

Through Writers in Schools in 2020:

33,731

CHILDREN WERE INSPIRED BY

66

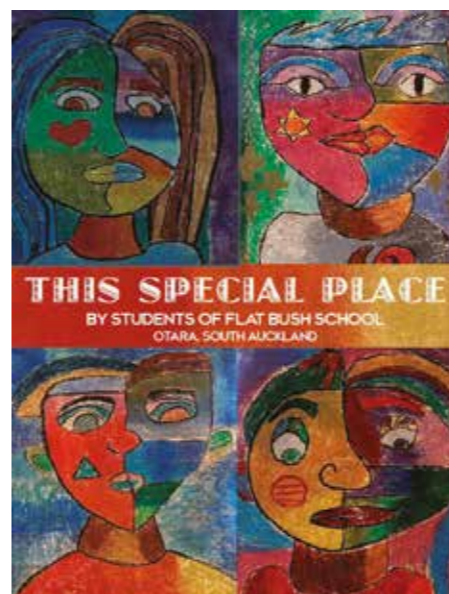
DIFFERENT AUTHORS, INCLUDING PLAYWRIGHTS, POETS, NOVELISTS AND ILLUSTRATORS



Poet Te Kahu Rolleston visited Papatoetoe High in August. A teacher said: "You know how in a school assembly, some kids listen, some kids talk and some kids just wait patiently and respectfully? In this case, every student in the hall was engaged and actively listening. 400 of them!"

Our Writers in Communities programme engages children and their wider community in reading and writing, and it also celebrates whānau, creativity and culture. Schools invite an author in to work with their students to inspire them to develop their talents and help them publish their work in a book. In 'This Special Place', children from Flat Bush School worked with author David Riley to share what they love about growing up in Ōtara.

"Happiness fills our street, people breathe it in like sweet air."



Vasanti Unka worked with children at Papatoetoe Intermediate as part of our Writers in Communities programme to write and publish their own stories.

As well as publishing books, the students were able to share their work digitally with friends, whānau and their wider community. Moira Wairama worked with children at St Bernadette's School in Lower Hutt to publish *Our Book Our Stories*, featuring their poetry, prose and illustrations.

The result is a collection of stories that reflect the cultural heritage and family stories of children from a wide range of backgrounds.



Children and whānau at the launch of *Our Book Our Stories* at St Bernadette's School.

Following the nationwide lockdown in March, more of our Writers in Schools visits when virtual. These events, which happened all over the country, were well received with all schools rating their experience as 'excellent.'

At the request of Auckland's Lynfield Kāhui Ako, we made a series of video interviews with ten inspiring Writers in Schools authors, as a mini virtual writer's festival. Now they're available for everyone to enjoy. Find them on YouTube: [bit.ly/3sZOEyH](https://bit.ly/3sZOEyH)



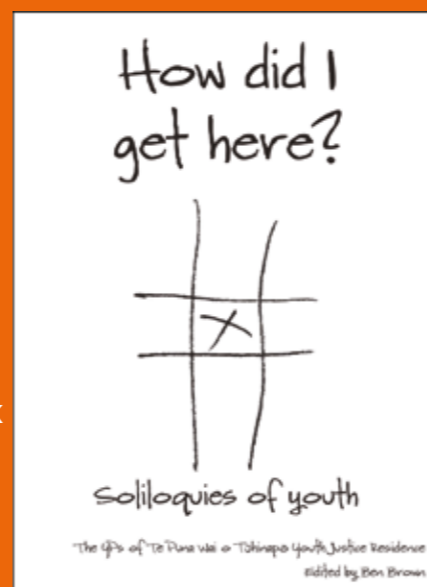
Selina Tusitala Marsh features in this series.

**How Did I Get Here?** is the poetry anthology by the YPs (Young People) of Te Puna Wai o Tūhinapō, the Oranga Tamariki youth justice residence in Christchurch, and edited by Ben Brown.

First published by us at Read NZ Te Pou Muramura, this book was re-issued by The Cuba Press and is now available both from their website and local bookshops.

