	Adam Auditorium, City Gallery
18 October 2023	Book Showcase	Wellington members introduce their recent books (w/ host Maya Cohen-Ronen)	Unity Books
1 November 2023	Pens & PJs	Inaugural meet-up for young writers (aged 18-29), led by Helena Andrews	Wellington Writers' Studio, and via Zoom
15 November 2023	On Freedom, Courage & Conviction: an online workshop for Courage Day	Writing workshop for NZSA members, Courage Day themes, devised and led by Tasha Haines	Online only (via Zoom)
4 December 2023	Pens & PJs	Monthly meet-up for young writers, led by Helena Andrews	Wellington Writers' Studio, and via Zoom

Events in early 2024

Date	Title, details	Speakers	Venue
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Monthly, first Wednesday of the month	Pens & PJs	Monthly meet-up for young writers, led by Helena Andrews	Wellington Writers' Studio, and via Zoom
14 March 2024	Emerging Writers Open Mic	Members read from WIP + recent work (w/ host Helena Andrews)	Wellington Writers' Studio
15 April 2024	Branch AGM with guest Gigi Fenster	Gigi Fenster	Online only (via Zoom)

Wellington Writers Walk

Annual report 2024

A highlight of 2023 for us was working with Neil Johnstone and Tess Mehonoshen at Wellington City Libraries (WCL) on a series of videos of some of the sculptures on the Walk, filmed and edited by them with voiceover by committee members Maggie and Pippa. The videos are hosted on the library blog (with links to books by that author in the library collection) and Youtube channel, eg

<https://www.wcl.govt.nz/blog/index.php/2023/06/18/wellington-writers-walk-21st-anniversary-patricia-grace/>

We worked with the same library team on a panel event at Karori Library on Saturday 13 May, chaired by Tanya, with Dame Fiona Kidman and Elizabeth Knox, to celebrate the Walk's 21st birthday. We invited previous committee members to join us, and several did while others sent their apologies and were disappointed to miss it. A recording of this event is also available on the WCL blog and Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2lftSAZrzM>

In June, Tracy and Pippa met with Caleb Gordon, City Gallery Wellington, to discuss the possibility of working with the Gallery on a poetry event. This was made possible by a successful application for Wellington Venues Subsidy funding. For National Poetry Day on Friday 25 August, we organised a competition ("Poets on the Writers Walk") and held a Poetry Day Salon to announce the winners at the Gallery.

The competition attracted media attention and interest from new and established poets, and Tracy put in a huge amount of effort to make everything run seamlessly on the night. Caleb was very pleased with how the event went and we hope this might lead to more collaborations in the future.

Our new website is working well and we continue to hold regular committee meetings either in person (at Te Awe Library meeting rooms and the Wellington Writers Studio) or by zoom, with email discussions in-between meetings. We are also maintaining our relationship with Wellington City Council, in particular Greg Cairns, Public Arts and Heritage Specialist, as WCC is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the sculptures once installed.

We continue to work towards the creation of a new sculpture in te reo Māori, working closely with WCC staff and local iwi. On Friday 1 September, Geraldine and Tracy met with Jeremiah Boniface and David Hakaraia, possible designers, and the following week, Pippa and Geraldine met with WCC staff to do a walk-around of possible sites.

Our current committee is Tanya Ashcroft, Geraldine Baumann, Tracy Farr, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Shani Naylor and myself (as Chair). We see ourselves as kaitiaki or guardians of the Walk with the privilege of helping to look after what has become a much-loved part of the Wellington waterfront.

Philippa Werry - Chair, Wellington Writers Walk committee

NZSA Central Districts Annual Report – to December 2023

After the impact of the devastating floods of February 2023 East Coast and Hawke's Bay communities are continuing to rebuild and restore shattered lives. To all the writers who have picked up their pens and kept moving on paper after this disaster, you have our respect. And another big thanks to CD member, author Mary-Anne Scott, who with others organised a very successful fundraising drive to buy books to replenish the school libraries which had been damaged by the storm and its aftermath.

Central Districts has long been a difficult territory to cover but you have an enthusiastic and supportive committee with representation from East Coast to Taranaki and major points in between, and this year we have made some things really work. Often it has been the simple things – like a social gathering opportunity at a festival – which work best.

In February Committee member/treasurer Mikaela Nyman helped set up the exhibition and book launch in New Plymouth of the art book 'Proof' which has had a rolling 'launch' in different parts of the country. This was a combined NZ Print Council, NZSA and Might Could event. During the year Mikaela was named as the Robert Burns Fellowship recipient for 2024.

In March we offered an online workshop in flash fiction with Heather McQuillan which encouraged members to enter national flash fiction competitions.

In September the first writers workshop was held in Rekohu Chatham Islands organised by Regina de Wolf-Ngarimu with the island's tourism manager Jackie Gurden. What a success! New voices from the islands mingled with incomers from the mainland and everyone enjoyed warm hospitality and the sights and sounds of this exceptional place.

In October we held a casual 'Meet the Writers' event in Havelock North ahead of the first session of the Readers and Writers section of the Hawke's Bay Arts Festival. Some of the feature writers attended and this proved to be a successful format for NZSA branch events.

Palmerston North is the geographic centre of the Central Districts writers universe so we held a very successful workshop there in November. Finding Your Voice was a theme suggested by a Manawatu member and our thanks to Mikaela Nyman and Thom Conroy for provided their tutoring expertise. The socialising during and after added to the experience! We announced our usual summer writing competition at the end of the year – building on the idea of ‘voice’ and memoir we experienced at Palmerston North- and again we received high quality writing early in 2024 for judge Shelley Byrne-Field to decide on.

A big thanks to committee members Robyn Salisbury and Peter Cleave who, in the latter part of the year, have been helping organise the NZSA Roadshow in Palmerston scheduled for June 2024. Also looking ahead, in Taraiwhiti, Regina de Wolf-Ngarimu has been involved in bringing together Māori writers into a focused NZSA group, looking to a launch in 2025.

During the year we promoted a number of arts festivals and book launches in Central Districts. And we aim to keep connected to local book stores and the fabulous people who keep us fed with words.

It was an unusual, devastating and yet encouraging year, and it’s been great meeting more members at events, and having more people sign up to NZSA too. Hopefully we can get to more events in 2024.

Finances

A full financial statement will come from NZSA main office. We spent more than we took in from entry/workshop fees, but we were testing new events and gaining a better idea of interest and cost. We were grateful that some tutors charged a reduced or no fee. Travel was calculated at the IRD rate.

Income	
Workshop fees and competition fees	\$550.00
NZSA Capitation	\$217.80
Bank interest	\$59.94

Total INCOME	\$827.74
Less Operating Expenses	
Workshop fee – flash fiction	\$180.00
Assistance for Taranaki flash fiction event	\$306.60
Prizes for competitions	\$80.00
Catering for HB event	\$294.35
PN workshop fee & travel – Nyman	\$652.50
Total Expenses	\$1441.45
Opening balance	\$3267.83
Plus Net Cash movement	(\$685.71)
Closing balance	\$2582.12

Waikato Writers – Waikato Branch of NZ Society of Authors

2023 annual report by Lee Kimber (current Chair)

Date of report 7 June 2024

Branch Waikato Writers

Report by Lee Kimber, current Chair

AGM 18 February 2023

Elected and confirmed the following roles:

President Lee Kimber

Treasurer Jeff Taylor

Secretary Imé Corkery

Committee Peter Dornauf, Norman Franke, Cristina Schumacher, Mike Burns

NZSA queries

Did your membership increase or decrease from January - December 2023?

We do not charge our members or our attendees fees, so there is no requirement to 'join.' As a result, we do not have an official membership.

How many Branch meetings were held in the year January - December 2023?

Eleven official meetings, including the Roadshow in October, run by NZSA, and a joint meeting with Hamilton Book Month in August.

What was the average percentage of your membership attending Branch meetings in 2023?

We do not have an official membership, so cannot calculate a percentage. Generally, 12 - 20 people attend our regular monthly meetings.

Name the hubs in your region, if any, and how many meetings each hub had in January – December 2023. N/A

Name the workshops/presentations/other deliveries which took place in 2023

January - WW does not hold a meeting in January.

February – AGM, and guest speaker and exercise facilitator was Alex Lodge, playwright, performer and educator.

March - Pegasus Award was presented to Tracey Slaughter, who spoke and facilitated writing exercises.

