

AUT

TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU



LITPLUS PĀNUI

VOLUME 1, SEPTEMBER 2025

Kia ora, koutou

I'm really pleased to share the first LitPlus newsletter with you. My hope is that it becomes a way of connecting teachers, librarians, and others who care deeply about children's literacy and enjoyment of reading, with the research that strengthens and informs this mahi, offering fresh perspectives and deeper understanding.

At the moment I'm writing up findings from our case studies last year, which reminded me how important it is to pay attention to the spaces where reading happens. What struck us was how differently people talked about how these spaces were used compared to what we actually observed. It made me think how valuable it can be for teachers to step back for a moment and look closely at what is really happening in the reading spaces you share with your ākonga.

Through this occasional newsletter we'll update you on our research and professional learning opportunities. I'd love for you to join us in exploring new ways to strengthen literacy together.

Ngā manaakitanga

Ruth Boyask (Director of LitPlus)



**LITPLUS RESEARCH
GROUP**

LITPLUS RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

LITPLUS IN ACTION

Dr John Milne shared LitPlus research on reading for pleasure and his personal research on reading styles at a Resource Teacher: Literacy (RTLit) Services event in Auckland on 13 June 2025. RTLit teachers have made a positive difference for the many students, teachers, and schools they have worked with over the years through their specialist expertise in literacy teaching and learning. It is disappointing that the current government does not agree and has chosen to defund the service, a decision that seems tied to a narrow focus on structured approaches to literacy.

DR JOHN MILNE AT RTLIT



DR PARISA TADI AT OMEP



In July, **Dr Parisa Tadi** travelled to Bologna, Italy to present at the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) Conference 2025. Parisa presented a paper co-written with **Dr Jayne Jackson** called *Exploring children's engagement with reading: The role of art, play and family interaction*. Through case studies conducted in three early childhood education (ECE) centres, the research explored how children's reading engagement is shaped by their interactions with people, places, and materials, including oral language, literature, movement, and artistic expression. Findings suggest that family involvement, particularly through shared creative activities like painting, significantly enhances children's enjoyment and engagement with reading.

LITPLUS IN THE NEWS

Dr Rebecca Hopkins features on *The Education Hub* podcast, speaking about literacy within early childhood education settings.

[ACCESS THE PODCAST HERE](#)

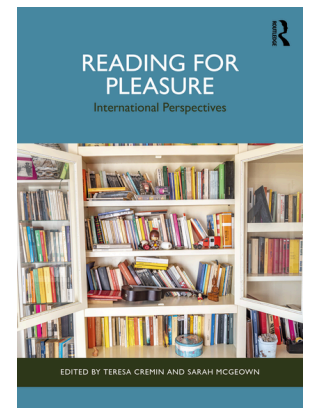
Led by **Dr Ross Bernay**, AUT and Storylines joined forces to assess the impact of school-based Story Tours on student engagement with literacy. The findings appear in *Literacy Forum NZ*.

[ACCESS THE ARTICLE HERE](#)

WHAT LITPLUS IS READING



Teresa Cremin and Sarah McGeown have published a collection of essays from writers around the world in their book *Reading for Pleasure: International Perspectives*. Check out the final chapter co-authored by **Dr Ruth Boyask**, lead researcher at LitPlus.



We've been enjoying Dame Fiona Kidman's poem *Kai*, a message to Minister Erica Stanford on te reo Māori kupu in reading materials.

[READ HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

AUT Research Week - AUT welcomes external research partners and collaborators to join AUT staff and research students for Research Week - Te Wiki Rangahau 2025, a week of presentations, conversations and connections. Be sure to check out the ***LitPlus session on Thursday 11 September from 2-5p.***

[PROGRAM AND REGO LINK HERE](#)

LitPlus Postgraduate Course - It's not too late to join *EDUC815: Special Topic in Education*. Block teaching starts the week of 29 September. Enrol now to get a head start on the course reading.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

NZARE Conference - Watch for LitPlus at the upcoming NZARE Conference (18 - 20 November) at the University of Auckland. The team will share findings from last year's case studies in a paper titled *Children's Navigation of Reading Environments and the Presentation of Engagement*.

[CONFERENCE INFO AND REGO HERE](#)