

The Storyline

Storytellers



Victoria Burnett



Shonaleigh

*Each of us has been designed for one of two immortal functions,
as either a storyteller or a cross-legged listener to tales of wonder,
love and daring.*

When we cease to tell or listen, then we no longer exist as people.

February 2014

Magazine of The New Zealand Guild of Storytellers
Nga Kaikorero Purakau O Aotearoa



Editors Report

As 2014 starts I am hoping we will grow as a Guild.

Our website is at last on the brink of being updated. Within a month, maybe less, it will be active.

It will be attractive, and very easy to access and use.

So we are hoping more members will post their profiles. Also that everyone will look to posting their events, thoughts about storytelling, good stories they would like to share, anything at all that other members may value.

Being able to add these yourself should make it easier.

There will be instructions on the site to help you.

See below for more details.

I am also wondering how we can all share actively in what is happening around the country.

When we bring our special storytellers to Southland each year we do inform Guild members, of course, but we have found some major blocks to having them perform in other areas.

- It depends on whether they have time to visit others, or want to, whether we circulate that information ahead of time. There was some confusion over this with the visits we have sponsored to date.

Shonaleigh, who is coming in May has already



planned her time here and tickets have been booked so there is no useful purpose in offering her services to other areas. But Victoria will have time available and I have emailed members with details.

We do hope you do get to hear them if they are anywhere near you.

- We cannot always afford to wait for other areas to decide as we need to book flights early to get good prices. If they are booking their own tickets this can allow for time to be available

- In the past, when we did try to share, we found that most areas were not taking up the offer due to the cost of the fees.

If you can think of a way to change this we would be very glad to hear your ideas.

We do bring two tellers each May.

Liz Miller

We still need to have you all contributing to make this a representative magazine. Thank you so much to those who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE for next issue is mid-April for a May issue.

We are planning issues for May, August and November.

For long years I have kept this beauty within me.

It has been my life.

It is sacred.

I give it now that coming generations may know the truth
About my people.

I give it as the dew falls

I give it as a sacred pollen

That there may increase a better understanding among people.

My days have been long.

Whoever listens and loves and learns from our stories

Shall profit by them,

And their days shall be lengthened.

Asking that no harm will come from the Powers

Who have given these stories to us.

May no harm come from them

May they be accepted as an offering

As the pollen

As the dew.

Navajo Prayer

President's Report

Well, the summer holidays have been and gone – yes, they flew by again – and now we are back in to the full swing of 'normal life' (if such a thing exists). For me, that includes school lunches, lesson planning, teaching, being the taxi-service for the continuous round of after-school activities (piano, gymnastics, ballet, swimming, jazz, clarinet, acrobatics and speech, at last count!) domestic duties and, of course, stories.

Liz, Daphne and I have been busy organizing the May visit of Shonaleigh from England and Victoria Burnett from America, on behalf of the Southland Branch of the NZ Literacy Association. We have watched them both on YouTube and are very excited to see them in person. Hope some of you can make it down our way to join in with us for this treat – there's always a bed available!

Southern Storytellers are also rehearsing for our March concert so songs and stories are heard, re-heard and heard again – my 5 and 9 year olds rarely tire of hearing the same story or song over and over again, thankfully! The 9-year old particularly is quite a critic and freely offers

suggestions for improvement!

We have also been busy finalizing details for the updated website – we are confident you will be impressed by the new look and we urge you all to use it – add your events, your individual profiles, share stories and telling tips, recommend good storytelling books, CD's and websites...the more it is used the more useful to us all it will be.

I'm excited about 2014 – I think this will be a year to build on the foundations of the Guild that have been laid by its members over the past years. Let's all work together to see where we can go!

Happy telling, all.

Tania Faulkner-McKenzie

andrewtania@hotmail.com



Treasurer's Report

We have \$5144.07

Secretary's Report

We have a new member – welcome Patricia Anne Dye in Christchurch

Now we have 33 members. 6 are group affiliations. 2 live in USA.

Website

We have a wonderful man updating our site. He is Gaye Sutton's nephew and is moving with creativity and speed.

Once he has it up and functioning each member will have their own password and will be able to put their photo and profile on site. Also members will be able to directly place stories, ideas, whatever – on the Noticeboard and place events on the events section.

