



ŌTEPOTI – HE PUNA AUAHA

DUNEDIN UNESCO
CITY OF LITERATURE

**Centring Community and Young Voices
in Dunedin City of Literature**



Dunedin City of Literature, New Zealand

Enhancing the city and the wellbeing of its residents with words

The Dunedin City of Literature team comprises two permanent full-time municipal roles. The Director reports to the General Manager, Arts, Culture & Economic Development on Dunedin City Council's Executive Leadership Team. The team partners and collaborates with indigenous and local writers, illustrators, publishers, libraries, booksellers, community groups, festivals, tertiary institutions, and schools.





What we do

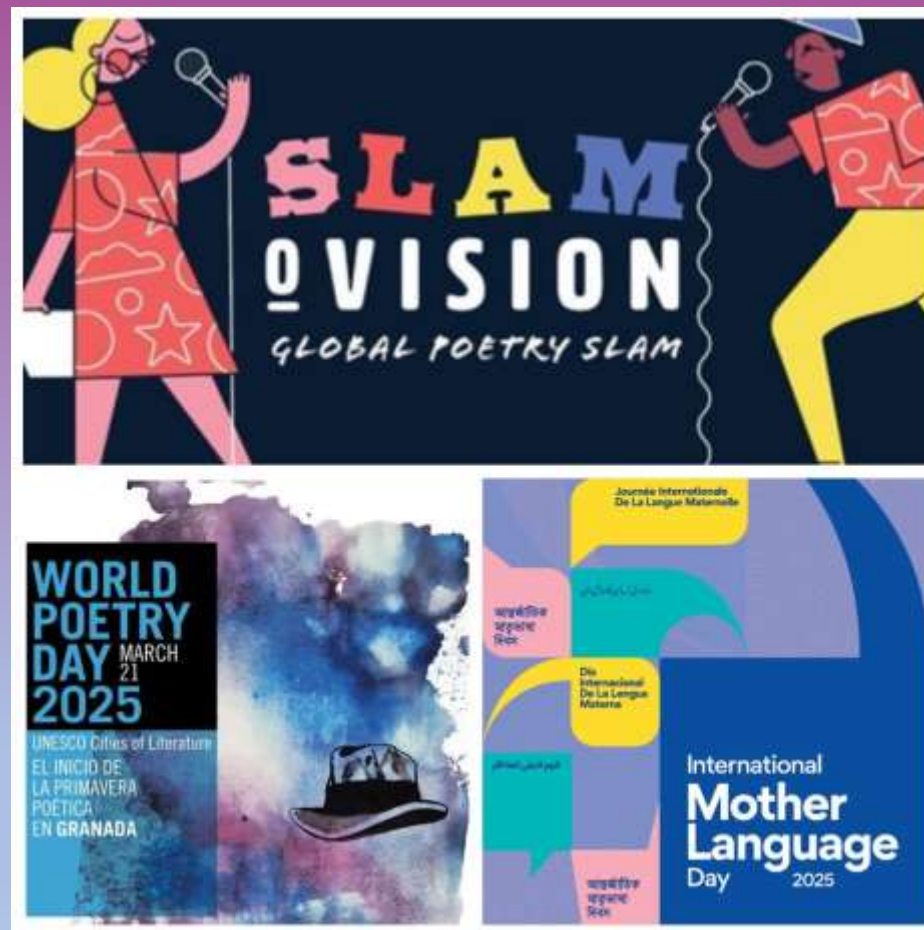
The City of Literature team participates in projects and programmes locally, nationally, and internationally to shine a light on the Literature network. The team brings publishing expertise and community engagement, and shares stories daily on its website and social media. A highlight is collaborating with other Cities of Literature around the world.





Press Releases & Promotions Task & Finish Group

- **Lead:** Nicky Page, Dunedin
- **Team Members:** Jo Flynn (Manchester) & Michelle Leonforte (Nottingham)
- **Ongoing Work:** Writing shared press releases for UN international days, conferences, Slamovision & collective activity identified by the Literature network
- **New members are very welcome!**





Tenth birthday

In 2024 Dunedin celebrated ten years as a UNESCO City of Literature by presenting, in partnership with the NZ Society of Authors, new poems about Dunedin. The poems were read by the wonderful poets at a free poetry and music event on National Poetry Day. The event was held at Dunedin City Library, which receives over a million visits per year from Dunedin's population of 135,000. The City of Literature team was also proud to produce a birthday collection of legacy publications for special gifts and prizes.





