

Auckland Reading Association

Newsletter: 2009-2010



President's Report

Greetings from the President, NZRA Conference, Queenstown, indeed, a remarkable adventure in a variety of ways. Good speakers and good company made for an enlightening time. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this conference. I know too that our sponsored teachers found it to be informative as well as stimulating. Another attendee has become inspired to start a doctorate. The only drawback was the glorious weather outside, whilst we were all inside.

Having caught the bus from Dunedin to Queenstown, I was looking forward to flying out and viewing the Remarkables from above. Although I watched the snow fall, I checked in, but three hours later, we were all advised that our flight was cancelled and we were to be sent to Christchurch by bus – an 8 hour drive! It was actually a glorious drive as the weather was clear and fine and the scenery spectacular. Eventually, 26 hours later than scheduled, I arrived home!

With regret we note the passing of Shirley Nalder, one of our Life members, who in turn had devoted her life to reading and supporting both teachers and at risk children. Shirley influenced and supported many

teachers with her innovative ways of teaching reading and through her published books; still relevant today is her book *Teaching literacy to under-achieving students*. Her passion for children struggling with literacy was furthered by her role as Resource Teacher: Reading. Our sincere condolences to her family.

Our AGM will feature Gavin Bishop. Keep the 24th March free for this event. This of course is also your opportunity to join the ARA committee and shape future direction.

Sponsored teacher applications are now being invited – the chance for several 'new' teachers to be funded to attend the 23rd International Reading Association's World Congress being held here in Auckland. Successful applicants will be announced at the AGM. ARA membership forms have been sent out as only member schools are eligible to apply for sponsorship for teachers.

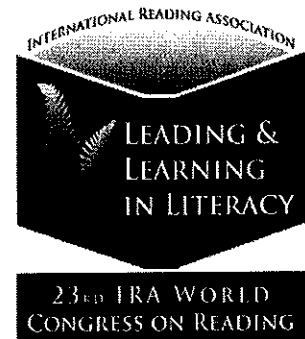
The World Congress theme is *Leading and Learning in Literacy*. Member rates to attend this are \$540 and non-members \$625. Keep the second week of the July holidays free for this event – 12-15.7.10. See the IRA website for more details.

Two successful functions were held at

the latter part of the year—our hugely popular Young Author's and Illustrators Day and a presentation by Michele Anstey and Geoff Bull on Multiliteracies. Although there weren't as many attending the Anstey and Bull presentation on Multiliteracies as we anticipated, it was a superb day.

Maria's (our President –Elect) first baby arrived in November. Welcome Matthew. Our meetings this year will be somewhat different. We wish her and Chris all the best in their new roles. I would like to thank you all for your support at our various functions this year and look forward to meeting with you again next year.

Christine Whibley
ARA President.



Schedule of Upcoming Events

27-28/02/2010 Storylines Joy Cowley writing workshop

19/03/2010 Sponsored teacher applications for IRA World Congress due (application template attached)

24/03/2010 Annual General Meeting with Gavin Bishop

11-12/07/2010 IRA leadership workshop

12-15/07/2010 IRA World Congress

Literacy - A Remarkable Adventure



By Maria Surrey
(A ARA Sponsored Teacher to the 2009 NZRA Conference)

As New Zealand education is about to embark on it's newest challenge of National Standards and development of the new curriculum, teachers are faced with the increasing challenge of being learner focused and lifting achievement in the classroom. For the most part a changing pedagogy is needed. Teachers need to be adapting their teaching practice and making new connections. It is essential that an expansion of thinking around how children learn in literacy takes place and then we as teachers give children opportunities to experience this.

The NZRA conference held in Queenstown last year had a clear focus on literacy learning and teaching through the 21st century. Its aim was to enhance the pedagogy of teachers so best practice happens in all classrooms. The conference provided an amazing opportunity for teachers and leaders of education to be engaged and think about literacy.