It should become a more vibrant site.

www.storytelling.org.nz

News from around the Regions

Southland

This month, February, your president and secretary told a story in tandem at the Plunket Teddy Bear Picnic.

As you will see from our cover picture, we have two amazing storytellers coming to share their art with us as part of the Southland Arts Festival.

Shonaleigh will then go up to Christchurch to share with their group. Victoria arrives in Invercargill Monday 19th May at noon and doesn't leave until 4pm June 3rd. So she will have some time if other areas wish to book her.

Wellington

Storytellers' Café, Wellington meets the first Tuesday of the month Feb-Dec 7.30 p.m. Entry \$5.

Toi Poneke, Wellington Arts Centre, 61 Abel Smith St. TeAro.

Features a Guest Teller then an open mike session. New Tellers always welcome.

For more information, email: wellingtonstorytellerscafe@gmail.com

Linda Hansen

Taranaki

Stepping into Story 2014

The year ahead looks to be interesting for Taranaki. The Puke Ariki library has offered to host "Just in time" which has decided to call itself "Step into Story." 1st Wednesday of the month so if anyone is visiting contact Lesley.

Twilight story performance and swapping ground was 22 February at Stoney River Hotel, Okato.

Bookings are coming in for a residential weekend at the hotel hosted by Lesley Dowding.

Wonderful rooms, all meals including three course dinner, evening performance and workshops.

Contact Lesley for more details. Come to Okato. Fabulous walks, Vintage shopping, Creative Arts Trail.

Did you know there are some amazing stories happening in Golden Bay organised by Hans and Chris? These two people are working very hard to establish story and encourage people to tell.

I told a personal tale along with a group of young tellers - my daughter and her partner. It was a great evening. The theme was When Worlds Collide. My title was The Twisted Tear Drop.

Lesley Dowding



Canterbury Story Circle

The Story Collective supports a story circle gathering at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at the Avon Loop Community Cottage, 28 Hurley Street, Christchurch. Story is explored in its many forms – written, oral, visual, physical movement, performed - in a friendly and co-creative learning space.

Enjoy listening, watching and learning with others as we try out our 'stories in progress' in a supportive environment, develop new skills, discover

knowledge, and discuss and share ideas and experiences with others. Everyone is welcome – tellers, writers, artists, performers, listeners – anyone who loves stories, the curious. Refreshments provided. Koha appreciated to cover venue hire.

Enquiries to thestorycollectivechch@gmail.com or call Sharon tel (03)967-7888 mob 022-121-3648. The Story Collective also shares a brief email bulletin of local story related events. You can sign up to receive this by emailing thestorycollectivechch@gmail.com.



Come and join the fun!

7.00pm Friday 14 March to 4.00pm Sunday 16 March, 2014

Gap Filler Pallet Pavilion, Cnr Kilmore and Durham Streets

Entry free: Koha for artists

Tales @ the Pallet Pavilion is a Story festival for adults and children, locals and visitors, using multiple art forms that tell a story in some way – storytelling, writing, spoken word and poetry, creative movement and dance, music, visual arts and crafts. These stories cover traditional, fictional, real life, cultural, improvised, historical and heritage story material.

It is an experimental showcase of both established and new local talent that includes displays, performances (including participatory and interactive events) and workshops for fun, learning and creative expression. Community arts groups, organisations and individual artists are coming together to celebrate story as a gift to the community.

Follow progress and check out programme details soon available at:

[facebook.com/TheStoryCollective](https://www.facebook.com/TheStoryCollective) (You don't need to be a member of Facebook to view this page).

Inquiries welcome to thestorycollectivechch@gmail.com or call Sharon on tel (03) 9677-888 or mob 022-121-3648 to find out more or if you are interested in getting involved in the gathering.

1-3 December 2013 Workshops with Clare Coburn from Melbourne, Australia

In December last year, storytellers, writers, counsellors, mediators, educators and lovers of story and humanity were enchanted by two workshops offered by Clare Coburn – a professional listener, educator, storyteller and writer from Melbourne, Australia. We gathered in the beautiful and rugged Travis Wetlands Centre situated on the north eastern reaches of the city - a fitting setting for our explorations.

