

**AUCKLAND  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL**  
**WAITUHI  
O TĀMAKI**

**2024**

**Schools Programme**  
**Hōtaka Kura**

[writersfestival.co.nz](http://writersfestival.co.nz)

**14-16 MAY | 14-16 MEI**

**SUPPORTED BY THE FREEMASONS FOUNDATION**

# Contents | Rārangi Upoko

---

**3**

**Our Supporters**

---

**4**

**The Information You Need**

---

**5**

**Featured Writers**

---

**6**

**Dates for Your Diary**

---

**7**

**How to Book & Transport Fund Information**

---

**8**

**Barfoot & Thompson Young Authors Challenge**

---

**9-12**

**Upper Primary Info and Booking Form**

---

**13-17**

**Intermediate Info and Booking Form**

---

**18-24**

**Secondary Info and Booking Form**

---

# The 2024 Schools Programme | Hōtaka Kura is made possible through the generous support of:

---

## Schools Programme Gold Partner



---

## Major Grant Partners



---

## Funding and Donor Partners



---

## Young Authors Challenge



# Schools Programme | Hōtaka Kura

## The Information You Need

**14-16 May | 14-16 Mei 2024**

The Auckland Writers Festival | Waituhi o Tāmaki, with the generous support of the Freemasons Foundation, is delighted to deliver our 16th annual Schools Programme | Hōtaka Kura in May 2024.

Designed to inspire young readers and writers, our Schools Programme engages and entertains more than 6,000 Year 5-13 students each year and is an exciting opportunity for our tamariki and rangatahi to both connect with the people behind the books they already know and love, and discover new voices. This year features inspirational writers from across New Zealand and the world in three jam-packed days of sessions and workshops tailored for primary, intermediate and secondary school students.

With the generous support of the Freemasons Foundation we are able to keep Schools Programme ticketing prices accessible, provide the *Read The World* publication, offer book tokens and deliver our Pukapuka Adventures family weekend.

### CHOOSE YOUR DATE

This year we are offering four sessions a day for **Years 5-6 (14, 15 or 16 May), Years 7-8 (14 May) and Years 9-13 (15 or 16 May).**

### COST

We believe books and ideas should be accessible to all, so we work closely with partners to keep ticket prices low. Day attendance (four x 45-minute sessions) is \$13 per student; workshop places (one hour) are \$16 per student. Teachers attend FREE of charge. Books are available for purchase at the Festival Bookshop and writers will be available to sign books in the breaks.

**“The students had a great time and were smiling for days.”** Lynfield College

**“An opportunity that our students would not normally get, a window into a different world.”** James Cook High School

**“Students that attended the workshops loved them! Good group size and opportunity to engage with the authors.”**

Northcross Intermediate

**“The author sparked enthusiasm for reading amongst our “unexcited” kids. They saw someone they related to.”** Matamata Intermediate

The Festival will follow all Government guidelines relating to any unforeseen events, such as but not limited to, extreme weather conditions and pandemic outbreaks. If this situation occurs schools will be notified and updated.

# Our 2024 Featured Writers

## **Elizabeth Acevedo** (US)

Multi award-winning international writer and slam poet

## **Rajorshi and Leela Chakraborti** (NZ)

Father and daughter writing duo

## **Giselle Clarkson** (NZ)

Illustrator and 2023 Arts Foundation Laureate

## **Amber Esau** (NZ)

Poet and slam champion

## **Jason Gunn** (NZ)

Television star turned children's writer

## **Natalie Haynes** (UK)

Internationally best-selling author, classicist and comedian

## **Sophie Henderson** (NZ)

Internationally acclaimed screenwriter

## **David Hill** (NZ)

2024 Companion of the Order of NZ for services to literature, especially children's literature

## **Rachael King** (NZ)

Award-winning author and former literary festival director

## **Claire Mabey** (NZ)

Author and literary festival director

## **Dahlia Malaieulu** (NZ)

Award-winning Pasifika writer and publisher

## **Selina Tusitala Marsh** (NZ)

Poet Laureate and celebrated children's author

## **Maryam Master** (AUS)

Award-winning novelist and children's playwright

## **Steph Matuku** (NZ)

Award-winning author and screenwriter

## **Airana Ngarewa** (NZ)

#1 NZ charts best-selling novelist and educator

## **Deborah Robertson** (NZ)

Educator, writer and outdoor enthusiast

## **Zech Soakai** (NZ)

Spoken word champion and educator

## **Tim Tipene** (NZ)

Award-winning author and 2023 NZ Book Awards for Children & YA Finalist

# Dates for Your Diary

---

## **Wednesday 7 February | Wenerei 7 Pēpuere**

Applications open to School Transport Fund for travel subsidy support.

---

## **Wednesday 14 February | Wenerei 14 Pēpuere**

Bookings open. The programme sells out quickly, so we advise early booking to avoid disappointment.

---

## **Friday 1 March | Paraire 1 Maehe**

Schools Transport Fund Application Deadline.

---

## **Monday 18 March | Mane 18 Maehe**

Schools Transport Fund applicants notified of outcome.

---

## **Monday 6 May | Mane 6 Mei**

Attendance details notified to all schools.

---

## **Tuesday 14 May | Turei 14 Mei**

Schools Day One – Years 5-6, 7-8.  
Barfoot & Thompson Young Authors Challenge opens.

---

## **Wednesday 15 May | Wenerei 15 Mei**

Schools Day Two – Years 5-6, 9-13.

---

## **Thursday 16 May | Taite 16 Mei**

Schools Day Three – Years 5-6, 9-13.

---

## **Friday 14 June | Paraire 14 Hune**

Deadline to claim Transport Fund Grant.

---

## **Friday 2 August | Paraire 2 Akuhata**

Entries close for Barfoot & Thompson Young Authors Challenge.

# How to Book & Transport Fund Application

## BOOKINGS AND TICKETING ENQUIRIES

TICKETMASTER 09 970 9745,  
[groups@ticketmaster.co.nz](mailto:groups@ticketmaster.co.nz).

## TRANSPORT FUND ENQUIRIES

The Auckland Writers Festival | Waituhi o Tāmaki, [schools@writersfestival.co.nz](mailto:schools@writersfestival.co.nz).  
*Please note: the festival office does not process ticket bookings.*

## TICKETS

Bookings are only accepted from schools. We are unable to offer individual access to this programme.

Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis and must be booked by the school via Ticketmaster. **All** tickets are issued by Ticketmaster; not the Festival office.

Cost: **\$13** per day per student  
Workshops: **\$16** per student per workshop  
Teachers **FREE**

Teachers may sit in on workshops as observers at the back of the room. Students must be signed in and out at the beginning and end of workshops. Please include students' years on the Booking Form and attach a list of names for workshop roll. Bookings are first come, first served. Limit of five students per school in the first instance. Further students will be waitlisted and added if there is availability after bookings close.

## BOOKING PROCESS

When you make your booking with Ticketmaster, you will be sent an invoice which must either be paid immediately if no transport assistance is required, or as soon as your transport fund application has been approved, in order to

confirm your booking. School Transport Fund Grants will be confirmed on **Monday 18 March**.

If you have not received a confirmation within three working days of submitting your booking form, please contact the Ticketmaster Schools Programme Booking Line on **09 970 9745**. Additional tickets may be ordered at a later date, subject to availability. Seats are non-refundable once paid.

