



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

91ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Online

August 27, 2025

6.30 - 7.30pm

By zoom



TE PUNI
KAITUHI

O AOTEAROA

THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
AUTHORS (PEN NZ INC)

Karakia

*Kia tau te Rangimārie
O te Rangī-nui e tā iho nei
O Papatūānuku e takoto nei
O te Taiao e awahi nei
Ki runga i ā tātou
Tihei Mauri Ora!*



Karakia

*May the peace
Of the Sky above
Of the Earth below
And of the all-embracing Universe
Rest upon us all
Behold it is life!*



91st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Online
2025

Agenda

Karakia

Apologies

The Empty Chair (PEN NZ Inc)

Minutes of the 2024 90th AGM

President's Report

CEO Report

Programmes, Awards, Professional Development

Finance Report & Statement of Service Performance

Ngā Kaituhi Māori Report

Northland

Auckland

Waikāto

Central Districts

Wellington & Wairarapa

Wellington Writers Walk

Top of the South

Canterbury

Otago Southland

Representatives' Reports:

PEN NZ Report

Copyright Licensing New Zealand

Book Awards Trust

Coalition for Books

Public Lending Right Advisory Group

— Motion:

Ratification of board delegates:

Iona Winter South Island

Jessica Thomas Youth

Melinda Syzmanik - Northern region - renew

Perena Quinlivan - Ki te Mangai Poari

Vanda Symon - President - renew

Mikaela Nyman Central Districts

Emily Broadmore Wellington/Wairarapa

Motion:

President of Honour 2026 Fleur Beale

Motion:

Appointment of Auditor Kudos Murray Audit Ltd 2026

Any other business

Closing Karakia



The Empty Chair AGM 2025

Vietnam: PEN International joins letter to US Secretary of State urging support for persecuted writers and journalists

May 2025:

PEN International joins PEN Centres and free press organisations in a letter to Marco Rubio, Secretary of State of the United States Government, urging him to support the release of imprisoned writers and journalists in Vietnam, including Pham Doan Trang, and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian visas and other supports to Vietnamese writers, journalists and others at risk of persecution for their peaceful expression.

As Vietnam Human Rights Day approaches, we, the undersigned organizations and advocates for free expression, press freedom, and human rights, urge you to call, in direct conversations with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son and Public Security Minister Luong Tam Quang, for the following: the immediate release of Pham Doan Trang, Le Huu Minh Tuan, Pham Chi Dung, Nguyen Tuong Thuy, Nguyen Vu Binh, and other Vietnamese journalists and writers unjustly imprisoned for their courageous reporting; the end of harassment and threats towards journalists and writers; and the repeal legislation that violates free press and expression.

Vietnam continues to crack down on free expression and is a leading jailer of journalists and writers in the world. Journalists and writers have been targeted under vague and overly broad provisions of Vietnam's Penal Code, such as Articles 117 and 331, which criminalize free expression and dissent. Additionally, the Vietnamese government utilizes its Cybersecurity Law, Decree 53, and Decree 147 to suppress free expression, monitor online activity, and target dissent by mandating data localization and data handovers. Vietnam remains one of the most repressive countries for free expression and press freedom, and ranks 173rd out of 180 in the 2025 Reporters without Borders (RSF)'s World Press Freedom Index and is among the world's leading jailers of journalists and writers, according to data from Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), RSF, and PEN America.

The Vietnamese government not only imprisons and threatens writers but also suppresses everyday free expression by monopolizing traditional media like radio, television, and newspapers. While the internet and platforms like Facebook and YouTube offer spaces for dissent, they are increasingly subjected to government censorship, leaving no space for free expression and stifling public debate. This environment creates a chilling effect where individuals self-censor out of fear of retaliation, further undermining the ability to openly critique or challenge the Vietnamese government.

Imprisonment of Journalists and Writers

Journalists and writers in their efforts to expose corruption, document human rights violations, and advocate for the release of their fellow writers, journalists, and activists have endured lengthy sentences, poor prison conditions, and severe restrictions on their fundamental rights.

Harassment and Threats to Journalists and Writers

Nguyen Van Hoa, a contracted videographer with RFA, was sentenced to seven years in prison in November 2017 for his environmental reporting, which the Vietnamese government claimed was "anti-state propaganda." During his imprisonment, he was assaulted multiple times. Following his release in January 2024 after completing his sentence, he remains under house arrest and faces ongoing risks of further prosecution.

<https://www.pen-international.org/news/vietnam-open-letter-to-us-secretary-of-state>

EXPLORE THE PEN INTERNATIONAL CASE LIST 2025:

<https://www.pen-international.org/identity-on-trial-persecution-and-resistance-pen-international-case-list-2025>

90th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 21st August, 2024, 7.00pm. By zoom

Present

Geoff Allen, Susan Battye, , Sherryl Clark, Helena Claudia, Maya Cohen-Ronen, Marie Connolly, Ime Corkery, Riaz Dean, Sue Edmonds, Tracy Farr, Gigi Fenster, Maria Gill, Pip Harrison, Siobhan Harvey, Claire Hill, Tim Jones, Elizabeth Kirkby-McLeod, Kirsten Le Harivel, Liz Manley, Lesley Marshall, Lee Murray, Jenny Nagle, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Priyan Rajapaksa, Eleanor Rimoldi, Prue Scott, Vanda Symon, Melinda Szymanik, Tess Redgrave Trudi Urlwin, Kit Willett

President Vanya Symon welcomed zoom participants, noting it was the 90th AGM.

Karakia President Vanya Symon

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

Tanya Ashcroft, Sue Barker Patricia Berwick, Donna Blaber, Barbara Else, Michelle Elvy, Patricia Fenton, Kate Gordon-Smith, Linda Jane Keegan, Fiona Kidman, Graeme Lay, James Littlewood, Sile Joy Mannion, Sharon Manssen, Beverly Martens, Greg Mason, Heather McQuillan, Luba Roth, Lynley Soper, Bernardine Vester, Philippa Werry, Sue Wootton.

Agenda

1.The Empty Chair (PEN NZ Inc)

We stand with PEN International 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.

We join PEN in 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.

2. Minutes of the 2023 89h AGM

Vanda moved the Minutes be received. Seconded Siobhan Harvey

CARRIED

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

2. President's Report

The President's report was opened for discussion

Vanda Symon moved the President Report be accepted. Seconded Lee Murray

CARRIED

3. Te Kaituhi Māori Report

This was tabled.

4. National Office Reports

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

Vanda Symon moved the CEO's report be accepted. Seconded by Melinda Syzmanik

CARRIED

5. Financial Report

Jenny Nagle noted importance of NZSA becoming a charity in October 2023 meaning there are a lot more places NZSA, including the Branches, can go seeking funding.

Vanda Symon moved the Financial Report and audited consolidated accounts be accepted.

Seconded by Susan Battye

CARRIED

6. Annual 2022 Branch Reports

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

Branch reports taken as read.

7. Representatives' Reports

Reports as listed below, taken as read

Book Awards Trust, Public Lending Right Advisory Group, PEN Report, Coalition for Books, Copyright Licensing New Zealand

8. Confirmation of the President of Honour for 2025

A poll was taken and Charlotte Grimshaw was confirmed as the President of Honour for 2025

CARRIED by 92 % poll vote

Noted, current President of Honour Barbara Else will deliver the Janet Frame Memorial Lecture at Verb in Wellington in November.

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

Melinda Szymanik , Northern Districts ratified for a second term.

CARRIED by 100% poll vote

NZSA is still looking for new Board representatives for the Otago/Southland and Canterbury Districts.

10. Appointment of Auditors

It was moved that NZSA employ new auditors Markham's for 2025

Moved by Jenny Nagle. Seconded Siobhan Harvey

CARRIED

11. Book Sector Map

Jenny noted NZSA has worked with the Publishers Association to create this Book Eco System map, which is a good way to look at different parts of the sector and how they work in together or not.

12. General Business

None

Karakia by Vanda Symon (same as opening)

Meeting closed at 7.27pm

2025 AGM President's Report

Kia ora koutou,

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to our National Office staff. 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 continuing dedication and hard work. We also have a number of contractors do work for us on publications, events and projects. Our thanks to Tina Shaw who does a wonderful job in producing the NZ Author Magazine, Libby Kirkby-McLeod for her work on audio and special projects, and for the work of Kirsten Le Harivel who had organised so many events and who is sorely missed. Our thanks also to our interns Meghan Doherty (a former AUT intern who has returned to work with NZSA), and to this year's interns Luke Aldridge and Tane Jack.

It is vitally important for any organisation to have good governance and vision and I am grateful to those who have stepped up to be a part of the organisation in this capacity. I'd like to welcome and thank our new board members around the table this year, Perena Quinlivan as Te Mangai Poari ki te Māori, Iona Winter representing the South Island, our new Youth Board Member Jessica Thomas, Mikayla Nyman for Central Districts, and Emily Broadmore for the Wellington and Wairarapa. We appreciate you giving your time and energy into being a part of the NZSA governance.

I'd like to give a special thank you to Melinda Szymanik, my NZSA Vice President for stepping in when I have been indisposed due to ongoing eye issues – I hugely appreciate your patience, time and work.

My immense thanks to our outgoing board members. To Tess Redgrave for her enthusiasm in working across the vast Central Districts area. Helena Claudia brought so much to the table as our youth representative, starting new initiatives to engage our younger members, and lending fresh eyes to any issues we discussed. And to Tracy Farr who will be standing down at our AGM. Tracy has done amazing work juggling both the board and the

Wellington Branch Chair roles. She was also the Vice President of the NZSA and always a wonderful sounding board and a wise head. Thank you to Michelle Rahurahu who was our Te Māngai Māori ki te Poari, and for her work in helping to establish Te Kaituhi Māori.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Witi Ihimaera for his ongoing work in establishing and supporting Ngā Kaituhi Māori as Chair.

We have representation on a number of important groups, boards, committees 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 also acknowledge the continuing work of Lesley Marshall as our PEN International Writers in Prison Committee Co-ordinator, who has been in this role for many years, in this important service.

The NZSA also has two representatives on the board of CLNZ (Copyright Licensing New Zealand) Thank you to Mandy Hager, who has stood down from this position, for her work on the board over the years, and to Kathryn Gordon who finished her terms. Rose Carlyle stepped into the role in this last year, and we put out the call for applications to replace Mandy, with the position filled in July 2025 by Gina Butson. Thank you to all those who expressed their interest.

The NZSA President of Honour holds a very special place in our organisation, recognising someone who has given much to New Zealand literature, and service to writers. Their tenure culminates in the delivery of the annual NZSA Janet Frame Memorial Lecture. In 2024 we were fortunate to have Barbara Else as our President of Honour and deliver the lecture in Wellington as part of the Verb Festival. We are delighted to have Charlotte Grimshaw as our 2025 NZSA President of Honour.

Due to financial constraints, we were unable to hold as many Regional Roadshows as we would have liked, but we ran two in Dunedin and Palmerston North. Our thanks to all of the local branch members and

board members who worked hard to make these events a success and to Kirsten le Harivel for organising them.

The NZSA undertakes a lot of advocacy for writers in the arts sector, working with other organisations to bring a strong and unified voice. One of the highlights this year was being a part of the Coalition for Books' hui on developing a strategic plan for the book sector, held in Auckland last October. It was wonderful to be in a room with people from so many areas of the sector whose collective goal was to create, support and promote our literature. In addition to myself, Jenny and Melinda for the NZSA, there were representatives there from PANZ, CLNZ, WeCreate, National Library and Auckland Libraries, ANZL, NZ Book Awards Trust, Book Festivals, Duffy Books, Kiwi Christmas Books, Read NZ, bookstores and Book Sellers NZ, amongst others. Significantly Malcolm Burgess from Creative New Zealand and Oliver Powell from Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage were present and actively participated in the activities and discussions around creating a strategic plan for the sector and prioritising the activities within the resources available. Building and maintaining relationships is vital for our organisation and in being able to advocate for New Zealand writers.

As part of this advocacy we submitted, and encouraged individual members to make a submission to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage AMPLIFY: A Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand (Draft) 2024–2030. NZSA submitted also to the Media Bill.

Our advocacy has also been important in responding to the ever more insidious theft of writer's intellectual property in training AI with the Libgen Meta dataset. This is an ongoing issue that we will keep battling to protect writer's rights to give permission, and to receive fair compensation.

