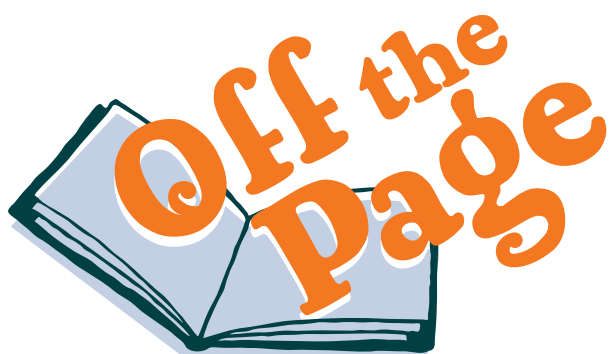




This newsletter is the first of our quarterly updates for the friends and members of Te Tai Tamariki in 2009. We'll also keep you posted during the year with news flashes, so if anyone has matters they wish to broadcast, drop us a line at tetaitamari@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



TE TAI TAMARIKI

Aotearoa New Zealand Children's Literature Charitable Trust

We really can't believe our luck in being able to hold an exhibition at COCA Gallery.

Off the Page – Original Illustrations from New Zealand Picture Books is being held from the 17 March – 5 April. Aimed at children and featuring artwork from Gavin Bishop, Ruth Paul, Jenny Cooper, Ali Teo and Fraser Williams this exhibition promises to be a treat for education groups and adults alike.

If you'd like to make a booking for the education programme contact Nikki Wallace-Bell, COCA gallery's Education Officer on 03 363 2956 or email artzone@coca.org.nz.

COCA is very supportive of Te Tai Tamariki's aims and we're very appreciative of this opportunity and their support in holding this exhibition.

17 MARCH – 5 APRIL

Original illustrations from New Zealand picture books

Featuring:

Gavin Bishop

Ruth Paul

Jenny Cooper

Ali Teo

Fraser Williams

the top floor @ **COCA**

66 Gloucester Street
Christchurch





Margaret Mahy Day

28th March

Proudly hosted by



TE TAI TAMARIKI

Natural history writer and photographer

Andrew Crowe is the first non-fiction writer to win the country's top children's literature prize, the Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal.

The award, given annually for a distinguished contribution to New Zealand children's literature, will be presented in Christchurch on 28 March.

"Andrew Crowe's contribution to young New Zealanders' knowledge of their country's natural history has been unique and of long standing," says Storylines Trust chairman, Dr Libby Limbrick. "His many books, both in design and content, are consistently attractive, informative and accessible to young and old alike."

Emigrating from Britain in 1972, Andrew Crowe published his first field guide to native edible plants in 1981, following an experience of getting lost in the bush and deciding that through books he could show that New Zealand was for him 'a very special place'.

He has since produced over 40 titles about native fauna and flora, mostly as series popular with schools, trampers, tourists and natural history enthusiasts. These include the "Which...?" series, the *Wild Stories* series, *Patterns in Nature* series (also published in Maori), the *Mini Guide*,

Life-size Guide and *Nature Flip Guide* series.

Regularly appearing on shortlists, he is a multiple winner of both New Zealand Post and LIANZA children's non-fiction book awards and was a finalist in the 1998 GP Book Design awards, with *The Life-Size Guide to Native Trees*. Two books have also featured in the Montana shortlists – *Which New Zealand Bird?* in 2002 and *Which New Zealand Insect?* in 2003.

Other texts, artwork and photographs have appeared in the *School Journal*, the *Listener* and *New Zealand Geographic* magazines. His most recent successes have been the Ashton Wylie Unpublished Manuscript Award in 2005 for *The Dalai Lama Story – the Making of a World Leader*, written with a foreword by the Dalai Lama to coincide with His Holiness' visit to New Zealand in June 2007, and the 2008 New Zealand Post Non-fiction Award for *Which New Zealand Spider?*

Andrew Crowe lives in Thames when he is not away travelling through New Zealand, countries like Tibet or Nepal, or going sailing.

Other winners of the Margaret Mahy Medal since 1991 have been novelists, among them Joy Cowley, Maurice Gee and William Taylor, picture book specialists such as Lynley Dodd and Gavin Bishop, and one publisher, Ann Mallinson.



