A painting of a young girl with brown hair, wearing a red dress, standing on a small boat with a black and white checkered railing. She is looking up at a bright blue sky filled with large, swirling, white and light blue clouds. The foreground shows dark, swirling water with some white foam. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract, with visible brushstrokes.

**Whakarongo ki te  
Reo Mātātahi**

**Writing and artwork  
from the young people  
of Glen Innes**





**Whakarongo ki te  
Reo Mātātahi**

Writing and artwork  
from the young people  
of Glen Innes



Kia ora

Our tamariki are creative, eager, and bright. The writers in the book were students from Glen Innes School and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Puau Te Moananui-a-Kiwa. We worked with these students from East Auckland on both community issues that were important to them and their whānau, and creative writing pieces.

The idea is that we use this book to elevate the voices of our tamariki. Their voices matter. They play an essential role in contributing to issues that affect them.

I wish to thank the schools, tumuaki, staff, and tamariki for their valuable contributions, especially during challenging covid times. I acknowledge Tāmaki Regeneration and Te Hononga Akoranga COMET for their generous funding and contributions to this project. I recognise the support of Nerissa Henry, Shilo Kino, Susan Warren, Jonathan Longstaff and Hana Pomare for putting this community resource together.

Ngā mihi aroha,

**Dr Will Flavell**  
**Kaihautū Māori**  
**Te Hononga Akoranga COMET**



PLUTO



SATURN



I had the pleasure of working with local kids from Glen Innes and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Puau Te Moananui-a-Kiwa to understand how they view our community. I observed how they researched their topics and linked facts to their lived experiences.

As a local elected member of this area, it was a privilege to help them elevate their voice through writing about issues they see our community facing and the solutions they had to fix them.

I enjoyed hearing what the kids were passionate about and what drives them to make and advocate for positive changes. There were issues such as clean waterways, caring for the planet, celebrating our diverse cultures, eliminating smoking, homelessness, and obesity.

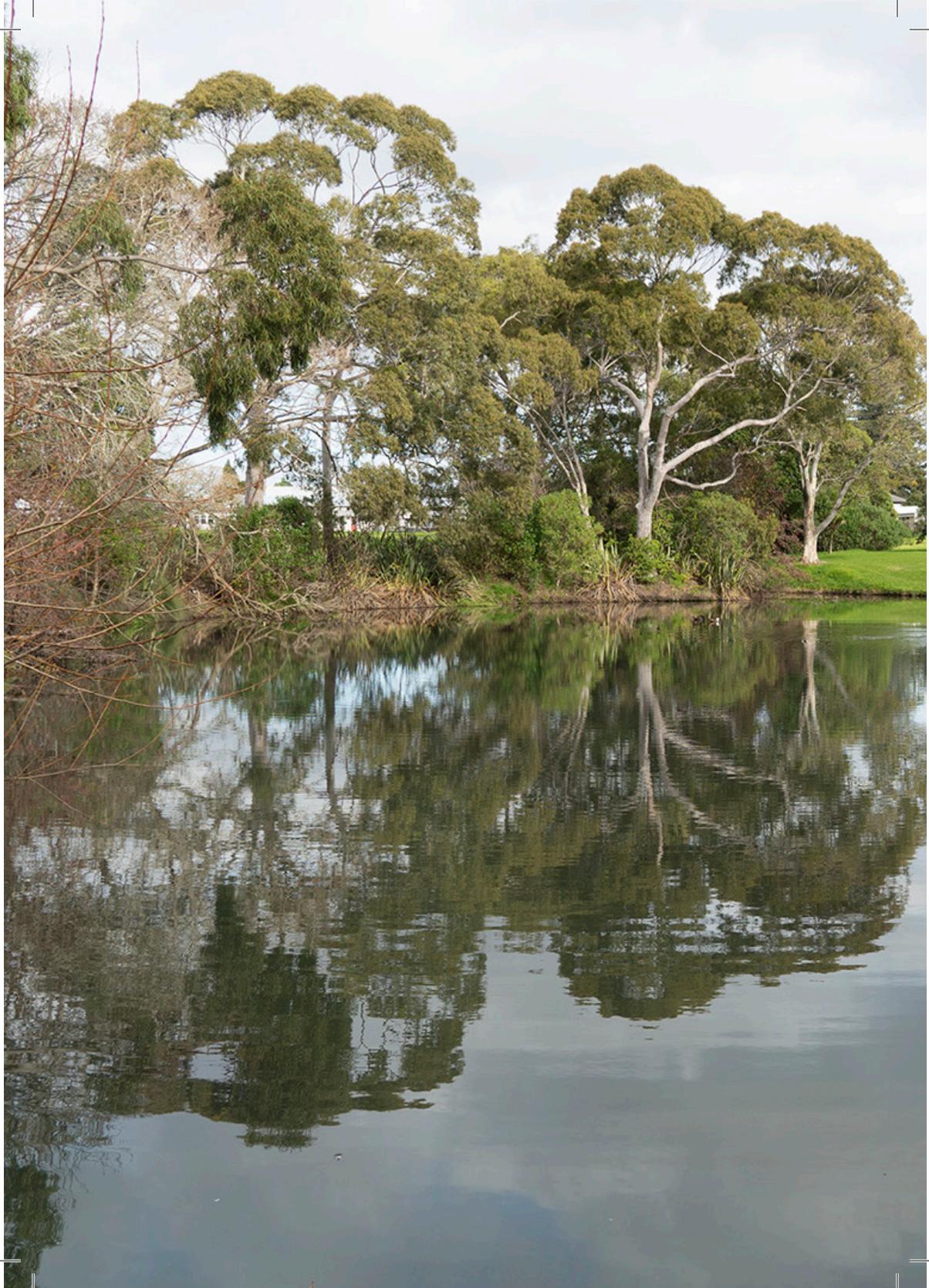
I'm very proud of the kids' stories and very excited for them to see their work published.

