

## Author & illustrator profiles

**Abner Yalu**, 36, was born in Lae and is a consultant with the Goroka-based World Bank productive partnerships in agriculture project. He has a Master of Agriculture Studies degree from the University of Queensland and a BSc from the University of PNG

**Agnes Rita Maineke**, 58, was born at Monoitu in Bougainville and is a teacher at St Joseph's Turiboiru Primary School in the Buin District of South Bougainville. "Writing is an art that I love," Agnes says, "and, being a teacher, I encourage students to master this art and contribute to the literature world." Agnes has six children and I three grandchildren. Agnes won the Short Story Award in 2014

**Akilino Powesiu**, 35, was born in Port Moresby General Hospital and is a self-described "freelance writer and dark art enthusiast" who previously worked for Airlines PNG and Digicel PNG. "To me, life is an adventurous novel that I create and change, day by day," he says. "The act of reading is a passport to another place and time, and I like books that transport me to terra incognita"

**Alison Kult**, 20, is of Western Highlands and Jiwaka parentage. She is studying second year law at the University of Papua New Guinea

**Alois Bai**, from Simbu, is a post-graduate student in health promotion at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia

**Alphonse M Huvi**, 34, is from Bialla in West New Britain and teaches in Bougainville. He says he loves reading and writing short stories. "I acknowledged the Crocodile Prize team for the initiative to identify hidden talents from writers in PNG"

**Baka Barakove Bina**, 53, was born in Kotiyufa Village, Iufi Iufa in the Eastern Highlands. Since 1993, he has worked in the National Court in Port Moresby, first in security, then as sheriff and now in the Registry. He has published two novels and three collections of short stories. His wife is a primary school teacher and they have four adult children. "My goal is to publish 10 short stories and, if life permits, 10 novels"

**Benita Bagasel**, 27, is from East Sepik Province and says she writes "for my own readership because I am shy of what people will think of what I think up in my head"

**Benjamin A Howard**, 41, is from Siassi Island and "married to a beautiful Madang woman, father to four gorgeous daughters and a handsome son". He is a mature age student studying law at the University of PNG.

**Benny Geteng**, 29, was born in Lae and is media and public relations manager with Cricket PNG. He previously worked for various PNG media organisations as a reporter/researcher

**Bernaditte Barama**, 36, is the first born of five siblings and hails from Woodlark Island, Milne Bay. She is an avid reader of novels and loves the traditions of her father, who comes from a patrilineal society in Tufi, Northern Province

**Bessielah David**, 33, from Manus Province is a self-described bookworm. "I have a passion for poetry - I write about life basically," she says. "I've been writing since senior high but stopped for a while when family life kicked-in. Now am writing from the comfort of my office desk, when am not too busy, writing about love, life, general attributes of men and women"

**Betty Gabriel Wakia**, 28, is studying education and technology at Tianjin University in China

**Boniface Tony**, 18, was born at Mingende in Simbu Province. He is a student at Rosary Secondary School near Kundiawa

**Caroline Evari**, 26, was born in Vanimo in the West Sepik (Sandaun) Province and is of mixed Oro and Milne Bay parentage. She works as lead receptionist with the World Bank in

Port Moresby. “Writing has been one thing I loved doing while growing up,” she says. “It has been one of the best ways of expressing emotions and feeling maximum satisfaction”

**Christina Goglau** is a teacher at Kundiawa Hospital Special School. She comes from Womatne Village, Gembogl in the Simbu Province

**Cinta Clare Tekwie**, 27, is from mixed West Papua and Papua New Guinea parentage and lives with her husband David and three sons in Brisbane, Australia. She is an early childhood educator. “It is my hope that all children, regardless of where they currently live, will never forget their heritage, and have the courage to confidently express themselves as they grow up, and pass on the stories that have shaped their identity,” she says

**Clency Amos** is a vision-impaired student doing Grade 10 at Rosary Secondary School, Kondiu, in Simbu. Her entry was written in Braille. She wants to be a human rights lawyer and a writer

**Clive Hawigen** is a graduate of Divine Word University and has been working in the media and public relations industry since 2007. “For as long as I can remember, I’ve always wanted to be a writer,” he says. “That’s one of the reasons I took up journalism, in the hope that it’ll give me the right tools to write that best seller one day.”