Supporting writers is the key focus of The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi O Aotearoa (PEN NZ) Inc, and our branches continue to be the heart 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 is not easy and can often feel a solo and isolating endeavour. We encourage all writers to get along to events in person and online to meet fellow creative people. Our membership continues to be strong, and I thank you all for your ongoing support.

We would like to thank MCH and Creative New Zealand for their 2024 funding and investment in our organisation and programmes, and we will continue to lobby for increased funding for ourselves and the literary arts sector. This will be especially important with the current government and uncertainty in their cost-cutting measures, and how the arts sector is valued. As stated in previous years funding has not kept up with inflation and has resulted in us effectively having a nett decrease each year. There is also certainty of continuation of funding. 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.

Again, I give my thanks and gratitude to Jenny and Claire for the stellar work they do on very little resource. We appreciate the continued support of our members and are encouraged by the continued interest and growth in membership. It shows that The New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi O Aotearoa (PEN NZ) Inc is relevant and does important work to support writers and it is the primary 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



TE KAITUHI MAORI / NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF AUTHORS

**PREPARED BY:
MICHELLE RAHURAHU**

PROJECT LEAD / TE MĀNGAI MĀORI KI TE POARI

Details of Te Kaituhi Maori branch on NZSA website:
<https://authors.org.nz/about/tekaituhimaori/>

TE KĀHUI MĀORI, THE NEW ORGANISATION FOR MĀORI WRITERS.

Te Kāhui Māori is an exciting evolving space designed to bring together, support, and uplift the voices of kaituhi from across the motu and beyond. It hopes to develop an inclusive and collaborative, rather than competitive, kaupapa with Māori-led organisations publishers, libraries and festivals having significant Māori components, the Maori Literature Trust, Te Hā o Nga Pou Kaituhi, Kotahi Rau Pukapuka and so on.

As well it expects to widen involvement of Maori literary practitioners previously not catered for in te reo including te reo translators, academia, film, television and other electronic media. This will be their atamira.



Formally established last month, the co-Chairs are award-winning novelist Airana Ngarewa and author Regina de Wolf Ngarimu. The Committee includes writers Michelle Rahurahu, Natasha Lampard, Perena Quinlivan and Emma Hislop. Patrons are past-President of Honour Witi Ihimaera and Haare Williams writer and rangatira o te reo.

*Allow our spirit to exercise its potential,
To guide us in our work as well as in our pursuit
of our ancestral traditions,
Take hold and preserve it,
Ensure it is never lost,
Hold it fast!*

GETTING TO THE TABLE

In 2022, there were hui with Māori members of The New Zealand Society of Authors, led by the Mangai Māori ki te Poari, Kim Harris, discussing what they would like to see evolve within NZSA for Māori writers. Ideas that were brought up in these conversations were the creation of "Māori branch", a dedicated assessment programme for writing in te reo Māori, development of a new raft of Māori writing awards.

As a result of these hui, the NZSA board proposed, and NZSA ratified the creation of a branch for Māori writers at the NZSA 2023 AGM. The NZSA then applied for the Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund to support the implementation of a Māori branch, establish dedicated programmes and professional development opportunities for Māori authors, and support the organisations te reo Māori capability.

In June 2023, the funding was confirmed and in August 2023, a call was put out by NZSA for committee members to represent the interests of Kaituhi Māori. Natasha Lampard was appointed Whakahaere Hotaka to support the creation of the branch. The inaugural Committee met formally for the first time on 16-17 December. At that time, the committee members for Te Kaituhi Māori were; Witi Ihimaera, Regina De-Wolf-Ngarimu, Emma Hislop, Perena Quinlivan, Airana Ngarewa and Michelle Rahurahu.

The values that were decided on as a committee were that this initiative should be: fully self-governing and sit beside the NZSA, in the words of Matua Witi "not a branch but a whole tree";

- built to last;
- connect as writers in-person as often as possible;
- available and catered to all Maori writers.

To achieve this, the committee advocated for a transfer of funds from the NZSA so that it could be completely managed by the committee, which was agreed upon. The next goal is to allocate funds to hearing what our community is saying, to find Maori writers where they are and give them an opportunity to co-create what this kaupapa can be. The committee designed personal development opportunities modelled off the ones currently provided by the NZSA (web workshops, toolkits, one on one mentorships and assessments) alongside individual wānanga hosted across Aotearoa, where Māori writers will be invited to speak on relevant topics concerning the sector.

This initial koha to the community, a suite of opportunities for development and conversation, will lead up to an official launch of Te Kaituhi Maori, hosted by Poho o Rawiri Marae in Tairāwhiti. However, when looking at the date and location, it was clear there were numerous issues. The month of February clashed with a number of other literary events taking place around the country, which would change the attendance. The area had been damaged by natural disasters, had low capacity to accomodate lots of people coming in and is difficult to reach for out of town travellers.

GETTING TO THE TABLE

As delivery of the professional development, wānanga and awards, several obstacles were apparent that made the goals of this initiative challenging to deliver:

- ♦ The quick turnaround
- ♦ Significant time and effort was required to find committee members and organise



EMMA HISLOP



WITI IHIMAERA



REGINA DE WOLF-NGARIMU

TE KAITUHI MAORI KOMITI

MICHELLE RAHURAHU



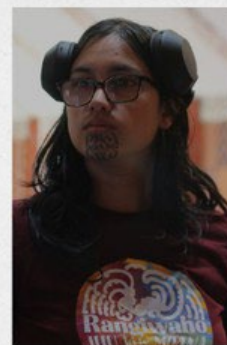
AIRANA NGAREWA



PERENA QUINLIVAN



TE PAEA MAURIRERE



KANOHI KI TE KANOHI

“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”



WĀNANGA

The first major undertaking by Te Kāhui Māori was the holding of its first wānanga at Ōrongomai Marae, Upper Hutt, 3-5 May.

Entitled “Tui Tui Tuhia”, the wānanga aimed to attract Maori literary practitioners to discuss the question: What is the world of Māori writers? with practical sessions, workshops and lectures.

Prominent exponents like Patricia Grace, Haare Williams and Witi Ihimaera were featured talking about their careers and what it has taken to sustain themselves within the whakapapa of New Zealand literature. The wānanga also offered panels with rangatahi writers, mid-career writers and as special event to acknowledge those Māori writers who have passed on.

The wānanga was to inaugurate a biennial series, to be held hand in hand with alternating hui, the next of which will be held in Motueka to welcome writers in the South supported by Donna McLeod and Kerry Sunderland.

This has been pitched as our first Maori Writers Hui in Te Waipounamu, where writers from Motueka writers, Te Taihira and writers who whakapapa to Te Taihira will be invited to host workshops across film, writing historical stories, iwi stories, writing in Te Reo Māori, writing for YA, and Illustrating books.

The third wānanga will be a larger pan-Māori hui by invitation of Witi Ihimaera, at Poho-o-Rawiri marae, February 2025.

Ā-WAIRUA

"SEEING THE INTEREST AND THE CALIBRE OF TALENT COMING THROUGH FOR THIS ROUND OF MENTORSHIPS HAS BEEN INSPIRING. THERE IS A GREAT WAVE OF EMERGING MĀORI WRITERS WHO ARE EAGER TO HONE THEIR CRAFT SO IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THE SECTOR SUPPORTS THIS GROWTH. TE KAITUHI MĀORI ARE PROUD TO JOIN THE SECTOR AS ANOTHER PART OF THE CONSTELLATION."

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 one was selected for the Kupu Kaitiaki Mentorship. These mentorships will run for the rest of the year, ending in December 2024.

Te Kaituhi Māori inaugural recipients of its NZSA Kaituhi Māori Mentorship and Kupu Kaitiaki Programmes. These five emerging writers who have each been selected for a six-month opportunity to work closely with an acclaimed Māori writer as their mentor to hone their tuhituhi ability and, in the process, evolve and refine a work toward a publishable state. There were many stellar entries, with the winning submissions selected by Emma Hislop, Cassie Hart and Kiri Piahana-Wong.

TOOLKITS

The Writer Toolkit and Web workshops are our professional development offering, with multiple modules. The Toolkit is an online learning platform that offers writers a wide range of modules on writing and the writing life by our leading authors and industry professionals. Sessions comprise of static content you can work through alone, or with your writing group or regional hub meeting. Each module contains notes, exercises, and suggestions for further reading on the topics.

Te Kaituhi Māori commissioned esteemed Māori writers to record workshops in prose, world-building, writing whakapapa and Intellectual Property, copyright protections and its implication for Māori exploring WAI 262 and story sovereignty released in 2024.

The Paula Morris workshop and Ruby Solly toolkit are offered to all writers that subscribe to Te Kaituhi Māori.

We held two hui.

GOING FORWARD

Sustainability and future funding... The Future:

He aha te kai o te rangatira? He kōrero, he kōrero, he kōrero

The main strategy for the development of Te Kaituhi Maori as a national organisation has been to model it along traditional Maori lines as a runanga

1) by establishing an iwi infrastructure comprising a runanga (Te Kaituhi Maori with interconnecting literature iwi sustained by regular hui and wananga; and
2) by involving in the runanga a plan based on kaupapa and tikanga for inclusive procedures for likeminded Maori writer organisations in literature, film, theatre in both English and te reo (including tā moko and whakaaro).

The establishment of the runanga - Te Kaituhi Maori - has been the first step:
“What is the food of chiefs? It is knowledge, it is communication.”

But Te Kaituhi has known from its inception, that that first meeting - at Orongomai marae – was only the initial step on the ara: laying down a strong pathway for Maori practitioners in all its literary fields, creating strong membership across the various genres and disciplines, developing strong support from regional tribal sources and, especially, mentoring strong voices among rangatahi writers - young writers who need to be encouraged to continue to write New Zealand, Pacific and indigenous stories.

With this forward development in mind, Te Kāhui Māori organised a second runanga in Motueka in October 2024 (with outreaches to the Nelson Arts Festival and Motueka Library Service). In 2025, a major hui in Gisborne in 2025 (with outreaches to Maori communities, the Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival, and Gisborne library) is being planned.

We have begun enquirers to hold wananga in Taranaki and the Invercargill in 2026 and a second hui in Kaitiāia.

Each hui will lead to the development of regional Maori writer whanau groups working at tribal level. In Gisborne, for instance, Te Kaituhi Maori is already in discussion with the Kaiti Hub to provide the facilities for a regional whakapapa writing centre.

Te Kaituhi Maori believes the structure as outlined above is the most robust and inclusive way to create a Maori practice that will ensure the development of an invigorating creative platform, Maori-knowledge based, for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Nau te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi



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

Chief Executive Report

91st AGM 2025

As NZSA celebrates its 91st year as Aotearoa's pre-eminent organisation providing professional support and services for writers, it is timely to acknowledge the achievements, the wins, and the work still required for a vibrant literary sector in Aotearoa.

For NZSA national office, 2024 was focused on cementing the new programmes that sprang from the covid years with professional development and on-line learning. We supported the establishment of Ngā Kaituhi Māori, who are a self-governing entity, growing under the leadership of its Chair, Witi Ihimaera and its komiti, and we walk in partnership with them. We have progressed the evolution of our Youth Network with a plan presented by our Youth Board representative, Helena Claudia.

NZSA advocated for NZ books and writers with government, separately and in step with our colleagues across the industry: to petition for progress of the PLR Review, to respond with a submission to the Amplify Arts strategy and participate in the Long-Term Insights Briefing with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage; to contribute to the development of the draft Book Sector Strategy, with The Coalition for Books. We thank the Coalition for Books and We Create for its leadership in championing the literary and creative sectors, and Copyright Licensing NZ for frontfooting legislation around creative rights & AI. NZSA works with PANZ and CLNZ in the Copyright Act review.

I acknowledge the impact across the motu by our network of branches. NZSA offers impressive and extensive local programmes of work through our network of 8 branches as hybrid on-line and in-person events proliferated. Community outreach is offered via a calendar of events throughout the year from every branch: events and speakers, networking meets, launches and other celebrations and activities, are all driven by the efforts and commitment of our regional committees and branch chairs. It is NZSA's great strength: providing local community for writers, in addition to the professional services, advocacy, communications and programmes from national office. No matter what stage of the writing journey, there is a place for all writers within NZSA, and I acknowledge the outstanding mahi and leadership across NZSA's branches that delivers that local presence and community. Membership remains steady, with over 1800 members.