**Nerissa Henry**



# Contents

<b>Bullying is Harmful</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>If I was the Prime Minister</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Stop Discrimination</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Diseases</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Ko Tōku Tino Kaitākaro</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Ko te Mate Urutā</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Whakawhanake i a G.I.</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Obesity Kills</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Poverty in Aotearoa</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>How to Stop Racism</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Why is Playing Sports So Expensive?</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Living in Glen Innes</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>The Lost Treasure</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>The Mysterious Creature</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Guardians of the Forest</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>The New Universe</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>The Story of a Missing Girl</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>My Time Machine</b>	<b>47</b>





# Bullying is Harmful

By Amelia Gallon

There are many types of bullying. Physical, psychological and cyberbullying.

I chose this topic because I have been bullied by a group of people at school. They called me names and hit me on the back of my head. It made me feel sad. I put a stop to this by telling a teacher what happened.

Bullying is an aggressive type of behaviour and can physically harm and hurt a person. You can also psychologically harm a person if you say cruel words to them. For example, if a person is called ugly, stupid or dumb. People can also bully someone online through social media. You can block them or report them or even just log off.

Some solutions to resolve this could be telling a teacher that you trust or a friend or someone you feel can support you.

The bully may be behaving like this because they might be going through a hard time at home from their parents or siblings and take it out on others. They also might be getting bullied themselves. It's important not to judge as they may need help too. Some bullies can even learn a lesson.

Seven percent of New Zealand students get physically bullied and eight percent of New Zealand schools fail to have anti-bullying policies. What happens at school can stay with you forever. Therefore, all schools should have anti-bullying policies where children can share their views.

How would you feel if you got bullied? I am sure most people would not be very happy.

Bullying can happen anywhere and by anyone. Not only do children get bullied, some adults get bullied as well. Sometimes you may not even know you are being bullied because you are used to being teased or picked on. You might think it is normal. Bullying should be stopped because of the hurt and damage it can cause.

# If I was the Prime Minister

By Rickal Pakuria

According to many, Aotearoa is known as having the best Covid response in the world. Over the last two years, Aotearoa has locked down many times.

I caught Covid in April. I couldn't walk that much, I was vomiting, had headaches and a temperature. I had to cook my own lunch and dinner. My papa was looking after my cousin because she had the flu. Nana was looking after her mum in Te Teko, mum was on a holiday for her birthday and my uncle was going out to drink. So I had to look after myself.

My experience with distance learning was pretty hard as I like being face to face with my teacher and peers while I learn. I found it hard to concentrate because I had to babysit and do other things around the house while I was doing my schooling. The hardest part of baby sitting was cooking because they will ask, "Can I have some eggs?"

I will cook eggs and they will change their minds and want a sandwich. I got hōhā.

If I was the Prime Minister and had to decide what would happen for the country at this time, I would have chosen to implement the lockdowns. They help keep people safe and stop germs spreading around. I would have also helped shelter the homeless people and feed the families that needed help. I would have given free internet access to everyone too.

# Stop Discrimination

By Chloe Cooper

Racism is a form of discrimination. An example of racism I have seen is when Māori are mocked for the colour of their skin. This can have very bad effects on people and can make them not like themselves. We need to help people learn and understand more about Māori culture and customs.

People with disabilities also suffer from discrimination. One example is how people in wheelchairs might not be able to get from one place to another. There might be stairs in the way. A solution is to make it more accessible by adding ramps next to stairs, having elevators in places that help get them to where they are going faster and also designing doorways wider so wheelchairs can fit through.





# Diseases

By Lavanah Aroha

There are thousands of diseases. For example, heart cancer, Covid-19, brain cancer, breast cancer and more. When people are infected by diseases, they are in real pain.

