

# Storylines Family Day Stars

(guest biographies from [www.storylines.org.nz](http://www.storylines.org.nz))



**Leonie Agnew** has written stories all her life but used to hide them from the public eye, often writing at night, under the covers and with invisible ink (no pen stains allowed on the sheets). The first story she allowed to become public, *Super Finn*, won the Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award in 2010. This book went on to multiple awards in the 2012 New Zealand Post awards: the Junior Fiction award, the Best First Book award and the Children's Choice award. It was also a finalist for the LIANZA Esther Glen Finalist that year.

Since then she has written two more novels, *The Importance of Green* and *Conrad Cooper's Last Stand* (winner of the 2015 Esther Glen Medal). In 2015 she was chosen as the winner of the Master of the Inkpot Competition run by prestigious UK children's publisher David Fickling Books for her manuscript, *The Impossible Boy*. A former advertising copywriter, Leonie works as both writer and primary school teacher.

She will be forever glad that she joined the South Auckland Critique Group, who keep her supplied with cake and confidence. She is also grateful to her mum who kept her supplied with books throughout her childhood.

## **Selected bibliography:**

*Super Finn* (Scholastic 2011)

*The Importance of Green* (PenguinRandomHouse 2013)

*Conrad Cooper's Last Stand* (PenguinRandom House 2014)

*The Impossible Boy* (PenguinRandomHouse, August 2016)



**Fifi Colston** has had a richly varied career as a writer, illustrator, poet, wearable arts designer and costumer for the film industry. For seven years she presented arts and crafts on the children's television programme What Now, and on TV1's Good Morning Show for a total of 13 years.

Fifi has illustrated more than 30 books and her work includes illustrations for the School Journal and trade publishers. In 2004 she graduated from Victoria University with an MA in Scriptwriting. Fifi is also a published fiction novelist, and her junior fiction novel

*Glory* was shortlisted for the LIANZA Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction. Her two recent non fiction titles about creative costuming for kids have won awards. She is currently working on more book illustration commissions, Wearable Art and running art and writing workshops with schools.

#### **Selected bibliography:**

*Old Man and the Cat* text by Anthony Holcroft (Whitcoulls 1984).

*Rain* text by Barbara Hill (Ashton Scholastic 1984).

*Not Without Randolph* text by Ruth Corrin (Ashton Scholastic 1993).

*Fifi's Crafty Arts* (Ashton Scholastic 1995).

*Fifi's Crafty Arts 2* (Ashton Scholastic 1995).

*Fifi's Festive Fun* (Ashton Scholastic 1995).

*Midnight Feast* text by Elizabeth Pulford (Scholastic 1996).

*Get Real Paddy Manson* text by Ruth Corrin (HarperCollins 1996).

*Toroa* text by Te Aorere Riddell and photographs by Brian Gunson (Huia 2001).

*Verity's Truth* (Scholastic 2003).

*Janie Olive: A Recipe for Disaster!* (Scholastic 2005).

*Waka Wairua: The Spirit Waka* text by Yvonne Morrison (Reed 2005).

*Papa's Island* text by Melanie Drewery (Reed 2006).

*Itiiti's Gift* text by Melanie Drewery (Reed 2006).

*Glory* (Scholastic 2009).

*The Red Poppy* text by David Hill (Scholastic 2012).

*Far, Far From Home* text by Elizabeth Pulford (Scholastic 2012)

*Wearable Wonders* (Scholastic 2013)

*Ghoulish Get Ups* (Scholastic 2014)



**Elena de Roo** was born in Hamilton and went to seven different primary schools around New Zealand. when she was a child. She currently lives in Auckland with her husband and whichever of her three grown up children happens to be back home.

After graduating with a degree in English at the University of Auckland, Elena worked as a librarian. In 2004, she began writing poems and stories for children, and has had four books published by Walker Books Australia. A number of her poems appear in *A Treasury of NZ Poems for Children*.

### **Selected bibliography**

*The Rain Train* illustrated by Brian Lovelock (Walker Books Australia 2010)

*Ophelia Wild, Secret Spy* illustrated by Tracy Duncan (Walker Books Australia 2012)

*Ophelia Wild, Deadly Detective* illustrated by Tracy Duncan (Walker Books Australia 2014)

*The Name at the End of the Ladder* (Walker Books Australia 2014).



**Scott Tulloch** is a self-taught New Zealand author and illustrator. He has illustrated more than 20 books, many of which are written by other New Zealand authors. However he particularly likes to write and illustrate his own books, using pictures as much as words to tell the story. His books often reflect his observations on the daftness of human behaviour.