To complete your booking, please fill in the attached Schools Booking Form or download it from the Festival website (**not** the Transport Fund online application form) and email to: [groups@ticketmaster.co.nz](mailto:groups@ticketmaster.co.nz)

## TRANSPORT FUND APPLICATION

If you need financial support to transport your class to the Schools Programme, please apply to our Schools Transport Fund. To apply, **please complete the Schools Transport Fund Application Form via this link**. When you submit the form you will be required to attach a detailed written estimate or quote if you are hiring transport. If you encounter any issues please email [schools@writersfestival.co.nz](mailto:schools@writersfestival.co.nz) for assistance. Transport Fund grants are allocated on a needs basis and we cannot always guarantee grants to the full level requested.

The closing date for the Schools Transport Fund is **Friday 1 March 2024**. All applications will be notified of the success or otherwise of their application on **Monday 18 March**.

***The transport fund is kindly supported by the Potter Masonic Trust.***

BARFOOT & THOMPSON  
LICENSED REAA 2009

# YOUNG 14 MAY - 02 AUG 2024 AUTHORS CHALLENGE

## PRIZE POOL

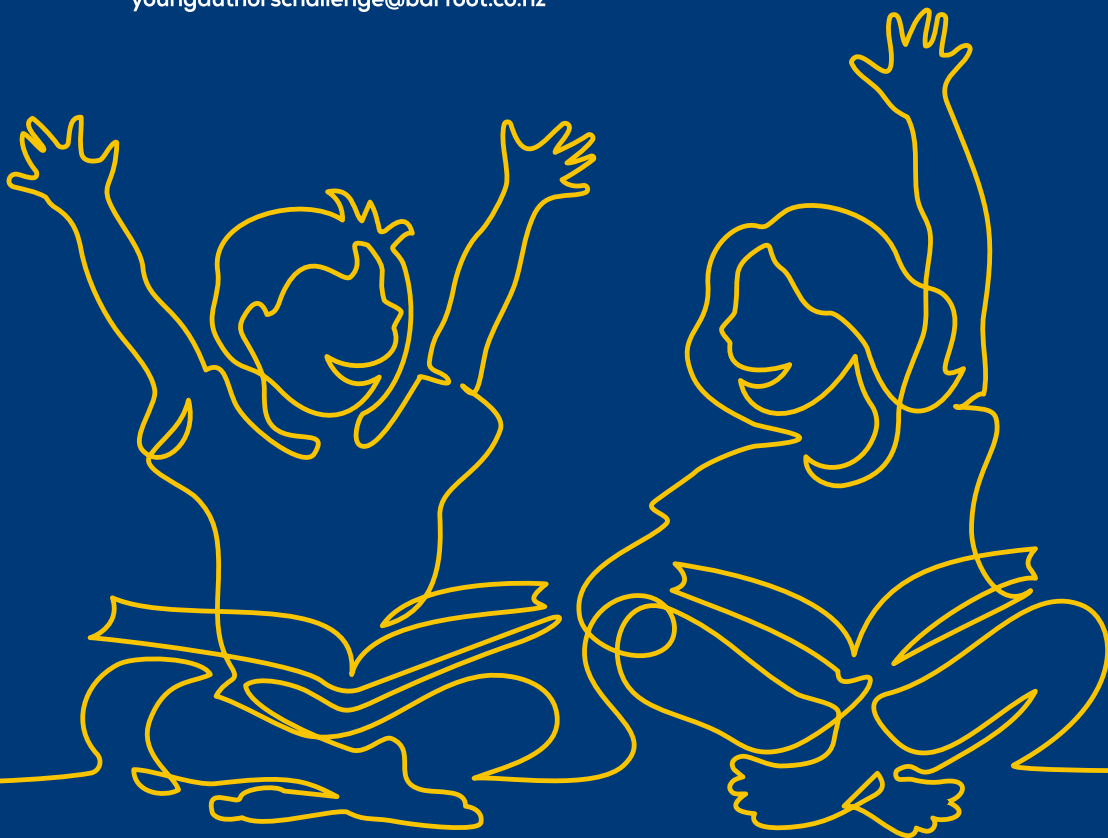
Category winners will each receive a **\$500** cash prize and books valued at **\$250**

Their school will also receive a **\$1000** cash prize and books valued at **\$1000**

### Calling all creative young writers!

The Young Authors Challenge will open in Term Two 2024. Submissions will open on **14 May**: save the date, enter and win some incredible prizes!

For more information and terms & conditions go to [barfoot.co.nz/about-us/supporting-our-community/young-authors-challenge](https://barfoot.co.nz/about-us/supporting-our-community/young-authors-challenge) or email [youngauthorschallenge@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:youngauthorschallenge@barfoot.co.nz)



Winners will be announced on Monday 26 August. With a special presentation to be held in Term Four 2024.

### School competition categories

Primary: up to 250 words, Intermediate: up to 500 words, Secondary: up to 750 words

AUCKLAND  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL  
WAIHUHI O TĀMAKI



# Upper Primary Years 5-6 Here's the Plan

Tue 14, Wed 15, Thu 16 May | Turei 14, Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei

## DAY 1 TUESDAY 14 MAY | TUREI 14 MEI

### UPPER PRIMARY YEARS 5 & 6, 10.00AM-2.40PM

Note: Doors will open at 9.30am and students will be ushered into their venues; *the first sessions start promptly at 10.00am.*

|                |                                  |         |            |                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|
| 10.00am        | -                                | 10.45am | Hunua Room | Tim Tipene       |
| 10.55am        | -                                | 11.40am | Hunua Room | Jason Gunn       |
| <b>11.40am</b> | <b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>  |         |            |                  |
| 12.30pm        | -                                | 1.15pm  | Hunua Room | Giselle Clarkson |
| 1.25pm         | -                                | 2.10pm  | Hunua Room | Maryam Master    |
| <b>2.10pm</b>  | <b>Finish &amp; Book Signing</b> |         |            |                  |

## DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 15 MAY | WENEREI 15 MEI

### UPPER PRIMARY YEARS 5 & 6, 10.00AM-2.40PM

Note: Doors will open at 9.30am and students will be ushered into their venues; *the first sessions start promptly at 10.00am.*

|                |                                  |         |            |                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|
| 10.00am        | -                                | 10.45am | Hunua Room | Maryam Master    |
| 10.55am        | -                                | 11.40am | Hunua Room | Giselle Clarkson |
| <b>11.40am</b> | <b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>  |         |            |                  |
| 12.30pm        | -                                | 1.15pm  | Hunua Room | Jason Gunn       |
| 1.25pm         | -                                | 2.10pm  | Hunua Room | Tim Tipene       |
| <b>2.10pm</b>  | <b>Finish &amp; Book Signing</b> |         |            |                  |

## DAY 3 THURSDAY 16 MAY | TAITE 16 MEI

### UPPER PRIMARY YEARS 5 & 6, 10.00AM-2.40PM

Note: Doors will open at 9.30am and students will be ushered into their venues; *the first sessions start promptly at 10.00am.*

|                |                                  |         |            |                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|
| 10.00am        | -                                | 10.45am | Hunua Room | Maryam Master    |
| 10.55am        | -                                | 11.40am | Hunua Room | Jason Gunn       |
| <b>11.40am</b> | <b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>  |         |            |                  |
| 12.30pm        | -                                | 1.15pm  | Hunua Room | Tim Tipene       |
| 1.25pm         | -                                | 2.10pm  | Hunua Room | Giselle Clarkson |
| <b>2.10pm</b>  | <b>Finish &amp; Book Signing</b> |         |            |                  |

## TRANSPORT FUND ENQUIRIES

Schools are encouraged to apply for grants towards travel costs to increase accessibility to the Schools Programme. Please find more information about the Schools Transport Fund on page 7 including the [link to the Application Form](#).