Diseases are dangerous because they can kill you. When you have a disease, it's not good for your body and health. They can also keep you away from your family. You have to isolate because you don't want to spread the virus. You mainly have to sit at home and do less fun stuff.

When you cough and sneeze, you might have the flu but Covid-19 means you could be really sick. You might start spewing, losing breath and coughing a lot. Having Covid is like having a bad day.

If you go out, wear a face mask and maybe gloves. You can also get vaccinated!



# Ko Tōku Tino Kaitākaro

## Nā Taki Tipene

Ko ōku moemoeā ki te tākaro rīki pērā i a Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. Nō Hāmoa ōna tūpuna. Ka tākaro au i te rīki, ka pai ake mō tōku hauora. Ka pai ake au nā te mea ko ōku moemoeā ki te tākaro rīki mō ngā Warriors, te tīma kōtiro. Ka haere au i runga i tētahi haerenga tino pai ka ako ētahi mea hou e pā ana ki te tāone kē atu pērā ki Ahitareiria, ā, he pai ki a au kia haere atu ki wāhi kē nā te mea, he whāinga mōku e āhei ana au te tākaro ki wāhi kē hoki.

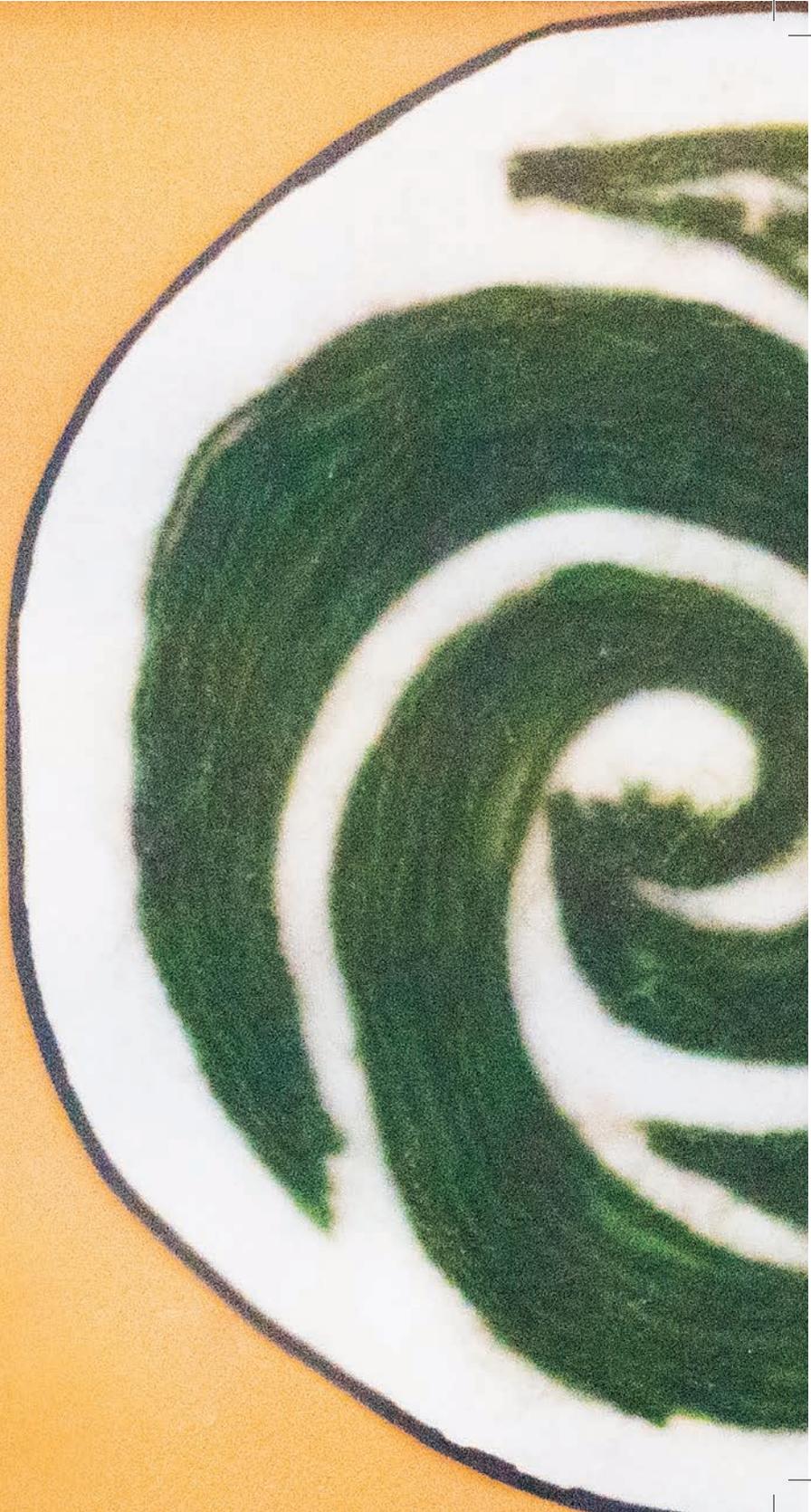
Ka pīrangī au kia haere ki tōna taha mō tētahi rā, ā, ka pātai au ki a ia, he aha ana kōrero āwhina mōku kia uru ki te ao hākinakina. Koinā taku tino wawata.