April - Peter Dornauf spoke and facilitated exercises to help people analyse and practice quality writing through discussion and exercises.

May - Our presenter was CC Davies, a prolific writer of sapphic fantasy.

June - Caroline Barron, inspiring writer, having an award-winning memoir, as well as other work under her belt, was an engaging and encouraging speaker inspiring our members.

July - Poetry competition. 'Poetic Lives' run by Aimee-Jane Anderson-O'Connor.

August - In conjunction with Hamilton Book Month, Kyle Mewburn, a children's author as well as memoir writer was in conversation with Feana Tu'akoi.

September - Imé Corkery, writer, poet – The Retelling of Greek myths

October - Roadshow. This was organised and funded by NZSA but strongly supported by WW committee members on the day.

November - Prose competition

December - Guest presenter was Vaughan Rapatahana, also fun writing activities were facilitated by Peter Dornauf. Meeting was held in the city library due to Trust Waikato being closed .

Proposed plan for 2024

February - AGM and a presentation about environmental writing by Peter Thomas, author of 'How to Save a Forest.'

March - Presentation of Pegasus Award to Aimee-Jane Anderson-O'Connor, by Tracey Slaughter, and creative exercises presented by Imé Corkery and Aimee.

April - Norman Franke presentation on the writing of Franz Kafka, the context of his work, and a related exercise.

May - Presentation and workshop on the art of zine crafting, a combination of craft, art and writing with Brittany Rose.

June - Romance writing, and successful publishing with Enni Amanda

July - Poetry competition

August - in conjunction with Hamilton Book Month, presentation by Ben Brown, current Writer-in- Residence at Waikato

September - Presentation with Deborah Challinor

October - To be arranged

November - Prose competition

December - To be arranged

Auckland Branch Annual Report March 2024

We held the Auckland Branch speaker events monthly at The Coffee Club until June 2023. From then on, we held the speaker events online via Zoom. We organised in-person network meetings at Freemans Bay School staffroom, as it had ample parking and was much bigger and quieter. Before making those big changes, we asked members to tell us what they wanted from the meetings. The majority were keen for more Zoom meetings, and most were keen to move away from The Coffee Club because it was too noisy and didn't give us enough space. Many said parking was a real problem for them, too. We paid \$100-\$150* per session for the venue. Attendees usually numbered around 30. (*At first, we only hired it for two hours each time but realised we needed more time. Now we're hiring it for three hours at \$50 per hour.) Current number of Auckland branch members is 608 members in Auckland, but our subscribers list for the branch gazette is 1,127. We routinely have 56% of those subscribers engage with the gazette (631 people).

Maria Gill continues as Chair, as do Drazen Milosevic as treasurer and Melinda Szymanik as regional delegate. Kit Willett started as secretary from February 2023 onward.

In addition, several other members make up an informal committee, who meet monthly online to discuss branch matters. This consists of Suzanne Weld, Vivienne Lingard, Arezou Zalipour, Christine Sheehy (resigned at end of 2023), Jade de Preez (resigned at end of 2023) and Sarah McCallum. Anita Arlov (resigned mid-2023), and Adrian Blackburn and Bernard Brown (became honorary members).

Branch Meetings: Auckland Branch has monthly meetings (excluding a holiday break in January) on the first Wednesday of the month via Zoom and 3-4 times in-person at the networking meetings at Freemans Bay School.

Monthly meetings with guest speakers in 2023:

February 3: Panel of publishers – Bateman Books, One Tree House, White Cloud Books

March 3: Romance Revelry – Michele Powles, Rosetta Allan, Chelsey Furedi

March 31: Where memoir & Fiction blur – Vivienne Lingard and Caroline Barron

May 3: Moa Books and their latest authors

May 31: Writing comedy: Michele A'Court

July 5: A medical approach – Dr Lauren Roche, Dr Robyn Kelly, Dr Emma Espiner

August 2: Trio of Poets – Kit Willett, Siobhan Harvey, Trish Veltman

September 6: Science Fiction/Fantasy Writers 'Creating new worlds' – Lee Murray and David Hair

October 4: Being culturally respectful – Arezou Zalipour and Steph Makutu

November 1: Crime Writers ‘Wicked Pens’ – Madeleine Roberts/Eskedahl, Fiona Sussman and Vanya Symon

December 6: Auction and Graeme Lay short story competition (network meeting).

Up to June 2023, we had the monthly meetings in-person at The Coffee Club. From May onward, we had all the speaker events via Zoom and booked the Freemans Bay School for three networking events on Saturday 22nd July, Saturday 7 October, and 2 December.

The Empty Chair: Suzanne Weld, our PEN representative, presented a persecuted writer at each meeting.

Graeme Lay Short Story Competition: Auckland Branch ran this again in December 2023 and had 74 entries from around the country. Christine Sheehy organised the competition, and Kit Willett and Maria Gill whittled the entries down to ten for Graeme Lay to judge. Auckland Branch provided the cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 for first, second, and third place. We’d like to raise the entry price in 2024 from \$10 to \$20 so it pays for itself. The winners, announced in November, were:

First Place: Angela King for her story ‘Stargazing’

Second Place: Susie Winter for her story ‘The Hermit Crab’

Third Place: Vivienne Bailey for her story ‘Angst and Vexation’

Highly Commended and Shortlisted: Joseph Janiszewski, Kirstie Mackey and Averil Robertson - highly commended stories, and Averil Robertson, Stella Carruthers, Marina Lathouraki and Susan Ronn - shortlisted stories.

Fund Raising: In 2023 we held an auction on December 6. We raised \$2442.00 from the auction and raffle held on the night. The rare book sold for \$550. We’ve decided we’ll run an auction every two years so that we don’t wear out our sponsors.

Auckland Branch NZSA Facebook page: This continues to be a great way to communicate our activities to the NZSA membership and to the wider public. Vivienne Lingard was the communications person and she posted more regular updates, event notices, new books, etc, on the Facebook page. We also started an Auckland Branch NZSA private group page where members could access recordings of the speaker events.

Maria Gill, Branch Chair 1 March 2023



Northland Branch Chairperson's Report 2023 AGM

We started the year off with the sudden and very sad loss of Fran Lawrence, an active and positive member of the branch.

In May we had the opening of our annual short story competition. With increasing entries and a fantastic team of judges, sponsors, and organisers spearheaded by Di, it was another success with the open category being won by Eddie Williams for *Lost on the River*. I am looking forward to seeing the upward trend of our fundraising endeavour this year!

2022 continued an up and down trend of unpredictability in relation to Covid, but we managed to have a few successful events around the region. The first being the Whāngarei Roadshow hosted by Head Office May 28th, which was a wonderful time to get together and meet up with fellow writers for a bit of professional development.

We had a writer's retreat in August, that was nearly a success, with a couple having to withdraw because of work commitments, and another unable to make it because of flooding. I hope to find the time to organise another this year, possibly at a nicer time of the year.

Our website has been updated beautifully and we have a Facebook page, as well as a Facebook group for members. A huge thank you Kathy, Justine D and Trish for repairing, updating, maintaining, and rolling out the updated look.

Zoom continues to be offered at all meetings for those who can't attend in person (within the limitations of Northland's very patchy wifi). It was decided during the year to have hybrid meetings when we meet in person, which we will do three to four times a year, and the rest to be via Zoom, held monthly every second Thursday at 6:30pm.

Congratulations everyone who has managed to write, create, and keep going during these challenging and ever-changing times. It's awesome to see members' tenacity and sheer resilience while the world continues to be a little bit crazy! A massive congrats to all members who have managed to publish and have in person launches and writing events.

Our branch, as well as national membership, has continued its steady increase over the past year, despite the many challenges faced, and the members we have sadly lost.

Again, I would like to take this time to give a huge, heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful committee members. Without your dedication, energy, knowledge and support throughout my term as Chairperson, this branch would not have run as smoothly, particularly with the

many personal distractions I have had! Also, a big thank you to Susan and now Melinda, for keeping us in the loop with what is happening on a national level. Tēnā koe.

