

Brittany Rorrison

Brittany Rorrison is a 17-year old, year 12 student at Karamu High School in Hastings which, for her, is where creative writing began. “When I was little I wrote stories and made them into books which I was convinced I could sell,” she laughs, “but it wasn’t until I joined the creative writing group at Karamu that I began to write seriously.” Over the past four years, Brittany’s focus has been mainly on poetry. She has won various regional poetry competitions including 2009s Sea week competition and two consecutive Montana Festival competitions. In 2008 she came first in the national NZATE competition. “Outside of school, the BNZ Literary Awards is actually the first short story competition I’ve entered,” Brittany admits.

Brittany is the eldest of five children and lives in the small, coastal village of Haumoana with her Mum, her 3 brothers and her sister. Together they make the most of the New Zealand wildlife and often escape on tramping, camping and kayaking trips. “I adore my family,” Brittany says, “they are the most important thing in the world to me.” She finds that her strong opinion on the importance of family is often reflected in her writing. “My work is definitely influenced by events or feelings from my own life,” she says, “I think in this way writing is a release for me, it allows me to get my ideas across.”

Brittany’s best subjects are English, history and geography and she is also enjoying biology and chemistry, “I’m not so keen on maths though,” she admits. After she completes year thirteen next year, Brittany is hoping to study Law at university.

In her spare time Brittany dances, volunteers as a surf lifeguard and plays canoe polo. Canoe polo is another passion she has discovered through Karamu High School, and her team won gold at secondary school nationals this year.

“I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to enter the BNZ Literary Awards,” Brittany says, “and so grateful for all the other opportunities New Zealand provides for its young writers.”