# Ko te Mate Urutā

## Nā Aries Tamariki

Nō Wuhan te mate urutā o Korona. Ko Wuhan tētahi taone nui o Haina. Ko tētahi tangata nō Piripaina te tangata tuatahi i whiwhi te mate urutā o Korona i waho o Haina. E ai ki ngā kaipūtaiao, i tipu ake te mate urutā mai i ngā pekapeka i tētahi māketē kararehe i Wuhan.

Ko Jacinda Ardern te pirimia o Aotearoa. I katia a Jacinda Ardern i ngā ripa o Aotearoa ki te ao whānui i te wā o Pēpuere 2020. E ai ki a Jacinda Ardern me tuwhera mai ngā ripa i ngā wā ka mutu te mate urutā o Korona. Kāore e taea ngā tauīwi te uru mai ki Aotearoa. Mehemea ka hoki mai ngā tāngata e noho ana ki tāwahi ki Aotearoa, me noho rātou ki te hōtēra mō ngā wiki e rua kia noho haumarū ai.





# Whakawhanake i a G.I.

**Nā Wikitoria Walker**

Ko taku hiahia kia whakawhanake au i a G.I. Tuatahi, ka hanga au i tētahi papa tākaro wai, nā te mea, he pārekareka ki ōku hoa me ngā tamariki e noho ana ki konei.

Ki taku kitenga, kei te paru haere ētahi o ngā tiriti, kei waho hoki o ētahi toa. Me whakapai ēnei mea mō te hapori ia rā.

Ka rua, ka hanga tētahi toa kai kore utu. He toa kai mō ngā tangata kore pūtea, kore whare hoki.

Ka hanga ngā mea pai mō ngā rangatahi mai i te pakeke tekau ki te pakeke tekau mā whitu pērā i tētahi papa whakangahau ki konei.