Justine Baddeley

Report to NZSA National Office

New Zealand Book Awards Trust: *Prepared by Melinda Szymanik – 08 April 2024*

Introduction:

Since the last report on the activities of the New Zealand Book Awards Trust was filed with the New Zealand Society of Authors on March 31st 2023, the Trust has held four board meetings (in May, October, December and March). I attended all meetings except the December one as the NZSA representative on the NZBAT board. The board's various subcommittees have all been busy on their portfolios in and around those board meetings. This report includes:

- Summary of 2023 National Poetry Day
- Summary of 2023 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards and an update on the 2024 Awards
- Summary of the 2023 NZCYA Awards and an update on 2024 Awards
- General Business

Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day 2023

- The 26th celebration included events from Whangārei to Ōtepoti, with most events scheduled to be held in person rather than online, which was an exciting change from the previous few years. There was poetry on pavements, in basements, in the National Library, in schools, in airports, in cafes, libraries, museums, and in parks. Quizzes, school visits, workshops, limerick competitions, zine-making, slam poetry, walking poem prompts, poem meditation sessions, art gallery inspiration tours, readings, and much more took place in a day that was jampacked with poetry everywhere!
- Event registrations reached 120, and it was estimated that approximately 5-6000 people participated in events around Aotearoa.
- Over twenty competitions provided a range of opportunities for poets to enter. Given Words reported a record number of entries and the new competition for children's writers, Drop by Drop, was very popular.
- We collaborated again with Red Room Poetry in Australia, to share poet readings from our winning poets at the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2023 and our Poet Laureate. In return, we shared readings from three Australian poets. This was a good opportunity especially to share the poetry of the Mary and Peter Biggs Award for Poetry winner Alice Te Punga Somerville who is based in Canada and was therefore

unavailable for live readings. These videos were very popular, some of the most viewed for the day on the NPD Facebook page.

- Once again Phantom Billstickers ran a marvelous poster campaign with a poem from each finalist. This is a very special endeavor and such a boost for poetry in Aotearoa New Zealand as well as for the finalists themselves, raising awareness of the Ockhams, the poets, and Aotearoa poetry.

Ockham New Zealand Book Awards

- After three challenging years during which the pandemic impacted on some or all aspects of the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards campaign, the New Zealand Book Awards Trust was able to deliver a complete, memorable, and triumphant programme in ideal circumstances. Many have said that the 2023 awards night was the best event for years.
- Some 3900 people watched the awards ceremony, either in person at the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre or via livestreams on NZHerald.co.nz, YouTube and Facebook. Every New Zealand TV outlet covered the winners, with TVNZ 1 and Three crews attending the ceremony for their late news, and winners interviewed on TVNZ Breakfast, Three's The AM Show, Māori Television Te Ao news, and TVNZ's Te Karere. TV, radio and print coverage exceeded previous results with an audience reach estimated at well over 10 million. British publishing personality John Mitchinson, international guest judge of the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction, described the Ockhams to his extensive social media following as "a high quality and inspiring literary occasion (that) puts most UK book prize ceremonies to shame."
- Sales of the 2023 shortlisted titles generated over \$420,000 in revenue for booksellers, more than 50 percent up on 2022.
- There were 172 entries for the 2024 awards.
- The 2024 longlist of 44 titles (14 in General Non-Fiction and 10 in each other category) was announced on 1 February, and the 16 finalists revealed on 6 March.
- The international fiction judge for 2024 is Natalie Haynes, an English internationally bestselling author, classicist, broadcaster and stand-up comedian, who will be appearing at the 2024 Auckland Writers Festival.

New Zealand Children's and Young Adults Book Awards

- The 2023 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults campaign was the most impactful and wide-ranging on record, particularly in terms of the all-important engagement with tamariki and rangatahi. 15 schools from around the country contributed to the judging process in children's panels that read and reviewed books entered for the 2023 awards. A record 70 videos were entered in the Back-a-Book Challenge, an innovative way for school children to engage with the awards and promote the finalist books. And the Books Alive programme extended

out to two centres for the first time since 2019, putting finalist authors in front of more than 1150 students from 39 schools.

- The shortlist and winner announcements created significant sales spikes. Income from the average weekly sales of the shortlist titles almost doubled following the finalist announcement, then more than doubled again in the week of the awards ceremony.
- A very successful media campaign provided sustained coverage throughout the campaign, with print and radio performing well, and prominent features on TV3's The Project, TVNZ's Breakfast and What's Now, and Whakaata Māori. 52,000 copies of the finalist booklet, along with other promotional material, were widely distributed to bookshops and libraries, and 35,000 booklets inserted into NZ Listener.
- A memorable ceremony, held in a new venue - Wellington's Pipitea Marae - and again MC'd by Jase Te Patu, was very warmly received.
- The award-associated HELL Reading Challenge celebrated its tenth year by breaking all previous records, with 312,000 pizza wheels distributed to 649 schools and 189 public libraries nationwide (cf. 310,000 pizza wheels sent out in 2022 and 257,592 wheels in 2021). Ten thousand rangatahi from around the motu heard from NZCYA award winners in online author events held as part of HELL's Great NZ Book Trip.
- The Trust considers itself very fortunate to have retained its loyal whānau of funders for another year but was deeply saddened by the sudden death in September 2023 of Chloe Wright, founder of the Wright Family Foundation and a great supporter of the awards.
- In December the selection of judges for 2024 was confirmed, with five in the general panel and four in Te Kura Pounamu, with the 2023 Margaret Mahy Supreme winner, Mat Tait sitting on both panels.
- 2024 entries are up on 2023 with final numbers at 175 (153 for the previous year, and 199 in 2022). The increase is across all categories, with 142 books submitted in total.
- Judging is well under way with the finalist announcement to be made on June 6th.
- With additional funding for 2024 secured from a Mātātuhi Foundation grant, the Books Alive programme will be expanding to three centres this year. Events are again planned for Wellington on Awards Day, August 14, and with WORD in Christchurch on August 9th, with the addition of Invercargill as a third centre, on August 7th.
- For the Hell Reading Challenge, 175,000 reading wheels have already been sent out in the month since the challenge opened, potentially setting the Challenge up for a new record year.

General Business

- Trustees Jenna Todd (Booksellers rep) and Claire Murdoch (PANZ rep) resigned from their trustee roles during 2023 and the Trust welcomed Renée Rowland and Suzy Maddox in their place.
- The update of the Trust Deed, which will allow the appointment of a ninth trustee, will be completed and the new trustee on board before the end of 2024.
- Nicola Legat continues as Board Chair, Garth Biggs as Treasurer, and Melinda Szymanik as Secretary.
- Current subcommittees memberships:
 - CYA*: Melinda Szymanik (convenor), Nicola Legat, Rachael King, Laura Caygill
 - Ockhams*: Nicola Legat (convenor), Suzy Maddox, Rachael King, Renée Rowland
 - NPD*: Richard Pamatatau (convenor), Renée Rowland, Melinda Szymanik
 - Sponsorship*: Nicola Legat (convenor), Richard Pamatatau, with occasional assistance from Rachael King as required
 - Finance*: Garth Biggs (Treasurer and convenor), Nicola Legat
 - Tikanga*: Laura Caygill (convenor), Suzy Maddox

PLR report for 2023 year

Things were slow on the formal ratification of our two new NZSA representatives on the Public Lending Right Advisory Group (PLRAG), Sherryl Clark and Anna Mackenzie, but this was finally accomplished in September 2023, in time for a Zoom meeting that allowed all members of the Group to touch base after a lengthy hiatus, to farewell and thank Kyle Mewburn, who had chaired the Group for the previous four years, and to appoint a new chair, Anna Mackenzie. The Group's other members include staff from DIA, National Library and MBIE.

A subsequent informal meeting between Anna Mackenzie, Mark Crookston (DIA), NZSA CEO Jenny Nagle and NZSA President Vanda Symon (who were in Wellington for another event) provided a worthwhile relationship-building opportunity.

The news remains much as ever: while the PLRAG is in broad agreement about what needs to change in the scheme, no significant change is possible under the current, restrictively written legislation. For the legislation to be amended, ministerial support is required, and has not yet been forthcoming. While it seems unlikely we will see significant advances on this in the near future, we will continue to work on developing a blueprint for the change that is required to ensure a scheme that is as fair as possible to all authors, that recognises the changes that have occurred within the industry since the legislation was drafted, and that keeps us in line with international PLR schemes. We will continue to argue for an inflation-adjusted fund, digital lending rights, ELR, an accurate and reliable count system, and adjustment of the minimum book count to better reflect industry reality. At the same time, any tweaking that can be done within the confines of the legislation is slowly being implemented.

