THE WRITE RIGHT SYMPOSIUM *Programme*

DAY 1: Thursday 14th May 2026

8.00am – 3.00pm

Hunter Council Chamber – Victoria University of Wellington, Kelburn campus

8:00am Registration open

8:45am Welcome, blessing, house keeping

9:00am **Dr Steven Graham (zooming in – USA):** *Key elements of an evidence-based writing programme.*

The presentation focuses on five principles to creating an effective writing program drawn from multiple meta-analyses of writing interventions.

10:00am **Dr Virginia Berninger (zooming in – USA):** *Applying lessons from writing research to teaching Writing in Grades 1–5 using a screen intervention model.*

The presentation explores an instructional model known as Process Assessment of the Learner (PAL), which integrates screening, diagnostic assessment, and targeted intervention to support writing development.

10:50am Morning tea

11:10am **Dr Olwyn Johnston:** *Using dual factor reading and SRSD to accelerate progress in reading and writing, for senior primary students.*

The presentation focuses on how Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) can be integrated with Dual Factor Reading, creating a powerful synergy which supports all students to develop their full potential as writers.

12:00pm **Dr Amy Austin:** *Writing and reasoning in primary classrooms.*

The presentation focuses on philosophical 'talk moves' that support students' reasoning. Philosophical dialogue builds critical thinking – Amy will show how talk moves can develop rigorous thinking routines and ways they can strengthen students' writing.

12:50pm Lunch

1:40pm **Bianca Elkington with Erica Blundall and Suskya Goodall:** *Aspirations and actions of Ngati Toa te iwi, for akonga Māori, with reading and writing.*

The presentation shares the journey of an iwi-led education group committed to strengthening the educational outcomes of their tamariki. Grounded in the aspirations of their people, the initiative has developed Te Akau Roa – an ecosystem of education designed by iwi, for iwi, responding directly to the needs of whānau and learners.

2:30pm **Dr Helen Walls:** *Reflections*

2:50pm **Melissa Chan-Green:** *Closing remarks*

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THE WRITE RIGHT SYMPOSIUM *Programme*

DAY 2: Friday 15th May 2026

8.00am – 3.30pm

Rutherford House – Victoria University of Wellington, Pipitea campus

Junior School Workshop
Barbara Brann (Room RH 105)

In this workshop, we will challenge and broaden your understanding of the importance of handwriting to all other areas of literacy. Barbara will offer both logistical and instructional solutions to problems that arise when different aspects of literacy compete with others for time and relevance. She will examine the impact of handwriting on written language production.

8:00am	Registration open
8:50am	Welcome
9:00am	An historical perspective – literacy instruction and the place of handwriting over the years. Curriculum readiness – the five domains of literacy examined.
10:30am	Morning tea
10.50am	Activities to explore which domains are utilised during reading and writing. Handwriting, writing and spelling – connections. Building curriculum readiness for handwriting.
12:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm	Handwriting – a process to develop correct letter formation. Not a program, not a sequence, not a day-by-day schedule, not a whole class activity. How to make it work and connect it to your phonics program.
3:10pm	Reflections

Senior School Workshop
Dr Christine Braid, Faye Taylor and Victoria McHalick (Room RH 204)

In this workshop, we will use practical classroom-based activities to show how teacher knowledge translates into teaching practice. We'll examine using mentor texts, with examples from the classroom, and teachers will try the techniques themselves. Finally, we will consider the crafting of whole texts and using progress markers to guide teaching across Phases 2 and 3.

8:00am	Registration open
8:50am	Welcome
9:00am	Teacher knowledge needed to teach writing well – we will cover the necessary foundations of sentence building, sentence variation, moving into paragraphs, linking multiple paragraphs.
10:35am	Morning tea
10:55am	Using mentor texts – using the author's craft and techniques from both narratives and information texts to explore many ways to improve writing.
12:35pm	Lunch
1:20pm	Whole text crafting for information, narrative and persuasion.
3:10pm	Reflections

Full Primary School Workshop
Jess Whatford, Emma Nahna and Dr Helen Walls (Room RH 102)

In this workshop, we will discuss principles of effective writing instruction, and share methods for applying these, across all the primary year levels.

8:00am	Registration open
8:50am	Welcome
9:00am	Helen Walls: A brief summary of research findings and their implications for teaching. Jess Whatford: Writing in junior classes. Jess will share a set of methods which are practical, fun and effective.
10:30am	Morning tea
10:50am	Jess Whatford: Writing in junior classes (continued). Emma Nahna: Releasing Writers / Think SRSD.
12:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm	Emma Nahna: Demonstrates how to use this set of methods to transform achievement in your classroom, with a particular focus on the middle and senior year levels.
3:10pm	Reflections

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