**Dale Digori**, 21, was born in Port Moresby of mixed Oro and Central Province parentage. He is a second year law student at the University of PNG and his hobbies include songwriting and writing fiction, essays and poetry

**Daniel Ipan Kumbon**, 56, was born in Kondo Village, Kandep, Enga Province. He started his media career with the National Broadcasting Corporation in 1979. In 1986, he switched to print journalism after completing media studies at UPNG and won scholarships to the United Kingdom, USA and Mexico. In 2015 he published Remember Me and Other Stories from Enga Province. “Wherever I have gone,” he says, “I have always worn my hand woven PNG highlands cap and my long beard to promote PNG culture in my own small way”

**Danielle Morgan**, 22, was born in Kokopo, East New Britain, and says she is “still figuring out my life as I go”

**Delma Venudi Geary**, 31, from Port Moresby says she feels better writing about something than saying how it is

**Dilu D Okuk**, 40, was born in Goroka and is a high school teacher. “I love my family, my country and God,” he says

**Derrick Dusava**, 36, considers himself a Port Moresby kid. “I grew up here in the city when it was much nicer,” he comments. His parents are from East Sepik, and Gulf. He’s a practicing lawyer working with PNG Power Ltd

**Desmond Aigilo** is a law student and says he loves reading, literature, poetry and life

**Donna Mali**, 25, is from the small hamlet of Komi in the Banoni area of the Bana District in South Bougainville. “I was born during the middle of the bloody war on the island,” she says, “but had all my education in West New Britain”. Donna is married with two children and has “the passion to write”

**Edwick Koima** is a student in Grade 10 at Rosary Secondary School, Kondiu, Simbu

**Elizabeth Lullu Haoda**, 42, was born in Lae and is married with four children. She works with Fubilan Catering Services in Tabubil, Western Province

**Emmanuel David Landu**, 23, was born in Goroka and is a student. “I am an aspiring architect and enjoy creating abstract imagery in my spare time,” he says. “I believe that great art resonates with the viewer not only with the creator”

**Emmanuel Marosi** comes from Vidaro Village, Bogia District, Madang Province and is a freelance IT technician and blogger. “I dropped out of university in 2007,” says Emmanuel.

“Life was extremely tough. I walked on the streets selling betel nut. I had nowhere to go so started utilising my skills in computing and eventually gain recognition and popularity”

**Emmanuel Narokobi**, 38, is a Port Moresby-based journalist and social media specialist who publishes the respected Masalai blog and runs Masalai Communications in Port Moresby

**Esther Komogi**, 17, was born in Port Moresby and is a Grade 10 student at Goroka Secondary School

**Fidelis Sukina**, 26, is from Siwai in Bougainville and works as an administration officer and reporter. He has a BA majoring in international relations and community development. “I have a passion for research and journalism,” he says. “Writing is my pastime and I’m still improving”

**Florence Jonduo**, 25, hails from Ulighembi village (Kubalia) in East Sepik and Mataita 1 village (Goodenough Island) in Milne Bay. She is the last born in her family and has three siblings. She graduated with a BA in Journalism at Divine Word University and is working as a researcher/writer for EMTV's Olsem Wanem Program in Port Moresby

**Florian Steven Semos Gara**, 33, is from Kieta in Bougainville. He describes himself as “just a writer”

**Francina Thomson**, 32, is from Gusap in Madang

**Francis Dre Kore**, 8, was born in Kundiawa, Simbu, and is in Grade 3 at the Kundiawa Christian Academy

**Gideon Walwal Ginkawa**, 57, is from Nelikum Village, Maprik, East Sepik. He is a farmer who writes part time with intentions to publish his writings

**Gita-Kristie Korimbo**, 18, is from the Eastern Highlands. She attends Goroka Grammar School as a Grade 12 student

**Godwin Jimmy Aiawa**, 42, is from Morobe Province and works as a legal officer with PNG Power while living with his family in Goroka. “I am glad to see and read the works of other talented PNG writers,” he says, “which serve as a motivation for me to continue writing and reach my goal of eventually writing and publishing my first book”

**Gregory Jaze Avira**, 22, was born in Madang and is a final year communication arts student at Divine Word University. “I have a particular interest in writing and advocating on topics such as violence against women, environmental issues and other matters that affect our society,” he says

**Hazel Kutkue**, 20, is a medical student at the University of PNG. “I love writing in my spare time,” she says. “If I could earn a living in PNG from writing, I would most definitely drop everything and write full time”

**Helen Kuli**, 47, was born in Maprik and is a research and database officer with the Education Department. “I am writing short stories, poems and plays,” she says. “I have completed a book that will be published soon”