Anna Mackenzie (chair, NZSA rep)

Sherryl Clark (NZSA rep)

PEN Report for 2023-4

This year I wrote an article for *The Author* about an initiative based around preserving indigenous language through poetry videos. Robert Sullivan produced the first Māori poem for this on their second production. They now plan to do a fresh production every year, with new poets each time, but expanding the number of languages where they can. I've contacted a Niue language group I did a workshop for and they are planning to do the first Niuean podcast for them which is great news. Meanwhile we have our second Māori poem going up, done by Vaughan Rapatahana, and I look forward to seeing it.

I'm still getting the weekly Myanmar reports, and I'm now sharing them with my doctor, who's a Myanmar native, and also an activist for peace in Myanmar. I would imagine they are therefore getting shared more in the Myanmar expat community through her which is good for everyone.

I got some lovely feedback from the latest article I did for *The Author*, on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and this makes up for the rather vitriolic feedback I got for the Cuban article. I'd like to say here that Tina Shaw's stalwart support through all that was what kept me going, and I'm very grateful.

We've had a couple of Rapid Action Network appeals lately, which several writers have responded to. I've also gained a couple of new letter writers in the past year, which is good news. The layout is a bit different now, and a lot more of the information is on the website rather than embodied in the emails, but I'm getting the hang of that.

Last week I got an invitation to a Wellington book launch from the refugee I helped last year. He was passed on to me by PEN Australia because he had ended up here with no support. I first got my sister to meet him and suss out what help he needed. Then NZSA gave him a free membership so he could access support from Wellington branch, and Cuba Press gave him space in their office for writing. Now he has a book launch which is wonderful news. I'm so grateful for the willing and immediate help he got from NZSA and Cuba Press because there wasn't a lot I could do from up here. My sister hopes to attend the book launch, and I hope she does.

Lesley Marshall

Making books more visible to more New Zealanders

2023 Report to Members



Message from the Chair

2023 was a huge year for The Coalition! Financial security through substantial Creative New Zealand and Ministry of Culture and Heritage/Manatū Taonga Regeneration funding enabled the biggest calendar of book promotions yet and, for the first time, in-person events. Still only four years young and with a pandemic well-navigated, The Coalition pleasingly finished the year with a small reserve to carry forward. And all overseen by our new manager Kirsteen Ure who joined us in late March – and whose contribution and impact have been significant.

Our membership grew to 51 organisations and we enjoyed the highest participation yet across our annual hui in July/August. Over 60 individuals gave their contribution and time across seven meetings. The feedback gathered through these discussions continues to help with planning and priority-setting. It's heartening to know that our important kaupapa of making books more visible in Aotearoa, promotional gap-filling and building book sector resilience is supported so widely within the sector.



MELANIE LAVILLE-MOORE

Chair



Alongside promotional efforts, other highlights included The Coalition’s receipt of the Innovation Award at the NZ Book Industry Awards. This was recognition of, and is testament to, the collaboration that we all believe in so strongly. Game-changing work commenced on digital marketing upskilling for 20 individuals from the world of books, and there is a major rebuild of our Kete Books website underway. 2024 comes with the promise of so much more!

We hope you enjoy reading this snapshot of Coalition impact. In an otherwise mixed year for book retailing, we note that 2023 saw growth in New Zealand fiction sales especially, and that the eco-system supporting these feels more resilient. We’re proud of the contribution that the Coalition has made and continues to make, to sustain this. Our thanks too to you, our members for the significant part you play in our efforts.

Coalition for Books Board 2023

Chair

MELANIE LAVILLE-MOORE

Michael King Writers Centre, Allen & Unwin New Zealand

Deputy Chair

JULIET BLYTH

Read New Zealand Te Pou Muramura

Officers

KIRAN DASS

Word Christchurch Festival

CATRIONA FERGUSON

formerly Publishers Association of New Zealand

NICOLA LEGAT

NZ Book Awards Trust, Massey University Press

PAULA MORRIS

(NGĀTI WAI, NGĀTI WHĀTUA, NGĀTI MANUHIRI)

Academy of New Zealand Literature, Aotearoa NZ Review of Books, Wharerangi

JENNY NAGLE

NZ Society of Authors

MARY WADSWORTH

Booksellers New Zealand

Coalition for Books Team

Coalition for Books Manager

KIRSTEEN URE

Kete Books Editor

DIONNE CHRISTIAN

(to November 2023)

Kete Books re-build Project Manager

EMMA RAWSON

Statement of Financial Performance

The Coalition for Books Incorporated For the year ended 31 December 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
Revenue			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	164,300	80,000
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	1	19,688	17,633
Revenue from providing goods or services	1	21,609	28,006
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	6,224	596
Total Revenue		211,820	126,235
Expenses			
Costs related to providing goods or service	2	184,436	128,958
Other expenses	2	4,016	11,419
Total Expenses		188,451	140,377
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		23,369	(14,142)

Statement of Financial Position

The Coalition for Books Incorporated As at 31 December 2023

	NOTES	31 DEC 2023	31 DEC 2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	272,025	36,964
Debtors and prepayments	3	6,152	10,656
Tax Refund Due	3	1,986	243
GST		-	2,111
Total Current Assets		280,162	49,974
Total Assets		280,162	49,974
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	1,735	11,903
Income Received in Advance		210,700	-
Goods and services tax		6,288	-
Total Current Liabilities		218,723	11,903
Total Liabilities		218,723	11,903
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		61,440	38,071
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	5	61,440	38,071
Total Accumulated Funds		61,440	38,071

Membership & professional development

The Coalition for Books is a strong collective of organisations with extensive reach across the book sector of Aotearoa.

- Membership expanded to **51 organisations**.
- All parts of the sector are now represented, including libraries for the first time.
- Annual Winter Hui featured seven Zoom events and included 63 participants – many attended two or three sessions.
- A bespoke book digital marketing programme commenced in November 2023, and will run through till June 2024. There are 20 participants including booksellers, publishers, festivals and libraries. The course aims to lift knowledge and capacity and to encourage greater collaboration amongst book sector professionals tasked with growing the readership for New Zealand books.



Coalition for Books Members

Academy of New Zealand Literature | Te Whare Mātātūhi o Aotearoa
 The Aotearoa New Zealand Review of Books Allen & Unwin New Zealand Ltd Aspiring Conversations Auckland University Press
 Auckland Writers Festival | Waituhi o Tāmaki Bateman Books Beatnik Publishing Booksellers New Zealand Cloud Ink Press
 The Commuting Book Copyright Licensing New Zealand Denika Mead Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature | Ōtepoti - He Puna Auaha
 Dunedin Writers & Readers Festival Going West Writers Festival Hachette Aotearoa New Zealand HarperCollins New Zealand Kate
 Gordon Smith | Relish Books Lee Murray Mākaro Press Mary Egan Publishing Massey University Press Mātātūhi Foundation Michael
 King Writers Centre Mila's Books Moira Wairama | Baggage Books Nielsen Book New Zealand New Zealand Book Awards Trust New
 Zealand Society of Authors | Te Puni Kaitūhi o Aotearoa (PEN NZ) Inc OneTree House Oratia Media Otago University Press Penguin
 Random House New Zealand Public Libraries of New Zealand Publishers Association of New Zealand | Te Rau o Tākupu Quentin
 Wilson Publishing Read New Zealand | Te Pou Muramura Reading Warrior Romance Writers of New Zealand Same Same But Different
 Shawline Publishing Group Suzy Cato Storylines Trust | Te Whare Waituhi Tamariki Taryn Dryfhout Te Herenga Waka University
 Press Te Papa Press The Copy Press University of Otago Centre for the Book Wharerangi | The Māori Literature Hub Wheelers WORD
 Christchurch



Aotearoa
New Zealand

Review
of Books

same
same
but
different.



Promotional campaigns and events

The Coalition undertook an unprecedented level of promotional activity across 2023

- Four print catalogues; 245,000 copies distributed through bookstores, libraries, schools and events.
- Two Coalition branded bookstalls at Te Matatini and Pasifika; combined audience attendance of 120,000.
- Six digital campaigns.
- 240 digital promotional assets created and 18 designed for sharing across the Coalition membership.



- Extensive print and digital **Māori and Pasifika books campaign** that included for the first time full te reo translations. Featuring over 70 pukapuka, 10,000 print copies were distributed to visitors at Te Matatini and Pasifika festivals; through bookstores and via Wheelers Library Supply (distributing to school and public libraries).