A class of children singing without joy.

A class of children dancing without laughter.

And a class of children who, listening to a story, are naked of delight.

Clare offered a Sunday afternoon workshop entitled "Crossing the Threshold" that explored moments of insight and transformation. In this we gained storytelling skills with practical experience in storytelling, and also explored thresholds in our own lives, gaining awareness of thresholds as places to encourage transformation in our personal, community and organisational lives.

The next couple of days saw another group gather for a full two day workshop of "Radical Receptivity" that developed the patient power of listening. During these days we explored our innate capacity

to listen with others and developed our listening skills; heard and explored the learning contained in wise stories from world traditions, our own lives, and from the lives of others and investigated various theories of listening.

Both workshops were rich, warm, welcoming and creative. The expressions of fulfilment from the participants overflowed and we all went home feeling more connected to ourselves, our creativity and to others. Thank you Clare!

To find more out about Clare, who regularly visits New Zealand, check out her website: abled.com.au

Events

Here in Southland we are bringing the two amazing women pictured on our cover to share their stories and songs with our people.

In case you wish to make it to Southland we are listing their programmes:

Concert for adults in Repertory House on Friday 23rd May, 7.30 pm

Family Concert in the Public Library on Saturday 24th May, 11.00 am

Meet the Tellers at the Cheeky Llama Café in our park on Wednesday 28th May at 7.30 pm

These events will be listed in the Southland Arts Festival booklet with prices.

We will also take them to 7 schools in the city and in the province.

Shonaleigh

Shonaleigh is a drut'syla (storyteller) from the Yiddish oral tradition.

Bringing tales from the Yiddish, English and European cultures she enables you to enter a world of image & music with breath taking vividness. A modern day Shaharazad,

She has shared her work for the past 17 years across the United Kingdom, Europe and the USA. She was the UK's Deputy National Storytelling Laureate from 2010-12.

In 2012 she was appointed to Artistic Director of Phrase Arts, where she helps promote storytelling within communities. "Shonaleigh is in a class of her own." – *Festival at the Edge*.

www.shonaleigh.com

Victoria Burnett

There are singers. There are storytellers. And then there is Victoria Burnett! Victoria's fusion of a delicious mixture of story and music delights and captivates audiences of all ages. She describes herself as a "Storymusicalogist". Her passion for sharing multi-cultural tales with a sense of playfulness, spirituality and reverence for the culture from which these stories rise is evident from the moment she takes stage! As Victoria masterfully combines song and storytelling, she helps to preserve the "best" of who we are and "encourages" audiences to pass on their own stories to successive generations."

*Two opposing politicians are having an argument.
"There are mahy ways of making money" says the first "but there
is only one honest way."
"And what's that?" says the second.
The first replies, "I had a feeling that you wouldn't know!"*

Contributions

DAVID DOYLE TELLING AT EPSOM SCOUT HALL ORGANISED BY NICK ORAM

(SEPTEMBER 2013)

David is an Irish storyteller based in England. He was visiting both Australia and New Zealand. David told a 'Jack Story' and another story, which I do not remember. Both stories and the teller really captured the audience's attention. New Zealand was briefly represented by Spangle the Storyteller and Wild Kid Nick.

A gold coin donation was requested to support David on his travelling and David kindly donated some of it to our scout group.

There were about 50 in the audience ranging from 4 to 14 and with many adults [almost all parents]. I intend to organise other storytelling events at the Hall or at other scout halls if other scout groups are interested. [Perhaps bi-annually.]

Nicholas Oram



"Storytelling is relating a tale to one or more listeners through voice and gesture. It is not the same as reading a story aloud or reciting a piece from memory or acting out a drama – though it shares common characteristics with these arts.

The storyteller looks into the eyes of the audience and together they compose the tale. The storyteller begins to see and re-create, through voice and gesture, a series of mental images; the audience, from the first moment of listening, squints, stares, smiles, leans forward or falls asleep, letting the teller know whether to slow down, speed up, elaborate, or just finish.

Each listener, as well as each teller, actually composes a unique set of story images derived

from meanings associated with words, gestures, and sounds.

The experience can be profound, exercising the thinking and touching emotions of both teller and listener."

National Council of Teachers of English in support of storytelling in the academic classroom.