**Helen Dokup**, 21, is from mixed Simbu and Jiwaka parentage and is a third year student at the University of Goroka studying geography and literature

**Helen Delphine Kuran**, 24, comes from Madang and is in her final year of studying communication arts at Divine Word University. She is married and the mother of a one month baby boy

**Iso Yawi**, 23, from Kubalia, East Sepik is a telecommunications technician and lives in Lae. He says he has a passion to write novels, poems and short stories

**Jack David** is a Grade 12 student at Muaina Secondary School, Simbu

**James Gena** is a Grade 9 student at Kewamugl High School, Simbu

**Jerry Teluasa Morus**, 35, was born on Lihir Island, New Ireland Province. He is an agriculturalist currently managing Pokche Properties Limited on Lihir. "Putting my thoughts on paper helps me solve problems," he says, "or just provide me a sense of peace by expressing my feelings rather than keeping them bottled up inside"

**Jimmy Awagl**, 35, is from Parua, Nilguma, Simbu Province and a secondary school teacher at Ku High School. He is a founding member of Simbu Writers Association

**Jimmy Drekore**, 39, is from Sumau, Simbu. He is president of Simbu Children Foundation, president of Simbu Writers Association, chairman of the Crocodile Prize Organization and 2014 Digicel PNG Man of Honour. He won the Crocodile prize Award for Poetry in 2011

**John Aisa Oae**, 32, was born in Veifa'a in Central Province and is a designer who wants to discover if he has what it takes to write

**Johnson Makaen**, 34, was born in Port Moresby and is a researcher at PNG Institute of Medical Research in Goroka. "I love reading novels, I've read tonnes of them," he says. "The more I read, the more I get to understand how people write"

**Jordan Bauloni**, 29, is from Dobu Island in the Esa'ala District in Milne Bay. He left primary school before completion and enjoys playing soccer, hunting, reading and drawing

**Joycelin Kauc Leahy**, 50, was born in Wau and raised in Wagang village, Lae. She holds a Diploma in Journalism from UPNG and a Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Queensland. She wants to assist in getting more Papua New Guineans reading, writing and getting published. Her passion has been in preserving and upholding the rich and unique culture of her people and other PNG art, culture and heritage

**Julie Sugoho**, 43, is from Manus and works in Lae as a customs coordinator for the Morobe Mining Joint Venture. She is married with four children. "I'm learning public speaking through Toastmasters," she says, "and now I'm trying my hand at writing and like it"

**Katherine Epikana** is a project coordinator with Diwai Pacific Limited in Madang and first time contributor to the Crocodile Prize

**Kenneth Iga**, 35, is from Irupara village, Hula in the Central Province. He is working with G4S Secure Solutions in Port Moresby. "Work is hectic but I write as much as I can during my breaks," he says. "I write songs, poetry and music; short stories and plays but haven't published anything in the mainstream yet"

**Kiri Junior Kom** is a student in Grade 12 at Mt Wilhelm Secondary School, Simbu

**Lapieh Landu**, 25, was born in Port Moresby of mixed Eastern Highlands, Milne Bay and Sanduan parentage. She is branding coordinator of the Australia Awards in PNG. "When I am not working or contributing to Stella or PNG Attitude," she says, "I am a full time mother to my beautiful daughter, Sky." Lapieh won the Crocodile Prize Award for Women's Writing in 2011 and the Award for Poetry in 2013

**Lawrence Gerry** has been a language lecturer and researcher at the University of Goroka and is now a PhD student at the University of New South Wales. He has a keen interest in policy development and is also working as an intern with the Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney

**Leisel Neddy**, 10, lives in Wa'ema village, Alotau, Milne Bay Province and is in Grade 4 at Koeabule Primary School. Her hobbies are reading, watching movies, writing, telling stories

**Lorraine Basse**, 28, is from Manam Island but was brought up in Goroka. She works as a publications officer/assistant editor and graphic designer with the Melanesian Institute

**Malo e'Avuku Flavia Senar**, 25, was born in New Ireland and is a high school teacher in Bougainville. She enjoys reading, writing poems and spending time in the sea

**Margaret Brownjohn**, 30, comes from West New Britain and is of Sepik heritage. She grew up in Port Moresby and is currently working and studying overseas. She takes a keen interest in sustainable development and national progress in the Pacific islands

**Martinez Wasuak**, 25, was born in Sinengu village, Yangoru in East Sepik Province. She is a foreign service trainee in PNG's Department of Foreign Affairs