The Key note speakers all had valuable information to share. A key component of their addresses touched on national standards in the US and how this has impacted on students literacy levels. Kathy Au imparted her knowledge about lifting achievement levels across Hawaii and Sheena Hervey spoke about the work their company AUSSIE was doing in New York. She spoke about the results they were getting from increased teacher professional development in Literacy. Terry Crooks and Lester Flockton spoke from the National Education Monitoring Programme and described their research on the impact of school assessment practices on students, and related work on the validity of educational assessments. We were entertained on the last day by Kim Hill and Kate De Goldi with a discussion around young people's literature and how important it is to expose children to a wide variety of text and genre. Their address was presented in a talk show way.

Workshops provided an opportunity to share, discuss and engage in up to date research and provided participants with valuable ideas and resources to take back to the classroom.

Literacy, a remarkable adventure was truly engaging. It provided opportunities to discuss, think and debate key education issues in a literacy environment. I was fortunate to go and have come back to school with many resources and the knowledge that literacy teaching needs to be explicit. This is vitally important in the implementation of the new curriculum and we as teachers have a responsibility to equip our learners with the skills of Literacy for the 21st century.



Joy Cowley Writing Workshop WRITING FROM THE HEART

A rare chance to attend an intensive two-day course with this master storyteller, covering all aspects of writing for children and young adults - getting started, plot, character, voice, humour, writing disciplines, picture books, chapter books, YA novels, presenting a manuscript, getting support. Brought to you by *Storylines*.

Participants	30 participants maximum
Cost	\$500 includes GST and critique of story
Venue	Kohia School, Kohia Terrace, Epsom, Auckland
Sessions	9am to 4pm - 27th and 28th of February 2010

Young Author's Day

A recount by Oloa Aupouri



It was a crisp, cold, windy day when I went on a trip to the Auckland Reading Association's Young Author's Day. As I quickly packed my bag and raced out the front door, I felt the chilly wet feeling you get when the sky starts to spit. I quickly raced to school so I could see what this special day was going to bring me.

Our journey started at Te Papapa Primary School when we were put into groups with students from all different schools that I hadn't even heard of! We spent the day talking with a lot of talented New Zealand authors like Ross Kinnard, Lucy Davey and Simon Grunt. Jill Marshall was my first author and she gave us really good tips, like how she starts her stories by using two simple words... "what if?"

My favourite author was Melinda Szymanik. I liked her because she attended my school as a child but mostly because she didn't try to tell us how she writes, she asked us what we wanted to know about writing and what we get stuck on. She told us that "reading makes you a good judge for what you want to write". Sarah Nelisiwe Anderson is an awesome illustrator who gives tips that are very cool and easy to remember! She told us... "every little thing you're drawing is helping you to create your own little library in your head".

My favourite part of the day was at the end when my name was drawn and I was given one of my favourite things to get... a book! I considered myself lucky to get a book out of all the students who were at the Day... but now I think we were all really lucky to be a part of the Young Author's Day!

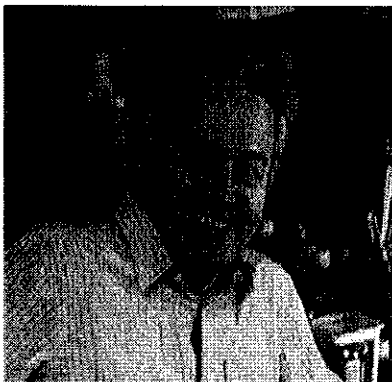
About the Author - Oloa Aupouri is 12 years of age and attends Mangere Central School.

Well known New Zealand author and illustrator

GAVIN BISHOP

will be our guest speaker at the 2010 AGM

Venue	Kohia Teachers Centre
Date	24 March 2010
Time	5.00- 7.00pm.
Cost	\$30 for members, \$50.00 non-members
	<i>Wine and nibbles will be provided.</i>



INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION WORLD CONGRESS 2010

Registrations will be available on NZRA website from
early March

See www.nzra.org.nz for more details