NZSA acknowledges and thanks Creative New Zealand for the ongoing support in 2024 as a Kahikatea investment client for the contract that supported our legacy assessment and mentorship programmes that have now been running over 30 years. The NZSA/ CNZ client contract outputs ran to order for these mentorship and assessment programmes: Complete MS, The Mentor Programme, the Youth mentor Programme and Startwrite, and the quarterly NZ Author magazine, produced in print and as an ebook. We note the CNZ client investment programme will cease at the end of 2025, and NZSA accepted an offer late in 2024 to continue its existing contract (2023-2025) for one more year through 2026.

Special mention to Claire Hill, NZSA's Programmes and Operations Manager who oversees these programmes and runs the prizes and awards we administer so ably in addition to her other responsibilities; and to the NZ Author magazine editor and designer team: Tina Shaw and Di Curtis, who produce such an engaging and relevant quarterly. We acknowledge these communications, and the fortnightly Literary Bulletin that keep our members informed.

We sincerely thank Copyright Licensing New Zealand for its support of our professional training and development programmes – the workshops, roadshows and toolkits. In 2024 NZSA ran monthly webworkshops, and two regional roadshows in Palmerston North and Dunedin. NZSA produced three new Writer Toolkits, and ran a Perfect Pitch event, linking writers with New Zealand publishers. We acknowledge too, Northland branch who ran an exceptional regional roadshow in Kerikeri.

In 2024 NZSA launched two new assessment and mentor programmes for Te Kaituhi Māori, produced dedicated toolkits and webworkshops for Māori writers under a 2023-2024 MCH contract, and Te Kaituhi Māori ran two hui at Ōrongomai Marae, Upper Hutt and in Motueka, launching their model of regional hubs as connectors. The komiti began programming its hui planned for Tairāwhiti Gisborne October 2025. We thank Natasha Lampard, Michelle Rahurahu and Kirsten le Harivel for their contributions to deliver this programming with the support of Te Kaituhi Māori komiti and national office.

We especially thank Kirsten le Harivel who left NZSA late 2024. Kirsten had been contracting with NZSA since she first programmed the NZSA National Writers Forum in 2018 and has been responsible for our roadshows and online professional development programmes since that time; and we wish her every success with her new role and stay connected with her ongoing literary ventures in Kāpiti.

NZSA released a 6th season of NZSA Oral History podcasts as a 2024 summer season, and later in the year, the podcast of Barbara Else's Janet Frame Memorial Lecture. I want to acknowledge and thank Elizabeth Kirkby-McLeod for all her excellent work and professionalism leading this ongoing programme, and acknowledge its importance in recording the voices of Aotearoa writers.

NZSA thanks too, to Verb Festival Wellington for its partnership with NZSA that

delivered the NZSA annual Janet Frame Memorial Lecture: in 2024 this was a great event held at the Hannah Playhouse, with NZSA's 2024 President of Honour, Barbara Else. You may listen to Barbara's address via the podcast from the NZSA website, or where-ever you get your podcasts.

From CLNZ we note the launch of the *My Creative Rights* management platform and the development of a bespoke legal service from Creative Legal, that offers contract review and 15-minutes-free advice, with subsidised services for writers. CLNZ also secured an MCH contract to develop and launch a Visual Artists Resale Royalty scheme. We acknowledge the CLNZ team and in particular CE Sam Irvine and Daniel Watterson; and Mandy Hager and Rose Carlyle as the 2024 CLNZ-NZSA board representatives.

Sincere thanks to the NZSA members who volunteer to work to represent the organisation across the literary and creative sector. Our long serving Book Awards Trust board representative Melinda Szymanik stepped down at the end of 2024 and her role has been taken up by Elena da Roo. Sincere thanks to Melinda for all her advocacy and work on that very active board, with the Annual Ockhams and NZCYP awards and National Poetry Day being a cornerstone of Aotearoa's annual literary calendar. Thanks to Justine Baddeley for her role with the Northtec committee; to Anna Mackenzie and Sherryl Clark for their work with The Public Lending Right Advisory Group, and to Emily Duncan for representing NZSA on The Burns Fellowship committee. Emily stepped down at the end of 2024 and was replaced on the Burns Committee by Kathryn van Beek, past recipient of the Burns Fellowship.

NZSA has a board position with The Coalition for Books, currently occupied by the Chief Executive, and the Coalition amended its constitution during 2024 to ring-fence seats at the table for the pivotal membership orgs in the sector: NZSA, PANZ and Booksellers NZ. The Coalition for Books achieved a great deal in 2024 thanks to an MCH Regeneration Grant: to redevelop and relaunch the KETE website, provide digital marketing training across the sector, and to bring the sector together to finalise a Book Sector Strategy. The Book Sector strategy will launch during 2025. KETE Books, as the promotional arm of the Coalition, now sells books in multi-formats alongside its long-form reviews. The Coalition produced 3 digital and print catalogues, plus digital marketing assets and themed campaigns across the year and ran a bookstall at Pasifika. The seasonal reading catalogues are produced in association with Booksellers NZ.

Lesley Marshall and her PEN NZ team support PEN International campaigns and petition overseas governments, and we offer sincere thanks for all their unseen work. The PEN news is sober as freedom of expression is increasingly under threat, book bans enacted around the world, and deliberate mis-and-dis-information proliferates through AI and social media. NZSA's inclusion of The Empty Chair at our meetings and our affiliation to Pen International hails back to our founding originally as PEN NZ in 1934 and is a mainstay of our kaupapa.

At NZSA national office, we welcomed Meghan Doherty in a part-time contract role towards the end of the year, working on professional development programmes, membership and communications. Claire Hill now works four days a week. I thank Blakat Accounting for their financial services and care.

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 youth network to meet in person and online - Pens and PJ's - and proposed a national plan for the network to the board.

Sincere thanks to Michelle Rahurahu for her work throughout 2023 and 2024. She stepped down from the Board at the end of 2024, and has been replaced by Perena Quinlivan, who is Te Mangai Poari ki te Māori and also on Ngā Kaituhi Māori komiti. Helena Claudia was offered a masters spot at Monash for 2024 and her work will be continued in 2025 by new NZSA Youth Board representative Jessica Thomas.

I thank the Board for their support, especially NZSA president Dr Vanda Symon and Vice-President and Wellington/Wairarapa representative Tracy Farr as the management committee. Tracy stepped down as VP during the year and Melinda Szymanik stepped up as the new VP. I thank all the 2024 board for their oversight and support: Dr Vanda Symon, Melinda Szymanik, Tracy Farr, Michelle Rahurahu, Helena Claudia, Heather McQuillan, and Tess Redgrave.

Thanks to each of you, our members. Your support and membership allows NZSA to advocate on your behalf, as we work to increase the visibility and support for NZ books and writers.

A comment on the general environment for NZ books and writers....

The challenges for the sector seem to be exacerbating with the paucity of investment in the literary sector being the critical and key ongoing challenge. Our catch-cry is that Books and reading remain the only core arts and cultural sector without a government agency assigned to its development and support. All other sectors have some entity... *The Film Commission, the Music Commission, Museums NZ, Te Matatini, Sport NZ, Heritage NZ et al.*



Figure 1: From MCH website - Where is Books and Reading? –

The artform NZ'ers say they most engage with, after music?

Why are not NZ books a taonga alongside the outputs from music and screen?

With the proven critical importance and benefits of reading for pleasure to life, social, health and educational outcomes across society, this is inexplicable. The place of local content in reading engagement is well documented.

Failures in literacy rates are likewise being felt across the world, and we note with some envy, the major campaign by the UK government for 2026 as The Year of Reading; and the support for the book sector, writers, and reading in the Revive new arts strategy in Australia. The lack of direct support for the literature sector was identified and addressed in Australia as part of their Revive Arts Strategy launched in 2023. They established a book advisory council and introduced Digital Lending Rights to further the PLR compensation scheme.

NZ remains 20 years behind Australia with no Educational or Digital Lending Rights, and NZSA has not been able to get any movement on the stalled PLR review, that has not progressed since recommendations were published in June 2020.

NZSA notes the paucity of support across NZ media for NZ books. There has been no NZ Book show on NZ public media for over a decade.

During 2025 we will see what Amplify brings... kia kaha

Chief Executive, Jenny Nagle, June 2025

NZSA AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2024

These will be circulated separately with the AGM zoom link.

NZSA Activities and Programmes Report – 2024

Authors: Claire Hill, Kirsten Le Harivel

Programmes & Awards

Programme/Award	Opening Date	Closing Date	Judging Panel	Number of applications	Results	Comments
NZSA Mentor Programme	1 December	1 February	Rosetta Allan (con), Kiri Pirahana-Wong, Sharon Manssen	96	13 mentorships	Olivia Bing (Glendowie, Tāmaki makau-rau Auckland), Claire Hiria Dunning (Torbay, Tāmaki makau-ra Auckland), Philippa Grantham (Browns Bay, Tāmaki makau-ra Auckland), Susan Jacobs, (Mt Albert, Tāmaki makau-ra Auckland), Mel Johnston, (Days Bay, Te Awakairangi Lower Hutt), James Littlewood, (Titirangi, Tāmaki makau-ra Auckland), Lisa McKenzie (Whakatū Nelson), Han Nguyen (Manukau, Tāmaki makau-ra Auckland), Tracey Sharp (Titirangi, Tāmaki makau-ra Auckland), Jillian Starr (Khandallah, Te Whanganui a Tara Wellington), Nicola Thorstensen (Anderson's Bay, Ōtepoti Dunedin), Raphael van Workum (Wanaka), and Roisin Warner (Te Tai o Aorere Tasman).
NZSA StartWrite Programme	1 Feb	2 nd week in December	N/A	N/A	20 of 25 utilised	In progress
NZSA Youth Mentor Programme	2 nd week in February	6 March	Tina Shaw (con), Cristina Schumacher	34	4 youth mentorships	Abbie Mackay - Epsom Girls Grammar School (Auckland) Siti Nur Aina Binti Mohd Nazlee - Nga Tawa Diocesan School (Marton) Xavier Penfold - Gisborne Girls' High School (Outer Kaiti, Gisborne) Leo Reid - Hillcrest High School (Hamilton)

NZSA CompleteMS Programme	1 March	29 May	Caroline Barron (con), Harriet Allan, Melinda Szymanik	74	13 assessments	Shelley Burne-Field (Takapau), Victoria Cleal (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington), Sally Forman (Oturehua), PK Granger (Ōtautahi Christchurch), Sarah Johnson (Whāingaroa Raglan), Nick Marsden (Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland), Samantha Oakley (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington), Tammy Pegg (Upper Moutere), Emma Ling Sidnam (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington), Paul Sime-Barton (Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland), Bernard Steeds (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington), Michelle Tayler (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington), and Kit Willett (Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland).
NZSA Shaw Writer's Award	17 May	14 July	Paula Morris (con), Catherine Robertson	20	1 winner	Steph Matuku (The Blue Dawn)
NZSA Peter & Dianne Beatson Fellowship	14 June	20 August	Paddy Richardson, Laurence Fearnley	30	1 winner	Dr Jacqueline Leckie

Programme/Award	Opening Date	Closing Date	Selection Panel	Number of applications	Results	Comments
Michael Gifkins Prize for an Unpublished Novel	25 July	14 October	2023/4 judges: Michelle Elvy, Ruby Porter (longlist), Text Publishing (shortlist, winner)	87	1 winner	Shortlist: JS Michaels, Jeffrey Buchanan, Helen E Crampton, Patrick Hunn Winner: Jeffrey Buchanan
NZSA Lilian Ida Smith Award	2025 (TBC)	2025 (TBC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize	5 Nov	13 March	2024/25: Cassie Hart (con), Anne Kennedy(shortlist). Cuba Press, Nicky Solomon, Cassie Hart (winner)	45	1 winner	Winner: Tracy Farr (<i>Wonderland</i>). Runner-up: Abigail von Ahsen (<i>Flawless</i>). Shortlisted: , Jade Hallamore (<i>Infused with Magic</i>), Jacqueline Owens (<i>Vividwater</i>)
CLNZ / NZSA Research Grants	11 May (TBC with CLNZ)	8 June (TBC with CLNZ)	Siobhan Harvey (con), Vaughan Rapatahana, Vasanti Unka	83	4 winners	Winners: Steph Matuku (The Blue Dawn), Lori Leigh (“Homo Sweet Homo”: The History of New Zealand’s Queer Homes), Kate Parker (Tohu from Aotea, Korōra Blue and Kōpu and the Sea Thieves), Kerry Sunderland (Deathwalker’s Guide to Life: how exploring death can help you live life more fully).
CLNZ / NZSA Writers’ Award	1 June (TBC with CLNZ)	29 June (TBC with CLNZ)	Vanda Symon (con), Elizabeth Kirkby-McLeod, + Jade Kake	63	1 winner	Winner: Mark Derby (Outlaw Prophet - Hakaraia Mahika and the Tauranga Wars)