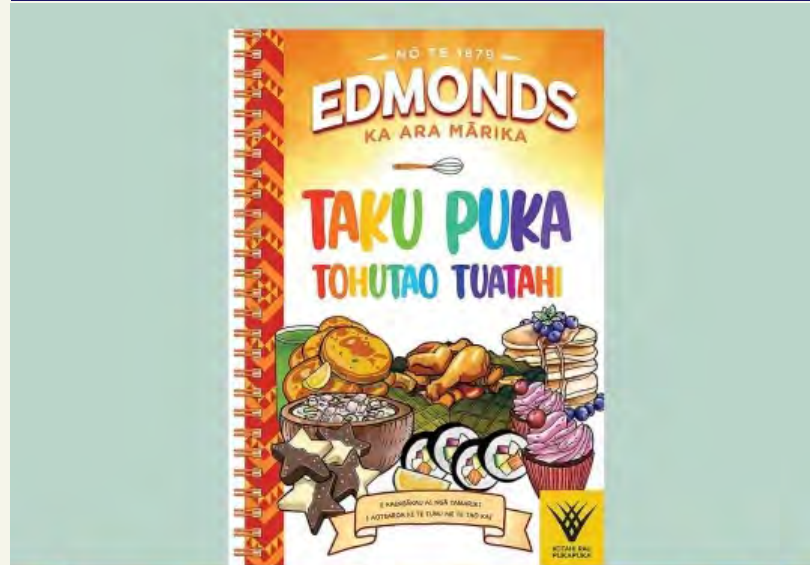
- **Winter Reading Guide**, including Matariki celebrations; published in-print and online mid-year. Sixty-five pukapuka featured and over 35,000 distributed through the Listener magazine and a supporting digital campaign that ran across four weeks.
- A collaboration with the Booksellers Association of NZ included a **Summer Reading** New Zealand-only catalogue distributed throughout bookstores and through the Listener magazine. Over 200,000 copies in print and an extensive digital campaign across the Christmas and early January 2024 periods.



- A Kete Books te reo takeover during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori with guest editorial from Ruth Smith. Stunning visuals created by Huriana Kopeke-Te Aho were heavily promoted across all major social media channels.



- A vibrant first-time digital only Diwali campaign featuring guest editorial by Saraid de Silva, supporting books by New Zealand South Asian writers, through Kete Books and all social media channels.



We're celebrating poetry from Aotearoa all week!

- A Poem a Day during the week of National Poetry Day.





New books from Aotearoa

Kete Books, is the flagship digital strategy of the Coalition, directly targeting and speaking to readers across Aotearoa.

- 120 reviews of books by New Zealand writers across all genres
- 35 interviews with New Zealand writers
- 30 extracts from New Zealand books
- 27 e-newsletters delivered to now over 3.5K subscribers (sign-up increased by over 50% in 2023)
- Audience growth of 40%: 69,000 unique visitors and 132,000 page views
- New partnership with Radio New Zealand enabling audio content on the Kete site and book reviews from Kete to be shared to RNZ's 800K strong audience
- New partnership with Storylines to provide a new junior and YA fiction bestsellers list creating greater visibility and opportunity for New Zealand writers
- Promotion of weekly New Zealand bestseller lists through Nielsen Bookdata





Book Sector Advocacy

- Planning with representatives for the Ministry of Culture and Heritage/ Manatū Taonga continued across the year as we build to a series of cross-government meetings with a book sector focus. We hope to see these commence in the second half of 2024.
- Significant progress achieved for New Zealand book discoverability with international ebook library suppliers.

Contact details

General queries

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**The Coalition for Books
thanks Creative New Zealand
for their invaluable support.**



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



Election 23: Vote for Books & Reading

The NZ Book Sector asks candidates to support reading and the sharing of Aotearoa New Zealand stories.

Reading and books are vital to modern Aotearoa: they help us to make sense of ourselves and the world around us. Local stories and books contribute to the culture and heritage of our country, while high levels of reading participation are integral to our success as a modern democracy.

- 85% of New Zealanders read a book each year (Read NZ, 2021).
- 1.633,802 million New Zealanders are active public library members (PLNZ, 2021).
- 97 million books were read in NZ in 2021, 25 million were NZ books. (Read NZ, 2022).
- 2475 books were published in Aotearoa in 2022 (PANZ).
- NZ publishing revenue is \$292 million; \$51.8 million domestic book sales (PANZ, 2022)
- Authors average annual income \$15,600 (CLNZ Horizon Writers Survey, 2020)
- 30% of Read NZ's 2021 survey said reading became more important during the pandemic and 90% of readers cited it as crucial to their wellbeing.

DO YOU AGREE WITH THESE POLICIES TO SUPPORT NZ AOTEAROA STORYTELLING?

1: A national strategy for books and reading in Aotearoa.

The sector needs an innovative and robust plan to invest in Aotearoa New Zealand books and reading, that will support readers, writers and illustrators, and access new digital technologies, leading to increased export and international opportunities. The book industry supports the creation of a Book Commission and the introduction of a nationwide 'books and reading' plan that will celebrate the diverse range of locally produced stories. We ask that the Ministry of Education champions local content within the English curriculum for NZ books in NZ schools.

2: Invest in stories and sustainable careers for Māori writers.

Te Reo Māori stories underpin who we are as a nation. They define us and fuel the broader arts through adaptation for stage and screen. Increased investment will support the diversity of stories from Aotearoa New Zealand.

3: Reform Public Lending Right compensation and funding.

Public Lending Right (PLR) pays for free public access to printed books in NZ libraries. Authors earn, on average, only \$15,600 pa (CLNZ Horizon Survey 2020). Despite the importance of story, and links between local content and literacy, authors are among the most underpaid creators in Aotearoa. The current system excludes an Educational Lending Right (ELR) and Digital Lending Rights (DLR). This is out of step with major trading partners, and we hope the new government will prioritise the completion of the 'urgent review' begun by the National Library in 2017.

4: Ensure fair reward and creative rights.

It is imperative The Copyright Act 1994 protect the creative rights of authors, illustrators, translators, and publishers. The review of the Act needs to protect creative work from unauthorised AI use. International laws governing human rights and intellectual property continue to protect creators and NZ laws need to reflect this.

5: Realise the economic potential of NZ stories.

The Book sector asks for support for Aotearoa NZ stories to maximise their potential in local and global markets. Government support, through investment, beachhead programmes, exhibitions at book fairs and festival appearances, and funding for publisher delegations or training programs will strengthen the profile of NZ books. Authors and publishers purport fair compensation for government use: via Radio NZ/TVNZ broadcast with budgets to adapt NZ writing in line with the charter, and Ministry of Education fair remuneration for licensed content used in schools. We support voluntary local content quotas in the media, and incentives for Radio NZ/NZ On Air/Film Commission/TVNZ cross-pollination for adaptation of local stories for broadcast and adaptation for screen.

6: Buy local, read local.

Public libraries spend the bulk of book purchasing budgets offshore, which supports the Australian eco-system. We ask that Government and rate-payer funding support local businesses across the book economy in Aotearoa. The sector supports an annual nationwide READ LOCAL campaign to highlight the value and benefits of NZ stories.

CLNZ Representative report

Kia ora,

2023 saw a number of changes on the board, starting with Chairperson Pat Walsh finishing his extended term (starting in 2014) and Karun Shenoy taking over in the Chairperson role. Karun brings a wealth of IT, industry and governance experience. Pat leaves having done an exemplary job in this role, most recently facilitating a smooth transition from Paula Browning to Sam Irvine as Chief Executive. Sam has taken on the role with great success and the organisation is thriving under his guiding hand.

We also farewelled long term board member (and NZSA representative) Katherine Gordon, who has completed two terms on the board. Katherine has done an amazing job representing NZSA and the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand's creative community. She provided strong leadership in the development of CLNZ's culture and diversity journey and the Visual Artists Working Group while also being ever mindful of the interests of CLNZ's rightsholders. Her skills around governance and law have been particularly invaluable and she will be greatly missed. We're thrilled, however, to have author Rose Carlyle onboard, who also brings an abundance of knowledge around legal matters and governance. We're very lucky to have her.