Scott was born in Wellington in 1966, educated in the Hutt Valley, moved to the Wairarapa to raise a daughter and currently lives in Queenstown.

Scott is a regular speaker at schools and loves sharing his love of reading, writing and illustration with kids and teachers alike - and he knows how to make them laugh.

#### **Selected bibliography:**

*Willy's Dad* (HarperCollins 2007).

*Willy's Mum* (HarperCollins 2008).

*Echo and Hush* text by V.M. Jones (HarperCollins 2008).

*Willy's Grandpa* (HarperCollins 2009).

*The Naughtiest Puppy* text by V.M. Jones (HarperCollins 2009).

*Piggy Pogget* (HarperCollins 2009).

*Young MacDonald Had a Farm* text by Anna Crosbie (HarperCollins 2009).

*Sammy Goes to the World Cup* text by Michele Cox (HarperCollins 2010).

*Young MacDonald Goes to the Show* text by Anna Crosbie (HarperCollins 2010).

*On the Road to Tuapeka* text by Ben Brown (Scholastic 2011).

*Tom & the Dragon* text by Juliette MacIver (Scholastic 2011).

*The Silly Goat Gruff* (Scholastic 2013)

*My Daddy Ate An Apple* written by Craig Smith (Scholastic 2013)

*Square Eyes* written by Craig Smith (Scholastic 2013)

*I Am Not A Worm!* (Scholastic 2014)



(Photographer: Liz Cadogan)

**Elizabeth Pulford** was born in Canada in 1943, raised and educated in Dunedin. Long ago before she became a writer, Elizabeth was a traveller, a typist, a cleaner, an ice-cream girl in a cinema, and a hot-dog person.

Elizabeth has published stories, poems, and articles for adults and children. Three of her children's books, *The Memory Tree*, *Call of the Cruins* and *Tussock* reached the finals of the New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards.

Elizabeth currently lives in a small village on the Taieri in Otago with her husband and five fat goldfish. She has two adult children and two grandchildren.

### **Selected bibliography:**

*My Sister Is Magic* illustrated by Linda McClelland (Ashton Scholastic 1994).

*Midnight Feast* illustrated by Fifi Colston (Scholastic 1996).

*King Kong & the Flower Fairy* (Shortland Publications 1997).

*Jellylegs in The Great Pavlova Cover Up: New Zealand Stories for Children* edited by Jo Noble, illustrated by Jenny Cooper (Scholastic 2000).

*The Train* (Wright McGraw-Hill 2004).

*The Sunflower Tree* (Gilt Edge Publishing 2005).

*Gum* (Oxford University Press 2006).

*No Frills on Me* (Oxford University Press 2006).

*Mrs Begg's Beautiful Egg* (Gilt Edge Publishing 2006).

*Sea Dreamer* (Random House 2007).

*Tich* (Wendy Pye Publishing 2008).

*Blackthorn's Betrayal* (Walker Books Australia 2009).

*Tussock* (Walker Books Australia 2010).

*Going Camping* (Learning Media 2011).

*Bobby Brown and the Cat* (2011).

*Broken* (Walker Books Australia 2012).

*Mr Macpherson & his Magical Shop* (Scholastic 2012)

*Monkey Moon* (Walker Books Australia & Candlewick 2015)

*Sanspell - The Bloodtree Chronicles Book one* (Scholastic 2015)

*Rasmas* (Scholastic 2016)

*Thatchthorpe - The Bloodtree Chronicles Book three* (Scholastic 2016)





**Jane Bloomfield** lives in Queenstown with her husband and three teenage children. Her first junior fiction novel, *Lily Max: Satin, Scissors, Frock* was published by Luncheon Sausage Books in November 2015. It was included in the best books of the year list in The New Zealand Herald's Canvas magazine, and received a 2016 Storylines Notable Book Award. It has been reprinted twice. Jane is currently working on a sequel - giving her feisty character Lily Max an adventure on skis.

Jane's previous creative pursuits have included a self-supplied florist shop and a designer cushion label. When she needs thinking time and mountain air she climbs down from her tower office and rides her horse Star to the Shotover river.

**Selected bibliography:**

*Lily Max: Satin, Scissors, Frock*, illustrated by Guy Fisher, Barcelona (Luncheon Sausage Books 2015)

*Lily Max: Slope, Style, Fashion*, illustrated by Guy Fisher, Barcelona (Luncheon Sausage Books Oct 2016)



**Ella West** was born in Invercargill. When she had read through the children's library, she used her older brother's card and began on the adult section. While studying literature at Victoria University, a holiday job reporting at the Southland Times taught her the craft of writing and eventually led her to the West Coast.