Membership

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Current Membership total	1809	1825	1811	1804

Podcasts / Oral histories

Season	Featured	Dates first aired (all still available to listen to)	Number of total listens To 5 Nov 2024
	1. Interview with Joan Rosier-Jones	TBC	In production. Interviewer Libby Kirkby-McLeod
NZSA Oral History Podcast Series, S5	2. Fleur Adcock 3. Denys Trussell 4. Graeme Lay 5. Marilyn Duckworth 6. Witi Ihimaera	October 2023	Total listens all podcasts, to 5 November 2024 = 17,590 plays Number of plays 5 Nov 2023 to 5 Nov 2024 = 3,013
NZSA Oral history Podcast, special episodes	7. Introducing 'The Author's Tale'	October 2022	
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 Gigi Fenster introduces Lynn Jenner from NWF	December 2021 – February 2022	
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 4	1 & 2. Kyle Mewburn 3. Philip Temple 4 & 5. Barbara Else 6. Brian Turner 6. Margaret Mahy	March – July 2021	315 + 302 263 381+337 352 466

Season	Featured	Dates first aired (all still available to listen to)	Number of total listens
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 3	1 & 2. Tessa Duder 3. David Hill 4. Joy Cowley 5 & 6. Chris Else 7. Owen Marshall	February – June 2020	304+209 273 278 332+235 451
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 2	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	272 223 258 229 256 227 265
NZSA Oral history Podcast, Season 1	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	415 252 316 - 461 269 292
NZSA Live! (audio from live events held by NZSA)	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	

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

- One Webworkshop is held per month and the recording accessible for up to one month after the event. We have noticed an increase in participants who are watching the recording only.
- We are now offering a free Webworkshop to all members who have joined for the first time in the last year to help encourage engagement. We have noticed a few members taking up this opportunity each time.

Presenter	Topic	Date	Number of participants
Steff Christie	Creatively wired: Strategies for neurodiverse writers	14 February	23
Kathryn Burnett	Make 'Em Laugh - Write Funny	20 March	18
Tracey Slaughter	Travels in Character	10 April	47
Helen Vivienne Fletcher	Writing the Other	15 May	6
Michelle Elvy	Introduction to the novella-in-flash	20 June	35
Mikaela Nyman	From Stray Poems to Collection	31 July	25
Lynn Davidson	Why an Essay is Like Following a River	20 August	21
Seth Zorn	TikTok: What is it and how	18 Sept	14

Catherine Chidgey	The Short Story: character, setting, voice – with Catherine Chidgey	23 October	67
Nicky Pellegrino	Popular Fiction	19 November	
CLNZ and Creative Legal	Get Your Contracting Questions Answered – collab with SCBWI	11 November	8
Anna Scott Accounting	Get Your Accounting Questions Answered – collab with SCBWI	20 November	

Writer Toolkit

We have 694 users sign up for a Writer Toolkit Module since the Toolkit launched in January 2022.

From 1 January to 5 November 2024:

- 111 modules sold.
- 52 people used the Membership Renewal coupon.
- 723 enrolled users.

Please note that the totals below are cumulative and for the year 2024 to date, to end November. All members receive one free toolkit per year with membership.

Presenter	Topic	Launch date	Number of paid sign ups (1 Jan 2024 – 15 Sept 2024)	Net revenue (1 Jan 2024 – 15 Sept 2024) (USD)
Mandy Hager	Storybuilding: Strategies and exercises to build solid foundations	16 January	7	134.57
Paula Morris	Point of View	7 April	3	48.85
Caroline Barron	Memoir: Telling Your Story	7 April	13	201.78
Steff Green	Successful Self-Publishing	3 May	4	76.05
Paula Morris	Writing Action: Emotional and Dramatic Moments	5 May	6	75.11
Pip Desmond	Finding Your 'I'	4 April	2	24.24
Rajorshi Chakraborti	Writing Fiction from Life	19 April	3	36.55
Whiti Hereaka	Research for Fiction	22 August	2	36.38
Jack Cottrell	Developing Your Web Presence	22 August	4	60.60
Siobhan Harvey	Writing Poetry with the Eye and the Ear	7 October	6	70.98
Steff Green	Uploading Your Ebook or Print Book to Amazon KDP	18 October	2	24.45
Steff Green	Formatting Your Manuscript for Publication as an Ebook or Print Book	20 October	2	24.01
Mohamed Hassan	Writers In Schools with ReadNZ	31 January	Not able to track as free	
Anna Mackenzie	Introduction to Editing	10 February	4	55.31
Anna Mackenzie	Every Word Counts	10 March	8	118.01
Karen Workman	Creative Rights for Creative People	1 September	Not able to track as free	
Melinda Szymanik	So You Want to Write a Picture Book?	1 July 2024	18	287.20
Vanda Symon	Plot	10 October 2024		

NZSA Regional Roadshows

Location	Date	#of streams	# of presenters	# of participants	Highlights of the Day
Palmerston North	8 June 2024	2	7	38	<p><i>Positive and inclusive feeling the workshop 'write it funny'</i></p> <p><i>Caroline</i></p> <p><i>Making and re-making connections – both with people I already knew and people new to me.</i></p> <p><i>The location and the people, being welcomed onto the marae.</i></p> <p><i>Ka rawe! Ngā mihi nui to Kirsten for fab organisation – it all came together beautifully.</i></p> <p><i>Just to say thank you and well done to the organizers! It was an excellent venue and overall a very interesting and valuable day.</i></p>
Dunedin	7 Sept 2024	2	11	47	<p><i>Taking the Past out of the Archive [with Cristina Sanders]- apart from content, it was so well presented and at a cracking pace (lots of positive responses to this workshop)</i></p> <p><i>The excellent workshops by Tracey Slaughter. (lots of positive responses to this workshop)</i></p> <p><i>I only went to one event (Vanda Symons on suspense), but thoroughly enjoyed it. (lots of positive responses to this workshop)</i></p> <p><i>Being around people who were interested in writing; some of the sessions; the general ambience.</i></p> <p><i>Spending time with other authors</i></p> <p><i>It was wonderful - ideas buzzed all day, and the conversations were excited and exciting</i></p> <p><i>It was a nice 'buzz' overall. I found most sessions were really fantastic and it depended on the presenters' enthusiasm</i></p> <p><i>No, just thank you. It was a very supportive, low-key event. The atmosphere was friendly and both people new to writing, and established writers, mingled well. It did not feel elitist. The programme was varied, and all speakers were experts in their areas and fascinating to listen to.</i></p> <p><i>Such an engaging and enjoyable day. Thank you for all the hard work in making this happen! Superb in every way</i></p>

NZSA Perfect Online Pitch – NZ Publishers

- 68 pitchers submitted for a slot with one of nine publishers: Allen & Unwin, Bateman Books, Auckland University Press, Landing Press, Oratia, Moa Press, OneTree House, Little Moa and Penguin Random House for the second annual Perfect Online Pitch in August 2024.
- All publishers received submissions and the publishers who were oversubscribed agreed to either hear more pitches or to review the pitches after the event and decide if they wanted to engage further.
- Seven of the nine publishers asked to see more than one pitcher's first three chapters and/or full manuscript.
- Publisher feedback was really positive, and they (and I) identified a major improvement in the quality of submissions.

Te Kaituhi Māori PD

Activity	Date	Location	Presenters	Date of launch	# of attendees
Hui: Tuhi Tuhi Tuhia		Orongomai Marae			
Hui: Ngā Pae Rewa		Awhina Marae, Motueka		Labour Weekend 2024	
Webworkshop: First person			Paula Morris		
Writer Toolkit Module: What is the whakapapa of the world you are writing?			Ruby Solly		

NZSA Northland Branch Chairperson's Report

AGM 2025

It's been a busy year, and I have had a not-too-steep learning curve, thanks to Trish and Justine. We have managed to complete several projects this year, and been able to discuss ways to make processes more streamlined and organised.

We launched the short story awards at the same time as planning started for our NorthWrite Day at Kerikeri. The story awards had three categories, and it was great that our judges were all happy to adjudicate again. Sue Barker and Jo Warren took on most of the publicity for the schools competitions, Sue gathering a handy list of school email contacts, and we also made use of social media as much as possible. Getting the information to the right people in schools, and encouraging them to enter or help their students to enter, is always a big challenge. Teachers are very busy and often just can't fit in student entries for our awards, despite best intentions.

Nevertheless, we did see an increase in the number of entries (45 for 7/8, 28 for HS), although we'd like to see more from public schools in future. A few weeks after we opened for stories, it was decided to discontinue the entry fee of a dollar per entry, to make it more accessible to everyone and less of a finance hassle at both ends. Thanks to Jo and Lesley Marshall for anonymising the entries and helping with emails as well. We also discovered that some schools are having their prize giving days much earlier now, but we were able to get the prize winners' certificates out in time by hand-delivering a few!

The adult competition also received a few more entries than in previous years, which was good (47). All of the winning entries were published by the Northern Advocate, and sponsors and judges have been thanked. We are currently attempting to find a main sponsor for the adult award so we can increase the prize money. We have had two planning meetings to streamline the processes and share the jobs – we are always happy to have more volunteers to help.

NorthWrite was set for Saturday 19 October, and after visiting two possible venues in Kerikeri, I booked one for our purposes. 50% of our members live in Kerikeri or further north, so it seemed like a good idea to have the day there. I also ran a survey of members, mainly so we could choose which workshops would be the best to offer. By only catering a shared morning tea, plus tea and coffee, and asking participants to BYO lunch, we kept our costs down and made it all less onerous.

Our speakers included Zana Bell, Elizabeth Heritage, Lesley Marshall, Sophia Egan from Mary Egan Books, Donna Blaber and Trish Fenton. I want to say a big thank you to all who helped to organise and run the day, including those who were guest speakers and donated their fee back to our branch. I especially thank Justine who wrangled the booking system and kept an eye on the finances, and then managed the projector and Zoom on the day. We had 34 participants, most of whom came for the whole day.

We've enjoyed being part of a number of other activities. Thank you to Sue Barker, who donated the award for Northland Young Writer of the Year, presented to Emma Philips

at the National Flash Fiction Day. We also had a number of members take part in the Kaituhi Day at Whangarei Library as part of the Fringe Festival, and a book market at Waipu in the Nova Scotia Junction facility (space donated by owner and author Lindy Davis). No matter where we are, thanks to Lesley Marshall we have a secondhand book stall and raffle fundraiser. Our members also donated a number of boxes of books to the Ngawha Correctional Facility library.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will be running a number of single workshops, including collaborating with Whangarei Library 3.30 Flash to run a short story session with Caroline Barron in May. We also want to take up the offer of an online Copyright Workshop from CLNZ. Later in the year we will be running a day or afternoon of sessions focused on self-publishing. We welcome ideas and requests from members, to make sure we are providing the kinds of activities that you all want to be involved in and learn from.

My thanks to Trish Fenton for her work as our branch Secretary. It's been great to know she's there to answer questions and keep things running smoothly. Thanks also to Justine Baddeley for her numbers skills as our Treasurer, and also for maintaining our website. Our Committee members this year have helped with so many facets of running the branch successfully – thank you to Lesley Marshall, Sue Barker, Deb Jowitt (and Deb has also been Vice-Chair), Kathy Derrick, Janine Williams and Heather Whelan.

Thanks to our sponsors during the year – JOP, Calder Printing, Pavlova Press, The Northern Advocate, Office Products Depot, Northtec, and all who donated raffle prizes and secondhand books.

Sherryl Clark, Chairperson NZSA Northland

23 March 2025

Auckland Branch Annual Report March 2025

We held the Auckland Branch speaker events monthly on Zoom and the four networking sessions at Freemans Bay School in Ponsonby. The ample parking and a much bigger and quieter room allowed us more flexibility in doing group activities. We paid \$100-\$150* per session for the venue. (*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 600 members in Auckland, but our subscribers list for the Branch Gazette is 1,351. We routinely have 51% of those subscribers regularly read these emails. Kit will do some work to cull the "rarely engaged" non-members from this list. Having over 1,000 subscribers is currently disadvantaging us if we need to send out corrections to emails as Mailchimp has a limited number of sends per day.