We have also welcomed Victoria Spackman this year as a new independent director, taking over from Pat. Victoria's impressive career will be a great asset to the board. So, too, is the co-option of artist/teacher Yolunda Hickman as Visual Arts Advisor, to assist with work around the Artist Resale Royalty Scheme, and CLNZ has moved on to the next phase of positioning CLNZ as the organisation best suited to take on this role.

Finally, Evo Leota-Tupou has joined the Board as our second intern, succeeding Anaru Tuhi. With a deep appreciation for Te ao Māori and its connection to Pasifika culture, Evo is passionate about nurturing a cultural tapestry that aligns with CLNZ's commitment to fostering diverse perspectives.

The soft launch of the MY Creative Rights website (a new creative rights management service) took place around Christmas and will be rolled out this year. There is excitement about the potential for this platform to assist creators, and those associated with their work,

in managing their intellectual property rights and getting the appropriate credit and reward. Legal advice around contracts and rights management will also be available.

Our engagement with the creative community has continued with the Creative Rights Education programme rollout throughout this year. We have now presented to over 1500 people and developed a new module focused on rights management, contracts, and agreements.

It is expected there will be renewed discussions around the review of the Copyright Act, PLR and the implications of AI this year, and we are currently engaging with the new government on these issues.

Ngā mihi,

Mandy Hager

22.2.24



Let's do the right thing

Artificial Intelligence: Position Statement September 2023

By using their works in training AI, creators and publishers have provided the foundation for many AI technologies. It is therefore right and just that creators' and publishers' lawful rights should be recognised and enforced.

Creators and publishers are amongst those most affected by the development of generative AI models. Their works are being used to train AI systems without their authorisation, remuneration, or recognition, frequently under the guise of 'research.' Creators and publishers are also concerned about AI-generated works being passed off as works of authentic human creativity—a concern shared throughout society.

We acknowledge that there are useful and important purposes to which AI can be applied. However, there is an urgent need for policymakers to implement regulatory regimes to respond to these concerns. Creators and publishers should, we believe, participate in policy discussions to ensure that AI systems are transparent, ethical, fair, and lawful.

The decision to regulate or not and, if so how, is not a zero-sum choice. AI can fuel innovation, economic growth and productivity and be of special value to science. Achieving these benefits must not be at the expense of the creative, aspirational and commercial rights of creators and publishers.

Creative and publishing rights: protection against AI exploitation

The scraping, analysis, and exploitation of vast quantities of data frequently occur without rightsholders' lawful authorisation. These works have value, both economic and non-economic, and rightsholders should be able to authorise or prohibit use of their works, to receive acknowledgement for it, and to be compensated for it.

Māori intellectual property

The exploitation of Māori taonga, in its impact on Māori creators and traditional systems on intellectual property management, and the effect of AI outputs on Māori tikanga are also an issue. Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Wai 262 oblige the Crown to protect taonga and tikanga. Others can speak to these issues with greater knowledge than us, but we acknowledge their significance.

Collective management of licencing

The existing individual and collective licencing systems offer an efficient and well-established solution to the licencing of a wide variety of works, including for books, articles, other written materials, and visual art. These

Copyright Licensing New Zealand
Kotahitanga, Level 6, 19-21 Como Street
PO Box 331 488, Takapuna, Auckland 0740
Aotearoa New Zealand
T +64 9 486 6250
Freephone 0800 480 271
E info@copyright.co.nz
www.copyright.co.nz

systems can readily accommodate the equitable use of rightsholders' creative works by AI system and some responsible AI developers already use collective licences.

Text and data mining exceptions: guaranteed opt-out

New Zealand is a signatory to the Berne Convention, Article 9(2) of which is unequivocal that exceptions to copyright, such as TDM (Text and Data Mining) exceptions that allow AI systems to exploit creators' works without authorisation or remuneration should be avoided. TDM exceptions should be narrow, remunerative, and respect the rights of creators.

Evidence-based policy

Copyright law has successfully adapted to many new technologies and information delivery systems and other challenges. To continue this success, we should not rush into changes without deep consideration of the needs of creators and publishers. There is no evidence of market failure to suggest that changes to Copyright law are needed to incentivise AI-related innovation.

Policy changes and existing markets

Derogations of the rights of creators and publishers need to be subject to the exceptions and limitations defined in the Berne Convention. The application of exceptions to respond to AI should be no different: exceptions must consider the integrity of the overall copyright system and should not harm existing and developing markets.

Education

There is an acute risk of AI systems competing for economic and non-economic rewards with the underlying copyright works that enabled the AI system in the first place.

Sound copyright policy will be effective when policymakers, rightsholders, and all users of copyright material have robust understanding of the legal implications of using copyright works and the importance of copyright law to society. This needs to include appreciation that the use of copyright works as inputs to AI systems, without authorisation or remuneration to creators and publishers can, particularly in commercial contexts, result in infringement.

Transparency: the key to fair AI practice

Copyright policies that respond to the ethical implementation of AI would provide for the transparent recording and communication to creators and publishers of the copyright works used by AI systems, and for what purpose. This approach is critical to support the identification and licencing of such works. AI operators need to be legally required to maintain and allow access to this information if they are to be accountable for activities and outputs that infringe the rights of creators and publishers.

Co-regulation

The interplay between AI and the law is complex. We believe that a co-regulation approach would best guide the development of the AI ecosystem in New Zealand, with an agency having backstop regulatory powers to approve codes of practice created by AI operators and the licencing collective agencies, impose a code if not jointly developed, and impose financial penalties for breach.

The best of international standards can guide a New Zealand approach that balances innovation with ethical and legal safeguards. Assessing and enforcing standards of quality and responsibility on the licencing collection agencies, e-developers and users of AI technologies will ensure that the economic value of intellectual property and data privacy protections, and ethical use can be achieved.

Lists are non-exhaustive and subject to change. To suggest changes contact info@copyright.co.nz.

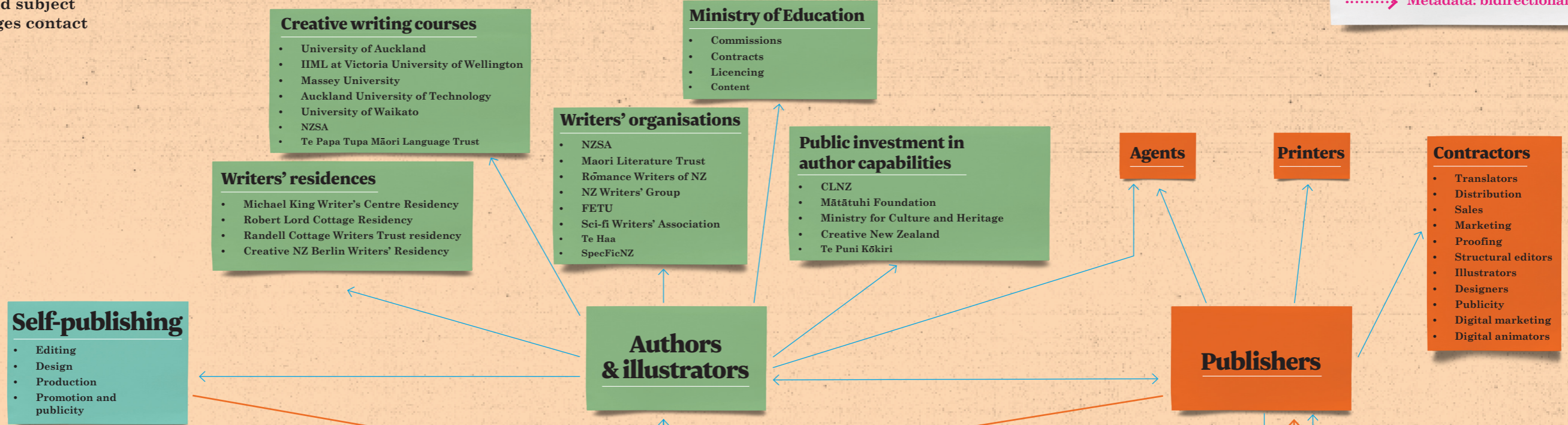
The Book Eco-system



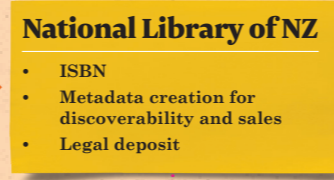
Lists are non-exhaustive and subject to change. To suggest changes contact info@copyright.co.nz.