Margaret Mahy Medal Award Lecture and Annual General Meeting

Saturday 28 March 2009, 10.45am – 2.30pm

Heaton Normal Intermediate School, 125/133 Heaton Street, Merivale, Christchurch
Registration commences at 10.15am

Programme

- 10.15am** Registration
- 10.45am** Welcome and Annual General Meetings
- 11.30am** Presentation of Tom Fitzgibbon Award 2009
Presentation of Gaelyn Gordon Award 2009
Presentation of Joy Cowley Award 2009
- Launch: Salt River by Liz Hegarty, Tom Fitzgibbon Award, 2008
- 12.15pm** Lunch
- 1.15pm** Margaret Mahy Award Lecture: Andrew Crowe

Cost:

\$25 for members; \$35 for Non-members;
\$10 for Child/Student with ID (lecture only)

Registration Forms available from:
www.storylines.org.nz or contact:
The Secretary, Storylines, PO Box 96 094,
Balmoral, Auckland 1342.
Email childlitnz@storylines.org.nz
Also The Children's Bookshop,
87 Victoria Street, Chch (03) 366 5274

Neil Gaiman's Book 'Graveyard' wins Newbery Award

NEW YORK — Oh, the horror: Neil Gaiman has received the top prize for children's literature: The John Newbery Medal.

"I am so wonderfully befuddled," the best-selling author said Monday after winning the 88th annual Newbery for "The Graveyard Book," a spooky, but (he says) family friendly story about a boy raised by a vampire, a werewolf and a witch.

"I never really thought of myself as a Newbery winner. It's such a very establishment kind of award, in the right kind of way, with the world of librarians pointing at the book saying, 'This is worthy of the ages.' And I'm so very used to working in, and enjoying working in, essentially the gutter."

Also Monday, the Randolph Caldecott Medal, given to the illustrator of the best picture book, went to Beth Krommes for "The House in the Night," written by Susan Marie Swanson. The Coretta Scott King Award for best author was given to Kadir Nelson, for "We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball." The illustrator award went to Floyd Cooper for "The Blacker the Berry." The King prizes were founded 40 years ago to honor the works of black Americans.

The Newbery and other awards were announced by the American Library Association, currently meeting in Denver.

Other winners included Melina Marchetta's "Jellicoe Road," given the Michael L. Printz Award for young adult literature, and two Pura Belpre awards for Latino writing — best author to Margarita Engle's "The Surrender Tree" and best illustrator to Yuyi Morales for "Just in Case."

Gaiman, known for his "Sandman" comic-book series, had worked on the "Graveyard Book" off and on for more than 20 years, an understandable delay for the author of more than 20 books and the winner of prizes for science fiction, fantasy and horror.

Newbery winners have included such favorites as Louis Sachar's "Holes" and Kate DiCamillo's "The Tale of Despereaux." But medal judges have also been criticized for picking books either too difficult (last year's "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices From a Medieval Village," by Laura Amy Schlitz) or too disturbing (Susan Patron's "The Higher Power of Lucky").

"School librarians say they simply don't have enough money to spend on books that kids won't find interesting — and in their opinion, that category includes most of this century's Newbery winners," the



School Library Journal reported last fall. "Book aficionados frequently used the words 'odd,' 'unusual' or 'unconventional' to describe the latest Newbery winners."

Gaiman is a beloved writer for adults and children, but "The Graveyard Book" isn't the coziest read, at least at the beginning, with its image of a knife so sharp that "if it sliced you, you might not even know you had been cut, not immediately."

He says "The Graveyard Book" was inspired in part by "The Jungle Book," Rudyard Kipling's classic about a boy raised by animals. Gaiman's book opens with a baby boy escaping an assassin who is massacred by his parents and older sister. The boy totters to a decrepit cemetery, where he's adopted by ghosts, christened Nobody Owens (Bod for short) and given the Freedom of the Graveyard.

On Gaiman's blog, he writes that "The Graveyard Book" is not a children's book. It's "a book for pretty much for all ages, although I'm not sure how far down that actually starts. I think I would have loved it when I was eight, but I don't think that all eight-year olds were like me."

