

**Dr Ian Hunter,
best-selling author,
innovator,
award-winning
academic.**



Ian is an inspirational and compelling conference speaker. His presentations are known for their thought-provoking challenges, backed by deep scholarship, humour, and practical take outs. It's a unique blend of down-to-earth anecdotes, intellectual stimulation, and relevancy.

During his 20-year academic career, Ian held positions at four universities: he has given invited lectures at Oxford University and York, and in 2010 was Leverhulme Visiting Professor at Reading University (UK), where he coached teaching staff in innovative teaching strategies and multi-media teaching techniques.

Spearheading executive education and the teaching of innovation, Ian served for six years as Director of the University of Auckland Business Case Centre, producing teaching cases for executive education

in New Zealand and Europe. In addition, he has worked as a consultant to government and multi-nationals in the areas of innovation, creativity, economic development, and education.

Ian is a qualified business historian. His research has been published in some of the world's leading academic journals, including Business History and Harvard's Business History Review. He is a best-selling author with over 100 publications, including 20 books. His PhD was a finalist in New Zealand's Montana Book Awards.

"Any venture into computer-aided learning cannot just be binary, or based around some tick-box assessment regime. We must engage the student—right where they are. At their most teachable moment. In a way that speaks to them—and gives them a profoundly different view of their future. This is not just a challenge; it is our duty." - Dr Ian Hunter

Innovation and a Writing Revolution



Concerned with falling writing skills among his own university students, in 1998, Ian began what has now been a 25-year action research programme into writing improvement. As a historian, he looked back at the Age of Composition, and combined discovery learning, Socratic method, Social Learning Theory, and advances in neuroscience to build a new approach to teaching writing.

Responding to demand from schools, in 2011, Ian left academic life to work with educators and schools to improve literacy and writing outcomes. The outcome of this was the writing programme: Writer's Toolbox. It is the first whole-school, K-12 writing programme in the world, responding to calls from international

researchers for writing programmes that iteratively teach deeper cognitive processing skills the older a student gets. Moreover, integrating patented AI, the programme has been uniquely designed to teach students and teachers *how* to write—irrespective of writing ability, age, or writing style.

The impact of this programme has been considerable. A recent four-year study of 78,000 students across 71 Australian schools using the Writer's Toolbox programme saw writing improvement rates double that of the state of Queensland in all four NAPLAN year levels. The impact on boys was even more significant: ten times the state. None of this is by chance.

Dr Hunter holds two fundamental beliefs. That every student can be taught to write well—grasping the life possibilities they deserve. And that the teacher is the dynamic force for change in the classroom.

Speaking Topics

Tackling the Writing Gap

Why Sally and Johnny can't write and why reading has nothing to do with the problem

This presentation tackles some of the great myths around writing instruction and outlines how a new approach to teaching writing can produce profoundly different social and educational outcomes. The presentation includes evidence from Ian's 78,000-student Australian study.

Giving the Silent a Voice

How Artificial Intelligence can assist the emergence of tacit and buried knowledge in students

There is a long-held belief that lack of life experience or subject-specific knowledge can limit student performance. Ian challenges this reasoning. In a compelling presentation, he posits that Artificial Intelligence can be designed into the educational experience to aid struggling and repressed learners like never before. Technology in the education sphere is not just a nice thing to have; AI-driven educational technology can help us help learners in ways never previously possible.

The Powerhouse in Our Midst

Why boys can't write and what to do about it

This thought-provoking presentation engages with the research on boys and writing, and more importantly, explores what can be done to reverse this damning global trend. Powerful examples are used throughout this presentation to reveal key interventions that can be implemented by classroom teachers and school leaders to radically transform the academic performance of boys.

To see Ian in action, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7RKI7YS4GE>



Books

- *Write that Essay! Tertiary Edition*
- *Write that Essay! High School Edition*
- *Imagine: Innovation*
- *When People Matter Most*
- *Tatua: 100 Years*
- *The Young New Zealander's Guide to Entrepreneurship*
- *Briscoes: 150 Years in New Zealand*
- *Jason: 50 Years of Leading by Design*
- *Farmers: Your Store for 100 Years*
- *Robert Laidlaw: Man for Our Time*
- *Age of Enterprise* (finalist Montana New Zealand Book Awards)

Quick Facts

- 20+ books
- 100+ publications
- Best-selling author
- Award-winning academic
- Transformational educator
- Schools using Ian's writing programme, Writer's Toolbox, show double writing improvement rates
- Spoken to over 100,000 students
- Spoken to over 20,000 teachers and educators

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