The deadline for applications is Friday 1 March 2024. Any questions should be sent to the schools inbox: [schools@writersfestival.co.nz](mailto:schools@writersfestival.co.nz)

# Upper Primary Sessions: Years 5-6

Tue 14, Wed 15, Thu 16 May | Turei 14, Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei



## Pouākai, haere mai! Taniwha, kia kaha!

**TIM TIPENE**

Meet Pipi and Pou, two cousins that can shapeshift into a fierce taniwha and mighty Pouākai, eagle. With guidance from their no-nonsense Nan, they protect and guard the natural world, save lives and overcome dangers. **Tim Tipene's** (Ngāti Kuri, Te Uri-o-Hau) series uses the superhero genre and epic illustrations as a hook to engage the most reluctant of readers. From calming a furious mountain to solving mysteries of monsters in the ngāhere, hear what inspires Tim to create these brilliant tales and how to unlock the superhero in all of us.



## Wandering and Wondering

**GISELLE CLARKSON**

Ever heard of observology? It's the study of looking more closely at the small things around you and being drawn in by the world's tiny wonders – it's also a perfect boredom buster. **Giselle Clarkson**, observologist, illustrator and 2023 Arts Laureate, has launched many scientific expeditions and spent a lot of time gazing at the ground. In her book *The Observologist* she puts 100 small creatures and features of the natural world under the microscope, blending science with humour and illustration. Giselle will speak about how she has combined her two passions of comics and conservation to create a career, and will get you giggling with crazy facts about everyday creatures.



## My Classmate's a Secret Agent

**JASON GUNN**

Join master of comedy and thrills, **Jason Gunn**, as he speaks about his wacky, action-packed *Jason Mason* series, co-written with his brother, Andrew Gunn. Jason Mason is an unlikely hero who on the surface seems like a pretty average kid, the kind of kid who gets to play a dog in the school play, but what most of the world doesn't know is Jason Mason is a secret agent. (*Shhhh, maybe keep that quiet*). In this session, author Jason Gunn will provide tips on how to tell a riveting adventure story and have your readers in stitches. If you're lucky, he'll also share anecdotes from his exciting life, and what it's like working with his brother.



## A Story to Tell

**MARYAM MASTER**

**Maryam Master** crafts stories with heart and humour that don't shy away from life's tough parts. As well as being an award-winning novelist, Maryam writes for both theatre and television, with her stage adaptations of David Walliams books touring extensively throughout Australia. Her novel *No Words*, which is based on her own experience as a refugee building a new life in Australia, won a list of Australian book awards including the 2023 Peace Literature Award. Maryam will discuss her childhood in Iran, having to flee her hometown and forging a new life in Australia, and how this experience has influenced her writing and why she chooses to write about tough topics.

# Upper Primary Booking Form: Years 5-6

Tue 14, Wed 15, Thu 16 May | Turei 14, Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei

|                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| School          | Address           |              |
| Class/Room      | Year(s)           | Equity Index |
| Booking Contact | Phone (Term Time) |              |
| Email           |                   |              |
| Trip Supervisor | Supervisor Mobile |              |
| Email           |                   |              |

Note: The Booking Contact is the person responsible for making the booking.

The Trip Supervisor Contact is the person bringing the class whom we may contact regarding the visit.

## Tuesday 14 May

Ticket prices: \$13 per day per student. Teachers: free.

| Time                   | Venue*                             | No. | Event Speakers                      | No. Teachers          | No. Students          | Year(s) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 9.30am                 | Hunua                              |     | <b>Arrival and Seating</b>          |                       |                       |         |
| 10.00am-10.45am        | Hunua                              | 01  | Tim Tipene                          |                       |                       |         |
| 10.55am-11.40am        | Hunua                              | 02  | Jason Gunn                          |                       |                       |         |
| <b>11.40am-12.25pm</b> |                                    |     | <b>Lunch Break and Book Signing</b> |                       |                       |         |
| 12.30pm-1.15pm         | Hunua                              | 03  | Giselle Clarkson                    |                       |                       |         |
| 1.25pm-2.10pm          | Hunua                              | 04  | Maryam Master                       |                       |                       |         |
| <b>2.10pm</b>          |                                    |     | <b>Finish and Book Signing</b>      |                       |                       |         |
|                        | *Hunua Room, Level 1, Aotea Centre |     |                                     | Total Teachers (Free) | Total Students @ \$13 | \$      |

## Wednesday 15 May

Ticket prices: \$13 per day per student. Teachers: free.

| Time                   | Venue*                             | No. | Event Speakers                      | No. Teachers          | No. Students          | Year(s) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 9.30am                 | Hunua                              |     | <b>Arrival and Seating</b>          |                       |                       |         |
| 10.00am-10.45am        | Hunua                              | 05  | Maryam Master                       |                       |                       |         |
| 10.55am-11.40am        | Hunua                              | 06  | Giselle Clarkson                    |                       |                       |         |
| <b>11.40am-12.25pm</b> |                                    |     | <b>Lunch Break and Book Signing</b> |                       |                       |         |
| 12.30pm-1.15pm         | Hunua                              | 07  | Jason Gunn                          |                       |                       |         |
| 1.25pm-2.10pm          | Hunua                              | 08  | Tim Tipene                          |                       |                       |         |
| <b>2.10pm</b>          |                                    |     | <b>Finish and Book Signing</b>      |                       |                       |         |
|                        | *Hunua Room, Level 1, Aotea Centre |     |                                     | Total Teachers (Free) | Total Students @ \$13 | \$      |

## Thursday 16 May

Ticket prices: \$13 per day per student. Teachers: free.

| Time                   | Venue*                             | No. | Event Speakers                      | No. Teachers          | No. Students          | Year(s) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 9.30am                 | Hunua                              |     | <b>Arrival and Seating</b>          |                       |                       |         |
| 10.00am-10.45am        | Hunua                              | 09  | Maryam Master                       |                       |                       |         |
| 10.55am-11.40am        | Hunua                              | 10  | Jason Gunn                          |                       |                       |         |
| <b>11.40am-12.25pm</b> |                                    |     | <b>Lunch Break and Book Signing</b> |                       |                       |         |
| 12.30pm-1.15pm         | Hunua                              | 11  | Tim Tipene                          |                       |                       |         |
| 1.25pm-2.10pm          | Hunua                              | 12  | Giselle Clarkson                    |                       |                       |         |
| <b>2.10pm</b>          |                                    |     | <b>Finish and Book Signing</b>      |                       |                       |         |
|                        | *Hunua Room, Level 1, Aotea Centre |     |                                     | Total Teachers (Free) | Total Students @ \$13 | \$      |

Please complete all sections of the form ([download a single page PDF here](#)) and email to [groups@ticketmaster.co.nz](mailto:groups@ticketmaster.co.nz)

For all booking enquiries please phone 09 970 9745

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total</b>                    |                 |
| <b>Ticketmaster Booking Fee</b> | <b>\$ 11.00</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>\$</b>       |

Bookings are dealt with in order of receipt. Please do not include payment with your Booking Form. You will receive a confirmation from Ticketmaster within three working days of your booking. You will be invoiced by Ticketmaster on receipt of your booking.