On Monday, Gaiman said he has been following the debate about the Newbery, never imagining he would become part of it. Beloved by readers and book-sellers, he is certainly far more popular than the past few Newbery winners, and he doesn't think his novel, beyond a little death and darkness, is upsetting.

"Apart from the first few pages, it doesn't exist to frighten people or trouble people," he said. "I've written my share of disturbing stuff, but this book is really a way of trying to think about the process of growing up, and, of course, the fundamentally joyous tragedy of being a parent, that if you do your job properly, your kids will grow up and leave you."

Gaiman, 48, has three children. Two have grown and moved away.



TE TAI TAMARIKI

Aotearoa New Zealand Children's Literature Charitable Trust

Associated Press

Ruth Park wins Dromkeen Medal

New Zealand-born author Ruth Park has been named the recipient of the 2008 Dromkeen Medal.

Born in 1917, Park began writing early, contributing stories and poems to newspapers in New Zealand and overseas.

She spent time in the US pursuing journalism, but after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour, she moved to Sydney. She began a long association with ABC radio, beginning with children's plays.

Her writing for children continued, and included *The Muddleheaded Wombat*, *My Sister Sif* and *Playing Beattie Bow*. Park also writes fiction for adults, including the classics *The Harp in the South* and *Poor Man's Orange*.

Park has received many accolades over the years for her contributions to Australian literature.

The Dromkeen Medal, which has been awarded annually since 1982, will be presented to Park at the Dromkeen Society Dinner, Dromkeen Collection Art Gallery, Riddells Creek, Victoria on 28 February.

Words on Wheels

Five writers, six days, one very windy road.

Words on Wheels is off again from 2-7 March, visiting libraries, schools, and the odd town hall on the road from Christchurch to Queenstown. On the bus this year will be Anna Mackenzie (Teen Fiction), Vanda Symon (Fiction), David Geary (Scriptwriting), Janet Charman (Poetry) and Steve Braunias (Non-fiction).

Writer David Hill has taken part in three WOW tours and says it's something he loves. "Words on Wheels tours reach the places that many other arts tours cannot. Every time I do a tour I hear people say how brilliant it is to see and hear writers in the flesh. This is the New Zealand part of the New Zealand Book Council in action."

WOW 2009

We are delighted to be able to take this unique and talented group of writers on a tour of one of the wildest parts of New Zealand. From Lincoln to Methven, to tiny Fairlie, no town in the Selwyn and Mackenzie districts will remain untouched during this highlight of the Book Council's calendar in 2009.

NEW ZEALAND POST 2009 Children's Book Awards

The 2009 Judges of the New Zealand Post Book Awards are Bill Nagelkerke, Rosemary Tisdall and Jenni Keestra.



Free resources

FREE Resource Material is available for use in schools, libraries and at home, to help bring the New Zealand Post Book Awards finalists alive for young readers.

Children's Choice 2009

Voting for the 2009 Children's Choice Award winner will begin on Tuesday 3 March. Schools & Libraries – Order your bundles of FREE voting cards now!



WOW Itinerary 2009:

Monday 2 March

2.00pm (free public event) Christchurch Central Library,
7.00pm (free public event) Darfield Public Library,

Tuesday 3 March

10.00am Travelling with the Mobile Library to Tai Tapu and West Melton
7.00pm (fundraising event for the Methven Heritage Project) Mount Hutt Memorial Hall, Methven

Wednesday 4 March

2.00pm (free public event) Geraldine District Library
5.30pm (free public event) Mackenzie Community Library, Fairlie

Thursday 5 March

9.00am (school only event) Twizel Area School, Twizel

Friday 6 March

9.30am (school only event) Mt Aspiring College,
2.00pm (school only event) Cromwell College,
7.00pm (free public event) Golden Gate Hotel, Cromwell

Saturday 7 March

12 noon (appearance) Relay for Life, Cromwell Racecourse, Cromwell
7.00pm (invitation dinner) Venue TBC, Wanaka

Sponsored by:



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www.tetaitamariki.org.nz