There she married a shearer and together they went dairy farming on the banks of the Buller River. Between getting the cows in for milking, teaching drama and raising two sons, she wrote her first young adult novel *Thieves* (2006).

They now live near Mosgiel and have a sheep and beef farm.

**Selected bibliography:**

*Thieves* (Longacre Press 2006)

*Anywhere but Here* (Longacre Press 2008)

*Real Life* (Longacre Press 2009)

*Night Vision* (Allen & Unwin 2014)



**Diana Noonan** has a teaching background and a degree in English from the University of Otago. She currently lives in the Catlins area of south Otago, and has written for children across the range from picture books and novels to non-fiction and educational readers. She was editor of the School Journal for older readers. She also writes for adults. She has received numerous awards for her work.

**Selected bibliography:**

*The Silent People* (McIndoe Publishers 1990).  
*Leaving the Snow Country* (McIndoe Publishers 1991).  
*The Last Steam Train* illustrated by Brent Putze (Ashton Scholastic 1992).  
*Goodbye Toss* illustrated by Keith Olsen (HarperCollins 1993).  
*The Whalers' Garden* (McIndoe Publishers 1994).  
*Kangaroo Bill and the Forest behind the Bay: A Story of Old New Zealand* illustrated by Lyn Kriegler (Reed 1994).  
*The Best-loved Bear* illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller (Ashton Scholastic 1994).  
*Hercules* illustrated by Margaret Power (Omnibus Books 1996).  
*The Field* with Nic Bishop [I Spy Wildlife series] (Heinemann Education 1996).  
*The Know, Sow & Grow Kids' Book of Plants* with Keith Olsen (Bridge Hill 1997).  
*A Whistle from the Blunder* (Longacre Press 2000).  
*Auntie Rosie & the Rabbit* illustrated by Christine Ross (Scholastic 2002).  
*The Best-dressed Bear* illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller (Scholastic 2002).  
*Google Eyes* illustrated by Keith Olsen [Kiwi Bites] (Puffin 2007).  
*Dear Toby* illustrated by Linda McClelland (Scholastic 2010).  
*The Tui New Zealand Kids' Garden* (Penguin 2010).  
*Quaky Cat* illustrated by Gavin Bishop (Scholastic 2010).  
*Treetop Treasure* illustrated by Sarah Healey (Pearson 2011).  
*Come Down, Golden* illustrated by Renée Hault (Pearson 2011).  
*Quaky Cat Helps Out* (Scholastic NZ 2015)  
*Women of The Catlins, Life in the Deep South*, written jointly with Cris Antona (a social documentary Otago, University Press 2016)





**Gillian Candler** writes about nature, for children and adults. She is the author of the “explore and discover” non-fiction series for children and the writes a blog called Explore Discover Nature. She also writes articles for magazines such as Wilderness and Forest and Bird. She was convening judge of the 2012 NZ Post Children’s Book Awards and has also been convening judge of the CLL Education Publishing Awards.

Gillian was a secondary-school teacher before moving into educational publishing with Learning Media in Wellington, where she worked on a wide range of publications for children, including books about science and the environment. She currently works as a writer and a publishing and education consultant from her home in Pukerua Bay. After spending time publishing specifically for schools, Gillian is enjoying working on non-fiction books for general audiences that are bought (or borrowed) by parents, grandparents and children to enjoy at home or out in the field, as well as in classrooms.

Gillian is passionate about understanding and appreciating New Zealand’s wild places, which is why her books are specifically about New Zealand. When she’s not writing or working as a consultant, she volunteers in conservation projects and reads good books.

#### **Selected bibliography:**

*At the Beach: Explore and Discover the New Zealand Seashore*, illustrated by Ned Barraud (Craig Potton Publishing 2012)

*In the Garden: Explore and Discover the New Zealand Backyard*, illustrated by Ned Barraud (Craig Potton Publishing 2013)

*Under the Ocean: Explore and Discover New Zealand’s Sea Life*, illustrated by Ned Barraud (Craig Potton Publishing 2014)

*In the Bush: Explore and Discover New Zealand’s Native Forests*, illustrated by Ned Barraud (Potton and Burton 2015)

*Whose Beak is This?* illustrated by Fraser Williamson (Potton and Burton 2015)