

**Great Reads for Gutsy Girls**  
**Presented by Fiona Mackie, National Library**

This was a session that I had looked forward to for a long time. I was finally in the right place at the right time. The session was Mark II of an original session presented over two years ago. Changes were necessary to accommodate the new Gutsy Girls published since. Fiona captured the audiences' attention within the first minute sending us on a trip down memory lane. We were treated to a session of shared stories that included past reads and experiences with literature. With Fiona's enthusiasm for the topic and her teaching experience from 'many moons ago' the audience were able to enjoy this session to the full.

Scattered around the room were tables of books that Fiona laid out for us to browse through. One table was set aside for books from her own personal collection that ranged over her life as a reader of good and engaging stories. We were provided with a 24 page printed list of books with abstracts, this proved very useful with much scribbling of notes as a number of the books listed were introduced. Unfortunately Fiona was limited to space so could not include every title she felt warranted inclusion.

Topics discussed included filling the gaps in our history through stories such as 'Ivana'. Looking at New Zealand's social history, Troy, the 1920's, the future, and cultural identity all through stories written about Gutsy Girls. We came away wanting to access these great stories that affirmed the female role. Lastly, refreshingly, it was good to hear somebody talk about girls and reading instead of the continuing focus placed on the reluctant boy reader. This Gutsy Girl will definitely not be disappointed and will be hunting out these great reads.

Kaaren Hirst.