Maria Gill continued as Chair but will resign at the April 5th 2025, meeting, as will Kit Willett as Secretary. Drazen Milosevic will continue as treasurer and Melinda Szymanik as regional delegate.

In addition, several other members make up an informal committee, who meet prior to networking meetings online to discuss branch matters. This consists of Suzanne Weld, Vivienne Lingard, (resigning at 2025 AGM), Adrian Blackburn and Bernard Brown (who 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 7 times a year, and we meet on the first Saturday of the month 4 times a year in-person at the networking meetings at Freemans Bay School.

Monthly meetings with guest speakers in 2024:

- February 7: How AI and AR will affect Writers – Kit Willett and Thurston Bux
- March 6: Character Analysis – Fiona Kidman
- April 6: AGM and Networking Session
- May 1: Social Media Marketing - Graci Kim and Gemma Findlay
- June 5: Environmental Writing: Mandy and Nicky Hager
- July 6: Networking Session
- August 7: Trio of Poets – Kit Willett, Richard Pamatatau, Siobhan Harvey
- September 4: Art of Writing Short Stories - Graeme Lay
- October 5: Networking Session
- November 6: Audiobooks - Theo Gibson, Audio NZ
- December 7: Quiz Night and Graeme Lay short story competition (network meeting).

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

Networking Meetings: We start each meeting off with a short karakia, share some literary news, give three authors a chance to promote their new book, give two members a chance to read an excerpt or a poem for two-minutes, and then break into groups according to genres. At each table, there are questions to help spark conversation. We then draw the raffle, tell members about the next events, and then farewell everyone and clean up.

Graeme Lay Short Story Competition: Auckland Branch ran this again in December 2024 and had 46 entries from around the country. Kit Willett organised the competition, and Kit Willett and Maria Gill shortlisted 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 raised the entry price in 2024 from \$10 to \$15 so it would pay for itself. We were still short by \$160, so we are considering raising the price again to \$20 per entry.

The winners, announced in November, were:

- First Place: Emma Harris for her story 'The Present'
- Second Place: 'Karen Phillips for her story 'Loess & Loss'
- Third Place: Kay Meyers for her story 'A Marvellous Day'
- Highly Commended: Joshua McKenzie Brown, Joseph Janiszewski
- Commended stories: Dione Jones, Greg Judkins, Lorraine Brockbank, Cath Bennett

Quiz Night: Kit Willett and Annelies Judson organised the questions and the quiz on the night. We are grateful to Adrian Blackburn and Bernard Brown for contributing the questions for the NZSA History round. We gave out prizes to the winning group. Drinks were also supplied on the night and a light supper. Six bottles of wine were left over from the evening, and we're keeping those for the next December networking event.

Fundraising: At each networking session we held a raffle and raised approximately \$35 (when we charged \$2 a ticket) – \$50 (when we upped it to \$5 a ticket) each time. We didn't charge an entry fee for the Quiz Night, so it wasn't a fundraising exercise.

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. The videos were also distributed via the Branch Gazette.

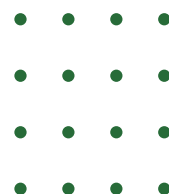
Financials:

Our Treasurer, Drazen Milosevic, looks after our three ASB accounts. We currently have \$6,044.53 in total. We upped our payment to speakers to \$150 for panel speakers and \$200 for solo speakers (plus GST if applicable). Two speakers, Mandy and Nicky Hager generously donated their speaker fees to the Christmas Network Meeting fund.



2024

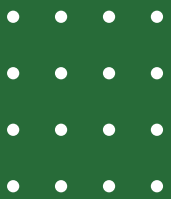
Annual Report.



waikatobranchnzsa@gmail.com



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FINANCIALS

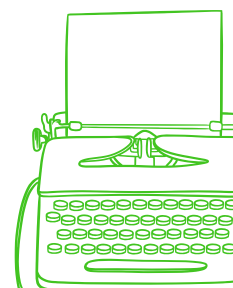
WAIKATO BRANCH OF THE NZSA 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER

Summary

Total Income	Total Expenses	Balance at Year End
\$709.82	\$527.30	\$182.52

Income Breakdown

Source	NZD \$
Opening Balance	101.42
Interest	5.95
Donations\Koha	100.00
Capitation\NZSA headoffice	502.45
Other Income	0.00
Total Income	709.82



Expense Breakdown

Category	Amount
Withholding Tax	1.30
Guest Author Fees	380.00
Prizes	125.00
Member Library Purchases	21.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Total Expenses	527.30



Board Activity Report

1. Introduction

Waikato Branch of the NZSA meetings are free to attend for NZSA members and non-members alike. Waikato Branch is committed to the professional development of Waikato Writers, the promotion of Waikato Writers and building a community for the local writing community age 18+.

2. Board Meetings & Governance

This year we saw a change in Waikato Branch Committee chair part way through the year with Lee Kimber stepping down due to change in personal circumstances, resigning as chair and from the Committee as a whole. Dr. Norman Franke & Imé Corkery were voted in by the committee members as co-chairs of the Waikato Branch Committee. Jeff Taylor was Treasurer for the entire 2024 term. Other members serving on the committee for 2024 : Peter Dornauf, Cristina Schumacher , Mike Burns, Dr. Norman Franke, Imé Corkery.

Our regional representative is Melinda Symanik.

3. Programs & Events

Guest Author Speakers:

Peter Thomas - Environmental Writing

Enni Amanda - Romance Author (indie publisher) (under 35)

Aimee-Jane Anderson-O'Connor - Poet (under 35)

Scott Bainbridge- True Crime & TV writer

Ben Brown- Maori & English Poetry

Deborah Challinor - Historical Fiction (Traditional Best selling Author)

Committee Speakers:

Dr Norman Franke - Flash Fiction with Kafka

Dr Norman Franke - Writing on Behalf of Others

Hamilton Book Month: We pay a substantial part of our yearly budget to host a speaker for our meeting that features as a HBM event.

Day of the Imprisoned Writer:

Each year we bring awareness to this cause at our November Meeting.

Waikato Branch Community Library: The branch has a library of books written by current and past member as well as books by guest authors. These books are free for any member to borrow

National Flash Fiction Day: Waikato Branch donate prize for Waikato regional winner.

4. Pegasus. Award

This year was the second year of the Pegasus award. The award was awarded to Aimee-Jane O'Connor by the Committee with the help of the prior winner Tracey Slaughter. This award is for authors who help other writers, who leave a lasting impact on Waikato Writing community & writing is a credit to Waikato region.

5. Writing & Publications

Committee members continue to publish in Aotearoa and abroad on a regular basis. Committee members also enter competitions and continues to work as nz authors outside of the Committee.

6. Challenges & Solutions

The reduction of arts funding throughout Aotearoa	This is an issue which is unclear how to resolve at this time. Lobbying with organisations like Creative Waikato for the Arts is one of our initiatives to address this
Attracting Younger writer to join & participate as active members	Engaging with young writers to address their needs. Potentially investigating 3 monthly meetings for younger writers
Align Waikato Writers practices with the NZSA head office	Engaging with young writers to address their needs. Potentially investigating 3 monthly meetings for younger writers

7. Future Plans. & Goals

3 Monthly Meeting for writers age 18- 35	To add an additional event to HBM Show case Waikato Writing. Talent	Author Guest Speakers on topics like AI , translated writing & political writing
Advocating for Waikato writers needs	Educating writers on topics like Copyright & more	Continue to secure further funding to pay Author Guest Speakers

2024

PEGASUS
AWARDS

CO-CHAIRS

FEB- SEPT CHAIR

AUTHOR GUEST
SPEAKERS 2024



AGM NZSA Central Districts Chair report 2024

Your NZSA Central Districts committee met regularly during 2024 via Zoom (and occasionally in person) to keep in touch and develop plans for keeping members engaged.

A e-newsletter is sent regularly to members with information gathered by your committee (and sometimes sent by members, thank you!) on local writer events across our broad sweeping district – arts festivals, competitions, poetry events and book launches. It has been a positive buzz to promote new books by our local members.

Before we started 2024 we had announced a summer “Memoir Competition” as part of our mission to keep members engaged with the branch. Shelley Burne-Field was our adjudicator. There were some superb entries and the winner was Cristina Sanders of Havelock North. This was followed in winter by a short story competition “A simple pleasure” which was won by Rangi Hapu with his story selected by Joan Rosier Jones. Although the entry numbers for these competitions are generally low, we hope they provide an opportunity for new writers to complete some work, perhaps try a new style, and get feedback from the judges.

The NZSA Roadshow in Palmerston North in June was well-publicised and popular, showing the value of this type of engagement in our central districts. A big thanks again to committee members Robyn Salisbury and Peter Cleave who were on the ground helping organise the event – local knowledge makes such a huge difference to the success of an event!

My thanks to the committee which is an active, committed group who are fun to work with despite all being busy with projects of their own – just to organise a ‘meet the writers’ event can take time and they do a great job.

Our thanks to Charlie Holland (Gisborne) who stepped down from the committee in late 2024 for the perfect reason – she was busy writing for stage productions.

A huge thanks, too, to our Regional Rep Tess Redgrave who is moving on. Tess was wonderful in keeping HQ informed and bringing back information and occasionally the latest news! Her advice and encouragement has been invaluable and we wish her fun and success in her new commitments. Mikaela Nyman stepped out from both Taranaki and the committee during the year but kept in touch on her rewarding fellowship year in Dunedin – she is nominated to replace Tess as our regional rep.

Gisborne committee rep Regina de Wolf Ngarimu is active with the Tairāwhiti Writers Hub which has a few publications under their belt now. Manawatu rep Robyn Salisbury is active with the Palmerston North writers hub which organised workshops and talks. Whanganui committee member Jayne Workman is involved in exhibitions, talks and events. Shelley Burne-Field has been a guest speaker at a few literary events in the year. Peter Cleave works quietly in the background keeping members informed through social media and making helpful connections when he can!

We welcome anyone who would like to give the committee a try – especially to fill the gap in Taranaki! The hardest task you'd get is to be the eyes on the ground in your local area to help keep everyone informed of writing and book events.

With no NZSA Roadshow able to be funded for 2025, the branch committee is investigating ways of being involved in literary festivals around the district as a logical and cost-effective way of meeting members and involving them in branch activities. Members suggestions and contact leads are most welcome.

We also struggle with the NZSA's very sensible privacy policy which doesn't permit the committee to each have a list of contact details for members in their areas. With such a widespread region, personal local contact would be helpful to get members involved in local book launches and events. We will find a way around this policy so members are well served.

Finances

The financial summary from NZSA main office is attached. We spent more than we took in from entry/workshop fees again, and in 2025 we will be managing the budgeting carefully. However we also note that we rely a great deal on goodwill and volunteers and that cost is never quantified. Our thanks to everyone who helps out and gets involved in NZSA events and we hope to see you during 2025.

Tess Redgrave

Central Districts Rep Report

Our committee remains strong and in good heart with members in each region: Gisborne - Regina de Wolf-Ngarimu, Hawke's Bay – Chair Susan Wylie and Shelley Burne-Field. Manawatu - Robyn Salisbury, Peter Cleave, Whanganui - Jayne Workman and New Plymouth - Mikaela Nyman.

It was great to be able to announce our short story competition winner at the Hawke's Bay Readers and Writers festival last year and Susan Wylie does a fabulous job with the regular newsletters and reigning us in for zoom committee meetings. However, we still struggle with not having a central meeting point for face-to-face meetings, or for holding NZSA CD events. We only have 137-odd members across our region and the committee reps. struggle with knowing who their members are, particularly in Taranaki, Whanganui and Manawatu.

The committee needs to continue to think outside the square re. how to engage with members, and each other. There won't be any national Roadshows over the next year which always helps. But in lieu of those, Central Office has offered to provide resources including some writers toolkits etc. to the regions.

I have always been in favour of holding regular short story, essay, flash fiction, children's writing or poetry competitions as a way to engage across the region but these need to be held regularly to get any traction. It might be worth looking to other regions, eg. Northland who are doing this successfully and have published compilations of writers entries.