# Upper Primary Sessions: About the Authors

---

## Tim Tipene

---

As a child **Tim** was adopted into the Waitai Tipene family, and raised in two cultures, NZ Māori and NZ European. His tribal affiliations are Ngāti Kuri and Te Uri-o-Hau. First published in 1996, Tim is an award-winning author of children's picture books and junior novels, including the Pipi and Pou series and *The Book That Wouldn't Read*. In 2023 *Pipi and Pou and the Raging Mountain* was a finalist for the NZ Book Awards for Children and YA while *Pipi and Pou and the Tentacles of the Deep* was a Storylines Notable Junior Fiction. In 1994 Tim created *Warrior Kids*, a self control and social skills programme for children and teens, which he ran for 28 years in schools and communities, changing the lives of young people and their families. A trained counsellor with a graduate certificate in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Tim also holds multiple Black Belt Ranks and teaching titles in various Martial Arts.

---

## Giselle Clarkson

---

**Giselle Clarkson** is an award-winning author, illustrator and cartoonist living in South Wairarapa. In 2023 she was made an Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi Laureate, receiving the Mallinson Rendel Illustrators Award for an outstanding contribution to New Zealand children's books. Giselle blends humour with detailed observation and a bold immediacy to achieve her signature style. She is a regular contributor to the *NZ School Journal*, *NZ Geographic magazine*, children's literature website *The Sapling*, and once experienced viral success with an illustrated poster of NZ baked goods. Her bestselling non-fiction book *The Observologist: A Handbook for Mounting Very Small Scientific Expeditions* (Gecko Press) is her first as both author and illustrator, and was released in October 2023 to international acclaim.

---

## Jason Gunn

---

**Jason Gunn** is a New Zealand television presenter, director and writer. He is best known for co-hosting hit show *Dancing With The Stars*, and game shows *The Rich List* and *Wheel of Fortune*. Jason got his start in children's television, becoming a household name with *Jase TV* and the longrunning *Son of a Gunn Show*. Gunn credits his parents for their acceptance and encouragement. On family drives Gunn would often provide entertainment from the back seat. "They'd let me practise my stories and impersonations and funny voices, and get me to entertain visitors."

---

## Maryam Master

---

**Maryam's** novel *Exit Through the Gift Shop* was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. Her second novel, *No Words*, won the Readings Prize and the Children's Peace Literature Award. She's adapted four of David Walliams' books for the stage. TV credits include *Home and Away* and *Elmo's Australian tour*.

# Intermediate Years 7-8 Here's the Plan

Tuesday 14 May | Turei 14 Mei

## DAY 1 TUESDAY 14 MAY | TUREI 14 MEI INTERMEDIATE YEARS 7 & 8, 10.00AM-2.40PM

*Note: Doors will open at 9.30am and students will be ushered into their venues; the first sessions start promptly at 10.00am.*

|                |                                  |         |                        |                       |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10.00am        | -                                | 10.45am | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre | Maryam Master         |
| 10.55am        | -                                | 11.40am | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre | Rachael King          |
| <b>11.40am</b> | <b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>  |         |                        |                       |
| 12.30pm        | -                                | 1.15pm  | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre | Selina Tusitala Marsh |
| 1.25pm         | -                                | 2.10pm  | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre | David Hill            |
| <b>2.10pm</b>  | <b>Finish &amp; Book Signing</b> |         |                        |                       |

## Workshops | Awheawhe

Hour-long writing workshops are for intermediate students (maximum student numbers specified for each workshop; cost \$16 per student). These workshops provide students with a rare opportunity to learn from, and be inspired by, leading writers. Please note that spaces fill quickly, and bookings are on a first-come, first-served basis. An initial limit of five students per school per workshop will apply. Additional students can be waitlisted, pending available space once bookings close.

| Time            | Workshop                     | Venue           |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 9.40am-10.40am  | David Hill                   | Waihorotiu Room |
| 10.50am-11.50am | Dahlia Malaeulu              | Waihorotiu Room |
| 12.15pm-1.15pm  | Claire Mabey                 | Waihorotiu Room |
| 1.25pm-2.25pm   | Rajorshi & Leela Chakraborti | Waihorotiu Room |

Workshop descriptions on page 15.

## TRANSPORT FUND ENQUIRIES

Schools are encouraged to apply for grants towards travel costs to increase accessibility to the Schools Programme. Please find more information about the Schools Transport Fund on page 7 including the [link to the Application Form](#).

The deadline for applications is Friday 1 March 2024. Any questions should be sent to the schools inbox: [schools@writersfestival.co.nz](mailto:schools@writersfestival.co.nz)



# Intermediate Sessions: Years 7-8

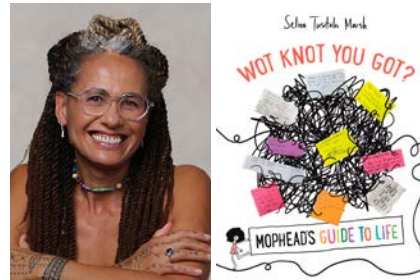
Tuesday 14 May | Turei 14 Mei



## Tackling the Big Stuff

MARYAM MASTER

Award-winning novelist, screenwriter and playwright **Maryam Master** is renowned for approaching hard topics with a big heart. In her first novel *Exit Through The Gift Shop* she tackles big ideas: life, death and what it means to be human. Her most recent novel *No Words* is a story closer to home and is based on her own experiences as a refugee fleeing Iran when she was nine years old and making a new home in Australia. Maryam discusses her life journey, the power of words, and how writing can transform lives.



## Wot Knot You Got?

SELINA TUSITALA MARSH

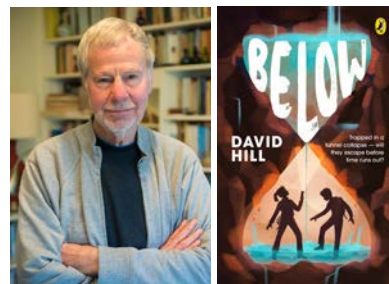
Ever had one of those problems that you just can't solve? You're not alone. One morning, award-winning author and poet laureate, **Selina Tusitala Marsh** woke up with a twisting, tangling, knotty problem. Then she remembered: kids write to her all the time – they ask some of life's toughest questions. Selina's new book, *Wot Knot You Got? Mophead's Guide to Life*, is a self-help give-it-a-go moppy-mayhem-filled workbook – that's-all-about-play to help people of all ages through their most stubborn knots. In this lively, interactive session Selina will introduce you to the power of writing as an important tool for problem-solving, to help you through life's messiness.



## Spellbinding Tales

RACHAEL KING

**Rachael King's** gripping novel, *The Gimmelings*, is steeped in old magic and adventure. It follows thirteen-year-old Ella as she and her beloved pony Magpie attempt to break the curse laid by a vengeful Kelpie, a black horse-like creature that is threatening not just her family but the whole community. Rachael is well known in the Aotearoa literary industry as a writer, festival director and reviewer. Her first children's novel, *Red Rocks*, won her the Esther Glen Medal in 2013, and is soon to be a television series. Join Rachael as she discusses how her passion for Scottish folklore and riding horses came together to create this mesmerising book, and how you too can use your passions to fuel your writing.