Pre publication publishing value chain

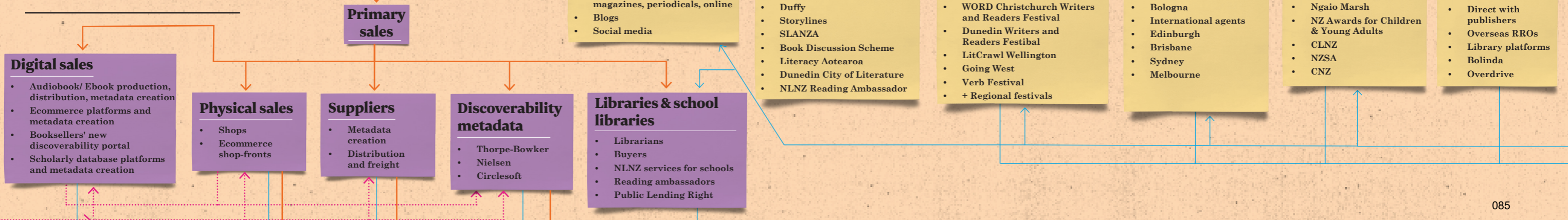
NLNZ's pivotal role in metadata creation, discoverability, & economic benefit to the ecosystem



The pivotal role of NLNZ in creating metadata that generates discoverability and economic benefit to the value chain



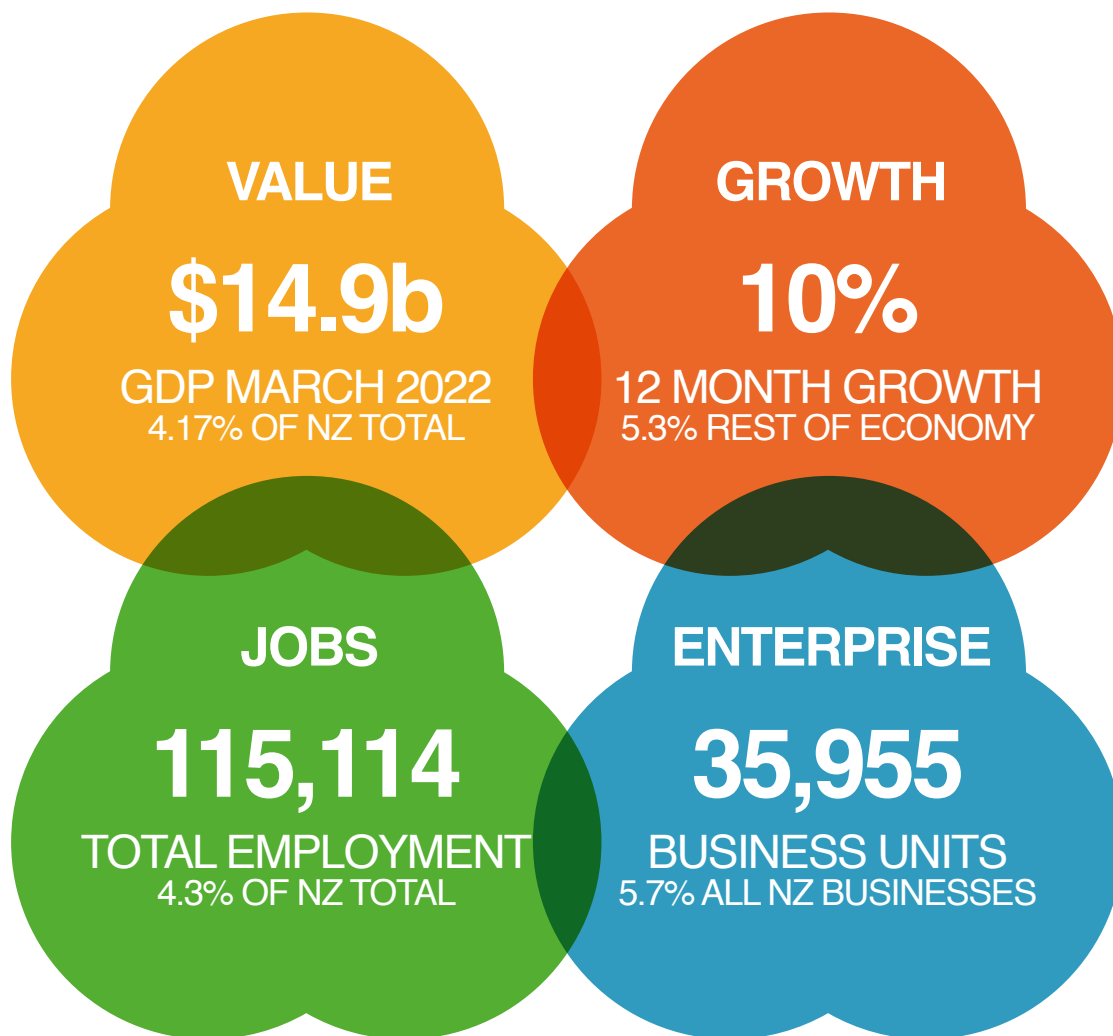
Post publication publishing value chain



New Zealand's creative sector is an untapped opportunity for productivity and economic growth.

Our creative sector could be worth **\$25bn to New Zealand by 2030** - if the next government appoints a **Minister for the Creative and Cultural Economy** to lead a **joined-up government approach** - building on the **Action Plan** the sector has already developed.

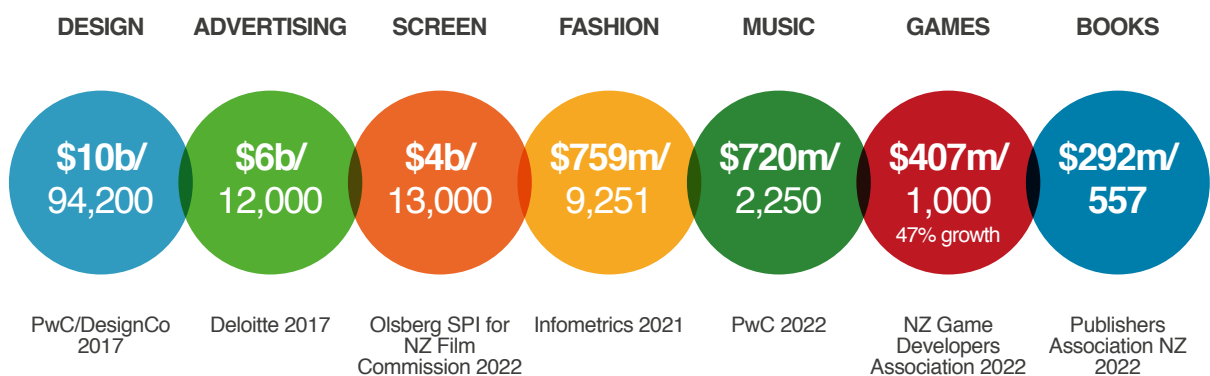
The NZ creative sector is generating **\$15b¹ IN GDP** (THAT'S BIGGER THAN AGRICULTURE!²)



¹(2023) Infometrics Arts & Creative Sector profile for Manatū Taonga/Ministry for Culture & Heritage as at March 2022

²StatsNZ Production Measure, year ended March 2021

CONTRIBUTION TO GDP/DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY DATA



In 2016 **WeCreate** commissioned NZIER to profile the NZ creative sector in 'The Evolution of Kiwi Innovation' which reported

131,220 JOBS

6.6% of NZ's workforce



Conventional measures of occupations & industries - 2013 Census.

As with other sectors that are highly digital, government data does not accurately reflect the full value, nor the current occupations and industries, that make up the creative sector. Government has not measured the sector as it is defined by UNCTAD, and by many other advanced economies.

A high-ranking **Cabinet Minister** leading a joined-up **multi-agency approach** to **facilitate growth** in our creative economy would better enable:

- **Growth in the digital age** through creativity, innovation and productivity.
- **Diversification** of New Zealand's economic outputs, and less market concentration.
- Transition to a **Zero Carbon economy**.
- Fit-for-purpose **data and insights** – especially in relation to digital products and services, and exports – keeping pace with the rapidly changing nature of the sector, and to provide **robust evidence** for decision-making.
- **Regulation that supports economic growth** – including finalising the Review of the Copyright Act and addressing the impacts of Artificial Intelligence - enabling our creators and creative businesses to earn income from their work.
- A new approach to **R&D incentives** to support creative **business growth**.
- Trade settings, strategies and actions **optimising creative export earnings** potential – **globally, weightlessly, and mostly tariff-free**.
- **Digital creative export revenue** being accurately accounted for.
- New Zealand building **high-level trading relationships** with the multi-national platforms who control the global **digital economy**.
- **Greater opportunities for high-wage** work for women, Māori, and Pasifika – and small business and regional development.
- Sustaining a **vibrant and diverse arts sector** – where creative talent is developed and nurtured.
- **Creative and arts education** in schools being enhanced and expanded; to improve educational outcomes, and to develop the pathways that our young people will need to find meaningful and well-paid work in our future economy.