Caselberg Trust Margaret Egan Cities of Literature Writers Residency

In 2025 the City of Literature and the Caselberg Trust welcomed Sihle Ntuli, poet and editor from Durban City of Literature, as the Caselberg Trust Margaret Egan Cities of Literature Writers Resident. The external judges were impressed by the high standard of the 79 applications received from 28 Cities of Literature around the world. Sihle appeared twice in the Dunedin Writers & Readers Festival programme and was guest reader for the Octagon Poetry Collective.





Connections

Dunedin City of Literature was invited to collaborate with Québec City's Morrin Centre on its 'Poetry Pen Pals' initiative. The project is an opportunity to connect our communities through the ongoing exchange of handwritten poems by both established and brand-new poets. The first bundle of poems was created at a bespoke event which invited Morrin Centre visitors to write a poem especially for Dunedin.





City of Literature South D Poet Lorikeet

Our City of Literature South D Poet Lorikeet, award-winning writer and teacher Jenny Powell, regularly leads popular free poetry workshops for adults and school children of all ages as part of our City of Literature programme. We have received 100 per cent positive feedback for these workshops so far. The collected children's poems are then published by the City of Literature so that each child has a book to take home to read and reread with their family.





Working with our friends in Okayama

It is an honour to be here in beautiful Okayama City of Literature. We are proud to work closely with our wonderful colleagues in Okayama. We meet regularly on screen and hear news about your exciting literary activity and we are thrilled that the Cities of Literature will meet here in 2027. Also my wonderful colleague Anne Shelah, City of Literature Project Coordinator appeared in the first issue of the Okayama City of Literature magazine!

となりの文学都市 ①

ダニーデン ニュージーランド

世界の文学都市は、どんなところで、どんな活動をしているのか。世界の各都市にたずねてみる本コーナー。初回はニュージーランド南島の都市・ダニーデンのニックとアンに聞きました。

問：どんなプロジェクトがありますか？
 慈善団体のケイゼルバーク・トラストと一緒に、ライター・イン・レジデンスを実施しています。ダニーデンに6週間滞在しながら創作に取り組み機会を、作家に提供しています。他の文学都市からとニュージーランド国内の作家を、毎年交互に招いています。

2023年は、メルボルンから作家が訪れ、エッセイ集に取り組みながら、地元の文学コミュニティと交流しました。

問：おすすめの場所は？
 トンネル・ビーチですね。海の彫刻のような砂岩の崖や岩のアーチ、洞窟を

眺めたり、少し足を伸ばしてファイタキ、ホワイストーン・ユネスコ世界ジオパークを探索して、太古の歴史に彩られた地質学的・文化的な驚異を味わうのもおすすめです。ダニーデンは文学スポットがたくさんありますが、実は野生動物の宝庫でもあるのです。

問：好きな食べ物は何？
 ホワイストーン・チーズです。近くにあるホワイストーン・チーズ・カンパニーのブルーチーズやブリーチーズと、クラッカーの組み合わせが大好き！

【担当者】ニック (Nicky Page) デイレクター/アン (Anne Shelah) プロジェクト・コーディネーター

私たちの街の本や作家を広報したり、他都市とのプロジェクトのコーディネートしたりしています。

Anne standing in front of the cliffs at Tunnel Beach

Anne's favourite food - Whitestone Cheese

Nicky Page and Anne Shelah



Let's plan a cool project together

Our City of Literature South D Poet Lorikeet Jenny Powell is both a poet and a teacher, and she would love to join us in a special collaboration with Okayama. Both our cities prioritise working with young writers and readers. Research shows that an enjoyment of reading and writing from a young age improves empathy, wellbeing, and life outcomes across a range of areas. And it's fun too!