# Obesity Kills

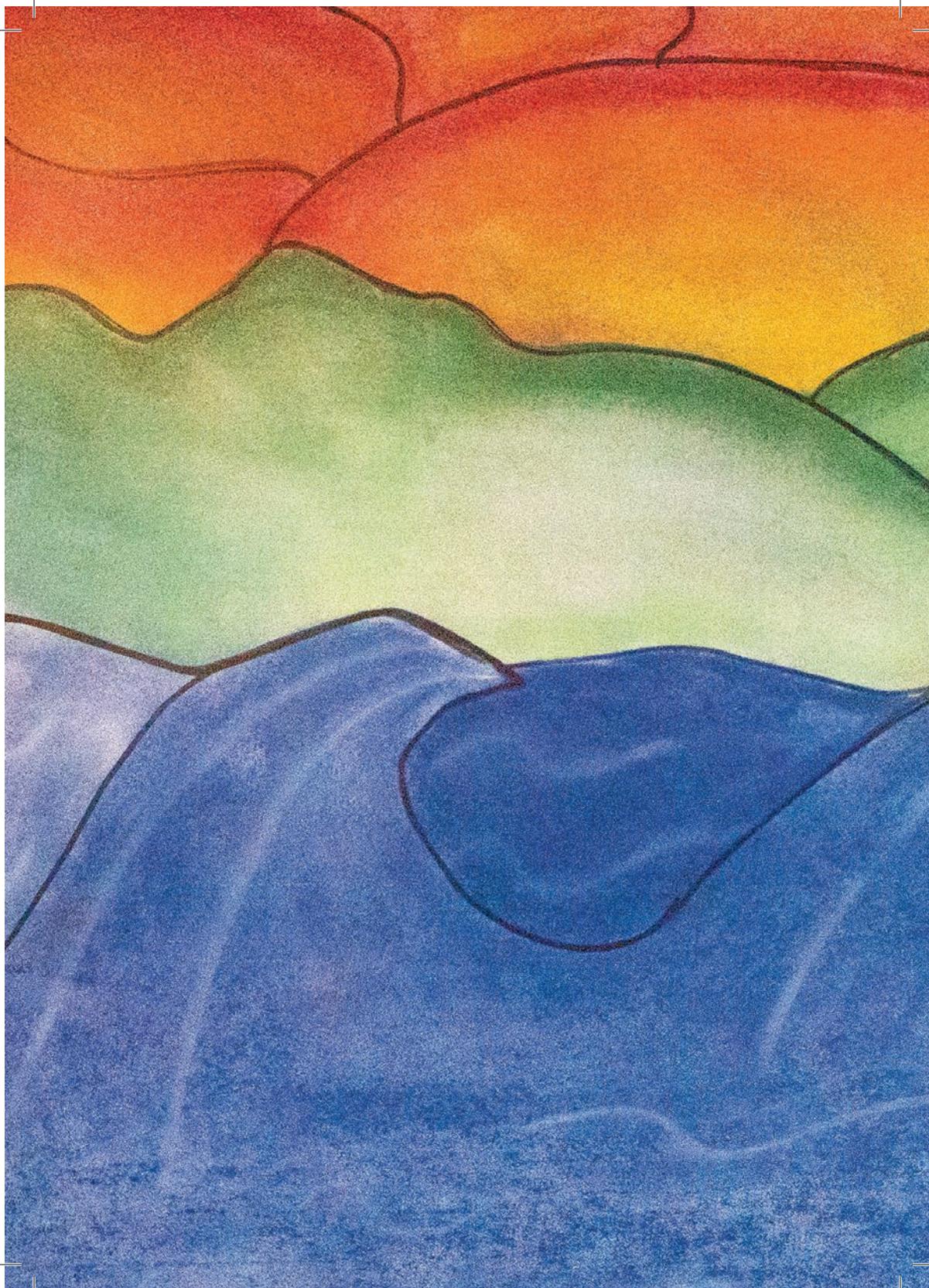
By Ngapera Arthur-Witika

Obesity is a major health problem that many people experience. It is very serious because it kills people and causes pain amongst families.

Every year people in New Zealand become more obese. According to the latest research, Aotearoa is the third highest in the world when it comes to child obesity rates.

This is shocking because we are a small country. Where I live, there are many takeaway stores that sell fried chicken, pies, and chips. Fizzy drinks are also cheap and are usually full of sugar, so they cause damage to our teeth. It seems that takeaway food is cheaper than healthy food such as fruit and vegetables. This is not good for our hauora.

A way to beat obesity is exercise. A fun way to stay fit is to run, join a gym or go for long walks. At school, we do runs at Mission Bay near the water which is nice.





# Poverty in Aotearoa

By Storm Tamariki

Poverty is when a person, people or a community lack the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is too low.

There are about 682,500 people that are experiencing poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand.

There are people on benefits that struggle.

If you're on the minimum wage, you will get \$21.20 per hour. That is \$169.60 for 8 hours in the day. If you're starting out, you will get paid \$16.96 an hour and that is \$135.68 for 8 hours in the day. Is that enough to live on?

Houses are expensive to rent and buy in Aotearoa. In Glen Innes, we see a lot of houses being built. My question is, who can rent or buy these houses?

Another question is, why is it cheaper to buy unhealthy kai than healthy kai?

# How to Stop Racism

By Angelina George

What is racism? Racism is discrimination where coloured people are treated differently to white people. Racism is shown by words, attitudes and actions. It is important to learn about racism so we can help prevent unkind words and actions towards people of colour.

George Floyd went to a store and bought some cigarettes. The employees from the store called the police which led him to getting killed. George Floyd's death was traumatic. The cause of his death was due to a cop called Derek Chauvin. He applied pressure on George Floyd's neck with his knee.

George Floyd's death was an example of racism inflicted on the Black community. His death caused an uproar among many people around the world. George Floyd was a catalyst that started the Black Lives Matter. Kaupapa and many Americans in the United States protested against racism.

Rosa Parks is an important person who also faced racism. She sat at the front of the bus and when she was asked to go to the back, she refused. The bus driver was being racist because of her skin colour and he called the cops. She was arrested in 1955 because she refused to give up her seat. The actions taken against her were discrimination and prejudice.

Rosa Parks is a reflection of hope. Many people believe that they can also stand up for their rights. And many protests began in the 20th century for the Black Civil Rights.

I believe that it is important to teach people racism because it will help stop racism. We can help prevent racism by being kind to each other, and treating each other equally. We are all humans.

# Why is Playing Sports So Expensive?

By Gabriella Gallon

Every Tuesday I play netball with my friends. I usually play the Wing Defence or Wing Attack position. I play netball for my school so we don't have to pay anything. But I wanted to play for a club netball team, so I started searching. I was shocked when I saw how expensive it was to play sports, especially for a club!

My favourite athlete at the Tokyo Olympics was Valerie Adams. She has been to the Olympics many times, even winning a bronze medal for New Zealand at the last Olympics. I can only imagine how much her parents had to pay and sacrifice for her to have the opportunity to participate at the Olympics.