**Martyn Namorong**, 29, was born in Baimuru in the Western Province. He dropped out of medical school and began blogging, freelance writing and travelling with a special interest in telling stories about PNG. He is also a television commentator. He won the Crocodiel prize Award for Essays and Journalism in 2011

**Mary Eugenia Diou Popui**, 23, comes from Buin in Bougainville. She began but did not complete a mechanical engineering course at Lae Polytech. She is married with one child

**Michael Geketa** was born in Gagan village, Buka, Bougainville and is a policeman at present completing full-time study at the University of PNG

**Michaelyn Takai** is a student in Grade 11A at Rosary Secondary School, Kondiu, Simbu

**Monalisa Kas**, 28, was born in Lorengau of Madang and Manus parents. She is completing a master's degree in public health at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, United States. She was previously a scientific officer at the PNG Institute of Medical Research

**Mondo Krond** is a student in Grade 10 at Ku High School, Simbu

**Natalie Guma** is a student in Grade 10 at Barendigl High School, Simbu

**Nicola Nicholson Daniel**, 32, is from Goroka and teaches language and literature to upper secondary at Goroka Grammar School. She writes poems and short stories and shares her passion for writing by using them as examples for her students.

**Noglai Alua Kristina Kin**, 17, is from Deri village, Salt Nomane in the Karimui District of Simbu. She is in Grade 11 at Kondiu Secondary School. She wishes to become a lawyer or doctor and, one day, a good writer

**Paul Waugla Wii**, 38, was born in Demang village, Kerowagi, Simbu Province. He is a secondary school teacher and a member of the Simbu Writers Association. "We are

**Pauline Mago King**, 24, is from Lae and a final year journalism student at Divine Word University. She says reading and writing have always played an integral role in her life. "To me, reading and writing opens up one's mind to a world of endless possibilities where change can be brought about," she says. "It is my hope that I can effect positive change through my writing"

**Pauline Riman**, 34, was born in Port Moresby. "I'm not a great writer," she says, "and I'm yet to find my craft. I'm just grateful for the opportunity to share my work"

**Peter Sevara Jr**, 31, is from Port Moresby where he is a sports reporter with the Post-Courier newspaper

**Philip Kaupa Gena**, 27, is a third year biology student at the University of PNG. He is from Simbu Province and likes football, poetry and playing guitar – "but really hate gossipers"

**Rachael Kuria** is in Grade 9 at Ku High School in Simbu province.

**Rachel Pipai**, 36, is from Rabaul with mixed Manus and Southern Highlands parentage. "Writing was my way of understanding myself, situations and aspirations," she says. "I haven't utilised this skill in a long time, but I do write things down when I am inspired"

**Rachel 'Rhaye' Tarsan**, 33, was born in Madang and works as a public relations executive in Port Moresby

**Raphael Yilan Anea**, 26, is from Vanimo, Sandaun Province, and is studying for a Bachelor in Rural Health degree at Divine word University. "I write short phrases, poems and prose

about anything that my mind could think of,” he says. “My days are still young so I wish my dream to be a writer would come through one fine day”

**Rashmii Amoah**, 34, was born in Lae and is a married, stay-at-home mother of three children under seven. “I enjoy creating novelty-themed birthday cakes, playing chess and reading all genres but adore satire,” she says. “Anna Karenina and The Great Gatsby are my favourite novels and John Steinbeck is my favourite author.” Rashmii’s other interests are youth advocacy, mental health awareness, prisoner rehabilitation and fashion photography

**Raymond Komis Girana**, 31, was born in Hanahan in Bougainville where he is media officer with the Catholic Church. He is an ex-Marist seminarian who was asked by Bishop Bernard Unabali to start the Diocesan Media Office in 2011. He produces news for the local diocesan newsletter and for Catholic Reporter PNG

**Reilly Pokunan Kanamon**, 25, was born in Port Moresby and is a Communication Arts (Journalism) graduate of Divine Word University in Madang. He has previously had stories and poetry published in the Crocodile Prize Anthology 2014. “I am hoping to publish a book soon with a collection of myths and legends from the Admiralty (Manus),” he says

**Ronnie Dotaona**, 33, is from Milne Bay and is a science teacher with a deep passion for indigenous knowledge. “I carved my profession out of a childhood hobby for the love of arthropods,” he says. “I’m a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, a prankster and love telling stories with kids. My spare time is occupied by gardening or woodworking or a bit of melody therapy. Never keep me away from the sea for too long”