Let's plan a cool project together

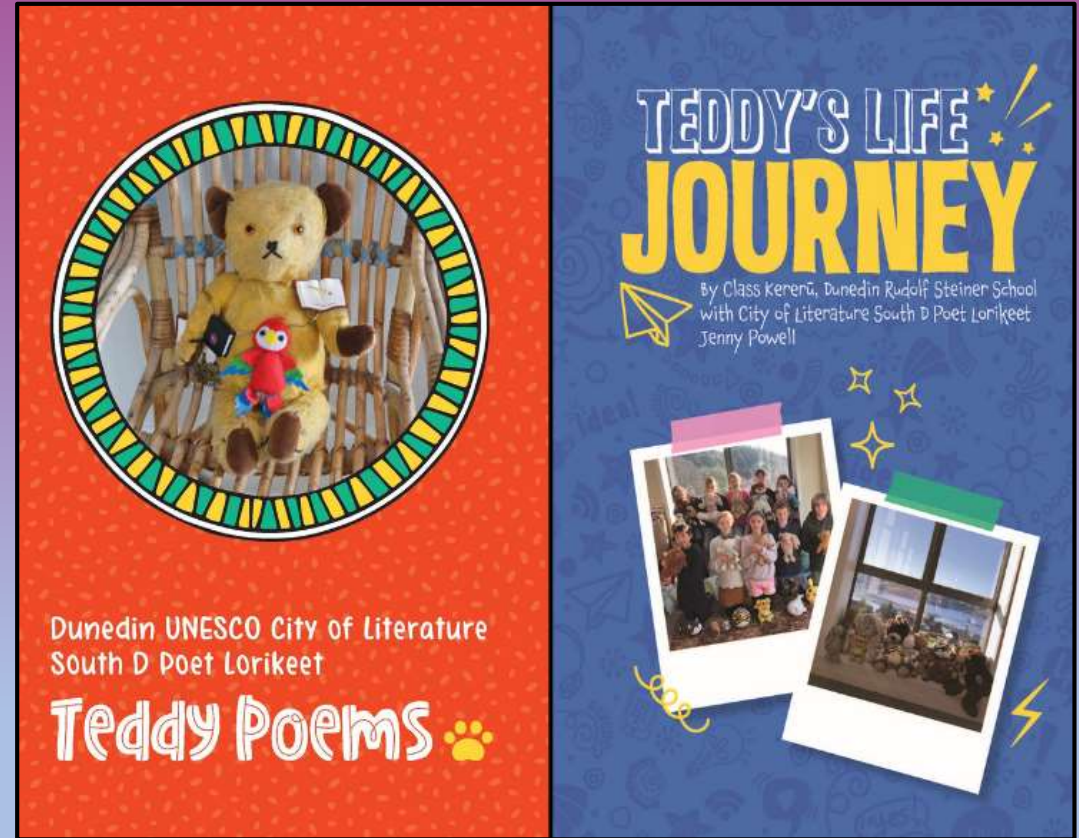
We propose creating a collection of poems by school groups of ten-year-old students, one group in Okayama and one group in Dunedin. Jenny could provide resource materials and meet with the classroom teacher onscreen in advance. Jenny's childhood bear, Teddy, is the subject of the poems and is much loved by the students. We will send photographs of Teddy! If preferred, a special toy in Okayama would also work brilliantly as a muse.





Let's plan a cool project together

During the workshop the students could each write a poem in their own language. A translator in Okayama, remunerated by Dunedin City of Literature, could translate local poems into English and the Dunedin poems into Japanese. The children would learn about writing poetry, editing, and translation, and make new friends in another City of Literature.





Let's plan a cool project together

In the end there would be two sets of poems written entirely by the students from both cities, one version in Japanese and one version in English. Each child could illustrate their poem. Together these poems and illustrations would make a special new collection. Dunedin would publish this book and send copies to Okayama for each student and their family and for the school library.





Thank you

We would love to work with Okayama on this special project! Until then I'm happy to answer questions about any aspect of our work. Please be in touch with us any time with project ideas and ways in which to connect – our relationship with Okayama is so important to us.





ŌTEPOTI – HE PUNA AUAHA

DUNEDIN UNESCO
CITY OF LITERATURE

cityofliterature.co.nz