This year the committee have identified two key events in Central Districts that they would like to have a CD presence at or perhaps sponsor an activity within the event. These are the Whanganui Literary Festival late September to early October and the third hui of the Kaituhi Māori Branch in Gisborne, October 10 -12 and activities surrounding this as part of the Tairāwhiti Arts Festival. Both will be great opportunities for Central Districts.

I have really enjoyed four years as the Central Districts rep, but it is time to fare thee well and wish the new rep and committee all the very best.

Ka nui te mihi, Tess Redgrave

NZSA Wellington Wairarapa Chair Report for 2025 AGM

For NZSA Wellington Branch this year has been one of transition, handing over the chair role from Tracy Farr to myself although, I hasten to add, with Tracy and the rest of the board very much in support roles. Before giving the chair's report, I want acknowledge the committee. This is my first time as chair (of pretty much anything) and I fear that this is not my special skill. There is no way we would be here tonight without the amazing committee: Tanya, Maya, Tasha, Shani, and especially Tracy, who have helped and supported, and pretty much run things. Ngā mihi.

I would also like to acknowledge Sean Barnett, who was an active NZSA member and supporter of the Wellington Branch. His death, in June of last year, left a gap in the literary landscape of NZ.

Branch committee

The April 2024 branch AGM saw Branch secretary Linda Hansen and branch treasurer Susan Koster stand down from their roles, and from the committee, with acknowledgement of their mahi – particularly Linda, who was branch secretary for three years. Other members of the committee – Tasha Haines, Tanya Ashcroft, Helena Claudia and Maya Cohen-Ronen – were re-elected. Two committee members were elected to the roles of secretary and treasurer: Shani Naylor as secretary and Tracy Farr as treasurer. I was elected as chair, and took over from Tracy Farr who had been acting as interim chair. I do want to acknowledge (again) that Tracy has been a huge support this past year. We have had a blessedly slow and gentle handover during 2024.

Helena Claudia stepped down from the committee – and from her role as youth representative on NZSA national board – early this year; we acknowledge her work on the committee in general, and particularly in establishing Pens & PJs for younger writers.

Branch secretary Shani Naylor is standing down from her role, and from the committee, at our 2025 branch AGM. We thank Shani for her mahi on the committee over the past five years, including the past year as branch secretary. The good news is that we have a strongly-supported nomination for the office of branch secretary. We also have nominations for two new general members. We are set to start the 2025 year with a mix of experienced and new members, all of whom are energised and enthusiastic.

Once more, I would like to thank the 2024 branch for the support, hard work, cohesion and enthusiasm. These wahine have made so much happen – Tracy, Shani, Maya, Tasha, Tanya: Thank you. I personally, would have been lost and floundering without you.

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). We hope to be able to extend our reach xxx by offering more to the Wairarapa and Kāpiti members in the coming year, and have some initiatives

to this end. Committee member, Tanya Ashcroft is not here tonight, as she is joining the Kāpiti Writers' Group meeting

Branch finances are in good health. Our outgoing expenses for events were covered by our income (from interest, capitation from NZSA national office, and a small seed-funding grant for Poetry Day).

Programme of events

During 2024, the branch's programme of events kicked off with Pens & PJs, a regular writing group meeting for young writers, aged 18-29, which was led by Youth Representative on the NZSA board, Helena Claudia. A national initiative (open to young writers around Aotearoa via Zoom), this group was established with a pilot programme in Pōneke, meeting at Wellington Writers' Studio on Cuba Street (and, later in the year, Otto), and supported by NZSA Wellington Branch.

One of our goals this past year was to hold a regular monthly event. The first of these was held in October 2024, at The Undercurrent Bookstore. In March 2025, we changed the venue to this one. The monthly events have proved to be popular, and I was struck not only by the excellent attendance at these events, but also the wonderfully supportive, creative atmosphere. We hope to continue holding a monthly event in the upcoming year. The goal is to have a mix of events, with speakers, open mic, member showcases.

Some of the monthly events worth noting here are:

- National Flash Fiction Day in June: NZSA Wellington supported and attended National Flash Fiction Day's Wellington reading and prize-giving.
- National Poetry Day: We collaborated with The Cuba Press to hold a well-attended event, Love: Tried, True & Toxic. Thank you to Phantom Billstickers for seed-funding and to The Cuba Press for a wonderful collaboration.
- Courage Day: In November, we marked Courage Day with an open mic evening that featured powerful, thoughtful readings on the theme of Courage Day, and imprisonment.
- Book Showcase: We finished the year with our Book Showcase in December, offering ten NZSA members the opportunity to introduce their recently-published books to an enthusiastic audience. The showcase has become a popular annual fixture in our calendar of events.

These events were held in addition to Open Mics, which have proved to be very popular.

The branch, as always, provides support for national NZSA initiatives. Notably, we mobilised volunteers to support NZSA President of Honour Barbara Else's Janet Frame Memorial Lecture for 2024, *Friends and Elephants*, held on 9 November at Hannah Playhouse, as part of Wellington's VERB Festival 2024.

I have been impressed, this year, by the level of support for our events, and taken with the mix of established and emerging writers attending.

Challenges and opportunities ahead

We've kicked off 2025 with the ever-popular open mic format for the first two of our regular monthly branch events, and have plans for a talk on copyright and writer's talk by Megan Dunn. In February, we shifted our regular venue from The Undercurrent to this new, fully accessible venue, Waitoa Victoria St.

Throughout 2024 we continued to struggle to find a regular – and, importantly, accessible – venue for branch events. We appreciate our members' advocacy on the importance of holding our events in fully accessible venues, fulfilling our obligations to NZSA's Accessibility Policy.

We look forward to supporting NZSA national initiatives in (or near!) our region, including wānanga to be held by Te Kaituhi Māori.

We look to strengthen our relationships and engagement beyond central and suburban Wellington, and consider how we might reach across our wider region, particularly to writers in Wairarapa and those on the Kāpiti coast. To this end, we have engaged in talks with the Paraparaumu Library and Kāpiti Writers' Group. We will continue to build on these in the coming year

I look forward with excitement to the coming year.

Gigi Fenster

Chair, NZSA Wellington Branch

April 2025

SUMMARY – Wellington Branch events and initiatives

Events in 2024

Date	Title, details	Speakers	Venue
3 January 2024 7 February 2024 6 March 2024 3 April 2024	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)
23 August 2024	Love: Tried, True & Toxic	Poetry Day event in collaboration with The Cuba Press, with readers Danny Bultitude, Zia Ravenscroft, Sadie Lawrence, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Khadro Mohamed, Richard Langston & Simon Sweetman (host)	The Undercurrent
9 October 2024	Open Mic Evening	Open mic readings, open theme	The Undercurrent
13 November 2024	Open Mic for Courage Day	Open mic readings on a Courage Day theme	The Undercurrent
13 November 2024	Pens & PJs	Monthly meet-up for young writers, led by Helena Andrews	Otto
11 December 2024	New Books Showcase	Wellington members introduce their recent books	The Undercurrent

Events in early 2025

Date	Title, details	Speakers	Venue
12 Feb 2025	Open Mic	Open mic readings, open theme	The Undercurrent
10 March 2025	Open Mic	Open mic readings, open theme	Waitoa Victoria St
14 April 2025	Branch AGM with guest Damien Wilkins	Damien Wilkins	Waitoa Victoria St and online (via Zoom)

Board report, 2024, for NZSA Wellington Branch 2025 AGM

SECTOR REPRESENTATION

I'd like to draw attention to the extent to which our New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa advocates on behalf of writers on issues that affect our ability to earn fair compensation for our works, including key advocacy on lending rights. A strong collective voice for writers is particularly important in the ongoing climate of slashing budgets and tightening belts; and in the face of AI, LLMs, and the theft and harvesting of our work to train them.

NZSA's fortnightly literary bulletin updates members on details of our advocacy – but I'd like to note here just some of our work in 2024 and early 2025. NZSA made submissions on MCH's *Amplify: A Creative and Cultural Strategy for New Zealand (Draft) 2024 – 2030*, on the Treaty Principles Bill, on the Media Reform Bill and on the Screen Strategy. As part of the Coalition for Books, we've contributed to the Book Sector Strategy to be launched in 2025. And we've continued to lobby hardest of all for review and reform of our Public Lending Right; we know that PLR reform is *the* top-most issue with respect to writers' incomes and fair reward.

NGĀ KAITUHI MĀORI

Ngā Kaituhi Māori was formally established in 2024. Its current chair (and patron) is Witi Ihimaera. The role of Te Māngai Māori ki te Poari (representative to the board) was held by Michelle Rahurahu (2022-24); Perena Quinlivan assumed the role in the second half of 2024, and continues on the komiti with Paula Morris, Renee Iosefa and Craig Fransen. The Kaituhi Māori Mentor Programme and NZSA Kupu Kaitiaki Programme were launched in 2024, and a number of WebWorkshops and Writer Toolkits were run. Two wānanga were held in 2024: at Ōrongomai Marae, Upper Hutt, in June – I was honoured to be invited to attend the pōwhiri and first night's kōrero for this hui – and at Te Awhina Marae, Motueka, in October.

Funding from Manatū Taonga MCH has supported the establishment of Ngā Kaituhi Māori and dedicated programmes and professional development opportunities for Māori writers. Supporting Ngā Kaituhi Māori aligns with NZSA's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

YOUNG WRITERS

Pōneke-based writer Helena Claudia was the inaugural Youth Representative on the NZSA board, from April 2022 to late 2024. During 2024 the Pens & PJs monthly writing group for young writers ran (in a hybrid model, in-person in Wellington and online via Zoom) from January to April, then resumed later in the year (in-person only) after a hiatus for review.) Helena Claudia's mahi was instrumental in the success of NZSA's application in 2024 to Sky City for a seeding grant for 2025 to support NZSA's youth writing network. Auckland-based writer Jessica Thomas took on the Youth Representative role in early 2025, and plans to extend NZSA's youth network around the motu in 2025.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our regional Roadshows, run in partnership with regional NZSA branches and Ngā Kaituhi Māori, build collegiality, connection and new opportunities for professional development in settings around the motu. In 2024, four regional roadshows and hui were held: Kaituhi Māori Hui

in Upper Hutt (May), Manawatū Palmerston North (June), Ōtepoti Dunedin (September), Kaituhi Māori Hui in Motueka (October).

Our Writer Toolkit modules and WebWorkshops present a valuable and growing professional development resource that writers can access wherever they are in Aotearoa or abroad. One Webworkshop is held per month, with the recording accessible for one month after the event. Writer Toolkit modules are designed to remain online longer term. NZSA members may access one Writers Toolkit module of their choice each year free of charge, as a membership benefit.

MEMBERSHIP

We're encouraged that NZSA membership numbers have held relatively steady – through 2023 and 2024 – after a noticeable increase during the period from 2020 to 2022. We are grateful for the continuing support of members, including those in our Wellington and Wairarapa region.

BOARD AND REPRESENTATION

I'm nearing the end of my second two-year term on the national board of NZSA Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa and, as I flagged in last year's report, I won't be standing for a third term at this year's national AGM (May 2025). It's been a privilege to work with NZSA President Vanda Symon and our fellow board members, with Chief Executive Jenny Nagle, and with Claire Hill and others in the national office team over the past four years – including nearly two years, until February 2024, as Vice-President – and to represent Wellington Wairarapa region.

This will be my last board report for Wellington Branch, though I will remain on the branch committee. Huge thanks from me to everyone on the NZSA Wellington branch committee – past and present; outgoing, ongoing and incoming – for your mahi. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

Tracy Farr

Wellington & Wairarapa regional delegate to NZSA board

April 2025

Wellington Writers Walk

Annual report 2025

Throughout 2024, we have continued to work towards the creation of a new sculpture for the Walk, our first in te reo Māori. This has involved consultation with mana whenua and Māori literary organisations and many meetings in cafes, offices, on the waterfront and online. We have worked with designer Dave Hakaraia to finalise a design and with Wellington City Council (WCC) staff to choose a location, and have prepared a funding submission for the Public Art Panel. WCC staff have been very supportive but even if our application is successful, the Public Art Panel cannot fund the entire amount, so we will be actively looking for other funding opportunities.

Work on Te Ngākau Civic Precinct (Civic Square) and the possible demolition of the City to Sea Bridge, if it goes ahead, will impact on four sculptures: Lauris Edmond, Vincent O'Sullivan, Pat Lawlor and the sponsors' plaque. WCC staff set up a meeting with us to talk through some of the implications, including whether there will be a place for the sculptures in the new design, and if not, where they will be placed, and where they might be stored in the meantime.