- Vocational and tertiary education and employment policy **meeting the needs of our future creative sector workforce**. The Toi Mai (Creative Cultural Recreation & Technology) WDC, which WeCreate was instrumental in establishing, is providing invaluable **insights and structures needed for sustainable careers**. As the only government agency where creative and tech are in one place, Toi Mai is a useful reference point for policy development.

- Our **Māori and Pasifika creative economies** being supported and understood, to enable them to grow. Māori culture and stories are **key assets** of many of our most successful creative outputs, and of the wider **‘Brand NZ’, internationally**.
- Enhancement of our **cultural pride, identity, inclusion**, and access and participation in creative and cultural pursuits.

The Ministry for Culture & Heritage/Manatū Taonga is the government agency for the cultural sector, but the economic growth requirements of our creative sector go well beyond MCH's current scope.

What are our international trading partners and competitors doing to support their creative economies?

UK CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SECTOR VISION

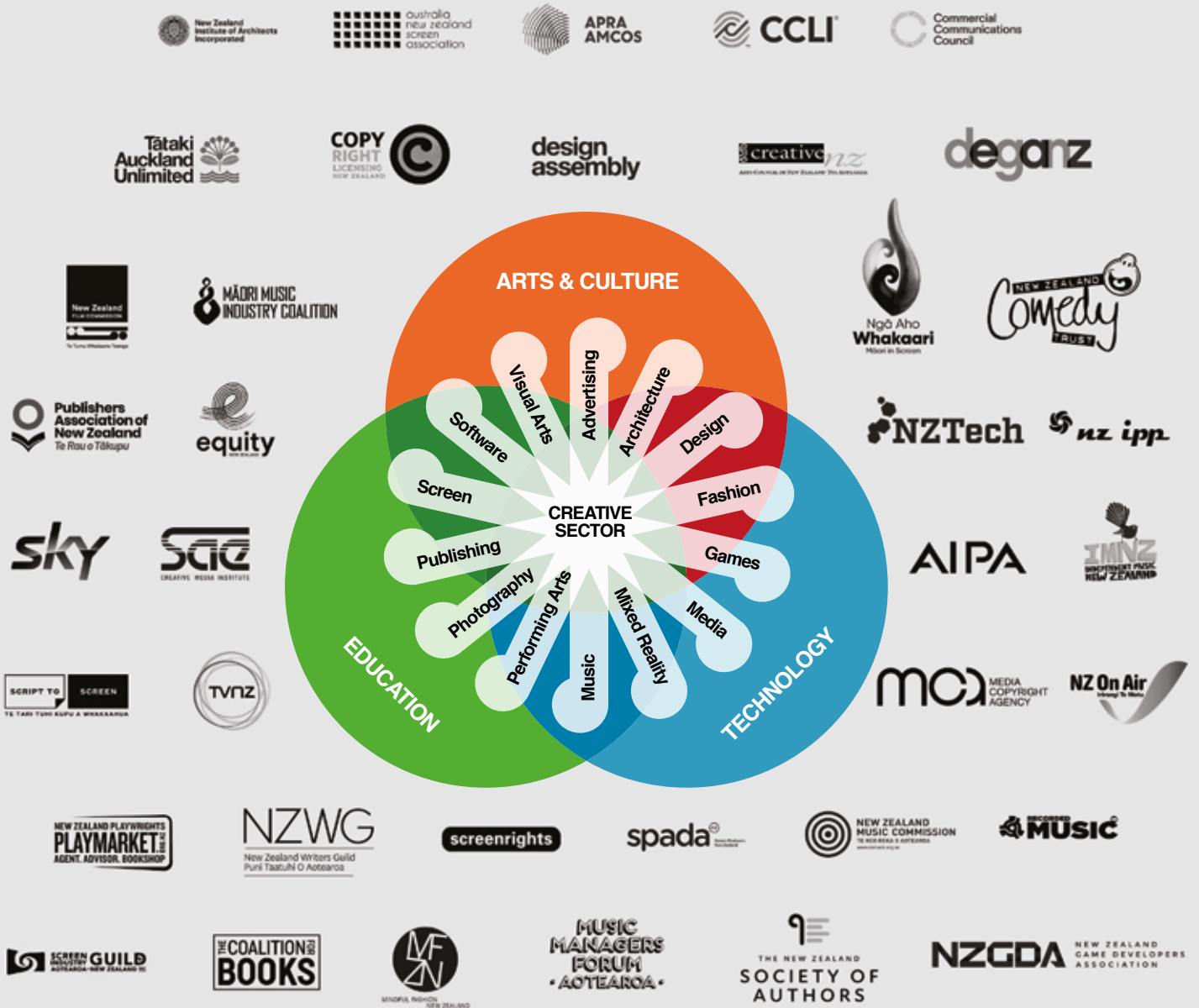
- Creative sector grew 1.5 times faster than the rate of the wider economy in the past decade, since their industry-government partnership was launched.
- Increased creative sector's contribution to GVA by 60.5% in 8 years – currently £108bn.
- Aim to grow their creative industries by an extra £50 billion, creating one million extra jobs by 2030.

AUSTRALIA ‘REVIVE – NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY 2023’

- ‘Whole-of-government’ approach to:
 - expand economic opportunities
 - deliver better futures for creative workers and organisations
 - provide more avenues to deepen and showcase national identity
- Guided by industry – Australia want, but do not yet have, a creative sector alliance like WeCreate for government to work with.

Who are WeCreate?

WeCreate is the alliance of Aotearoa's creative industry associations and organisations (now representing 30,000+ Kiwi creators and creative businesses), which was founded in 2014 to propel growth in our creative ecosystem, and increase its contribution to New Zealand's economy.



WeCreate's work with government so far:

Since 2017 WeCreate has regularly brought together officials from MBIE, MFAT, NZTE, MCH, MoE, the Toi Mai WDC, Stats NZ, and Treasury to share information about their policy work which impacts the creative sector – and often providing their only opportunity to connect directly with the sector, and with each other, on these matters.

WeCreate's recent engagement across government evidences the need for government to be better connected within itself, and with the sector - to optimise opportunities and overcome challenges in becoming the advanced economy we aspire to be:

- Working closely with MBIE, NZTE and NZ Tech to ensure the representation of the NZ digital creative sub-sector in the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa, Digital Technologies Industry Transformation Plan, and the NZ Tech & Innovation Story.
- Providing industry advice and connections to MFAT regarding current and forthcoming trade negotiations, the Trade for All strategy, and the development of policy for creative exports and digital trade. WeCreate have recently facilitated industry engagement with MFAT's Digital Trade Review, focusing on New Zealand's international digital trade policy settings.
- Facilitating a multi-agency Data & Insights Group (including MBIE, MCH, NZTE and StatsNZ) to develop a more accurate measurement model for the sector.
- Co-ordinating a sector-level response to the Review of the Copyright Act.
- Providing industry advice and connections to the Productivity Commission in respect of its 'Frontier Firms' and 'Improving Economic Resilience' inquiries.
- Advising the Toi Mai (Creative Cultural Recreation and Technology) WDC, and liaising between Toi Mai and WeCreate's membership on workforce needs. .
- Consulting on and submitting on behalf of the sector to:
 - MBIE Long Term Insights Briefing - 'The Future of Business'
 - MCH Long Term Insights Briefing
 - StatsNZ Long Term Insights Briefing
 - Aotearoa NZ Public Media Bill
 - Data and Statistics Bill
 - Draft Emissions Reduction Plan
 - MCH Artist Resale Royalty Scheme

WeCreate is ready to talk with you about how we might work together to improve New Zealand's productivity and economic growth – and we have a plan for how to do it.

Please contact:

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Our Action Plan and further information about WeCreate can be found at: www.wecreate.org.nz