"Because there is a natural storytelling urge and ability in all human beings, even just a little nurturing of this impulse can bring about astonishing and delightful results."

Nancy Mellon, *The Art of Storytelling*

A hair on the head, is worth two on the brush



NATIONAL STORY TELLING FESTIVAL JONESBOROUGH 2013

My thoughts from Jonesborough.

The best way to travel to a National Storytelling festival is with another storyteller if you can. I was fortunate to have the company of Meg Philips, teller from Brisbane.

It was great to be able to share stories morning noon and night.

We met amazing people and made new friends.

Here is one small snippet of what happened to us in Jonesborough.

We had just had a wonderful session with Ed Stivender and John May in the Martin storytelling hall.

It was interesting to hear him talk of his performances and how sometimes you don't get it right when you choose a story for a new audience. He spoke highly of his sisters.

After the session Meg and I decided to sit outside and take in all we had heard.

People were ordering drinks so I went up to a table to get some glasses.

While I waited in line a lady asked me who I had

heard tell stories and what were my thoughts.

I raved on about Ed and then said BUT I want to meet his sisters. They sound fantastic.

All three faces smiled back at me and said, "Here we are!"

Wow! The doors opened and Meg and I were invited to join the family.

We learnt so much about the man, laughing, sharing. Just as we thought the moment had passed, when Ed declared he was off to the Court house, the sisters invited us to join them. We arrived at the steps of the Court house and found a quiet spot to listen to Ed. His banjo appeared and quite a few folk. Ed introduced the FRINGE.

We were then asked to join the street theatre and tell stories.

It was very lively like the swapping ground but very informal.

People strolled by as laughter rose to the clear blue sky, washboard music filled the air.

Morris dancers were suddenly sharing an ancient dance. Young 9 and 10 year olds confidently told tales and finally Meg and I.

We all got given the best badge of the festival. A piece of curtain fringe to wear to say we had performed. It was magical!

My most precious time was listening to Joseph Bruchac and talking to him. I spent a lot of hours reading and digesting the work of this gifted spiritual man with a PH'D by his name. He had many messages and I suggest you read his book - Our Stories to remember - online.

I will be using his wisdom in my workshops and share his sense of humour.

Lesley Dowding

Down from the places of magic
Down from the places of magic
The winds blow and from my antlers
and from my ears they gather stronger.
Pima deer song



Baltimore, USA

Repetition brings polishing to your stories .

I've just visited 23 relatives in the Netherlands and by the end of my two weeks my stories about my life and family in Baltimore were polished , slick, down to essentials - yet flexible so that they could be made relevant to the new audience; picking out some highlights and glossing over or leaving out

other details .

Thus life doth make story tellers of us all.

Go well and enjoy sharing your stories - with many people!

From Antoinette Everts

antoinette.everts5@gmail.com

A dog tale to make you smile

An older, tired looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me. I gave him a few pats on his head and he then followed me into my house. He slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued on and off for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar. "I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful, sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog

comes to my house for a nap?"

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar:

"He lives in a home with several children, 2 under the age of 3. He's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

Marie Dingemans in Christchurch sent this to me.



I wanted to share with you a part of my world which is mostly private and concealed. My religious life. Last year we celebrated a moment which is about a 4,000 year old memory (give or take a few years), of the giving of the Law to Moses at Mt Sinai during the 40 years wandering in the desert. This celebration coincided with our Wellington Progressive community's welcoming in a new scroll, made from lambs' skins on which are hand written in Hebrew the first 5 books of the Torah....Bible. This scroll has never been used by any congregation before. In contrast, our Temple has for the past 54 years been privileged, humbled and honoured to have used scrolls, hundreds of years old, which were all that remained of Czech Jewish communities who



were wiped out in the Holocaust.