Temporary waterfront fencing is another current (and equally controversial) WCC issue. This has seen the Bill Manhire sculpture fenced off but there's little we can do about this until the Council makes a final decision about whether the waterfront will be fully fenced or not.

Maintenance of the Writers Walk becomes a Council responsibility once the sculptures are installed. It's disappointing (and sometimes puzzling) when letters are intentionally removed. We monitor the sculptures regularly and work with WCC on any repair work needed, but for all of you who love the Writers Walk, whether locals or visitors, it's very helpful for us if you contact us or the Council if you happen to notice missing letters, graffiti or anything else that needs fixing. It's good for the Council to know that the Walk is noticed and valued. If you aren't familiar with the Writers Walk, we'd encourage you to check out our website (<https://wellingtonwriterswalk.co.nz/>) and go looking for some of the sculptures next time you're in Wellington.

We have built up a warm relationship with Walk Wellington and received an invitation to their 25th birthday party in December 2024. Walk Wellington donate some of their proceeds to other groups that showcase Wellington, and we're grateful to them for their donation this year.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work in 2024. Our current committee is Tanya Ashcroft, Geraldine Baumann, Tracy Farr, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Shani Naylor and myself. 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 and we appreciate our connection with NZSA Wellington branch. We hold regular committee meetings in person (at Te Awe Library meeting rooms) or by zoom, with email discussions in-between meetings, and we had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Thistle Inn in December.

You can get in touch with us by emailing any of the committee members, or by using the contact button on the Writers Walk website. We also appreciate any photos of the Walk you might post on social media using relevant hashtags (#wellingtonwriterswalk, #writerswalk, #wellingtonnz).

Philippa Werry

Chair, Wellington Writers Walk committee

NZSA Top of the South Branch Chair's Report

By Kerry Sunderland

The Top of the South branch currently represents more than 100 writers from Hokitika, Greymouth and Westport on the West Coast; Golden Bay, Motueka and Nelson in the Nelson City/Tasman District; and from Rai Valley, Blenheim, and Picton in the Marlborough District.

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.

Committee membership expands

In the past 12 months, we have been actively recruiting new committee members. We have particularly encouraged writers who live across this broad geographical area to join our committee, and at the upcoming AGM on May 14, we will officially vote in three new members: Charlotte Squire from Golden Bay, Sylvan Thomson from Ruby Bay, and Tania Norfolk from Nelson City.

These three new committee members join existing members Dave Briggs (Nelson), who joined the committee at our 2024 AGM, as well as Iona Winter (Reefton), Lucy Wilson (Riwaka), Kate Shaw (Nelson) and me (currently living in Kaiteriteri but moving back to Nelson).

Chris Tait, who has served in the role of Treasurer for several years, will be stepping down from the committee at this year's AGM. We are extremely grateful to Chris for her contribution and her attention to detail in managing our finances. Chris has also brought a calm and thoughtful presence to our meetings as well as the ability to think outside the box.

In addition, local kaituhi Māori, poet and playwright Donna McLeod and cultural exponent, teacher, weaver, researcher, editor, translator, and writer Nuki Takao have offered to be our cultural advisors, providing guidance on kaupapa Māori initiatives, like our Te Tauihu Short Story Award te reo Māori category.

Given the geographical spread of our region, our committee meetings are held online via Zoom, although we've been experimenting with occasional hybrid meetings (with some people in person and some online).

Te Taihu Short Story Awards

The Te Taihu Short Story Awards continue to be our main activity for the year and, for the fourth year running, will include both an English and te reo Māori category. One major change this year is the timing of the competition, which has traditionally opened in late summer and run through to the end of May. In 2025, we will open for entries on June 20, the Matariki Public Holiday, which feels particularly auspicious and appropriate, given that they are bilingual awards but should also give aspiring entrants more time (over the winter months) to craft their stories. Entries will close at the end of August, with the shortlist announced in mid-late September and the winners in early October.

This year, our English language judge is acclaimed writer, editor, poet and screenwriter, Lee Murray, who received the New Zealand Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Fiction in 2023. Our te reo Māori judge is the forementioned Nuki Takao, who has, for the past 25 years, translated, edited, published, authored and co-authored books primarily in te reo Māori and written mainly for Māori medium education settings.

Traditionally the competition has been an important fundraiser for the branch, allowing us to create opportunities throughout the year for writers to learn about writing and publishing and interact with fellow creatives. In 2024, the capitation received from NZSA (membership fees distributed to the branch) amounted to \$415.00. Sponsorship and competition fees bring in much needed revenue. While it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure sponsorship and funding in this current economic climate, we are forging new relationships – with local sponsors as well as NZSA Te Kaituhi Māori – to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of this initiative.

Partnership with Nelson Arts Festival

In 2024, we continued our partnership with Pukapuka Talks as part of the Nelson Arts Festival by sponsoring a workshop titled Plotting Historical Fiction, which was capably facilitated by Cristina Sanders, author of *Mrs Jewell and the Wreck of the General Grant* (shortlisted for the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize in 2023) and her latest book *Okiwi Brown*.

Supporting local writers' groups

For the second year running, our monthly 'Rock-up & Write' continued. Held on the last Saturday of each month, the event provides a quiet venue for writers, as well as a visible presence for our branch. It took place for most of last year at Richmond Library but, with the Constance Barnicoat meeting room temporarily closed for renovations, the event has recently moved to a meeting room at the Honest Lawyer in Monaco (which is also now the home of Writers at Lunchtime, one of the most active local writing groups, convened by Belinda Mellor).

We are aware there are many active writing groups in our region, across many forms and genres, which are safe and nourishing spaces for writers to gather, share their work and develop their skills. Our goal in the coming year is to strengthen our relationship with these groups, as well as individual writers, and encourage them to get involved in local initiatives

and events, as well as join the NZSA so they benefit from being part of a collective dedicated to supporting their professional development and protecting their rights.

New TOS website

Dave Briggs, with the support of Lucy Wilson, is to be congratulated for taking the initiative and suggesting we rebuild our branch website. Dave and Lucy have donated numerous hours of mahi to redevelop the new site at <https://www.nzsa-topwriters.org/>, which will be officially launched at our AGM.

NZSA CANTERBURY BRANCH

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 paring 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



Otago Southland Branch of the NZSA Chair Report for the year ending 2024

2024 was a big year for our branch, as our Ōtepoti Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature celebrated 10 years, and we celebrated with them. Our two main events – National Flash Fiction Day and National Poetry Day were collaborations with our city of literature.

Here is an outline of our 2024 activities.

Salon series/ 2024 readings

Our Salon reading series continued in 2024 with a wide range of invited guests. We held the following Salons in 2024:

- **March** Mikaela Nyman (Robert Burns Fellow 2024) and Fiona Farrell
- **May** Paul Sorrell and David Kārena-Holmes
- **September** Siobhan Harvey and Lynley Edmeades
- **October** Linda Collins, Roisin Warner and Jackson
- **November** Kim Cope Tait, Claire Lacey, Mikaela Nyman

National Flash Fiction Day in June

A big event with funding from the DCC Arts Fund, celebration 10 years of Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature with music, ekphrastic writing and posters, short list writers sharing work with percussion collaborations, emerging voices, youth prizes, the Otago Southland NZSA Regional Prize and spot prizes. We invited participants from around the region and many came from further locations, including Queenstown and Wanaka.

- Art & Story works shared with artists from the Art+Science programme of the Univ. of Otago
- Prizes presented by Lola Elvy (youth awards) and David Eggleton (adult awards)
- Shortlisted writers: Janean Cherkun, Bethany Rogers
- Event held at Alexander Pianos, Stuart Street, Dunedin
- Guest readers: Mikaela Nyman, Claire Lacey, Liz Breslin, David Eggleton, Diane Brown
- Musicians: Pam Morrison, Claire Beynon, Penelope Todd, Carl Woodward, Simon Eastwood

- Youth readers included readers from schools who participated in the ekphrastic poster project (from Columba College and Otago Girls High), and youth long and shortlisted readers.

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

National Poetry Day, August

A sold-out event in August with music, dance and poetry collaborations – featuring Bill Martin (piano), Carl Woodward (drums) and Simon Eastwood (bass), and poets both new and experienced, with two workshops and competitions (youth and adult). Judges for the 2022 poetry competitions were Jillian Sullivan (youth) and Majella Cullinane (adult).

The Aug 22 event included participation of 40 poets – many writing collaborative work celebrating our city. We invited poets from around the region; they came from Queenstown and Oturehua; Of note was Brian Turner’s reading with Jillian Sullivan – Brian’s last poetry reading.

Also in 2024 National Poetry Day included an anthology of Otepoti and Otago poets, called PERCH and celebrating both 10 years of our City of Literature and 100 years of Janet Frame. The book was created and edited by Michelle Elvy, with 60 poets included, from Robert Sullivan, Janet Frame, David Eggleton, Cilla McQueen and Brian Turner to other poets who are emerging or brand new with this being their first publication.

The book was made by At the Bay | I te Kokoru and printed by local printmaker Gilbert May of GE Studios. It can be found here: <https://atthebay.org/perch/>

We thank Creative Communities Dunedin for their support of the event.

World Suicide Prevention Day, Sept 10

Organised by Linda Collins, this was a reading from local poets including Lynda Scott Araya, Diane Brown, Liz Breslin. Linda Collins, Majella Cullinane, Clare Lacey, Mikaela Nyman & Rushi Vyas / Introduced by Michelle Elvy.

Koha donations were given to Life Matters Suicide Trust, Dunedin, for World Suicide Prevention Day, Sept 10.

NZSA Regional Road Show, September

The Roadshow came to Dunedin with local and invited guest authors participating.

Branch bulletin

We run the monthly bulletin on the first Thursday of each month. A Mailchimp layout makes use of clean, easy to navigate presentation. In the newsletter, we offer a spotlighted member section each time. 2024 spotlights included:

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.

Beverly Martens hosts the Otago Southland NZSA Radio Show, Write On. This highlights the works of local writers and gives them the opportunity to experience a radio interview and reach a different audience. We are grateful to the University Book Shop for sponsoring the show.

Membership

We continue to see new members many months of the year – and we try to welcome them into the branch.

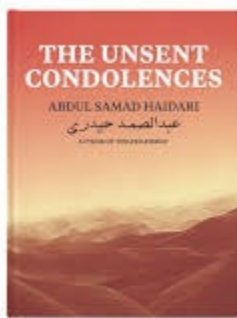
Michelle Elvy

Otago/Southland Branch Chair, 01 May 2025

PEN Report for 2024-5

It's been a quiet year, and we continue to get fewer Rapid Action Network than in the past, but they are still coming. As Russia continues in ascendancy in the world, and the influence of the right escalates, I suspect this might increase in the future.

I'm continuing to write regular articles in *The Author* and Trish Fenton always responds with a nice email about them, which is reassuring after the Cuban disaster. I learn a lot from writing these articles, so they're good for me too – and I'm very grateful to Tina Shaw for her editing of them, because she often gets an article that's not hugely polished, and sometimes slightly too long.



Last year my sister attended the book launch of the refugee we helped the previous year. Abdul Samad Haidari came to me from PEN Australia, who had been his main support when he was a refugee stranded in Indonesia. Finally he was able to get a place in New Zealand, and Ross Holder in UK Head Office then asked me to support him here. My sister, NZSA Head Office and Cuba Press all stepped up, and the result was a happier writer and a successful book launch. Thank you, everyone! I now have a copy of the book, *The Unsent Condolences*.

The latest Video Poem Marathon has just been released, and I see there are not only fewer videos than last year, but none from this part of the world except from Australia – no Pasifika poets are featured, and no Māori poet. It would be good if we had more of a presence next year.