My friend has 12 siblings. Her family could not afford for all their children to play sports. Their first priority is food and household bills. By lowering the prices of sports, more people like my friend can participate.

Netballers can pay up to \$310 a season but the most expensive sport to play is Hockey. Fees alone are about \$400 and players also need shin-guards, mouthguards, a stick and shoes. The total can reach \$1250. Who can afford this, especially when times are tough for so many whānau?

Rugby is the cheapest and about \$270 per person but that cost can blow out to more than \$400 with good boots.

If the Government put more money into sports, there would be so many benefits. For example, more people exercising, teamwork, a stronger heart, making friends and sports can build leadership skills.

The Government has more than enough money to make sports cheaper, so why don't they?

# Living in Glen Innes

By Nia-Jaye Witika

Glen Innes is a suburb in Tāmaki Makaurau. It has a population of around 4,410 people. The local iwi here is Ngāti Pāoa and the local marae is Ruapōtaka. It is a family friendly community with free family events but it also has many takeaway stores, dirty sidewalks and old shops.

If we travel further to the East, other suburbs such as Howick and Botany Downs are much bigger “superb” communities with clean streets and many tidy coffee stores. This could be that more resources are put into places like Howick because of the rich locals and the bigger population.

If locals do their part in Glen Innes, we can make our space a better place to live. A more beautiful community can be more inviting for outsiders who are curious about what is going on in our community and we can gain more customers in local stores. The money can be used to renovate the stores and that can be a start to a better community.

Cleaning out our streams like Omaru Creek will help because plants grow better near water. Our creek and its walkway will improve and it can also encourage people to walk more. This will help with people’s wellbeing especially during Covid-19 lockdowns.

Not long ago, the streams here were perfect to swim in and then they got polluted. If we had swimmable streams, it would be great for our community and in the summer because of the hot weather. If we look after the environment, the environment will look after us.

There is so much potential here in Glen Innes and I believe that younger people should have a bigger say on how to make Glen Innes a better place to live.





# The Lost Treasure

By Amelia Gallon

Five hundred years ago, there was a beach called the Lost Treasure, located on some distant island in the Pacific. It was named the Lost Treasure because there was lost treasure there that no one could find.

The Rock, Katy Perry, my pet kangaroo and I were walking along the beach. The water was so clear that you could see right through it. We were just about to go for a swim but then a huge scary dragon appeared and wanted to battle us. We tried running away but it was too fast and it caught us.

All of a sudden Katy Perry started singing sweetly to distract the dragon and then The Rock joined in singing. My kangaroo paused time and power kicked the dragon to the ground. Then he froze him with his powers.

What we found behind him was a humongous treasure chest. It was so tall, we could not see the top of it. We decided to climb it. After 50 years, we finally reached the top.

The chest had a heavy rustic lock on it. A portal opened up so we jumped through it. There was a huge key laying on the ground. It was so heavy that not even The Rock could carry it. All of a sudden, a whole army of ants came and carried it out of the portal.

The key became so light that it started to float so Katy Perry extended her arms and unlocked the treasure chest. All we found was a whole bunch of pillows so we flopped down on them. We just

thought it was pillows but then we pushed all the pillows to the side and when we went down to the bottom of the treasure chest, we found many coloured jewels worth billions of dollars. We all shape shifted into drills and grabbed as many jewels as we could then we drilled out the side and returned back to the beach. Then The Rock and Katy Perry disappeared.

The next day we sold all the jewels and received billions of dollars. We are now rich. The first thing we bought was a huge mansion with 48 bathrooms, 32 kitchens, and one living room. The next thing we bought was a shop full of lollies. With the rest of the money, I gave it to homeless people to make the world a better place for them.





# The Mysterious Creature

By Ngapera Arthur-Witika

It was night time and raining when I walked slowly to the forest. The sunglasses I was wearing made everything look red and I felt a forceful sensation on my skin. There was a strong smell of rotten flesh. In the distance I heard rustling from a bush.

As rain poured down, I froze in fear from the sight of the rotten flesh. The rustling from the bush started to stop and I heard a low pitch growl. It was hard to see with red glasses but I knew for sure something was lurking in this forest.

My body wouldn't move. I tried my best but not a single muscle would move. I did what any other person would do, I watched as the low pitch growl came closer and closer. With every second going by, I watched as the growls drew nearer and then I saw an enormous creature standing right in front of me.

With long white fangs and claws that looked like it could cut through anything, the creature glanced at me with a furious look. I stared at the creature's eyes, hoping it wouldn't kill me. Silence struck between me and the creature. We both stared at each other until a loud sound appeared, forcing me to break contact with the creature.

I quickly turned my head back to the creature but it disappeared, leaving massive footprints behind. I went back home with lots of questions in my mind. I went to bed hoping tomorrow I could see the creature again. At school I told my friends all about it and they didn't believe me. They told me that I was crazy and also asked if I had enough sleep.