## Beneath the Writing

DAVID HILL

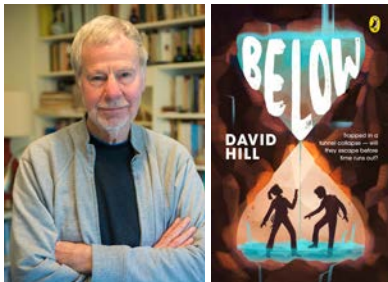
*Below* by storyteller **David Hill** is a nail-biting, heart-pounding underground adventure that follows two children caught in a tunnel collapse. The novel has enthralled many young readers and won the Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults in 2023.

With over 40 years experience as an author, David is a versatile writer and a master at creating intrigue and captivating an audience. He will provide practical advice in creating your own page-turning book, and share where his ideas come from to help inspire students to write their own stories.

# Intermediate Workshops: Years 7-8

Tuesday 14 May | Turei 14 Mei

## Morning Workshops



### Building Tension

**DAVID HILL**

9.40am-10.40am (max 35)

Keeping a reader engaged is key to good writing, and creating a story full of excitement and tension is one way of doing this. *Below* is a nerve-wracking underground adventure from **David Hill**; prolific and highly regarded New Zealand writer, playwright, poet, columnist and critic. Through discussion and writing exercises, David will reveal his techniques for drawing in your reader and making your writing exciting. His workshop will be a must-do for all readers and aspiring writers.



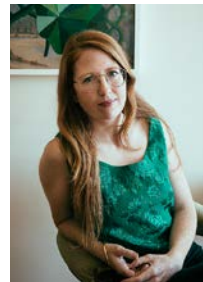
### I am Pasifika: Owing Your Story

**DAHLIA MALAEULU**

10.50am-11.50am (max 35)

**Dahlia Malaeulu** is an award-winning author, a Samoan New Zealander publisher and creator of Mila's Books. *The I Am Pasifika Wellbeing Journal* is part of the *My Pasifika Wellbeing* series, which acknowledges the interconnectedness of culture, identity, and wellbeing and provides an essential guide to help Pasifika tamaiti become the best version of themselves. In this inspiring workshop, Dahlia will enliven the tools and exercises in her journal to help empower tamaiti to explore and own their stories. *Please note that this session is recommended for Pasifika students. Tickets include a free copy of the I Am Pasifika Wellbeing Journal. Workshop journals supported by the Freemasons Foundation*

## Afternoon Workshops



### Crafting Worlds

**CLAIRE MABEY**

12.15pm-1.15pm (max 35)

**Claire Mabey** spends much of her life consumed by books as a reader, reviewer, and founder of Verb Readers and Writers Festival. Her debut book *The Raven's Eye Runaways* is a thrilling adventure novel set in a parallel medieval world. Claire will lead a world-building workshop, where students will create their own planet and design the creatures, characters and objects that inhabit it. This workshop will stretch the imagination, and each pupil will leave with a dictionary of their new world.



### Writing Funny

**RAJORSHI AND LEELA CHAKRABORTI**

1.25pm-2.25pm (max 35)

A workshop for all the class clowns out there! Together **Leela Chakraborti** (12 years) and her dad **Rajorshi Chakraborti** turned a throwaway joke about people farting uncontrollably into a novel, *The Bad Smell Hotel*. In this workshop they will teach you the art of taking everyday situations and building on them to create funny characters, details, situations and stories.

# Intermediate Booking Form: Years 7-8

Tuesday 14 May | Turei 14 Mei

|                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| School          | Address           |              |
| Class/Room      | Year(s)           | Equity Index |
| Booking Contact | Phone (Term Time) |              |
| Email           |                   |              |
| Trip Supervisor | Supervisor Mobile |              |
| Email           |                   |              |

*Note: The Booking Contact is the person responsible for making the booking.  
The Trip Supervisor Contact is the person bringing the class whom we may contact regarding the visit.*

| <b>Tuesday 14 May</b>                          |                | <b>Ticket prices: \$13 per day per student. Teachers: free.</b> |                                     |                       |                       |         |
|--|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Time   | Venue*         | No.   | Event Speakers                      | No. Teachers          | No. Students          | Year(s) |
| <b>9.30am</b>                                  | Kiri Te Kanawa |   | <b>Arrival and Seating</b>          |                       |                       |         |
| 10.00am-10.45am                                | Kiri Te Kanawa | 13  | Maryam Master                       |                       |                       |         |
| 10.55am-11.40am                                | Kiri Te Kanawa | 14  | Rachael King                        |                       |                       |         |
| <b>11.40am-12.25pm</b>                         |                |   | <b>Lunch Break and Book Signing</b> |                       |                       |         |
| 12.30pm-1.15pm                                 | Kiri Te Kanawa | 15  | Selina Tusitala Marsh               |                       |                       |         |
| 1.25pm-2.10pm                                  | Kiri Te Kanawa | 16  | David Hill                          |                       |                       |         |
| <b>2.10pm</b>                                  |                |   | <b>Finish and Book Signing</b>      |                       |                       |         |
| *Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Level 2, Aotea Centre |                |   |                                     | Total Teachers (Free) | Total Students @ \$13 | \$      |

| <b>Ticket prices: \$16 per day per student. Teachers: free.</b> |            |     |                                |                       |                       |         |
|---|------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Time  | Venue*     | No. | Workshops                      | No. Teachers          | No. Students          | Year(s) |
| 9.40am-10.40am  | Waihorotiu | 17  | David Hill                     |                       |                       |         |
| 10.50am-11.50am   | Waihorotiu | 18  | Dahlia Malaeulu                |                       |                       |         |
| 12.15pm-1.15pm  | Waihorotiu | 19  | Claire Mabey                   |                       |                       |         |
| 1.25pm-2.25pm   | Waihorotiu | 20  | Rajorshi and Leela Chakraborti |                       |                       |         |
| *Waihorotiu Room, Level 4, Aotea Centre                         |            |     |                                | Total Teachers (Free) | Total Students @ \$16 | \$      |

Please complete all sections of the form ([download a single page PDF here](#)) and email to [groups@ticketmaster.co.nz](mailto:groups@ticketmaster.co.nz)

For all booking enquiries please phone 09 970 9745

*Bookings are dealt with in order of receipt. Please do not include payment with your Booking Form. You will receive a confirmation from Ticketmaster within three working days of your booking. You will be invoiced by Ticketmaster on receipt of your booking.*

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total</b>                    |                 |
| <b>Ticketmaster Booking Fee</b> | <b>\$ 11.00</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>\$</b>       |



# Intermediate Sessions: About the Authors

---

## Maryam Master

---

**Maryam's** novel *Exit Through the Gift Shop* was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. Her second novel, *No Words*, won the Readings Prize and the Children's Peace Literature Award. She's adapted four of David Walliams' books for the stage. TV credits include *Home and Away* and *Elmo's Australian tour*.

---

## Rachael King

---

**Rachael King** is a writer, reviewer and former literary festival director from Aotearoa New Zealand. She loves music and started playing bass guitar in rock bands when she was 15, but these days spends more time listening. When Rachael was young, she tried to ride every horse she met and could often be found galloping bareback along a beach with the wind in her hair. *The Grimmelings* is her second book for children; the first, *Red Rocks*, won the Esther Glen Medal in 2013 and is in development for television. Both novels reflect her love for, and obsession with, Scottish folklore – the weirder the better. Rachael has also published two novels for adults.