Lesley Marshall

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

Report to NZSA National Office

New Zealand Book Awards Trust Te Ohu Tiaki i Te Rau Hiringa: *Prepared by Melinda Szymanik – 30 April 2025*

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 April 8th, 2024, the Trust has held four board meetings (in May, August, November and February) and an annual strategy day in June. I attended all five meetings as the NZSA representative on the NZBAT board. This report includes:

- Summary of 2024 National Poetry Day
- Summary of 2024 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards and an update on the 2025 Awards
- Summary of the 2024 NZCYA Awards and an update on 2025 Awards
- General Business

Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day 2024

- Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day 2024 was another great success, with around 100 official events from Kohukohu in the Far North to Queenstown in the deep South, from book launches and performances to slam and poetry writing competitions, open mic nights, readings, workshops, and panel discussions. Accessibility was a core theme of the day, with initiatives like Books on the Bus, which dropped themed poetry on Auckland's buses, trams, trains, and ferries, and a number of libraries being hubs of activity.
- Social media was alive with strong engagement across all platforms on Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day. Chris Tse kicked things off with an inspiring call to action early in the day. MP Jenny Salesa marked the occasion by sharing a poem from Queen Sālote Tupou III. Paul Henry, a passionate poetry fan, joined in by posting Maggie Smith's "Good Bones" on Instagram, while Jay-Jay Feeney added her own twist with a playful take on the Book of Genesis, written when she was 14.
- Participation on the day demonstrated a widespread interest in live events with 42% of respondents reporting 25-50 people attending their event and a remarkable 18.4% of events with over 100 attendees.
- The four 2024 Ockham New Zealand Peter and Mary Biggs Poetry Award finalists all participated in Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day. Q&As posted on the Book Awards Trust website and shared individually through dedicated posts on Facebook

and Instagram garnered solid engagement across social media channels. Grace Yee, winner of the Mary and Peter Biggs Prize for Poetry and resident in Australia, took part in a special webinar hosted by Red Room Poetry in conjunction with Australian Poetry Month on Thursday 22 August. This sell out event was a wonderful warm-up to NPD. Grace then travelled to New Zealand just after National Poetry Day to participate in an event at Unity Books with Poet Laureate Chris Tse. Other finalists, Megan Kitching, Isla Huia, and Bill Nelson, were actively involved in events across Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, ensuring a great geographic spread of Ockhams finalist involvement across the country!

- Once again Phantom Billstickers ran a marvelous poster campaign with a poem from each finalist. This is a very special endeavor and 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. They also ran a strong poster campaign in prominent outdoor sites across the motu promoting National Poetry Day itself.

Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2024

- The 2024 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards were a triumph. Well attended, with around 550 people in the audience at the Kiri Te Kanawa theatre, and approximately 3200 watching via the livestream, the ceremony ran smoothly with some lively speeches. Both the Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage were in attendance as well as several MPs and other politicians.
- A highly successful 15-week publicity campaign culminated in saturation media coverage of the winners' announcement, with the awards' first ever TV1 six o'clock news story, plus interviews and to-camera pieces on all other TV news channels.
- New relationships were forged with digital distributor Overdrive, public space innovator The Commuting Book, and nationwide book club specialist the Book Discussion Scheme, to broaden the reach of the long and shortlisted titles.
- In a very challenging retail environment, the shortlisted and winning books sold around 8000 copies, providing much welcomed revenue of just shy of \$300,000 for booksellers. Although lower than the record 2023 sales this was a very encouraging result in the circumstances and demonstrates the Ockhams is still a significant economic driver for both book retailers and publishers. *Lioness*, winner of the Jan Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction, was the top-selling title across the period tracked, and was also the best seller of the close to 11,000 books sold during the Auckland Writers Festival in the days immediately following the awards ceremony.
- There were 175 entries for the 2025 awards.
- The 2025 longlist of 43 titles (13 in General Non-Fiction and 10 in each of the other categories) was announced on 30 January, representing 19 publishers and dominated this year by experienced authors. The 16 finalists were revealed on 5 March.
- The international fiction judge for 2025 is esteemed literary festival chair, books editor and broadcaster Georgina Godwin. Ms Godwin has previously judged the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, the Caine Prize for African Writing and the British Book Awards.

- This year's awards ceremony will be held on May 14th at the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre at Aotea Centre. It marks the 10th anniversary of the relationship with principal sponsor Ockham Residential.

New Zealand Children's and Young Adults Book Awards 2024

- There were 175 entries in total for the 2024 awards, representing 141 books. Self-published books accounted for 26.3% of all submissions.
- More schools than ever were involved in awards-related activities, with a record 75 schools reviewing books as part of the judging process. The Back-a-Book video competition continued to be popular with over 30 schools entering videos, and the HELL Reading Challenge broke all records with over 340,000 pizza wheels sent out to 607 schools and 207 public libraries nationwide (cf. the previous record of 325,000 set in 2023 and 310,000 the year prior to that).
- Thousands of rangatahi from around the country participated in online events held as part of Hell's Great NZ Book Trip with winning and finalist authors from previous NZCYA awards, including Susan Wardell, Rose Northey, and Fifi Colston, and the 2024 Book of the Year winner Stacy Gregg.
- Media coverage was incredibly strong in 2024, despite the challenges created by ongoing media contractions. There was a TV crew from Whaakata Māori at the ceremony for the first time in recent years and Reading Room covered the winners announcement, also a first. TV coverage by the AM Show, Breakfast and What Now was good with interviews and competitions. Print was also particularly strong, with features everywhere from local and national papers through to the New Zealand Woman's Weekly. There was also excellent coverage online by The Spinoff, The Sapling and others, and good support from Read NZ.
- 17,000 copies of the finalist booklet, along with other promotional material, were widely distributed to bookshops and libraries, and the booklets were also inserted into 35,000 subscriber copies of the NZ Listener.
- More than 1000 school students attended Books Alive school events in Wellington and Christchurch, with an additional 470 children participating for the first time in a third centre: Invercargill.
- Approximately 220 people gathered at Pipitea Marae, Wellington, on 14 August for the awards ceremony. MC'd again by Jase Te Patu. This was a wonderful, positive celebration of the finalist books, and Aotearoa New Zealand children's literature as a whole, in a warm and supportive atmosphere.
- There were marked increases in sales of finalist books in the weeks following the shortlist announcement and again after the winners announcement. Sales at Books Alive events and the ceremony undoubtedly contributed to these spikes.
- In December the selection of judges for the 2025 Awards was confirmed, with five in the general panel led by Convener Feana Tu'akoi and including the 2024 Margaret

Mahy Supreme winner Stacy Gregg, and four in Te Kura Pounamu, headed by 2023 Margaret Mahy Supreme winner, Mat Tait. Mero Rokx will sit on both panels.

- Thanks to further Mātātuhi Foundation funding, Books Alive will be expanding to a fourth centre, Palmerston North, in 2025. Taking place on 22nd July, this event will be managed by Alan Dingley and Sasha Eastwood. Events are again planned for Invercargill on 30th July, in Christchurch on August 7th and Wellington on Awards Day, August 13th.
- Final entries for 2025 are 156 (cf. 175 for 2024, and 153 in 2023), with 129 books submitted in total.
- Judging is well under way with the finalist announcement to be made on June 5th.
- After extensive consultation with publishers and former Te Kura Pounamu judges, the Trust announced it would offer two prizes within Te Kura Pounamu category from 2025, one for a book written originally in te reo Māori, and the other for a book translated into te reo. For the first year at least, the winners will be selected from a joint TKP shortlist of up to five titles.
- For this year's Hell Reading Challenge, well over 160,000 reading wheels have already been sent out since the challenge opened in mid-March.

General Business

- Trustees Rachael King (independent rep) and Melinda Szymanik (NZSA rep) resigned from their trustee roles in 2024 and 2025 respectively, and the Trust welcomed Elena De Roo as the new NZSA rep. A new independent trustee will be confirmed soon.
- The Trust Deed is in the process of being updated, which will allow for the appointment of a ninth trustee.
- Nicola Legat continues as Board Chair, Garth Biggs as Treasurer, and Laura Caygill has replaced Melinda Szymanik as Secretary.
- Current subcommittees memberships:
 - CYA*: Laura Caygill (convenor), Nicola Legat, Elena De Roo
 - Ockhams*: Nicola Legat (convenor), Suzy Maddox, Renée Rowland
 - NPD*: Richard Pamatatau (convenor), Renée Rowland, Elena De Roo
 - Sponsorship*: Nicola Legat (convenor), Richard Pamatatau
 - Finance*: Garth Biggs (Treasurer and convenor), Nicola Legat
 - Tikanga*: Suzy Maddox (convenor), Laura Caygill



The Coalition for Books

For the year ended 31 December 2024

'What did we do?'; 'When did we do it?'

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outcomes

Key activities listed on the Coalition Strategic Plan

- Financial Stability: expand income streams to support Kete and the Coalition, maximise grant income; build reserves.
- Submit CNZ Annual Arts Grant application
- Sector Communication: liaise and consult with Coalition Members, stakeholders and the literature sector to ensure broad representation and strategic direction.
- Sales of New Zealand Books: increase sales of books by NZ writers; measure number of book reviews.
- Advocacy: Continue work on a book sector plan.
- Digital/Media Strategy Development: develop and maintain Kete website – reviewing (at least 100 books), events calendar, news, new book listings – for general readers. Develop and maintain Coalition for Books website for industry members and increase newsletter subscriptions to 8,000.
- Enhanced Book and Writer Visibility: Coalition to produce at least 2 print and 4 digital ad campaigns promoting NZ books.
- New Readers & Audiences: Participation at Pasifika Festivals in 2024.

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs

- Financial Stability: successful CNZ grant obtained in 2024 to support the Coalition's programme of activities including Kete's review programme. Members and Associates numbered 47 entities by the end of December 2024.
- Sector training: completion of sector wide digital marketing training programme for 20 participants. In-person and line events to support. Coursework provided for all members via the Coalition website.
- Sector advocacy: finalising of a book sector plan during an in-person hui in October and five online hui in November; four meetings held with CNZ representatives and two meetings with MCH across the year.
- Membership communication: Bi-monthly digital news updates sent to members (5 in total)
- Sales of New Zealand Books: 129 NZ books were reviewed on Kete in 2023; 31 author interviews, extracts and book focussed articles on Kete; Nielsen Book Data services (paid) enabled the Coalition to upload details of approximately 400 new books to Kete,

and provide weekly bestseller lists, and these were amplified through the Kete newsletter and social.

Digital/Media Strategy Development:

- Kete website programme, including a newly relaunched site for 2024 (via MCH Regeneration grant) saw a 200% increase of site traffic with a total of 170,000; newsletter subscribers annual increase of 92% to 6,069; 27 newsletters published featuring new books, book sector news, event news, bestseller lists and giveaway competitions for NZ books; content sharing relationship with RNZ amplified select reviews to their 880.000 strong NZ audience with reciprocal audio content.
- Enhanced Book and Writer Visibility: hosted physical presence at Pasifika Auckland festival, partnering with booksellers'
- The Dorothy Butler Children's Bookshop to showcase and sell Māori and Pasifika books within communities outside usual bookshop and library settings; three printed catalogues (Māori and Pasifika, Matariki Winter reading; Christmas summer reading with the Booksellers Association) distributed through schools, libraries, booksellers and the Listener;
- Major digital campaign supporting Te Wiki o te reo Māori with a week-long content shift on Kete to te reo including reviews and editorial; four digital campaigns supporting Māori and Pasifika, Matariki winter reading, Te Wiki o te reo Māori, Pride and Christmas summer reading, promoted through Kete, social media and with shareable resources for members

PLRAG: report to the NZSA AGM 2025

The PLR Advisory Group met in September 2024, discussing the minor changes that could be made to the scheme without legislation review, and the opportunities that may exist to further that bigger picture pathway to change.

Those minor changes – removing the need for annual registration for existing titles and opening the challenge period earlier – came into effect this year. Some members reported difficulties with registering using ‘realme’, but once this is done, the process is proving less cumbersome, and removes the possibility of forgetting to re-register and thus missing out entirely.

I hope all our members took the opportunity to respond to Creative NZ’s draft strategy, and to identify PLR and copyright legislation as a key area for review. This remains our best hope for making significant changes to the scheme, with the goal of ensuring it is technology-appropriate, fair, future-proofed and administratively streamlined.

Our ongoing areas of concern include that the fund is not inflation-adjusted; the appropriateness in today’s literary ecosystem of the fifty book cut-off; the current exclusion, by definition in the Act, of digital and audio books, and of school libraries; and the accuracy and administrative load of the count.

PLRAG includes representatives from NZSA, LIANZA (Libraries Association), the National Library (which administers the scheme) and relevant Government departments (MCH, MBIE, DIA).

It is my hope that 2025 will see, perhaps not significant change, but a process begun that will allow significant change in the future. More a ‘plugging away’ than a ‘watch this space’, but the Group is committed to moving forward, albeit at the pace that Government ministers dictate.

Anna Mackenzie

PLRAG Chair