"...Even the colours are inverted, white text on a black page. Or perhaps the book is not so much a window but a mirror, reflecting back at us the other side of the society and system we inhabit..."

Tihema Baker, review on *The Sapling*.



We ran the Stay Home Book Club during the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown in April and May, inviting young readers to log the books, audiobooks and online story sessions they enjoyed during the period.

We had nearly one thousand young readers sign up to the book club (992 to be exact!) and they logged a total of 9511 items.

"We really appreciated how you ran the reading challenge over the lockdown period. Our three boys loved it and it gave them even more motivation to read... it was a real highlight during a tough time."



We introduced the Reading Doctor in 2020 to share book lists on a theme and inspire New Zealanders to pick up something new.

Our Reading Doctor (Dr Louise O'Brien) wrote a new reading list for our blog each week, based on a theme or reader query, and covered everything from books about politics to ideas for reluctant readers, and literature to lift the spirit during the lockdown period. Find the complete collection here: [bit.ly/39jfaLy](https://bit.ly/39jfaLy)



*If Nobody Listens Then No One Will Know* was our 2020 Read NZ Te Pou Muramura Pānui, delivered by Ben Brown at the National Library on November 18.

This work is about reading, and listening to usually unheard voices. It's about the weight of words: who writes, who reads, and why does it matter? Brown explores the concept of youth justice, its history and purpose in Aotearoa, and more specifically a series of writing workshops he delivered for Read NZ Te Pou Muramura in a youth justice facility. Download the free e-book: [bit.ly/3dm9zqa](https://bit.ly/3dm9zqa) Listen to the lecture on RNZ: [bit.ly/3pnOPT6](https://bit.ly/3pnOPT6)



Ben Brown

Read NZ Te Pou Muramura supported the following literary and community projects in 2020:

- South Taranaki District Library and Writers in Schools collaboration, supporting seven schools, home educators and the South Taranaki Library Book Club
- A school visit by Miriam Lancewood as part of WORD Christchurch
- Four *Writers in Schools* visits as part of Verb Wellington
- Readaloud's #Tumeke Festival, featuring author Michael Petherick and 23 participating schools.

We supported Te Aka ki Hato Pāora - a new project by Te Whē that connects a group of rangatahi from Hato Pāora College with writing tutors including Anahera Gildea, Nadine Hura, Dallas Karangarua, Rex Paget, Karen Leef, Ihaka Tunui and Laniyuk.



Students from Hato Paora College attend their writing workshop at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington marae.

**Blokes vs Books: a joint initiative we ran together with the NZ Society of Authors during the lockdown period.**

Blokes vs Books is a series of short, light-hearted interviews between playwright Victor Rodger and well-known men, on how books and reading have shaped their lives.

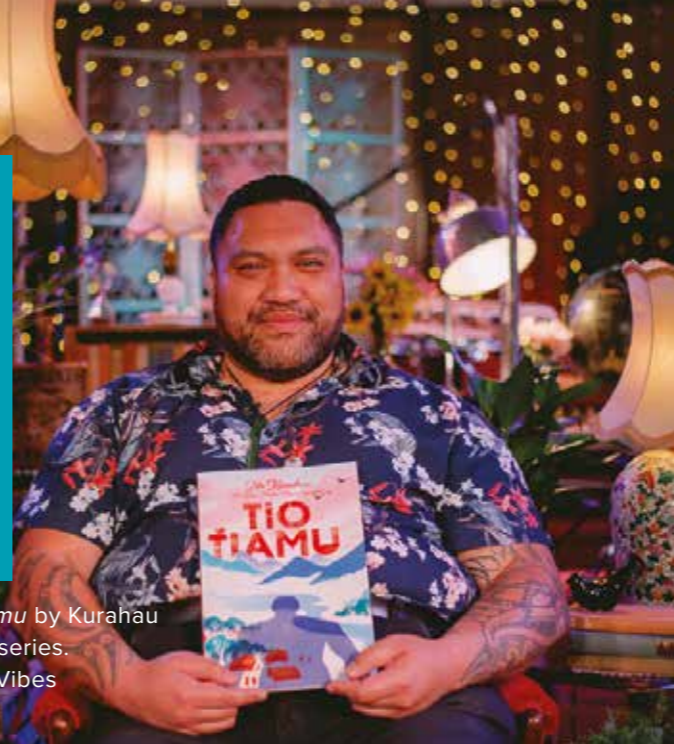
From Shortland Street actor Jay Kiriona to politician John Tamihere, the men share their reading habits and favourite books from the comfort of their living rooms. Find the complete collection of Blokes vs Books clips, articles and reading lists: [bit.ly/2Nw6yIY](http://bit.ly/2Nw6yIY)