All the members who attended the evening ceremony of 'bringing in the Torah' had the chance to dance in joyful, religious celebration at this moment. The picture captures Yours Truly taking a turn to dance with the scroll, dressed in my prayer shawl which had been bought in 1983 in Jaffa, just out of Jerusalem. Later, I was given one of the highest honours of my life, (along with being a Mum, a Nana and a Kiwi), to be called up for the very first reading from the scroll. It was a surprising honour, a great one, and a moment that I will forever treasure. I just wanted to share my joy with my family and friends.

b'Shalom,

- Mona

Tanya & Tuna – A storytelling adventure

It was near the beginning of our North Island safari that my husband & I enjoyed two days enriched by story. On Thursday 24th October we attended an evening session at Gladstone Winery, where sipping a wine and relishing a piece of cake we settled to hear Tanya Batt share with us two of her stories. One was “her” story of how she was created as a storyteller and it was full of charm & whimsy. This was followed by a traditional folk tale about “The great bear and the Princess”. Tanya was enchanting visually and vocally as she held her audience in the palm of her hand.

It was Saturday 26th October 2013 that we joined the special bus to symbolically follow some of the 6,000 km journey of the Tuna (or long-finned eel) to the sea at Lake Ferry (or Lake Onoke). We were traditionally welcomed on to the beautiful Papawai Marae and saw their eel stream and heard how the Marae was endeavouring to protect the water quality and encourage the Tuna. This visit was the highlight of my trip. The Marae had very interesting historical significance because in the late 1800s it was the site of the only Maori Parliament. The members of Marae were welcoming, humorous, informative and inclusive and I would like to thank the Kaumatua who made our visit so memorable.

A further bus ride with storytellers, naturalists,

and information brought us to Lake Ferry. A special blessing on the wind battered shore for the young eels and their journey was given by two local Kaumatua and this was followed by a “Fish and chip” luncheon at Lake Ferry Hotel.

There are only around 16 freshwater eel species in the world, three of which can be found in Aotearoa/New Zealand. What makes the longfin eel important is that it is endemic, which means they are found nowhere else and they are on the endangered species list. We 'storied' our way back to Masterton with a feast of new stories in our minds, with a renewed desire to protect our waterways and a much better appreciation of the magnificent - though often under-rated Tuna.

Margaret Dockrill



The photo is of the event organisers in Masterton attaching a sign on our bus about protecting & treasuring the Tuna.

Storytelling Groups/contacts

Regional Contacts

The person nearest to you should be happy to talk to you or help you arrange an occasion or start a group or just talk storytelling! If there is no one in your area perhaps YOU would be the regional contact. Let us know.

Auckland	7.30pm 1st Thursday of month	Margaret Blay 09 630 6774	40 Croyden Street, Mount Eden, 1024 margaretblay@gmail.com
Thames	7.30pm 1st Wed of month	Jackie Black 07 868 1181	29 Station Road, Puriri, RD1 Thames
Tauranga	Last Thurs of month	Penny Guy	penny.guy@rely.usful.com.nz
Central Hawkes Bay	Phone for details	Mary Kippenberger 06 856 8367	212 Argyll Road, RD1 Otane marykipp@hotmail.com
Wairarapa	Email for details gaye@storyweaver.co.nz	Gaye Sutton	Gaye Sutton, Te Pukeko, Chester Road, Rd1
Manawatu	Phone for details	Ken Benn 06 359 5024	3 Hardie Street, Palmerston North, kenbenn@paradise.net.nz
Wellington	7.30pm 1st Tuesday of month		PO Box 10-868, Wellington Storytellers.cafe@buzz.net.nz
Blenheim	7pm, 2nd Thursday monthly	Katrina Oliver 03 577 7787	katrinao@xtra.co.nz
Canterbury	7.30pm third Wed of the month The Avon Loop Com. College 28 Hurley Street, Christchurch	Sharon Moreham Ph 03 967 7888 Mob 022 121 3648	thestorycollectivechch@gmail.com
Timaru	3.30pm last Tuesday monthly in Timaru Library	Lorna McMaster 03 686 6204	Margaret Dockrill dockrill@xtra.co.nz
Dunedin	Phone for details	Kaitrin McMullan 03 467 9550	305 Malvern Street, Dunedin mail@kaitrin.co.nz
Invercargill	7.30pm 4th Tuesday day of month In public library	Tania Faulkner-McKenzie 03 217 2808	Chelmsford Street, Invercargill andrewtania@hotmail.com
Balclutha	7pm 2nd Wednesday monthly	Vicki Woodrow, Clutha Library	raine@ihug.co.nz

If there are any changes, please let me know.

Sender

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