---

## Selina Tusitala Marsh

---

**Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh** ONZM, FRSNZ is a former Commonwealth Poet, New Zealand Poet Laureate and acclaimed performer and author. She was the first Pacific Islander to graduate with a PhD in English from the University of Auckland and is now a Professor of English specialising in Pasifika literature. Her first collection, the bestselling *Fast Talking Pi*, won the NZSA Jessie Mackay Award for Best First Book of Poetry in 2010. Her debut children's book and memoir, *Mophead: How Your Difference Makes a Difference*, was awarded the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year at the 2020 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults and was followed by the bestselling *Mophead Tu: The Queen's Poem*. Her third book in her award-winning Mophead series, *Wot Knot You Got? Mophead's Guide to Life*, is a one-of-a-kind, hands-on playbook.

---

## David Hill

---

**David Hill** was a teacher, soldier and woolstore worker before becoming a fulltime author. He has been earning a living from writing for over 40 years. His novels, stories and plays have been published or performed in several countries, including Japan, the US, England, France, China, and little Slovenia. He has won awards in Germany, France, the US and England. In New Zealand, he has won the Esther Glen Medal, the Margaret Mahy Medal, and the Children's Book Award for Junior or Senior Fiction. In 2021, he received the Prime Minister's Award for Fiction, and in the 2024 New Year's Honours, he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. But he feels the best award of all is if a reader says to him "I liked your book".

---

## Dahlia Malaueulu

---

**Dahlia Malaueulu** is an award-winning author and publisher of Mila's Books - the only all Pasifika publishing company of children's books in the world. A proud Samoan New Zealander who has connections to the villages of Sinamoga, Vaiuase tai, Fale atiu, Fagaloa and Aleisa in Sāmoa, Dahlia is passionate about the power of Pasifika stories. She is also an educator and literacy advocate. Dahlia currently serves on the Read NZ Te Pou Muramura Board and was the recipient of the Creative New Zealand 2022 Pasifika Emerging Pacific Artist Award, and the PANZ 2023 Emerging NZ Publisher of the Year Award.

---

## Claire Mabey

---

**Claire Mabey** is writer, founder of Verb Readers and Writers Festival, LitCrawl Wellington and books editor at *The Spinoff*. She has worked at many arts and book festivals over the past 15 years and still feels passionate about the role of festivity in our lives. Claire is a book reviewer on RNZ and spends much of her life consumed by books. Her first novel is coming out in July 2024 with Allen & Unwin: it's a middle grade adventure novel about the magic of books, the importance of friendship and the secrets buried deep in families. Claire is mum to Charlie and lives in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington where she is constantly grateful for the South Coast, the town belt and the wild and unpredictable weather.

---

## Rajorshi and Leela Chakraborti

---

**Rajorshi Chakraborti** is the author of six novels, including a mystery for young adults, and a collection of short fiction. *The Bad Smell Hotel* is Raj's first novel for children, co-written with his daughter **Leela** when she was 8. It is Leela's first book.

# Secondary Years 9-13 Here's the Plan

Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 May | Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei

## DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 15 MAY | WENEREI 15 MEI

### SECONDARY YEARS 9-13, 10.00AM-2.45PM

Doors will open at 9.30am for a prompt start at 10.00am. Please note: schools will be seated in order of arrival from the front of the auditorium, rather than in pre-nominated blocks, so early arrival is recommended.

|                |   |         |                                  |                   |
|----------------|---|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10.00am        | - | 10.45am | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Elizabeth Acevedo |
| 10.55am        | - | 11.40am | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Natalie Haynes    |
| <b>11.40am</b> |   |         | <b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>  |                   |
| 12.30pm        | - | 1.15pm  | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Airana Ngarewa    |
| 1.25pm         | - | 2.10pm  | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Steph Matuku      |
| <b>2.10pm</b>  |   |         | <b>Finish &amp; Book Signing</b> |                   |

## DAY 3 THURSDAY 16 MAY | TAITE 16 MEI

### SECONDARY YEARS 9-13, 10.00AM-2.45PM

Doors will open at 9.30am for a prompt start at 10.00am. Please note: schools will be seated in order of arrival from the front of the auditorium, rather than in pre-nominated blocks, so early arrival is recommended.

|                |   |         |                                  |                   |
|----------------|---|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10.00am        | - | 10.45am | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Steph Matuku      |
| 10.55am        | - | 11.40am | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Airana Ngarewa    |
| <b>11.40am</b> |   |         | <b>Lunch &amp; Book Signing</b>  |                   |
| 12.30pm        | - | 1.15pm  | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Elizabeth Acevedo |
| 1.25pm         | - | 2.10pm  | Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre           | Natalie Haynes    |
| <b>2.10pm</b>  |   |         | <b>Finish &amp; Book Signing</b> |                   |

## Workshops | Awheawhe

Hour-long writing workshops are offered each day for secondary students (maximum student numbers specified for each workshop; cost \$16 per student). These workshops provide students with a rare opportunity to learn from, and be inspired by, leading writers. Please note that spaces fill quickly, and bookings are on a first-come, first-served basis. An initial limit of five students per school per workshop will apply. Additional students can be waitlisted, pending available space once bookings close.

### Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May

| Time            | Workshop          | Venue           |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9.40am-10.40am  | Sophie Henderson  | Waihorotiu Room |
| 10.50am-11.50am | Amber Esau        | Waihorotiu Room |
| 12.15pm-1.15pm  | Deborah Roberston | Waihorotiu Room |
| 1.25pm-2.25pm   | Zech Soakai       | Waihorotiu Room |

Workshop descriptions on page 20.

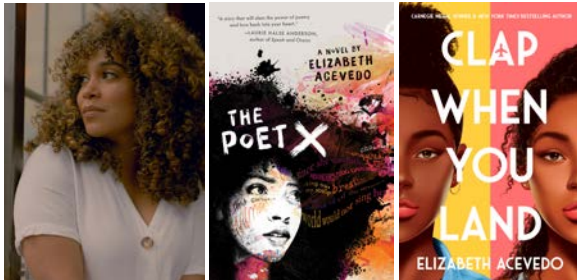
## TRANSPORT FUND ENQUIRIES

Schools are encouraged to apply for grants towards travel costs to increase accessibility to the Schools Programme. Please find more information about the Schools Transport Fund on page 7 including the [link to the Application Form](#).

The deadline for applications is Friday 1 March 2024. Any questions should be sent to the schools inbox: [schools@writersfestival.co.nz](mailto:schools@writersfestival.co.nz)

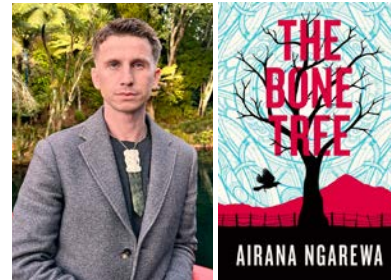
# Secondary Sessions: Years 9-13

Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 May | Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei



## Finding Your Creative Voice ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Growing up in Harlem, award-winning author and US National Poetry Slam Champion, **Elizabeth Acevedo** was drawn to hip-hop as a means of expression and storytelling. Her love of rap morphed into slam poetry that then led into publishing poetry and fiction. Her *New York Times* bestselling YA novel, *The Poet X*, is set in New York where a young girl discovers slam poetry to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. This unique and searing novel, that is written entirely in verse and slam poetry, has resonated with readers across the globe. Join Elizabeth as she recounts her journey of finding her creative voice, and shares her tips on how you can find yours.