**Rosewitta Gewa**, 24, is from Aitape, West Sepik, and is a fourth year communication arts student at Divine Word University. “I have loved reading and writing since discovering old dusty books in my mother's English and Literature office at Busu High when I was in Grade 3,” she says. “The Bible was the first book I read”

**Rosian Mitna**, 17, was born in Ku Modern Village in Simbu Province. She is a Grade 10 student at Ku High School

**Roslyn Tony**, 42, is of mixed East Sepik/Simbu parentage and is a teacher at Rosary Secondary School in Simbu. “I like writing, particularly poems,” she says. “Poems comfort me and enable me to move forward positively in life particularly when I am low physically, spiritually, emotionally or mentally”

**Samantha Kusari**, 23, is studying for a Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics) at the University of Goroka. She loves writing poems and short stories about anything that captures her interest

**Samuel Neddy**, 12, is from Wa'ema village, Alotau in Milne Bay. He is in Grade 6 at Koeabule Primary School and enjoys playing soccer, drawing, reading and telling stories

**Sandra Mainেকে**, 31, was born in Arawa, Bougainville, and is a teacher at Sovele Primary School in South Bougainville. “I see that myths must be recorded for the benefit of the future generation,” she says. Sandra is married with a beautiful four-year old daughter

**Simon Mathias** is in Grade 10 at Ku High School in Simbu

**Steven Gimbo**, 42, from Madang is team leader of Radio Fly, a community radio station owned and operated by Ok Tedi Mining Limited in Western province. He has been a community radio broadcaster and producer for over 20 years and writes fiction and poetry as a hobby

**Talsah Bannick**, 23, is from Madang and is in her third year of studies the PNG studies and international relations at Divine Word University. “I am a determined and highly motivated person,” she says. “I take my studies seriously and as much as possible I like to see things from different perspectives before reaching a conclusion”

**Tanya Zeriga Alone**, 38, from Kainantu in the Eastern Highlands is an experienced writer and commentator.

**Terence Ako**, 26, was born at Rumginae in Kiunga, Western Province. He is a final year student in PNG studies and international relations at Divine Word University. During his spare time he reads, does crossword puzzles, writes music and song lyrics and cooks

**Thomas Okun**, 44, is from Banz, Jiwaka Province, and is deputy academic principal of Rosary Secondary School, Kondiu, in Simbu. "I specialise in teaching English and like writing poems and short stories," he says. "Apart from teaching in the classroom, I play lead guitar for gospel bands, record songs and do sound recording and engineering"

**Thomas Pandipiye Goraiye**, 28, is from Lae but of Southern Highlands parentage. "I was encouraged by my Grade 7 teacher (an Aussie woman) to read for fun and it became a habit. In Grade 10, I wrote three short plays acted by me and classmates at a world culture show in school." His favourite books are *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame, *Firefox* by Craig Thomas and *Robots and Empire* by Isaac Asimov. "My reading and writing is comprised almost entirely of fictional works, but I also tend to find inspiration in real life"

**Tom Kaupa**, 13, is in Grade 8 at Gon Kambua Primary School in Simbu. He wrote *The Red Fish*, a story published in the *Crocodile Prize Anthology 2014*

**Tony Gabriel** is in Grade 9 at Kondom Agaundo Memorial High School in Simbu

**Vinzealhar Ainjo Nen**, 19, was born in Port Moresby of Watut (Morobe) and Ialibu (Southern Highlands) parentage. "I am passionate about the empowerment of youth in my country, climate change, HIV/AIDS and women and children's rights," he says

**Wardley Desmond Barry-Igivisa**, 27, was born in Rabaul and teaches at nearby Sonoma Adventist College. "Over the years I have explored and experimented with the different styles of poetry," he says. "It is my hope that what comes off my pen would help us appreciate our contexts, accept our differences and challenges, and inspire us to work together for a better, well-informed literature-loving PNG"

**Wendy Dogura**, 34, was born in Wau and now lives in Lae

**Whitney S Naromin**, 22, was born in Port Moresby. "My passion for writing short stories and poems started off as a hobby and has now become one of my favourite activities. I get inspiration for my writing from life experiences of others and myself and from everyday situations"

**William Irakau**, 27, is from Manam Island and now lives in Alexishafen. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from UPNG in April and is working as an administrative assistant for Caritas Australia.

**Yalwai Dulume** is in Grade 11A at Muaina Secondary School, Simbu