Victor interviews comedian Leigh Hart about his reading habits.

We joined forces with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra to help create their Storytime sessions: a series of popular and award-winning New Zealand children's books presented in an exciting new way with music. Find a collection of these special sessions here: [bit.ly/37Mkt0h](http://bit.ly/37Mkt0h)

Maaka Pohatu reads *Tio Tiamu* by Kurahau as part of NZSO's Storytime series. Photo: NZSO/Peanut Butter Vibes



**The Read NZ Te Pou Muramura website is home to more than**

**7000** 

**in-depth profiles of Aotearoa's authors, and more are added every year.**

In 2020, we added 24 new Writers Files to our website. These files continue to be our most-used online resource, with the most popular files being those of Witi Ihimaera and Patricia Grace.

**2020**

**A YEAR IN REVIEW**



**Please join us! Our members help us:**

- ✔ Ensure the most disadvantaged students have access to our programmes.
- ✔ Research reading habits in Aotearoa and explore the barriers to reading
- ✔ Deliver campaigns targeted to reluctant or non-readers to encourage reading
- ✔ Create and maintain online resources such as our Writers Files
- ✔ Advocate for the importance of reading and writing in Aotearoa

  
We also love sharing our ideas on social media. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube!

Visit [www.read-nz.org.nz](http://www.read-nz.org.nz) to become a member, enjoy our resources, and join the conversation. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter: [bit.ly/3iMWTcS](http://bit.ly/3iMWTcS)



to our supporters, including our school and individual members. We couldn't do what we do without you.



Community Trust South Redwood Trust Otago Community Trust Eastern and Central Community Trust West Coast Community Trust

Trust Waikato Mid & South Canterbury Trust Pub Charity Mainland Foundation Foundation North Mātātuhi Foundation

Lion Foundation Accenture NZ Bookery Book Books Luke Pierson Peppercorn Press James and Helena Brow

In 2020, we adopted Hooked on NZ Books He Ao Ano, a programme established by Peppercorn Press to complement their print journal *NZ Review of Books*.

Hooked on Books is an online platform and literary community for readers aged 12-19 and a place where they can join the critical conversation about books from Aotearoa.

In 2020 we published reviews of 30 NZ books, written by young readers living everywhere from Whangarei to Invercargill and we now have a database of more than a hundred young readers participating.

Read their work and join the programme by visiting [www.hookedonbooks.org.nz](http://www.hookedonbooks.org.nz)



Read NZ Te Pou Muramura wants to grow a nation of readers. Established in 1972, we are New Zealand's only national agency dedicated to reading. We do so by focusing on children – the next generation of readers and writers – ensuring they read for pleasure. We also know that many New Zealanders love to read, and we want to support you to share your passion and encourage those around you to read and to read more.



The 2020 Read NZ team with poet Ben Brown and his partner Rachael O'Sullivan. From left: Communications Manager Melissa Wastney, CEO Juliet Blyth, Rachael O'Sullivan, Ben Brown, Programmes Manager Kathryn Carmody and Corporate Services Manager Tanya Prince.

**WHY READING?**

We want to foster a thriving and inclusive reading culture in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We believe reading is a superpower that feeds our imagination and broadens our horizons. Reading is one of the most accessible and affordable arts activities and its benefits are well documented.

OECD research shows that reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success. It's an even more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.

We also know the contribution reading makes to our mental wellbeing, to building empathy and to cross-cultural understanding.



**Imagine a world without stories – oral, written or drawn. Stories are how we communicate everything!**