## From Reluctant Reader to Bestselling Novelist AIRANA NGAREWA

Author and educator, **Airana Ngarewa** (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine), shares his extraordinary personal story of going from competing in martial arts competitions nationally and professional cage fighting to becoming an award-winning writer. His unforgettable first novel, the Taranaki-set *The Bone Tree*, has sat at number one in the charts for 11 weeks. It follows two brothers navigating immense challenges that are a symptom of the impacts of colonisation and the loss of te reo for many Māori. From loathing English at school, to becoming a bestselling novelist, Airana will share his unconventional journey into writing and his thoughts on the power of reading. A unique talk that will have you amazed and inspired.



## Reshaping Mythology NATALIE HAYNES

Greek myths have been retold many times, but never quite like this. **Natalie Haynes** is a classicist, writer, broadcaster, and comedian who is celebrated for breathing life, hilarity and an unapologetically feminist slant to Greek mythology, and for giving voice to the remarkable women that these stories have for too long ignored. In doing so, she has reinvented Classics for a new generation. Natalie will take the stage with folklore lover, **Rachael King** (*The Grimmelings*), to discuss the importance of reframing ancient stories through a modern lens. This talk will be empowering, educational and hilarious. Come for the comedy and stay for the mythology!



## Writing for Page, Stage & Screen STEPH MATUKU

Spanning picture books, novels, stage plays and screenwriting, award-winning author **Steph Matuku** (Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Te Atiawa) is a highly versatile writer and isn't afraid to share that her career as a writer has been a long, hard journey

Steph will introduce her new YA book, *Migration* – a Māori speculative fiction novel that explores intergalactic worlds, alien invasions and family feuds – discusses her multifaceted writing career that spans different genres and working styles, and perhaps most importantly: discusses how to keep going with creative work you believe in.

# Secondary Workshops: Years 9-13

Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 May | Wenerei 15, Taite 16 Mei

## Morning Workshops



### Your Story on Screen

**SOPHIE HENDERSON**

9.40am-10.40am (max 35)

Audiences often ask how writers got the idea for their story, and for internationally acclaimed screenwriter **Sophie Henderson** (*Fantail*; *Baby Done*; *The Justice of Bunny King*), much of the inspiration for her films come from personal experience. Celebrating the idea that 'everyone has a story to tell', Sophie will lead an engaging workshop on how to translate your personal story to the screen, examining the why, the what, and the how.

## Afternoon Workshops



### Creating Captivating Characters

**DEBORAH ROBERTSON**

12.15pm-1.15pm (max 35)

Ever wondered what it takes to create a captivating character? **Deborah Robertson** (Ngāi Tahu), author of the magnetic new novel, *Before George*, will share her tips and tricks in creating well-rounded characters; and lead students through practical and lively exercises that will help fiction fans craft multifaceted characters with strong motivations.



### Ignite Your Creative Spark

**AMBER ESAU**

10.50am-11.50am (max 35)

**Amber Esau** is a Sā-Māo-Rish (Ngāpuhi / Manase) writer of things and knows how to spark creativity. She has contributed to an array of NZ poetry publications and anthologies, as well as co-editing Queer Poetry Anthology *Spoiled Fruit*. Providing some helpful creative writing prompts and playful exercises, Amber will share some techniques to help you get out of a writing rut.



### Spoken Word: An Act of Liberation

**ZECH SOAKAI**

1.25pm-2.25pm (max 35)

"Everyone has a story to share, and in a time where the rest of the world is ready to define you, the power of the written and spoken word to carve out space for self-definition is an act of liberation" – Zech Soakai

Spoken word poet and educator **Zech Soakai** will guide students through a range of activities that support embracing their identity, and show them how to use spoken word as a healthy and empowering tool to express themselves. It's a session that's sure to inspire even the most reluctant of storytellers.

# Secondary Booking Form: Years 9-13

## Wednesday 15 May | Wenerei 15 Mei

|                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| School          | Address           |              |
| Class/Room      | Year(s)           | Equity Index |
| Booking Contact | Phone (Term Time) |              |
| Email           |                   |              |
| Trip Supervisor | Supervisor Mobile |              |
| Email           |                   |              |

*Note: The Booking Contact is the person responsible for making the booking.*

*The Trip Supervisor Contact is the person bringing the class whom we may contact regarding the visit.*

### Wednesday 15 May

**Ticket prices: \$13 per day per student. Teachers: free.**

| Time   | Venue*         | No. | Event Speakers                      | No. Teachers             | No. Students             | Year(s) |
|--|----------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| <b>9.30am</b>                                  | Kiri Te Kanawa |     | <b>Arrival and Seating</b>          |                          |                          |         |
| 10.00am-10.45am                                | Kiri Te Kanawa | 21  | Elizabeth Acevedo                   |                          |                          |         |
| 10.55am-11.40am                                | Kiri Te Kanawa | 22  | Natalie Haynes                      |                          |                          |         |
| <b>11.40am-12.25pm</b>                         |                |     | <b>Lunch Break and Book Signing</b> |                          |                          |         |
| 12.30pm-1.15pm                                 | Kiri Te Kanawa | 23  | Airana Ngarewa                      |                          |                          |         |
| 1.25pm-2.10pm                                  | Kiri Te Kanawa | 24  | Steph Matuku                        |                          |                          |         |
| <b>2.10pm</b>                                  |                |     | <b>Finish and Book Signing</b>      |                          |                          |         |
| *Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Level 2, Aotea Centre |                |     |                                     | Total Teachers<br>(Free) | Total Students<br>@ \$13 | \$      |

**Ticket prices: \$16 per day per student. Teachers: free.**

| Time                                    | Venue*     | No. | Workshops         | No. Teachers             | No. Students             | Year(s) |
|---|------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 9.40am-10.40am                          | Waihorotiu | 25  | Sophie Henderson  |                          |                          |         |
| 10.50am-11.50am                         | Waihorotiu | 26  | Amber Esau        |                          |                          |         |
| 12.15pm-1.15pm                          | Waihorotiu | 27  | Deborah Robertson |                          |                          |         |
| 1.25pm-2.25pm                           | Waihorotiu | 28  | Zech Soakai       |                          |                          |         |
| *Waihorotiu Room, Level 4, Aotea Centre |            |     |                   | Total Teachers<br>(Free) | Total Students<br>@ \$16 | \$      |

Please complete all sections of the form ([download a single page PDF here](#)) and email to [groups@ticketmaster.co.nz](mailto:groups@ticketmaster.co.nz)

For all booking enquiries please phone 09 970 9745

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total</b>                    |                 |
| <b>Ticketmaster Booking Fee</b> | <b>\$ 11.00</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>\$</b>       |

*Bookings are dealt with in order of receipt. Please do not include payment with your Booking Form. You will receive a confirmation from Ticketmaster within three working days of your booking. You will be invoiced by Ticketmaster on receipt of your booking.*



# Secondary Booking Form: Years 9-13

Thursday 16 May | Taite 16 Mei

|                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| School          | Address           |              |
| Class/Room      | Year(s)           | Equity Index |
| Booking Contact | Phone (Term Time) |              |
| Email           |                   |              |
| Trip Supervisor | Supervisor Mobile |              |
| Email           |                   |              |

*Note: The Booking Contact is the person responsible for making the booking.  
The Trip Supervisor Contact is the person bringing the class whom we may contact regarding the visit.*