When I got home, I quickly changed and packed essential things for the creature. I waited until night time and I quietly sneaked out of my house into the forest. While I was in the forest, I checked where the large footprint was. To my surprise the creature was sitting there minding its own business.

I was shocked but I quietly walked towards the creature. I put my hand on its face but the creature snapped away quickly. I jumped back in defence and so did the creature. We both looked at each other for a minute. I went to sit down until the creature started to run at me. I scrambled to my feet and boosted off at maximum speed. The creature was gaining on me and I started to slow down.

In a short amount of time the creature was right behind me and snapping its fangs at me. I could barely dodge its attacks and I thought I was going to die. I closed my eyes hoping something or someone would save me. All of a sudden, there was a loud sound. Everything went quiet. As I peeked to see what happened, the creature was gone. It was like it had vanished into thin air. I scratched my head, thinking about what had happened.

As I walked home, I could see a fuzzy light in the distance. When I got closer, I could see my parent's light on. I rushed back to my room and quickly changed into my red pyjamas and dozed off to sleep. I woke up early and I remembered what had happened last night. I froze for minutes thinking about the creature.

# Guardians of the Forest

By Angelina George

More than 5,000 years ago, there was a “true” story about mystical guardians of the forest. Lucas, Levi, Logan and Luke.

The four brothers were trees. Lucas is the shy one but also the most powerful. Levi is the happy one but gets mad very quickly. Logan is the sad one and also cries the most. Then there’s Luke. Luke is the most scared one.

What powers do they have? Lucas has fire powers, Levi has water powers, Logan has earth powers and Luke has air bending powers.

The forest was called Dagwood, named after their grandfather and it was at the edge of earth, far away from Aotearoa. It was home to millions of creatures from birds, worms, and wild boars. But one stormy night just after midnight, someone broke into the forest.

Once the mysterious person entered the forest, the four brothers pretended to be asleep. They waited until that mysterious person came closer. They scared the mysterious person away until they left the forest and never came back!



# The New Universe

By Gabriella Gallon

There once were two very sad but rich kids and their names were Sheila and Fiona. They didn't get much love and attention from their parents. They only had each other and their staff. They had maids, servants, a chauffeur, gardeners, tutors and a babysitter but no love from their parents. The only days they got to spend with their parents were their birthdays, which was every December and June.

On Fiona's birthday in December, their mum and dad wanted to take Fiona on a cruise. It wouldn't be fair just to take Fiona, so they also took Sheila. This was a surprise for the sisters!

They left on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. The Tui birds could be heard singing waiata to each other as they picked at the red berries hanging from the native trees.

As they happily skipped onto the massive boat, they heard their mum and dad say to put their bags in any room they choose. Fiona and Sheila were so happy they would be spending the whole week with their mum and dad!

After they had chosen their room, Fiona and Sheila went to find their parents. They were chatting and planning all the fun they could do together. When they finally found their them, their parents were doing professional work. Fiona clenched her hands tight and angry tears ran down her face. She raced back to her room, sat in the corner and cried.

Sheila came in and with a sweet loving voice said, "Fiona, would you do the honours and come explore this ship with me? And we can hang out like we always do."

“Alright,” Fiona replied, still a bit upset.

While they were exploring the ship, they found a glass tunnel going over the ocean. They thought that it would be a nice place to have a little birthday picnic. They crawled through the kitchen like spies and tried not to get caught by the cooks. Both of them were happy they took snacks without getting caught. They sat in the glass tunnel.

“Thank you, Sheila for always making me feel better,” Fiona said.

As they were about to hug, they fell through the glass and into the freezing cold deep blue sea. Both of them didn't know how to swim so they kept on going under the waves until they had no more breath left. They sank to the bottom where a portal lay on the sand. The waves pushed them both in and they started falling onto an unfamiliar place. They stumbled around, still out of breath but they stayed next to each other and decided the only way to get back home was to look around the place.

After they looked around, they saw a gigantic Moa coming right for them. They dashed away as fast as Lightning McQueen but still could not outrun the Moa. They thought they were gonna die when all of a sudden they saw a gigantic Fantail flying towards them. The Fantail picked them up and bolted through the air. He dropped them and was about to eat them but then a huge Elephant came and saved their life. It chased the Fantail away so they got up and hid under a gigantic rock.





# The Story of a Missing Girl

By Chloe Cooper

Once on a dark and stormy morning my friends and I were playing a card game. Xzavier and I were the last two people left playing. Mani was saying he was gonna use the demogorgon, Chloe.

“No, he’s not,” I replied.

Xzavier said, “Maybe I will, maybe I won’t.”

Zephaniah said, “I would throw the fire balls.”

