

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

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Creating a Literate Community II Conference 2023

On October 5, 2023 we held our second *Creating a Literate Community Conference* this time at the Distinction Conference Centre in Hamilton (Hamilton Gardens are closed for renovations). This event was organised to provide an opportunity to deliver quality PD to as many people as possible, aimed at learning how to support children who are struggling to read. It is important that children have access to a quality evidence-based education, regardless of their learning needs and this event was a perfect place for leaders, teachers, parents and caregivers to learn how to transform the lives of struggling readers. Videos of each of our speakers will be available on our website soon (Lyn Stone is available [now](#)).

Below: On stage, ending the day with Q&As from left Mahina Selby-Law, Emma Nahna, Dr Michael Johnston and Dr Olwyn Johnston (Lyn via video link).



A recap of our speakers:

Dr Michael Johnston opened the day by discussing the cognitive demands of reading, focusing on cognitive load. “Michael’s research from when he was in Australia is really interesting, he used masked priming and was able to titrate out orthographic and phonological effects,” reflects Dr Olwyn Johnston on Michael’s complex subject.

Dr Olwyn Johnston Session topic: What intervention must include to be successful for students, no matter their age.

Lyn Stone Session topic: Explicit instruction in the morphological, etymological and orthographic underpinnings of the system (via video link).

Mahina Selby-Law Session topic: Structured Literacy in Māori medium classrooms. After many years teaching in Māori medium akomanga Mahina has stepped out of the classroom to share my matauranga in Hanganga Reo Matatini.

Te Kuiti based **Emma Nahna** talked about Speech Language Therapy and her work as a literacy coach.

Thank you ... we are incredibly grateful to our fantastic speakers who travelled long distances to enrich our lives and speak in depth about their topics at our conference. We are equally as grateful to our Tui Trust volunteers who made the day possible. Most of all we are grateful to our conference guests, many of whom also travelled long distances to join us. Thank you for your amazing feedback which helps us better understand our communities. Last but not least thank you to our major sponsors:



Thank you ! Behind the scenes our volunteer team!



Thank you to our amazing team of volunteers, we could not have had such a successful day without out you! Pictured above is the check-in stations outside the conference room. Top picture, from left , Angela (a local from Ngāruawāhia), Cherie (Auckland), Maree (ex-Hamiltonian, now living in Taupo) and Vereana (who flew up from Christchurch!). Below left: Cherie, Janeen (floor manager from Tauranga) and 12 year old Kaden, helper for the second year in a row he very experienced at helping to organise events and loves it! Below right: our photographers Cassidy and Harry. We also thank Brian and his son (for all things AV), Cairo George and the staff at the Distinction!



Creating a Literate Community II photo montage



Photo: panel discussion and structured literacy books and teacher resources prize give-aways!



*Photo: Lee (Tui Trust) thanking our speakers!
From left: Janeen, Lee, Olwyn, Mahi, Emma and Michael.*



Photo: opening speech from left: Janeen and Lee.



Photo: cuppa tea time!



Photo: Lee (right) with Autism Development Co-ordinator Jane Crown (and team member) Kairuruku Takiwaatanga, Waikato.



Pictured: Children from Maihihi School with their new SL readers that introduce non-fiction subject matter.



Supporting Maihihi School

Maihihi School is a small country school in Otorohanga who are working towards implementing structured literacy school wide. We first met Principal at Maihihi School Vanessa Koroa and her team at a [Liz Kane The Code](#) training day at Claudelands Event Centre in Hamilton. Determined to lift literacy rates for all children particularly their struggling children (Tier II and Tier III) we talked about challenges the school face regarding resourcing (i.e. applying for grants with minimal success) and the need for structured literacy materials, so with support *Trust Waikato* we are delighted to help the teachers and kids by purchasing a classroom set of *Little Learners non-fiction decodable* resources and Liz Kane [Blended Review](#) teacher resources. These resources will improve child wellbeing:

- ✓ Enabling success in the reading process
- ✓ Improved phonological awareness
- ✓ Improved concepts about print
- ✓ Improves self-efficacy
- ✓ Belief in self!

Thank you to our Sponsors and Supporters 2023



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Thank you to *Community Waikato* for advertising our conference in their weekly email bulletin in August 2023.



WEEKLY BULLETIN
1 August 2023

