



Enrolling Now
For Term 2 start

- All levels Read/Write/Spell
- Learner Licence
- Beginner & Intermediate Maths
- IELTS
- Digital Literacy Skills

Te Pānui o Literacy Waitākere

Welcome Our New Tutors

Our core business at Literacy Waitākere has been with literacy learners, New Zealand citizens or residents who do not have the skills they need to do what they want to do in life. This includes both those who are English or Māori speakers, and also speakers of other languages who are not literate in their mother tongue, and are learning to read and write as they learn English. However, recent years have seen a boom in our ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) learners—those literate in at least one other language, but lacking the skills they need in English. We have always retained staff for many years, but some of those are ready for retirement, so we have taken on three new ESOL tutors this year.

Nina Mercep, our youngest new tutor, says “I became an ESOL teacher in 2014, working primarily at AIS St Helens. What I enjoy about teaching is facilitating conversation between people from different backgrounds, helping build confidence in

students' capabilities and connecting them to the cultures and ways of life in Aotearoa. Taking students out around Tamaki Makaurau, particularly the Waitākeres and the beaches (Piha, Karekare, Te Henga/Bethell's Beach) have been a highlight. Language is something emphasized in my family which is composed of various immigrants, with pronunciation and enunciation impressed upon me by my mother and grandmother, who were and are fantastic teachers.

I came to work at Literacy Waitākere after COVID-19 had already sunk the schools I worked at, and I was considering studying counselling and social work. Literacy Waitākere represents a fusion of what I already enjoy doing with where I'd like to move towards - working with the local community and those in need. For me this is a step away from simply tutoring wealthy businessmen flown over by a company who wants them learning business English for their profits exclusively. I am fortunate

to have known Anne Chen (who has worked at Literacy Waitākere for many years) my whole life, as she is good friends with my mother who also teaches ESOL.”



Our second new tutor is Bess Fairfax. Originally from England, Bess's introduction to ESOL teaching also has its roots in her family. “I copied my sister as she was the first to train as an ESOL Teacher. It looked like she was having fun so I followed her and I have a lot of fun too. I love meeting students from all over the world.” says Bess, who had also seen the downturn in available ESOL teaching work during the pandemic. But she had met Literacy Waitākere tutors at Professional Development days for Adult Community

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Did you know?

- We commit to provide student-centred learning at no direct cost to the literacy learner.
- Learners are in control of their learning. They define their own goals, track their progress, and reassess their goals regularly.
- In many cases, new learners can start immediately and continue as long as they need to.
- We have groups at a range of levels to suit different skills.
- We match learners with others of a similar skill level.
- All our tutors are fully qualified Adult Literacy and Numeracy specialists.
- We welcome referrals from anyone in the community.



**Literacy
Waitākere**
Whāia te ara ako

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Precious Voices by Akiko

I heard laughing voices from my
neighbours' gardens
It made me smile
I heard a crying voice from my
neighbour's house
It made me worry
I heard yelling voices from around
my neighbourhood more than once
It made me sad
I heard many other voices around
my house - dogs, children, adults ...
That gave me a lot of enjoyment

All these sounds
Even the crying and the yelling
Are part of my place
There is no war here
It gives me the feeling that
I live in a really peaceful place
I just appreciate these voices
Every day
I hear kids laughing now
It makes me smile
But ...
With a tear in my eye

Welcome our New Tutors *continued*



Education staff and saw that they had similar values and seemed like a great team to work with, so she was keen to take up an offer of work. She tutors the absolute beginners of our Pre-Literate Mother Tongue learners which is quite a challenge, as many have very little ability to speak or understand spoken English, and most don't even know the alphabet.

Having come from teaching online during the last two years, Bess has excellent digital skills and has also taken on the challenge of teaching some Digital Literacy Skills courses using Chromebooks and the Google suite of online programmes.

Our third new tutor, Tony Ó Braonáin says "I started my teaching career as an Irish language tutor in the state system in Belfast, Ireland. I taught in the same secondary school for 17



years. I became an ESOL tutor after coming to NZ. I taught at various schools in Auckland before working for the same employer in the ESOL field for about 25 years.

Teaching language to learners is highly rewarding on both personal and professional levels. And it's great interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds. On days when I have to teach, I wake up in the morning and say "Yah!". True. My arrival at Literacy Waitākere was through contact with Anne Chen, under whom I had worked for a long time at AIS. And glad am I that she got in touch."



We also have a new tutor who is not new. Debbi Wright joined as us a contractor teaching Learner Licence in Term 2 last year, but joined the staff this year. She moved into teaching ESOL and Learner Licence after coming from a background as a swimming teacher and coach. She says she loves meeting new people and chatting. She had been teaching Learner Licence for four years to ESOL classes and was glad to take up the opportunity to teach it here when our previous tutor retired. She enjoys the mix of Adult Literacy and ESOL learners we have here, and they respond very well to her friendly manner. She feels rewarded when they gain the confidence and knowledge to sit the theory test, and take a step towards independence.