

# *Transforming Lives Through Literacy*



## **Wendy Carss**

Board Member

2018–2021

Wendy Carss has lectured in literacy education at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, for the last 15 years. She teaches a variety of papers at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Research interests include the beliefs and practices of first-year teachers of literacy, the use of digital technologies to support literacy learning, and using teacher-created information texts to support cultural and linguistic diversity. The information text project involved collaboration with colleagues from Australia and Fiji. Her publications reflect these interests, and she has both attended and presented at New Zealand Literacy Association (NZLA), Australian Literacy Educators' Association, and ILA conferences.

Wendy was recently awarded the NZLA Citation of Merit for outstanding service to the organization. This service has included the roles of President of NZLA (2008-2012) and member of the NZLA executive from 2002 – 2012. She was a member of the International Development in Oceania Committee (IDOC) from 2005 – 2015 and held the role of chair 2012 – 2015, working with educators throughout the Pacific and representing the region at IDOC meetings. Prior to moving into the tertiary sector, she taught for 20 years in New Zealand elementary-level schools, many in low socioeconomic areas. Teaching literacy has always been a passion, and she strives to develop inclusive practices promoting student responsibility for learning.