## Thursday 16 May

**Ticket prices: \$13 per day per student. Teachers: free.**

| Time   | Venue*         | No. | Event Speakers                      | No. Teachers             | No. Students             | Year(s) |
|--|----------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| <b>9.30am</b>                                  | Kiri Te Kanawa |     | <b>Arrival and Seating</b>          |                          |                          |         |
| 10.00am-10.45am                                | Kiri Te Kanawa | 29  | Steph Matuku                        |                          |                          |         |
| 10.55am-11.40am                                | Kiri Te Kanawa | 30  | Airana Ngarewa                      |                          |                          |         |
| <b>11.40am-12.25pm</b>                         |                |     | <b>Lunch Break and Book Signing</b> |                          |                          |         |
| 12.30pm-1.15pm                                 | Kiri Te Kanawa | 31  | Elizabeth Acevedo                   |                          |                          |         |
| 1.25pm-2.10pm                                  | Kiri Te Kanawa | 32  | Natalie Haynes                      |                          |                          |         |
| <b>2.10pm</b>                                  |                |     | <b>Finish and Book Signing</b>      |                          |                          |         |
| *Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Level 2, Aotea Centre |                |     |                                     | Total Teachers<br>(Free) | Total Students<br>@ \$13 | \$      |

**Ticket prices: \$16 per day per student. Teachers: free.**

| Time                                    | Venue*     | No. | Workshops         | No. Teachers             | No. Students             | Year(s) |
|---|------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 9.40am-10.40am                          | Waihorotiu | 33  | Sophie Henderson  |                          |                          |         |
| 10.50am-11.50am                         | Waihorotiu | 34  | Amber Esau        |                          |                          |         |
| 12.15pm-1.15pm                          | Waihorotiu | 35  | Deborah Robertson |                          |                          |         |
| 1.25pm-2.25pm                           | Waihorotiu | 36  | Zech Soakai       |                          |                          |         |
| *Waihorotiu Room, Level 4, Aotea Centre |            |     |                   | Total Teachers<br>(Free) | Total Students<br>@ \$16 | \$      |

Please complete all sections of the form ([download a single page PDF here](#)) and email to [groups@ticketmaster.co.nz](mailto:groups@ticketmaster.co.nz)

For all booking enquiries please phone 09 970 9745

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total</b>                    |                 |
| <b>Ticketmaster Booking Fee</b> | <b>\$ 11.00</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>\$</b>       |

*Bookings are dealt with in order of receipt. Please do not include payment with your Booking Form. You will receive a confirmation from Ticketmaster within three working days of your booking. You will be invoiced by Ticketmaster on receipt of your booking.*

# Secondary Sessions: About the Authors

---

## Elizabeth Acevedo

---

**Elizabeth Acevedo** is a Dominican-American National Poetry Slam Champion and *New York Times*-bestselling author. She is the author of the young adult novels *The Poet X*, *With the Fire on High* and *Clap When You Land*. *The Poet X* is a *New York Times* bestseller, winner of the National Book Award and the Carnegie Medal, and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. She was selected by The Poetry Foundation as the Young People's Poet Laureate of 2022.

---

## Natalie Haynes

---

**Natalie Haynes** is a writer and broadcaster and – according to the *Washington Post* – a rock star mythologist. Her first novel, *The Amber Fury*, was published to great acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic, as was *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life*. Her second novel, *The Children of Jocasta*, was published in 2017. *A Thousand Ships*, was published in 2019. It was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020. Her non-fiction book, *Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myth* was published in Oct 2020, and reached number 2 in the *New York Times* Bestseller chart. Her novel about Medusa, *Stone Blind*, was published in Sep 2022. Her latest book, *Divine Might*, was published in September 2023. She is a regular contributor to *BBC Radio 4*: nine series of her show, *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics*, have been broadcast on Radio 4.

---

## Airana Ngarewa

---

Born and raised in Pātea - Poi E Country, **Airana Ngarewa** (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine) is a secondary school teacher in New Plymouth and author of the bestselling novel *The Bone Tree*. He won the short story and poetry competitions at the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards in 2022. His writing has also been published by RNZ, *NZ Herald*, *Newsroom* and *Landfall*.

---

## Steph Matuku

---

**Steph Matuku** (Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Te Atiawa) is an award-winning author of stories for young people. As well as short stories, plays and articles, she has written five books: *Flight of the Fantail* and *Falling Into Rarohenga* for young adults, the junior fiction series, *Whetū Toa*, and picture book, *The Eight Gifts of Te Wheke*, all published by Huia Publishers. Two of her books have been translated into te reo Māori, two were finalists in the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and four were Storylines Notable Books. Steph's screen credits include *Mystic*, *Under The Vines* and *Shortland Street*. She has three more books due out this year, and is currently working on a novel for young adults about the indigenous response to climate change. Steph is the mother of two, and lives in Taranaki.

---

## Sophie Henderson

---

**Sophie Henderson** is a New Zealand screenwriter working in the UK and New Zealand. Her first screenplay, *Fantail* premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival and picked up a People's Choice Award at Melbourne International Film Festival. In 2021 her film *Baby Done* with Taika Waititi's Piki Films starring Rose Matafeo and Matthew Lewis, won over audiences both at home and overseas. The same year, Sophie's film *The Justice of Bunny King* starring Essie Davis and Thomasin McKenzie premiered at Tribeca Film Festival where it received a Nora Ephron Award Special Jury Mention. Sophie's most recent work includes writing Charles Upham's biopic *Mark of The Lion* for Lionsgate and Firefly Films, developing her series *Wall* with Southern Light Films and adapting a 1940s Beano comic book *Valda: The Immortal Girl* with Drama Republic for television. Her next feature, *Workmates* is currently in post-production and is due for release in 2024.

---

## Amber Esau

---

**Amber Esau** is a Sā-Māo-Rish (Ngāpuhi / Manase) writer of things from Tāmaki Makaurau. She is a poet, storyteller, and professional bots. She is co-editor of *Queer Poetry Anthology*, *Spoiled Fruit* (Āporo press, 2023). Always vibing at a languid pace, her work has been published both in print and online including in *Puna Wai Kōrero*, *Rapture*, *Te Awa o Kupu*, *Skinny Dip!* and *Annual*, *NZ poetry shelf*, *Ora nui*, *Poetry New Zealand Yearbook* and *Going West Poetry Videos*. She is a recipient of the emerging Pasifika writer's residency from the Michael King Writers Centre and the ideas in residence residency from the Basement Theatre.

# Secondary Sessions: About the Authors

---

## Deborah Robertson

---

**Deborah Robertson** grew up in rural Northland where she lived off the land with her family, riding a bunch of ponies that were at least half-human and volunteering for everything, including Scouts, Riding for the Disabled and various children's camps, which provided much of the inspiration for *Before George*. She divides her time between teaching, film work, writing, engineering and pottery and has a master's degree in Creative Writing. She has also made lots of (mostly not useless) things ranging from a house to way too many patchwork quilts, to hydrofoils to quirky clay animals. Deborah lives in Whangārei with her giant rabbits, a flock of sheep and her husband.

---

## Zech Soakai

---

**Zech Soakai** is a storyteller and educator from Poutasi, Upolu, Samoa and Ha'ato'u, Ha'apai, Tonga. Raised in South Auckland, he considers his work as a writer, orator and educator significant in village building and warrior raising – so that his communities may continue to flourish. Zech is an award winning performance poet and was privileged to go on the Rhodes Poetry Retreat in Monolithos under the tutelage of Greek-Australian Poet Luka Lesson. His written works can be found in: *Rapture: An Anthology of Performance Poetry in Aotearoa New Zealand* (AUP, 2023) and *Remember Me: Poems to Learn by Heart from Aotearoa New Zealand* (AUP, 2023).