



Enrolling Soon
For July Start

Places in groups:

- Beginner Reading/Writing
- Beginner Maths
- Intermediate Maths
- Learner Licence
- IELTS

Te Pānui o Literacy Waitākere

Books for Adult Literacy Learners

One of the challenges we face is finding suitable reading material for learners with low levels of literacy. A key thought emphasised during our tutor training was that "Beginner readers are not beginner thinkers!" and it follows that they don't really want to read books written for children.

There are a few excellent collections of appropriate books, but we supplement these with work by our own learners. We have self-published collections of writing on different themes like fishing or cars, and some small autobiographies. Learners write about their own experiences in language that is familiar to other learners. It can be a validating and powerful experience for them to see their own words in print. Just last year, we had a learner in tears when we showed him his story in our annual Student Writing Book and told him that he was now an 'author' – a new word and a new concept for someone who could barely read before he came to us.

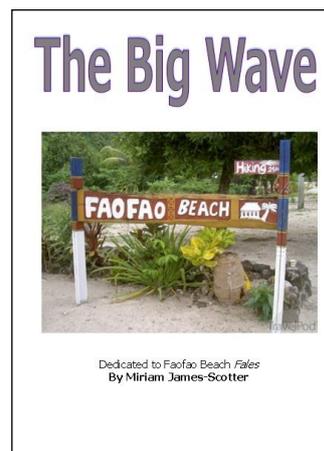
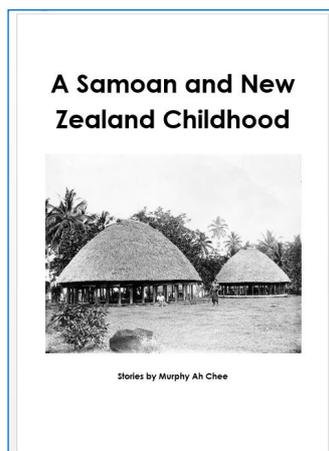
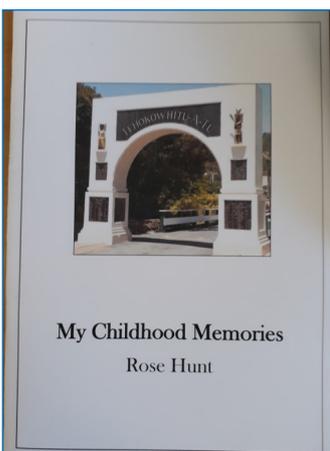
Sometimes telling a story of a difficult past is a way of coming to terms with it and moving on. We have published two books by learner Rose Hunt. A Maori woman in her late 70s, Rose has been a learner with us for a number of years, coming and going as life presented her with different challenges and opportunities. In 2014, Rose wrote about her life growing up in Rotorua, with a grandmother who refused to let her go to school. At the end she wrote "I'm so thrilled that everything is out in the open after so many years. The pain that it caused my life, so much anger. One day hopefully, now it's out in the open, I will be able to hold my head up high." In 2016, Rose wrote about her working life – starting out at the age of 13 in the cafeteria at Kinleith. She worked in West Auckland for many years, including at Crown Lynn, and her stories paint a fascinating picture of those bygone times.

Samoan learner Murphy Ah Chee came to us in 2013

also in his late 70s, because he wanted to be able to get the story of his life down on paper. He wrote about his memories of Samoa just after the Second World War, and of coming on a banana boat to live in New Zealand in June 1946 when he was 10 years old. Murphy was a natural story teller and his words bring his memories alive.

One book very popular with our learners is the story of the tsumani in Samoa in 2009 experienced by a tutor who was on holiday with her family. She also produced a book of literacy activities for tutors to accompany it.

We have also republished stories by learners from our days as part of the WEA because what they have to say is timeless. Many of our collections are available for purchase by libraries and other literacy centres. Please see our website for details. <https://www.literacywaitakere.org.nz/stories/books-for-adult-learners/>



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Did you know?

- We have a commitment to provide student-centred learning at no direct cost to the learner.
- In most cases, new learners can start any time.
- We have groups at a range of levels to suit different skills.
- We match learners with others of a similar skill level.
- We have over 40 years of experience in the Adult Literacy field.
- All our tutors are fully qualified Adult Literacy and Numeracy professionals.
- We welcome referrals from anyone in the community.



**Literacy
Waitākere**
Whāia te ara ako

Visit our website:
www.literacywaitakere.org.nz

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What Healed Me From Grieving

Nature is my healing place
It is what grounds me
It's what helps me to reflect on what's
Going on inside of myself and my environment

It's what gives me peace and joy all in one
It's what helps me focus and be clear on my mission in life.

It gives me purpose and is so soul satisfying
It's a reminder of how to appreciate
The smallest things to the greatest.

It's so soothing and comforting
It's one of my happy places.
It allows me to be myself and free
From worry, stress and anxiety.

It's my sense and place of belonging
It's where I find identity.
It heals in ways that are so rejuvenating
It's uplifting and pure in all its beauty.

Its natural beauty doesn't need make up or botox
Nature the most gorgeous creation in my eyes
Because nature is pure love.

This is what I do

Wendy

Some of our learners were able to continue their sessions via Skype during lockdown. Here are some of their thoughts.



Breathe!

Breathing being a miracle, what if I can't find peace? I decided that there are a lot of things in life that I can't control, and circumstances.

Maybe if I don't rely on externals I could be happier. My choice is breathing; it just happens but conscious breathing is not taking each breath for granted. Just like life is a miracle.

Now I'm trying to be conscious of each breath and grateful; this releases me from my thoughts and allows space. It allows me to know my worth as being of life. Breath doesn't judge itself; it is unconditional love of life.

Paul Chappory



Literacy Waitākere Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend
on Wednesday 17th June at 5pm
at Literacy Waitakere, 3055 Great North Rd, New Lynn

Nau mai, haere mai
Refreshments provided
RSVP **essential** by 10th June to 09 825 0220 or
info@literacywaitakere.org.nz

Literacy Waitākere would like to hear from suitably
qualified and experienced people from our community who
would like to join our board, Te Rōpū Mātua. You should
have a passion for adult literacy and the time to attend a
meeting once a month.

Please contact Jane Gilmour on 825-0221.