“NO THAT WILL KILL ME,” I said. Xzavier starts to do an evil laugh. “Oh god,” I said.

Xzavier puts down the demogorgon.

“SCHOOL,” my mum yelled. We all rode our bikes to school. Mani, Zephaniah and I were riding our bikes and talking but we didn’t hear Xzavier so we looked behind us and he wasn’t there. We stopped our bikes to look.

*Stranger things ...*

We rode to school worried about Xzavier. “Where do you think he is?” I asked.

“I don’t know but after school we should try look for him,” said Mani.

“Okay,” all of us said.

3pm. Bell rings. “Okay, get on your bikes and let’s look. If we can’t find him, meet at my house and bring weapons and snacks,” I say.

“I’ll bring snacks,” said Zephaniah.

“I’ll bring bats and guns,” said Mani.

“Okay, see you tonight,” I told them.

*Later on ...*

“Okay, let’s hope we can find him tonight,” said Mani.

“Man, the woods are really scary,” I said.

“Don’t be a baby,” said Mani.

“I’m NOT,” I replied.

“Be quiet and let’s find him,” said Zephaniah.

We quietly walked, trying not to crack a stick. I got my bat out because I didn’t feel safe in the woods with no light.

We started running cause we heard cracking sticks.  
BOOM!

“AHHHHH,” we all screamed. I looked up to find a girl with a shaved head and a bleeding nose and barely any clothes on. We all got scared but I said, “Wait ... I will take her home and get her dry because she is soaking wet.”

I tried asking for her name, but she wouldn’t talk. All my friends said I was CRAZY bringing her into my house. She was soaked so I gave her some of my clothes and told her to get changed in my bathroom. I made her a bed and then she went to sleep. Me and my friends were talking about her cause we really needed to know her name. When I went to check on her, I was pushed all the way to my door and it almost broke. Mani came rushing down saying, “AHHHH WHAT WAS THAT?”

“OMG are you okay?” I grabbed my phone to ring Zephaniah and tell him to come over.

There was a knock on the door. “Coming,” I shouted. I opened the door and I saw two people standing there, so I said, “Who’s this Zeph?”

He said, "Sorry he drove me here because my bike broke."

"What's his name?" I asked.

"JayJaylove," he said.

We walked downstairs to the basement and saw Mani talking to the girl. Mani told us her name is Eleven but she would like us to call her Ele. WHAT?!?!? SHE TALKED WITH WORDS?

I took her to my basement and set up a bed for her and a change of clothes. Then I told her, "I have to go to bed, stay down here, okay?"

I walked up to my room and went to sleep.

I heard Mani and Zeph yelling, "SHE'S GONE, SHE'S GONE!" I rushed down the stairs faster than ever. She was gone but she was the only hope we had to find Xzavier. We looked all around the house before mum and dad woke up.

I went to my room and screamed louder than ever. She said, "Don't lock me up please."

I said, "I'm so sorry you can sleep in my room, okay?"

She woke up and said, "AHHH I SEE A BOY."

I said, "Where is he?"

She said, "He looks like he's in a purple box."

I screamed. "XZAIVER. CAN YOU TRACK HIS LOCATION?" I fell down on the ground crying because I wasn't ready to lose him.

# My Time Machine

By Tumanaako Rakai

As I got into my silver time machine car, I heard some peculiar noises. I started to listen to the sound very carefully. Boom Boom! The car rolled down the street.

When I stepped out of the car, I was shocked to see I was somehow in the past. I quickly jumped into my car and looked at what year the car was set to. The screen said it was set to 1962.

“E hika! No way!”

In shock, I tried to set the time back but it would not work.

“No, no, no!” I kicked the car but it only left a dent.

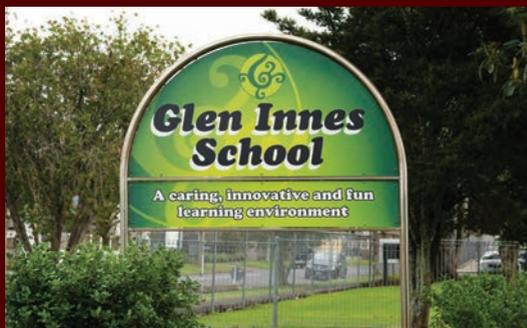
I had a good idea of how to get back to 2022 but I needed big amounts of electricity.

My car needed to charge for at least 10 hours for it to work but I also needed big amounts of voltage to charge the car. Where could I get it from?

I strolled down the street and I found a huge power box. I ran in excitement to get back home.

I got my car and pushed it all the way down the street. I got the charger for the car and wired the car to the power box and charged my car.

10 hours later, the car charged and I zoomed out of the 1960s and into the future!



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ART COVER: Tavita Arthur

ART INSIDE FRONT COVER: Eva'eva

ART BACK-COVER: Tumanaako Rakai



